

Sound Alteration on Malay Language Enclave in Jembrana

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ABSTRACT: Malay enclave in Jembrana has been changing from linguistic aspect if it is compared with the first time the language arrived on Bali island. The changes can be identified from its native speakers. To be able to identify the levels of change on Malay language, this study seeks to examine the comparison between older generation and young generation from phonological aspect. This study applied Swadesh list with purposive sampling technique and speech analyzer as a measurement tool. The result revealed that there are phonological changes between older generation and young generation. The phonological changes were identified into strengthening and weakening of sound realization, vocal sound reduction, and sound retroflexion adapted from Balinese language.

Keywords: *Malay language, phonology, older generation, young generation*

I. INTRODUCTION

Ethnologue stated that Malay language is one of Austronesian languages which is spoken by over 80 million people (*Ethnologue*, 2020). Having a relatively large number of speakers, Malay language is the 13th language among the most spoken language across the world. One of the regions occupied by the language speakers in Indonesia is Jembrana Regency, Bali.

Malay language in Jembrana Regency is one of languages which are spread across large islands in Indonesia and remains actively spoken as daily language. Malay language in Jembrana Regency is called Malay Language Loloan Dialect, because historically and philosophically the language was first time spoken in East Loloan Village, Jembrana. Since the first time the speech community of Malay language came in 1953 until present, this language has been spoken from generation to generation.

The Malay language which has been taken out of its original usage region has encountered a change caused by a multicultural situation, namely mixing it with Balinese language and culture as a host. Gradually the Malay language which arrived in Jembrana experienced creolization, namely a language which is existed caused by multilingual situation (Wardhaugh, 2010: 58), the Loloan Malay language had become a creole and developed into a mother language (Holmes in Wardhaugh, 2010: 59).

When it has become a mother language, after decades, a language, including Malay language in Jembrana will slowly experience changes. They can be identified from small differences based on linguistic aspects. The differences on Malay language in Jembrana are shown by older generation and young generation. The problem which will be discussed in this study is to identify the language change based on the realization differences of a word spoken by older generation and young generation from phonological aspect.

II. THEORICAL FRAMEWORK

This study applied the theory of generative phonology as a tool to analyze linguistic data found in the field. Generative phonology is a phonology theory in generative transformation genre which rejects the concept of phoneme and treats distinctive features as the smallest unit and connects them and lexicons with phonological rules (Kridalaksana, 2001:57). The fundamental concept of generative phonology is that each morpheme has one basic form in its original form, even though it may have more than one phonetic form. All morpheme variations which occur in the environment can be derived from the original form with phonological rules.

In generative phonology, phoneme is not the smallest unit of sound. There are smaller units which are distinctive features. Through distinctive features, the similarities and differences of segments in a language can be identified. According to the view of generative phonology, these features produce acoustic and psychological features. Therefore, it is easier to identify that /p/ and /b/ are labial obstruent which has different sound; voiced obstruent /b/ and /d/ which have different articulatory area; voiced dental consonant /d/ and /n which have different articulation; and /p/ and /n/ do not have any similarities (Schane, 1992:25).

In generative phonology, there are phonological process and it was categorized into four processes by Schane (1992), which are assimilation, syllable structure, weakening and strengthening, and neutralization. In assimilation process, there are four types of phonological process, namely a consonant which is assimilated with other vowel features, a vowel which is assimilated with other consonant features, a consonant assimilated with other consonant features, and a vowel assimilated with other vowel features. The syllable structure process encompasses a number of process types which are classified into consonant and vowel deletions, consonant and vowel insertion, the blend of consonant and vowel, first class change, and metathesis. The weakening and strengthening process in generative phonology process is categorized into syncope and apocope, vowel contraction, diphthongization, and vowel change. The next process is neutralization. It is categorized into two, namely consonant neutralization and vowel neutralization.

III. METHOD

This study is aimed to identify the forms of phonological change on Malay language in Jembrana. The change was identified through the speech of older generation and young generation. In this study, the sample selection of older generation was determined based on the age range (> 46 years old), while the sample of young generation was based on the age range (< 45 years old). The informants were selected by using purposive sampling technique by considering these criteria (1) a Malay language speaker, (2) able to speak Bahasa, and (3) not having any speech and hearing defects.

The data acquisition was conducted by using Swadesh list and applied face-to-face interview technique. Recording, documentation, and notetaking were also used as secondary data acquisition processes which are accurate, hence the data were written using IPA Phonetic (SIL).

