

## GENDER AND SEMANTIC MEMORY OF EMOTION CATEGORIES IN JAVANESE LANGUAGE: A RECALL APPROACH

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### ABSTRACT

*Every human cannot be separated from the language. In verbal language, humans have the choice of vocabulary to accomplish the message in communication. The selection occurs in the memory they have. One type of vocabularies that is often used by humans is the emotion vocabulary. In the Javanese, emotion vocabulary has a vast treasury of vocabulary. This research discusses the memory capability of semantic of emotion categories in Javanese, between men and women by the recall approach. This research involved ten participants, five men, and five women. The data was derived from the recall of the vocabulary of semantic of emotion categories in Javanese. The theories used in this research are gender theory, memory theory, and theory of emotion and state of mind. The results of this research found that women had more semantic memory than men. The most emotion category of men was anger emotions, as many as 13 vocabularies, and the least was in the category of grateful emotion, only one word. In women, the most category was in the sad emotion, as many as 14 vocabularies, and the least was in the category of wonder emotion, only one word. According to Santangelo's classification of emotions, men and women participants have the least number of memories in the same classification, which is the classification of positive expectation and interaction, and the most classification of men found in the classification of unsatisfactory affects, and women found in the aggressive-opposing classification emotions.*

*Keywords: Gender, memory semantics, emotion categories, Javanese vocabulary*

### INTRODUCTION

Individual cannot be separated from the language usage. The language that is used by an individual can be both verbal and nonverbal language. Verbal language can simply be interpreted as a language that involves the language units that are spoken. The nonverbal language is a symbolic language that does not use speech-language to convey a meaning.

In verbal language, the choice of vocabulary influences the meaning of the utterance to be conveyed. Vocabularies are stored in the brain where the storing space is called *memory*. The human cognitive ability is determined by the memory stored in the brain (Kushartanti, et al, 2009:17). This memory can also be referred to as memory.

The type of vocabulary that is often used by individuals in everyday life is emotion vocabulary. Emotion vocabulary is used as a form of expressing feelings for something. According to Morgan (1995), emotion vocabulary is a verbal label used to describe and express the emotional status experienced by individuals. As a form of expression of language processing, emotion is a composite product of linguistic principles and psychological mechanisms (Carroll, 2008:46). In every language, it certainly has its own uniqueness in expressing emotions. One of the languages that has a lot of emotion vocabulary is Javanese language. Mastuti (2003) stated that Javanese language loaded with words that contain emotion expression.

From this background, the researcher was interested in connecting between the semantic memory of emotion category in Javanese language with gender of the speaker. The researcher analyzed the ability to remember between men and women, as well as the tendency of its use by using a recall approach.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the semantic memory capability of emotion categories in Javanese language between men and women; and also the tendency of vocabulary used between men and women.

### METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researcher used gender theory, memory theory, and theory of emotion and state of mind. With regard to gender, so that the discussion of gender was not widespread in this study, the researcher used gender restrictions issued by WHO (World Health Organization), which distinguishes gender by sex. If sex refers to biologically determined things, gender is defined as socially constructed characteristics of

men and women. Everyone will be born male or female, but to be someone like a man or a woman, one must learn. This learning behavior will ultimately shape gender identity and define gender roles.

As for memory, it can simply be said to be 'storage'. Carroll, in *Psychology of Language*, divided memory into two, i.e. *working memory* and *long-term memory*. Working memory is defined as temporary storage of information being processed in various cognitive tasks (Baddeley, 1986: 34 in Carroll, 2008:47). An example of this memory type is when we have to remember a phone number or when going to call using a payphone. The long term-memory is defined as a memory structure that has permanent knowledge (Carroll, 2008:50). In this study, the researcher will focus on long-term memory. According to Tulving (1972), which is also written by Carroll in his book, divided long-term memory into two types, i.e. *episodic memory* and *semantic memory*. Episodic memory is a memory that receives and stores information about episodes or events temporally, and the temporal-spatial relationship between the events. And another one, semantic memory, is a memory that exists in the use of language, that is, the mental thesaurus, in the form of an organized knowledge of a person about the word and other verbal symbols (Tulving, 1972:385). With regard to this study, the researcher focused on semantic memory, i.e. semantic using of emotion vocabulary. Although semantic systems are more susceptible to transformation and loss of information than to episodic systems, semantic systems are highly independent of the episodic system of recording and maintaining information because identical storage consequences can be caused by multiple input signals (Tulving 1972:385).

