

# The Mensural Numeral Classifier Based on the Local Wisdom of Minangkabau Community at Tanah Datar Regency

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## Abstract

This paper discusses the mensural numeral classifier used by the Minangkabau community in Tanah Datar regency. The mensural numeral classifier discussed here is the numeral classifier based on the local wisdom of the community, includes the numeral classifier with unrecognizable as the smallest unit but used as the measurement unit based on the shape or nature of the object which is its measure. Data collected by meeting the informants directly on the location. The data preparation conducted by hearing and interviewing. It carried data analysis through grouping the obtained data into the mensural type, such as the length, weight,

size, and volume. Based on data analysis, in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency, it found numeral classifier based on the local wisdom of community which uses as the measurement unit of length, weight, size, and volume. In this language, the standard for the measurement unit is the length of the human body, especially the hands and feet. The mensural numeral classifiers base on the human hand length includes *rueh jari*, *jari*, *jangka*, *eto*, and *dapo*. Whereas, the numeral classifier base on the foot length is *tapak* and *langka*. Meanwhile, for measurement units of weight, the standard is the objects which can be taken by the adult human, whether lifting by hands or bearing on the back. The mensural numeral classifier of weight includes *tayia*, *kati*, and *pikua*. The units of size also base on parts of the human body but which manage for the measurement unit only for the size which can form with using a finger. The mensural numeral classifier for the size means *cakak*. For measurement units of volume, there is the standard which based on parts of the human body, such as the hands, and another standard which comes from the things made from bamboo and cane work. The mensural numeral classifiers of weight that bases on the hand size are *binjek*, *gonggam*, and *kawik*. Meanwhile, the mensural numeral classifiers of volume which bases on objects made of bamboo or cane work include *cupak*, *gantang*, *katidiang*, and *sumpik*.

**Keywords:** Mensural numeral classifier, length, weight, size, volume

## 1. Introduction

The Minangkabau language is one of hundred local languages found in Indonesia. The main speakers of this language are the Minangkabau people who populated the west coast part of the Sumatra central island. Therefore, the main region of the language speaker in Indonesia is in West Sumatra Province. However, the Minangkabau language has a wide distribution area due to the diaspora custom of the Minangkabau people.

Adelaar (1985: 2) states that Minangkabau language, besides use in West Sumatra Province, it also uses in some areas along the Batanghari River in Jambi Province and in Kampar Regency of Riau Province. Furthermore, Adelaar (1985) states that Jamee immigrant groups in the West Aceh region of Aceh Province and peoples in Negeri Sembilan (Malaysia) also use Minangkabau language. Then, Lenggang in Be (1981) also explains that there uses Minangkabau language in the Muko-muko area (Bengkulu Province), Natal and Barus (North Sumatra Province), Tapak Tuan (Aceh Province), and Bangkinang, Pekanbaru, and Taluk (Riau Province).

The widespread of Minangkabau language usage makes it difficult to determine the number of speakers of this language for sure. Nevertheless, according to Masinambow (2002: 30), Minangkabau speakers in West Sumatra Province riched to 3 545 959 people.

The Minangkabau language is oral language. This statement rose due to Minangkabau speakers only use their language to speak in the daily interaction, while in writing, they tend to use the national language. The limitation of Minangkabau language for spoken use may generate displacement and extermination of this language.

One of the acts that can prevent the language extinction is by documenting that various features of that language. It requires conducting the study regarding the language aspect. The purpose is to preserve the Minangkabau language from the extinction and the local language of local wisdom preservation. This research tries to figure out the vocabulary aspects of Minangkabau language. The vocabulary which proposes to examine in this study is the numeral classifier vocabulary.

