

Research article

The Iconic Shape of the Traditional Javanese Food Oblok-Oblok

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Abstract.

Javanese traditional food includes a range of snacks and vegetables. The snacks come in various shapes and flavors. This article specifically explores the traditional *oblok-oblok* food. The *Oblok-oblok* food preparation differs based on the ingredients used. This study was field research. The authors after examining data on the name of the dish and the different processes of making it found that there were several variations of the traditional *oblok-oblok* foods. Using a qualitative method, this article attempts to explain the iconic aspects of the traditional vegetable using *agih* and *padan* analysis techniques. The *agih* technique directly analyzes the language elements without linking elements outside the language, for example, aspects of phonemes and morphemes contained in the name of the traditional food. The *padan* technique analyzes aspects of language by linking elements outside the language. The results showed that the traditional vegetable names had aspects of simplicity and suitability of the form of the food which is identical to the sound imitation (onomatopoeia) aspect of the *blok*, which describes the shape of the vegetable food as watery and concentrated.

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1. Introduction

The name of traditional Javanese food is already familiar to the Javanese people. In addition to be simple in sounding, the name of the food contains elements of onomatopoeia or sound imitation, as well as phonostemic. The naming of traditional Javanese food, which mostly contains sound imitation and phonostemic, certainly has an icon that can be associated with the shape, taste, and ingredients of the traditional food. Therefore, to authenticate the problems, this study will reveal the association of the icon of the name of the traditional Javanese food *oblok-oblok* with the shape and character of the referred food.

The specific objectives of this study are 1) to obtain an overview towards the shape and character of traditional Javanese food *oblok-oblok*; 2) to acquire an image of the icon of the name of the traditional Javanese food *oblok-oblok* by linking the characters of the referred traditional food. If it is paid in attention to traditional Javanese food, it

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has a simple characteristic, both in terms of ingredients and how to process it, so that the naming is very simple. However, naming traditional food contains icons that are relevantly according to the character of the food itself, and most of the names of the foods contain onomatopoeic and phonestemic elements. The names of traditional food are considered as folklore because they are socially passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, in this study, it is very urgent to raise the values of local wisdom, especially regarding the names of traditional Javanese foods in the linguistics realms.

2. Methodology

This study attempts to describe the iconic aspects contained in the name of traditional food *oblok-oblok*. In order to be able to explain the iconic name aspects of the food, this study a qualitative method was used, with analytical techniques *agih* (internal) and *padan* (external)[1]. The *agih* technique is an analytical technique that is carried out directly on the language elements, internal in nature, such as the analysis of morphological and phoneme aspects of the word *oblok-oblok*. The *padan* technique is an analysis by linking language elements with outside aspects of the language, which is external, such as the analysis of iconic aspects in the word *oblok-oblok*.

This research began with the identification of the root words contained in the names of traditional Javanese food *oblok-oblok*, It was conducted by analyzing the morphological processes in word formation. The next step was finding and linking onomatopoeic elements and their phonestemics, both on the root word and the resulting word. The next step is to find the icon that is contained in *oblok-oblok* food to be related with the shape and character of the food.

3. Results and Discussion

The traditional *oblok-oblok* food is familiar to mothers, especially those who live in rural areas. This type of food is very familiar in Java, especially in Central Java, because of its simple figuration and method in cooking . The main ingredients that are used are cassava leaves or young papaya leaves, with the addition of grated young coconut and anchovy depending on the personal taste. Actually the main ingredients of this food is variative, so the name refers to the type of basic ingredients used, such as *oblok-oblok ikan teri* (anchovy), *oblok-oblok mlanding* (*Leucaena leucocephala* or chinese petai), *oblok-oblok tempe teri* (anchovy-tempe), *oblok-oblok sayuran* (vegetables) , and many more.

3.1. Morphological origins of the word "oblok-oblok"

The word *oblok-oblok* is a repetitive form (*jw: dwilingga*) of the word *oblok*. The word *oblok* is derived from the root *blok* [bɔk], which is an imitated sound [2, 3, 4, 5]. The root of the word gets an additional vowel /o/ which according to Gonda [6] as an additional prothetic vowel to form a word, such as the vowel "e" in the word *Emas* (e + mas) 'gold', the vowel u in the word *ubeg* (u + beg). 'always moving', the "i" vowel in the word *idak* (i + dak) 'stepping on', and so on. The word forming process from the root in the word *oblok* is one of the processes discovered by Brandstatter [2], which entirely includes:

