

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Indonesian language history until this period is actually the history of Malay. The Indonesian language is the variety of Malay that flourished in the Netherlands Indies, (later Indonesia), from approximately the 1920's. Thus, Malay language is the earlier form of the Indonesian language. Therefore, the loanwords that were borrowed and assimilated into Malay has become eventually a part of the lexicon of the contemporary Indonesian language (Jones 1984). According to Mulyani and Noor (2018), Malay language (the Indonesian language today) is widely used in Southeast Asia. It has developed through several stages being in constant contact and interaction with many foreign languages. Haspelmath and Tadmor (2009) stated that Malay-Indonesia is widely spoken in the Southeast Asia by approximately 250 million speakers. Thus among the Austronesian languages, it has the highest rate of speakers. The majority of the Indonesian people use the Indonesian language, however, it is not acquired as a first language.

Malay language was nominated as the national language in Indonesia in 28 October 1928 due to many factors. To name but few, first, it has been employed as a lingua franca all around Indonesia. Second, other tribes can learn it due to the simplicity of its system. Third, all ethnic groups of Indonesia accepted it being aware of the fact that a national language had to be established throughout

Indonesia. Fourth, it has been in contact with several languages both cognate and non-cognate for many ages (Devianty 2016) and (Steinhauer 1980). Abas (1987, p.2) stated “Malay was used widely as a lingua franca of the archipelago therefore it was chosen to get the various ethnic groups together”.

The Indonesian has been a living language of people coming from various ethnic groups with various local languages. Consequently, it interacted with local languages such as, Minangkabau, Javanese, Sundanese and others and was greatly affected by them. The Indonesian language was not only affected by the local languages in Indonesia, foreign languages such as Portuguese, Arabic, Sanskrit, Chinese, English, and Dutch have long been in contact with the Indonesian language during which a lot of loanwords poured into the Indonesian and enriched its lexicon (Devianty 2016).

Kratz (1980) pointed out that Arabic language, being the language of Islam, Quran, and Islamic civilization and science has had major influence on various languages of Muslim nations where people are supposed to get exposed to Arabic language and Arab people. To illustrate, the absolute majority of the Indonesians are Muslims. Plenty of Arabic loanwords have been in use in the Indonesian language to the extent that the Indonesians are unaware of them as they have been assimilated and adapted to the Indonesian language system.

According to Mulyani and Noor (2018), classical Malay borrowed a lot of Arabic words through gradual stages. This occurred during the time that Islam came into the region at about the end of the 13th century A.D.

When foreign powers dominated the Indonesian archipelago culturally and politically, the languages of those powers were employed officially as the language of intercourse for example, during the age of Islam, Arabic, during the Buddhist epoch, Sanskrit, during the period of British and Dutch colonization English and Dutch and during Japanese occupation Japanese language (Abas 1987).

One of the major modifications which have occurred Malay in three hundred years ago years was through borrowing of Arabic words. Sneddon (2003, 359) stated “It is true that the Europeans, the Portuguese and the Dutch who arrived in Indonesia after the coming of Islam, did bring along their own languages and the Latin alphabet but they never had the influence on Malay that Sanskrit and Arabic did”.

According to Adelaar (1996), Arabic borrowings in the Indonesian language semantically belong to the following domains: religion, law, medicine, astrology, thought and sentiment. Arabic as the language of Islam is highly venerated among Muslims. Muslim leaders and scholars highlight the importance of learning Arabic. Arabic script and memorizing Koran texts are taught in all Muslim countries notwithstanding their language being not Arabic.

Scholars who attended the seminar on the Indonesian language reform which was held from 26 to 28 October 1968 at the Faculty of Letters, University of Indonesia, reached decisions concerning the loanwords from Arabic. They decided that Arabic loanwords which have been assimilated in the Indonesian language should be pronounced and written according to the Indonesian

linguistic system. However, Arabic terms that have religious connotations should be handled differently. A committee was set by the ministry of Religious Affairs to formulate the way Arabic words should be written using the Latin alphabet in Indonesia (Abas 1987). Van Dam (2010) also affirmed that during the reform of the Indonesian language the original traces of Arabic loanwords were deleted. Specialists in the Indonesian language standardization and codification decided how Arabic loanwords should be adapted. They decided what Arabic loanwords should be discarded and what are the ones to be retained.

