

Modality of *Bahasa Kualuh*

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Abstract:

Bahasa Kualuh is one of Malayic dialect used as a medium of communication in the language community of Kualuh. Kualuh is a small region, on the coast of Malacca. It is one part of North Sumatera Province, Indonesia. The majority population in Kualuh is Malay. They call their language, bahasa Kualuh or cakap Kualuh. This study aims at describing modality of bahasa Kualuh. The focus is on semantic field, refers to modality which related to aspect of meaning of utterances which convey alternative possibilities for how things could happen. Modalities which come up for discussion are deontic and epistemic modals. The data was utterances which expressed modals in interpersonal interaction. The utterances obtained were from 6 native speakers as the informants. They were born in Kualuh, the range of the ages was from 35 to 45 years and they also married the locals.

In this dialect, modality can be expressed through two grammatical categories; adjectives “harus, mesti, biso, sanggup, kuaso, sukat, pasti, and pastilah” and verbs “raso, kuraso, rasonyo”. The adjectives of harus, and mesti are used to express order or command. The adjectives of biso, and sanggup are used to show responsibilities, while the adjectives sukat, kuaso are used to express obligatory. All of the modals mentioned above are classified as deontic modals. The adjectives pasti, and pastilah used to express degree of reality. The verbs raso, rasonyo, and kuraso used to express belief, these modals are characterized as epistemic modals. These two kinds of modals are commonly exist in the utterances of bahasa Kualuh in interpersonal interaction.

Keywords; modals, epistemic, deontic, bahasa kualuh