

WEST COASTAL TOPONYMS OF SUMATRA ISLAND: A CORPUS LINGUISTICS STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Several pieces of research on the toponym of place names in Indonesia have been carried out but focus on place names on the island of Java. The limited documentation of place names makes the study of toponymy in Sumatra a must. This article aims to map the thematization of place naming on the West Coast of Sumatra Island. The research was conducted in a qualitative descriptive manner with a corpus linguistic approach. Data was collected by means of documentation, interviews, and focus group discussions. Data were analyzed by following work procedures by Miles and Huberman (2013), involving data condensation, data display, verification drawing, and Sudaryat's toponymy categorization (2009). The results showed that the toponym of place names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island reflects the relationship between humans and their natural environment. This relationship is manifested through the thematization of place names, namely: embodiment, social, and culture. The embodiment aspect includes the sub-themes of water background, topographical background, and natural environment background. The social aspects include the sub-themes of residential background, economic activity background, and building background. The cultural aspects include sub-themes of myths, folklore, and legends passed down through oral traditions.

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A. Introduction

Toponymy is a term often used as a variation of the terms' topographical and geographical names. As a branch of

monomastics, toponymy examines the naming of geographical elements as place names. From a linguistics point of view, toponyms are categorized as markers, and

geographical elements are in the position of the signs.

This limitation aligns with the basic semiotic theory that the sign exists through the relationship between the signifier and the signified.¹ This can be observed from the factual conditions of the surrounding environment that are integrated with complex socio-cultural aspects so that the name of the place becomes the community's identity. In other words, naming is closely related to the sign system in culture, both linguistic and cultural symbols. This means that naming names is an effort to find language symbols to describe objects, concepts, processes, and other elements.²

Related to the explanation above, toponymy has a conventional and arbitrary reference.³ The conventional category is intended as a naming based on the habits of the community or society. In contrast, the arbitrator category is intended as a name given that follows a mutual agreement in a community. Instead,

naming is considered a reflection of society's past and culture.⁴ This statement means that toponyms are variants of the terms' topographical names and geographic names that are closely related to history, culture, and language.⁵ Noucher suggested that place names, as collective territorial markers, are the object of analysis. They are not only in linguistics but also in the social sciences, particularly geography, anthropology, and the history of topography.⁶

Several researchers emphasize this limitation that toponymy does not only cover the physical realm but also includes the social and cultural spheres that form it. Relevant to these findings, the naming of a place indicates that toponymy is not just a code, but more than that, it contains the historical richness of the area and its people.⁷ This statement was clearly stated before that the place names are not just for display but can be a source of meaningful historical knowledge.⁸

¹ Ferdinand De Saussure, *Course de Linguistik Generale*, trans. Harimurti Kridalaksana, Pengantar Linguistik Umum (Yogyakarta: Universitas Gadjah Mada, 1996), 13.

² H Kridalaksana, *Kamus Linguistik Gramedia* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 1984). 144.

³ Gugun Gunardi, Dewi Ratnasari, and Cece Sobarna, "Toponimi dan Lingkungan Hidup Kampung Adat di Tatar Sunda (Bandung)," *Prosiding SENARI (Seminar Nasional Riset dan Inovatif)* 3, no. 1 (2015): 369–74.

⁴ Asadi, "Nama Rupabumi, Toponim, Aturan dan Kenyataan," *Jurnal Lingkar Widya Swara* 2, no. 4 (2015): 18–35.

⁵ Asadi, "Nama Rupa Bumi, Toponimi, Aturan dan Kenyataan," *Jurnal Lingkungan Widya Swara*, no. 4 (2015): 18–35.

⁶ Matthieu Noucher, "The Place Names of French Guiana in the Face of the Geoweb: Between Data

Sovereignty, Indigenous Knowledge, and Cartographic Deregulation," *Cartographica: The International Journal for Geographic Information and Geovisualization* 55, no. 1 (2020): 15–28, <https://doi.org/10.3138/cart-2018-0027>.

⁷ Iqbal Bayu Anshari, "Kajian Etnosemantik dalam Toponimi," *Jurnal Laboratorium Leksikologi dan Leksikografi* ISSN: 2407, no. May (2017): 64; Refico Apriansyah and Ahmad Zamhari, "Toponim pada Masa Pemerintahan Kesultanan Palembang Darussalam di Kecamatan Ilir Timur 1 Palembang," *Siddhayatra: Jurnal Arkeologi* 23, no. 1 (2019): 49, <https://doi.org/10.24832/siddhayatra.v23i1.126>.

⁸ Andy Omara, "Pengaturan Kewenangan Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi dan Implikasinya Pasca Pembubaran Tim Nasional Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi," *Mimbar Hukum - Fakultas Hukum Universitas Gadjah Mada* 32, no. 2 (2020): 228–42, <https://doi.org/10.22146/jmh.40955>.

Place names are part of the category of the elements of the earth that can be identified as elements of human creativity.⁹ In general, place names are constructed in the form of phrases consisting of two parts, i.e., generic names and specific names. The generic name represents the geography of the surrounding area, while the specific name describes the self-name of the generic name that characterizes or distinguishes surgical surgeries from other areas.

The process of naming a place is included in the toponymy studies, the study of the names of topographical elements.¹⁰ The study related to naming the two categories of topographical elements is called toponymy. The study was conducted by tracing the names of geographical elements given by humans living in an area.