In recalling the stored memory, also known as the retrieval term. There are two ways that can be used to determine the ability to remember someone, i.e. *recall* and *recognition* (Sternberg, Robert J, and Sternberg, Karin, 2012:187). In a recall, someone generates a fact, word, or another item from memory. The facts, words, or other items will be generated from the process of recalling the information before it has been learned, without any stimulus or clues first. As for recognition, a person chooses or identifies an item as something already known, with clues related to the facts, words, or other such items.

Associated with emotion, the researcher used theory of emotion and state of mind from Santangelo (1995). When it comes to emotions, it will certainly relate to the psychological nature of the individual. The form of expressiveness of feelings about a thing, one of which conditions, which makes the individual has an emotion that can be different from each other. However, in relation to language, there is a wider range of forms of individual expression, namely *state of mind*. This state of mind is the experience of affection communicated through symbols of language. Santangelo divided emotions into five major classifications, those are *positive emotions*, *satisfaction of affects*, *negative projection*, *aggressive-opposing emotions*, and *unsatisfactory affects*.

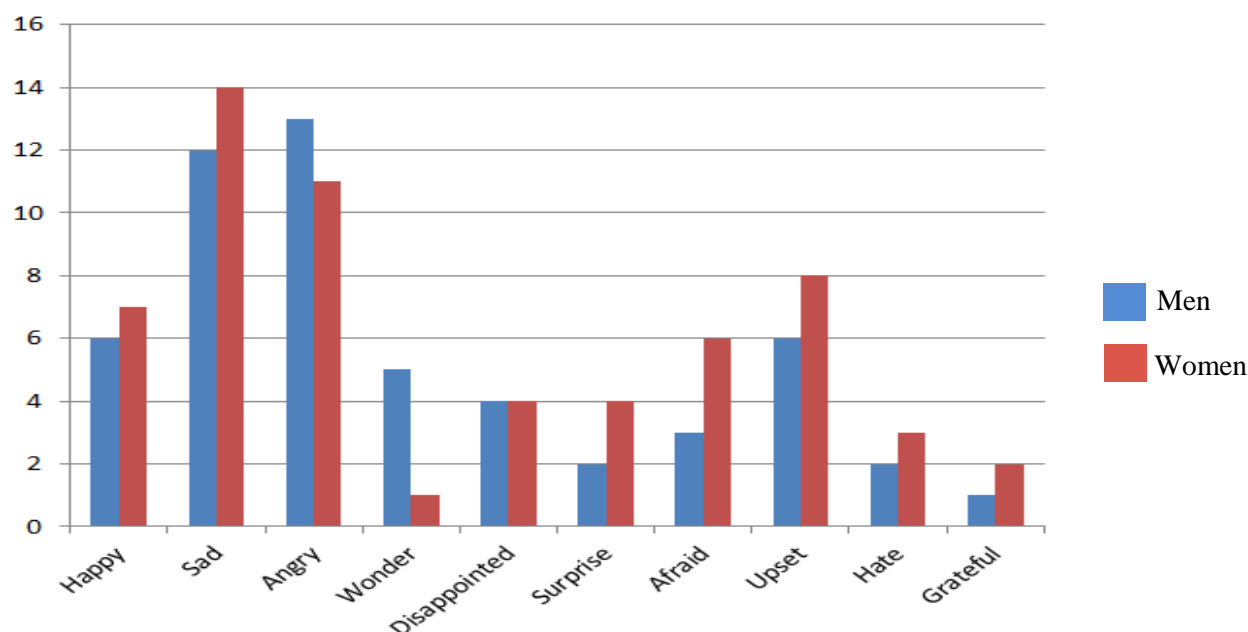
About the data corpus, this study involved native speakers of Javanese language that average age is 27 years old. Those native speakers are chosen because they have a strong Javanese cultural background, so the *rasa* or 'taste' in using emotion vocabulary that is in the Javanese language is better. The age range 25-59 years was chosen because the researcher is based on the classification of WHO (World Health Organization) which stated that the adult age is those aged 25-59 years. The researcher used adult age classification because at this age, participants have a more stable emotion side when compared to adolescents and the elderly. In addition, at this age, memory strength is still better when compared to the elderly, and more established when compared to adolescence.

