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Local ecological knowledge in toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area: An anthropological linguistic study

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Abstract

Toponyms or place names are important linguistic facts. Toponyms can record people's spatial awareness of the surrounding environment. This article explores local ecological knowledge in toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. In this area, there are 28 villages from 5 sub-districts affected by the construction of Waduk Jatigede. The data of this study were collected by using participant observation and interview methods. The data analysis procedure included four stages: (1) transcription of recorded data; (2) categorization; (3) interpretation of local ecological knowledge in toponyms; and (4) conclusion. The results show that polymorphemic toponyms are dominant. In addition, toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area are also dominated by those having physical aspects, namely hydrological, geomorphological, and biological-ecological characteristics. Toponyms based on these local ecological characteristics show that Sundanese people have a close and sustainable relationship with the surrounding nature. This local ecological knowledge contains the ecological awareness of Sundanese people about the local ecological characteristics in Waduk Jatigede area, including water, soil, flora, and fauna. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these toponyms based on local ecological knowledge have a strong relevance to Goal 13, Climate Action, and Goal 15, Life on Land. Thus, it is important to maintain the local ecological knowledge inherent in these toponyms as part of a rich environmental and cultural heritage so that people can live in harmony with their environment and provide valuable insights for conservation efforts and sustainable management of natural resources.

Kata Kunci:

linguistik antropologis; pengetahuan lokal tentang ekologi; SDG; toponimi; Waduk Jatigede;

Abstrak

Pengetahuan lokal tentang ekologi dalam toponimi di Kawasan Waduk Jatigede: Studi linguistik antropologis

Toponimi merupakan fakta linguistik yang penting. Toponimi dapat merekam kesadaran spasial masyarakat terhadap lingkungan sekitarnya. Artikel ini mengeksplorasi pengetahuan lokal ekologi dalam toponimi di Waduk Jatigede. Di kawasan ini terdapat 28 desa dari 5 kecamatan yang terdampak pembangunan Waduk. Penelitian ini menggunakan observasi partisipan dan wawancara dalam penumpulan data. Prosedur analisis data meliputi empat tahap: (1) transkripsi data hasil rekaman; (2) kategorisasi data berdasarkan klasifikasi aspek toponimi; (3) interpretasi pengetahuan lokal tentang ekologi dalam toponimi; (4) penarikan simpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa polimorfemis mendominasi toponimi di kawasan Waduk Jatigede. Selain itu, toponimi di kawasan ini juga didominasi oleh toponimi yang memiliki aspek fisik, yaitu ciri hidrologis, geomorfologis, dan biologis-ekologis. Toponimi ini menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat Sunda memiliki hubungan yang erat dan berkelanjutan dengan alam sekitarnya. Pengetahuan lokal ini berisi kesadaran ekologis masyarakat Sunda tentang karakteristik ekologi lokal di kawasan waduk, baik air, tanah, flora, maupun fauna. Dalam konteks *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG), toponimi yang berbasis pengetahuan lokal ekologi memiliki relevansi kuat terhadap tujuan ke-13, yaitu *Climate Action*, dan tujuan ke-15, yaitu *Life on Land*. Dengan demikian, pengetahuan lokal ekologi yang terekam dalam toponimi ini penting untuk dipertahankan sebagai bagian dari warisan budaya dan ekologis yang kaya agar masyarakat dapat hidup selaras dengan lingkungannya dan dapat memberikan wawasan yang berharga bagi upaya konservasi dan pengelolaan sumber daya alam secara berkelanjutan.

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1 Introduction

Toponyms or place names are important linguistic facts. Toponyms can record people's spatial awareness of their surroundings. Toponymy can reveal things such as language, people's values and beliefs, the environment, the economy, and history because these linguistic elements reflect the basic relationship between people and the places where they live (Basso, 1988). In other words, toponyms are believed to describe human activities in the surrounding nature (Jordan, 2020; Lay et al., 2019; Randall, 2001). In addition, people can also use toponyms to express their needs (Post, 2020).

Toponymy is a field of onomastic studies. Toponymy includes two areas of study, namely (1) natural names related to topographic names and hydronyms, such as swamps and lakes, and (2) cultural names related to settlement names and cultivation names, such as villages and fields (Ainiala et al., 2016, pp. 23–24). These toponyms should be based on local knowledge. Local knowledge of toponyms can portray the harmony between humans and nature. This portrait is present because ideology influences how people view their world (Suhandano, 2020).

Everett-Heath (2000) explains that toponyms based on local knowledge are a window into the history of a country. Toponyms based on local knowledge can characterize the cultural structure and character of the people (Jordan, 2020). In line with this opinion, Komara et al (2019) explains that toponyms based on local knowledge often have special meanings or connotations for the local community and can reflect the cultural values, beliefs, history, or identity of the community. Toponyms based on local knowledge are also a form of cultural preservation and respect (Braden, 2020; Herman, 1999).

Unfortunately, due to massive infrastructure development, toponyms tend to lose sight of local knowledge. Toponyms seem to be more concerned with economic, tourism, and political aspects. Thus, the current toponyms trend uses foreign languages even though they have no historical, cultural, customary, or religious value. Several examples include the toponyms NIMO Highland, Jatinangor National Flower Park, and Orchid Forest Cikole. In fact, Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2021 on the Implementation of Earthquake Names Article 3B states that earthquake names can use local languages or foreign languages if the earthquake elements have historical, cultural, customary and religious values. This means that toponyms should consider historical, cultural, customary, and/or religious values as a form of cultural preservation and respect.