Many pieces of research related to toponymy have been produced and published. Pertiwi in 2020 conducted research on the toponymy of villages names in Ponorogo Regency by using an anthropolinguistic approach with ethnographic descriptive method. The results showed that 83 villages names in Ponorogo Regency contained toponymous

aspects based on their naming, which included three naming aspects: manifestation aspects (34), social aspects (39), and cultural aspects (11).¹¹ Ansari et al. in 2018 examined the origin of the naming of place names in Cirebon by using a qualitative descriptive approach. The study explained that toponymy in Cirebon was influenced by physical and socio-cultural aspects. Administratively, in the city of Cirebon, there are 21 sub-districts toponyms that contain physical aspects, while the other 24 sub-districts are identified as coming from the socio-cultural aspects of Cirebon.¹²

In other research, Sobama, Gunardi & Wahya in 2018 in their research of the Toponym of Sundanese Place Names in Banyumas Regency, indicated that changes in society continuously affect the naming of places in an area. The place names are not just typical names for such places but implicitly contain the people's ideology of the areas. Therefore, toponymy has become an essential part in the history of human life, especially as part of the process of identity formation. The findings also state that Sundanese is also used by some people in Central Java in the west, such as Cilacap, Brebes, and Banyumas

⁹ Jacob Rais, *Toponimi Indonesia: Sejarah Budaya Bangsa yang Panjang dari Permukiman Manusia dan Tertib Administrasi* (Jakarta: Pradnya Paramita, 2008), 4–5.

¹⁰ Nuansa Bayu Segara, "Kajian Nilai pada Toponimi di Wilayah Kota Cirebon Sebagai Potensi Sumber Belajar Geografi," *Jurnal Geografi: Media Informasi Pengembangan dan Profesi Kegeografian* 14, no. 1 (2017): 54–67, <https://doi.org/10.15294/jg.v14i1.9777>.

¹¹ Prima Pandu Pertiwi, Suyanto Suyanto, and Sri Puji Astuti, "Toponimi Nama-Nama Desa di

Kabupaten Ponorogo (Kajian Antropolinguistik)," *Nusa: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa dan Sastra* 15, no. 3 (2020): 330–40, <https://doi.org/10.14710/nusa.15.3.330-340>.

¹² Bayu Iqbal Anshari et al., "Kajian Etnosemantik Dalam Toponimi Wilayah Kabupaten dan Kota Cirebon," in *Prosiding Seminar Internasional Leksikologi dan Leksikografi* (Laboratorium Leksikologi dan Leksikografi, Departmen Linguistik, Fakultas Ilmu Pengetahuan Budaya, Universitas Indonesia, 2017), 64–69.

regencies, where there are still many folklore traditions. One of which is the story behind the place names in the areas. It is emphasized that the study of place names is a strategic effort to strengthen national identity because place names can be understood as signs that refer to stories and history rooted in local culture.¹³

Furthermore, Camalia in 2015 confirmed that the naming of Lamongan is closely related to the figure of a student of Sunan Giri named Hadi. Through a qualitative descriptive approach and the Sapir-Worf hypothesis, it is concluded that Lamongan is a type of index sign that is composed of a system of markers and signifiers that are interrelated like two sides of a coin.¹⁴

The five studies above have similarities in the nature of objects, which are more focused on naming places in certain areas. In addition, the similarity of the research can also be observed from its purpose which is limited to the description aspect of the research object and its setting. Almost all relevant research focuses on the toponymy of certain cities on the island of Java. Rais has conducted anthonymic research for the Banten, Lampung, and Bengkulu areas related to the toponym category. Therefore, toponymy research, which includes place names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island, is important and very meaningful to do.

Based on previous studies, it is found that previous research on toponymy focused more on the etymological, morphological, and semantic aspects of place names in Java involving the standard writing system of the place names. In contrast to the previous one, this study focuses more on the elements used in constructing place names on the west coast of Sumatra Island based on a corpus linguistic approach. In other words, the scope of this study is the element of naming places, including generic and specific names according to the geographical and socio-cultural conditions of the west coast of Sumatra Island. Therefore, this study aims to map the thematization of naming places on the west coast of Sumatra Island according to the chronology of the naming process.

B. Method

This research was categorized as a qualitative descriptive study. The research corpora were the names of places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island in 4 provinces (Aceh Province, North Sumatra Province, West Sumatra Province, and Bengkulu Province) spread across 11 regencies/cities and 22 sub-districts. Data were collected using documentation, interviews, and focus group discussions.

Documentation techniques were used to create an inventory of place names in accordance with the Regulation of the

¹³ Gugun Gunardi et al., "Toponimi dan Lingkungan Hidup Kampung Adat di Tatar Sunda (Bandung)," *Prosiding SENARI (Seminar Nasional Riset dan Inovatif)* 4 (2015): 369–74.

¹⁴ Mahabbatul Camalia, "Toponimi Kabupaten Lamongan (Kajian Antropologi Linguistik)," *PAROLE: Journal of Linguistics and Education* 5, no. 1 (2015): 74, <https://doi.org/10.14710/parole.v5i1.8625>.

