

# Toponymy of Village Names at Namu Rambe Sub-district: An Anthropolinguistic Study

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**Abstract.** The naming system is a fascinating study because it is not only related to linguistics but also to the culture that lives in a society, likewise, with the naming of villages in the Namu Rambe sub-district. The problem in this study is how the toponymy of village names in the Namu Rambe sub-district uses anthropolinguistic study. This research aims to find the toponymy of village names in the Namu Rambe sub-district. The theory used is the theory of toponymy and anthropolinguistics. The method used is qualitative, with professional recording and note-taking techniques and literature study methods. From the results of the study, it was found that six villages were using the word Namu, one village with the word lau, one village with the word mountain, four villages with elements of flora and fauna, one village with the word house, two villages related to Hope and the naming of the village with seven standing processes. The naming system for Namu Rambe Sub-district villages shows cultural values still preserved in this community.

**Keywords:** Toponymy, Namu Rambe Sub-district, anthropolinguistic

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## 1 Introduction

Studying the naming of an area is a fascinating study to do. Naming a particular area or place relates to many things, such as religion, society, geography, and culture. The system of naming is also called nomen clature. Knowing the planting system of an area can provide many benefits for the public. Not only knowing the history of the naming but being able to know the identity of an area. The naming system is the most explicit linguistic marker in social relations [1]. The naming system is closely related to linguistics and social relations. So that the naming system is also closely related to anthropolinguistics. The naming system consists of (a) a country naming system, (b) a region or place naming system, (c) a national house and equipment naming system, (d) a naming system for traditional food and cakes, (e) naming system for traditional clothes and weapons and f. naming system and surname. The naming system is limited to some geographical regions and cultural elements [2].

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Culture needs to be preserved by community groups, especially regional culture. Indonesia is famous for its diverse culture. Various efforts have been made to maintain regional culture, so it does not become extinct. The regional languages are still used as means of communication that live and are fostered by the state because these languages are part of the culture that is still life [3]. This explanation implicitly contains two main issues, namely: (a) recognition of the Indonesian language as the national language and the official state language, and (b) maintenance which at the same time means fostering, developing, and maintaining regional languages [4].

The naming of Namo Rambe is closely related to the culture of the Karo people. Namorambe is one of the sub-districts in Deli Serdang, North Sumatra. Namorambe Sub-district is one of the sub-districts that has the most villages. From the names of these villages, it can be seen that the whole village has a cultural element in the naming system. The naming is not only because of the geographical location of the area, such as Namo Rambe, Namo Pinang, where the name is because of the geographical location that is flowed by the river. But there is also the naming because of the historical and cultural elements of the area.

Several researchers have researched the naming system. A naming system for a place has been implemented, such as the Toponymy of Sundanese Place Names in Banyumas Regency, the Story of Planting tourist attractions in Banten as digital tourism promotion material, and BIPA (Indonesian Language for Foreign Speakers) teaching materials in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era, Village Naming System in Sumber Sari Sub-district, Jember Regency, Names and Naming: People, Places, Perception, and Power and the Naming System for Shops of the Madurese Community in Ledokombo Sub-district (Study of Oral Traditions). However, studies on village naming in the Namo Rambe Sub-district have never been conducted. It is necessary to know the naming system of an area not only to increase knowledge but also as an effort to maintain culture. The naming of the Namo Rambe is related to word formation, cultural, natural, or geographical elements, expectations, and even the history of the village's founding.

Namo Rambe Sub-district was used as the object of a research study because of all the Deli Serdang, North Sumatra sub-districts. Namo Ramembela Sub-District has the most villages, namely 36 Villages. Of the 36 village names, they are closely related to that area's culture, namely the Karo people's culture. This shows that in the past, the Karo people wanted to preserve their culture for their generation and the next generation. The Karo people want their culture to be preserved. From the background described above,

the author wants to know how the village naming system is in Namo Rambe Sub-district. Through this research, the researcher wanted to get information about the naming system for villages in Namo Rambe Sub-district.

## **2. Method**

The research method is divided into three stages: data provision, analysis, and presentation. Data provision was carried out using the proficient method with recording and note-taking techniques [5][6]. The research data consisted of the names of villages in the Namorambe Sub-district and their history based on information obtained from several informants and related literature. After the data was obtained, the data were analyzed by applying the interactive [7]. The data analysis uses the following steps: a. Data collection. B. Data depreciation, c. Presentation of data and d. Conclusion.

