



## Interaction of Natural and Cultural Elements of Village Names in Banyumas Regency: Study of Toponymy

Ika Oktaviana, Siti Junawaroh, Ummi Nurjamil Baiti Lapiana  
Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Purwokerto, Indonesia

\* [ikaoktaviana4@gmail.com](mailto:ikaoktaviana4@gmail.com)

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### Abstract

This study delves into the complex relationship between natural and cultural elements in shaping the meanings of village names in Banyumas Regency. By using a qualitative approach that involves archival research and interviews with local residents, the research uncovers how these elements work together to maintain the region's ecological and cultural identity. Through the analysis of the region's toponymy, the study identifies two main factors influencing village names: physical and non-physical nature. The physical nature includes geographical features such as hydrology, morphology, and biodiversity, while the non-physical nature encompasses intangible factors like climate and cultural heritage. The findings reveal that village names often mirror the local environment, historical events, and cultural stories, offering valuable insights into the community's bond with their natural surroundings. This research adds to the understanding of how place names act as a repository of cultural and ecological knowledge, highlighting the significance of safeguarding the intangible heritage embedded within the toponymy of Banyumas Regency.

**Keywords:** toponymy; village names; Banyumas Regency

### Introduction

The study of place names, or toponymy, provides a window into the interplay between human societies and their environments. The naming of a place is usually named by the community according to natural conditions and events related to the name of the place (Diani, 2020; Erliani et al., 2022). The names assigned to locations are not only a linguistic occurrence but are actually linked to intricate geographical and historical developments (Salazar & Maulen, 2020). This naming also aims to facilitate communication between people and as a reference by pointing to a particular geographic object (Wijaya, et al., 2021). The concept of toponymy, or place names, originates from the idea that every geographical location should have linguistic markers to denote its topographic features (Fajrhi et al., 2023). Toponyms, also known as place names or geographical names, utilize language symbols to represent objects, concepts, and processes when naming places, linking human ideas to objects (Komara et al., 2019). The toponymy provides insight into the interaction between human societies and their surroundings based on natural features and events associated with the location reflecting complex geographical and historical factors.

There is a strong connection between cultural and natural diversity at a global scale, especially in the linguistic domain, but less is known at regional scales, and indicators of such reciprocity are found in the linguistic expression of natural elements and their representation in the landscape through toponymy (Fagúndez & Izco, 2016). Place names are a linguistic

form that people attach to the landscape, which is one of the most refined cultural manifestations revealing a fundamental effort for human existence and locating their actions through place names (Atik et.al., 2022). Toponymy can also act as a distinguishing feature of a location, which is evident in the diversity of natural phenomena in Indonesia, as well as the country's socio-cultural diversity, which has resulted in various naming conventions based on local culture and identity (Asnani, Eraku, & Koem, 2023). Preservation of toponymy valuable for cultural and environmental understanding (Fagúndez & Izco, 2016). The classification of geographical names is a challenging task due to their diversity and complexity, and the need to analyze them in terms of linguistic rules, historical formation, and semantics (Mirakmalov et al., 2023). Hence, toponyms are not merely arbitrary labels but are imbued with meanings that reflect the geographic, historical, and cultural narratives of a region.

In the Banyumas Regency, located in Central Java, Indonesia, the village names reflect the area's rich natural beauty and cultural heritage. The region boasts diverse landscapes, including fertile plains, lush forests, rugged mountains, and meandering rivers. These natural features have significantly influenced the lives and cultures of the local inhabitants, as reflected in the names of the villages. This indicates the importance of the natural elements in the daily lives of the people. Banyumas Regency has a rich cultural history in addition to its natural features. The region has been influenced by a mix of cultures, including indigenous Javanese traditions, Hindu-Buddhist legacies, and Islamic heritage. This blend of cultures can be seen in social structures, rituals, and village names, which often honor historical events and local heroes and reflect the community's values. Village names combining natural features like rivers or hills with cultural elements like local legends or religious symbols show a deep connection between the physical and spiritual landscapes, revealing how the inhabitants of Banyumas have related to their environment over time.