The numeral classifier is available in various languages in the world. According to Aikhenvald (2000), the languages that have the numeral classifier extend from China to parts of India, the Americas, and central South America. Since it finds the numeral classifier in different language around the world, research related to the numeral classifier has also performed in the various languages in the world. The existing studies about the numeral classifier include:

1. Numeral Classifier in the Austroasiatic Language Group by Adam (1986);
2. Numeral Classifier of Burmese by Becker (1986) and Eieiko (2004);
3. Numeral Classifier of Malay by Hopper (1986) and Salehuddin and Heather Winskel (2011 and 2012);

4. Numeral Classifier Chinese by Huang and Kathleen Ahren (2003) and Zhang, (2007);
5. Numeral Classifier of Newar by Kiryuu (2004);
6. Numeral Classifier of Japanese by Downing (1984), Matsumoto (1993), Uchida and Imai (1999), Yamamoto and Keil (2000), Bender and Melanie Siegel (2004), Miho (2000, and 2004), Nishimitsu and Mizuguchi Shinobu 2004), and Wahyuni (2010);
7. Numeral Classifier of Indonesia by Wahyuni (2006, and 2016), Nadra, Sri Wahyuni and Mahsun (2014), Nadra and Sri Wahyuni (2015), and Wahyuni (2015).

Although there was research on the numeral classifier in different languages of the world conducted by various researchers, the study on Minangkabau language numeral classifier is still limited. The numeral classifier study of the Minangkabau language was carried out by Rina Marnita (1996) by taking the point of expression in the District of Lima Puluh Kota. This study attempts to collect the data from a different location which Marnita did before. This paper discusses the numeral classifier, especially the numeral classifier unit of measure used by the Minangkabau community in Tanah Datar District.

The numeral classifier is one of the essential aspects of language needs to be studied. According to Mizuguchi (2004a), "numeral classifiers are the classifiers that occur with a numeral or a quantifier" (page 26). Miho (2004), based on his research on the Japanese language, states that the numeral classifier is one type of word in backward accompanying a number which shows the nature and type of target based on the form and its meaning.

From those definitions, it is clear that the numeral classifier commonly appears simultaneously with numerals. In Minangkabau language, the numeral classifiers and numerals will form the language structure in the form of numerical phrases. Here is the explanation of the construction of the Minangkabau language numeral phrases in the following example.

1) *Duo karuang padi*

*Two NumCL rice*

‘two sack of rice’

2) *gulo sasendok*

*sugar one Num CL*

‘one spoon of sugar’

From the above example, *sasendok* and *duo karuang* are numerical phrases consisting of the number and numeral classifier. However, especially to character one, in the Minangkabau language usually does not use a number, but is marked with clitic *sa*.

It can divide the numeral classifier into three types, namely individual numeral classifier, collective numeral classifier, and numeral classifier size (Mizuguchi, 2004). This paper will

focus on the numeral classifier of size. According to Mizuguchi (2004), the numeral classifier of size is the numeral classifier used when measuring a thing by the unit and the object is recognized not as the smallest part.

Kiryū (2004) divides the numeral classifier of the measurement unit into two types. There is the numeral classifier in the form of a measurement unit which states a real number based on its value and the numeral classifier with unrecognizable as the smallest unit but used as a measurement unit based on the shape or nature of the object which is its measure. The Minangkabau community in Tanah Datar regency, in measuring objects also uses both types of the numeral classifier of the measurement unit, as stated by Kiryū (2004).

The numeral classifier in the form of a measurement unit which states an actual number based on its value used by the people in this area is the numeral classifier of an accurate unit of measure based on the international measurement standard unit, such as meters, kilometers, grams, kilograms, and so on. Besides that, the community who speaks Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency also uses the numeral classifier based on the local wisdom of the society, including the numeral classifier with unrecognizable as the smallest unit but used as a measurement unit based on the shape or nature of the object which is measured. This paper focuses more on the numeral classifier of the measurement unit based on the local wisdom of this community.

The local wisdom defines as the native wisdom or knowledge of developed by the society that comes from the virtue of the cultural tradition which uses as the self-control of the social life (Sibarani, 2012: 112-113). Ataupah (2004) state local wisdom characterized with the rich historical and positive value. This value comes from the ancestors then inherited orally to the next generation. Moreover, Moendardjito (cite from Ayatrohaedi, 1986: 40-41) states that the local wisdom can give the direction to the development of culture.

