Unveiling the Ideology and Linguistic Realizations of Toponymy in Deliserdang

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Abstract. This study investigates how ideology shapes the naming of district capitals and sub-districts in Deliserdang, Indonesia, and how these names are structured linguistically. It is believed that place names in the region reflect underlying ideologies. Three questions are addressed: the ideology behind the place names, their linguistic makeup, and the reasons for their specific forms. A qualitative descriptive research design is employed. Data is gathered through interviews with local residents and experts, observations, and document analysis. Systemic functional linguistics theory is used for linguistic analysis. The research expects to reveal unique characteristics linked to the ideology behind the creation of these place names by examining them through this lens. The findings contribute to the field of ecolinguistics, informing future research on the influence of ideology on place naming. Additionally, practical applications exist for policymakers involved in regional mapping and business licensing. Furthermore, the research findings can be incorporated into educational materials to foster appreciation for local place names and strengthen national identity.

Keywords: Ideology, Toponymy, Linguistic Realization, Ecolinguistics

1 Introduction

Toponymy refers to the naming of places in linguistics. The naming of a place is based on certain ideals or ideologies. In this study, ideals or ideologies are defined as systems or sets of concepts, images, values, or beliefs that underpin an individual's understanding, expression, or actions toward certain realities as a member of society ([1], [2]; [3]). Language is a medium or resource used to express, shape, and reshape ideologies, and no word or language is free from ideology ([4]; [5]; [3]). Therefore, toponymy is rooted in the ideology of the language users. However, most people do not know the ideology behind the naming of places. For instance, what is the ideological background behind naming the town 'Lubukpakam'? Similarly, people are often unaware of why certain places are named 'Bulucina' or 'Hamparanperak.'

Several studies have been conducted on toponymy, including [6], who found that toponymy is related to a place's physical, social, and cultural aspects. Furthermore, research by [7] indicates that toponymy is based on eight factors: flora, fauna, water, natural objects, landforms,

human figures, folklore, and tools used by the inhabitants. [8] discovered that toponymy is based on the natural environment, including water bodies and landforms (geomorphological), as well as the biological-ecological environment, which is further linked to flora and fauna. Most previous studies emphasize ideals or ideologies but have yet to link these ideals to linguistic realizations. In other words, how ideologies are realized through language has yet to be explored.

This interdisciplinary study involving linguistics and environmental studies (ecology) examines and analyzes the ideological elements and their linguistic realizations in the toponymy of significant places in the Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province. The realization of ideological elements in language is analyzed using [9]. The findings of this study are valuable in explaining the ideology behind the naming or toponymy of the regency's capital and sub-districts in Deliserdang, as well as the linguistic realization of this toponymy. By understanding the ideology and its linguistic realization, it is possible to foster appreciation and love for these places among the residents, ultimately supporting the enhancement of national identity or nationalism.

2 Method

The research employs a qualitative descriptive design using content analysis and text study based on the Logical Function System (LFS) theory. A place is named based on the conceptualization by its inhabitants or stakeholders, and the ideal meaning is expressed linguistically through morphemes, words, contractions, or phrases. These linguistic forms are analyzed using logical relationships as outlined in LFS theory. Data consists of oral or written texts, including sounds, morphemes, words, phrases, or contractions like acronyms or abbreviations, gathered from local residents or individuals knowledgeable about the place's origin. Data collection involves observation, interviews, and document analysis, ensuring the accuracy and relevance of the information.

3 Result and Discussion

The dominant ideology underlying the naming or toponymy of district capitals in Deliserdang is the noble values of struggle and local culture. The supporting ideologies are environmental connections, topographical indications, and incorrect name imitation. Table 1 summarizes the typology and the proportion of each typology quantified based on toponym typology. Table 1 shows that the event typology, encompassing the sub-typology of incidents and opportunities, dominates around 54.55% of the total usage of typology categories. Associative typology ranks second with a proportion of 22.72%. Following this, the use of the descriptive typology category covers 18.18%. Incorrect imitation is found in place naming in Deliserdang, accounting for about 4.55%. The data can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Typology and Sub-Typology of Place Naming in Deliserdang District Capitals

No	Typology and Sub-Typology	Quantity	Percentage
1	Descriptive	4	18.18%
	(topography, relations, location, function)		
2	Associative	5	22.72%
	(environment, occupation/activity, building)		
3	Evaluative	0	0
	(praise, criticism)		
4	Event	12	54.55%
	(event, occasion)		
5	Imitative	1	4.55%
	(location, language)		
6	Eponym	0	0
	(humans, living creatures, inanimate entities, literature)		
7	Innovative	0	0
	(humor, conformity)		
	Total	**22**	**100%**