Many scholars have studied toponymy related to several objects. Toponymy or place name studies were investigated to reveal names based on the geography or landscapes of the places. Brown (2008) examined the formal and functional properties of the Tenejapa Tzeltal vocabulary in labeling features of the local landscape and its relationship to spatial vocabulary for describing locative relations. Burenhult & Levinson (2008) explored the linguistic categories of landscape terms and place names in nine genetically, typologically, and geographically diverse languages. Senft (2008) contributed to the research of landscape terms and place names in Oceania. Fagúndez & Izco (2016) evaluate the geographic distribution of phyto-toponyms or places named after a native local flora. Hearn (2021) integrated ethnographic knowledge of the landscape with historical and empirical data to characterize and map the temporal development of this agropastoral landscape. Atik et al. (2022) interpreted rural landscapes by analyzing place names.

Similarly, the toponymy of village names was also observed by previous researchers. Septiani et al. (2020) described village names, compositions, meanings, and factors influencing naming. Erliani et al. (2021) revealed village naming patterns in Muara Sahung and Luas based on three aspects namely embodiment aspects, social aspects, and cultural aspects. Humaidi et al. (2021) studied on toponyms in Tabalong region based on linguistic forms and meanings. Wulandari and Rosalina (2021) investigated village names based on folklore in Domas village, Serang, Banten. Diniarti et al. (2022) investigated village names in West Lombok based on form and meaning. Manalu and Ramlan (2022) had observed village names in Sirandorung, Tapanuli Tengah, focusing on meanings. Ekasani (2024) studied village names

in Bali based on some forming aspects and semantic toponymy. Milenia et al. (2024) described the toponym of villages in the Pino Raya District, South Bengkulu Regency, based on the naming aspect category (embodiment aspects, social aspects, and cultural aspects) and described the history and culture of village naming. Specifically, the toponymy studies of Banyumas also has already been conducted to investigate village names in Cilongok subdistrict which is one of subdistrict in Banyumas regency (Abimanyu, 2018), its Sundanese place names (Sobarna et al., 2018), and its subdistricts (Resticka et al., 2023).

Despite extensive work on toponymy, there is a significant research gap in studying the interaction between natural and cultural elements in naming villages. Existing studies have focused on specific aspects, such as linguistic properties and historical developments (Humaidi et al., 2021; Wulandari and Rosalina, 2021; Diniarti et al., 2022; Manalu and Ramlan, 2022; Ekasani, 2024; Milenia et al., 2024), but lack comprehensive research that integrates both natural and cultural dimensions. Additionally, most studies have concentrated on broader geographical areas, with few providing in-depth, localized analysis that combines historical, cultural, and geographical perspectives in a single region. There is also a scarcity of research that leverages oral histories and cultural insights from local communities to understand the cultural significance and meanings behind place names, which is particularly important in regions like Banyumas Regency, where oral traditions and local histories play a crucial role in naming conventions. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to address the gaps in knowledge by examining how natural and cultural elements interact in the village names of Banyumas Regency. By combining historical records, geographical data, and oral histories, the study aims to provide a detailed understanding of toponymy and how these elements shape the region's toponymic landscape. This approach not only contributes to the academic field of toponymy, but also helps in preserving cultural heritage and understanding the environmental history of Banyumas Regency.

## Method

The inquiry utilizes a qualitative research methodology, which is concerned with elucidating human environments and human experiences within a variety of conceptual frameworks (Winchester & Rofe, 2016), making it suitable for thoroughly examining and interpreting the intricate interplay of historical, cultural, and geographical information. This method allows for a nuanced comprehension of the meanings and significance behind village names in Banyumas Regency. The study is both exploratory and descriptive, intending to reveal and depict fundamental connections between the natural and cultural aspects of village naming. The exploratory facet aims to investigate areas that may not have been extensively researched before, while the descriptive element seeks to present a comprehensive report of the observed phenomena.

