

Peribahasa in Sundanese

Asako Shiohara, FURIHATA Masashi (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), and Oman
Fathurahman (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies/ PPIM UIN Jakarta)

This study gives a preliminary observation on Sundanese Peribahasa on the basis of the examples cited from Sumantri (1988).

Peribahasa is conventionally translated as ‘proverb’ in English, but its range is wider than that of what are generally called “proverbs” cross-linguistically in that it also includes various kinds of metaphorical idioms. In fact, the majority of examples in Sumantri (1988) are metaphorical expression as in (1)-(2).

- (1) *Dagang peda ke Cirebon*
sell dried fish to Cirebon

‘To bring dried fish to Cirebon’: To bring a product to its product center in order to sell. Useless deed’

- (2) *Anjing ngagogogan kalong*
Dog bark bat

‘A dog barking to a bat’: reaching for a moon.

The other *peribahasa* have more canonically “proverbial” content delivering advice, a social rule or convention, or some common-sense truth.

- (3) *Ulah tiis-tiis jahé*
Don’t cold ginger

‘Don’t be cool as ginger’: Don’t just wait. Be prepared.’

This study will also deal with linguistic feature of Sundanese proverbs and how it is used in contemporary Sundanese community.

Reference

Sunantri, Maman, R. H. Moch. Koerdie, Epe Syafei Adisastra, and Atjep Djamaludin. 1988. *Kamus Peribahasa Sunda Indonesia*. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.