One of the issues regarding infrastructure development in Indonesia is the construction of Waduk Jatigede. Waduk Jatigede, the second-largest reservoir in Indonesia, is one of the national strategic projects. This reservoir has functions for irrigation facilities, hydroelectric power plants, freshwater fish farming facilities, water sports facilities, and recreational facilities (Kemenkeu RI, 2020). However, the construction of Waduk Jatigede also changes the Earth contour, which has implications for regional governance and spatial planning changes. The construction of Waduk Jatigede has at least the following two consequences: (1) submerging and eliminating the old area along with its toponyms, and (2) opening and presenting new areas with new toponyms. This condition certainly raises concerns on the decrease in people's ecological awareness inherent in the toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. The ecological implications of toponyms and their relationship with the place where they develop are important and interesting to analyze (Nash, 2015).

Some previous researchers have conducted studies on toponyms as one of the linguistic phenomena. First, the study of toponyms using a semantic perspective (Humaidi et al., 2021; Kurniawan et al., 2024; Rustinar & Kusmiarti, 2021; Septiani et al., 2020). Second, the study of toponyms using an anthropological linguistic perspective (Baruadi et al., 2023, 2024; Chiwanga & Mkiramweni, 2019; Fasya et al., 2023; Gin & Cacciafoco, 2021; Komara et al., 2019; Konyratbayeva et al., 2024; Porter et al., 2024; Reszegi, 2020; Rodríguez, 2022; Sultoni et al., 2023). Third, the study

of toponyms using a semiotic perspective (Koswara & Hermawan, 2021). Fourth, studies on toponyms use a historical linguistic perspective (Kalashnikov, 2021; Kumala & Lauder, 2021). Fifth, the study of toponyms using a cognitive linguistic perspective (Reszegi, 2022; Sun & Jiang, 2023). Sixth, the study of toponyms using an eco-linguistic perspective (Albuquerque et al., 2018; Sreevalsan, 2020). The review shows that previous researchers studied toponyms using different perspectives. However, these studies still prove that toponyms can express the relationship between humans and their thoughts and surroundings.

These researchers have never studied toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area, Sumedang Regency. In addition, this research is different from previous studies. This research adds to the range of analysis on the aspect of interpretation of local ecological knowledge in toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area, Sumedang Regency. This phenomenon is an important issue in response to the threat of decrease in local ecological knowledge, which includes the ecological awareness of affected communities in Waduk Jatigede development area. Therefore, this empirical research is an important study for the government and local communities in Waduk Jatigede area.

Based on the description above, this research has three objectives. First, it aims to describe the linguistic units that mark toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. Second, it aims to describe the meaning and characteristics of toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. Third, it aims to interpret local knowledge about ecology reflected in toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area.

2 Methods

This research used the theoretical approach of anthropological linguistics. Anthropological linguistics looks at language phenomena in the socio-cultural context of its speakers with the aim of revealing the hidden meaning behind the language (Foley, 1997; Suhandano, 2015). This approach was chosen to explore local ecological knowledge in toponyms in Sundanese society. This research was conducted in Waduk Jatigede area, Sumedang Regency, consisting of 28 villages from 5 sub-districts as areas affected by the construction of Waduk Jatigede.

The data in this study were taken from various lexicons used in the toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. The data were collected by using participant observation and interview methods. Participant observation method was used to obtain toponym data and Sundanese people's interpretation of local ecological knowledge through the toponyms. During the observation, the basic technique of listening while engaging in conversation was also used. Furthermore, interviews were used to get information about the background of the toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. Each of these processes involved note-taking and recording activities. The data analysis procedure included these four stages: (1) transcription of recorded data; (2) categorization of data from the transcription of recordings or notes based on the classification of toponym aspects; (3) interpretation of local ecological knowledge through toponyms; (4) conclusion.

3 Findings

3.1 Linguistic Aspects of Toponyms

This research found at least 800 toponyms. Based on the linguistic unit, the data are divided into two categories, namely monomorphemic toponyms and polymorphemic toponyms. The distribution of the data shows that there are only 8% of monomorphemic toponyms and 92% polymorphemic toponyms. Figure 1 shows the percentage comparison of polymorphemic toponyms and monomorphemic toponyms.

Figure 1. Linguistic Aspects of Toponyms

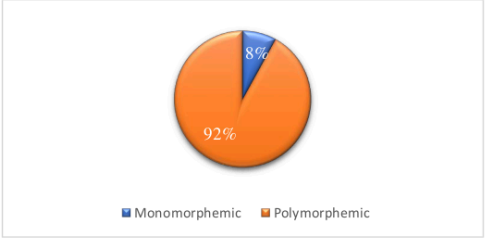


Table 1 shows examples of monomorphemic toponyms. The table contains information about the toponym, a phonemic transcription for easy reading, and an Indonesian gloss. The table also includes a caption that gives a brief description of the toponym.

