Introduction
From an investigation on a number of Banten archives recorded in the archives list of The National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI), it is found that there are only two letters of the Sultan of Banten in ANRI. One letter bears the number Banten archive No. 18 and the other one in No. 61. The letter in archive No. 18 is a receipt for a payment made by Sultan Banten, Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin to Steve Nicolaas Meijbaum which was signed on November 1st, 1781. Whereas the letter in archive No. 61 is a letter from Sultan Muhamad bin Sultan Muhamad Muhyiddin Zainubalihin to the Governor General to the Dutch Indies, Herman Willem Daendels. This letter dated November 1st, 1810, is a report of an investigation into the death of Captain Hij.

The language of both letters is Malay and written in Pegon. In general, Malay texts are written in the Jawi script, while Javanese texts are written in Pegon, since the understanding of the word Jawi is the Arabic character for recording Malay language (1997: 38), whereas Pegon is Arabic character for writing Javanese texts (Pigeaud, 1967: 26).

In the Javanese world, Pegon is known as a form of Arabic script following the Javanese writing system, hanacaraka. Therefore, the total number of letters in the Pegon alphabet is twenty, same as the Javanese alphabet. From these twenty Pegon characters, only 13 have the same shape represent the same sound as the Arabic

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1 According to Kromopawiro (1867: 10), Pegon originated from the Javanese pego, meaning ora lumrah anggone ngucapake ‘unusual pronounced’, since the Javanese written in Arabic resulted in the wrong pronunciation, such as: madya is written ⌂ ø ̀ (read: madeya = medium).
characters, which are: 1/ (ha)^3 r (na) c (ra) o (ka) a (da) \ (ta) e (sa) t (wa) p (la) ^ (ja) u (ya) q (ma), dan, [ (ba). The other seven letters are unknown in the Arabic writing system, I call them aksara Arab rekaan (adapted Arabic letters) 4 The seven adapted Arabic letters are: ^ (ca)‰ (pa) a (dha) å / ] (nya) ∑ (ga) i (tha), dan l (nga). Five^5 of these are also known in Jawi, whereas two other characters, which are: a (dha) and i (tha) are used to represent the Javanese consonants or sound dha and tha. In the Javanese language distinguishes between ‘da’ and ‘dha’ and between ‘ta’ and ‘tha’. There is a difference in meaning between, for example between wedhi (= sand) and wedi (= afraid) and between thuthuk (= hit) and tutuk (= mouth).

The Pegon script has written in two shapes, called Pegon gundhul (hairless) meaning unvocalized and sandangan (dressed) meaning with vowel marks. A text written in Pegon gundhul looks similar to Jawi, that doesn't mark vowels, a text written in Pegon sandangan, the vocals are added and sometimes also completed with a huruf saksi,^6 such as: t∑¥π mangku or t¤tµ1∑ø§ tiga pulu.

There are six vocal signs in Pegon script, three among these are borrowed from the Arabic writing system, which are: fathah for sound a (...), kasrah for sound i (.....), andamma for sound u (....), the two other signs are formed the combination of the letter 'ya with fathah for sound é (u ...) and the combination of the letter 'wau’ with fathah for sound o (t....), and one sign more consisting of a small wavy line ( ~ ) for the pepe.

Both letters of the Sultan of Banten kept in ANRI are interesting to be discussed, because the understanding of the people regarding to the Pegon and Jawi characters are a total confusion; the letters are written in Pegon script while the language is Malay.

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3 In Pegon script, alif and ha is considred as varian not as two different letters, as it makes no difference in meaning. At the initial of the word ha will be written with alif, example: hapac is written apa çµ1 (Nitisastro, 1933: 4).


5 According to Mukhamaad Buhkari Lubis (1993: 107) three from the five Arabic letters Jawi, which are (c),‰ (p), and ° (g) were taken from Persian letter, whereas the letter ] (ny) and l (ng) are Jawi scripts. I think this opinion is less accurat, because in the Persian alphabet the letter form ‰ doesn’t exist. The pronunciation 'pe' does exist, but its form is ê (see Begley, 1985: 11). So, I think the letter ‰ (p) is also an invented of Jawi letter and not taken from Persian.
Observing this, the questions arise: Whether there is a difference in use of Pegon and Jawi script in Banten?

In this paper, I will discuss both letters of the Sultans of Banten, and start with discussing the physical aspect of the letters, then followed by the composition of the letters, the scripts, and the language. The appendix contains a photocopy of both of letters, together with a transliteration of the texts.