This study approach is descriptive-qualitative by using equivalent articulatory method, which is conducted by using primary determining instrument of speech organ (Sudaryanto, 2015:18). Distinguishing determinants of speech organ consider lingual unit encompassing sound elements. The data analysis in this study also employs the phonology theory and speech analyzer as measurement tool.

IV. RESULT

4.1 The Role of Age in Language Change

In sociolinguistics or social dialect perspective, age is one of five social variables which serves as a benchmark to identify the linguistic diversity. The role of age in language change is also stated by Wolfram and Fasold (1974:89) that older generation occasionally maintains the phonological and grammatical forms of a language which they acquired and learned when they are younger, while the younger generation uses different forms.

| | | Old | Young |
|----|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. | 'kuning' | [kuniŋ] | [koneŋ] |
| | 'merah muda' | [dadu] | [piŋ] |

Phonologically, the first example 'kuning' is realized by the older generation becoming [kuniŋ] while by the younger generation becoming the vocabulary [koneŋ] the sound changes [u] to [o] and the sound [ɪ] becomes [o]. In the second example, the word 'merah muda' not only changes holistically in its phonological and grammatical aspects, but the younger generation has a new vocabulary as a result of the process of adaptation of other languages, in this case conventional English. Not only that, there are still many changes in a language caused by the age of the speaker.

4.2 Vowel Strengthening and Weakening

Based on the observation process which I have done, there is a significant change shown by the older generation to younger generation when the vowel sound realization.

| | | Old | Young |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. | 'berludah' | [mələda] | [mələdá] |
| | 'berobat' | [bərobat] | [bərobát] |
| | 'marah' | [mara] | [mará] |
| | 'masak sayur' | [masa ^ʔ sayor] | [masa ^ʔ sayór] |
| | 'menarik' | [nare ^ʔ] | [naré ^ʔ] |

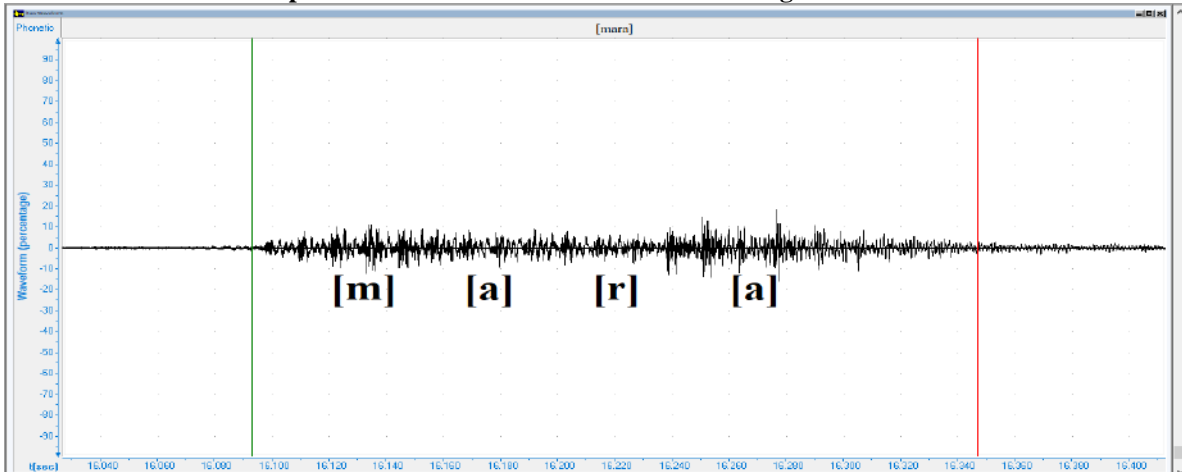
Based on the sound correspondence above, the difference of vowel strength and weakness which shown by the older generation and younger generation is the vowel sound pressure on final syllable of each word. The older generation shows no pressure process on all vowel sounds, on the other hand, the young generation shows the existence of hard pressure [']. Based on a number of data which were spread, distributed, the vowel pressure found on young generation can be formulized as follows

$$V \rightarrow \left[\begin{matrix} +\text{pressure} \\ +\text{hard} \end{matrix} \right] / \text{--- Ko \#}$$