The main methods of data collection include archival research and interviews. Archival research involves visiting local archives and libraries to gather historical records. Interviews are conducted with local people who have knowledge of collecting oral histories and cultural insights. Insights into traditional stories, legends, and historical events that have influenced village names are obtained through interviews with local elders, community leaders, and cultural historians. Oral histories are particularly important for preserving intangible cultural heritage that may not be documented in written records. By combining archival research with interviews, the study adopts a holistic approach to understanding the village names in

Banyumas Regency, integrating documented historical backdrops with personal, cultural, and contextual insights to thoroughly explore the natural and cultural elements that shape the region's toponymy.

The analysis is structured to interpret the meanings, origins, and contextual significance of the village names through systematic examination and synthesis of various data sources. Firstly, the data are analyzed through linguistic analysis. The linguistic structure of village names is analyzed to uncover their etymological roots. Studying place-names is inherently connected to the language and essential for understanding the landscape (Mcniven, 2020). This involves breaking down the names into their constituent parts to understand their meanings and origins.

The names of villages often have meanings related to natural features like rivers and mountains, or cultural elements such as legends and historical figures. Analyzing the linguistic structure and historical context of village names helps in understanding their literal and symbolic meanings. This involves studying historical events, migrations, and cultural practices documented in historical records and oral histories. Creating timelines and historical maps can help visualize the temporal and spatial context of village names. In addition, examining the historical context of each name, including analyzing historical documents, folklore, and community records, can provide insights into the socio-political and cultural backdrop of the naming process.

The analysis of village names involves examining linguistic, historical, and cultural aspects. Village names are interpreted based on local myths, legends, and religious practices to understand their cultural significance. This analysis also includes studying meaning of village names in Banyumas Regency. Additionally, the broader socio-cultural context is explored to understand how social structures, community roles, and cultural values are represented in the village names. This involves analyzing oral histories to capture the lived experiences and collective memories of the community. By using historical, linguistic, geographical, and cultural analyses, this study aims to comprehensively explore the interactions between natural and cultural elements within the village names of Banyumas Regency. The main objective is to enhance our understanding of the region's cultural and environmental heritage.

## Finding

The names of villages in Banyumas Regency have significant meaning, reflecting a blend of natural and cultural elements that showcase the region's rich history. The process of naming these villages is closely connected to both the natural surroundings and cultural aspects, creating a tapestry that mirrors the area's distinct geography, history, and cultural heritage. This interaction isn't accidental but rather a purposeful and meaningful representation of the bond between the community and its environment. Understanding this interaction offers valuable insights into how local communities perceive and connect with the natural world around them, as well as how they integrate their cultural identity into the landscape.

The names of villages in Banyumas Regency are heavily influenced by a combination of physical features, non-physical attributes, and cultural elements. These elements mirror the varied landscape, weather conditions, and cultural heritage of the region, offering a comprehensive insight into how local communities name and connect with their surroundings. In Indonesia, the history of the origin of these names is often traced through

folklore or legends, both in oral and written forms (Abimanyu, 2018). The names of places have traditionally represented the multiple placements on a terrain, denoting diverse cultural influences. Place names serve as enduring cultural symbols that reflect ancient history, culture, and society across landscapes (Savage, 2020). The naming of each region in Banyumas Regency preserves historical and cultural memories, connecting their cultural heritage to the landscape (Resticka et al., 2023).

