



Phoneme Elision in The meN- Prefix in The Jambi Malay of Bedaro Village

Proses Peluluhan Fonem Prefiks *meN-* dalam Bahasa Melayu Jambi Desa Bedaro

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji pembentukan morf fonemik yang lebih difokuskan kepada proses peluluhan fonem akibat adanya pertemuan antara morfem terikat *meN-* dengan morfem bebas tertentu. Tujuannya untuk mendeskripsikan proses peluluhan fonem pada prefiks *meN-* dalam Bahasa Melayu Jambi yang digunakan oleh masyarakat Desa Bedaro. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Data penelitian berupa tuturan lisan penutur asli Bahasa Melayu Jambi Desa Bedaro yang diperoleh melalui metode simak dengan teknik sadap, libat cakap, rekam, dan catat. Data dianalisis dengan cara mengidentifikasi bentuk dasar dan bentuk berafiks untuk menemukan serta mengklasifikasikan proses peluluhan fonem yang terjadi, kemudian dideskripsikan berdasarkan kaidah linguistik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peluluhan fonem dalam Bahasa Melayu Jambi Desa Bedaro terjadi akibat penggabungan morfem terikat *meN-* dengan morfem bebas yang berawalan bunyi /c/, /s/, /k/, dan /g/. Dalam proses tersebut, fonem awal pada morfem bebas mengalami peluluhan sehingga menghasilkan bentuk kata baru. Penelitian ini menemukan sembilan data morfem yang mengalami peluluhan fonem, antara lain *ukia*, *ηato*, *ηaji*, *ηubua*, *ηileη*, dan *ηulai*. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa proses peluluhan fonem *meN-* memiliki pola yang sistematis dan menjadi ciri khas morf fonemik Bahasa Melayu Jambi Desa Bedaro.

Kata kunci: Bahasa Melayu Jambi; Prefiks *MeN-*; Peluluhan Fonem

Abstract

This study examines morphophonemic formation, focusing primarily on phoneme elision that arises from the interaction between the bound morpheme *meN-* and certain free morphemes. The purpose is to describe the process of phoneme elision occurring in the *meN-* prefix in Jambi Malay as spoken by the community of Bedaro Village. The research focuses on morphophonemic forms that undergo phoneme elision as a result of the attachment of the bound morpheme *meN-* to specific free morphemes. A qualitative approach with a descriptive method was employed. The data consist of spoken utterances produced by native speakers of Jambi Malay in Bedaro Village and were collected using the listening method, supported by tapping, participant observation, recording, and note-taking techniques. The data were analyzed by identifying base forms and affixed forms to determine and classify instances of phoneme elision, which were then described based on linguistic principles. The findings indicate that phoneme elision in the Jambi Malay of Bedaro Village occurs when the *meN-* prefix attaches to free morphemes beginning with the consonants /c/, /s/, /k/, and /g/. In this process, the initial consonant of the base morpheme is deleted, resulting in a new phonological form. This study

identified nine morphemes that undergo phoneme elision, including *ukia*, *ɲato*, *ɲaji*, *ɲubua*, *ɲilen*, and *ɲulai*. These findings demonstrate that phoneme elision in the *meN-* prefix follows systematic patterns and represents a distinctive morphophonemic feature of the Jambi Malay spoken in Bedaro Village.

Keywords: *Jambi Malay; Men- Prefix; Phoneme Elision*

INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in human life, enabling interaction and communication (Umrah et al., 2023). Language is a means of communication used by humans in daily life (Nurhayati et al., 2020).

Linguists believe that language is a system of signs (symbols) and sounds agreed upon to be used by members of a certain social group in cooperating, communicating, and identifying themselves (Rumilah & Cahyani, 2020). Regional languages are a characteristic of the nation's culture, have speakers, and belong to the Indonesian nation (Umrah et al., 2023). No language in the world develops without speakers. The existence of a language is due to utterances arising from a certain language (Faris et al., 2024).

Jambi Malay is a living regional language used by the people of Jambi in various aspects of daily communication. It plays a significant role in the cultural history of Indonesia (Kamarudin & Rustam, 2016). In Sumatra, Malay is spoken in several regions, including Jambi, Riau, Palembang, Medan, Bengkulu, and Lampung. As a language that has developed naturally within a specific speech community, Jambi Malay exhibits distinctive features in its phonology, morphology, and lexicon. One of the interesting linguistic phenomena to examine in this language is morphophonemic processes.

Morphophonemics is the study of sound changes resulting from the combination of morphemes (Kridalaksana, 2007). Several terms have been used to describe the interaction between morphology and phonology; however, American linguists generally use the term morphophonemics to refer to this interaction. Morphophonemic processes only occurs in morphological processes specifically of affixation (Fitriah & Asrini, 2021).

In a broader sense, morphophonemics examines the phonological structure of morphemes, the phonemic variations that occur when morphemes combine with other morphemes, and the patterns of sound change that result from such combinations. These changes may include the alteration of one phoneme into another (Ramlan, 1985).