## **3. Result and Discussion**

Namo Rambe Sub-district consists of 36 village names, namely Batu Gemuk, Batu Mbelin, Batu Penjemuran, Batu Rejo, Bekukul, Love of the People, Mount Berita, Mount Kelawas, Jaba, Jati Kesuma, Kuta Tualah, Kwala Simeme, Lubang Ido, Namo Batang, Namo Landur, Namo Mbaru, Namo Mbelin, Namo Pakam, Namo Pinang, Rimo Mungkur, Rumah Keben, Rumah Mbacang, Salang Tungir, Sudi Rejo, Suka Mulia Hilir, Suka Mulia Hulu, Tanjung Selamat, Ujung Labuhan, Uruk Gedang, Deli Tua, Kuta Tengah, Lau Mulgab, Tangkahan, Weigh Opponents, Namo Rambe and Silue lue. At a first, glance, if you look at the names of these villages, they are very close to the majority culture in this place, namely the Karo culture [8].

The geographical location of the Namo Rambe Sub-district, which is traversed by two rivers, is one of the naming systems for several villages in Namo Rambe. In a paper, *Listening, Learning and Taking Action with the Community, the Deli River Ecosystem Management Action Plan, North Sumatra Province*, wrote that according to Volker, in 1860, the Deli River from upstream to the city of Medan was still a jungle. Here and there, especially at the mouths of the river, there are already settlements of people from Karo and the Malayan peninsula. At that time, the Deli River was also an essential lifeblood of the economy. Commercial ships flowed towards the estuary and the sea, transporting crops and spices to be marketed to the Malay Peninsula and mainland Europe. Based on this writing, the villages that pass through the mouths of the rivers are one of the references in naming the village [9].

Several village names were made because they are related to the location of the river. Apart from being close to a river, some of the names of these villages are also related to

the regional language, which is mainly used in this sub-district. Apart from being based on region and culture, village naming is also based on history and plant elements. From this description, the village naming system in the Namo Rambe Sub-district consists of the following:

1. The naming of the village with the word Namo
2. Name the village with the word lau
3. The naming of the village with the word mountain
4. Village arrangement with elements of flora and fauna
5. Naming with the word house
6. The naming of the village is related to Harapan
7. Village naming by standing process

### **Name the Village with the Word *Namo***

As explained above, Namo Rambe Sub-district is flowed by two rivers: the Babura River and the Deli River. The areas traversed by the river are a basis for naming the village. The villages traversed by the Deli river make names using words related to rivers and water. Rivers are places, containers, and water drainage networks from springs to estuaries bounded on the right and left and along their flow by demarcation lines. A river can also be interpreted as a part of the earth's surface that is lower than the surrounding land and is a place for fresh water to flow to the sea, lakes, swamps, or other rivers. The river is that part of the earth's surface which, because of its nature, is a place for water to flow. From this understanding, the river is related to water, springs, estuaries, and water bodies. In the Karo language, *lubuk* can be translated as *namo*. The following are the names of the villages that use the word *namo*:

1. Namo Batang
2. Namo Mbaru
3. Namo Pinang
4. Namo Landur
5. Namo Pakam
6. Namo Rambe

The word *Namo* means bottom. The naming of villages using the word *namo* refers to villages that are crossed by rivers and found to have a deepening in the river. Geographically, *lubuk* means the deepest part of water areas such as rivers, lakes, and seas. The word *lubuk* can also mean a basin at the bottom of a river. *Namo* means the pool of water found in certain parts of the river. There are many river basins in the Deli

river. The name of the village with the word Namo is near the Deli river. In addition, most of the words Namo are followed by the names of plants in the area, except for Mbaru. The names of these plants still use the local people's language, namely Karo. These plants are Batang, Pinang, Landur, Pakam and Rambe. This shows that the village is not only drained by the river, but many plants grow a lot around the river and the village. For example, the village of Namo Rambe. Based on local legend, the name Namo Rambe is said to have come from the name of one of the farmer's river basins (lau tani) in this area which is close to the Rambe tree [10]. This paper shows that Namo Rambe is the origin of giving the name because of the existence of a river where there are river basins found along the Deli River. Around the river, there are many Rambe trees.

### **Naming Using the Word *Lau***

In the Karo language, the word water can be translated into lau. The following are village names that use the word lau: Lau Mulgab Lau Mulgab consists of two words: lau and Mulgab. Lau means water, and Mulgab means appear. The literal meaning of lau mulgab is water that appears. In this village, there is a small river flowing Deli river. If the rainy season is prolonged, this small river often causes flooding, so it is called mulgab.

### **Naming Using the Word Mountain**

There is one naming using the word mountain. The word mountain here does not refer to the presence of mountains around the village. However, it contains multiple meanings. The majority of the people of Namo Rambe Sub-district are farmers and cultivators. Fertile soil makes many plants grow and serve as a source of livelihood for the community. In this village agricultural land is widely used to plant one of the spices, namely galangal, in the Karo language it is called klawas. Aside from being a kitchen spice, the community also uses this klawas as a medicinal ingredient. At that time, because there were many klawas growing in this village, this village was named Gunung klawas village.

