

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of a conclusion and a suggestion. Based on the data researched and the results of the research study and discussion

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion of the phonological adaptation of loanwords from Kupang Indonesian/Malay into Dela, loanwords from various sources, including Dutch and Portuguese, are typically borrowed into Dela via Kupang Malay, a Malay-based contact creole language spoken around West Timor (Tamelan 2021).

This borrowing process not only highlights the linguistic interaction between Kupang Malay and Dela but also underscores the broader implications of language contact in the region.

The influence of Portuguese on local languages, including Dela, can be seen in the phonological structures that emerge from this interaction. Studies have shown that the incorporation of Portuguese loanwords significantly alters the phonemic inventory, leading to the creation of new phonological contrasts and stress patterns in Dela.

As these languages evolve, they reflect not only the historical ties between different cultures but also the socio-political dynamics that shape language use in

contemporary contexts, illustrating the richness of an ever-evolving linguistic heritage.

The Dela language simplified its foreign vowel system to fit its inventory of five basic vowels (/a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, /u/). The most prominent phenomena are the change of the schwa vowel (/ə/) to /a/, as well as the process of monophthongization, where diphthongs (such as /au/ and /ai/) are converted into single vowels (/o/ and /e/).

Vowels adapt through epenthesis to break up clusters or substitutions to match native qualities, with mid vowels shifting to high or low (e.g., English /ʌ/ becomes /a/ or /u/). Epenthetics such as /i/ or /a/ are inserted after the coda for open syllables, while the main pattern emphasizes syllable regularity (CV(C)) with vowel epenthesis dominating up to 70% of cases, similar to neighboring Austronesian languages

This indicates a limitation of vowel phonemes in Dela, which is overcome by pulling foreign sounds to the nearest point of articulation. Consonant adaptations demonstrate an effort to maintain the phonological identity of the Dela language. Voiced stop consonants (/b/, /d/) and affricates (/j/) are consistently transformed into implosive consonants (/ɓ/, /ɗ/).

Consonant adaptation involves deletion, substitution, or epenthesis to resolve non-consonant clusters or codas. For example, final consonants such as /t/, /p/, or /k/ are often dropped (e.g., "dekat" becomes "deka"), while fricatives such as /f/ are substituted for /p/ or /v/ for /b/, in keeping with Dela's preference for stops over fricatives. Complex onsets are simplified through secondary consonant deletion.

Furthermore, there is a prenasalization pattern in nasal-stop clusters (such as /mp/ becoming /mb/ and /nt/ becoming /nd/), as well as a change in the velar consonant /g/ to the prenasal /ŋg/.

There is a strong tendency to adapt loanwords to the Dela syllable structure, which favors open syllables (CV). This is achieved through the removal of coda (syllable-final) consonants, changes in coda consonants (such as /m/ to /n/), or the addition of epenthetic vowels to break up heavy consonant clusters.

This adaptation process is not unique to Dela; it can also be observed in other languages facing similar phonotactic constraints.

For example, Dela employs distinct repair strategies to accommodate loanwords from English, often involving feature changes or vowel insertions to overcome complex prefix clusters and unacceptable simple final consonants.

Such adaptations highlight the universal challenges languages face when integrating a foreign lexicon, revealing a tendency toward simplification that preserves the phonological integrity of the recipient language.

Furthermore, the choice of epenthetic vowels can vary significantly based on phonetic context, as seen in the choice of schwa or closed front vowels depending on the consonantal environment. This variability underscores the dynamic nature of language and the complex interplay between phonetics and phonology in the process of loanword adaptation.

Sound changes do not only occur segmentally, but are also influenced by the prosody of the Dela language, where there is a shift in stress or lengthening of

vowels in open syllables to maintain the harmony of the original sound of the Dela language.

This prosodic influence can also extend to the interaction between stress patterns and vowel harmony, as seen in other languages like Degema, where vowels are systematically restricted from co-occurring based on their tongue root features, thus ensuring a cohesive phonological environment.

Such mechanisms highlight the intricate relationship between segmental and suprasegmental features in shaping the phonological landscape of a language. Understanding these dynamics can provide insights into the diachronic processes that have historically affected sound patterns, such as the deletion of segments and the reassociation of prosodic features, which are crucial in reconstructing the evolution of languages like Dela.

By examining these interactions, we can better appreciate how sound changes are not merely isolated phonetic and phonological behavior but are instead deeply intertwined with social, cognitive, and contextual factors that shape linguistic evolution.

For instance, the role of dialect contact in facilitating sound change illustrates how community interactions can lead to phonetic shifts that might not occur in isolation.

This phenomenon is particularly evident in urban environments, where diverse linguistic backgrounds converge, creating fertile ground for innovation and adaptation in speech patterns.

Furthermore, the implications of such changes extend beyond mere pronunciation; they can influence social identity and group cohesion, as speakers navigate the complex landscape of linguistic variation in their communities.

Understanding these dynamics not only enriches our comprehension of sound change but also highlights the broader socio-cultural narratives that accompany linguistic transformation. These insights emphasize the importance of considering social meaning and communicative activity in understanding language variation and sound change within multicultural contexts.

5.2 Suggestion

In this section, the researcher would like to provide some suggestions for students, English teachers, and future researchers based on research findings and discussions:

1. Vocabulary Development

This research shows that Dela has great potential to develop as a rich and dynamic language. Therefore, efforts are needed to develop Dela vocabulary, including creating new words and introducing relevant loanwords.

2. Language Education

Research also shows that Dela language education needs to be improved to ensure that the younger generation can understand and use Dela well. Dela language education should include teaching about loanword adaptation and the use of Dela in relevant contexts.

3. Further Research

For future researchers, especially those who have the same problem and are interested in conducting research, it is recommended that this research be a reference. It is hoped that further researchers will be able to complement this technique or media.