REVIEW TEORI

To understand morphophonemic processes, it is necessary to identify morphophonemic phenomena at the level of their basic forms. (Kridalaksana, 2007) classifies morphophonemic processes into several types based on a dynamic process model. These include phoneme emergence, phoneme retention, phoneme emergence and retention, phoneme shift, phoneme change and shift, and phoneme deletion (elision). More simply, Ramlan divides the morphophonemic process into three groups, namely the process of phoneme changes, the process of adding phonemes, and the process of removing phonemes (Kusumah, 2023).

Phoneme elision is a sound change process that generally occurs due to the interaction of morphemes, particularly during affixation. This process occurs when the combination of a base morpheme and an affix results in the deletion of certain phonemes in the base form (Kridalaksana, 1988). This phenomenon causes specific phonemes in the base morpheme to be eliminated, resulting in word forms that differ from their original structure. In Jambi Malay, phoneme elision exhibits distinct patterns and characteristics that differentiate it from Indonesian and other Malay varieties.

Bedaro Village, as one of the Jambi Malay-speaking areas, possesses a rich source of authentic and natural linguistic data. The speech of the Bedaro Village community demonstrates the active use of the local language, making it a relevant source for an in-depth study of phoneme elision. This study is important not only for descriptive linguistic purposes but also for documenting and preserving the local language.

Several studies have examined sound changes resulting from morpheme interaction, particularly within the field of morphophonemics. (Humairo et al., 2026) studied Morphophonemic Studies in Linguistics: Interaction Between Morphology and Word Formation, (Sew, 2025) for example, investigated phonetic variation and discourse function of new words through a morphophonemic and stylistic analysis in Malay. Similarly, (Kusmana & Triandana, 2022) analyzed phoneme changes in the morphophonemics of Jambi Malay in Danau Teluk District, highlighting the systematic relationship between affixes and base forms. In another study, (Setiyadi et al., 2022) examined the morphophonemics of the {n} morpheme in the Javanese language, demonstrating how phonological adaptation occurs during morpheme attachment. From a morphological perspective, (Kartika et al., 2021) examined bound morphemes in the Tanjung Balai Karimun dialect of Riau Malay from a morphological perspective. In addition, (Akhyaruddin et al., 2019) investigated the morphophonemic features of Jambi Malay as part of the development of Indonesian morphology teaching materials, showing the pedagogical relevance of morphophonemic studies. (Lisa & Abidin, 2020) further examined morphophonemic processes in address terms in the Belide dialect of Malay spoken in Gelumbang District, Jambi, revealing variations influenced by sociolinguistic context. In addition, (Kamarudin & Rustam, 2016) studied morphophonemics in the Kumpuh dialect of Jambi Malay contributing to the broader understanding of regional morphophonemic patterns.

However, despite these contributions, previous studies have not specifically examined the phoneme elision process in the /meN-/ prefix in the Jambi Malay spoken in Bedaro Village. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the morphophonemic processes, particularly phoneme elision, resulting from the attachment of the /meN-/ prefix to base morphemes in the Bedaro dialect of Jambi Malay.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. The research data consisted of spoken utterances produced by native speakers of Jambi Malay in Bedaro Village. Data were collected using the listening method. According to (Mahsun, 2005) "the listening method is a technique for obtaining linguistic data by listening directly to language use by speakers".

The basic technique used was the tapping technique, while the advanced techniques included participant observation, note-taking, and audio recording. These techniques enabled the researcher to obtain authentic linguistic data from natural speech situations. The instruments used in this study included audio recording devices and field notes to ensure accurate documentation of the data. Certainly, this aligns with (Sugiyono, 2020) which states that the researcher acts as a key instrument whose work encompasses several aspects, including determining the research focus, selecting informants as data sources, collecting data, assessing data quality, analyzing data, interpreting data, and drawing conclusions from the findings.

The collected data were analyzed by identifying base forms and their corresponding affixed forms in order to determine instances of phoneme elision resulting from the attachment of the meN- prefix. The analysis involved several steps: (1) identifying morphophonemic forms in the collected data, (2) comparing base morphemes with affixed forms, (3) classifying the types of morphophonemic processes observed, and (4) describing the patterns of phoneme elision based on relevant linguistic principles.

The results of the analysis were presented descriptively using linguistic rules and principles to provide a systematic explanation of morphophonemic patterns in the Jambi Malay spoken in Bedaro Village. This procedure ensures that the study can be replicated and verified by other researchers using the same methods and analytical framework.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the Jambi Malay spoken in the Bedaro area, several words undergo the process of phoneme elision. This process occurs due to the attachment of the bound morpheme /meN-/ to free morphemes beginning with the consonants /c/, /s/, /k/, and /g/. As a result of this attachment, the initial consonant of the free morpheme is deleted, producing a new phonological form.

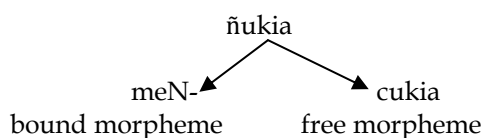
In this study, a total of nine morphemes in the Jambi Malay spoken in Bedaro Village were identified as undergoing phoneme elision. These forms demonstrate systematic morphophonemic patterns resulting from the affixation of the *meN-* prefix. The distribution of phoneme elision in these morphemes is presented in the table below.

