

# A Comparative Dialect Analysis of Tegal and Purwokerto Ngapak Dialects: Exploring Lexical and Phonological Variations

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## Abstract

Dialectology is a branch of linguistics that studies language variation based on geography, including dialectal differences within a language, comparing dialects between one region and another. This research aims to identify dialect differences between Tegal and Purwokerto regions, both of which use the *Ngapak* dialect, and also shows what makes the difference between the *Ngapak* Javanese dialect and the Javanese dialect in general. The method used is direct interviews with native speakers from both regions. The data obtained was analyzed to find variations in word selection, vowel and consonant changes, and certain pronunciations. The results show that although Tegal and Purwokerto use the same dialect, there are distinctive differences in word usage and phonology. This finding confirms that each region has distinctive features that aim to provide distinction, even within the scope of the same dialect. This research makes a significant contribution to the study of dialectology, particularly in exposing internal variation within a dialect that is often ignored. In socio-cultural terms, the results of this study highlight how dialects not only function as a means of communication but also as a marker of local identity and an expression of cultural diversity that enriches Indonesia's linguistic heritage.

**Keywords:** *Dialectology, Ngapak Javanese, Language Variation.*

## Abstrak

Dialektologi adalah cabang linguistik yang mempelajari variasi bahasa berdasarkan geografis, termasuk perbedaan dialek dalam suatu bahasa, membandingkan dialek antar satu daerah dengan daerah lain. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi perbedaan dialek antara daerah Tegal dan Purwokerto, yang keduanya menggunakan dialek Ngapak, dan juga menunjukkan apa yang menjadi pembeda antara dialek Jawa Ngapak dengan dialek Jawa pada umumnya. Metode yang digunakan adalah wawancara langsung dengan penutur asli dari kedua daerah tersebut. Data yang diperoleh dianalisis untuk menemukan variasi dalam pemilihan kata, perubahan vokal dan konsonan, serta pengucapan tertentu. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun Tegal dan Purwokerto menggunakan dialek yang sama, terdapat perbedaan yang khas pada penggunaan kata dan fonologi. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa setiap daerah memiliki ciri khas yang bertujuan untuk memberikan pembeda, bahkan dalam lingkup dialek yang sama. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi signifikan terhadap studi dialektologi, khususnya dalam mengungkap variasi internal dalam satu dialek yang sering kali terabaikan. Dalam sosial budaya, hasil penelitian ini menyoroti bagaimana dialek tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai alat komunikasi, tetapi juga sebagai penanda identitas lokal dan ekspresi keberagaman budaya yang memperkaya warisan linguistik Indonesia.

**Kata Kunci:** *Dialektologi, Ngapak Jawa, Variasi Bahasa.*

## INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role not only as a means of communication but also as a medium to preserve and understand culture. Language serves as a bridge in human interaction, reflecting the diverse cultural context in which it exists (Agustin et al., 2022). Language and culture are two aspects

that are interrelated with each other (Wardhani, 2018). Although linguistics, the scientific study of language, has explored various aspects such as phonetics, syntax, and semantics, it is through the dialectology branch of linguistics that regional language variations are analyzed. According to Heriyanto et al. (2020), this linguistic science requires a more in-depth study of each element in it. So, language is something that we can unpack and study more deeply with various aspects

Indonesia is an archipelago that has many regions with distinctive dialects. For example, on one island, there can be many types of dialects, depending on the location and social class of a community group. One of the dialect studies that will be discussed here is dialectology. According to Kridalaksana (Purwaningrum & Pangestu, 2021), dialectology is a branch of linguistics that studies language variation by treating it as a whole structure. It then adds that dialectology is a branch of linguistics that studies, examines, and compares dialects in cognate languages to find similarities and differences, especially lexical differences (Purwaningrum & Pangestu, 2021). This study focuses on the *Ngapak* dialect, primarily spoken in Central Java regions such as Banyumas and Tegal, which offers a unique perspective on linguistic diversity.

The *Ngapak* dialect is known for its steady and straightforward pronunciation of vowels and consonants, such as "a" and "o," as well as "b," "d," "k," and others (Nugroho & Kusuma, 2023). This distinctiveness makes *Ngapak* interesting to study, particularly when comparing its variations in Tegal and Purwokerto. Previous research predominantly analyzed *Ngapak* in single regions or cities, often providing descriptive rather than comparative insights. This research addresses that gap by comparing the sub-dialects of Tegal and Purwokerto, revealing how local geography and culture shape distinct linguistic features. To understand these differences, it is essential to examine the historical context that influenced language use in Java.

