

1. Introduction.

This article aims to investigate and doing an analysis of Widal. A sundanese-based secret language that (nowadays) developed by the youth of Tipar - Sukabumi city, west Java. At the beginning (a long time ago) based on the informations from the people who live in Tipar, the fuctions of the language is to make the communication unintelligible by the other community, at the same time this secret language plays an important role in the making of war strategy against the colonialism especially in Sukabumi. Nowadays this language also has an important role as a secret language, because, although this language is a sundanese based language but not all the people in society who uses and speak sundanese can understand the language. So for some reason some group of youth in Sukabumi still use the language.

The secrecy function of Widal is performed through the phonological and morphological manipulation of the Sundanese language. In this case, Widal structure secret language can be seen in the level of sound, which is the transformation of Sundanese into widal is in the substitution letter by letter. Actually, the name of Widal itself was the result of the transformation which the origin of the word is Tipar. Tipar is the name of the place where this seceret-code language was born.

The following analysis is mainly based on a selected corpus of spontaneous interview and recording conversation. In the following pages, I first present a brief socio-historical introduction to Widal, in terms of the distribution and the development of the language, and then I describe the main features of this Sundanese-based secret language.

1.1 Historical background.

Widal language is a language which still can be found in Tipar, Sukabumi – west Java. Widal is a language that emerges from the sundanese community and originally regarded as a secret language, but as the time goes by, now, this language has widely used by the people outside the Tipar society event to other city. Uniquely, although there are a lot of

people using this language but there is no one who knows the exact-right time when this widal language is being produced.

According to the people in the society, there are a lot of rumors and version about the motive in making this language. but one of the most logical and trustable version is that Widal language is appear when there is colonization by the Dutch in Indonesia especially in Sukabumi a long time ago. Although there is not all the people in Tipar can speak and understand the language, at the beginning this language is used by the native of tipar as the secret language or secret code, between the people to arrange the war strategy against the invaders. So the native can easily arrange the strategy because the invaders even the other native (outside the society) cannot understand what are they talking about.

There is a claim which states that Tipar is the place where Widal language comes from. It is supported by some elders from Tipar who said that Widal language is first created and being used in Tipar. The other thing which support the claim is that when we take a look at the word “widal” closely, we will find out that “widal” is a transformation from the word “Tipar”:
tipar > widal

(will be explain later).

Who are the speakers?

As I mentions above about the production of the language, the first speakers of widal language are the people who live in Tipar as the secret language. It is not as old as the language, the language user or the speakers are mostly the youth people. Nowadays, it can be seen that this language has widely used by a lot of people not only the people within Tipar society but also the other people outside the society. Some other sources also said that widal language has already been used in some area in Bandung. However they call it as “Bahasa Okem”. For additional information, Sukabumi and Bandung are geographically located quite near to each other and sundanese language is the mother language of both cities. It proves

that widal language spreads across the city. So this is why Sundanese language set in the first place as the reference language to be transformed to Widal language.

1.2 Sundanese language

Nowadays, sundanese language is no longer use the archaic letter or words (hanacaraka) but like the other language sundanese language also use the same alphabetic letters.

There are five vowel; a, i, u, e, o and two addition neutral-vowel; ê and eu /ɤ/. And there are sixteen consonant; p, b, t, d, k, g, c, j, h, m, n, s, w, l, r, y. and two nasal ng and ny. Like the other language, sundanese also affected by the other language (Indonesian) which make the sundanese have to adopt some letter like; f, v, q, x, z. but still those adopted letter are pronounced as the sundanese, because the f and v consider as p, q as k, z as j.

1.3 Literature review.

This part is concerned with the theoretical background of the study. It deals with some theories and approaches employed in this research.

1.3.1 Secret language

Secret language is a system of manipulating spoken words to make the language incomprehensible to the untrained ear. Secret language is used primarily by a group society attempting to conceal their conversations from others.

1.3.2 Epenthetic segment

Epenthetic segment are common in every language in the world, they are segment which are inserted in a word or between words to preserve a particular syllable structure or provide ease of articulation (Zsoldos, 2009).

1.3.3 Place of articulation, manner and voicing.

The term place of articulation refers to the place in the mouth where the sound is produced or where there is the most contact or near contact of articulators. This is one way that consonants are classified. (Carnie, 2012). There are seven type of place of articulation, which are bilabial, labiodental, interdental, alveolar, palatal, velar and glottal. Look at the table below:

Consonant chart

		MANNER	VOICING	PLACE						
				Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Obstruent	Stop	Voiceless	p			t		k	ʔ	
		Voiced	b			d		g		
	Fricative	Voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ		h	
		Voiced		v	ð	z	ʒ			
	Affricate	Voiceless					tʃ			
		Voiced					dʒ			
Sonorant	Nasal	Voiced	m			n		ŋ		
	Liquid	Lateral	Voiced				l			
		Rhotic	Voiced					r (ɹ)		
		Glide	Voiced	w				j	(w)	

Taken from www.msu.edu

1.3.4 Nasal segment.

Based on the dictionary, nasal segment is Linguistics Articulated by lowering the soft palate so that air resonates in the nasal cavities and passes out the nose, as in the pronunciation of the consonants (m), (n), and (ng) or the nasalized vowel of French bon. Characterized by or resembling a resonant sound produced through the nose.

