PHONETIC VARIATIONS IN INDONESIAN
INDUCED BY LANGUAGE CONTACT

Made Susini
Faculty of Letters Warmadewa University, Denpasar-Bali
madesusini@yahoo.com

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan variasi-variasi fonetis dalam bahasa Indonesia yang disebabkan oleh adanya kontak bahasa dengan bahasa Inggris. Kajian ini merupakan kajian *contact phonology*, yaitu suatu kajian yang berhubungan dengan fenomena-fenomena fonologis yang disebabkan karena adanya kontak bahasa atau kontak dialek. Data penelitian ini berupa hasil pengucapan *loanwords* dalam bahasa Indonesia. Data diambil dengan menggunakan metode simak dengan teknik rekam dan catat. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode padan intralingual dengan teknik hubung banding membedakan (HBB).

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kontak bahasa antara bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa Inggris mengakibatkan terjadinya variasi fonetis dalam bahasa Indonesia. Karena ini terjadi pada *loanwords*, dampaknya adalah terbentuknya *loan phonology*. Beberapa bunyi bahasa Inggris mengalami adaptasi dan diucapkan dengan cara yang berbeda dalam bahasa Indonesia. Variasi-variasi bunyi dalam bahasa Indonesia yang terbentuk karena kontak bahasa dengan bahasa Inggris meliputi: /æ/ diucapkan menjadi [ɛ]; /ʃ/ menjadi [s]; /z/ menjadi [s]; /v/ menjadi [f]; /t/ menjadi lesap; /d/ menjadi lesap; /th/ menjadi [t]; and /tʃ/ menjadi [t]. Terjadinya variasi fonetis seperti ini dalam bahasa Indonesia disebabkan oleh adanya sistem fonologi yang berbeda antara bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa Inggris serta adanya pembiasaan dalam pengucapan bunyi-bunyi vokal dan konsonan bahasa Indonesia yang berbeda dengan bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci: kontak bahasa, *contact phonology*, variasi fonetis, *loan phonology*.

BACKGROUND

According to Marra in Sharifian (2015) language is considered to be a social interaction. Interactions of individuals will also mean interactions of language for there is no interaction without language. Since individuals who are in contact with others always come with their own language, language contact becomes phenomenon. Hamers (2000) mentions that languages in contact refer to the use of two or more codes in interpersonal and intergroup relations as well as the psychological state of an individual who uses more than one language. This definition shows that language contact may result in bilingualism and even multilingualism. Dealing with the functions of language in social communication, there are four language skills, they are listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. According to Macnamara in Hamers (2000), someone is a bilingual if he or she possesses a minimal competence in only one of those language skills.

Bilingualism and multilingualism can result in linguistic variations. Ravindranath and Wagner in Allan (2016) states that linguistic variations can occur at all levels of the grammar, such as at the level of the lexicon, semantics, morphology, as well as phonology. If the linguistic variations occur at the level of phonology, the variations can be phonetic variations or phonological variations. Phonetic variations refer to any variable pronunciation of sounds that does not affect the phonological system, and phonological variations refer to variations in pronunciation that affect the phonological system. Phonological effect caused by language contact is of phonological phenomenon. One of the examples of phonetic variations found in Indonesian is the use of [ɛ] sound instead of [æ].

Smith in Pennington (2007) suggests how phonology is shaped by language contact, beginning with *loanword phonology (loan phonology), areal influence, dialect mixing,*

language mixing and *"simplification"* due to *pidginization/creolization*. In *loanword phonology*, borrowing induces change in the importing language. Phonological change also results from *areal influence* involving a group of dialects or languages which exhibit the same features. *Dialect mixing* occurs when new dialects are formed in situations of political and cultural dominance and in situations of strong regional identity. In *language mixing,* the mixed language may inherit the phonological systems of one or both contributing languages, or may exhibit a split system.

The effect of *loanword phonology* depends on some factors, such as the number of words which are borrowed and the distance between the two phonological systems concerned. If only a few words are borrowed, it does not cause any change in the phonology of the borrowing language. But if many words are borrowed, the phonology of the borrowing language will be changed to some degree.

Any language can borrow words from another language and they become *loanword*. Indonesian has many *loanwords* from English which are dealing with technical terms used in some aspects of life. Since *loanwords* can result in phonetic variations in the borrowing language, phonetic variations induced by language contact are important to be examined. The problems to be discussed include:

    a. What kinds of phonetic variations are found in Indonesian resulted from its contact with English?
    b. What factors influence the phonetic variations in Indonesian?

Based on the problems mentioned, this research is to find out the phonetic variations in Indonesian caused by language contact between Indonesian and English and to examine the factors causing the variations.