The study also identified several key patterns and themes in the area's toponymy, namely physical nature and non-physical nature. The physical nature of village names in Banyumas Regency is deeply rooted in the natural landscape, reflecting the region's diverse geography, hydrology, and biodiversity. These names provide not only practical information about the environment, but also carry cultural meanings, illustrating the close relationship between the local communities and their natural surroundings. Through the naming of villages after rivers, mountains, hills, and local flora, the people of Banyumas Regency preserve their connection to the land, celebrating the natural features that shape their lives and culture. On the other hand, the non-physical nature of village names in Banyumas Regency encompasses a wide range of environmental factors, from temperature and climate to intangible natural elements. These factors play a significant role in shaping the identity and character of villages, influencing how communities perceive and interact with their environment. Through the names of their villages, the people of Banyumas Regency express their relationship with the non-physical elements of nature, embedding cultural meanings and values into the very fabric of their place names. These names not only describe the environmental conditions, but also reflect the resilience, adaptability, and cultural identity of the communities that inhabit these areas.

In the examination of village names in Banyumas Regency, it becomes apparent that these names serve as symbolic representations of the region's physical topography and cultural heritage. Each toponym holds within it a fragment of the area's historical narrative, geographical features, and communal identity. The research endeavor unveiled recurring motifs in the toponymy of Banyumas Regency, with a particular emphasis on the intricate interplay between physical attributes and cultural import. The close rapport between humanity and the natural surroundings is underscored by the manner in which individuals denominate their environs or dwellings, drawing from the encompassing natural expanse, which includes water bodies, terrain, and the broader natural setting (Baruadi et al., 2023). The complex amalgamation presented here provides a thorough insight into the naming of villages by local communities, encapsulating within these names the fundamental characteristics of the surrounding landscape, climate, and cultural legacy of the area. Moreover, cultural components are integral to toponymy as they mirror the historical, spiritual, and societal dimensions of the community. This encompasses allusions to local folklore, historical occurrences, and customary observances. The cultural facets present in village names also serve to uphold the intangible heritage of the region, establishing a connection between contemporary communities and their ancestral origins.

The research findings indicate that the village names in Banyumas Regency carry significant meanings deeply intertwined with both natural and cultural elements, presenting two primary components namely physical and non-physical nature. The physical component encompasses tangible features such as the region's geography, hydrology, and biodiversity, directly influencing the nomenclature of villages. Certain names reflect specific landscape

features, including mountains, rivers, or distinctive flora and fauna, which serve as indicators of the region's natural environment. Conversely, the non-physical component encompasses intangible elements such as temperature, climate, and cultural heritage, which, while not immediately discernible, play a substantial role in shaping village identities. These names often capture environmental conditions, historical events, and local folklore, all of which are integral to the community's sense of place. Collectively, these components provide a comprehensive understanding of how natural and cultural factors interact to influence the toponymy of villages in Banyumas Regency, with each name encapsulating a story that connects the people to their environment and history.

### **Physical Nature**

The naming of villages in Banyumas Regency is closely tied to the region's diverse and varied geographical characteristics, with a particular emphasis on the natural environment's significant influence on each village's identity and heritage. These names provide valuable insights into the local terrain, encapsulating the essence of the area's geography, hydrology, and biodiversity. This study classifies the physical factors that influence village names into three principal categories: hydrological features, morphological/physiographic elements, and biodiversity. Collectively, these physical elements not only chart the diverse geography of Banyumas Regency, but also uphold the interwoven connection between the natural environment and the cultural identity of the local communities.

#### **1. Hydrological**

The presence of hydrological features, such as rivers, lakes, streams, and other bodies of water, significantly influences the nomenclature of villages, especially in regions like Banyumas Regency, where water serves as a central aspect of both the natural landscape and daily life. The names of several villages in Banyumas Regency are derived from these hydrological features, with their origins deeply intertwined with folklore and historical development within the community. Through this study, it is observed that these features not only portray the natural characteristics and formations, but also intersect with the cultural narratives and historical influences that have contributed to the naming of villages in Banyumas.