Minister of Home Affairs number 58 of 2021 concerning Codes and Data for Administrative and Government Areas. Interview techniques and focus group discussions were used to obtain information related to the history of the origin of place names. Data analysis was carried out by following three stages of analysis (condensation, presentation, and conclusion).¹⁵ The data were analyzed using the framework of the toponymy category of place naming Sudaryat, who suggested that there are three aspects in naming places, namely aspects of embodiment, social aspects, and cultural aspects. The first aspect is the embodiment aspect relating to human relations with the natural environment. The second aspect is the social aspect related to human social relations in society. The third aspect is the cultural aspect which includes people's belief systems, history, and oral literature.¹⁶

C. Results

Naming places or toponyms on the West Coast of Sumatra Island have three (3) themes, namely: (1) embodiment aspects, (2) social aspects, and (3) cultural aspects. This finding is in line with the toponymy proposed by Sudaryat.¹⁷ This means that the thematization of naming places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island is closely related to the geographical and socio-cultural phenomena that

become the environment for the area given the name. The thematization can be observed through the following description, accompanied by supporting data in tabular form. The data presented in the table only represents a homogeneous corpus of data.

1. The Embodiment Aspects

In relation to the naming of places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island, the naming of places is dominated by the aspect of embodiment as a natural (physical) environmental references. The results showed that the naming of places through the theme of embodiment is done by using a phrase or group of words with a background of waters, the appearance of the earth, and the natural environment. The three backgrounds are categorized as sub-themes from the aspect of embodiment of place names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island.

a. Hydrological References

The water background is known as the hydrological setting. The findings show that the people on the West Coast of Sumatra Island are closely related to the topography of the waters as a physical manifestation of their environment. The data indicate that the embodiment aspect is the choice for naming places on the West Coast of Sumatra. This can be proven through the names of places that are constructed using words or phrases

¹⁵ Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldana, *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*, 3rd ed. (London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2013), 31.

¹⁶ Yayat Sudaryat, Gugun Gunardi, and Deni Hadiansah, *Toponimi Jawa Barat (Berdasarkan Cerita Rakyat)* (Bandung: Dinas Pariwisata dan Kebudayaan Provinsi Jawa Barat, 2009), 10–18.

¹⁷ Sudaryat, Gunardi, and Hadiansah, 12.

that refer to the waters, e.g., *sungai* (river), *air* (water), *muaro* (estuary), and *lubuk* (water pond). These terms become generic names of place names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island.

In principle, this finding is in line with the study of Amniar, which revealed the close relationship between environmental aspects and the toponymy system.¹⁸ The use of terms with hydrological references as a generic name is used in various ways in the four provinces according to geographical conditions. The findings also show that these generic names are combined with adjectives, plants, animals, topographies, settlements, and other natural elements as specific names in the form of phrases so that they become place names.

1) The Terms *Sungai* and *Batang* (River)

The words *sungai* and *batang* (river) as generic names are only used in naming places in West Sumatra Province. The word *sungai*, according to *KBBI/ Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (Big Dictionary of the Indonesian Language), is defined as a large flow of water and is synonymous with the word *batang* in Minangkabau language. The word *sungai* as a generic name is used in the districts of Pesisir Selatan, Agam, and Padang Pariaman, while the word *batang* is used in the districts of Agam and Padang City. The usage can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1.
Place Names with *Sungai* and *Batang* (River)

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Sungai Gayo Lumpo	Pesisir Selatan
2.	Sungai Nibuang	Agam
3.	Sungai Gimba Ulakan	Padang Pariaman
4.	Sungai Beremas	Pasaman Barat
5.	Batang Masang	Agam
6.	Batang Tiku	Agam
7.	Batang Arau	Padang
8.	Batang Kubung	Padang

2) The Terms *Air*, *Aia*, and *Aek* (Water)

The words *air*, *aia*, and *aek* (water) as generic names are used for naming places in three provinces: West Sumatra, North Sumatra, and Aceh. The word *air* is defined as a clear, colorless, tasteless, and odorless liquid found and needed in human, animal, and plant life that chemically contains hydrogen and oxygen; liquids that are commonly found in wells, rivers, and lakes are synonymous with the words *aia* in Minangkabau language and *aek* in Batak/Mandahiling language. The use of the word *air* as generic name is used for naming places in the Provinces of West Sumatra and Aceh. On the other hand, the word *aek* is used in the Province of North Sumatra. The usage can be seen in the following Table 2.

¹⁸ Amniar Ati et al., "Socio-Cultural and Environmental Aspects on Toponymy System of Villages in the East Region of Cirebon," in *2nd International Conference on Sociology Education*

(The 2nd International Conference on Sociology Education, Bandung, Indonesia: SCITEPRESS - Science and Technology Publications, 2017), 150–56, <https://doi.org/10.5220/0007094501500156>.

Table 2.
Place Names with *Air*, *Aia*, and *Aek*

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Air Haji	Pesisir Selatan
2.	Balah Aie Timur	Padang Pariaman
3.	Aia Bangis	Pasaman Barat
5.	Aek Manis	Sibolga
6.	Aek Dekka	Tapanuli Tengah
7.	Aek Porombunan	Sibolga
8.	Tepi Air	Aceh Tengah
9.	Air Pinang	Tapak Tuan

3) The Terms *Muara*, and *Muaro* (Estuary)

The word *muara* and *muaro* (estuary) are used in many generic names in the provinces of North Sumatera and West Sumatera. The term *muara*, according KBBI is defined as a place where the river flows meet the sea, lake, or the other rivers. It is synonymous with the word *muaro* in Minangkabau language. The usage can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3.
Place Names with *Muara* and *Muaro* (Estuary)

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Pasar lama Muara Air Haji	Pesisir Selatan
2.	Muara Kandis Punggasan	Pesisir Selatan
3.	Muaro Putuih	Agam
4.	Aek Muara Pinang	Sibolga

4) The Terms *Lubuk* (Water Pond)

The word *lubuk* (water pond) as a generic name is used for naming places in two provinces: West Sumatera and Bengkulu. The word *lubuk* is defined as the deep part of the river (sea, lake);

hydrospheric areas whose depths reach 6,000+ feet in the open sea and 1000 feet in freshwater lakes. The usage can be seen in the following Table 4.

