

Ecological Local Wisdom As A Cultural Identity in The Geography and Natural Environment of Tourism Destinations in North Minahasa

Theresia Maria Conny Lasut¹, Meity J. Wowor² and Mercy Mantau³

^{1,2,3}English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Sam Ratulangi University

DOI: 10.46609/IJSSER.2026.v11i01.006 URL: <https://doi.org/10.46609/IJSSER.2026.v11i01.006>

Received: 4 December 2025 / Accepted: 10 January 2026 / Published: 25 January 2026

ABSTRACT

Research on Ecological Local Wisdom as a Cultural Identity in the Geography and Natural Environment of Tourism Destinations in North Minahasa has never been conducted. This prompted researchers to examine this topic. The study of ecological local wisdom is inseparable from human life, geography, nature, and the environment. Using ethnosemantic analysis, the discussion remains at the level of meaning, revealing the relationship between language, culture, and community mindsets (Duranti, 1997). The long-term objectives of this research are: (1) to identify and classify the origins of community knowledge related to ecological, socio-cultural, geographic, and environmental local wisdom of flora and fauna in North Sulawesi; and (2) to explain the aspects that influence community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographic, and environmental flora and fauna in North Sulawesi. This research is categorized as basic research at levels (1–3). The specific objectives to be achieved in this research are: (1) identifying and classifying the origins of community knowledge related to local ecological, socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental wisdom of flora and fauna in North Minahasa; and (2) explaining the aspects that influence the community towards community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental flora and fauna in North Minahasa. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. The theory used in this research is to trace the relationship between language and cultural data related to the giving of geographical names, the environment of flora and fauna. Furthermore, this research will find the background and origins of places and aspects that influence the community related to local language and culture, history, geography, the environment of flora and fauna, customs and rules. These rules are norms that exist in society about how the people of North Minahasa live which are functionally regulated in a system that can build the character of the community. This research was conducted within one (1) year 2023. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. This research will explore the background and origins of place names and the aspects influencing them, including local language and culture, history, geography, flora and fauna, customs, and

regulations. These regulations represent societal norms governing the way of life of the people of North Minahasa, which are functionally organized into a system that fosters community character. The targeted outcome of this research is the publication of a reputable international journal.

Keywords: Ecological Wisdom, Geography, North Minahasa

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Problem

Research on Ecological Local Wisdom, a Cultural Identity in the Geography and Natural Environment of Tourism Destinations in North Minahasa, has never been conducted. This has encouraged researchers to examine this topic in more depth. The study of ecological local wisdom is inseparable from human life, geographical conditions, nature, and the environment. By using analysis, the discussion remains at the level of meaning by revealing the relationship between language, culture, and community mindsets (Duranti, 20015). The naming of the diverse regions or areas in Indonesia is very interesting to study and research. In society, the diversity of religions and regional names in Indonesia is a dilemma because many people themselves do not know the origin or history of the names of the areas where they live. This research is limited to the North Minahasa Regency area because it was only carried out for 1 (one) year. Furthermore, for the regencies and cities in North Sulawesi will be the target of further research. From the background above, the problems that can be formulated in this research are: (1) Identification and classification of cultural identity and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and natural environment of flora and fauna in North Minahasa; and (2) Explaining the aspects that influence the community in naming places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental flora and fauna towards local wisdom in North Minahasa.

1.2 Long-Term Objectives

The long-term objectives of this research are: (1) To identify and classify the origins of place names and community knowledge of toponymy in North Sulawesi; and (2) To explain the aspects that influence the naming of places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental aspects of local ecological wisdom in North Sulawesi.

1.3 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this research are: (1) To identify and classify the origins of the naming of places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental

flora and fauna in North Minahasa; and (2) To explain the aspects that influence the community in naming places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and flora and fauna as local ecological wisdom in North Minahasa.