The Letters

1. The Letter of Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin

This letter, dated November 1st 1781 was written in Kota Intan, Banten by the writer of Paduka Sri Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin. In the genealogical list of The Sultans of Banten,\(^7\) Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin is the 14th Sultan of Banten. He was son of Sultan Muhamad Arif Zainalsyikin and Ratu Sultan Gusti, he was born on July 2th 1752. When Sultan Muhamad Arif Zainalsyikin died in 1773, Abul Mafakhir ascended the throne bearing the title Paduka Sri Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin. He died in 1799.

The letter of Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin was found in the third file of the Banten archive No. 18 (Banten 14.3). In the listing of Banten, this archive is recorded on page 2, below the VOC archives. The file of this archive also contains the "memorie van overgave" of W.C. Engert to J. Reijnouts. In this report, W.C. Engert mentions the name of Steve Nicolaas Meijbaum as one of the commanders, who was assigned with handling Banten affairs. However, the statement that links Steve Nicolaas Meijbaum with the contents of this letter doesn't exist.

The letter measures 40 x 30 cm. This letter looks still excellent, only the ink in some of the letters has started to break up (Jv. blobor), so that they become blurred. The paper sheet is folded into two; only recto is written. The left side contains a Dutch text in Latin script, with size 21 x 15 cm, and the right side contains the text in Pegon character in Malay, with size 24 x 15 cm. The Dutch text is a translation of the Malay text.

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\(^6\) Huruf saksi in Malay for called letter as vowel. They are: alif corresponds to a, wau corresponds to u and o, and ya corresponds to i and e (Lewis, 1958: 19).
The letter is written on European paper. The sheet contains both a watermark and countermark. The mainmark, which is in the left half of the sheet, has the form of a lion with a figure of Hollandia, within a ring-fence or palissade with ‘PRO PATRIA’ above it. The countermark on the right side consists of the characters ‘IKP.’ Unfortunately I could not find any information about this countermark. Probably it refers to the initials of the maker or the merchant of the paper. The position of the watermark is 4 cm from the left margin and the countermark is positioned 7 cm from the right margin, whereas the distance between the two marks is 13.5 cm. According to Heawood (1950 a: 12 and 22), the paper with such a watermark shows that Dutch paper produced between 1600 -- 1750, and after. The chain lines run vertically at distance of 2.4 cm from each other and there are 9 laid lines to the centimeter.

The text is written on the back side of the sheet. The letter, a payment receipt has a simple composition, without a heading or a seal. However, as a sign of legalization, at the right corner of the letter appears the signature of the Sultan of Banten. The letter is divided into three parts: The opening contains the name and address of the sender and the receiver:  

alamat syurat ini tandatangan nya padaqua tuwan siri syul†an banten mangku yang suda tarima  daripada tangan nya tuan kumandur sipi nikulasy mébum. The contents of this letter, tells us that commander Steve Nicolaas Meijbaum has handed over a total 50916 "real" and 41 "tangawang" or 38187 "real tua" and 41 "tangawang" to the Sultan of Banten as a payment for the purchase of goods consisting of gold and silver, which was dispatched by The Sultan Banten for the company authorities in Betawi. The closing statement contains the place and date of this letter: banten didalam kuta intan satu ari bulan nupember tahun 1781.

The text is written in Pegon Sandangan. The writing is irregular; the size of the letters are not the same; 'wau' for example is written in thick and thin ink, and has different sizes. This letter may have a curved leg passing two the letters to its left,

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7 The genealogy of the Sultans of Banten is version of Ismail Muhammad, see in Catatan Masa Lalu Banten, Halwany Michrob and Mujahid Chudori. Serang: Saudara, 1993: 324 -- 329.

8 In the article of Halwany Mihkrob, Catatan Sejarah dan Arkeologi: Ekspor-Impor Di Zaman Kesultanan Banten, Serang: Kadinda (1993: 31 -- 33) there was information regarding to the prevailing currency during the Banten Sultanate era since 16th century. This book also mentioned that 1 real = 35
whereas the other letters are very small. For the letter ‘nya’ is used the form  whereas e (sin) and ē (syin) in inisial position is written as a slanting line drawn from the upper right to the lower left. The belly of the letter 'sin' and 'syin' in final position has the same shape.

Two characters are used to represent 's' namely the sin and syin. For example in  there is also sound ‘sy’, example  syurat.

It is also found that some original Arabic letters have been used in this letter, which are: f (syin) used to write  basyar, i (†a) used for  syul†an, and n (qaf) used for  paduqa and  piraq.