RESEARCH METHOD

The data of this research are in the form of phonetic transcription resulted from the pronunciation of some English loanwords in Indonesian by Indonesian students. The English loanwords meant are the words used as technical terms in computer devices, such as *backspace, save, size*, and so forth. The data are collected by using observation methods through recording and note-taking technique. The analysis is done by comparing the result of the pronunciation by the informants and the standard-English pronunciation. From the results of the comparison, the variations of vowel and consonant sound in Indonesian can be identified. The factors causing the phonetic variations in Indonesian are examined by understanding the systems of the vowel and consonant sound in Indonesian and English, whether the two languages have the same systems or not. If the two languages have the systems, the variations are considered to be caused by a kind of habits of articulations.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Language contact between Indonesian and English induced by the interactions among individuals results in language variations, including phonological aspect. The phonetic variations are induced by the different phonological system of Indonesian and English. The system includes the vowel and consonant system. The kinds and amounts of the vowel and consonant of Indonesian are different from the ones of English. Besides, the habits of articulation of the Indonesian speakers in pronouncing vowel and consonant sound also play an important role in the phonetic variations. Some Indonesian people are not able to differentiate the [ʃ] sound and [s] sound.

Based on the data found, the phonetic variations in Indonesian induced by language contact between Indonesian and English are as follows: 1) /æ/ in English is pronounced as [ɛ] in Indonesian; 2) /ʃ/ as [s]; 3) /z/ in end position as [s]; 4) /v/ as [f]; 5) /t/ in end position preceded by consonant is dropped; 6) /d/ in end position and after consonant is dropped; 7) /th/ as [t]; 8) /ʃ/ in end position is dropped; and 9) /(r)/ which is dropped when it is in medial or end position is pronounced as [r].

1) /æ/ is pronounced as [ɛ]

English /æ/ belongs to low front unrounded vowel is pronounced in different way by the speakers of Indonesian for Indonesian and English have different phonological systems. English has phoneme /æ/, Indonesian has not. So, the speakers of Indonesian tend to pronounce it by the vowel sound having close characteristics to it. It tends to be pronounced as [ɛ], the sound of phoneme which is lax mid front unrounded vowel. This variation is found when the loanword *backspace* is pronounced. English speakers pronounce it as [bækspeis], but the Indonesian speakers as [bɛkspeis]. Another case is found in pronouncing the word *paragraph*. English ['pærəgrɑːf] is pronounced as [pɛrəgrɑːf] by the Indonesian people. In general the /ɛ/ is used for /æ/.

- [bækspeis]   'backspace'   becoming   [bɛkspeis]
- ['pærəgrɑːf]   'paragraph'   becoming   [pɛrəgrɑːf]
- [mætʃ]   'match' becoming   [mɛt]
- ['fɔːmæt]   'format'   becoming   ['fɔːmɛt]
- [kæp]   'cap'   becoming   [kɛp]

2) /ʃ/ is pronounced as [s]

Voiceless postalveolar fricative consonant like English /ʃ/ is rarely used in Indonesian for the words having this characteristic are limited in Indonesian. Because of this, English loanwords having this sound are pronounced by another sound having close characteristic to this sound. Some Indonesian people tend to pronounce it by voiceless alveolar fricative consonant /s/. So for some of the Indonesian people the [s] sound is used to refer to both / s/ and /ʃ/. The sound of /ʃ/, as found in *shift, shape, shutdown, publish*, and *slide show,* is one of the phonological phenomena. The word *shift* having standard pronunciation [ʃift] is pronounced as [sif] by some of the Indonesian speakers. Some other examples are illustrated below.

- [ʃift]   'shift'   becoming   [**s**if]
- [ʃeɪp]   'shape'   becoming   [**s**eɪp]
- ['ʃʌtdaʊn]   'shut down'   becoming   [**s**ʌtdaʊn]
- ['pʌblɪʃ]   'publis' becoming   ['pʌblɪ**s**]
- [slaɪd ʃəʊ]   'slide show'   becoming   [slaɪd **s**əʊ]

3) /z/ is pronounced as [s]

Basically, both Indonesian and English have phoneme /z/ in their phonological systems. /z/ is voiced alveolar fricative consonant. Although this phoneme occurs in the phonological system of Indonesian, but some Indonesian people are not able to pronounce its sound correctly when the position of this sound is in end position and it is preceded by vowel sound. So the phoneme /z/ tends to be pronounced as [s] which is voiceless alveolar fricative consonant. The examples found are as follows.

- [pɔː**z**]   'pause'   becoming   [pɔː**s**]
- [saɪ**z**]   'size'   becoming   [saɪ**s**]
- ['ɔːgənaɪ**z**ə] 'organizer'   becoming   ['ɔːgənaɪ**s**ə]
- ['pʌ**z**l]   'puzzle'   becoming   ['pʌ**s**l]
- [braʊ**z**]   'browse'   becoming   [braʊ**s**]

4) /v/ is pronounced as [f]

Loandword *save*, as an example, has phoneme /v/ which belongs to voiced labiodental fricative consonant. In its realization, phoneme /v/ is pronounced in different way by some of the Indonesian people. They tend to pronounce it as voiceless labiodental fricative /f/. The reason is that Indonesian and English have different way in pronouncing the /v/ sound. The Indonesian people tend to follow the rules of pronouncing as Indonesian. This can also indicate that although two or more languages which are in contact have the same

phonological systems, this can also result in phonetic variations in the borrowing language. The problem deals with the difference in the way in pronouncing a specific sound.