1.4 Urgency (Priority)

Targeted Findings in this research The targeted findings to be achieved in this research are: (1) identifying and classifying the origins of place names and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental flora and fauna in North Minahasa; and (2) explaining the aspects that influence the community in naming places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical, and environmental flora and fauna in North Minahasa. The specific specifications in this research focus on the scientific field of linguistics that discusses the origins of naming places, regions, or other parts of the earth's surface, including natural (rivers, oceans, and mountains); and man-made (cities, buildings, roads, and bridges). Toponymy is related to ethnology and culture. In some cases, street names are related to the history, myths, and legends of a place (www.merriam-webster.com in id.m.wikidia.org, 2020).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Ecological Local Wisdom

It is no exaggeration to say that ancestors speak in metaphors to pass on wisdom and knowledge to their descendants. The ecological wisdom of local culture also reflects the ecological mindset of traditional communities; they pay attention to well-managed natural ecology as a place to obtain a social ecological life in interacting with others, feeling the need to live in groups for the sake of the continuity of their descendants and security. From there, they emphasize long-term relationships within the group and, most importantly, which ecology (mind) or thought guides their lives (Ahimsa in Djawanai, 2013).

2.2 Cultural Identity

Cultural identity is the detailed characteristics or traits of a culture possessed by a group of people whose boundaries are known when compared with the characteristics or traits of other cultures. So, if someone wants to know and determine cultural identity, then it is not only determining the characteristics or physical traits alone, but studying the identity of a group of people through the order of thinking (way of thinking, orientation of thinking), feelings (way of feeling, and orientation of feelings, and ways of acting (motivation of action or orientation of action). The field of scientific study in linguistics related to ecological local wisdom is that which discusses the origins of naming places, regions or other parts of the earth's surface including natural ones (rivers, oceans and mountains); artificial ones (cities, buildings, buildings,

roads, and bridges related to ethnology and culture. In some cases the names of streets are related to the history, myths, or legends of a place (www.merriam-webster.com in id.m.wikipedia.org, 2020). To trace and explore the past about what is the experience and knowledge of the people in an ethnic group and nation is related to what is called toponymy and through language, the names are created as texts that are representations of the supporters of that language (Sibarani, 2004 in Resticka, A.G., and Maharayu, M.N., 2020). The study of ecological local wisdom and toponymy is interrelated because it is inseparable from human life, geographical conditions, nature and the environment. This discussion remains at the level of meaning by revealing the relationship between language, culture, local wisdom and community mindset (Duranti, 1997 in <https://books.google.com> and <https://www.cambridge.org>).

2.3 Language and Culture

Language and culture are two sides of the same coin, but their relationship cannot be separated because language reflects the culture and identity of its speakers. Therefore, the relationship between languages is a subordinate one, where language is subordinate to culture. (The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis states that language is related to culture. Culture is determined by language because language is a guide to culture. One cannot understand language or assess culture without understanding both. Furthermore, language contains the names of objects in the human environment. Naming is an important process in human life because it is through this process that humans can create order in their perception of the environment. The names of objects can indicate the standards used in a society to create classifications, thus enabling us to understand the mindset or outlook on life of the ethnic group or society being studied (Djawanai, 2011).

2.4 Geography

According to Elswort Huntington, geography is the study of the Earth's surface and the dynamics of its inhabitants. Huntington explained that there is a reciprocal relationship between the phenomena and characteristics of the Earth's surface and the dynamics of its inhabitants. The scope of study in geography encompasses not only the physical aspects of the Earth but also the human aspect and the interactions between the two (insan.siswa.com, February 2023).

2.5 Ethnosemantics

Ethnosemantic studies are one of the approaches used in anthropological linguistics to dissect the content of language, especially meaning. Palmer explained that ethnosemantics is the study of the methods used by society to classify certain realms of knowledge such as: the world of plants, animals and relationships.