In general, this paper aims to make the mensural numeral classifier of the Minangkabau language containing the local wisdom values of its speaker's community can be documented and can be passed on to future generations. Moreover, as noted above, the Minangkabau language is an oral language that can at times become archaic because decayed by the international measurement unit. The specific purpose of this paper is to describe the types of the mensural numeral classifier in the Minangkabau language a Tanah Datar regency and its use.

## **2. Method**

This research data derived from the oral language which obtained from the informants, namely Minangkabau language speakers in Tanah Datar regency. The data was in the form of Minangkabau language conversation that contains the mensural numeral classifier based on the local wisdom of the community.

The data collected by meeting the informants directly on the location. The preparation of data conducted by hearing and interviewing. It recorded the data obtained through this hearing and interview section into the data card. The hearing carried by the method of Creswell (2002: 140) which are: (a) the researcher fully participates (the researcher hide the role); (b) the

observers as participants (the position as the researcher is known); (c) the participant as observers (the participants position are dominant than the observers position (d) full observers (observers observe without participation).

The interview carried through structured and unstructured manner. Structured interviews carried using the number of questions that have organized in the questions list which attempt to trigger the answers. Unstructured interviews carried by asking the informants to tell about things, such as asking them about how to cooking. The data which has the mensural numeral classifier immediately recorded on the paper. If the informant gives a dubious answer, it should be asked again in a different way.

Data analysis was conducted through grouping the obtained data into the mensural type, such as the length, weight, size, and volume. Each of these data is correlated and compared to observe the similarities and differences. Furthermore, it classified the data repeatedly based on its purpose. The results of this analysis presented narratively.

### 3. Results

In the Minangkabau language in Tanah Datar, there are several numeral classifiers which express the size unit. This unit includes the length, weight, size, and volume. This discussion will explain each of those mensural numeral classifiers.

#### 3.1 The Mensural Numeral Classifier of the Length

There are several numeral classifiers for the length unit which expresses the local wisdom of the society in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency. The parts of the human body, especially the hands and feet commonly base on these units. These numeral classifiers which express the local wisdom of Minangkabau society based on human hands includes *rueh jari*, *jari*, *jangko*, *eto*, and *dapo*. The use of these numeral classifiers details in the next explanation.

##### 1) *Rueh Jari*

*Rueh Jari* in Minangkabau language means 'finger joint' in English. As a numeral classifier, it uses *rueh jari* to measure the length of an object which size is about the length of an adult human index finger. It commonly uses the numeral classifiers *rueh jari* when measuring the size of the objects used in cooking or the object used in traditional medicine.

Examples:

(1) *kulik manih sarueh jari*

*kulik manih 1 NumCl*

'one Cinnamon'

(2) *sipadeh 2 rueh jari*

*sipadeh 2 NumCl*

'gingers two NumCL'

(3) *2 rueh jari langkueh*

*2 NumCL langkueh*

‘2 NumCl galangal’

## 2) *Jari*

In Minangkabau, *jari* is a word classified as a noun which in English means a finger. Besides as the noun, it also uses *jari* as the numeral classifier in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar which is for the numeral classifier of the lengths unit. The benchmark using for *jari* unit is the fingers. The *jari* numeral classifier for length equals to the size of an adult finger. It commonly uses the length of the index finger as the measurement of the *jari* numeral classifier. Similar to the use the numeral classifier *rueh jari*, the *jari* numeral classifier is also commonly used when measuring the length of objects used in cooking or things used in traditional medicines.

Examples:

(1) *Sarai 2 jari*

*Sarai 2 NumCL*

‘two lemon grasses’

(2) *Kulik manih sajari*

*Kulit manih 1 NumCL*

‘one cinammon’

(3) *sajari kunyit i*

*1 NumCL kunyit*

‘1 NumCL saffron’

## 3) *Jongka*

The *jongka* meaning in the Minangkabau language is the length of the range between the tip of the thumb and the tip of the little finger. As a numeral classifier, it commonly uses *jongka* as a measure of the length of an object whose size is in the range between the thumb of the hand and the little finger of the adult.