Table 4.
Place Names with *Lubuk* (Water Pond)

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Lubuk Minturun	Padang
2.	Lubuk Buaya	Padang
3.	Lubuk Sanai	Muko-Muko
4.	Lubuk Sanai II	Muko-Muko

b. Geomorphological References

The topographical setting is known as the geomorphological setting. The findings show that these subthemes indicate the geographical characteristics of the areas. Terms that are often used to show the contours of the earth's surface include *teluk* (bay), *tanjung* (peninsula), *bukit* or *bukik* (hill), *gunung* (mountain), and *rawa* (swamp). In addition, there are also synonyms for these terms in their respective regional languages. The terms are commonly used as the generic names for places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island.

The use of terminologies with the references to the topography of the earth as a generic name is used in various ways in the four provinces according to geographical conditions. The findings also show that these generic names are combined with adjectives, plants, animals, topography, settlements, and other natural elements as specific names in the form of phrases to become place names.

1) The Terms *Teluk* dan *Lhok* (Bay)

The term *teluk* (bay) as a generic name is used for naming places in two provinces: West Sumatra and Aceh. The word *teluk* in *KBBI* is defined as the part of the sea that juts out into the land. The term *teluk* is synonymous with the word *lhok* in the Acehnese language. The findings show that in Aceh Singkil district, the word *teluk* is used, while in Aceh Tengah district, the word *lhok* is used as generic names. The usage can be seen in Table 5 below.

Table 5.
Place Names with *Teluk* and *Lhok* (Bay)

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Teluk Bayur	Padang
2.	Teluk Ambun	Aceh Singkil
3.	Teluk Rumbia	Aceh Singkil
4.	Lhok Keutapang	Aceh Tengah
5.	Lhok Rukam	Aceh Tengah
6.	Lhok Bengkuang Timur	Aceh Tengah

2) The Terms *Gunung* (Mountain) and *Bukit* (Hill)

The term *gunung* is defined as a very huge and high hill (usually more than 600 m high), while the word *bukit* in *KBBI* is defined as a pile of soil that is higher than the surrounding area, lower than the mountain. The term *bukit* is synonymous with the word *bukik* in Minangkabau language. The findings show that the use of the word *gunung* as generic names is found in the Province of West Sumatra, Pesisir Selatan Regency, and in Aceh Province, Central Aceh Regency, while the word *bukit* is used in the Provinces of West Sumatra and North Sumatra.

Table 6.

Place names with *Gunung* (Mountain) and *Bukit* (Hill)

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Gunung Bunkuak Lumpo	Pesisir Selatan
2.	Gunuang Kerambil	Aceh Tengah
3.	Bukit Air haji	Pesisir Selatan
4.	Bukit Gado-Gado	Pasaman Barat
5.	Bukik Melintang	Agam
6.	Bukit Patupangan	Tapanuli Tengah

3) The Terms *Tanjung* (Peninsula)

The term *tanjung* in *KBBI* is defined as the end-cut of the mountains that juts out to sea (lakes). The word *tanjung* is synonymous with the word *tanjong* in Acehnese language. The findings show that the word *tanjung* is used as generic names in three provinces: West Sumatra, Aceh, and Bengkulu, while in North Sumatra Province, it is used as a specific name. In Aceh Province, the word *tanjong* is also used for specific names. The usage can be seen in the following table.

Table 7.

Place names with *Tanjung* and *Tanjong* (Peninsula)

No.	Place names	Districts/Cities
1.	Tanjung Mutiara	Agam
2.	Bungo Tanjung	Barus
3.	TanjungMeulaboh	Aceh Barat
4.	Tanjong Bungong	Aceh Barat
5.	Meunuang Tanjong	Aceh Barat
6.	TanjungMulya	Muko-Muko

4) The Terms *Rawa* and *Alue* (Swamp)

The term *rawa* as a generic name is used for naming places in Bengkulu Province in *KBBI*. *Rawa* is defined as low

land (generally in coastal areas) and is flooded with water, mostly filled with many aquatic plants. In the Acehnese Dictionary, *alue* means a tributary of a dead-end river or swamp; plot. The usage can be seen in the following table.

Table 8.
Place Names with *Rawa* and *Alue* (Swarm)

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Rawa Mulya	Muko-Muko
2.	Rawa Bangun	Muko-Muko
3.	Alue Lhee	Aceh Barat
4.	Alue Peudeung	Aceh Barat

This finding indicates that there are similarities with the Adab and Komara studies. The use of geomorphological aspects in naming places is a characteristic of Indonesian society. The geomorphological aspect is the local community's effort to build an environmental identity. With place names that represent geomorphological situations, public awareness to protect the environment can be maintained. This is because with environmental damage, the communal identity of those who occupy the environment will also be eroded.¹⁹

c. Ecobiological References

On the West Coast of Sumatra Island, the construction of naming places with references to the natural environment is associated with elements of landform

references, plants, and animals. The use of elements of landform, plants, and animals in the sub-themes of the natural environment in naming places is mainly due to their role as markers of related areas or better known as the respective regional icons.