2. Methodology.

This study is concern in revealing the use of a Sundanese-based secret language. so, This study employs the descriptive analysis to investigate the patterns in using Widal language. This study also uses morphology and phonology as tools in order to reveal the pattern of Widal language.

The primary source in this study is the transcript of the recorded dialogue of Widal language users and some other Widal language words that used frequently by the people.

As (Ratna, 2010) said, descriptive analysis method is a method that describing the facts first then followed by the analysis. So, I do a field research that involving other people in the study. I do an interview and record some conversation of the language users in order to get fact-textual evidence. After the data collected, then I do the analysis in order to find the answers of the research questions.

3. Research questions.

1. How to use Widal language?
2. Is there a specific pattern in the use of widal language?

4. Data finding and Analysis.

4.1 The pattern

As I explained before that widal language is a transformation sundanese-based secret language, so the sundanese become the material addition in analyzing the widal language. Based on the interview, I have gathered some random words as the sample to analyze in order to find the patterns as the encrypting strategy, as follow:

No.	SUNDANESE	WIDAL	No.	SUNDANESE	WIDAL
1	Nyaho	Nyabo	21	Maneh	Yakeb
2	Bodas	Hopag	22	Urang	Nyulang
3	Sare	Gale	23	Beak	Henyan
4	Ulin	Nyurik	24	Kaka	Nana
5	Arek	Nyalen	25	Indung	Nyikpong
6	Teuing	Weunying	26	Hideung	Bipeung
7	Apal	Nyadar	27	Bapa	Hada
8	Sieun	Ginyeuk	28	Dahar	Pabal
9	Mobil	Yohir	29	Hayam	Bamay

10	Motor	Yowol	30	Kawin	Natik
11	Duwit	Putiw	31	Tukang	Wunang
12	Serang	Gelang	32	Handap	Bakpad
13	Sorangan	Golanyak	33	Isukan	Nyigunak
14	Hitut	Biwuw	34	Gigir	Sisil
15	Kumaha	Nuyaba	35	Jero	Celo
16	Aya	Nyama	36	Luhur	Rubul
17	Kamana	Nayaka	37	Mengkol	Yengnor
18	Silaing	Giranying	38	Naon	Kanyok
19	Deui	Peunyi	39	Omong	Nyoyong
20	Ceunah	Jeukab	40	Baraha	Galaba

Finally, after analyzing forty words above, I have divided the finding into several category based on the vowel and consonant. as can be seen in the three table below. there are the vowel and the consonant that exist in the language.

It seems that the encrypting strategy in widal language is uses the letter substitution as the strategy to make the language unintelligible, the up column is the Sundanese and the below column is the widal:

The vowels

è	a	eu	e	i	o	u
è	a	eu	e	i	o	u

The consonants

b	c	d	g	h	J	k	l	m	N	p	r	s	t	w	y	ng	ny
h	j	p	s	b	C	n	r	y	K	d	l	g	w	t	m	ng	ny

Adopted consonant

f (p)	v (p)	q (k)	x (s)	z (j)
d	d	n	g	c

From those three tables above can be seen that there are no change or no substitution for the vowels and the nasal ng and ny. In the adopted consonant it seems that /f/ and /v/ consider as /p/ so the substitute is /d/, /q/ consider as /k/ the substitute is /n/, /x/ consider as /s/ substitute is /g/ and /z/ consider as /j/ the substitute is /c/.

It can be simply concluded, that the selection of letters substitution looks randomly chosen and do not have any pattern. On the level of secret language the random substitution is effective, because it will make the language difficult to reveal and unintelligible. I assume that the substitution is based on the result of convention between the language makers, so they have to remember letter by letter.

Refers to what I have said in the beginning about the name Widal is from Tipar, and related to the pattern above, the consonant /t/ replaced by /w/, /p/ replaced by /d/, and /r/ replaced by /l/. and there is no change in vowels, so the word Tipar is become Widal.