Several scholars such as Kenstowicz (2003) LaCharite (2005) Adler (2006) Uushona (2019) and Rodgers (as cited in Zivenge 2009) have confirmed that loanwords in any language are adapted and modified according to the phonology, morphology, orthography and phonotactics of the recipient language. Loanword adaptations in many languages have attracted the attention of scholars, more particularly in investigating and exploring the morphological and phonological adaptations. To illustrate, a study conducted by Uushona (2019) explored the phenomenon of phonological and morphological adaptation of German loanwords in Oshiwambo. Singha and Ahmed (2016) investigated the phonological adaptations of some English loanwords in Sylheti, a *language in India*. The English loanwords were greatly modified to fit into the phonology of Sylheti. Abdullah (2014) analyzed the morphological modifications of Arabic loans in Malay during the time that Arabic loans were assimilated into Malay (the Malaysian language). Evans (2014) conducted a study on the adaptations that occurred in the morphology and phonology of the English loanwords to

Lubukusu. This study highlighted the morphological and phonological modifications that the loanwords from English underwent to fit into Lubukusu system. Phonological and morphological rules that account for the changes were established. Hashemi, et al. (2014) studied the phonological adaptations of Arabic loan words in Persian. The emphasis of the study was on consonants with inactive articulators. A study conducted by Islam (2012) investigated the morphological form of the Persian, Arabic and English borrowings in Urdu. Zivenge (2009) analyzed the phonological and morphological nativization of English lexical borrowings in Tonga. Konya (1966) in a doctorate dissertation analyzed the French and English loanwords in Russian morphologically. The researcher affirmed that both English and French have had a considerable influence on Russian especially in the 20th-century.

According to Haspelmath and Tadmor (2009), not all words borrowed into Malay were adapted. Most words can exist as roots without any adaptations. Thus, the majority of the Arabic loanwords in Bahasa Indonesia retained similar linguistic features to their Arabic sources especially the terms of Islamic issues. Devianty (2016) referred to this case as adopting both the meanings as well as the shapes of the words into the Indonesian language. However, some Arabic words went through morphological and phonological adaptations to fit into the Indonesian language system. Uhlenbeck , Adelaar , Machali (as cited in Van Dam 2010,p.225). stated “an unknown Arabic phoneme was interpreted and pronounced by listeners as the phoneme phonetically nearest to it in their own phoneme inventory”

Thus, based on the background and previous studies mentioned above and since there has not been a study yet on the morphological and phonological adaptations of the Arabic loanwords in the Indonesian language, the researcher is interested to fill in a gap by investigating the morphological and phonological adaptations of the Arabic loan words in the Indonesian language and identifying the morphological and phonological processes through which the Arabic loan words underwent.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study the researcher proposed two questions as follows:

1. What types of phonological and morphological processes that had been employed to adapt the Arabic loanwords into the Indonesian language?
2. How had the Arabic loanwords in the Indonesian language been adapted phonologically and morphologically to fit the Indonesian language system?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, there are two objectives in this research as follows:

1. Identify the processes that had been used to adapt the Arabic loanwords phonologically and morphologically into the Indonesian language.
2. Explore the ways through which the Arabic loanwords had been adapted phonologically and morphologically into fit the Indonesian language system.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The current study is fruitful on both theoretical and empirical levels. In terms of theory, this study is significant in that it adds new research insights on the lexical borrowing field more particularly the morphological and phonological adaptations of the Arabic loanwords in the Indonesian Language. It also provides a theoretical contribution to the knowledge of lexical borrowing and loanword adaptations and enriches information in this field. This study may further confirm and conclude morphological and phonological rules that justify such adaptations.

In terms of empirical benefits, this research provides useful information concerning how the morphological and phonological structures of the Arabic loanwords had been adapted to fit the Indonesian language system. Therefore this study can be a good reference for researchers interested in studying the loanwords and how they had been adapted to fit the receptor language system especially those researchers interested in the linguistic adaptations of the Arabic loanwords in the Indonesian language .Arabic loanwords had been adapted to the extent that they are not realized as borrowed words .Therefore, this study is also significant for Indonesian scholars, teachers, students or lay people who are interested in the etymology of the Indonesian words.This study might inspire the interest for further research of loanwords from languages other than Arabic in the Indonesian language. This study is also of value for Arab learners of the Indonesian language as it gives an explanation of how the Arabic words have been morphologically and phonologically adapted into the Indonesian language.

In a word, it is hoped that this study is a practical contribution in the field of lexical borrowing and loanwords adaptation.