The use of the *Ngapak* language in Central Java was influenced by political factors during the Mataram Kingdom. The Mataram Kingdom educated the population at this time, from the way of speaking to clothing. So that people have to speak *ngoko* and *krama*, according to their level. In Javanese, there are two levels in speaking (Isrofiah Laela Khasanah & Heri Kurnia, 2023). The first is *ngoko*, usually used between friends or the same age, because it is less polite, then there is *krama*, *krama* itself is the second polite level in Javanese, a mixture of *ngoko*, but the choice of words is softer and polite. Finally, there is *krama alus*, the highest level, which is very polite, usually used to speak to someone who is older than you. That's how the level of politeness in speaking is regulated in Java, especially around the Mataram Kingdom.

The research problem addressed focuses on the characteristics of the *Ngapak* language, specifically examining the differences between *Ngapak* dialects in Tegal and Banyumas (Purwokerto). What makes it different from previous researchers is that the author will limit the problem by focusing on seeing the difference between *ngapak* Tegal and *ngapak* Banyumas (Purwokerto), where previous researchers only focused on *ngapak* itself in one city without comparing. The purpose is to determine whether there are significant differences between Tegal and Purwokerto, despite both cities using the same dialect, and to highlight the distinctive characteristics of each region. This research delves into unexplored linguistic nuances in the *Ngapak* dialect, how local adaptations shape dialectal differences. By comparing *Ngapak* dialects in Tegal and Purwokerto, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how common linguistic roots can evolve into unique regional identities, thus enriching the wider discourse on linguistic diversity in Indonesia.

## METHOD

This research adopts a qualitative and ethnographic approach, focusing on the study of cultural and linguistic phenomena within a specific group of people. Collecting data through interview and observation methods, the ethnographic approach is well-suited for exploring real-life situations and cultural contexts (Nur et al., 2016). This study relies on data collection and analysis as critical components of its methodology. According to Wahyu Suprpto et al. (2021), data collection is a crucial step in any research process, serving as the foundation for obtaining reliable and relevant information from sources such as research subjects or samples.

In this study, data were collected through interviews with individuals who have lived and grown up in Purwokerto and Tegal for more than a decade. A total of six participants were selected, consisting of four women and two men, aged between 20 and 40 years. These participants represented diverse

backgrounds, including university students, office workers, and homemakers. Interviews were conducted through online platforms, such as phone calls, chats, and voice messages. To ensure the validity of the data, triangulation was employed by cross-verifying responses from multiple participants to identify patterns and discrepancies. Additionally, prolonged engagement and detailed summaries of the interviews were used to enhance the credibility and reliability of the findings.

**Method of Data Analysis.** The analysis is the process of examining and interpreting data to derive meaningful conclusions aligned with the research objectives. The author employed the *Padan* method in this study. According to Ratnasari et al. (2022), the *Padan* method is used to identify and analyze linguistic units within the data without relying solely on the language system itself. By using this method, the analysis focuses on linguistic phenomena in relation to their cultural and social contexts. The processed data were then synthesized to generate conclusions that address the research objectives and provide insights into the linguistic characteristics of the *Ngapak* language as spoken in Tegal and Purwokerto.

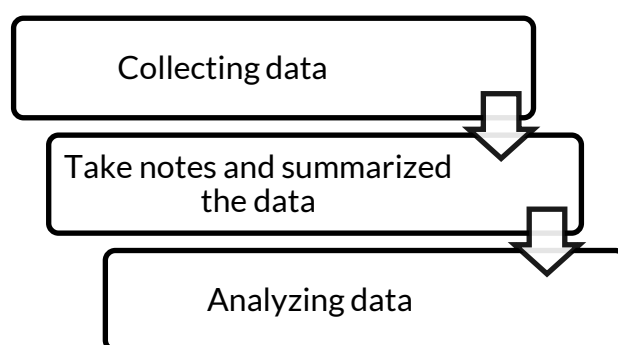


Figure 1. Process of data collection

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section discusses the research findings on dialect differences in Tegal and Purwokerto. Data collected through interviews with natives of both regions are discussed in this study. The research focuses on variations in word choice, changes in vowel and consonant sounds, and certain pronunciation patterns that illustrate the unique characteristics of each region. To illustrate how geographical differences affect the development of dialects in regions that share similar linguistics, namely the *Ngapak* dialect, the findings are viewed through the theory of dialectology. Dialectology is the best example of geolinguistics, which combines dialect studies with geography (Jalaluddin, 2021). Purwokerto and Tegal are cities on the island of Java, located in Central Java. They are not very close to each other, but they use the same dialect.