### **Naming with the Word House**

Two village names use the word home, namely Rumah Keben and Rumah Mbacang. The name of the village of Rumah Keben consists of two words, namely Rumah and keben. The word house refers to buildings for residences, and buildings in general (KBBI). Keben comes from the Karo language, which means a rice barn made from Karo. The agricultural sector is primarily rice farming. Formerly this village was a rice

barn. Many houses serve as rice barns, so this village is named Rumah Keben. Mbacang is the name of a plant that grew a lot at that time. Mbacang is a type of mango fruit. At that time, this mbacang fruit was found in this village.

### **Naming Villages with Elements of Flora and Fauna**

The naming of villages in the Namu Rambe Sub-district is also much related to the names of plants in the Namu Rambe Sub-district. The Namu Rambe region, fed by two rivers, makes the soil fertile, and many plants grow in this area. Some village names that use plant elements are:

1. Rimo mungkur
2. Jaba
3. Jati Kusuma
4. Salang tungir

The names of these three villages contain plant elements. Rimo mungkur is the name of a small citrus fruit plant. Jaba is the name of a type of tree. These two types of plants used to be found in abundance in this village. Jati Kusuma is the name of a village where most of the population is Javanese. From the information obtained, the village of Jati Kesuma is known for its vast Teak Forest with white views of blooming teak flowers. So the area gradually became the name of a Jati Kusuma Village. Naming with fauna elements is found in the naming of the village of Sarang Tungir. Salang means nest, and tungir is a kind of small animal. In the village of Salang Tungir, there are many nests where these animals live.

### **The Naming of the Village is Related to Expectations**

The name of this village is a village name that refers to the shape or form of the village related to the hope of naming the village by using a geographical name by giving a name related to hope [11]. Village naming related to hope, namely:

1. Desa Suka Mulia
2. Desa Sudi Rejo

The people of Suka Mulia village are still most of the Karo people. So that the naming of the village still uses the Karo language. The phrase Suka Mulia consists of two words, namely Suka and Mulia. Like means willing, while Mulia means commendable or special. From the meaning of these two words, the village of Suka Mulia implies the hope that this village will be glorious or praiseworthy later. Sudi Rejo is one of the villages whose name is not based on Karo culture. This is because the majority of the people in this village are Javanese. The phrase willing Rejo consists of two words,

namely willing and Rejo. Sudi means willingness, effort, and effort. Rejo means willing heart. He was given the name Sudi Rejo with the hope that the people of this village would have a willing heart, willing to share in their environment [12].

### **The Naming of the Village is Based on the Process of Its Establishment**

History has also become one of the naming elements of several villages in the Namorambe Sub-district. The naming of this village is based on the process of its establishment. The names of the villages are Tangkahan, Ujung Labuhan, Lubang Ido, Timbang Lawan, Uruk Gedang, Silue lue, and Deli Tua. Tangkahan Village and Ujung Labuhan have almost the same establishment process. Called tangkahan because this place is the place where the ship stops. At that time, this tangkahan was a place for ships crossing the Deli and Babura rivers to anchor. Likewise with Ujung Labuhan. The naming of the Ido hole was also a process of the establishment because, at that time, this area was fertile with agricultural land. The people in this area are farming, and many others come here. People who come to this area often make this area a place of debt. They don't pay for the agricultural produce they take or buy immediately, but the payment will be made sometime in the future. Therefore, this village is called an ido hole because it is a place of debt for other people who come to this village.

The naming of Deli Tua is related to history. The people in Deli Tua village are more diverse. If the naming of the previous villages was related to the culture of the Karo and Javanese people, then the community is more diverse in Deli Tua. The naming of the old deli is related to the history of the Haru Kingdom, who came to the Namorambe area and named this area the old deli. This naming is connected with the river that crosses this area, namely the Deli river [13].

### **4. Conclusion**

The naming system of an area is essential to know. The naming system for villages in the Namorambe Sub-district is closely related to geographical, cultural, and historical locations. The results of interviews and literature studies found that there are several village naming systems in the Namorambe Sub-district, namely. One village with the word home two villages related to Hope, and Village Naming with seven standing processes.

The naming system is very closely related to the culture of the people, namely the Karo tribe. Of the 36 village names, there are 33 villages with names related to the Karo

language. This represents that the people of Namorambe Sub-district still maintain their culture, namely naming villages in the Karo language. Besides that, the naming of several villages represents the people of the Namorambe Sub-district caring for nature. This can be seen from naming of several villages related to nature in the Namorambe Sub-district.

The Namorambe naming system still needs to be explored. This naming system needs to be known by the current generation and the next generation. This is one of the efforts to maintain culture and history. A search regarding the name of this village should be written down or recorded in a book so that the people of Namorambe Sub-district can find out about it and be able to tell it back to their descendants so that this culture does not become extinct.

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