The dominant ideology underlying the naming or toponymy of district capitals in Deliserdang is the noble values of struggle and local culture. First, the idealization or ideology of the noble value of struggle specifically refers to the high regard for and deep appreciation of the nation's resistance against Dutch colonialism. This ideology is idealized in the naming of district capitals near Medan or former Dutch plantations (Sunggal, Pancur Batu, Tembung, Batang Kuis). For example, the name Sunggal, as both a district and its capital, symbolizes the resistance of the Sunggal Kingdom against the Dutch colonizers, who were also tobacco plantation owners in the area. The Dutch implemented policies that reduced the sovereignty of the Sunggal Kingdom and oppressed plantation laborers. The Sunggal War lasted from 1872 to 1895, recorded in Dutch archives as the "Batak War" (Batak Oorlog), led by Datuk Badiuzzaman Surbakti, who was patriotic, steadfast, selfless, and possessed strong nationalistic spirit. Datuk Badiuzzaman Surbakti formed alliances with the Karo, Aceh, Gayo, and other Malay tribes to unite against the Dutch. The Sunggal War was a struggle to defend the nation's sovereignty and dignity. Datuk Badiuzzaman's famous words were, "Even if I die, I will never kneel and ask for forgiveness in front of the Dutch." Similarly, Pancur Batu, initially named Arnhemia by the Dutch, was renamed by Nerus Ginting Suka, a Karo independence fighter, to Pancur Batu [10]. The name Pancur Batu comes from Pancur Batu Kuta.

Second, the idealization of local cultural values is reflected in the naming of district capitals in mountainous areas, far from Medan, or areas that were not former plantations (Tiga Juhar, Bandar Baru, Hamparan Perak). For example, in Tiga Juhar, there was originally a tall and large juhar tree where people would stop and rest while going to or returning from the market (tiga). The phrase "Tiga Juhar" comes from two words, tiga 'market' and juhar 'juhar tree.' According to source Ngamani Barus, the juhar tree was very large and tall. One day, the tree fell and crushed a pregnant woman. The spirit of the woman is believed by locals to watch over the Tiga Juhar area. Mystical values like this are also idealized in Hamparan Perak. When Datuk Setia Raja (the 9th descendant of Si Singamangaraja) established a village, he found a sheet of silver spread out, which became the origin of the name Hamparan Perak (Wikipedia).

The next ideology in the naming of district capitals in Deliserdang is the association of the district capital's name with the environment. In places where something special exists in the environment, this element becomes idealized and serves as the basis for naming. For example, in Pagar Merbau, many merbau trees were found, and the locals used them to create fences around their homes, leading to the name Pagar Merbau. In other words, the name Pagar Merbau is associated with the merbau tree, which was abundant in the area. This environmental connection ideology is also found in Lubuk Pakam. The name of the town comes from two words: lubuk and pakam. Lubuk is a part of a river that forms a hidden and deep pool where fish usually hide to avoid human or predator capture. Above the lubuk grew a pakam tree. According to legend, a person named Datuk Kecak Mandai went on a pilgrimage and saw Lubuk Pualam, which was overgrown with pakam trees. Datuk named the place Lubuk Pakam (https://id.scribd.com), which became the name of the district and its capital. In another area, a banyan tree was found, and the place was named Kecamatan Beringin, with its capital also called Beringin. In a coastal area, a region was overgrown with pumpkin plants, leading to the name Pantai Labu (https://id.wikipedia.org>wiki>Pa...). In a mountainous region far from Medan, there was pineapple cultivation in Sinembah Tanjung Muda (STM) Hilir District. The place was named Talun Kenas, where in Karo language talun means 'village' and kenas means 'pineapple.'

Furthermore, the ideology in naming or toponymy that has persisted in Deliserdang districts is influenced by topography, as seen in Gunung Meriah and Kutalimbaru. The toponym typology of these areas is topographical description. In other words, the place was named Gunung Meriah due to its mountainous topography.

The naming typology of district capitals in Deliserdang also shows incorrect imitation in the naming of Helvetia. The name Helvetia originated from the story of two Swiss plantation investors named Morse and Breaker. In 1865, they opened a tobacco plantation in the Conny Grats area, which they later renamed Helvetica to remind them of their homeland. Helvetica is the Latin name for Switzerland. Locals eventually mispronounced the foreign name, turning it into Helvetia. Therefore, incorrect imitation occurred. In Medan, two more place names resulted from incorrect pronunciation and became the names used today: Marelan, from Maryland Estate (originally given by an American plantation investor), and Polonia, from Poland (by a Polish investor) (https://net24jaam.id).

The research findings indicate that the naming of subdistrict capitals in Deliserdang is based on a typology of place names based on ideology. The ideology behind naming subdistrict capitals in Deliserdang reflects the noble values of struggle and local culture. A supporting ideology includes environmental connections, topographical indications, and erroneous name imitation. The dominant projection of locution as a linguistic realization supports place naming that aligns with place typology. The new findings of this research are justified by previous theories and discoveries. The novel finding in this study is that the issue of colonialism can ignite the desire for freedom from colonial rule, which is realized in place names, a concept not found in the typology by [11]. The limitation of this research lies in the data collected, which requires more productive data triangulation. Potential data triangulation can uncover various ideological or idealistic variations in place naming.

4 Conclusion

Based on the stages of the research conducted, the conclusions are as follows: Firstly, the naming of district capitals or toponymy in Deliserdang is rooted in ideology and realized through linguistic structures, a finding that is supported by existing theories. Secondly, a novel discovery in this study is that colonialism can inspire a determination for independence, which is reflected in place names—an issue not addressed in [11]. Thirdly, Projection of both paratactic and hypotactic locution is used to realize and express the dominant ideology of the naming as the projection potentially realizes the ideologies of struggle and local culture values.

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