There are some differences between them because each city has a different ethnic population, which creates diversity. Considering that dialectology is closely related to ethnicity (tribes), it is necessary to understand ethnicity itself (Prasetyo, 2023). Using dialectology in this research can provide comparative dialectology capabilities that can give a specific direction for further professional activities, because knowledge of dialects and helps develop an understanding of the richness and diversity of the languages of each region discussed (Musurmankulova et al., 2021).

Before exploring the differences between *Ngapak* as spoken in Tegal and Purwokerto, it is essential to understand the fundamental characteristics of the *Ngapak* language and what sets it apart from general Javanese. The *Ngapak* dialect has attracted the attention of researchers because it summarizes the expressions and critical perspectives of the Banyumas and Tegal communities, which function as a linguistic tool for their cultural identity and social criticism. This dialect not only functions as a variation of a language, but also as a symbol of the cultural order and identity of Javanese society (Sutrisno et al., 2024).

The first distinctive feature of *Ngapak* is the absence of speech levels that indicate social hierarchy. Regardless of whether the conversation is with an older person or one with a higher social position, *Ngapak* speakers use the same form of language, treating everyone equally in their conversations. This reflects the social dynamics occurring in the Tegal and Purwokerto regions, where

the local communities do not use social levels or castes when speaking *Ngapak*. This differs from Javanese in general, which has language levels. This feature distinguishes *Ngapak* from Javanese in general, which uses different levels of politeness, such as *ngoko* (informal) and *kromo* (formal or respectful). Javanese manners are shown to younger people talking to older people, people who are not yet known, and people of higher status (Nur Aini & Lestari, 2023). This approach to language use is a unique aspect of *Ngapak*, reflecting its straightforward and inclusive nature. (Antoni & Fadlilah, 2022) also highlights that the *Ngapak* language retains its originality due to its independence from the linguistic rules of the Mataram kingdom, further emphasizing its unique identity.

The *Ngapak* dialect is characterized by its distinct pronunciation of final consonants and vowels, which sets it apart from general Javanese dialects. A defining feature of *Ngapak* is the clear and emphasized articulation of words ending in consonants such as -b, -g, and -k. For instance, in words like *wareg* (full), *kapidhak* (trampled), and *tengkureb* (on the stomach), speakers of *Ngapak* pronounce the final consonants with noticeable emphasis. This characteristic is consistent across both Tegal and Purwokerto, where the articulation of final consonants is equally pronounced. This affirmation is categorized as a form of social identity possessed by local speakers, where by their manner of speaking, style of language, and intonation become markers and identities of the region.

Another characteristic of *Ngapak* is the faithful pronunciation of vowels at the end of words. Unlike other Central Javanese dialects, such as those spoken in Semarang, where the vowel "a" at the end of words often shifts to "o," *Ngapak* maintains the original vowel sound. The pronunciation of the vowel "a" is very steady, firm, straight, and not half-centered (Purnama, 2018). For example, the word *teka* (come) is pronounced with a clear "a" in *Ngapak*, whereas it becomes *teko* in other dialects. (Antoni & Fadlilah, 2022) highlights this vowel distinction as a primary difference between *Ngapak* and general Javanese.

In *Ngapak* Javanese, this process is called glottalization, which is one of the distinctive phonological features, characterized by the appearance of a glottal stop ([ʔ]) in pronunciation, especially at the end of words. This phenomenon occurs when the vocal cords at the glottis close momentarily, producing a brief beat or audible pause (Purwaningrum, 2018). This process also results in the loss of the oral articulation region and causes the segment to be realized as a glottal sound (Mohd Rusli, 2019). Another example, in words like *bapak* (father) or *anak* (child), the [ʔ] sound appears at the end of the word, giving the impression of a firmer sound compared to standard Javanese dialect, which tends to soften final consonants. The *Ngapak* dialect's unique treatment of consonants and vowels underscores its distinct identity within the Javanese language family, offering a clear linguistic contrast to other Central Javanese dialects. The occurrence of variation in a language is a common thing. This is because language is closely related to the socio-culture of a particular community (Prasetyo, 2023).