Examples:

1) *sajongka tanah*

*1 NUMCL tanah*

‘1 NumCL land’

2) *banang sajongka*

*banang 1 NUMCL*

‘yarn 1 NumCL’

3) *tali nilon 3 jongka*

*tali nilon 3NumCL*

‘nylon rope 3 NumCL’

4) *Eto*

The meaning of *eto* length is the range of the lower arm, from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow. It usually uses this numeral classifier for measuring the size of an object. As the numeral classifier of the unit uses for measuring the length of the object, it commonly uses *eto* when measuring the size of an object, especially a flat material or a thin object, such as fabric and yarn.

Examples:

(1) *limo eto kain marekan*

*5 NumCL kain marekan*

‘5 NumCL cotton’

(2) *banang nilon 6 eto*

*banang nilon 6 NumCL*

‘nylon thread 6 NumCL’

(3) *Panjang lapiak tu 5 eto*

*Panjang lapiak tu 5NumCL*

The length of the mat 5 numCL’

5) *Dapo*

*Dapo* is the numeral classifier of length that the range of both arms braided from the tip of the left-hand middle finger to the tip of the right-hand middle finger. In Minangkabau, it uses *dapo* as the numeral classifier to measuring the length of an object which size is along the two extended arms of the grown man, and the length measured from the right-hand tip of the middle finger to the tip of the middle finger of the left hand. Meanwhile, the *dapo* equals to four *eto*. Thus, the numeral classifier *eto* is the numeral classifier of the unit of length that is a derivative of the numeral classifier *dapo*. Therefore, when measuring the size of an object, it can also use numeral classifier *dapo* to measure the length of objects similar to those measured by the numeral classifier *eto*.

Examples:

(1) *kain baludu sadapo*



*kain baludu 1 NumCL*

‘vivet 1 NumCL’

(2) *Panjang lapiak ko sadapo*

*panjang lapiak ko 1 NumCL*

‘length of this mat 1 NumCL’

(3) *Panjang banang ko 20 dapu*

*Panjang banang ko 20 NumCL*

‘length of this thread 20 NumCL’

In addition to the unit of the length based on the hand and its parts which already discussed before, in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency, traditionally based on local wisdom, people in this area also use other body parts as a benchmark of length. The other body parts commonly used as a benchmark in this unit of length are legs. In Minangkabau language at this area, there is two unit of measure which based on the legs: *tapak* and *langka*. The use of these numeral classifiers details in the next explanation.

#### 1) *Tapak*

*Tapak*, a noun, is the area under the foot commonly uses to stepping or the part of the hand use to take something and etc. Besides as a noun, it also uses *tapak* as a numeral classifier. Although it can refer the nominees of *tapak* as the feet or hands, as a mensural numeral classifier in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency, the benchmark is not the size of the palm but the size of the foot sole. As the mensural numeral classifier unit, *tapak* is the unit of the adult human foot size, which is from the tip of the thumb to the heel. Therefore, it commonly uses this numeral classifier in measuring the length of objects which can unfold, such as floor mats. The length of the sole of an adult's foot is called *satapak*.

Examples:

(1) *Panjang lapiak ko 20 tapak*

*Panjang lapiak ko 20 NumCL*

‘length of this mat 20 NumCL’

(2) *Panjang kasua tu 10 tapak*

*Panjang kasua tu 10 NumCL*

‘length of this mattress 10 NumCL’

#### 2) *Langka*

*Langka* in Minangkabau is a noun which has some definition, namely: 1) foot movement (forward, backward, left, right) during walking; 2) the distance between the legs when stepping forward (when walking). Aside from being a noun, it also uses *langka* as a numeral

classifier the unit of length used to measure the distance. As *langka* numeral classifier has a meaning related to the second definition, that is the unit of distance that is the size of a range between the left leg and the human right foot when stepping forward or when walking. The one-foot step is called a *salangka*.