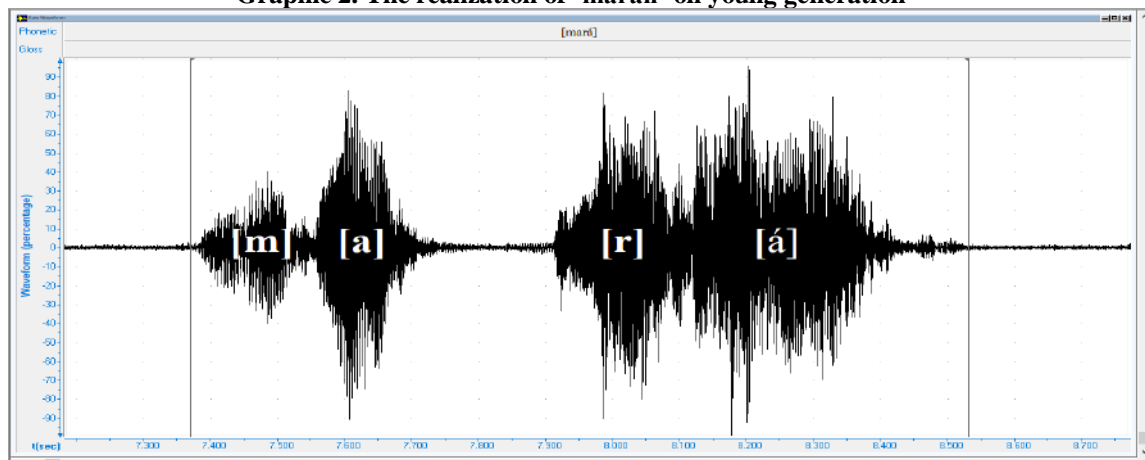
| Initial Syllable | Middle Syllable | Final Syllable |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| K () K | K () K | K () K () K |
| Not found | Not found | Found |

Hard pressure on the realization was also tested by using speech analyzer to identify the hardness level of vowel sound which is stressed.

Graphic 1. The realization of ‘marah’ on older generation



Graphic 2. The realization of ‘marah’ on young generation



Based on both graphics above, it can be seen and temporarily concluded that the word ‘marah’ which realized by older generation and young generation produces a speech characteristic which tends to be different. The word ‘marah’ which is realized into [mara] by older generation shows flat wave line. It almost shows no significant ascending or descending lines. Meanwhile, on the graphic of the word [mara] by young generation shows clear wave lines. The fluctuation level of each sound produced were visualized clearly. The graphic shown by young generation revealed that there is a pressure process on vowel sound in the final syllable, namely [á]. Besides that, both graphic show delay process. Older generation graphic did not show any delay process between first syllable [ma] and second syllable [ra], while the young generation shows a delay process after syllable [ma] and before second syllable [rá].

4.3 Vowel Sound Reduction

Vowel sound reduction clearly reveals the differences and changes of Malay language shown by older generation and young generation in Jembrana. In phonological distribution, Malay language in Jembrana, the sound [i] is distributed into [i] and [ɪ], the sound [e] into [e], [ɛ], and [ə]. The sound change from both generations can be seen as follows:

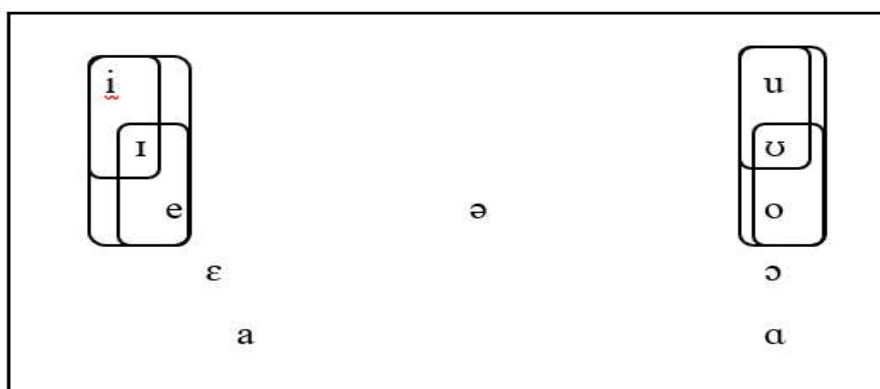
| | | | | |
|----|---------|------------|--|--------------|
| | | Old | | Young |
| 3. | ‘angin | [aŋɪn] | | [aŋɛn] |
| | ‘daging | [daŋɪŋ] | | [daŋɛŋ] |
| | ‘cacing | [caɪɪŋ] | | [caɪɛŋ] |
| | ‘hidung | [idʊŋ] | | [edʊŋ] |

