ABSORPTION OF ARABIC WORDS IN MALAY LANGUAGE

Noor Azlina Zaidan [a], Muhammad Azhar Zailaini [b], Wail Muin Ismail [c]

[a,b,c] Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

[b] Corresponding author: azhar@um.edu.my

Abstract: Malaysia is a developing country in South-East Asia. As a dynamic and developing country economically, cultural and education, Malaysia borrows a lot of languages such as Portuguese, Netherland, Chinese, English and Arabic. Arabic itself a Quranic language is used in Muslim's everyday (especially) spiritual life. This research analyzes the classification of Arabic borrowed words (after this "loanword") in Malay language based on theory of typology. The objectives of the study were to identify the Arabic loanwords (after this "the words") in Malay language (after this "recipient language") in premier Malay language dictionary, "Kamus Dewan" by the abbreviation "Ar" (Arab) as etymology of the words, to get the percentage of words which commonly used in current Malay speaking and writing. Also it attempted to calculate the percentage of both types of words which were fully absorbed in Malay language as model language (Arabic) and which words have undergone some changes by identifying the phonemic elements in the words. The analysis to the words will be done based on *Jawi* writing ("Jawi" is a term of Arab alphabet with some phoneme additions in Malay language) which has been applied in Malay language since Islamization in Malay Archipelago in early 14ᵗʰ century when Arabs came to trade and spread Islam religion. This study used a quantitative method. The data is collected from the premier Malay language dictionary, "*Kamus Dewan*". The words later were identified whether they were commonly used in present Malay language speaking and writing or not longer in used in nowadays Malay speaking and writing by examining the type of words, such as abbreviation "ark" (for archaic – ancient, no longer used) and "sl (for *sastera lama* – ancient literature). The words later were analyzed by its phonemic characteristic using Malay language-Jawi glossary, "*Daftar Kata Bahasa Melayu Rumi-Sebutan-Jawi*", and made comparison of the phonemes with its original phonemic words, Arabic dictionary, "*Mu'jam al-Wasit*". The words were further classified into typology classification "Fully Absorption" and "Partial Absorption" based on the phonemic changes. This research will classify the Arabic words in Malay language based on the specific categories which will be discussed later. The result of this research shows that there are 1791 Arabic borrowed words in Kamus Dewan i.e 6.25% of all base words in the dictionary. The result also shows that the Arabic borrowed words which were used commonly in current Malay speaking and writing are 1005 i.e. 56.1 % of all Arabic borrowing words in the dictionary. Based on the classification, the result shows that 708 words i.e. 70.4% were fully absorbed in the Malay language. Meanwhile, i.e 29.6%, 297 words are changed phonemically. The huge amount of Arabic loanword (70.4%) fully absorbed Arabic loanwords can help Arabic teachers to teach Arabic vocabulary in Arabic Language Education and Religion Education programmes.

Keywords: Absorption, Arabic, Borrowing Words, Learning Arabic, Malay Language

Introduction

L oanwords is a common phenomenon (Hoffer, 2002) and cannot be avoided (Abdulhafeth, 2014). It is closely related to community relations who speaks different languages (Eftekhar Sadat, 2014). Loanwords are words that have been adopted from foreign languages with little or no modification (Hironari, 2010). Franklin (2003) notes that "borrowing words from other languages is an important source of new words. Borrowing occurs when one language adds a new word or a morpheme from other language to its lexicon". Borrowing refers to the process of importing linguistic matters from one of the linguistic system of a language to the linguistic system of the other language. Haugen (1950) defines borrowing as "the attempted reproduction in one language of patterns previously found in another". According to Weinreich (1953), elements involved are referred to as "borrowing",

"absorption" or "exchange". While the languages that involved is referred to as "donor" and "recipient" according to their role.

However, not all loanwords between donor and recipient languages take place freely without undergoing rigorous modifications proved many studies (Mohana D.R, 2012). Previous authors state that the words had absorbed some absorption process and categorized based on degrees of absorption (see Haugen 1950, 1953; Smeaton, 1973; Ola Hafez, 1996; Repetti, 2009). When receiving of a new word, the language of the recipient will receive full with no changes if the donor languages have phonemic similarity. External elements are replaced with the same phoneme in inventory recipient language (Crawford, 2009).