Table 1: Monomorphemic Toponyms

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss	Description
1	*Gebang*	/gəbaŋ/	'type of palm'	Palm species in Waduk Jatigede area
2	*Sadang*	/sadaŋ/	'type of palm'	Palm species in Waduk Jatigede area
3	*Dangdeur*	/daŋdör/	'type of tree'	Tree species in Waduk Jatigede area

Furthermore, Table 2 shows examples of polymorphemic toponyms.

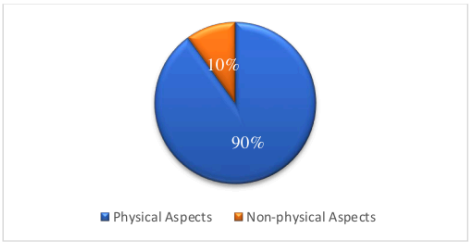
Table 2: Polymorphemic Toponyms

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss		Description
1	*Cikirai*	/cikirai/	*ci* (*cai*) 'water'	*kirai* 'sago palm'	A village near a spring with sago palm
2	*Bangkongreang*	/baŋkoŋreaŋ/	*bangkong* *'frog'*	*reang* *'boisterous'*	An area where the sounds of frogs can usually be heard
3	*Kebonbuah*	/kəbonbuah/	*kebon* 'garden'	*buah* 'mango'	There is a former mango orchard

3.2 Toponyms Classification and Toponyms Background

This research also classifies toponyms based on their characteristics. Sudaryat et al. (2009) explain that toponyms are divided based on four aspects, namely (1) aspects of the origin of word formation (linguistic etymology); (2) physical aspects, which include hydrological, geomorphological, and biological-ecological characteristics; (3) aspects of community culture (sociocultural); (4) aspects of literary art. However, in this context, toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area are divided into two classifications, namely based on physical aspects and non-physical aspects. The distribution of the data shows that there are many toponyms categorized under physical aspects, which is 90%. Meanwhile, there are only a few toponyms categorized by non-physical aspects, 10%. Figure 2 shows the percentage comparison of toponyms categorized by physical aspects and toponyms categorized by non-physical aspects.

Figure 2. Classification of Toponyms



Toponyms categorized under physical aspects contain three characteristics, namely hydrological characteristics, geomorphological characteristics, and biological-ecological characteristics. The distribution of the data is quite even, as presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Toponyms Based on Physical Aspects

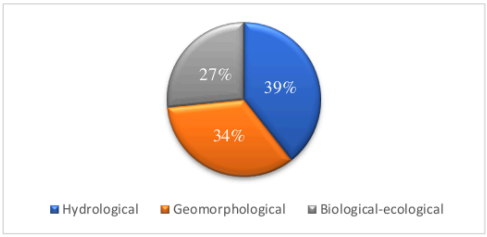


Figure 3 shows that 39% of toponyms are hydrological, 34% are geomorphological, and 24% are biological-ecological. Table 3 shows examples of hydrological toponyms.

Table 3: Toponyms with Hydrological Features

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss		Description
1	*Cibudah*	/cibudah/	*ci-* 'water'	*Budah* 'froth'	There is froth in the river.
2	*Walungan Cihonje*	/waluŋan.cihonje/	*walungan* 'big river'	*Cihonje* 'a place name'	There is a big river called Cihonje, and there is much *Etlingera elatior* growing around it.
3	*Lebak Kadu*	/ləbak.kadu/	*lebak* 'river'	*Kadu* 'durian'	A river with durian trees around it.
4	*Solokan Lame*	/solokan.lame/	*solokan* 'ditch'	*Lame* '*Alstonia scholaris*'	A ditch with *lame* trees around it

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss		Description
5	*Leuwi Wareng*	/löwi.wareŋ/	*leuwi* 'hole'	*Wareng* 'a type of small tree'	A hole with a *wareng* tree around it
6	*Tampian Ronggeng*	/tampian.roŋgeŋ/	*tampian* 'a bathing place'	*ronggeng* 'a traditional dancer'	A bathing place for traditional dancers
7	*Dawuan Jeruk*	/dawuan.jəruk/	*dawuan* 'a waterway from river to residential area'	*jeruk* 'orange'	A waterway from a river to a residential area with citrus trees around it
8	*Sungapan Cijeruk*	/suŋapan.cijəruk/	*sungapan* 'spring'	*cijeruk* 'a place name'	The springs in Cijeruk
9	*Sirah Cai Ciangsana*	/sirah.cai.ciaŋsana/	*sirah cai* 'upstream of the river'	*Ciangsana* 'a place name'	Upstream of the river in Ciangsana
10	*Ranca Karasak*	/ranca.karasak/	*ranca* 'swamp'	*Karasak* 'karasak trees'	A swamp with *karasak* trees around it
11	*Curug Cangkudu*	/curug.caŋkudu/	*curug* 'waterfall'	*Cangkudu* 'noni'	A waterfall with noni trees around it

Furthermore, Table 4 shows examples of toponyms based on the classification of geomorphological features.