1. The root of the word can be used as a word, such as the word *blong* 'loose', the word *pas* 'matching', *pret* 'ignore the statement', and many more.
2. The root of the word is repeated, such as the word *pepes* (*pes + pes*) 'steamed or roasted food wrapped in banana leaf', *cucuk* (*cuk + cuk*) 'beak', *thuthuk* (*thuk + thuk*) 'hit', etc.
3. Two root words are combined, such as the word *dangdut* (*dhang + dut*) 'dangdut (indonesian traditional music)', *Cekel* (*cek + kel*) 'holding', *gleger* (*glek + ger*) 'thunderous sound', etc.
4. The addition of vowels in front of the root words, such as the word *emas* (e + mas) 'gold', *iket* (i + ket) 'tieing', *ubet* (u + bet) 'observant', and so on.
5. Formative additions at the beginning of root words, such as *pethik* (pe + thik) 'pick', *gebuk* (ge + buk) 'beat', *sabet* (sa + bet) 'whip', and many more.

According to those five basic word formation processes above, the most productive is number 5, formative addition [5, 6, 7]

3.2. Oblok-oblok: onomatopoeia and its icon

Back to the problem of the root word *blok* which is an imitation of sound, as described above, if it is associated with the type of sound, it can be included in the type of pop sound. And if it is associated with an object or object that produces the sound, it is wet like mud, or a concentrated liquid. When other ingredients fall into this liquid and soupy object, it will make a *blok* or *blog* sound. In addition, if this thick liquid is cooked with fire, when it is hot it will make a heavy popping sound, that is, imitating the sound of a *blok*. Because the solid and liquid is boiled and often emits a "blok" sound, it is marked with a word in the form of reduplication of *blok-blok* or *oblok-oblok*. Then what does

that have to do with the name of the food that is named *oblok-oblok*? Furthermore, what icon can be found in the word?

3.3. The oblok-oblok's icon related to the shape and character of the food

Related to the character of the object that produces the “*blok*” sound described above, in this section it is associated with the character of the *oblok-oblok* food. The basic ingredients of *oblok-oblok*, as mentioned above, consist of various ingredients, such as cassava leaf vegetables, tofu, anchovies, and others. Another characteristic is using grated coconut that is still young-aged. If the *oblok-oblok* food is cooked and ready to be served, then judging by its character, it will look like a mixture of various basic and watery ingredients. Therefore, related to the character of the object that produces the *blok* sound as described above, it is very similar to the character of the *oblok-oblok* food, which is liquid but rather thick. Hence, it can be concluded that the name of the *oblok-oblok* food is related to the food characteristic which is liquid and soupy.

3.4. “Simple” icon in the name of oblok-oblok food

The *oblok-oblok* food icon contains a “simple” concept. It can be explained from two aspects, first from the imitation of the sound in the name of the food, and the second one is from the cooking process.

The first aspect of the sound in the name of the food is that the words are formed by imitation of sound are a form of expression from the wearer[7].

According to Uhlenbeck, expressive language is often used in Javanese in society and is usually in the form of spoken language. This expressive language is what it is, according to the description of the wearer’s feelings. The word “*oblok-oblok*” for the name giver actually only shows the character of the food being referred to, which is a rather thick liquid, because when it is cooked it often makes a *blok* sound.

The second aspect is based on the cooking process that obviously shows simplicity, because it is only cooked using a relatively large pot with traditional heat. In addition, the ingredients needed are easy to find in the surrounding environment, especially in rural areas, such as cassava leaves, papaya leaves, Chinese petai (*mlanding/Leucaena leucocephala*), tofu, tempe, anchovies, and any others. All ingredients are mixed and given young grated coconut, so that the water content is not much. This is what makes

the dish shows simplicity, because the basic ingredients and cooking equipments are quite simple.

Naming process dishes with the word *oblok-oblok*, aside from showing simplicity, also makes the dishes easily recognizable by the public.

4. Conclusion

The name of the food *oblok-oblok* contains elements of sound imitation or onomatopoeia, namely the sound of blok [blɔk]. This sound is classified as the sound of popping. The *blok* sound is produced by objects that are thick when heated or when they are stirred or mixed. The word *oblok-oblok* comes from the process of sound reduplication, from the word *oblok-oblok*. The word *oblok* is morphologically derived from the root of the word in the form of imitation of the sound of *blok*, then a vowel /o/ is added in front of it, so that the basic word *oblok* is formed, and the next process is reduplicated into the word *oblok*.

Words formed from onomatopoeic elements are expressive, so the pronunciation of the word *oblok-oblok* shows the expression as it is, so it feels simple.

This simplicity is shown by the process of cooking the food, which can be seen from the basic ingredients of *oblok-oblok* food that are easy to find in the surrounding rural environment.

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