1) Landform References

In this study, the phrase “landform background” refers to the form of the ecosystem where various species develop, such as; rice fields, fields, sand, and their synonyms in regional languages on the West Coast of Sumatra Island. The data shows that there are several words that reflect landform that are used as generic names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island, include: *sawah* (rice fields), *ladang* (garden), *pematang* (embankments), *parit* (ditch), *pasir* (sand), and *alue* (swarm). The word *sawah* is synonymous with the term *blang* in Acehnese language. The word *pasir* is synonymous with *pasie/ pasia* in Minangkabau language and *pasi* in the Acehnese language. In Central Aceh, *alue* is synonymous with the word *parit*, which means a place where water flows, and can be interpreted more, namely as a tributary of a river.

The landform background can be used as a generic or specific name. The naming pattern with a landform background can be seen in Table 9.

¹⁹ Netiasa Adab and Frans Asisi Datang, “The Origin of Beach Names in Tanjungsari: Toponymy Studies,” *International Review of Humanities Studies* 6, no. 1 (2021): 594–614, <https://doi.org/10.7454/irhs.v6i1.324>; Ujang Komara

et al., “A Linguistic Study of Toponymy and Environmental Identity in Sundanese Ethnic,” *International Journal of Innovation* 8, no. 3 (2019): 398-412.

Table 9.
Place Names with Landform References

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Sawah Lamo	Tapanuli Tengah
2.	Blang Dalam	Aceh Barat
3.	Tumpak Ladang	Aceh Barat
4.	Pematang Sontang	Pasaman Barat
5.	Pasia Tiku	Agam
6.	Pasie Tengah	Padang
7.	Takal Pasir	Aceh Singkil
8.	Pasi Jeumpa	Aceh Barat

2) Plant References

The data show that too many types of plants exist in naming places all over the world. The floral elements that are often used in naming places on the West Coast of Sumatra include *limau* (orange), *drien* (*durian*), *barus* (camphorwood), *rumbia* (sago palm), *aua* (bamboo), *bengkuang* (jícama), *jambo* (bell fruit), *bungong* (flower), *kerambil* (coconut), *beringin* (banyan), and, *pinang* (betel nut). The word *durian* is synonymous with the word *drien* in the Acehnese language. The word *rumbia* is synonymous with *rumbio* in Minangkabau language and *bumbuang* in the Acehnese language.

The floral references are more representative of the regional language and are used as generic and specific names. The pattern of naming places by floral elements can be seen in the following table.

Table 10.
Place Names with Floral References

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Limau Gadang Lumpo	Pesisir Selatan
2.	Durian Kapeh	Agam
3.	Drien Caleue	Aceh Barat
4.	Sungai Aua	Pasaman Barat
5.	Barus	Tapanuli Tengah
6.	Teluk Rumbia	Aceh Singkil
7.	Parak Rumbio	Padang
8.	Pea Bumbung	Aceh Singkil
9.	Gunung Kerambil	Aceh Tengah
10.	Kota Beringin	Sibolga
10.	Air Pinang	Aceh Tengah
11.	Lhok Bengkuang	Aceh Tengah

3) Animal References

The research findings show that the faunal background refers to the name of the animal species found in the area given the naming places. The data shows that on the West Coast of Sumatra Island, animal references in place naming are not widely found and are only used as a specific name. In other words, names containing animal elements are very limited. The place names using animal elements can be seen in the following table.

Table 11.
Place Names with Animal References

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Sihorbo (buffalo)	Tapanuli Tengah
2.	Pasi Kumbang (beetle)	Aceh Barat

Buffalo "Sihorbo" and Kumbang "beetles," as shown in Table 11, are the

most common animals found in the area. The use of animal elements is assumed to be relatable with the presence of the respective animals at the time name of the area is given.

The embodiment aspect is closely related to human life, which tends to blend with the earth as a foothold and the natural environment as a place to live. The embodiment aspect or embodiment (physical) is related to human life, which tends to blend with the earth as a foothold and the natural environment as a place of life.²⁰ This can be observed through the data in Tables 1-11, which shows that the words or phrases used cannot be separated from the water background, topographical background, and the natural environment around the West Coast of Sumatra Island. This finding also has similarities with the sub-theme framework found by Ruspandi and Mulyadi and confirms the categorization of the natural environment sub-theme proposed by Sudaryat.²¹

This statement implies that the name of a place represents the relationship and interaction between humans who continue to grow and develop with natural

conditions as an integral part of their time. Thus, each place names has a uniqueness or characteristic according to the geographical background that distinguishes one area from another. The findings above confirm the two previous studies conducted by Nash. Nash explains that the ecological nature of the toponymy of the island situation contributes to the onomastics of the place.²² The ecological conditions contained in the name are the main differences between island and non-island communities. In the end, naming is also a medium for society to emphasize their character and nature. In reverse circulation, the naming of the place also inspires them to maintain the character of the community.²³

2. Social Aspects

As one of the themes in naming places, the social aspect is related to social interaction or places for social interaction. The naming of places on the theme of social aspects is done by using the background of settlements, places of economic activity, and buildings as sub-themes. Several previous studies also see these sub-themes of social aspects in naming a place.²⁴

²⁰ Sudaryat, Gunardi, and Hadiansah, *Toponimi Jawa Barat (Berdasarkan Cerita Rakyat)*, 12.