Another finding based on the words in the table, there are no foreign or adopted words in widal language or the foreign language cannot be transformed into Widal (except Indonesian language, because in some case as the development of the language sundanese adopt some words from Indonesian). It may because –I believe– of that Widal only transforms the Sundanese words. for example, I take the word download;

d	o	w	n	l	o	a	d		
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
p	o	t	k	r	o	n	y	a	p

The widal word from download is potkronyap, it cannot be considered as widal, because in the term of sound change and the pronunciation in level of word are not the same download /,daʊn'ləʊd/ whereas potkronyap is /potkronyap/.

4.2 Epenthetic segment – Affixation.

Another important encrypting strategy in Widal is epenthetic segment. This procedure consists in the use of particular affixations that is intended to make Widal more unintelligible to the outsiders. Those particular affixes can be randomly attached to noun, adjectives, verbs, adverbs without changing the meaning. Although it was randomly attached to a word, but the affixation only occur when there is an initial vowel in a word and when there is two vowels in the middle of a word.

Epenthetic segment are common in every language in the world, they are segment which are inserted in a word or between words to preserve a particular syllable structure or provide ease of articulation (Zsoldos, 2009).

In this Widal language, the epenthetic segment is occurs in the word level. I have divided this epenthetic segment into two part first is the prefix ny- and occur if there is a vowel in front of a word, so there will be a prefix /ny-/ before the word initial and the second is infix –ny– that occur when there is two vowel in the middle of a word.

➤ Prefix “ny-“

Omong > ny-oyong

Ulin > Ny-urik

Isukan > Ny-igunak

➤ Infix “-ny-“

Teuing > weu-ny-ing

Silaing > gira-ny-ing

Sieun > gi-ny-euk

4.3 Nasal segment

As in Sundanese language, because Widal language is transform from Sundanese so there are also some nasal words in Widal language. The nasal

are n, ny,ng. If there is a vowel after the nasal so, the nasal spread through the vowel which means the vowel cannot stand by itself. On the other words, the vowel sound will affected by the nasal, for example:

Nya-ho > nya-bo

The word nyaho there is ny- which affect the sound of the vowel, the sound of /a/ no more as /a/ which stand by itself, rather attached to /ny/ which make the sound /nya/.

Another example, the word Ginyeuk there is /eu/ vowel after the nasal /ny/ that cannot stand by itself as /eu/ but become /nyeu/ because the nasal /ny/ spread through the vowel.

4.4 Place of articulation and voicing substitution

After analyze the words and find the random substitution, I assume and speculate that the encrypting strategy of this Widal, the letter substitution is based on the place of articulation. Relating to the table of consonant substitution above and consider if the reason of the substitution is based on the place of articulation there will be like this:

Sundanese		Widal	Explanation
B	↔	H	The sound change is from bilabial to glottal and voiced to voiceless.
C	↔	J	The sound change is from palatal to palatal but voiceless to voiced.
D	↔	P	The sound change is from alveolar to bilabial and voiced to voiceless.
G	↔	S	The sound change is from velar to alveolar, voiced to voiceless And from a stop to a fricative
K	↔	N	The sound change is from velar to alveolar, voiceless to voiced. And from a stop to a nasal.
L	↔	R	The sound change is from alveolar to

			postalveolar but same in voiced.
M	↔	Y	The sound change is from bilabial to palatal. And from a nasal to a glide.
T	↔	W	The sound change is from alveolar to labiovelar And from a stop to a glide.

As can be seen in the table above, (again) it seems that the language maker choose the letters substitution randomly. It can explicitly tell that this is a made up secret language which make this language more unintelligible. Although there are some letter in the same place of substitution like /l/ and /r/ same in voiced, but most of them are not in the same place of substitution. So, the result is; there is no phonological pattern for the sound change in the level of letter substitution. I assume why this happens, is because that Widal language is an artificial language that made up by the people.

5. Conclusion.

Widal show the typical features of numerous secret language. from the structural point of view, widal show a unique encrypting strategy in terms of phonological and morphological manipulation Such substitution, epenthesis and affixation. From the sociolinguistic point of view and the development of the language, this widal language provides a tool for expressing some youth society as the result of this language is no longer used as a strategy of war. Another interesting point of this language is that widal language has been spread to outside the society even to other city, Bandung. However in some area in Bandung call the widal language as “Bahasa Okem”, but the terms bahasa okem is not only use for widal but also for other unique-secret language that exist in other society. For additional information, Sukabumi and Bandung are geographically located quite near to each other and has the same mother or native language which is sundanese language. In this article I tried to present only the basic features of Widal, further research would be needed

for analyze how the different Sundanese language influence the structures and the lexicon of this secret language.

6. References.

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The consonant chart is taken from:

<https://www.msu.edu/course/asc/232/Charts/ConsonantChartFilledIn.html>

[Freedictionary.com](http://freedictionary.com)

wikipedia.com