Table 4: Toponyms with Geomorphological Features

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss		Description
1	*Sawah Sadang*	/sawah.sadaŋ/	*sawah* 'rice fields'	*Sadang* 'a type of tree'	Rice fields with *sadang* trees growing around them
2	*Pasirmuncang*	/pasirmuncaŋ/	*pasir* 'hill'	*Muncang* 'candlenut trees'	A hill covered with candlenut trees
3	*Legok Huni*	/ləgok.huni/	*legok* 'niches'	*Huni* 'Antidesma bunius'	Niches covered with *Antidesma bunius* trees
4	*Tegal Jarong*	/təgal.jaroŋ/	*tegal* 'vast land'	*Jarong* 'plant species'	Vast land with *jarong*
5	*Kebon Tiwu*	/kəbon.tiwu/	*kebon* 'garden'	*Tiwu* 'sugarcane'	Fields with sugarcane
6	*Gunung Kerud*	/gunuŋ.kərud/	*gunung* 'mountain'	*Kerud* 'a small tiger'	A mountain with a small tiger
7	*Bojong Salam*	/bojoŋ.salam/	*bojong* 'peninsula'	*Salam* 'laurel trees'	A peninsula covered with laurel trees
8	*Ancol*	/ancol/	*ancol* 'riverside bays'		Residential areas in riverside bays

Table 5 shows examples of toponyms with biological-ecological characteristics that have floral elements.

Table 5: Toponyms with Biological-Ecological Features (Flora)

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss	Description
1	*Jatinunggal*	/jatinuŋgal/	*jati* 'teak tree' *nunggal* 'single'	There is only one large teak tree in the area.
2	*Baros*	/baros/	*Baros* 'a type of tree'	There are *baros* trees growing in the area.
3	*Gempol*	/gəmpol/	*gempol* 'cheesewood'	There are cheesewood trees growing in the area.
4	*Peuteuy Selong*	/pötöy.seloŋ/	*peuteuy selong* 'white leadtree'	There is a white leadtree growing in the area.

Table 6 below shows examples of toponyms with biological-ecological features that use faunal elements.

Table 6: Toponyms with Biological-Ecological Features (Fauna)

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss	Description
1	*Tando*	/tando/	'petaurista'	There are animals called *petaurista* in the region.
2	*Betok*	/bətok/	'climbing gouramy'	There is a fish called climbing gouramy in Cimanuk River.

Table 7 below presents the classification of toponyms based on non-physical aspects.

Table 7: Toponyms Based on Nonphysical Aspects

No.	Toponyms	Phonemic Transcriptions	Gloss	Description
1	*Babakan Rajep*	/babakan.rajep/	*babakan* 'a land cleared as a new residential area' *Rajep* 'person's name'	A land cleared as a new residential area by a man named Rajep.
2	Kampungbaru	/kampuŋbaru/	*kampung* 'village' *baru* 'new'	A newly built village that is a relocation site for residents affected by the construction of Waduk Jatigede.

4 Discussion

4.1 Linguistic Aspects of Toponyms

The data in Table 1 show that the toponyms *Gebang* 'type of palm/palm', *Sadang* 'type of palm/palm', and *Dangdeur* 'type of tree' are monomorphemic because they consist of only one morpheme. In addition, all three toponyms are categorized as nouns. The toponyms *Gebang* and *Sadang* are place names that refer to 'types of palms in Waduk Jatigede area'. Furthermore, the toponym *Dangdeur* is a place name that refers to 'a type of tree in Waduk Jatigede area'. Semantically, each toponym has a meaning that is closely related to natural or ecological elements, namely the flora of *gebang*, *sadang*, and *dangdeur* as natural vegetation in Waduk Jatigede area.

Furthermore, the data in Table 2 shows that the toponyms *Cikirai*, *Bangkongreang*, and *Kebonbuah* are polymorphemic because they consist of two morphemes. First, the toponym *Cikirai*

is a combination of the morpheme *ci-* and the morpheme *kirai*. The *ci-* morpheme is an abbreviation. It is a contraction of the morpheme *cai*, which means 'water'. Meanwhile, the morpheme *kirai* means 'a type of tree'. The toponym *cikirai* refers to 'a village near a spring overgrown with kirai trees'.

Second, the toponym *Bangkongreang* is a combination of the morpheme *bangkong* and the morpheme *reang*. The *bangkong* morpheme means 'frog'. Meanwhile, the morpheme *reang* means 'boisterous'. The toponym *Bangkongreang* refers to 'an area where the sound of frogs is commonly heard'. Third, the toponym *Kebonbuah* is a combination of *kebon* morphemes and *buah* morphemes. The *kebon* morpheme means 'garden'. Meanwhile, the *buah* morpheme means 'mango'. The toponym *Kebonbuah* refers to 'a former mango garden'. Thus, it can be seen that the toponym describes the use of nouns that combine natural elements and vegetation elements.

Based on the linguistic aspect, there are two groups of toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area, namely monomorphemic and polymorphemic. Local people in Waduk Jatigede predominantly use polymorphemic toponyms rather than monomorphemic toponyms. Polymorphemic toponyms involve two or more morphemes—one morpheme functions as the core element and the other as an explanatory attribute.

Local people use this toponym construction to identify the difference between one toponym and another. This finding aligns with Fasya et al. (2023), who states that Sundanese people dominantly use polymorphemic toponyms. In addition, some previous researchers also explain that most toponyms in Indonesia have compound patterns, which include compound words, acronyms, and affixes, as well as linear (single) patterns (Humaidi et al., 2021; Kurniawan et al., 2024; Rustinar & Kusmiarti, 2021; Septiani et al., 2020).