Having acknowledged the general characteristics of *Ngapak*, we can now turn to the specific variations found in the Tegal and Purwokerto dialects. Although both share the main features of *Ngapak*, such as the clear articulation of final consonants and the absence of hierarchical speech levels, subtle differences appear in lexical choices, pronunciation patterns. These variations show that the unique cultural and geographical features of each region contribute to linguistic identity.

Table 1. Consosnant change

Tegal	Purwokerto	Indonesian	English
<i>Keprimen</i>	<i>Kepriwe/Kepriben</i>	<i>Bagaimana</i>	How

Tegal dialect

A: "Kon **keprimen** kabare?"

(How are you?)

Purwokerto dialect

A: "Rika **kepriben** kabare?"

(How are you?)

However, there are interesting phonological differences between the two dialects, particularly in the change of consonants in the middle of words. Based on the data, to ask *bagaimana* (how), *Ngapak* Tegal speakers use the word *keprimen*, while *Ngapak* Purwokerto speakers use *kepriben*. This difference shows consonant substitution, namely the use of the phoneme /m/ in Tegal, which changes to /b/ in Purwokerto. Although both words mean "how," they exhibit a change in consonants in the middle of the word. This variation demonstrates that even within the *Ngapak* dialect, differences emerge, adapting to the articulation characteristics of each region and forming distinctive linguistic features. According to the findings of (Diani & Azwandi, 2021) phonological processes such as epenthesis (adding a sound within a word) and epithesis (adding a sound at the end of a word) are evident in the *Ngapak* dialect. These processes, such as the change from /m/ to /b/ or the addition of consonants, serve to facilitate articulation and align with local phonological patterns.

Table 2. Addition of sound

Tegal	Purwokerto	Indonesian	English
<i>Nyong</i>	<i>Inyong</i>	<i>Saya</i>	Me
<i>Laka</i>	<i>Langka</i>	<i>Tidak ada</i>	None/Nothing
<i>Kon/Kowen</i>	<i>Ko/Koe</i>	<i>Kamu/Anda</i>	You
<i>Oh</i>	<i>Koh</i>	-	-

The conversations obtained from voice recordings:

Tegal dialect:

A: "Ngko disit si ngapa, **nyong** kesel oh"

(Later, I am tired.)

Purwokerto:

A: "Ngko disit si ngapa, **inyong** kesel koh"

(Later, I am tired)

Phonological differences between *Ngapak* Tegal and Purwokerto not only include consonant changes but also involve the addition of sound. The finding is in the mention of the word *saya* (me) where *Ngapak* speakers in Tegal use the form *nyong*, while in Purwokerto, there is the addition of the vowel letter "i" at the beginning of the word, resulting in the form *inyong*. This phenomenon is known as prothesis, a phonological process in which a sound is added to the beginning of a word, often to ease articulation or make pronunciation smoother (Bolter, 2021). These subtle but significant differences highlight how the *Ngapak* dialect is uniquely adapted within the region, reflecting linguistic diversity even within the framework of the same dialect. This variation reflects the richness of the *Ngapak* dialect that developed in the western Central Java region. Although derived from the same language, geographical and socio-cultural differences contribute to the emergence of distinctive phonologies.

The phonological processes of epenthesis and prothesis observed in the *Ngapak* dialects of Tegal and Purwokerto are not limited to these regions, but are also found in other dialects in Indonesia and around the world. In Sundanese, epenthesis occurs in words such as *kueh* (cake), where the letter /h/ is added to facilitate pronunciation (Abdurrahman et al., 2022). This example demonstrates that such processes are universal phenomena arising from the need to adjust phonological structures to make them easier to pronounce and align with local linguistic patterns (Mndeme & Ligembe, 2022).

The conversations obtained from voice recordings:

Tegal dialect:

A: "Aja kayak kue **oh**"

(Don't be like that)

Purwokerto dialect:

A: "Aja kayak kue **koh**"

(Don't be like that)



Tegal dialect:

A: "*Topine nyong si ngendi ya? Dining laka*"  
(Where is my hat? How come it's not there?)

Purwokerto dialect:

A: "*Topine inyong si ngendi ya? Dining langka*"  
(Where is my hat? How come it's not there?)