²¹ Jeko Ruspandi, "Fenomena Geografis di Balik Makna Toponimi di Kota Cirebon," *Jurnal Geografi Gea* 14, no. 2 (2016): 1–13, <https://doi.org/10.17509/gea.v14i2.3394>; Sudaryat, Gunardi, and Hadiansah, *Toponimi Jawa Barat (Berdasarkan Cerita Rakyat)*.

²² Joshua Nash, "Island Placenames and Insular Toponymies," *Names* 63, no. 3 (2015): 146–57, <https://doi.org/10.1179/0027773815Z.000000000110>; Joshua Nash, "Cultural Aspects of Norfolk Island Toponymy," *Onomastica Canadiana* 95 (2016): 23–49.

²³ Nani Darheni, "Regional Toponymy in Cirebon Regency: An Ethnolinguistic Study," in *Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Community Development (AMCA 2018)* (2018 3rd International Conference on Education, Sports, Arts and Management Engineering (ICESAME 2018), Quezon City, Philippines: Atlantis Press, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.2991/amca-18.2018.158>; Ati et al., "Socio-Cultural and Environmental Aspects on Toponymy System of Villages in the East Region of Cirebon."

²⁴ Duncan Light and Craig Young, "Toponymy as Commodity: Exploring the Economic Dimensions of Urban Place Names," *International Journal of Urban*

a. Residential References

On the West Coast of Sumatra Island, the settlement or residential references in naming places follow a certain pattern. The elements of settlement are related to the administrative form of the settlement, e.g., *kampung* (village), *kota* or *kuta* (city), and *dusun* (hamlet); its position, e.g. *mudik* (uphill), *hilir* (downstream), *hulu* (upstream), *tengah* (central), and *tapi* (edge); and the community that can reflect the identity of the explorer, e.g., *Solok* (people from Solok) and *Padang* (people from Padang). The setting of the settlement can be a generic or specific name. The usage can be seen in the following table.

Table 12.
Place Names with Residential References

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Kampung Padang	Pasaman Barat
2.	Kampung Solok	Tapanuli Tengah
3.	Kampung Mudik	Tapanuli Tengah
4.	Tapanuli Tengah	Sumatera Utara
5.	Koto Rawang	Pesisir Selatan
6.	Ikua Koto	Padang
7.	XIV koto	Muko-Muko
8.	Kota Baringin	Sibolga
9.	Kuta Simboling	Aceh Singkil
10.	Dusun Baru	Muko-Muko
12.	Hilir	Aceh Tengah
13.	Hulu	Aceh Tengah

b. Economic References

In addition to the residential reference, on the West Coast of Sumatra, the naming of places also uses the economic references. The use of words or groups of words related to economic activities indicates that there is an iconic economic activity in the area. The data shows that the words used for this background are *balai* or *pasa* (market) and *kedai* or *keude* (shop). The words *balai* and *pasa* in Minangkabau language are synonymous. The word *kedai* is synonymous with *keude* in Acehese. The usage of economic references can be seen in the following table.

Table 13.
Place Names with Economic References

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Balai Sinayan Lumpo	Pesisir Selatan
2.	Pasar Baru	Pasaman Barat
3.	Pasar Belakang	Sibolga
4.	Pasar Tarandam	Tapanuli Tengah
5.	Pasar Ujung	Aceh Singkil
6.	Pasa Gadang	Padang
7.	Pasar	Aceh Tengah
8.	Pasar Sebelah	Muko-Muko
9.	Kedai Gedang	Tapanuli Tengah
10.	Keude Aron	Aceh Barat

c. Building References

On the West Coast of Sumatra, the background of buildings is also an element of naming places. This can be proven by the use of the term for the place of worship,

and *Regional Research* 39, no. 3 (2015): 435–50, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12153>; David J. Madden, "Pushed off the Map: Toponymy and the

Politics of Place in New York City," *Urban Studies* 55, no. 8 (2018): 1599–1614, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098017700588>.

i.e., *masjid* (mosque) and *meunasah* (surau/small mosque). The usage of building references can be seen in Table 14 below.

Table 14.
Place Names with Building References

No.	Place Names	Districts/Cities
1.	Kampung Masjid	Aceh Barat
2.	Meunasah Rayeuk	Aceh Barat
3.	Meunasah Buloh	Aceh Barat

The social aspect, which is reflected through the naming of the place, shows that the name of the construction is based on the result of the social interaction of the community with nature as the background for the social interaction of the people of the West Coast of Sumatra Island. The data in Tables 22-14 shows that the naming of places on the west coast of Sumatra Island is constructed on the basis of the results of human social interaction with nature. In other words, naming a place is not only a form of geographical conditions but also a form of social interaction; as stated by Sudaryat that the social aspect in naming places is related to social interaction or places of social interaction.²⁵

The study results indicate that the naming of places is closely related to the previous social conditions of the community or events that have existed. This can be observed through the

background of landform, economic activities, and buildings as the context of naming places that exist through the choice of words or phrases that do not only describe the setting of settlements and the richness of flora and fauna in the area. The west coast of Sumatra Island can also present the identity of the explorer community, both historically and socially, and religiously. Thus, it can be said that the toponym of a place cannot be separated from human activities, and the naming describes an identity that is different from the others. This finding is in line with several studies which state that naming places cannot be separated from human activities so that they have specific characteristics.²⁶

In addition, the data also indicates that the names of geographical elements given by humans are related to the history of human settlement in the past when they first inhabited an area. Rais said that "many names of geographical elements were given by humans in the past when they first inhabited an area which were also related to the history of human settlement."²⁷

3. Cultural Aspects

Cultural aspects also construct the thematicization of naming places. Naming a place on the theme of the cultural aspect is done by using a phrase or group of words with a mythological, folklore, or legend

²⁵ Sudaryat, Gunardi, and Hadiansah, *Toponimi Jawa Barat (Berdasarkan Cerita Rakyat)*, 10.