4.2 Toponyms Classification and Toponyms Background

Table 3 shows that hydrologically characterized toponyms include eleven lexicon groups belonging to the water meaning field. The eleven lexicon groups are (1) *ci-* 'water', (2) *walungan* 'big river', (3) *lebak* 'river', (4) *solokan* 'gully', (5) *leuwi* 'hole', (6) *tampian* 'bathing place', (7) *dawuan* 'water channel from river to settlement', (8) *sungapan* 'spring', (9) *sirah cai* 'upstream', (10) *ranca* 'swamp', and (11) *curug* 'waterfall'.

First, the toponym *Cibudah* refers to a river that is now lost because it is included in the inundation area of Waduk Jatigede. *Cibudah* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *ci-* morphemes and *budah* morphemes. The morpheme *ci-* is an abbreviation as a contraction of the word *cai*, which means 'water'. Meanwhile, *budah* means 'froth'. This indicates a direct relationship between humans and aquatic ecosystems, namely rivers with frothy water. The froth appears because of the fast flow of water or the presence of certain mineral content in the river.

Second, the toponym *Walungan Cihonje* refers to a large river in Waduk Jatigede area. *Walungan Cihonje* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *walungan* morpheme and *cihonje* morpheme. The *walungan* morpheme means 'big river'. Meanwhile, the morpheme *cihonje* is also a polymorphemic form because it is a combination of the morpheme *ci-*, which means 'water', and the morpheme *honje*, which means '*Etlingera elatior*'. This toponym indicates that *Etlingera elatior* grows around the river. However, for local people in Waduk Jatigede area, the word *walungan* is not always attached to the word *cihonje* because the morpheme *ci-* in the word *cihonje* already refers to the river.

Third, the toponym *Lebak Kadu* refers to the name of the river in Waduk Jatigede area. *Lebak Kadu* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *lebak* morpheme and *kadu* morpheme. The *lebak* morpheme means 'river', while the *kadu* morpheme means 'durian'. This toponym indicates that durian trees grow around the river. Fourth, the toponym *Solokan Lame* refers

to the name of a ditch in Waduk Jatigede area. *Solokan Lame* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *solokan* morpheme and *lame* morpheme. The *solokan* morpheme means 'ditch' and the *lame* morpheme means 'type of tree'. This toponym indicates that *lame* trees grow around the ditch.

Fifth, the toponym *Leuwi Wareng* refers to the name of a hole in Waduk Jatigede area. *Leuwi Wareng* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *leuwi* morpheme and *wareng* morpheme. The *leuwi* morpheme means 'hole' and the *wareng* morpheme means 'a type of small tree'. This toponym indicates that *wareng* trees grow around the hole. Sixth, the toponym *Tampian Ronggeng* refers to the name of a bathing place in Waduk Jatigede area. Tampian Ronggeng is a polymorphic toponym because it is a combination of *tampian* morphemes and *ronggeng* morphemes. The *tampian* morpheme means 'bathing place' and the *ronggeng* morpheme means 'traditional dancer'. This toponym indicates that the place is a bathing place for traditional dancers.

Seventh, the toponym *Dawuan Jeruk* refers to the water channel that connects the river with residential areas in Waduk Jatigede area. *Dawuan Jeruk* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of the *dawuan* morpheme and the *jeruk* morpheme. The *dawuan* morpheme means 'water channel connecting the river with residential areas' and the *jeruk* morpheme means 'orange'. This toponym indicates that orange trees grow around the waterway. Eighth, the toponym *Sungapan Cijeruk* refers to the name of a spring in Waduk Jatigede area. S*ungapan Cijeruk* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of the *sungapan* morpheme and the *cijeruk* morpheme. The *sungapan* morpheme means 'spring'. Furthermore, the morpheme *cijeruk* refers to a place name in the area. The morpheme is a combination of the morpheme *ci-*, which means 'water', and the morpheme *jeruk*, which means 'orange'. This toponym indicates that orange trees grow in the spring.

Ninth, the toponym *Sirah Cai Ciangsana* refers to the name of the upstream river in Waduk Jatigede area. *Sirah Cai Ciangsana* is a polymorphemic toponym because it contains *sirah* morpheme, *cai* morpheme, and *ciangsana* morpheme. The word *sirah cai* means 'upstream of the river'. Furthermore, the word *ciangsana* refers to the name of a place in the area. The word *ciangsana* is a combination of the morpheme *ci-*, which means 'water', and the morpheme *angsana*, which means 'type of tree'. This toponym indicates that *angsana* trees grow around the upper reaches of the river. Tenth, the toponym Ranca Karasak refers to the name of a swamp in Waduk Jatigede area. *Ranca* Karasak is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *ranca* morpheme and *karasak* morpheme. The *ranca* morpheme means 'swamp' and the *karasak* morpheme means 'type of tree'. This toponym indicates that *karasak* trees grow around the swamp.

Eleventh, the toponym *Curug Cangkudu* refers to the name of a waterfall in Waduk Jatigede area. *Curug Cangkudu* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *curug* morpheme and *cangkudu* morpheme. The *curug* morpheme means 'waterfall' and the *cangkudu* morpheme means 'noni'. This toponym indicates that noni trees grow around the waterfall.