The language used is Malay, but observing the diction and language style it seems that influenced by colloquial. The language used is not "standard" Malay or official language of the sultanate, but colloquial Malay in Java. The impression can be clearly observed from the words, among others 5th line:  ...  or the 7th line:  ...  di tana batawi nyan kumpani suda akan tarima .... Words such as pan and nyan are colloquial Malay in Java which in this context means ‘that is’ and ‘which.’

It seems that the writer was a speaker Javanese language and an advocate of the Javanese culture. Among the Malay words he inserted Javanese words such as: mangku meaning 'that is' (similar with maka in Malay) and arta meaning ‘money.’

2. The Letter of Sultan Muhamad bin Sultan Muhyiddin ZainußBalihin

This letter from Sultan Muhamad bin Sultan Muhyiddin ZainußBalihin was dated November 1st, 1810. The letter was addressed to the Governor General in the Dutch Indies, Herman Willem Daendels. Sultan Muhamad was the son of Sultan Muhyiddin ZainußBalihin. Sultan Muhamad is the 20th of Sultan of Banten. Sultan Muhammad bin Sultan Muhyiddin ZainußBalihin, who is also known as Sultan Muhamad Syafi’uddin was inaugurated by Daendles in 1809. When in 1811 England succeeded to defeat the Dutch, Banten became one of the regions occupied by English. In 1813, Raffles forced

peku, and 1 peku = 1000 picis, but there is no clarification regarding the meaning of real muda, real tua, or tangawang.
Sultan Muhamad Syafi’uddin to abandon his throne and three years later, in 1816 the Sultan died.

In the Banten archive list, this letter is recorded on page 5 as archive No. 61, under the VOC archives in title ‘Surat Sultan Banten untuk Hooge Regering.’ This archive also contains Dutch summaries of the Malay letters.

The measure of this letter is 38 x 23.5 cm, but after has been folded into two, it measures 19 x 23.5 cm. The text is placed on the three folded letter sheets of different measurements; at 1 r and 1 v the size of the text is 17 x 17 cm with 17 lines on each sheet, whereas at 2 r teh size of the text is 11 x 17 cm with 7 lines on a sheet. On the right upper corner (2 v) is written in Dutch, the date of the receipt: Bantam ! van den koning aan zijn excellentie ontvangen, batavia den 5 van magtm: 1810. The text was written in black ink.

The letter is written on European paper. The watermark is called Horn: a horn hanging within a crowned shield. Paper with the Horn on shield watermark was a type of the English paper produced during the second part of the 18th century (Heawood. 1950 b: 27). The position of the watermark is in the center of the sheet 9.5 cm from the upper margin and 8 cm from the below margin, and 13.5 cm from the left and right margins. There is no countermark on the paper. The chain lines run vertically at a distance of 2.7 cm from each other and there are 9 laid lines to the centimeter.

This letter has a simple appearance: there are no decorations, no heading, nor a seal as a sign of legalization, although its composition follows the rules of Kitab Terasul. This letter which is written and signed by a servant 'sahaya' of Sultan Muhamad Muhyiddin Zaiunẞøalihin is divided into four parts: the compliment, content, gift, and the closing statement.

In the opening part is written a compliment and also the name and address of the sender and recipient of the letter: bahwa ini ßahifatu al-mukaromat yang aziz lagi dihiasi dengan beberapa tabe yang mukasyarah padha tiap-tiap ketika dan masa, yaitu dari anaqandha padhuka sri sul†an muhamad bin sul†an muhamad muhyiddin zainẞøalihin dalam negeri banten di bukit pandheglang, lagi menyatakan tandha tulus dan i ’laẞ lagi di sampaikan allah sub’anahu wa ta’ala juwa kirannya, sampai kepada ayahandha tuan herman wilem dandles mareskaleq gurnadur jenderal.
In the content, after the word ‘wabadahu,’ the purpose of the letter is explained: Pangeran Suramenggala has arrived in Pandeglang at the order of landros9 Dekker to investigate the death of Captain Hij, who was stabbed to death by Daeng Kepala Bugis. It is also explained that a number of people, among others Pangeran Musa and Ratu Bagus Sani have been interrogated about this case. It is also conveyed that to prove the statement given by the Sultan, Pangeran Suramenggala had questioned lieutenant Dragonder and received the same information as was reported by the Sultan.