The vowel sound contrast of Malay language in Jembrana also shows a vowel sound reduction from a number of glosses based on example 3. The reduction of vowel sound [ɪ] into [ɛ]. Based on the segmental classification, the similarity of both of them are unrounded vowel sound which is located in the front, while the type of sound produced by the older generation and young generation is one thing that makes it changing. The sounds [ɪ] and [i] are high sound, while [ɛ] is mid-high sound. Therefore, it can be said that [aŋɪn] and [idʊŋ] undergo the process of sound reduction as shown on [aŋɛn] and [edʊŋ]

| | | | | |
|----|---------|------------|--|--------------|
| | | Old | | Young |
| 4. | ‘hidup’ | [idʊp] | | [edʊp] |
| | ‘kulit’ | [kuniŋ] | | [konɛŋ] |
| | ‘mulut’ | [mulut] | | [molot] |

Data number 4 also reveals a vowel sound reduction process. However, the difference between the data number 4 and 3 is that the vowel sound reduction on data number 4 occurs on the final vowel with round shape. The vowel sound reduction [u] into [ʊ]. Even though both are categorized into high vowel sound, the vowel [ʊ] however is one level below the vowel [u], namely it is categorized into semi-closed and middle vowel sound. Meanwhile, the sound reduction from [u] to [o] is the reduction of high-upper vowel sound into mid-upper. Also, the vowel sound [u] is a closed sound, while [o] is semi-closed sound.

Diagram 1. Vowel Sound Reduction



All forms of vowel reduction above are basically different forms of allophone reduction, but remains one kind of the same phoneme. Phoneme /i/ on Malay language in Jembrana has allophones [i] and [ɪ]/[e] has allophone [e], and phoneme /u/ has allophones [u] and [ʊ].

4.4 Sound Retroflexion

Retroflexion is a process of accompanying sound realization produced by pulling the tip of the tongue to the back immediately or when the first sound is spoken (Muslich, 2011:8). The sound changes of Malay language occurred from older generation to young generation in Jembrana can be found on following data.

| | | | | |
|----|------------|------------|--|--------------|
| | | Old | | Young |
| 5. | ‘satu’ | [satu] | | [saɽu] |
| | ‘jantung’ | [jantʊŋ] | | [janɽʊŋ] |
| | ‘lutut’ | [lotot] | | [loɽot] |
| | ‘tali’ | [tali] | | [ɽali] |
| | ‘memotong’ | [mʊtʊŋ] | | [mʊɽʊŋ] |

The sound changes of [t] into [ɽ] on some word realization on Malay language in Jembrana shows the existence of retroflexion process. If the contoid sound [t], the tip of the tongue meets the base of the teeth, thus the contoid sound [ɽ], the tip of the tongue meets the back palate.

Standard Malay language actually does not have retroflex sound [ɽ] on the realization. The retroflex sound [ɽ] in Indonesia can be found in Balinese language. It is because of the phonological adaption process

occurred on Malay language with the younger generation speakers. As enclaved language, Malay language in Jimbaran is adapting Balinese language from phonological aspect. The adaptation process and the influence will lead to dominant language which occupies a region. In Jembrana, Balinese language is the original language which occupies the region with larger number of speakers. Therefore, the retroflex sound [ɮ] in the speech of Malay language by younger generation who is directly encountered with Balinese language speakers. It is in line with Trudgill (1983:62) who stated that language change or language diffusion occurs because of the communication or encounter process which has been done by the speaker of a language with other language speaker in a place or region which are not the domain of the language spoken.

V. CONCLUSION

The study of Malay language phonology in Jembrana has been previously conducted by Suparwa (2007) who observed the glottalization of the language. New findings based on phonological aspects are revealed by conducting this study, especially that Malay language in Jembrana has experienced changes. The small change has been identified, proven, then revealed that phoneme realizations produced by older generation and young generation are different and they encounter changes. Phoneme alteration of Malay language in Jembrana is one proof that adaptation process with other languages' phonemes also develops and lives side by side with Malay language along with the speakers. This phonological change will trigger a bigger change in future, namely lexical to language change.

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