Based on the description above, it can be seen that the toponyms *Lebak Kadu, Solokan Lame, Leuwi Wareng, Tampian Ronggeng, Dawuan Jeruk, Sungapan Cijeruk, Sirah Cai Ciangsana, Ranca Karasak,* and *Curug Cangkudu* refer to the existence of aquatic ecosystems in Waduk Jatigede area. Due to the large number of *lebak, solokan, leuwi, tampian, dawuan, sungapan, sirah cai, ranca,* and *curug* in the area, local people need specific explanatory attributes to distinguish them. In this context, the words *kadu, lame, wareng, ronggeng, jeruk, cijeruk, ciangsana, karasak,* and *cangkudu* function as explanatory attributes.

Hydrologically, the toponyms *Lebak Kadu, Solokan Lame, Leuwi Wareng, Dawuan Jeruk, Sungapan Cijeruk, Sirah Cai Ciangsana, Ranca Karasak*, and *Curug Cangkudu* indicate the relationship between the aquatic ecosystem and natural vegetation in the area. Meanwhile, the

toponym *Tampian Ronggeng* indicates the relationship between local socio-cultural and ecological activities, namely bathing and gathering places for traditional dancers. This means that toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area show that local communities are well aware of the relationship between natural vegetation and aquatic ecosystems in their area.

Furthermore, the data in Table 4 show that geomorphologically characterized toponyms include eight lexicon groups that belong to the land meaning field. The eight lexicon groups are (1) *sawah* 'rice field', (2) *pasir* 'hill', (3) *legok* 'niche', (4) *tegal* 'large land', (5) *kebon* 'garden', (6) *gunung* 'mountain', (7) *bojong* 'peninsula', and (8) *ancol* 'bay by the river'.

First, the toponym *Sawah Sadang* refers to the name of rice fields in Waduk Jatigede area. *Sawah Sadang* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of the morpheme *sawah* and the morpheme *sadang*. The *sawah* morpheme means 'rice field' and the *sadang* morpheme means 'type of tree'. This toponym indicates that *sadang* trees grow around the rice field. Second, the toponym *Pasirmuncang* refers to the name of a hill in Waduk Jatigede area. *Pasirmuncang* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *pasir* morpheme and *muncang* morpheme. The morpheme *pasir* means 'hill' and the morpheme *muncang* means 'candlenut'. This toponym indicates that candlenut trees grow around the hill.

Third, the toponym *Legok Huni* refers to the name of a niche in Waduk Jatigede area. *Legok Huni* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *legok* morpheme and *huni* morpheme. The *legok* morpheme means 'niche' and the *huni* morpheme means 'Antidesma bunius'. This toponym indicates that *Antidesma bunius* trees grow around the niches. Fourth, the toponym Tegal Jarong refers to the name of a large area of land in Waduk Jatigede area. *Tegal Jarong* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *tegal* morpheme and *jarong* morpheme. The *tegal* morpheme means 'vast land' and the *jarong* morpheme means 'plant species'. This toponym indicates that Jarong plants grow on the vast land.

Fifth, the toponym *Kebon Tiwu* refers to the name of a garden in Waduk Jatigede area. *Kebon Tiwu* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *kebon* morpheme and *tiwu* morpheme. The *kebon* morpheme means 'garden' and the *tiwu* morpheme means 'sugar cane'. This toponym indicates that sugarcane plants grow in the garden. Sixth, the toponym *Gunung Kerud* refers to the name of the mountain in Waduk Jatigede area. *Gunung Kerud* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *gunung* morpheme and *kerud* morpheme. The *gunung* morpheme means 'mountain' and the *kerud* morpheme means 'small tiger'. This toponym indicates that the mountain is the habitat of a small tiger.

Seventh, the toponym *Bojong Salam* refers to the name of a peninsula in Waduk Jatigede area. *Bojong Salam* is a polymorphemic toponym because it is a combination of *bojong* morpheme and *salam* morpheme. The *bojong* morpheme means 'peninsula' and the *salam* morpheme means 'type of tree'. This toponym indicates that *salam* trees grow around the peninsula. Eighth, the toponym *Ancol* refers to a residential area in a riverside bay. *Ancol* is a monomorphemic toponym because it consists of only one morpheme. The *ancol* morpheme means 'a bay by the river'. This toponym shows that there is a bay in the area that is used as a settlement.

Based on the description above, it can be seen that the toponyms *Sawah Sadang, Pasirmuncang, Legok Huni, Tegal Jarong, Kebon Tiwu, Gunung Kerud, Bojong Salam*, and *Ancol* refer to the existence of land ecosystems in Waduk Jatigede area. Due to the large number of *sawah*, *pasir*, *legok*, *tegal*, *kebon*, *gunung*, and *bojong*, local people need specific explanatory attributes to distinguish them. In this context, the words *sadang, muncang, huni, jarong, tiwu, kerud,* and *salam* function as explanatory attributes. This shows the relationship between the land ecosystem and the flora and fauna in the area. Meanwhile, local people in Waduk Jatigede area rarely use the toponym *Ancol*

because it has little existence. Therefore, the word *ancol* stands alone as a toponym without explanatory attributes.