²⁶ Segara, "Kajian Nilai pada Toponimi di Wilayah Kota Cirebon Sebagai Potensi Sumber Belajar Geografi," 56.; Light and Young, "Toponymy as Commodity: Exploring the Economic Dimensions of

Urban Place Names"; Madden, "Pushed off the Map: Toponymy and the Politics of Place in New York City."

²⁷ Rais, *Toponimi Indonesia: Sejarah Budaya Bangsa yang Panjang dari Permukiman Manusia dan Tertib Administrasi*, 5.

backgrounds. The three references are categorized as sub-themes from the cultural aspect in naming places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island. The pattern can be seen in the following table.

Table 15.
Place Names with Cultural Aspects

No.	Place Names	Mythology/Folklore/Legends
1.	Meulaboh	According to folklore, <i>Meulaboh</i> is the name given by the Minangkabau ethnic group as immigrants. This word begins with the story of the Minangkabau ethnic group who decided to take a break in the <i>Teluk Pasi Karam</i> area. When the group approached the beach, one of them said: <i>Di siko lah kito balabuah</i> (here we dropped the anchor). Ever since, this area has been known as Meolaboh, which means: "anchored" or "a place to land." This is why the name <i>Meulaboh</i> was derived from the Minangkabau language.
2.	Tapak Tuan	In ancient times, by the mountains in the South Aceh region, there lived a young man named Syech Tuan Tapa, a magical ascetic and devout youth worshiper. According to the story, there were two Chinese dragons that crossed the Indian Ocean. They found a baby floating. The two dragons saved and nursed the baby girl until she grew up. They named her <i>Putri Naga</i> (Dragon Princess). This story was later noticed by the King of the Kingdom of Asralanoka, who lost his daughter while sailing in the Indian Ocean. The King set out to investigate the Princess. After the King was sure that the Princess was his daughter, the King seized and fled the Princess. The two dragons did not remain silent, and then the commotion among the people and the dragons was broken, which eventually disrupted <i>Tuan Tapa's</i> hermitage.

		<i>Tuan Tapa</i> rose to save the Princess. The battle between <i>Tuan Tapa</i> and the two dragons was inevitable. In the end, both dragons were killed. This legend is still believed by the local people to this day. This legend is reinforced by two historical relics: 1) at Gunung Lampu, there is a monument with pair of very large footprints (exceeding the standard human size), which are believed to be <i>Tuan Tapa's</i> footprints. The relic has become a cultural site and a tourist location to date; and 2) about 1 km from the monument (in the village of Padang Tapak Tuan near the mosque), there is a tomb with 2 meters wide and 15 meters long. This tomb strengthens the belief regarding the existence of <i>Tuan Tapa</i> .
3.	Air Haji	Once upon a time, there was a man who came back from Hajj pilgrimage, and on his way back, he saw a clear river under the bridge he was passing. He stopped and came down for ablution and prayer. Following the incident, people named the area Air Haji which means the water used by the pilgrim to perform ablution prior to praying. Another version tells that there was a kind-hearted person who owned an area in Lubuk Pakih Riverbank. His name was Aji. The place was gently sloping with the clear water. These were the main attraction for most people to come and bathe on the riverbank. After that, the entire area was named <i>Air Haji</i> . Because of Aji's generosity in allowing people to live and build houses nearby, the area turned to be a lively and developed village that later became Nagari Air Haji.
4.	Muko-Muko	One day, there was a seven-month meeting conducted by the community leaders in the area. One of those asked their leader, <i>Maharajo Namrah</i> , about the deliberation they had held by sitting face-to-face (<i>muko-muko</i>). <i>Maharajo Namrah</i> replied that they wanted to find a good name for the area they lived in. Hearing

this statement, the guest commented *that it means that you have seven full moons face to face* (muko-muko). The area was named *Muko-Muko* after.

In addition to the embodiment and social aspects, the naming of places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island is closely related to cultural themes. This relationship can be traced through the process of naming places that cannot be separated from folklore. Naming places based on cultural settings is naming areas related to ideas or ideas of cultural elements, such as aspects of mythology, folklore, and the belief system of the people. Lubis states that the name of an area contains elements of myth, fairy tales, or legends in addition to other historical elements.²⁸ Janah and Purwanto also stated the same thing that the form place names are based on folklore in, which shows the origin of geographical names based on history, meaning, usage, and typology.²⁹

The results of the study show that the names of places on the West Coast of Sumatra Island have characteristics that are closely related to the chronology of the naming process. These characteristics are

shaped and complemented by characters that implicitly appear through morphological construction as a combination of the complexity of human life and the diversity of the surrounding nature. The morphological construction of place names illustrates that place names vary widely but can be identified and classified based on embodiment, social, and cultural aspects as the thematicization of toponyms.³⁰

The place names have their own history cannot be denied because place names did not appear suddenly but through a process that was mutually agreed upon by the community and passed down from generation to generation in the form of values. Culture is a social innate and is jointly determined by society. It means that the toponym of a place is the result of culture and is a collective agreement that is passed down from generation to generation.³¹

In connection with the above description, the existence of the three thematizations of place names reflects the knowledge, experience, and feelings of the people of the West Coast community of

²⁸ Nina Herlina Lubis, *Sejarah Kota-Kota Lama di Jawa Barat* (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2000), 10.