In Malaysia, the Malay language are absorbing foreign languages, particularly Arabic (Beg, 1977). Ronkel (1977) and Amran (1987) said that Arab words have been spread widely and comprehended to varieties of knowledge. Jones (2008) stated that the influences of Arabs and Persian are related to Islam and spread in Malay Archipelago. A lot of Arabic words were borrowed for religious use (Shahimah, 2006) until the words have been absorbed as Malay lexicon (Puteri Roslina, 2012). Winford (2002) stated that as one of a group of Semitic languages, the Qur'an is written in Arabic language contributed to the development of the language itself. Abdulhafeth (2014) in his research said that many Arabic loan words are connected to Islam. One of the influence of Arabic and Islam in Malay world is the alphabet. According to Narguess Farzad (2012), Malay (Jawi) was among non-Semitic languages that written using the Arabic alphabet other than the Turkish Ottomans, Peshtu, Persian and Urdu.

This study examines the classification and percentages of absorption Arabic words which entered as entries in the *Kamus Dewan. Daftar Kata Bahasa Melayu* as Malay language glossary and *Mu'jam al-Wasit* as Arabic dictionary is used to analyze the comparison of phonemic aspects of words to classify them based on the typology of classification of absorption discussed.

Lexical Borrowing And Concept Of Absorption

Lexical borrowing is a main focus in language contact research (Treffers, 2007). This may well be due to the fact that lexical borrowing is frequent in the languages of the world. Hock (1986) said:

"Languages and dialects, however, do not exist in a vacuum. There always are at least some contacts with other languages or dialects. It is only are at least some contacts with other languages or dialects. It is only the degree of the contact which may differ from language to language or dialect to dialect. A very common result of linguistic contact is vocabulary or lexical borrowing".

Payne (2006) said that borrowing refers to "when speakers of a language treat a word, morpheme, or construction from another language as a lexical item in their own language". Weinreich (1953) points to the fact that words are more likely to be borrowed than structural elements, and states that "the vocabulary of a language, considerably more loosely structured than its phonemics or its grammar, is beyond question the domain of borrowing *par excellence*". Researchers agree that lexical borrowing is widespread in the languages of the world, but the existence of structural borrowing has been the subject of many debates (Treffers, 2007). Thomason and Kaufman (1988) define borrowing as follow:

"Borrowing is the incorporation of foreign features into a group's native language by speakers of that language: the native language is maintained but is changed by the addition of the incorporated features".

Absorption means assimilation (Thesaurus, 1986). Haugen (1953), a linguist who mostly interested in aspects of language borrowing research was used term "linguistic diffusion" in meaning of language absorption or borrowing. Aaron (2006) used term "absorb" in explaining on words which enter into the English vocabulary. He also said that some words are absorbed many times as he said: "*Algebra* began as the Arabic word *al-Jabr,* and then when introduced into Latin it was rewritten into "Algebra" where it remains. This word demonstrates how words are many times absorbed into English with only minor modification to fit the alphabet and phonetics structure."

Several ways have been elaborated for classifying the products of the process of borrowing (Heah, 1989). Bloomfield (1933) is one of the first studies in which an attempt is made at classifying lexical borrowing. Haugen (1950, 1953) and Weinreich (1953) further develop the typology of lexical borrowing. Haugen (1950) distinguishes different types of borrowing, based on the question of whether or not source language morphemes are imported into the borrowing and whether or not substitution of source language morphemes or phonemes by borrowing language elements occurs. Weinreich (1953) not only discusses lexical borrowing (or in his terminology: lexical interference), but also syntactic and phonological interference.

Research Methodology

This study is a quantitative analysis which is based on frequency, percentage and comparison. In terms of implementation, this study will use the method of content analysis. According to Krippendorff (1980), "content analysis is of developing a Methodology of its own that enables the researcher to plan, to communicate, and to critically evaluate a research design independent of its result." Studies of this type have proved to be a valuable research method in many research fields (Holsti, 1969). Content analysis conducted in this study to answer the research questions to meet the objectives of the study. According to Weber (1990), for carrying out the content analysis, the key step is to define the basic unit to be analyzed and how the units may be categorized. Method of content analysis is valid procedures conducted a study involving the analysis of the contents of the dictionary as a unit of analysis of the study to evaluate the absorption of Arabic words according to the classification of words.