In addition, there are toponyms with biological-ecological characteristics. Toponyms with biological-ecological characteristics are generally related to the presence of flora and fauna in the place. In this context, the flora element is the natural vegetation in Waduk Jatigede area. Meanwhile, the fauna element includes land fauna and water fauna.

The data in Table 5 show that biologically-ecologically characterized toponyms with flora elements include types of trees or plants. These toponyms contain tree or plant species. First, the toponym Jatinunggal refers to the name of the village and subdistrict in Waduk Jatigede area. Jatinunggal is a polymorphemic toponym which is a combination of the morpheme *jati* and the morpheme *nunggal*. The *jati* morpheme means 'teak tree' and the *nunggal* morpheme means 'single'. The name indicates that there is only one large teak tree growing in the area, in addition to other teak trees that are smaller. Second, the toponym Baros refers to the name of a village in Waduk Jatigede area. *Baros* is a monomorphemic toponym with the meaning 'a type of tree'. The naming indicates that there are *baros* trees growing around the area.

Third, the toponym *Gempol* refers to the name of a village in Waduk Jatigede area. *Gempol* is a monomorphemic toponym with the meaning 'cheesewood'. The name indicates that there are cheesewood trees growing around the area. Fourth, the toponym *Peuteuy Selong* refers to the name of a village in Waduk Jatigede area. *Peuteuy Selong* is a polymorphemic toponym with the meaning 'white leadtree'. The naming indicates that there are white leadtree growing around the area.

The description above proves that the toponyms *Jatinunggal, Baros, Gempol*, and *Peuteuy Selong* refer to natural vegetation elements in Waduk Jatigede area. This shows the existence of certain plants as an important element in a region's geographical identity. These toponyms also show how local communities in Waduk Jatigede area utilize their natural resources. These toponyms also inform that these ecological aspects have become an integral part of their heritage.

The data in Table 6 show that biologically-ecologically characterized toponyms with faunal elements contain types of fauna that live on land and in water. First, the toponym *Tando* refers to the name of a settlement in Waduk Jatigede area. *Tando* is a monomorphemic toponym with the meaning 'petaurista'. The name indicates that there are *tandos* living in the area. Second, the *Betok* toponym refers to the name of a settlement submerged in Waduk Jatigede area. *Betok* is a monomorphemic toponym that means 'climbing gouramy'. The naming indicates that a type of fish called *betok* lives in Cimanuk River.

The description above proves that the toponyms *Tando* and *Betok* refer to the local fauna in Waduk Jatigede area. This shows that these species have a role in the local ecosystem. Furthermore, there are also toponyms based on non-physical aspects. Toponyms based on non-physical aspects contain socio-cultural characteristics.

Furthermore, the data in Table 7 show that toponyms belong to the non-physical aspect. First, the toponym *Babakan Rajep* refers to the name of the residential area around Waduk Jatigede. *Babakan Rajep* is a polymorphemic toponym that combines the *babakan* morpheme and the *rajép* morpheme. The *babakan* morpheme means ' a land cleared as a new residential area ', while the *rajép* morpheme means 'a person's name'. Both morphemes are categorized as nouns. Based on its characteristics, *Babakan Rajep* is a toponym based on non-physical aspects because it is related to the activity of *ngababakan*, 'clearing land for a new area or village'. *Babakan* uses the lexicon ‘Rajep’ as an explanatory attribute because *Rajép* is the person who first cleared the land and built a house there.

Second, the toponym *Kampung Baru* refers to a new village as a relocation place for residents affected by the construction of Waduk Jatigede. *Kampung Baru* is a polymorphemic toponym that combines the morpheme *kampung* and the morpheme *baru*. The morpheme *kampung* means 'village', while the morpheme *baru* means 'new'. The *kampung* morpheme is categorized as a noun, while the *baru* morpheme is categorized as an adjective. Based on its characteristics, Kampung Baru is a toponym based on non-physical aspects because it is related to opening new land for relocation.

The above description proves that the toponyms of *Babakan Rajep* and *Kampung Baru* show a strong relationship between toponyms and social dynamics and environmental changes. These toponyms reflect local knowledge of geography and capture the social changes local communities face. This finding shows how the community responds to physical and social changes through toponyms with deep ecological meanings.

The findings show that local communities in Waduk Jatigede area predominantly use toponyms based on physical aspects rather than non-physical ones. Toponyms with hydrological, geomorphological, and biological-ecological features can describe the characteristics of places in Waduk Jatigede area. Some previous researchers have proven that toponyms in Indonesia tend to use water features, land contours, and elements of natural objects (Fasya et al., 2023, 2024; Hidayah, 2019; Jannah et al., 2021; Jayanti, 2021; Kurniawan et al., 2024).

In this context, toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area show a close relationship between humans and nature, which includes land ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and flora and fauna. Albuquerque (2018) explains that the main mechanism of toponymy is the influence of the region's characteristics along with other factors, such as the history and cultural characteristics of the local population. Thus, toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area also show a close relationship between environmental knowledge and local geographical identity.

