

**AN ANALYSIS OF MONOLINGUAL ON THE HISTORICAL SITUS  
IN DILI, TIMOR-LESTE: A STUDY OF LINGUISTICS LANDSCAPE**

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**ABSTRACT**

Timor-Leste which is further called (TL) is also well-known as a multilingual and multicultural country. This country has 32 local languages and 3 foreign languages such as Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia and English. Portuguese is used as the official language however, Bahasa Indonesia and English are used as working languages. The intention of this research was intended to explore the use of monolingual used on the historical places in Dili which is dealing with the Linguistics Landscape (LL). The following problem was the most reason why this research was interesting to be investigated deeply: What language was used on the historical situses in Dili?. This is a qualitative research and the data were collected by using taking pictures technique with a mobile phone camera. All the data were analyzed descriptively based on the language used on the 6 situses of historical places in Dili.

**Keywords:** *linguistics landscape, historical situs and tetum language*

**1. BACKGROUND**

Linguistics Landscape which is further called (LL). Today, (LL) is considered as a great phenomenon because there are a lot of linguistics lovers which are interested in developing it. The development of (LL) can be developed rapidly because of the great contributions from the pioneers such as Spolsky&Cooper (1991), Landry&Bourhis (1997), Backhaus (2007), Sohamy & Gorter (2009) and Gorter (2006). Besides, Gorter (2006) also categorized the signs of Linguistics Landscape; (Top-down) the official signs used which issued by public places and Bottom-up (non-official business signs) posted individually. On the other hand, Ben-Rafael et al (2006) also categorized (LL) on the advertisement, signs which is located in both indoor and outdoor or in private business in some certain geographic places. Because of these people 's hard work and contributions, (LL) can be well known until today.

Timor-Leste which is popular known as (TL) is a Multilingual country which is rich of languages. It has 32 local languages including 3 foreign languages such Portuguese, English and Bahasa. Portuguese is used as an official language in Timor-Leste however, Bahasa and English are used as working languages based on the Constitution of Timor-Leste. As a Multilingual country, people in (TL) are demanded to be able to understand the languages not only in spoken but also in written. This demanding is reasonable because a lot of foreign people from different countries come and work in (TL). Those countries are such as *Pakistan, India, China, Blandish, Indonesia, Vietnam, Portugal and;* etc.

As a Multilingual and Multicultural country, (TL) faces a complex situation in using languages as the tools for communicating one to another. The complexity is not only in spoken languages but also the written languages which is not only used in the government offices, private company but also used in public places such as in Supermarkets, shopping malls, Hospital, shops and others public places. Although, (LL) has grown so fast in some countries, but it has not been popular in (TL) as there are not many linguists who are interested in (LL) in (TL). This can be proved that there are very few writers who write articles or journals publications related to the (LL) in Timor-Leste. The objectives of writing this paper are intended to develop, to explore and to promote Timorese social, political and economic as identity through language investigation specially Linguistics Landscape (LL).

Based on what has been described on the introduction above, the writer was motivated and inspired to explore the monolingual used on the historical places in Dili which previously used by the Indonesian Military to arrest, to detain and torture the Timorese pro-independent who fought against Indonesian Military' brutality and injustice action in Dili, Timor-Leste.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Timor-Leste has just got back its right as an independent country from Indonesia after it was ruled under Indonesian government for 24 years. During the Indonesian occupation, they did a lot of violences against the Timorese who wanted to defend their rights to be independent without being parts of Indonesia. As it has been strengthened by Backhaus (2008) that "linguistics landscape classifies text data in public spaces into two categories, Top-Down (official signs) and Bottom-Up (Non-official). The following writers were the people who had chosen (LL) as the objects of their study. Those people's works can be seen below:

Purnanto et al., (2022) investigated Linguistics Landscape (LL) on the frequency language used, monolingual and bilingual processes through text writing strategies and information-symbolic function that English develops in culinary business text in Surakarta. The result showed that English and Indonesian competed in dominating the appearances of monolingual and bilingual texts

Wulansari (2020) investigated Linguistics Landscape (LL) on the language used on public spaces on the island of Bali. On her investigation, she found 4 languages such as English, Balinese, Bahasa and Chinese which used on some places which covered restaurants, religion places, business places, and the name of the streets. The result of the research showed that English language was dominantly used on the public spaces which followed by Balinese.

