

## Transliteration Method In Learning Reading Of The Javanese Script

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**Abstract:** Primary School Teacher Education Study Program is a study program that prepares students to become elementary school teacher candidates, including the Primary School Teacher Education Study Program of Sarjanawiyata Tamansiswa University located in Yogyakarta. One subject that emerged is Javanese language skills with Javanese script reading materials. However, Javanese script reading material is one of the most difficult material. It is because the students must be able to distinguish letters and understand Javanese script. Therefore, the appropriate method is needed to help students memorize the Javanese script. The method is using the transliteration method. The transliteration method applied by inviting students to transform Latin letters into Javanese letters. That method aims to make students easily memorize the shape of Javanese script. By this method, it is expected that the reading skills of Javanese script will increase.

**Keyword:** Translation Method, Reading, Javanese Script, Translation, Student

### 1. Introduction

The Javanese categorized as the advanced tribes in civilization because they have been recognized as the script. Javanese are estimated to have written tradition since 700 AD [1]. This written tradition is increasingly develop, and finally produces Javanese script which is now known as *carakan*. As the other tribal scripts, the existence of Javanese scripts has increasingly been displaced, it gathers with the reduced of using Javanese language as a Communications media.

Learning to read Javanese script in students at Primary School Teacher

Education Study Program integrated with Javanese language skills courses. The time portion for learning to read Javanese script is very limited, considering that there are so many competencies that students must be mastered in their study program. They only get Javanese script learning materials in two or three meetings. Even though, in mastering Javanese script competence requires long learning process. It caused that the student not only has to memorize the Javanese script including *nglegena script*, *Javanese numerals*, *swara script*, *murda script*, *sandhangan*, *pasangan*, etc., but also the students must master the writing rules. The situation on the field research shows that Javanese script learning in university cannot run optimally so that the mastery of students' literacy and literacy competence in students is also limited.

The student difficulties in learning Javanese script is caused by external and internal factors. External factors emerge from teachers who are inappropriate in choosing the learning methods applied in Javanese script learning. Meanwhile, the internal factors that cause difficulties in reading Javanese script emerged from students, namely the lack of desire and motivation to be able to recognize and learn Javanese script. So far, the Javanese script learning has been monotonous, namely focusing on the vowels only, *ha na ca ra*

*ka, da ta sa wa la, pa dha ja ya nya, ma ga ba tha nga* like teaching the Javanese script from the initial page until to the end pages without any strategy. That method causes students only to memorize the vowel, but they do not know the form of the script. The third factor arises from Javanese script material. There are too many similar forms of Javanese script, making it difficult for students to learn and distinguish the script.

Defining the causes and problems of learning Javanese script, it is necessary to take strategic steps to solve that problem. One of the strategies in learning to read Javanese script is to apply the transliteration method in learning. The transliteration method is a method of changing text from one writing to another, or it can be called letter transfer, for example from Javanese letters to Latin letters, from Sundanese letters to Latin letters, and so on. In this research a transliteration method will be applied to the texts in Javanese language magazines then, it compiled into Javanese text. Therefore, it is expected that by applying the transliteration method, students will be able to memorize Javanese scripts easily so that that method can support in mastering the reading skills of Javanese script.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Reading Javanese Script

Essentially, reading is something complicated that involves many things, not only reciting writing, but also involves visual, thinking psycholinguistic, and metacognitive activities. The process of translating written symbols (letters) into spoken words is called as a visual process of reading. As a thought process, reading includes some activities such as word recognition activities, literal understanding, interpretation, critical reading, and creative understanding. Word recognition can be understood as reading words using a dictionary [2]. Teeuw [3] says that reading is the process of giving meaning to a particular text, which we choose, or that is forced upon us. That activity relates to the

reading codes made by the author. Reading activities are the second receptive language activity after listening. The relationship between the speaker (writer) and the recipient (reader) is indirect. This relationship is through the writing symbol [4].

Reading is receptive because by reading someone can obtain information, knowledge, and new experiences. By reading, a person can increase their thinking power, sharpen views and broaden their knowledge. The Javanese script which used in the spelling of the Javanese language consists of twenty main characters that are syllabic [5]. Each principal script has their own paired script that has function to connect a consonant syllable to the next syllable, except syllables that are covered in *wigyan*, *layar*, and *cecak*.

Generally, the main script is called the Javanese script *nglegena*. Besides, the main characters, there are many other scripts, such as 1) *Murda* script, which can be used to write title and self-names, geographic names, the names of government institutions, and legal institutions, but *murda* script doesn't apply to close syllables. *Murda* script consists of seven, namely: *na, ka, ta, sa, pa, ga, ba*. 2) Voice script is the script is used to write vowels that are syllables, especially those from foreign languages, to clarify pronunciation. Voice script cannot be used as a couple's script so that the *sigegan* script which located in front of them must be switched off with a *pangkon*. The voice characters can be given *sandhangan wigyan*, *layar* and *cecak*. Five characters are: a, e, i, o, and u. 3) *Rekan* scripts, *rekan* script consist of five script, namely: *kha, dza, fa / va, za, gha*. *Rekan* script is used to write consonant script in foreign words that are still preserved as the original word. *Aksara* script which needs a *pasangan*, can be given a *pasangan*, and it can be given *sandhangan* [6]. Bond in Abdurrahman [7] states that reading is an introduction to written language symbols which stimulate

the process of remembering what is read, to build an understanding through the experience that has been owned.