In addition to differences in the addition of vowels, there are also variations in the addition of consonants between *Ngapak* Tegal and Purwokerto. *Ngapak* Tegal speakers often add the word "oh" at the end of a sentence, which functions as an emphasis or emotion marker in everyday conversation. Meanwhile, *Ngapak* speakers in Purwokerto show a similar habit, but with a variation in the form of an additional letter "k" in front, forming the word "koh". Another example found in the word you, in Purwokerto, referring to you for third person pronouns, only says "ko" whereas Tegal will add the consonant "n" to the end of the word so that it becomes "kon". The next data found are the words *langka* and *laka*; these two words both mean nothing or none, but Tegal mentions more briefly eliminating the /ng/ in the middle so that it only becomes *laka*, while Purwokerto remains complete, calling it *langka*. This process is called epenthesis. Epenthesis is a process where a segment is inserted at the end position other than the start position. It may also be between or within the end positions (Mndeme & Ligembe, 2022).

Phonological processes such as deletion also play a role in distinguishing *Ngapak* dialect variations between regions. In *Ngapak* Purwokerto, the word *koh* is used as a particle at the end of a sentence, emphasizing the statement or question. However, in *Ngapak* Tegal, the initial consonant /k/ in *koh* is deleted, resulting in the simpler form *oh*. Similarly, this deletion process can also be observed in the words *langka* and *laka*, which both mean not available or none. The Purwokerto dialect retains the full form *langka*, while the Tegal dialect omits the medial consonant /ng/, resulting in *laka*. This phenomenon, known as deletion (or elision) in phonology, involves the omission of a phoneme to simplify pronunciation or adapt to local speech norms (Diani & Azwandi, 2021). These differences demonstrate how phonological processes create distinct regional variations within the broader *Ngapak* dialect, reflecting the linguistic richness of each area.

Tegal and Purwokerto are two cities that span a distance of approximately 101 km, Tegal being closer to the north coast while Purwokerto is more too south. Even so, they still use the same dialect, namely the *ngapak* dialect, but even though the same has been found, some differences in it include the selection of vocabulary, and also some interjections in daily conversation. Each region will have strong characteristics, for the field of word endings, for example, the city of Semarang "og" at the end of each sentence, as well as Tegal, which has the interjections "oh", and also Purwokerto with the "koh". This is supported by previous research by Afiyani and Florina (2023), who revealed that although the same *ngapak* but they have differences due to having a regional language in Tegal called the tegalan language, which is used in Tegal city, Slawi, to Pemalang. While Purwokerto is called the Banyumasan language, which is used in the Banyumas presidency.

**Table 3. The different vocabulary of *Ngapak* Tegal and *Ngapak* Purwokerto**

Banyumas (Purwokerto) Dialect	Tegal Dialect	Indonesian	English
<i>Rika/Ko</i>	<i>Kowen/Kon</i>	<i>Anda</i>	You
<i>Kencot</i>	<i>Ngelih</i>	<i>Lapar</i>	Hungry
<i>Mlebu</i>	<i>Manjing</i>	<i>Masuk</i>	Come in
<i>Arep</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Mau</i>	Want
<i>Kesuh</i>	<i>Sewot</i>	<i>Marah</i>	Angry
<i>Lombo</i>	<i>Goroh</i>	<i>Bohong</i>	Lie
<i>Biyung</i>	<i>Manene/Mane</i>	<i>Ibu</i>	Mother

Tegal and Purwokerto both use the *ngapak* dialect, but even so, there are also some differences in the vocabulary they use in everyday life. Although the lexical items they use are different in some words, the meaning is the same in Indonesian and English. For example, the word lie, in the Purwokerto dialect uses the word *lombo*, in the example sentence “*aja sok lombo koh*”, and in Tegal uses *goroh* “*aja sok goroh*” which, when interpreted, means the same thing: “don't lie”. Lexical and phonological features often vary despite being in the same language family, indicating a local identity unique to each language community (Kartikasari et al., 2020). The difference between the words *goroh* and *lombo* is one of the intended uniqueness of each region; local speakers from each region will definitely mention with a tone that shows more uniqueness of their respective regions.

Lexical differences are one of the main characteristics that distinguish the *Ngapak* dialects of Tegal and Purwokerto, even though both share the same dialect. The vocabulary used in these two dialects often differs, reflecting the local uniqueness of each region, shaped by its history and culture. The third-person pronouns in the *Ngapak* language are quite varied, apart from the words *ko* and *kon*, which only experience the addition of sound, there are also words that are very different between Tegal and Purwokerto. There is the second-person (you) pronoun *Anda* in Indonesian is translated as *Rika* in the Purwokerto dialect, while the Tegal dialect uses the term *Kowen*. This variation highlights differences in how each community addresses or refers to others.