Shang & Guo (2017) have investigated Linguistics Landscape (LL) the use of language in shop names and how the shopkeepers seduced the multilingual and multiethnic communities in Singapore. The results of their investigation showed that there are 2 languages which dominantly used in Singapore such as English and Chines. English was used in monolingual only; however, Chinese was dominantly

used on bilingual and multilingual. This could be seen that those languages were used to show the real identity as a multi ethnic and cultural country.

Leech (2012) investigated Linguistics Landscape (LL) on the language choice as an index of identity in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste. Her investigation was focused on how language choice indexes social and national identity in the linguistics landscape in Dili, Timor-Leste. The result of the investigation showed that the implications for language policy is also intended to explore in taking account of the wider processes of social, political and economic change in Timor-Leste.

The previous investigations on Linguistics Landscape above-described various kinds of findings which could give a significant strength to the present paper. The present paper is focused on the monolingual used on the historical sites that previously used as the massacre places by the Indonesian Military in Dili which are now preserved by the government of Timor-Leste as the historical places.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

Backhaus (2008) classified data text of Linguistics Landscape (LL) in public spaces into 2 categories, Top-Down (official) signs and Bottom-Up (non-official signs). The data in this research were focused on the Top-Down official signs where most data collected were related to the official signs made by *Chega* which is supported by the government of Timor-Leste. The data were collected on October 5 2023 specifically the monolingual signs used on the historical situs in Dili, Timor-Leste which are now preserved and protected by *Chega* as the historical places. The location chosen based on the theory of (LL) which follows the frameworks of Cenoz & Gorter (2008b) which said that “location represents a different ethnocultural community in the area studied” The places were chosen for the data collection represented the different historical events based on the brutality actions done by the Indonesian soldiers to the Timorese who loved to be independent.

The data were classified based on the places of the events then, analyzed by using Linguistics Landscape which covered the location, activity, purpose and language used.

### 4. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS



#### 1. SITIU ISTORIKU- KOTIS

*Uma ne'e harii iha dekada 1950. Iha kolonializmu Portugés nia tempu utiliza ba rezidénsia funsionariu Públiku Klase Primeiru .Iha fatin ne'e militar Indonézia husi Unidade Komando Taktiku (Komando Taktis/ KOTIS) detein, interroga no tortura simpatizante no kuadru FRETILIN nian hosi inisiu tinan 1976-1979. Fatin ne'e mós sai fatin ba apresentasaun periodiku ba dadur sira ne'ebé livre ho kondisaun. Timor oan barak mak dezaparesidu hafoin halo apresentasaun periodiku.*

The historical situs above is located in Farol, Dili. The sign identifies the house which was built in 1950 and it was used by the colonial government of Portugal. It was used as the first-class residence by the government employee of Portuguese. During the Indonesian invasion, this house was used by the Indonesian Military to detain, to arrest and to torture the Timorese who would like to be independent. Tetum language is used as the monolingual on this situs to describe the Indonesian soldier's brutality to Timorese during the occupation.



## 2. SITIU ISTORIKU- OTEL TURIZMU,1990

Otel Turizmu harii iha dekada 1960. Iha loron 17 Janeiru 1990, Embaixador Estados Unidos Amerikanian, Sir.John Monjo halo vizita mai Timor-Leste. Juventude Rezisténsia kuaze nain 100 ne'ebe organiza husi *Eskola Externato São José* halo manifestasaun hasoru **Sr. John Monjo** hodi ejize referendum ba estatutu politiku povo Timor-Leste.

The picture above is on the historical Situs is located in the front of Hotel Turizmu. This building was built in 1960. On January 17 in 1990, the Ambassador of U.S,Sir.John Monjo visited Timor-Leste. On his visit, there were almost more than 100 of Timorese

resistance for independent which was organized by *Eskola Externato Sao Jose* to insist him conducting referendum for Timor-Leste. As it is seen that Tetum language is used on this situs to describe one of the important movements done by the Timorese youth for Timor-Leste's freedom from Indonesian invasion.