Before the closing, is written the expectation of the Sultan of Banten to H.W. Daendles as follows: yang anaqdha harap siang dhan malam melainkan ayahandha punya kasihan kepadha anaqdha. And, in the closing statement, is found the place, the name, and the date of the letter: tersurat di kampung pandeglang hari satu dari bulan selã `man10 tahun 1810 or Nupember 1st, 1810.

The text of this letter is written in Pegon gundhul. The characters are neat, small, and skinny. The characteristics of the Pegon script can be observed from the use of the letter dha (א) and the mark (˘) which is used for the pepet. The example of the form ‘nya’ in this letter is ] and the ra (כ) is written in one word with ta marbutah (י), such as: אכ $ • syurat.

Similar to the letter from Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Alialdin, in this letter also original Arabic letters accr, amongst others ßad (י), ˘a (ו), syin (ס) dan †a (י), and also tasydid sign which is used for writing such as: Allah, אכ אס ע mukatsyarah, גכיבי מ￥laב, נכיפי#בultan, and מבוש Bahifat.

This letter is written in the "standard" Malay, the choice of words and the style give an indication that the writer is someone who is well served in writing Malay Letters. The words used are sufficiently beautiful and respectful, such as can be seen in the introduction of the letter: bahwa ini bahifatu al-mukaroma` yang aziz lagi dihiasi dengan beberapa tabe yang mukasyara` padha tiap-tiap ketika dan masa ... and the

9 Similar as residen, see Halwany Michrob and Mudjahid Chudori, in Catatan Masalah Banten. Serang: Saudara (1993: 175).
10 Dutch ‘Slachtmaand’ refers to November
closing statement: ... yang anaqdha harap siang dhan malam melainkan ayahandha punya kasihan kepada anaqdha ... 

In addition, the writer also slips in foreign words, such as words from Arabic, example: Bahifatu al-mukaroma’, aziz, mukasyara (in 1st lines), warqat al ḫalāṣ (in 7th lines), and words from Dutch, such as: wéynman (in 9th lines), soldadu (in 15th lines), and sela ‘man (in 28th lines).

Conclusion

It seems that in Banten the Pegon script is not only used for Javanese, but also for Malay texts. The type of the script is determined by the content of the letter and the person to whom it is addressed, or the receiver. Based on the two letters discussed above, it seems that Pegon gundhul is used for letters addressed to high-ranked persons. The structure of an official letter such as letter No. 61 follows the rules of the Kitab Terasul that prescribes a opening, contents, and closing statement. The language in this letter has the characteristics of "Standard" Malay with Arabic words, while the letter discussed here also contains some Dutch words.

Pegon sandangan is used for letters to persons of a lower status than the sender, such as letter No. 18. This letter only contains the purpose. The language is simple and reflects a colloquial style.

I assume that the writer is a speaker of Javanese and an advocate of Javanese culture. His writing reflects Javanese pronunciation and he uses some Javanese words.
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The Letter of Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin

1. alamat surat ini tandatangan nya paduqa tuwan siri sul†an banten |
2. mangku yang suda tarima daripada tangan nya tuan kumandur sipi nikulasy |
3. mēbum arta jumlah lima pulu ribu syambilan ratusy anam balas riyal muda |
4. dan ampat pulu satu tangwang atawa tiga pulu dalapan ribu syaratus dalapan |
5. pulu tuju rial tua dan ampat pulu satu tangawang pan bayaran daripada |
6. sagala barang masy-masy san dan péraq nyan tuan syul†an suda kirimkan pada |
7. tuan urang basyar di tana batawi nyan kumpani suda akan tarima |
8. tarsabut sagala masy-masys san reyal muda, 13195, dan 1, tangawan atawa riyal pasymat 9896, 17, tangawan |
9. dan sagala piraq. ---, 3227,---- 25, ----,-------- 2420: 41,--|
10. jumlah jadi riyal muda 16422, dan 26 tangawang atawa riyal pasymat, 12316, 58, tangwan |
11. layin lagi daripada itu nyan tar |
12. sabut barang masy-masys san riyal muda, 34494, 15, --------, ---- 25870, 47,-- |
13. jumlah samwanya riyal muda, 50916, 41, tangawang atawa riyal pasymat, 38187, 41, tangawan |
14. banten didalam kuta intan satu |
15. ari bulan nupember tahun 1781 |
16. abul mafakhir muhamad alialddin |
17. alamat sul†an tanda yang suda menerima uwang dari tangan kumendur mēbum yang tarsabut |
18. di dalam surat ini ` |

