

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to present the background, research question, aim of the study, significance of the study, implications, and applications.

1.1 Background

Language is an inherently evolving system that changes in response to the needs of its speakers and the environments in which it is used. Over time and across communities, language reflects not only communication structures but also the ideologies, identities, and social frameworks of its users. In multilingual and multicultural societies, language change is particularly evident through borrowing, as languages incorporate foreign words into their vocabularies.

Borrowing often occurs because of ongoing contact between speakers of different languages through trade, colonization, education, media, or migration. One of the most common and visible types of borrowing is loanwords, which are words taken from another language and integrated into the local language system. However, the process is rarely simple.

These loanwords often undergo systematic phonological and semantic adjustments to fit the phonetic rules, grammatical structures, and social expectations of the receiving language. Therefore, loanwords not only expand vocabulary but also serve as signs of cultural contact and language evolution.

Loanwords are words borrowed from one language and incorporated into another, serving as a mirror reflecting social contact, cultural exchange, and linguistic

evolution (Heine, 2019). This dynamic borrowing process not only enriches the vocabulary of the recipient language but also reveals underlying social hierarchies and cultural attitudes.

The prevalence of French loanwords in English after the Norman Conquest illustrates how power dynamics can influence linguistic adoption, reflecting a period in which the ruling class spoke French while the common people spoke English (Aliyeva, 2025). The motivations behind borrowing often stem from a desire for prestige or modernization, demonstrating that language is not only a tool for communication but also a vehicle for identity and cultural transformation. As societies evolve and encounter new ideas, the lexicon adapts accordingly, highlighting the ongoing interaction between language and the socio-cultural landscape in which it finds itself.

They are not only a means of expanding vocabulary but also a reflection of societal ideologies and interactions. Loanwords can be seen as both a solution and a challenge, depending on the context and language community involved. The following sections explore the multifaceted nature of loanwords, drawing insights from various linguistic studies.

Loan word adaptation is a linguistic process in which loanwords undergo modifications to fit the phonological and morphological systems of the recipient language (Hutin, 2015). This adaptation is crucial for integrating terms into a language, ensuring they are pronounceable and meaningful in new linguistic contexts. The following sections outline key aspects of loanword adaptation. One

significant aspect of loanword adaptation is the interplay between phonological and grammatical integration, which varies across languages.

For instance, while English loanwords in German often undergo phonetic adjustments to align with native phonology, they may also face unique challenges in grammatical integration, such as gender assignment and pluralization (Ceferova,2024). This dual process highlights the complexity of linguistic borrowing, as it requires not only phonetic conformity but also adherence to the grammatical rules of the borrowing language. The influence of globalization has led to an increase in the adoption of English terms in various domains, particularly in technology and business, where original pronunciations are frequently retained, complicating their adaptation (Ceferova,2024). Such dynamics underscore the evolving nature of language and the ongoing negotiation between preservation and integration in a multilingual world.

This adaptation is not limited to linguistic form but also includes semantic and pragmatic adaptation, where the meaning and use of foreign words are adjusted to the norms and communication styles of a particular group.

This work is relevant to this study because it shows the dynamics of loanword adaptation in everyday language use and how social factors influence foreign word integration, which provides a basis for considering the sociolinguistic dimensions of loanword adaptation in the Dela language.

This creates an urgent need to understand how the Dela community adapts these loanwords into their language. This adaptation process is not merely a linguistic

exercise; it reflects deeper social and cultural dynamics within the Dela community. As these loanwords are integrated, they often carry with them the ideologies and historical contexts of their origin, which can reshape local identities and practices. For instance, the incorporation of English terms related to technology or modernity may signify a shift towards globalization, impacting traditional ways of life and communication (Yeboah and Ansah, 2022).

Moreover, the nuances of phonological adaptation reveal a fascinating interplay between the Dela language and the borrowed lexicon, in which local phonetic rules govern the assimilation of foreign sounds, thereby preserving linguistic integrity amid change (Wornyo, 2016). This ongoing evolution underscores the importance of studying not only the linguistic forms themselves but also the broader implications of such adaptations in the context of cultural exchange and identity formation.

This adaptation process involves not only taking words, but also phonological and morphological adjustments to suit the structure of the Dela language. Supriyadi (2020) suggests that loanword adaptation can provide insight into how communities maintain their linguistic identity amidst globalization. In this context, adaptation is not merely a linguistic process, but also a reflection of broader social and cultural dynamics, whereby communities attempt to integrate new elements while maintaining the uniqueness and characteristics of their native languages.

Thus, it is important to conduct further research on loanword adaptation. This research is expected to reveal the use of language by language speakers in adapting

loanwords and the impacts on their cultural and linguistic identities. Through a deeper understanding of this process, we can better appreciate the complexity of the interaction between language and culture in the context of ever-increasing globalization.