## 3. SITIU ISTORIKU -TOKO LAY

*Fatin ne'e harii iha decade 1950 nia rohan, nu'udar prediu komersial iha fatin ne'e militar Indonézia sira tiru mate Timor oan étniku Xinez na'in ida no kaptura na'in 13 ba oho iha fatin subar, iha loron invazaun 7 Dezembru 1975.Durante okupasaun Indonézia fatin ne'e kontinua nu'udar Prediu Komersial too ohin loron.*

The picture on the Situs above is the third historical situs which is located in Kolmera area. Toko Lay is considered as a historical

situs because one of the Chinese Timorese descendants was shot dead in this place and the other 13 people were kidnapped and killed somewhere during the Indonesian invasion on December 7 in 1975. Tetum language is used on this situs to describe the Indonesian Military's brutality to Timorese during the invasion.



**4.SITUS ISTORIKU (SGI)1 KOLMERA**  
*Hanesan rezidénsia privadu ne'ebé harii iha dekade 1972 iha tempu okupasaun Indonézia nian fatin ne'e sai hanesan Pos Satuan Gabungan Intelijen (SGI) Fatin ne'e autoridade militár Indonezia sira utiliza hodi detein, interroga no tortura Timor oan sira ne'ebé kontra okupasaun Indonézia. Fatin ne'e sai sentru detensaun ne'ebé kruel tebes hahú hosi inísiu invasaun to'o 1999.*

The situs in this place was a house which was built in 1972. During the Indonesian occupation, this place was used by the Indonesian Military as *Pos Satuan Gabungan Intelijen* (SGI) to detain, arrest and to interrogate the Timorese who wanted to be independent. Tetum language is used this situs to describe the Indonesian Military's brutality in which is now preserved by the Timor-Leste government as an historical place.



**SITIU ISTORIKU-OSPITAL WIRA HUSADA, 1976-1999**

Ospital Dr. António Carvalho harii iha 1906, husi tinan 1976- militár Indonézia okupa no utiliza nu'udar Ospital Wira Husada to'o 1999. Liu tiha masakre Santa Cruz 12 Novembru 1991, joven sira ne'ebe tiru kanek lori ba tratamentu iha Ospital Wira Husada, iha fatin ne'ebe militár Indonézia kontinua oho no halakon joven sira.

The situs of the historical above is named *Ospital Dr.antonio Carvalho* which was built in 1906.In Indonesian occupation time in 1976, this building was used as Wira Husada Hospital from 1976-1999. In this place, many Timorese who became the victims of Santa Cruz massacre on November 12, 1991 were hospitalized here. During the time, the Indonesian Military continued kidnaping them and killing them secretly somewhere. Tetum language is used on this historical situs to describe the Indonesian Military's brutality to the Timorese. This place is now preserved by the Timorese government as one of the Historical places that must be preserved.



## 6.SITIU ISTORIA RUMAH ADAT-TASI TOLU

Uma Adat (Tasi Tolu) harii husi Parokia Motael hodi simu vijita Santu Padre João Paulo II hodi hala'o missa iha fatin ne'e iha Outubro 1989. Iha selebrasaun missa nia laran joventude husi organizaun oi-oin nomos CNRJT (Conselho Nacional da Resistência Jovem Timorense ) halo primeiru asaun protestu iha públiku ba opsaun ukun rasik an nian.

Uma Adat (Tasi Tolu) was built in by the *Parokia Motael* to welcome the Vatican Pope, John Paul II conduct mass in 1989. During the mass celebration, the Timorese youth from various organizations and CNRJT (Conselho Nacional da Resitencia Joventude Timorese) firstly acted to protest in public area for the option of independent. Tetum language is used on this historical situs to describe the struggle done by the Timorese to the world to get independent option for the Timorese.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This paper is a qualitative research which was focused on the monolingual used on the 6 historical situses in Dili. Among the 6<sup>th</sup> situses, Tetum language is the only language used on those historical situses to describe the brutality of Indonesian Military to the pro-independent of Timorese in Dili during the war which started from 1975-1999.

On this opportunity, the writer would like to invite other linguistics lovers to visit Timor-Leste to develop and explore more of Timorese languages either in micro or macro. The writer is also aware that this paper has not been perfect yet due to the time given therefore the writer is humble to accept the constructive critics, suggestions and recommendation from the readers to make this paper better in the future time will be highly appreciated.

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