Dictionary as a unit of analysis of this study is *Kamus Dewan (KD)* that contains Arabic words in Malay Language. The words further analyzed by a Malay Language- Jawi glossary, *Daftar Kata Bahasa Melayu Rumi-Sebutan-Jawi (DBKM)* that contains the Arabic spelling of words in Jawi writing. For the purposes of this study, some Arabic words which have been absorbed into the Malay language either marked with the abbreviation "Ar" in KD or not (because of its strong use of the Malay language) were calculated to obtain the frequencies and percentages. Further analysis of the types of absorption of whether these words have full absorption (spelling preserved) or change (spelling). At the end of the study, stated a comparative analysis between the dictionary and the glossary.

Dictionary As A Source Of Authoritative Words Of A Language

Armstrong (2005) state loaning as "*one of the ways in which a language reviews its lexicon*". Etymologically, the word dictionary derived from the Arabic word, namely *qamus* (*qawamus* plural form). Kridilaksana (1982) mentions that the dictionary is a reference book containing a list of words or combination of words with information about the various terms of its meaning and its use in the language, usually arranged alphabetically.

According to Asmah Omar (1987b), the history of the emergence of Malay lexicography in the form of bilingual and not monolingual indicate to us that the factors driving the emergence of Malay Dictionary is a desire to know the Malay language. In the 20th century the most bilingual Malay dictionary published is Malay-English dictionary and Malay-Arabic dictionary.

(1) Kamus Dewan (KD)

Kamus Dewan (KD) is the premier Malay language dictionary that was the first in Malaysia and published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka in 1970. In this dictionary, the addition of the words that are technical in nature have been made, including a general new word or phrase, whether the native Malays or borrowed, dialect word, slang words and the names of the people who are in Malaysia.

From the etymological point in this dictionary, stated: "the description of etymology is completely not given but merely to state the source language word which has seeped into the treasury of the Malay language but still feels its unfamiliar characteristics without considering of the status or level of the diffusivity words that related among language users. Limited information is expected to be the starting point of the research about the loanwords ".

Kamus Dewan is used in this research to identify the Arabic loanword by abbreviation labeled "Ar" beside the words.

(2) *Daftar Kata Bahasa Melayu Rumi-Sebutan-Jawi (DBKM)*

Second edition of *Daftar Kata Bahasa Melayu Rumi-Sebutan-Jawi (DKBM)* accomodates the entries and subentries more than 58,000 words, including more than 8200 additional words. Entry contained in DBKM is an entry that comes out from Third Edition *Kamus Dewan* and Fourth Edition *Kamus Dewan.* Moreover, DBKM also include certain words from *Daftar Ejaan Rumi* (1988) compiled by Zainal Abidin Ahmad (Za'ba) and *A Malay-English Dictionary* (1932) set by R.J Wilkinson and *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2008).

Spelling words in Jawi spelling listed in the book was based on a formula which is the Jawi Spelling System Guideline (*Pedoman Sistem Ejaan Jawi*) spelling system has been updated. In the part of Guideline Use of *Daftar Kata*, described about the guideline of spelling words of Rumi and the Jawi Spelling of the loanword.

(3) Mu'jam al-Wasit

Al-Mu'jam al-Wasit (MW) is an Arabic language dictionary published by *Majma' al-Lughah al-Arabiyyah* (Arabic Language Academy), Egypt. The monolingual dictionary which have been published for the first time in 1960 and the third edition in 1998 consists the entries which explained its meaning in the same language. This dictionary is more systematic than other Arabic dictionary by its method of words chosen.

Mu'jam al-Wasit used in this research to identify and compare the spelling of Arabic loanword in Malay language. This dictionary is intended as reference to identify Arabic words in its original spelling compared to Malay Jawi spelling in DBKM.

Analysis On Arabic Loanwords In *Kamus Dewan (Kd)*

The data from the KD is given below. Table 1 lists the numbers of the total and the   percentage of Arabic loanwords in KD compared with the total words in KD.

Table 1: Total and percentage (%) of Arabic Loanwords in KD and the total of Words in KD

	Total	Percentage (%)
Arabic Loanwords in KD	1791	6.25
Words In KD	28,000	100.00

Table 1 shows that the total of Arabic loanwords are 1791 which equally 6.25% of the total words in KD. It shows an enormous of Arabic loanwords in Malay language.