The researcher used ten participants, five men and five women, respectively. As for the educational background, all the participants have a recent undergraduate education. The researcher only used ten participants, because this study was only a first step for a broader research.

After the participants are obtained in accordance with the criteria, then the researcher provided 10 categories of emotion to each participant. Each participant is asked to name the emotion vocabularies that fall within those categories. Participants are given one minute in each category to name any vocabulary, with the same word repetition not counting. The researcher used the guidance dictionary *Baoesastra Djawa* (Poerwadarminta, 1939) to sort out the vocabulary raised by the participants whether it really exists and does contain the meaning of semantic emotions or not.

## ANALYSIS

Based on the data of ten participants with ten categories of emotion given, here is the distribution of emotion vocabulary from each category owned by the semantic memory of men and women.



For each category of emotion, there were several words raised by both men and women participants, although there were also participants who did not mention the vocabulary. Here is the percentage of vocabulary names on each category.

Happy	Men	Women	Sad	Men	Women
<i>seneng</i>	0,8	1	<i>nlangsa</i>	0,6	0,4
<i>bungah</i>	0,4	0,4	<i>susah</i>	0,4	0,2
<i>tresna</i>	0,2	0,4	<i>sengsara</i>	0,4	0,2
			<i>nangis</i>	0,2	0,8
Angry	Men	Women	<i>karanta-ranta</i>	0,2	0,2
<i>murka</i>	0,4	0,4	<i>lara</i>	0,2	0,4
<i>nesu</i>	0,6	0,4	<i>sedhih</i>	0,2	0,2
Wonder	Men	Women	Surprise	Men	Women
<i>gumun</i>	0,2	0,2	<i>kaget</i>	0,2	0,6
Disappointed	Men	Women	Upset	Men	Women
<i>kuciwa</i>	0,6	0,4	<i>mangel</i>	0,2	0,4
<i>gela</i>	0,2	0,4	<i>sebel</i>	0,2	0,4
Afraid	Men	Women	Hate	Men	Women
<i>wedi</i>	1	1	<i>sengit</i>	0,4	0,2
<i>jirih</i>	1	0,2			
			Grateful	Men	Women
			<i>untung</i>	0,2	0,2

Based on the classification restriction of Santangelo, the data collected by the researcher, divided into ten semantics categories of emotion vocabulary, showed that men participants had a less semantic memory of emotion vocabulary than women participants. Women participants had a more varied vocabulary memory. If included in the emotion classification according to Santangelo, for the classification of *positive expectation and interaction*, men participants brought up three vocabularies, i.e. *tresna* 'love', *mesem* 'smile', and *syukur* 'grateful', as well as women participants, i.e. *tresna* 'love', *untung* 'grateful', and *legawa* 'grateful'.