Table 1. Morphemes in Jambi Malay of Bedaro Village That Undergo Phoneme Elision in the *meN-* Prefix

| No. | Morpheme | Bound Morpheme | Free Morpheme | Meaning |
|-----|----------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. | ñukia | meN- | cukia | Mencongkel |
| 2. | ñapa' | meN- | capak | Membuang |
| 3. | ñubo | meN- | cubo | Mencoba |
| 4. | ñusah | meN- | susah | Menyusahkan |
| 5. | ñato | meN- | kato | Mengatakan |
| 6. | ñaji | meN- | kaji | Mengkaji |
| 7. | ñubua | meN- | kubua | Mengubur |
| 8. | ñileŋ | meN- | gileng | Menggiling |
| 9. | ñulai | meN- | gulai | Menggulai |

Phoneme elision in the *meN-* prefix when attached to free morphemes beginning with the consonant /c/

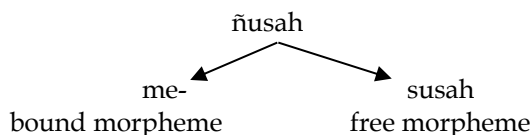
1. *me-* + *cukia* → *ñukia* *mencongkel*



The word /ñukia/ in the example above is formed through the combination of the bound morpheme /meN-/ and the free morpheme /cukia/. The sound /ñ/ at the beginning of the word arises as a result of the attachment of the bound morpheme /meN-/ to a base morpheme beginning with the consonant /c/. In this process, phoneme elision occurs in the initial consonant /c/ of the base morpheme. As a result, the consonant /c/ is deleted, producing the derived form /ñukia/.

Phoneme elision in the *meN-* prefix when attached to free morphemes beginning with the consonant /s/

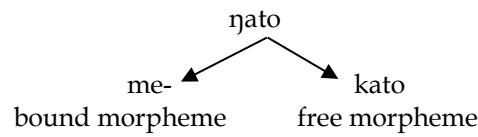
4. *me-* + *susah* → *ñusah* *menyusahkan*



The word /ñusah/ in the example above is formed through the combination of the bound morpheme /meN-/ and the free morpheme /susah/. The sound /ñ/ at the beginning of the word arises as a result of the attachment of the bound morpheme /meN-/ to a base morpheme beginning with the consonant /s/. In this process, phoneme elision occurs in the initial consonant /s/ of the base morpheme. As a result, the consonant /s/ is deleted, producing the derived form /ñusah/.

Phoneme elision in the meN- prefix when attached to free morphemes beginning with the consonant /k/

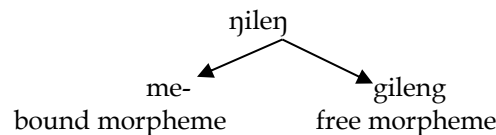
5. me- + kato → ngato → ŋato *mengatakan*



The word /ŋato/ in the example above is formed through the combination of the bound morpheme /meN-/ and the free morpheme /kato/. The sound /ŋ/ at the beginning of the word arises as a result of the attachment of the bound morpheme /meN-/ to a base morpheme beginning with the consonant /k/. In this process, phoneme elision occurs in the initial consonant /k/ of the base morpheme. As a result, the consonant /k/ is deleted, producing the derived form /ŋato/.

Phoneme elision in the meN- prefix when attached to free morphemes beginning with the consonant /g/

8. me- + gileng → ngileng → ŋilenj *menggiling*



The word /ŋilenj/ in the example above is formed through the combination of the bound morpheme /meN-/ and the free morpheme /gileng/. The sound /ŋ/ at the beginning of the word arises as a result of the attachment of the bound morpheme /meN-/ to a base morpheme beginning with the consonant /g/. In this process, phoneme elision occurs in the initial consonant /g/ of the base morpheme. As a result, the consonant /g/ is deleted, producing the derived form /ŋilenj/.

Based on the research and discussion, various morphophonemic formation processes were identified in the Jambi Malay language of the Bedaro region, particularly in the process of phoneme dissolution. Phoneme dissolution occurs due to the combination of the bound morpheme /meN-/ with free morphemes beginning with the sounds /c/, /s/, /k/, and /g/. From this process, nine instances of phoneme dissolution were identified: ñukia, ñapa', ñubo, ñusah, ŋaji, ŋubua, ŋato, ŋilenj, and ŋulai.

CONCLUSION

As the saying goes, "language reflects culture"; therefore, regional languages need to be preserved, as it is through language that the distinctive characteristics of a region emerge. One effort to support this preservation is conducting linguistic studies, as carried out in this research. Therefore, the researchers hope that future studies will be conducted on other regional languages. This research is limited to the morphophonemic process, specifically focusing on the dissolution of the /meN-/ phoneme. Furthermore, this study can serve as supporting data for future research and is expected to contribute to the development and refinement of Jambi Malay grammar.

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