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

The objectives of this research are: (1) To identify and classify the origins of the naming of places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical and environmental flora and fauna in North Minahasa; and (2) To explain the aspects that influence the community in naming places and community knowledge related to socio-cultural, geographical and flora and fauna as local ecological wisdom in North Minahasa.

4. RESEARCH METHODS

4.1 Research Time and Location

Research location: Likupang, Airmadidi, and Kauditan sub-districts, Bitung City. The proposed research period is 6 months (2023), from March 2023 to October 2023.

4.2 Research Procedures

4.1.1 The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative.

4.1.2 Data collection techniques and tools were obtained through direct observation and recording, document study: relevant textbooks, seminar reports, discussions, archives of the Center for the Preservation of Traditional Values, the North Sulawesi Regional Library, and other sources related to this research.

4.1.3 Interviews were conducted with community leaders, elders, leaders of arts and culture studios and teachers, the Department of Education and Culture, the Department of Tourism and Creative Economy, the Center for the Preservation of Traditional Values, cultural figures, and stakeholders related to the research. The selection of informants was determined as follows: primary informants (key informants) are figures who hold important roles in oral literature, for example: community leaders, elders, and additional informants (ordinary informants) are ordinary people who support the nation's art, identity, and cultural heritage (Endraswara, 2017).

4.3. Data Analysis

There are two stages used in data analysis in this study, namely: (1) Toponymy analysis scientifically investigates the relationship between language and sociocultural aspects based on ethnicity. Data analysis according to Sudikan (2015) can be grouped into qualitative data analysis stages, namely: (1) the open coding stage, where the researcher attempts to vary the data related to the research object. Next, the researcher carries out the process of detailing the data (breaking down), examining, comparing, conceptualizing, and categorizing primary and

secondary data; (2) the axial coding stage, where the data is reorganized based on categories as a continuation of the previous stage.

4.3. Research Procedures

4.3.1. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative.

4.3.2 Data collection techniques and tools were obtained through direct observation and recording, document study: relevant textbooks, seminar reports, discussions, archives of the Center for the Preservation of Traditional Values, the North Sulawesi Regional Library, and other sources related to this research.

4.3.3 Interviews were conducted with community leaders, elders, leaders of arts and culture studios and teachers, the Department of Education and Culture, the Department of Tourism and Creative Economy, the Center for the Preservation of Traditional Values, cultural figures, and stakeholders related to the research. The selection of informants was determined as follows: primary informants (key informants) are figures who hold important roles in oral literature, for example: community leaders, elders, and additional informants (ordinary informants) are ordinary people who support the nation's arts, identity, and cultural heritage (Endraswara, 2017).

5. RESULTS AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

5.1 Research Results and Discussion

5.1.1 Identification and Classification of Cultural Identity in Geography and the Natural Environment of Flora and Fauna in North Minahasa

The field of study in linguistics related to ecological local wisdom discusses the origins of naming places, regions, or other parts of the Earth's surface, including natural features (rivers, oceans, and mountains); man-made features (cities, buildings, roads, and bridges) related to ethnology and culture. In some cases, names are related to the history, myths, and legends of a place (www.merriam-webster.com in id.m.wikipedia.org, 2020).

To explore and explore the past, we need to understand the experiences and knowledge of people within an ethnic group and nation, which is related to toponymy or naming. Through language, these names are created as texts that represent the language's supporters (Sibarani, 2004 in Resticka, A.G., and Maharayu, M.N., 2020).

Studies on ecological local wisdom and toponymy are interrelated because they are inseparable from human life, geography, nature, and the environment.

This discussion remains at the level of meaning by revealing the relationship between language, local cultural wisdom, and community mindsets (Duranti, 1997 in <https://books.google.com> and <https://www.cambridge.org>).

1. Geography and the Natural Environment

Geography is the science that studies all human and natural activities, as well as their interactions between the two, through a spatial perspective, to form specific spatial patterns or spatial concepts for the utilization of development on the Earth's surface. Meanwhile, the natural environment is everything surrounding humans.