The villages in Banyumas Regency are named based on the region's hydrological features and local folklore. Village names such as *Pancurendang*, *Beji*, and *Kaliurip* emphasize the significance of springs, wells, and rivers, reflecting the community's dependence on these water sources. Similarly, names like *Kedunggede*, *Kedungpring*, and *Cirahab* also exemplify the importance of specific river characteristics and clear springs in the local environment. These names are descriptive of the nature of rivers, lakes, streams, and other bodies of water. For instance, *Pancurendang* derives from "pancuran," signifying a flowing groundwater spring, and "sendang," representing a spring that emerges from underground into a puddle. *Beji* refers to a very large well or water source, while *Kaliurip* denotes a river that continues to flow even during the dry season. Other village names, such as *Kedunggede* and *Kedungpring*, are named after the deeper parts of the river and signify big and deeper-than-bamboo kedung, respectively. *Cirahab*'s name originates from "ci," meaning water, and "rahab", signifying clear and plentiful, representing the village's many clear and clean springs.

Additionally, *Rancamaya* village's name reflects its history as "ranca," meaning swamp, and "maya," meaning shadow or unreal, suggesting that the area was once a valley drained by a river, indicating the presence of a swamp.

The nomenclature of villages is intricately connected to local folklore, often intertwined with historical narratives and cultural legends. Village names often reflect the close relationship between the community and its natural environment. For example, the names *Kedunguter* and *Cingebul* are derived from significant figures and events in local folklore. This amalgamation of natural elements and folklore highlights the interwoven nature of the physical landscape and cultural heritage within the region. The origin of the name *Kedunguter* is attributed to the tale of Raden Joko Kaiman, who, upon being appointed Duke of Banyumas, encountered a whirlpool in the Serayu River while traveling by raft, compelling him to halt his journey at that location. Similarly, *Cingebul* is derived from "ci" meaning water and "ngebul" meaning smoke. According to legend, during the Dutch colonial era, two soldiers named Wirantaka and Naya Pati, who were separated from their troops, discovered smoke emerging from the water upstream in the area known as *Cingebul* while retreating from the advancing Dutch forces.

The villages of *Banjarparakan*, *Tлага*, and *Kedungrandu* are notable for being named after distinct geographical features, such as rivers, ponds, and swamps. *Banjarparakan* Village, for instance, is characterized by its numerous rivers, while the abundance of ponds has led to the village being known as *Tлага*. *Cikawung* Village derives its name from the Kawung River that runs through it, originating from Watu in the *Krajan* Village, *Pekuncen* Subdistrict. The name *Kedungrandu*, attributed to another village, is owed to the presence of the Serayu river's kedung, with the area historically abundant in *Randu* trees. The toponymy of villages in Banyumas Regency provides insight into the unique relationship between natural features and cultural heritage in the region. Shaped by rivers, springs, and other hydrological elements, the village names not only depict the physical landscape, but also preserve historical narratives and folklore. This deep connection between place names and the environment signifies the enduring bond between the people and their natural surroundings, with each name serving as a testament to the region's rich ecological and cultural identity.

## 2. Biodiversity

The biodiversity found within a specific region, particularly the variety of plant life, is instrumental in influencing the nomenclature of villages in Banyumas Regency. Local flora heavily influences the toponymy of these villages, providing valuable insights into the ecological environment, the cultural significance of specific plant species, and the relationship between the community and its natural surroundings. The incorporation of biodiversity into the toponymy of Banyumas Regency not only enhances the cultural landscape, but also serves as a testament to the community's profound connection with their natural environment. These names transcend mere labels; they represent the ecological identity of the region and mirror the enduring bond between the people and the land they call home.

The toponymy of villages in Banyumas Regency is significantly influenced by the region's biodiversity, with village names often drawing inspiration from the diverse plant and animal life present. These names not only function as a portrayal of the ecological surroundings, but also underscore the cultural importance of specific species and the intimate

relationship between local communities and their natural habitat. For example, villages such as *Karanglo*, *Sambirata*, and *Karangkemojing* are named after distinct local flora including the loa tree, porch tree, and kemojing tree, respectively, signifying the significance of these species in the region's natural topography. *Karanglo* village, for instance, reflects the prevalence of loa trees due to its environmental conditions, while *Sambirata* village denotes the presence of porch trees in a flat area, with "sambi" meaning porch tree and "rata" indicating flat ground in Javanese. Similarly, *Karangkemojing* Village historically featured large *kemojing* trees growing among the rocks.