- [seɪ**v**]   'save'   becoming   [seɪ**f**]
- ['envələʊp]   'envelope'   becoming   ['en**f**ələʊp]
- [rɪ:mu:**v**]   'remove'   becoming   [rɪ:mu:**f**]
- [rɪ:mu:**v**]   'cover'   becoming   [rɪ:mu:**f**]
- [kən'**v**ɜ:t]   'convert'   becoming   [kən'**f**ɜ:t]

5) /t/ in end position is dropped

The same case is faced by the Indonesian speakers in pronouncing the sound of /t/ which belongs to voiceless alveolar stop. Both Indonesian and English have this phoneme in their phonological systems. The difficulty in pronouncing it will occur when this sound is in end position and there is [n] or [k] sound before it. So the adaptation chosen is by dropping the sound of [t]. It is due to the habits of articulations. It is hard for the Indonesian speakers to pronounce two consonant sounds which come closely one after another.

- [prɪn**t**]   'print'   becoming   [prin]
- [sɪ'lek**t**]'select'   becoming   [sə'lek]
- [fɒn**t**]   'font'   becoming   [fon]
- [ɪ'fek**t**]   'effect'   becoming   [e'fek]
- [ɪn'den**t**]   'indent' becoming   [ɪn'den]

6) /d/ in end position is dropped

/d/ belongs to voiced alveolar stop consonant. This phoneme occurs in both Indonesian and English phonological systems. The difficulties faced by the speakers of Indonesian are due to how to pronounce it when it comes at the end of a word and there is consonant sound [n] before it. It is also hard for some of the Indonesian speakers to pronounce it because they do not have habits of articulations to pronounce two consonant sounds which come closely one after another. So, [d] tends to be dropped.

- [en**d**]   'end'   becoming   [en]
- [sen**d**]   'send'   becoming   [sen]

7) /th/ is pronounced as [t]

Indonesian does not have phoneme /th/ which is dental fricative. Because Indonesian and English have different phonological system, this sound tends to be pronounced as alveolar plosive /t/. The reason is that it is again a kind of habits of articulations. Based on the data found, the variations in pronouncing loanwords, such as *thesaurus* and *thumbnails,* are as follows.

- ['**θ**ʌmneɪl]   'thumbnails'   becoming   ['**t**ʌmneɪl]
- [**θ**ɪ'sɔ:rəs]   'thesaurus'   becoming   [**t**ɪ'sɔ:rəs]
- [**θ**i:m]   'theme'   becoming   [**t**i:m]

8) /tʃ/ is pronounced as [t]

/tʃ/ may come at the end of English words. But, there is no Indonesian words ending in [tʃ]. So, when Indonesian speakers pronounce loanwords ending in this sound, they tend to do adaptation by changing it by [t].

- [swɪt**ʃ**]   'switch'   becoming   [swɪt]
- [mæt**ʃ**]   'match' becoming   [mɛt]

9) /(r)/ is always pronounced as /r/

/r/ is found in Indonesian phonological system, and also in English phonological system. But English has some allophones of this phoneme. The type of allophones chosen

depends on in what position this sound is. So, it is sometimes [r] and sometimes [(r)]. Based on the phonological system of Indonesian, this sound is always pronounced as [r].

- ['entə]   'enter'   becoming   ['entə**r**]
- ['bɔ:də**(r)**]   'border'   becoming   ['bɔ:də**r**]
- ['peɪpə**(r)**]   'paper'   becoming   ['peɪpə**r**]
- [fʊ:tə]   'footer' becoming   [fʊ:tə**r**]

CONCLUSION

Language contact between Indonesian and English has resulted in phonetic variations in Indonesian. The variations include the adaptations of vowel and consonant sound. The adaptations of the sound are induced by the different phonological systems of Indonesian and English, and the habits of articulation of Indonesian speakers in pronouncing Indonesian vowel and consonant sound.

REFERENCES

Allan, Keith. 2016. The Routledge Handbook of Linguistics. New York: Routledge.

Bungin, Burhan Prof. Dr. H. M. S.Sos. M.Si. 2015. Penelitian Kualitatif. Jakarta: Prenada Media Group.

Grix, Jonathan. 2004. The Foundations of Research. New York: PALGRAVE MACMILLAN.

Hamers, Josiane F. 2000. Bilinguality and Bilingualism. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Hornby, AS. 2000. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mahsun, Prof. Dr. M.S. 2014. Metode Penelitian Bahasa. Jakarta: PT RajaGrafindo Persada.

Pennington, Martha C. 2007. Phonology in Context. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Roach Peter. 1991. English Phonetics and Phonology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sharifian, Farzad. 2015. The Routledge Handbook of Language and Culture. New York: Routledge.