Loan word adaptation is not just taking words from a foreign language, but also involves various complex strategies to adapt these words to the phonological, morphological, and syntactic systems of the language. Rahman (2021), language adaptation is a complex process that reflects social and cultural interactions. This process includes changes in pronunciation, adjustments to word structures, and even changes in meaning to ensure that the loan words can be accepted and used naturally.

In addition, this research can make a significant contribution to linguistic studies in Indonesia, especially in the fields of morphology and phonology. By understanding how loanwords are adapted, one can better understand the dynamics of language change in society and how social and cultural factors influence the process.

The study of loanword adaptation not only offers insights into linguistic evolution but also underscores the broader implications of cultural exchange and identity formation in Indonesian society. As languages mix, they reflect their respective cultural values and norms, demonstrating that language is a tangible manifestation of social dynamics and historical context (Rahma and Wantini, 2024).

This interaction can lead to both enrichment and tension, as the incorporation of foreign terms can challenge traditional linguistic structures while fostering a sense of global connectedness. By analyzing these adaptations, researchers can uncover patterns that show how cultural values influence language use and vice versa, ultimately enriching our understanding of the complex relationship between language and society in a multicultural landscape.

This research can also serve as a reference for other studies on language and cultural interactions in other regions of Indonesia, thereby enriching the body of linguistic science and providing a more comprehensive picture of language diversity in Indonesia. Rahman's (2021) study also shows that many regional languages in Indonesia experience a similar phenomenon, in which loanwords are adapted in unique ways according to each language's phonological and morphological systems. This shows that loanword adaptation is not just a linguistic process but also reflects broader social changes.

The majority of linguistic studies in this area tend to focus on general grammatical descriptions or sociolinguistic issues, without detailing the phonological adaptation mechanisms that occur in loanwords (Tamelan, 2021). This adaptation can reveal insights into the linguistic structure of Dela and the sociolinguistic factors driving language change. Example (1) the loanword “sepeda”, the original from sepeda (pronounced /səpɛda/), adapted form in Dela sapeda (/sapeda/), (2) the loanword “baju” (pronounced /badʒu/), adapted form in Dela badu (/badu/).

The primary objective of this research is to analyze the adaptation of loanwords in Dela, examining the specific phonological, morphological, and semantic adjustments made during this process. By investigating how loanwords are integrated into Dela, this study aims to contribute to the broader understanding of language contact phenomena within the Austronesian language family and to shed light on the significance of these adaptations in the cultural context of Rote Island.

Through detailed case studies and analysis, we hope to illustrate the intricate relationship among language, identity, and adaptation that defines Dela's linguistic landscape.

The researcher is interested in studying loanword adaptation in Dela. The title of this research is “A Study on Loanword Adaptation in Dela; A Language of Rote” because the researcher wants to gain a deeper understanding of how loanwords are used in Dela.

Empirical reasons for the adaptation, as well as to understand their syntactic function in forming relationships between consonants and vowels. Through a qualitative approach using interviews with native speakers, this research is expected to make an important contribution to the documentation and preservation of the linguistics of regional languages in Indonesia, especially the Rote Dela language.

1.2 Research Problem(s)

Based on the above background, the formulation of the problem in this research is:

“What are the adaptations of the consonants and vowels of loanwords in Dela?”

1.3 Aim(s) of Study

This research aims to find out:

“To find out the adaptation of the consonants and vowels of the loan word in Dela.”

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be useful and beneficial for people from Rote (Dela) and also for those who are interested in learning the loan words of the language, so that this research can help everyone become familiar with the loan words in Dela.

1.4.1 Implication

The results of this study are expected to support the concept proposed by Heine (2019) and Hutin (2015) for identifying loanwords, consonant adaptations, and vowel adaptations in the Dela language.

1.4.2 Application

The findings from the research on loanword adaptation in the Dela language can be applied in several practical contexts:

1. Development of Educational Materials

Educational Material Development. Schools teaching Dela-speaking children can understand pronunciation when speaking Indonesian (for example, pronouncing Penting as Pantiin or Gelas as Nggalas). This knowledge helps develop more effective teaching methods without viewing local dialects as errors, but rather as phonological interference. This data can be used to develop local content modules for Dela, particularly in establishing pronunciation and spelling standards for students.

2. Community

The community is the most important group in the formation process. First, we must understand the sociolinguistic context and how people intend to use a loanword. Whether a regional language has adopted loanwords and accepted them by the community, or whether these loanwords are only used to translate books like the Bible or newspapers, or to create reading materials for schools, loanwords require public opinion to ensure their transparent use and acceptance within the community or school.

3. Academics

Academics, particularly in the field of regional languages, desperately need loanwords to differentiate between the local language and other languages in their writing. This allows for transparency between loanwords and readers to facilitate writing.