The natural environment is the source of life for living things because nature provides all their needs. The natural environment can be divided into terrestrial and aquatic environments. Examples include mountains, valleys, highlands, lowlands, rivers, seas, lakes, and swamps. (<https://brainly.co.id>)

Examples of photos/images of physical geography of land:

1. Buildings
2. Larata Hill

Photos and Images of the Natural Environment in North Minahasa: Beaches in Likupang, North Minahasa

1. Paal Beach
2. Surawaya Beach
3. Beaches on Lihaga Island
4. Pulisan Beach

2. Flora and Fauna in North Minahasa

Flora and fauna are species found in tropical forests, mountain forests, and mangrove forests. Flora and fauna are part of the natural resources found throughout the world. Flora is a group of plants or vegetation. While diverse plants exist on earth, we will focus on the flora that is characteristic of North Minahasa. Fauna, on the other hand, are all types of animals that live in the world.

Photo of Fauna: Tangkoko Batu Angus Nature Reserve, North Bitung District, North Minahasa

1. Tarsius

2. Maleo Bird

5.1.1 Aspects Influencing the Community's Naming of Places and Public Knowledge Related to Socio-Cultural, Geographical, and Natural Environments: Flora and Fauna.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Conclusion

Tourist destinations in North Minahasa are:

1. The Old Church of the Minahasa Evangelical Christian Church "Immanuel" Dimalak
2. Larata Hill located in Kinunag Village, East Likupang District
3. Lihaga Beach located on Lihaga Island
4. Surawaya Beach, also known as Surabaya Beach, in Wineru Village, East Likupang District
5. Sampiran Beach in Kalinaung Village, East Likupang District
6. Pulisan Beach in Pulisan Village, East Likupang District
7. Paal Beach in Marinsow Village, East Likupang District
8. Tunan Waterfall in Talawaan Village, Talawaan District
9. Tunan Tangga "Klimbun" Waterfall in Tumbohon Village, Talawaan District. The naming of the location is based on the geographical elements of the location. Local terms refer to the place and popular attractions. there.

6.2 Suggestions

Many studies have examined tourist destinations from different perspectives, such as socioeconomics. This study analyzes naming from a cultural and linguistic perspective.

It is hoped that future researchers will examine other objects in this region in the field of language, for example, from a semantic perspective. Further research could analyze the meaning of village names in North Minahasa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Duranty. 1997. *Linguistic Anthropology – Alessandro Duranty*. <https://books.google.com> January, 2022
- Djawanai, S. 2011. *Sumbangan Etnolinguistik Bagi Kemanusiaan*. Makalah: Presented at the Postgraduate Program in Ethnolinguistics, Sam Ratulangi University, Manado.
- Gita, A. Resticka.,2020. *Antropolinguistik: Antropologi Linguistik, Linguistik Antropologi*. Poda Medan.
- Gita, A. Resticka. 2020. *Optimalisasi Toponimi Kecamatan di Kabupaten Banyumas Guna Penguatan Identitas Budaya Masyarakat Banyumas*. Jurnal LPPM Universitas Jenderal Soedirman Purwokerto.<https://journalLPPM.unsoed.ac.id> diunggah Januari, 2022.
- Gita, A. Resticka, 2020. *Kajian Etnosemantik Dalam Toponimi Wilayah Kabupaten Kota Cirebon*: jurnal unes volume 4 Nomor 1 online. <https://journal.unn.ac.id/index.php/JG/article/view/97775> Januari 2019.
- Spradley, J. P. 2007. *The Ethnographic Interview*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- https://journal.unes.ac.id/sju/index.php/ujet_NB_Segara.2017. <https://www.insanpelajar.com> diunggah 21 Januari
- <https://www.cambridge.org> Januari, 2022 <https://www.insanpelajar.com> diunggah 21 Januari 2022 www.merriam-webster.com/dalamid.m.wikipedia.org, january,2022