(1) *Bajalan ka muko 5 langka*

*Bajalan ka muko 5 NumCL*

‘walk forward 5 NumCL’

(2) *Basisuruk agak 3 langka dari situ*

*Basisuruk agak 3 NumCL dari situ*

‘walk backwards about 3NumCL from there’

In addition to the mensural numeral classifier which has discussed before, in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar reGENCY, there is also the mensural numeral classifier of the traditional base on the local wisdom of the community which is not coming from the human body part. The numeral classifier of the unit of length is the *kabuang* and *bidang*. Neither the *kabuang* nor *bidang* is both numeral classifier units of length base on human body parts, but rather the numeral classifier of the unit base on the numeral classifier eto which described before. *Kabuang* is the mensural numeral classifier equals to  $\pm$  four eto, while the *bidang* is a measure of size equals to five eto. Since these numeral classifier base on the numeral classifier eto, in measuring the length of the things, it can use these numeral classifiers for the things which can measure with the numeral classifier eto.

Examples:

(1) *5 kabung kain batiak*

*5 NumCL kain batiak*

‘5 NumCLof batik fabric’

(2)) *duo bidang kain putiah*

*2 NumCL kain putiah*

‘2 NumCL of white fabric’

In addition to the long-size numeral classifier described before, in the Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar, it commonly uses another numeral classifier in measuring distances. This numeral classifier is *tombak*. Usually, the traditional hunters use this numeral classifier in calculating the distance during their trip.

Tombak is a noun meaning a type of a moderately long spear weapon. The size of this object which refers to tombak does use as the measurement of length. As the numeral classifier of the unit of distance, tombak has the value equal to approximately 3.5 meters.

Examples:

*Jarak anjiang jo kondiak tu 4 tombak*

*Jarak anjiang jo kondiak tu 4 NumCL*

‘Distance of the dog to the pig 4 NumCL’

### 3.2 The Mensural Numeral Classifier of Weight

From the analysis carried on the numeral classifier data, in the Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency, it got several data classified by the numeral classifier of the traditional weight measurement associated with the local wisdom of the society. One of the benchmarks for the unit is the weight of objects that can be lifted by an adult human. The numeral classifier which is the traditional unit of weight measurement based on the local wisdom of community which uses the weight of objects that can be lifted by a human adult includes *tayia*, *kati*, and *pikua*.

In Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency, *tayia* is a weight of an object that can be handled using a single hand. According to information from the informant, in this area, there used this numeral classifier in scaling the weight of the precious metal. But it is not common to use in the recent day. However, in the present days, this numeral classifier is still used in scaling the tobacco leaves.

Examples:

*Tambakau limo tayia*

*Tambakau 5 NumCL*

‘tobacco 5 NumCL’

*Kati* is the weight unit of an object which the weight is as much as can be lifted by an adult human's hands. When this numeral classifier converts into the international standard, *kati* weight is equal to  $\pm 62.5$  grams. As the weight numeral classifier, it commonly uses *kati* in scaling the objects in the form of grains, such as rice, corn, and peanuts.

Examples:

(1) *bore 3 kati*

*bore 3 NumCL*

‘Rice 3 NumCL’

(2) *kacang 2 kati*

*kacang 2 NumCL*

‘peanut 2 NumCL’

(3) *jaguang sakati*

*jaguang 1 NumCL*

‘corn 1 NumCL’

In contrast to *kati*, the word *pikua* in Minangkabau means carrying a load on the shoulders. As a numeral classifier, *pikua* is the weight unit of an object which the weight is as much as can bring on the adult human's shoulders. Hence, if this numeral unit converts into the international standard, it can have an amount equal to 62.5 kilograms (kg). Thus, it can be stated that the numeral classifier *pikua* has a value equivalent to ten *kati*. Just like the numeral classifier *kati*, it commonly uses the numeral classifier size of *pikua* in scaling the objects in the form of grains, such as rice and beans.