The Letter of Su†tan Muhamad binSu†an Muhyiddin Zainu‰ alihin

1 r

1. bahwa ini bahifatu al-mukaroma` yang aziz lagi dihiasi dengan beberapa tabe yang mukasyara` padha tiap-tiap ketika dan masa |
2. yaitu dari anaqandha padhuka sri sul†an muhamad bin sul†an muhamad muhyiddin zainu‰ alihin dalam negeri |
3. banten di bukit pandheglang lagi menyatakan tandha tulus dan i` laß lagi di sampaikan allah sub`anahu wa ta`ala |
4. juwa kirannya, sampai kepada ayahandha tuan herman wilem dandles mareskaleq gurnadur jenderal, |

5 yang setiawan dan kebesyarannya dari raja walandawi. waba’dahu kemudian dari pada itu |

6. barang maqlum kiranya akan perihal i’wal paduka anaqandha sri sul’tan muhamad bin sultan muhamad muhyi |

7. ddn zainubβalihin manyembahkan warqat al i’laβ ini anaqandha sri sul’tan kasih tahu kepada |

8 ayahdha tuan mareskaleq gurnadur jenderal dan segala radan pan indiya pangeran suramenggala dhatang |

9. kepada anaqdha di bukit pandheglang dari tiga puluh satu dari bulan wéynman betul pukul dua belas siang |

10 dhatangnya kepada anaqdha katanya pangeran sura kepada anaqdha aku dhatang kemari ini perintanya tuan landros |

11. déker dia suruh peperiaka dari dhatangnya ingabehi akarim dan ingabehi abu na’im, dhan dhaaheng kepala bugis \

1 v

1. dhan haji nursamsu orang sabang anaqandha kata kepada pangeran sura dhatangnya ingabehi akarim itu sahaya panggil dan lagi \

2. tannya kepada anaqdha dari matinya ingabehi akarim dan ingabehi abu na’im anaqdha kata kepada pangeran sura dari itu \

3. matinya ingabehi akarim dhan ingabehi abu na’im kapitan hé yang tusuk lebih dahulu dan lagi pangeran sura tannya \

4. lagi kepada anaqdha tannya matinya kapitan hé dan matinya soldadu anaqdha kata kepada pangeran sura dari itu \

5. kapitan hei matinya kena tusuk sama daheng kepala bugis suda bisa pangeran sura periksa dari itu semua \

6. yang bagaimana anaqdha suda kerja anaqdha sudha unjuk dari semua pakerjaan, lantas pangeran sura tannya \

7. kepada le†nan dergonder dia tannya dari itu matinya kapitan, le†nan dergonder kata kepada pangeran sura sama | 

8. juga yang bagaimana anaqdha suda kata di dalam surat ini dari itu lantas pangeran sura tulis surat kepada |
9. tuwan deker, temannya pangeran sura periksa kepadha anaqdha di pandheglang ada orang delapan biji satu-satunya namanya itu |
10. orang raden musa, ratu bagus sani, aria astranaya, arya bahuraka, pangeran kusuma ningrat, aria senapati |
11. ingabehi sura qaralya, ingabehi baya, sabagitu pangeran sura dia punya teman yang sunda dhatang kepadha anaqdha di pandheglang, |

2 r
1. dari itu anaqdha kasih beritahu saja kepadha ayahandha tuan gurnadur jenderal, adhapun 'abar |
2. yang lain dari akarim dhan abu na'im, seperti zaqarya, dan a'mad, anaqdha belum dhapat 'abar yang br tul adhanya |
3. tanya anaqdha sudha suruwan dari anaqdha punya orang-orang tuntut dhimana adanya a'mad dhan zaqarya seboleh-boleh anaqdha |
4. cari juga dari ayahandha punya senang dhan ayahandha punya baik adhanya, yang anaqdha harap siang dhan malam melainkan |
5. ayahandha punya kasihan kepadha anaqdha. tamat al-kalam bil-'oir, tersurat di kampung pandhe|
6. glang hari satu dari bulan sela man tahun 1810 |
7. "  
8. bahwa ini tandha tangan sahaya sul’tan muhammad bin sul’tan muhamad muhyiddin zainu’talihin ,, |
The Letter of Sultan Abul Mafakhir Muhamad Aliudin (archive Banten No.18)
Page 1: The Letter of Su†tan Muhamad bin Sul†an Muhyiddin Zainußßalihin (archive Banten No. 61).
Page 2 & 3: The letter of Sultan Muhammad bin Sultan Muhyiddin Zainuddin alilhin (archive Banten No. 61)