Words related to basic needs and emotions also show interesting differences. To express hunger, Purwokerto speakers use the word *Kencot*, whereas Tegal speakers use *Ngelih*. This variation not only demonstrates linguistic differences but also reflects the distinctive ways local communities communicate. Similarly, the word Come In, *Masuk* in Indonesian, is translated as *Mlebu* in Purwokerto and *Manjing* in Tegal, illustrating unique phonological differences. To convey the intention of *mau/ingin* (Want) Purwokerto speakers use *Arep*, while Tegal speakers use *Pan*, showcasing lexical variations with simpler structures. In this case, it is very different even in writing and mentioning between Tegal and Purwokerto, and this is a natural thing in language; lexical variation is a natural result of linguistic adaptation influenced by environmental factors, cultural practices, and communication between regions in the same language group (Septianingtias et al., 2024).

In addition, words reflecting emotions also exhibit significant differences. In the Purwokerto dialect, Angry is expressed as *Kesuh*, while the Tegal dialect uses *Sewot*. These differences demonstrate how each dialect uniquely evolves to express emotions and social values characteristic of its respective communities. These language variations and word choice differences arise and occur due to different regions, different groups or conditions, and different years or eras. This can have a great influence on the differences in existing language variations that exist in each region, even on the same island. Some of the factors that influence this are sociolinguistics, geography, and historical influences (Za et al., 2025).

Lexical differences are also inevitable because people who are born and raised in a city will definitely use the language they have used from the beginning, therefore, there are some differences in word choice between Tegal and Purwokerto because their distance is far enough that not all words used will be the same. This is not only the case for Tegal and Purwokerto whose basics are the same using *ngapak*, but also for other cities, for example Semarang and Surabaya, even though they are both Javanese, there are many different words, such as the word *mari* in the Semarang language means healed, but in Surabaya it means already.

The findings of this study support the basic principles of dialectology, particularly the influence of geographical, social, and cultural factors on language variation. The unique characteristics of the Tegal and Purwokerto dialects are consistent with the geolinguistic framework proposed by Kridalaksana, which states that dialects within the same language family develop uniquely based on regional contexts. The preservation of features such as prothesis in Purwokerto (*inyong*) and epenthesis in Tegal (*laka*) further highlights the role of local phonological adaptation in shaping linguistic identity.

However, these findings also challenge the assumption that dialects within the same linguistic framework are homogeneous. The striking differences between *Ngapak* in Tegal and Purwokerto highlight the dynamic interaction between socio-cultural and phonological factors, showing that even closely related dialects can exhibit significant variation. This statement is also supported by previous findings stating that variations between the western and southern regions of Pekalongan indicate that

even within the same linguistic region, local influences can create notable differences in both word choice and pronunciation (Sari, 2024). This underscores the need for a more nuanced approach to studying dialects, one that accounts for both shared roots and regional divergences, thereby enriching both theoretical and practical understanding of dialectology.

There is a difference in vocabulary between Tegal and Purwokerto because the dialect used in Purwokerto still purely employs the Banyumasan dialect, also known as Old Javanese (Kawi). The people in Banyumas were quite far from the Mataram Kingdom at that time, so they were not affected by the changes in language levels based on social status, whereas the Tegal dialect also became one of the linguistic treasures of the island of Java (Fahrurroji, 2020). In conclusion, although the Ngapak dialects of Tegal and Purwokerto share the same linguistic roots, the observed lexical differences reflect the linguistic richness and local identity of each region. These variations in vocabulary not only enrich the local language but also provide insights into the social and cultural dynamics influencing the development of dialects in Central Java.

## CONCLUSIONS

Tegal and Purwokerto, despite sharing the same *Ngapak* dialect, have distinct linguistic features that highlight the richness of regional variation. Key differences were identified in vocabulary choices and speech styles, illustrating how the same linguistic roots can differ based on local cultural and social contexts. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of dialect variation within the *Ngapak* framework by providing a comparative perspective that has not been discussed in detail in previous studies. The findings emphasize the importance of local adaptation in shaping unique regional identities while maintaining a common linguistic foundation. Future research can build on these findings by adopting quantitative methods to analyze sociolinguistic factors, phonological patterns and vocabulary usage more comprehensively. Expanding the scope of this study to include other *Ngapak*-speaking regions could enrich the discourse on language diversity and its socio-cultural implications.

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