²⁹ Ulum Janah, "Menelusuri Sejarah Asal Mula Balikpapan melalui Perayaan Erau Balik Delapan: Sebuah Kajian Budaya dan Folklor," *Premiere Educandum: Jurnal Pendidikan Dasar dan Pembelajaran* 2, no. 1 (2016): 53–77, <https://doi.org/10.25273/pe.v2i01.47>; Andi Purwanto, "Analisis Isi dan Fungsi Cerita Prosa Rakyat di Kanagarian Koto Besar, Kab Dharmasraya," *Jurnal Elektronik WACANA ETNIK* 1, no. 2 (2010): 155–64, <https://doi.org/10.25077/we.v1.i2.12>.

³⁰ Eva Tuckyta Sari Sujatna, Heriyanto Heriyanto, and Kasno Pamungkas, "Place-Naming of Tourism Destinations in Jawa Barat: A Toponymy Study," *IJASOS- International E-Journal of Advances in Social Sciences* 2, no. 5 (2016): 471, <https://doi.org/10.18769/ijasos.78535>.

³¹ Francesco Perono Cacciafoco and Francesco Cavallaro, "The Legend of Lamòling: Unwritten Memories and Diachronic Toponymy through the Lens of an Abui Myth," *Lingua* 193 (2017): 51–61, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2017.04.006>; Sergey Ivanovich Garagulya et al., "American Toponyms Derived from Given Names as Records of Language, Culture and History," *World Applied Sciences Journal* 24, no. 10 (2013): 1296–1302.

Sumatra Island at that time. Helleland affirms that there is an intimate relationship between the place name and the identity of the locals. He mentioned that place names reflect experiences and feelings of individual and collective identity.³²

This implies the treasures of knowledge and culture in processing the natural environment and passing it back into life values through place names as a form of language. Therefore, every place name has a meaning that reflects the geographical, social, and cultural references of the community. In fact, the history of the origins of the place names includes folklore, legend, and myth as historical aspects as part of the culture of a society.³³ The same view was also expressed in other research that naming places are an inseparable part of human culture, so naming a place often has values that need to be preserved.³⁴ The naming of places reflects the unique morphology and semantic content that signifies its association with environmental identity and indicates the attachment of feelings, ownership, and desire to preserve it.³⁵

However, the facts on the ground show that written documents containing the history of the origin of place names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island are difficult to find, including in government agencies. The process of naming places is obtained through limited oral explanations from local community leaders. Because the

history of naming places is in the form of an oral tradition, the knowledge and experience of the community and natural events of its time in an environment can only be inherited in a limited way and only known by certain people. In other words, the toponyms that exist in the oral tradition, which include myths, folklore, and legends, become traditions that are less favorable for the inheritance of history and values from generation to generation. Therefore, place names need to be preserved, inherited, and preserved, as the mandate implied in Presidential Regulation No. 112 of 2006, dated December 29, 2009, concerning the standardization of topographical names.

D. Conclusion

The thematization of place names on the West Coast of Sumatra Island cannot be separated from past geographical conditions, creativity, and human activities. The thematization includes aspects of embodiment, social aspects, and cultural aspects. The theme of the embodiment aspect is constructed using three (3) sub-themes, namely: (1) water background, (2) topographical background, and (3) natural environment background. The social aspect themes manifested through the background of the settlement, the economic activities, and the setting of the building. The theme of the cultural aspect includes place names found in myths,

³² Botolv Helleland, "Place Names and Identities," *Oslo Studies in Language* 4, no. 2 (2012): 95–116, <https://doi.org/10.5617/osla.313>.

³³ Sugeng Priyadi, *Sejarah Lokal: Konsep, Metode, dan Tantangannya* (Yogyakarta: Ombak, 2015), 36.

³⁴ Apriansyah and Zamhari, "Toponim pada Masa Pemerintahan Kesultanan Palembang Darusallam di Kecamatan Ilir Timur 1 Palembang," 63.

³⁵ Komara et al., "A Linguistic Study of Toponymy and Environmental Identity in Sundanese Ethnic," 398–412.

folklore, and legends. The name of this place is found in folklore and passed down from generation to generation by oral tradition. This theme is closely related to the region's historical events, precisely the origin of place names. The three sub-themes are reflected in the choice of words used to construct place names, both in Indonesian and in local languages.

This finding confirms the toponymy categorization of place names proposed by Sudaryat. However, because each theme is operationalized according to the characteristics of the region and the language used, each region has its own uniqueness and toponym. The mapping of the toponymy thematicization of place names reflects the variety of natural phenomena combined with the socio-cultural plurality of an area. The variety and plurality make place names have their own characteristics. In other words, toponymy can function as a distinctive marker of a place. This research is limited to corpus data with a wide area coverage. The socio-cultural values behind place names cannot be documented as part of the history of the West Coast Coast of Sumatra Island. In this regard, it is necessary to conduct a more focused and comprehensive toponymic study with various approaches, including etymological, semantic, and anthropological.

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