The village names such as *Bantarwuni*, *Karang Pucung*, and *Gerduren* not only denote specific plants and trees, but also encompass stories and historical significance intertwined with the natural features of the region. These narratives, often rooted in local folklore, serve to illustrate the profound connection between the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the surrounding communities. For instance, the name *Bantarwuni* is associated with a tale about a river and a wuni tree, while *Karang Pucung* signifies an area abundant in pucung trees, including a significant tree that played a pivotal role in local history. According to local accounts, *Bantarwuni* village's origin lies in a story about a river with perennial fast-flowing water, which drew numerous people from neighboring villages during times of drought. Conversely, *Karang Pucung* denotes a locale with an abundance of pucung trees. The village is home to the historic *Lemberang* tree, which is over 300 years old and is believed to be linked to the historical conflict between the kingdoms of Padjadjaran and Majapahit.

The naming of various villages carrying biodiversity meanings highlights the intricate interplay between natural surroundings and local narratives. Villages such as *Karangturi*, *Jingkang*, and *Sokawera* illustrate the fusion of natural elements and cultural tales, enriching the region's toponymy. Their names signify more than just geographical locations; they encapsulate profound cultural significance and historical recollections, commemorating the community's bond with the land. The origins of *Gerduren* Village can be traced back to the account of a weary warrior from *Pasir Luhur*, who sought respite in a "gardu" or hut near a durian tree. Similarly, the tale of *Karangturi* Village narrates the valiant efforts of Ki Demang Suto to safeguard the area, urging the community to plant turi trees, which led to the village's nomenclature. Furthermore, *Jingkang* Village's name traces back to the folklore of Nurkopi, who discovered a place abundant with fruits devoid of seeds, skins, or shells, thus earning the name "jingkang" or seeds without skin. Lastly, *Sokawera* Village amalgamates the Javanese terms "soka," denoting the *Soka* flower, and "wera," signifying the favorable environmental conditions, reflecting the once-splendid expanse adorned with *Soka* flowers.

In short, the toponymy of villages in Banyumas Regency encapsulates the region's diverse biodiversity, as village names often draw inspiration from local flora and fauna. These names effectively underscore the deep-rooted connection between the communities and their natural environment, interweaving narratives and historical significance associated with the area's natural features. This emphasizes the intricate interplay between biodiversity and cultural heritage, wherein the natural surroundings significantly shape the identity and historical narrative of the villages. In essence, the toponymy of Banyumas Regency serves as a testament to the profound relationship between biodiversity and cultural heritage, wherein the natural environment exerts a substantial influence on the villages' identity and history.

### 3. Morphological/Physiographic

The village names in Banyumas Regency are not only influenced by hydrological features, but also derived from morphological or physiographic characteristics such as mountains and hills. These features denote the physical attributes of the landscape, encompassing the shape, structure, and form of the earth's surface. In the context of Banyumas Regency, these features hold significant implications in elucidating the meanings embedded in village names. The nomenclature often mirrors the topography of the region, encompassing mountains, hills, valleys, and plains, thereby offering insights into the geographical and cultural significance of these landforms in the daily lives and identities of the local communities.

For instance, *Pesawahan* Village was previously characterized by swamps and weeds, which were subsequently transformed into rice fields by the residents. *Tambaknegara* derived its name from 'tambak', signifying the contiguous cluster of Serayu Hills, while 'negara' signifies the names of the Bonjok dukes at that time. Likewise, *Gununglurah* village traces its origin to a mountainous area hosting the Pusaka Lurah, a cherished heirloom kris, hence the name *Gununglurah*. *Karangrau*, another village in Banyumas Regency, stems from 'karang', referring to a yard, and 'rau', signifying the presence of rau trees in the vicinity, thereby denoting a yard surrounded by numerous *rau* trees.

