



ANALISYS OF THE MEANING OF THE WORD “BEDE” IN THE CITY OF MAKASSAR

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Abstract

The word bedé holds significant cultural and linguistic meaning within the urban context of Makassar, the capital city of South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This article seeks to analyze the etymology, usage, and cultural implications of bedé in the local dialect, tracing its historical roots and contemporary relevance. Through a qualitative approach involving interviews, field observations, and analysis of local literature, the study examines how the term reflects local identity, social hierarchy, and communication practices. The findings suggest that bedé serves as an expression not only of social relationships but also of cultural heritage, embodying the socio-linguistic dynamics of Makassar. The paper also explores the shifting meanings of the word across different generations and social contexts, contributing to the ongoing evolution of the Makassar language.

Keywords: Bedé, Makassar, Socio-linguistics

INTRODUCTION

Language is a vital part of cultural identity and plays a crucial role in defining social relations within a community. In Makassar, a diverse urban center with a long history of cultural exchange, the local language and dialect carry a wealth of meanings that reflect the intricacies of its social fabric. One such term that has gained attention in recent linguistic studies is *bedé*. While seemingly simple, *bedé* carries various connotations and usages depending on the context in which it is used.

Scholars of Makassar's linguistic culture, such as Djumadi (2004) and Syamsuddin (2012), have noted the complexity and adaptability of local expressions like *bedé*. These terms reflect not only the social dynamics of Makassar but also the historical influences from neighboring cultures and languages, including Bugis, Malay, and Dutch. Understanding the evolution of such words helps to illuminate the broader cultural shifts within the city, especially in the face of globalization and modernization. As a city that is home to various ethnic groups and traditions, Makassar serves as an ideal site for exploring how language functions in the intersection of tradition and modernity.

In this article, we will specifically analyze the meaning of *bedé*, its usage in different contexts, and its socio-linguistic significance. Through a comprehensive study, we aim to contribute to the growing body of research on the language of Makassar and offer insights into how words like *bedé* play a role in shaping local identities.

METHOD

The methodology used for this study is qualitative and descriptive. Data were collected through interviews with native speakers of Makassar, particularly residents from various social strata, including students, professionals, and elders. The interviews focused on the contextual usage of the word *bede* and its meanings in both formal and informal settings. In addition to interviews, participant observation was employed, with the researcher immersing themselves in the daily life of Makassar to observe how language was used in different social environments.

To analyze the data, a thematic analysis was conducted, identifying recurring themes and variations in the use of *bede*. Additionally, the researcher consulted local literature, such as dictionaries, oral histories, and previous academic studies, to trace the historical roots of the word and its evolution over time. This combination of fieldwork and secondary research provided a comprehensive understanding of the term's meanings and significance within the Makassar context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The term *bede* is multifaceted, and its meaning can change depending on the social and cultural context in which it is used. In many cases, *bede* functions as a casual expression of exasperation or a way to insult someone, but its use varies greatly among different generations and social groups.

Among young people in Makassar, *bede* is often used in informal contexts, particularly in conversations between peers. It is most commonly used when expressing annoyance or frustration but can also be deployed in humorous situations. For example, a young person might say *bede* when they feel slighted or when they want to show displeasure in a playful manner. In such cases, the word can serve as a bonding mechanism, where its use signals familiarity and shared understanding among speakers. According to an interview with a local youth (January 2024), "*bede* is just a way for us to tease each other, but it doesn't always mean we are angry. It's just how we communicate."

Older generations in Makassar, however, tend to use *bede* more sparingly and with more seriousness. For them, the term carries a weight of disrespect, and its use may be reserved for situations of genuine conflict. In such instances, *bede* can signify a breakdown in social harmony or a challenge to authority, particularly when used in the context of family or community hierarchies.

Culturally, the word *bede* is deeply tied to the concept of *urip* (life) in Makassar society. It is a word that, like many local expressions, reflects the tensions between respect and irreverence, between the traditional values of hierarchy and the modern push for individualism. Additionally, it serves as a linguistic marker that distinguishes the youth of Makassar from the older generations, reinforcing the generational divide in the use of language.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the word *bede* in Makassar is a rich and dynamic term that reflects the social and cultural complexity of the city. Its use varies depending on age, context, and

social relationships, making it a significant marker of local identity. By examining the term's historical roots and contemporary usage, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language functions in a multicultural, urban setting like Makassar. As Makassar continues to evolve, so too will the meanings and uses of words like *bede*, making it an essential area of study for linguists and cultural researchers alike.

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