For the classification of *satisfactory affects*, the men participants issued four vocabularies, i.e. *seneng* 'happy', *gumbira* 'glad', *bungah* 'cheerful', *sumringah* 'shining', while the women participants amounted to five vocabularies, i.e. *seneng* 'happy', *demen* 'adore', *bungah* 'cheerful', *sumringah*

‘shining’, and *mongkog* ‘happy’. For the classification of *negative projection*, men participants spent less on vocabulary, i.e. only eight, *kuciwa* ‘disappointed’, *nyesel* ‘regret’, *getun* ‘regret’, *gela* ‘regret’, *kaget* ‘surprise’, *wedi* ‘fear’, *jirih* ‘fear’, *mrinding* ‘goosebumps’, whereas female participants have more semantic memory, i.e. 13 vocabularies, *gela* ‘regret’, *kuciwa* ‘disappointed’, *getun* ‘regret’, *kagol* ‘annoyed’, *kaget* ‘surprise’, *ujug-ujug* ‘snap’, *medeni* ‘afraid’, *serem* ‘spooky’, *nggilani* ‘terrible’, *mrinding* ‘goosebumps’ and *jirih* ‘afraid’.

The classification of *negative projection* emotions, men participants brought up 13 vocabularies, i.e. *murka* ‘angry’, *nesu* ‘angry’, *mrengut* ‘grim’, *ngresula* ‘grumble’, *mangkel* ‘angry’, *sebah* ‘angry’, *sebel* ‘resentful’, *ngamuk* ‘rage’, *bendu* ‘angry’, *duka* ‘angry’, *muring* ‘grumble’, *mutung* ‘angry’, and *misuh* ‘angry’, while women participants brought up 17 vocabularies, i.e. *nesu* ‘angry’, *murka* ‘angry’, *sengit* ‘hate’, *mangkel* ‘angry’, *mencak-mencak* ‘angry’, *jengkel* ‘annoyance’, *kesel* ‘annoyance’, *ngamuk* ‘rage’, *angkara* ‘angry’, *pegel* ‘upset’, *sebah* ‘angry’, *grundel* ‘grunt’, *sebel* ‘angry’, *ngresula* ‘grumble’, *nesu* ‘angry’, *muring* ‘grumble’, and *ngeseli* ‘peeve’. Finally, the classification of *unsatisfactory affects*, men participants have 13 vocabularies, i.e. *nlangsa* ‘sad’, *ajur* ‘crushed’, *susah* ‘sad’, *sengsara* ‘miserable’, *cidra* ‘sad’, *nangis* ‘cry’, *murung* ‘glum’, *sesek* ‘sad’, *karanta-karanta* ‘so sad’, *lara* ‘sore’, *sedhih* ‘sad’, *gumun* ‘confuse’, and *bingung* ‘confuse’, while the women participants have 15 vocabularies, i.e. *duka* ‘angry’, *sedhih* ‘sad’, *mewek* ‘cry’, *nangis* ‘cry’, *brengut* ‘scowl’, *tega* ‘no worry’, *karanta-ranta* ‘so sad’, *nlangsa* ‘sad’, *lara* ‘sad’, *ngenes* ‘so sad’, *melasi* ‘pity’, *prihatin* ‘apprehensive’, *susah* ‘sad’, *sengsara* ‘miserable’, dan *gumun* ‘confuse’.

## CONCLUSION

From the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that the semantic memory of emotions category in Javanese language, women participants have more semantic memories, i.e. 53 vocabularies, when compared to men who have 41 memories about emotion vocabulary. If by virtue of each category of emotion semantics, memory in men participants were mostly in the category of angry emotions, as many as 13 vocabularies, and the least was in the category of grateful emotion, which was only one word. As for women, it was mostly in the sad emotion categories, as many as 14 vocabularies, and the least was in the wonder emotion category, which was only one word.

Then, according to Santangelo, men and women participants had the least amount of memory in the same classification, which was a *positive expectation and interaction* classification with three vocabularies. As for the most, men were found in the classification *unsatisfactory affects* with 13 vocabularies, while women were in the classification of *aggressive-opposing emotions* with 17 vocabularies.

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