The nomenclature of villages such as *Pesawahan*, *Tambaknegara*, *Gununglurah*, and *Karangrau* in Banyumas Regency illustrates the profound bond between the local communities and their natural surroundings. *Pesawahan*, originally a marshy area, underwent a transformation into productive rice fields, symbolizing the community's ability to adapt to and manage the land. The name *Tambaknegara* integrates the geographical trait of the Serayu Hills with historical allusions to local governance, while *Gununglurah* and *Karangrau* underscore significant natural landmarks and indigenous flora. Each village name serves as a commemoration of the region's terrain, past, and cultural identity, demonstrating the preservation of local environment and heritage through toponymy. These names not only depict the physical environment of the villages, but also encompass cultural significance. In various instances, valleys are perceived as fertile and nurturing, whereas hills and mountains are regarded as sanctuaries or spiritually meaningful places. This dual significance of natural and cultural relevance constitutes a fundamental aspect of how these geographical elements influence village nomenclature.

### ***Non-Physical Nature***

The intangible characteristics of village nomenclature in Banyumas Regency are intricately intertwined with environmental variables such as temperature, climate, and other non-physical elements. These factors play a pivotal role in shaping the identity of these communities, albeit less conspicuous than physical attributes, reflecting the broader environmental conditions that impact daily life. For instance, the naming of *Karangpetir* Village is attributed to the frequent lightning strikes in the area, underscoring the influence of natural phenomena not only on the physical landscape, but also on the cultural identity and historical memory of the village. This underscores the substantial bearing of non-physical environmental elements on the toponymy and collective identity of the region.

The toponymy of villages in Banyumas Regency is a complex amalgamation of natural and cultural influences. Geographical features such as rivers, mountains, and biodiversity serve as the basis for village names, reflecting the region's geography and ecology. Furthermore, non-physical elements such as temperature and climate contribute additional layers of

significance to these names, signifying the community's adaptation to and perception of its environment. Beyond the physical and environmental factors, cultural elements play a crucial role in shaping village names. Local myths, spiritual beliefs, historical events, and social practices intertwine with natural features, influencing the perception and naming of these elements. As a result, village names not only function as geographical markers, but also carry profound cultural significance, underscoring the deep bond between the people of Banyumas Regency and their surroundings. These names serve as a repository of the region's natural and cultural history, providing valuable insights into the region's identity and heritage. Therefore, the study of toponymy is indispensable for comprehending the essence of the region and preserving its legacy across generations.

### Conclusion

The names of villages in Banyumas Regency are not merely labels; they reflect a profound connection between the environment and the community's historical and cultural identity. Through detailed analysis encompassing linguistic structures, historical contexts, geographical patterns, and cultural narratives, it is evident that these names are deeply rooted in the area's physical landscape and cultural history. Natural elements such as rivers, mountains, and flora play a significant role in the naming conventions, often serving as geographical markers or symbols of the local environment. Furthermore, cultural elements, including local myths, historical events, and socio-cultural practices, are intricately woven into these names, preserving the intangible cultural heritage and collective memory of the community. The study underscores the village names' origins as products of a dynamic interaction between the region's physical landscape and its cultural history. This interaction not only informs the identity and heritage of the local communities, but also provides valuable insights into how human societies have historically related to and interpreted their natural surroundings. In conclusion, the findings of this research contribute to the broader field of toponymy by demonstrating the importance of integrating natural and cultural perspectives in the study of place names. Additionally, this research emphasizes the significance of preserving these names, as they embody the intertwined history, culture, and environment of Banyumas Regency. Such preservation efforts ensure that the stories and meanings behind these village names are understood and appreciated by future generations, thereby enriching academic knowledge and cultural heritage.

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