Examples:

(1) *beras 7 pikul*

*beras 7 NumCL*

‘rice 7 NumCL’

(2) *3 pikul jagung*

*3 NumCL jagung*

‘3 NumCL corn’

(3) *kacang tanah 2 pikul*

*kacang tanah 2 NumCL*

‘peanut 2 NumCL’

In addition to the weight unit numeral classifier described before, in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar reGENCY, there is also another weight unit which did not base on the weight of objects that can be lifted by an adult human. However, it only uses this numeral classifier especially to scale the weight of precious metals, such as gold, silver, and others. The specific numeral classifier uses in measuring the precious metal is *ameh* and *bunci*.

*Ameh* is a noun for gold in English. However, as the numeral classifier of weight, the application of the numeral classifier *ameh* is not only to scaling the jewelry made of gold, yet it can also use for other heavy metal such as silver and mercury. The weight of the metal that measure as one *ameh* has a weight equivalent to 2.5 grams in the international measure unit.

Examples:

(1) *golang 10 ameh*

*golang 10 NumCL*

‘bracelet 10 NumCL’

(2) *cincin 3 ameh*

*cincin 3 NumCL*

‘ring 3 NumCL’

(3) *maniak 5 ameh*

*maniak 5 NumCL*

‘necklace 5 NumCL’

Just like the numeral classifier *ameh*, it also uses the numeral classifier *bunci* in scaling the objects in the form of gold, silver, and other metal jewelry. The weight of a metal which described as *bunci* would be equivalent to 1/100 of gold. Thus it can be said that one gold is equal to 100 *bunci*.

Examples:

(1) *aia raso 3 bunci*

*aia raso 3 NumCL*

‘mercury 2 NumCL’

(2) *perak 10 bunci*

*perak 10 NumCL*

‘silver 10 NumCL’

(3) *cincin ko bareknyo 2 ameh 5 bunci*

*cincin ko bareknyo 2 NumCL 5 NumCL*

‘this ring weighs 2 NumCL 5 NumCL’

### 3.3 The Mensural Numeral Classifier of Weight

In Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar regency, it found the mensural numeral classifier based on the local wisdom of community that shows the size of the object. This numeral classifier is *cakak*. As the unit of measurement, the *cakak* divided by two, namely *cakak ketek* and *cakak gadang*.

*Cakak ketek* is the size of the object equal to the circle formed by sticking together the tip of the thumb with the tip of the index finger or the tip of the middle finger. As a numeral classifier, it uses *cakak ketek* to measure the size of the object, which equals to the shape form by sticking together by the tip of the thumb with the tip of the index finger or the tip of the middle finger. The size of the object as big as shape form by sticking together the tip of the thumb with the index finger or middle finger is called *sacakak ketek*.

Examples:

(1) *lalidi sacakak ketek*

*lalidi 1 NumCL*

‘swamp cabbage’

(2) *kacang panjang 2 cakak ketek*

*kacang panjang 2 NumCL*

‘long beans 2 NumCL’

*Cakak gadang* is the size the numeral classifier which equals to the circle performed by matching together the tip of the right-hand thumb with the tip of the left-hand thumb then the tip of the right-hand index finger with the tip of the left-hand index finger. The size of the object which similar with that circle is called *sacakak gadang*.

Examples:

(1) *bayam sacakak gadang*

*bayam 1 NumCL*

‘spinach 1 NumCL’

(2) *urek lalang 3 cakak gadang*

*urek lalang 3 NumCL*

‘weeds 3 NumCL’

(3) *padi sacakak gadang*

*padi 1 NumCL*

‘oryza sativa 1 NumCL’

### 3.4 The Numeral Numeral Classifier of Volume

In Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar reGENCY, there also has some traditional numeral classifier of volume unit which shows the local wisdom of the society. Numeral classifier volume unit includes *cupak*, *gantang (sukek)*, *katidiang*, *sumpik (karuang)* and *kulak*. Each of these numeral classifiers is a derivative of the other numeral classifier. The next discussion will be explained e the numeral classifier.