Even there are 1791 of Arabic loanwords in KD, this study will focus only on the words that used commonly in Malay speaking and writing. Table 2 below shows that there are 1005 words that used commonly in Malay speaking and writing.

Table 2: Total and percentage (%) of Arabic Loanwords that are used commonly in Malay language compared with the total of Arabic loanwords in KD

	Total	Percentage (%)
Words Studied/ Commonly used	1005	56.1
Arabic Loanwords In KD	1791	100.00

Table 2 shows that 1005 Arabic loanwords which equally 56.1% of total Arabic loanwords are the words which commonly used in Malay speaking and writing. This data means that the only 1005 words will be examined by researcher.

Table 3: "Fully Absorption" words and "Partial Absorption" words

Loanwords Classifications	Total	Percentage (%)
Fully Absorption	708	70.4
Partial Absorption	297	29.6

The Table 3 shows that total of Fully Absorption Arabic loanwords are 708 equally 70.4% compared to Partial Absorption Arabic loanwords which shows less words which is 297 words (29.6%). This shows that the word which not integrated at all much more more than the words that have some adaptation.

Discussion

Table 1 shows that the Arabic loanword consists 1791 words which is 6.25% of all the words in KD. The total of 1791 Arabic loanword shows that there are a lot of Arabic words which were absorbed in Malay language system when the Arabs trader and missionary came to Malay Archipelago to trade goods and spread the Islam religion. In the contact with the citizen, Arabs "transferred" the language and the citizen (mostly Malay) absorbed the language to speak the terms especially Islam-related terms. Asmah Omar (1987a) and Nik Safiah Karim (2003) said that Arabic loanwords are mostly related with religion.

Table 2 shows that the words which used commonly in Malay speaking and writing are 1005 words which is 56.1% of all of the Arabic loanwords in KD. The total of 56.1% shows that there are 43.9% that the Arabic loanword not commonly used in current Malay speaking and writing. This means that almost half of the Arabic loanwords that stated in KD were not used in current Malay speaking and writing. This is probably because of some of the words are "classic" words and were used in early of Islamization in Malay Archipelago in early 14th century. The words were not longer used in current speaking and writing. In the *Kamus Dewan* (KD) First Edition (1970), stated that some of words (particularly classic words) in the dictionary were chosen from *A Malay English Dictionary* written by R.J Wilkinson and some classic books and novels. *Kamus Dewan* Third Edition also state the same when it stated that there are some (Arabic) words that are very less known in Malay speaking and writing like "*alwah*" (woods).

In the perspective of Arabic language education, the Arabic loanwords which used in everyday Malay speaking will make the Arabic language learning easier. The Arabic language teachers can use the everyday Arabic loanwords to increase the understanding of meaning of the words upon students, and therefore can increase the vocabulary of the language. As said by Krashen (1981) about acquisation theory of the language, "*first or second, occurs when comprehension of real messages occurs…Classrooms help when they provide the comprehensible input that the acquirer is going to receive*".

Table 3 shows that Fully Absorption Arabic loanwords are much higher which is 708 equally 70.4% compared to Partial Absorption which 297 words, which is 29.6%. Based on KD, some "words" are not integrated at all "so that the particular meaning of the words could be maintained". This aspect further mentioned: "this strategy is compatible with the available words in Malay language "morphemically" lexicon on specific justification like (words) Allah (god), *assalamualaikum* ("peace be upon you")(*Kamus Dewan*, 2005).

The total of 70.4% fully absorption Arabic loanwords compared to 29.6% Partial Absorption Arabic loanwords can help Arabic teachers to teach Arabic vocabulary as the words were taught by Religion Education teacher when he/she teaches the words in Jawi alphabet. The 29.6% of Partial Absorption Arabic loanwords were taught by some systematic methods such as whether the words were inserted vowel into any syllable of the words.

Conclusion

Absorption of Arabic words into the Malay language has caused these words have adapted the system to suit the Malay language or phonemic pronunciation Malays. Adaptation involves changes both in terms of consonant or vowel word. However, there are also words that do not change; as set out in the Kamus Dewan. Introduction to these

words in terms of retention or changes very important to ensure that these words are written correctly and accurately either in Rumi generally and Jawi particularly.

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