

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has examined the phonological processes of deletion and lenition that occur in the adaptation of Indonesian loanwords into Kupang Malay. The findings demonstrate that these processes are systematic and influenced by both perceptual and structural factors within the recipient language. Segments such as unstressed vowels, initial glottal sounds, and final consonants are frequently deleted to match the phonotactic constraints of Kupang Malay, making the loanwords easier to pronounce and more aligned with native speech patterns. Additionally, the softening of certain consonants through lenition reflects an effort to maintain fluency and articulatory ease in spoken communication.

These patterns support theories such as perceptual similarity and Optimality Theory, which suggest that loanword adaptation is not only driven by phonological rules but also by how speakers perceive and internalize foreign sounds. In essence, speakers attempt to preserve the recognizable elements of the source words while adapting them to the structural norms of their language.

This research contributes to a better understanding of how Kupang Malay shapes and modifies loanwords to fit its linguistic identity. However, further research involving a broader set of data and more diverse speakers may provide deeper insight and strengthen the generalizability of these findings. Such continued investigation helps enrich the documentation and analysis of regional language dynamics in Indonesia.

5.2 Limitations of The Study

Despite providing insightful findings, this study is not without limitations. Several factors have constrained the scope and generalizability of the results, which should be considered when interpreting the data and drawing conclusions. These limitations are outlined below to provide transparency and guide future research.

1. Data Limitation

This study analyzed only a limited number of borrowed words from Indonesian into Kupang Malay, which may not fully represent the entire phonological adaptation phenomenon across different lexical categories.

2. Social Environment Limitations

The data were collected from speakers within the researcher's immediate home environment. Therefore, the findings may not reflect the broader dialectal variations present in other areas of Kupang.

3. Historical Documentation Limitation

Due to the lack of historical documentation regarding the borrowing process in Kupang Malay, this study relies solely on synchronic analysis. Diachronic changes over time could not be traced.

5.3 Suggestion

Based on the findings and limitations of this research, several suggestions can be proposed for future study and practical application:

1. Further Research Expansion

Future researchers are encouraged to expand the data sources by including more varied speech contexts, such as formal interviews, natural conversations, or media recordings. This can provide a more comprehensive understanding of how deletion and lenition function in everyday usage.

2. Comparative Study with Other Regional Languages

It would be beneficial to conduct comparative studies between Kupang Malay and other regional dialects in Indonesia to explore whether similar phonological processes occur in the borrowing of Indonesian words.

3. Sociolinguistic Considerations

Incorporating sociolinguistic factors such as age, gender, education level, or language attitudes could enrich the analysis and reveal patterns of variation in how different groups apply phonological changes.

4. Educational Application

The results of this study could be integrated into local language education, especially for promoting awareness of dialectal variation and preserving regional identity while learning the national language.

5. Utilization of Phonological Software Tools

For more precise analysis, future researchers may benefit from using advanced phonological analysis tools or software like Praat, which can help identify sound patterns more objectively.