#### 1) *Cupak*

*Cupak* is a noun for the small container made of bamboo. Its size is approximately the size of the shape formed by matching the tip of the right thumb with the tip of the left thumb then the tip of the right index finger with the tip of the left index finger, while the length is about the height of a bamboo fragment. Concerning the volume size, *cupak* has more capacity than one liter in international volume standard. As a numeral classifier, *cupak* is the smallest volume-sized unit compare to other traditional numeral classifiers.

Examples:

1) *tigo cupak bareh*

*3 NumCLbareh*

‘3 NumCL rice’

2) *limo cupak jaguang*

*5 NumCL jaguang*

‘5 NumCL corn’

3) *10 cupak kopi*

*10 NumCL kopi*

‘10 NumCL coffee bean’

4) *sacupak kacang padi*

*1 NumCL kacang padi*

‘1 NumCL green bean’

## 2) *Gantang*

*Gantang* in Minangkabau also belongs to the noun. *Gantang*, some call it *sukek*, is an object used as a small container which also made of bamboo, but the bamboo size is larger and longer than *cupak*. As a numeral classifier of traditional Minangkabau volume units, the *gantang* has a volume size four times larger than the *cupak*. Therefore, one *gantang* equals to 4 *cupak*. Just like the numeral classifier *cupak*, it also commonly uses the numeral classifier *gantang* when measuring the objects in the form of grains, such as rice, rice, corn, and nuts.

Examples:

(1) *bareh 5 gantang*

*bareh 5 NumCL*

‘rice 5 NumCL’

(2) *padi 9 gantang*

*padi 9 NumCL*

‘rice 9 NumCL’

(3) *kacang 3 gantang*

*kacang 3 NumCL*

‘peanuts 3 NumCL’

## 3) *Katidiang*

*Katidiang* is the container made of woven bamboo or rattan. The size is varied which some are small, and some are large. Aside from being a container, it also *katidiang* as the numeral classifier of volume size unit. Due to their varied size, it is not all containers called as *katidiang* can use as the numeral classifier of the volume size unit. *Katidiang* used as the unit

of volume measure is a *katidiang* which size equal to ten *gantang*. Hence, in the traditional Minangkabau volume size unit, one *katidiang* is equivalent to 10 *gantang*. Since the *gantang* is a unit of measure which derived from the *katidiang*, all objects which can measure using *gantang* numeral classifier can also be measured using a numeral classifier *katidiang*.

Examples:

- (1) *30 katidiang padi*  
*30 NumCL padi*  
'30 NumCL rice'
- (2) *20 katidiang kacang*  
*20 NumCL kacang*  
'20 NumCL peanuts'

#### 4) *Sumpik / Karuang*

*Sumpik* is a pocket-shaped container made of woven straw of hemp. The size is varied which some are small, some are quite large, and even some are very large. However, it difficult to find this type of container nowadays due to the raw materials for manufacturing becomes rare. Then, the number of the artisan, who expert to crafting it, is also decreasing from the time. Therefore, the presence of this product now has been replaced by another similar product but different in the raw material, made of synthetic fibers. This synthetic fiber made product is called *karuang*. Nevertheless, peoples sometimes also refer *karuang* as *sumpik*. Besides use as a container, it also uses *sumpik* as the volume numeral classifier. Therefore, the numeral classifier *sumpik* is called the numeral classifier *karuang* then both of these uses interchangeably. As the numeral classifier of the volume unit, one *sumpik* or one *karuang* is equivalent to the volume of three *katidiang*. Thus, it can state that the *sumpik* or *karuang* is the numeral classifier of volume derivative of *katidiang*. Hence, the objects used in the numeral classifier of *sumpik* or *karuang* is the same object measured by the numeral classifier *katidiang*.