Based on some previous reading definition, it can be said that what is meant by Javanese script reading skills is a skill or ability to recognize symbols (Javanese script) which have written both in terms of form and sound. Then it used as a stimulus to help the process of remembering and building-related understanding of what is read according to the level of education. This model is caused by the teaching of Javanese script in schools is a tiered material from the lowest level, namely grade 3 elementary schools until high school level.

## 2.2. Transliteration Method

Onions in Darusuprta [8] states that transliteration is an edit that is presented with other types of writing. Inline that statement, Baried [9] argues that transliteration is the replacement types of writing, letter by letter from one alphabet to another alphabet. Besides, transliteration in the Glossary of Philosophy Terms [10], is defined as changing the text from one text to another or can be called letter transfer or script transfer, for example from Javanese letters to Latin letters, from Sundanese letters to Latin letters, etc. Also, Sarinah [11] also mentions that transliteration is a transfer of the writing system from a script into another writing system. Then, someone is also a state that transliteration is the replacement or letter transfer from one alphabet to another [12].

Based on that statement, it can be said that transliteration is defined as the transfer from one writing to another. The main function of transliteration is to make it easier for researchers to analyze the meaning which is contained in a text. Transliteration has the benefit of preserving the manuscript and introducing the manuscript. The transliteration method is divided into two types, namely 1) transliteration of the diplomatic method, namely the replacement of the type of

writing, letter by letter from one alphabet to another alphabet. There is the term for Diplomatic Transliteration that every literary form and visualization of the text for that transliterated text must be represented in the results of transliteration, and to maintain the visualization of the form of the text, transliteration guidelines are made. 2) orthographic method transliteration or critical transliteration, also called standard transliteration, that is, the replacement of letter-by-letter writing from one alphabet to another alphabet, in this case from Javanese to Latin letters adjusted to Enhanced Indonesian Spelling System (*EYD*).

## 3. Discussion

Javanese language learning is different from general language learning. That difference appears because of learning Javanese. There is Javanese script that must be mastered by students. The one Elementary Education Study Program, especially in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Central Java and East Java, used the Javanese language as one of their courses. In this course, students must be able to master Javanese script as a provision to become elementary school teacher candidates. However, learning Javanese script is difficult. There is a form of letters that must be memorized by students with much variety of rules in Javanese script writing. This has become one of the obstacles faced. Therefore, to facilitate students in memorizing Javanese script, transliteration methods are applied. The transliteration method is a method of copying normal letters into Javanese letters. In practice this method trains students to memorize Javanese script forms by repetitive practice method.

The application of transliteration methods in learning can be adjusted to the characteristics of the instructor and the characteristics of the students. However, it can be a reference material in applying the transliteration method for students of Elementary Education Study Program,

which is a gradual process. Javanese texts with Latin or normal letters can be obtained from Javanese magazines such as *Panjebar Semangat*, *Jaya Baya*, *Jaka Lodhang*, etc., and come from other texts such as Javanese novels.

In each Javanese script learning meeting, students are asked to copy Javanese Latin letters into Javanese text. This stage is gradually taken. The initial stage is copying a paragraph to finally copying a whole discourse. The copying process allows students to see Javanese letters in books or notes. This is allowed because the main purpose of transliteration is to make students memorize the shape of the Javanese letters first. By translating in stages, students will indirectly memorize the Javanese script form, so that the understanding of the Javanese form can keep in long time in the student's memory.

The purpose of transliteration is basically in line to learn reading the Javanese script. In learning to read Javanese script, students are required to be able to distinguish the form of letters so that students can read the whole Javanese letter text. Therefore, the transliteration method becomes important in learning to read Javanese script, where the form of Javanese script is different from the Latin letters in general. By mastering the ability to distinguish Javanese letters that have an impact on improving the ability to read Javanese script into stock PGSD Study Program students to be able to teach Javanese script when becoming a primary school teacher.

#### 4. Conclusion

Transliteration is the replacement of the type of writing, letter by letter, from one alphabet to another alphabet, especially in copying Latin/normal lettered text into Javanese lettered text. The process of this method is important, in purpose to make it easier for students to memorize the forms of Javanese script. The ability of students in memorizing the forms of Javanese script is very influential in mastering the ability to

read Javanese script. This ability becomes one of the provisions of students when they become a primary school teacher who also teaches Javanese language learning in their class.

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