4.3 Local Ecological Knowledge in Toponyms

Based on the description above, the toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area reflect the local knowledge of the Sundanese community. Local knowledge refers to the unique skills of a particular society or culture, including cultural traditions, values, beliefs, and local people's world views (Agrawal, 1995; Dei, 1993; Nygren, 1999). This toponym reflects local ecological knowledge in the context of Sundanese communities in Waduk Jatigede area. The finding is based on the opinion of Fasya et al. (2023), who state that Sundanese toponyms record the local identity of Sundanese people and describe the closeness of humans to the surrounding nature.

These toponyms function as geographical markers and hold important information about local ecological, social and historical conditions. Komara et al. (2019) explain that based on their linguistic features, toponyms related to water, biological ecosystems, and historical events that record the ideas, motivations, and will of the community can be utilized to apply local values in preserving the original identity of the surrounding environment.

Hydrological features and floral features dominate toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. For example, the toponym *Cibudah* shows local knowledge about the characteristics of the river flow in the area. In addition, the toponym *Cikirai* also reflects local knowledge about vegetation growing near aquatic ecosystems. The names show a strong connection between the local community and water resources. It also reflects the community's awareness of the flora that grows by the river. The use of these local flora names shows how people recognize and name nature according to the dominant vegetation in the environment.

Toponyms in the Waduk Jatigede area also often describe the geomorphological features and faunal characteristics of the surrounding area. For example, the toponym *Pasirmuncang* indicates that

Sundanese people understand the geomorphological conditions in the area with local vegetation. In addition, the toponym *Gunung Kerud* also shows local knowledge of the diversity of fauna in the area and the importance of these animals in their environment. In addition to the physical aspects, the toponyms in Waduk Jatigede also reflect the socio-cultural changes that have occurred in the community, especially in the context of development and population relocation.

Based on this description, it can be seen that Sundanese people give names to places in the area based on local ecological characteristics, which include water, soil, flora, and fauna. Linguistically, these local ecological characteristics are recorded in the form of an eco-lexicon. Based on Sapir's (2001) term physical environment, the eco-lexicon consists of lexicons related to geographies, such as the country's topography (coast, valley, plateau, or mountain), climate, amount of rainfall, fauna, flora, and mineral resources in the region. The finding means that in Sundanese culture, toponyms are not just a geographical label but a representation of closeness to the surrounding nature.

Overall, local knowledge of ecology is reflected in many toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. Sundanese people have a deep understanding of the ecosystems that exist in their natural environment. They use language as a way to document and convey this local knowledge to the next generation. In addition, these toponyms become part of the local identity that represents how people interact with their natural environment. The finding means that these toponyms are not only geographical markers but also serve as documentation of the community's interaction with the natural environment and the social changes they experience.

In addition, toponyms based on local ecological characteristics show that Sundanese people have a close and sustainable relationship with their natural surroundings. This local knowledge has great potential to be the basis for sustainable development (Berkes, 2012; Preston et al., 1995) and environmental conservation (Maffi & Woodley, 2010). In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), toponyms based on local knowledge of ecology have a strong relevance to Goal 13, Climate Action, and Goal 15, Life on Land.

Toponyms that contain information about the ecological condition of an area can serve as an archive of local knowledge about climate patterns, water availability, vegetation, and landscape change. This local knowledge can help communities understand and respond more adaptively to the impacts of climate change. By maintaining and studying these toponyms, communities can develop mitigation strategies based on local wisdom, such as water resource management and adaptation to environmental change.

Meanwhile, in relation to Goal 15, which emphasizes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, toponyms based on local knowledge of ecology can also play a role in biodiversity conservation. In addition, toponyms can also be a source of information for environmental protection policies and sustainable spatial planning. It is important to maintain the local knowledge recorded in these toponyms as part of a rich cultural and ecological heritage. Thus, this local knowledge can help communities to live in harmony with their environment and can provide valuable insights for conservation efforts and sustainable management of natural resources.

5 Conclusion

There are three findings in this study. The first is the linguistic aspect of toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. This finding shows that polymorphemic toponyms dominate toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area. The second is the classification of toponyms based on two aspects, namely physical aspects and non-physical aspects. In this context, it can be seen that local people in Waduk Jatigede area dominantly use toponyms with physical aspects, including hydrological, geomorphological, and biological-ecological characteristics. The third is local ecological knowledge reflected in toponyms

in Waduk Jatigede area. This finding shows that Sundanese people have a close relationship with the surrounding nature.

Based on these three findings, toponyms in Waduk Jatigede area reflect the local knowledge of ecology in Sundanese society. This local knowledge of ecology contains the ecological awareness of Sundanese people regarding the environmental characteristics of Waduk Jatigede area, which includes water, soil, flora, and fauna. This local knowledge records a place's ecological history and reflects a community's collective awareness of maintaining the balance of nature.

In the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), toponyms based on local knowledge of ecology can support two goals. First, toponyms based on local knowledge of ecology can support Goal 15, Life on Land, which emphasizes the importance of preserving terrestrial ecosystems. Second, toponyms based on local knowledge of ecology can also support Goal 13, Climate Action, which relates to mitigating the impacts of climate change through understanding and managing the environment based on local wisdom. Thus, toponymy is part of linguistic and cultural studies and has relevance in supporting sustainable development through ecosystem preservation and increased environmental awareness.

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