Examples:

- (1) *Padi sasumpik*  
*Padi 1 NumCL*  
'rice 1 NumCL'
- (2) *Kacang limo karuang*  
*Kacang 5 NumCL*  
Peanuts 5 NumCL
- (3) *Kopi duo karuang*



*Kopi 2 NumCL*

Coffie bean 2 NumCL

5) *Kulak*

*Kulak* is a noun, a kind of wooden, rectangular container. It usually uses these containers called *kulak* as a measure. Therefore, aside from being a noun, *kulak* is also the numeral classifier of volume unit commonly uses in measuring the grain volume. The volume of one *kulak* is equivalent to 25 gantang.

Examples:

*Manyabik padi 1 kulak*

*Manyabik padi 100 NumCL*

‘harvest 100 NumCL’

In addition to the numeral classifier of volume units discussed before, in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar reGENCY, there is another numeral classifier uses as the volume unit. These numeral classifier of volume unit are any wares. All fillable wares can use as the numeral classifier of volume units, such as spoons, cups, and plates.

In Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar reGENCY, in addition to the numeral classifier of volume unit that discussed before, there is also another traditional numeral classifier base on the local wisdom of the community. This numeral classifier is a volume unit based on human body parts. Commonly, hands are the part of the human body which use as the numeral classifier of volume unit. These numeral classifiers of volume unit base on the hand shape or part of the hand are *binjek*, *gonggam*, and *kawik*. The detail of these numeral classifiers explains in the following sections.

1) *Binjek*

*Binjek* is a verb which means to take something by clamping between the tip of the thumb and the tip of the index finger. Furthermore, the word of *binjek* can also use as the numeral classifier of the unit of measure which represents the object volume as much as can take by clamping between the tip of the thumb and the tip of the index finger. It commonly uses the *binjek* numeral classifier of volume unit in cooking, to pick up the mashed objects or spices in the form of fine granules or spices.

Examples:

1) *garam sabinjek*

garam 1 NumCL

2) *katumba sabinjek*

katumba 1 NumCL

3) *2 binjek marica*

## 2 NumCL marica

2) *Gonggam*

The word *gonggam* in Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar means the fist or hand grip in holding things. Hence, the meaning of *gonggam* is to take an object with hand grip position. The word *gonggam* can also use as a numeral classifier which belongs to volume unit. As the numeral classifier of the volume unit, *sagonggam* is the volume of objects as much as can take or carry or place on the palm while this palm is facing downwards.

Examples:

1) *2 gonggam bareh*

2 NumCL bareh

2) *sagonggam jaguang*

1 CL jaguang

3) *segenggam gulo*

1 CL gulo

3) *Kawik*

Just like *gonggam*, *kawik* is also an act of taking things by using the palm. However, how to pick things up on them is different. In *gonggam*, things take by a grip, but in *kawik*, the objects take like spooning by hand. In the Minangkabau language at Tanah Datar, it also uses *kawik* as the numeral classifier of the volume unit which the size is as much as the volume of objects can be picked up by snatching with the hand palm. As the volume unit, there are two kinds of the numeral classifier *kawik*, namely *kawik ketek* and *kawik gadang*. *Kawik ketek* is the volume unit which uses when the objects as much as held by one palm. On the other hands, if the objects taken by both palms, these volume is called *sakawik gadang*.

Examples:

1) *kacang padi sakawik gadang*

*kacang padi 1 NumCL*

‘Green bean 1 NumCL’

2) *5 kawik gadang padi*

*5 NumCLCL padi*

‘5 NumCL rice’

3) *3 kawik bareh*

*3 NumCL bareh*

‘3 NumCL rice’

#### 4. Conclusion

From the earlier discussion, it concludes that the Minangkabau language community at Tanah Datar regency uses the mensural numeral classifier base on their local wisdom, such length, weight, size, and volume. For length units, it commonly uses the unit base on the length of the human body, especially the hands and feet. While for the weight unit, the standard is the objects which can be taken by the adult human, whether lifting by hands or bearing on the back. The size units also base on parts of the human body but which manage for the measurement unit only for the size which can form with using a finger. For volume units, besides the unit base on human body parts, there also found other measurement units which come from the things made from bamboo. The human body part which uses as the unit of volume is the hand.

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