

The Phonology of Kerinci Name Adaptation

This paper investigates the phonological adaptation of names in two traditional Kerinci dialects: Tanjung Pauh (TP) and Rawang (RW). Kerinci is a Malayic language spoken in Jambi Province, Sumatra. In the core dialects of Kerinci (which include TP and RW), roots underwent dramatic phonological changes historically. These changes primarily affected the shape of final syllables. As the following examples illustrate, there are considerable phonological differences between dialects.

1) Some roots in Kerinci ¹

Proto-rime	Koto Pudung	Koto Tuo	Tanjung Pauh	Gloss
*-is	gado ^{ht}	gadoyh	gad ^Λ eh	‘girl’ (SI gadis)
*-u	anaŋ	anam	(a)n ^Λ o	‘thing’ (SI anu)
*-am	gahuy	gahuy ^a	gahi	‘salt’ (SI garam)
*-ut	mulaŋk	mulamp	mulak	‘mouth’ (SI mulut)

Kerinci speakers employ various strategies in adapting names. In TP and RW, adaptation involves phonological mutation of the final syllable rime. The following show the adapted forms of some common Indonesian names in TP:

1) Adapted names

Indonesian	TP Kerinci	Change in final rime	
Adam	[adi]	-am	→ -i
Khaidir	[kid ^y Λe]	-ir	→ -Λe
Guntur	[gunt ^w Λo]	-ur	→ -Λo
Jamal	[yami]	-al	→ -i
Bambang	[bambiŋ]	-aŋ	→ -iŋ
Gayus	[gayiwh]	-us	→ -iwh
Amit	[amit]	-it	→ -it
Salim	[salin]	-im	→ -in

We provide a full description of adaptation strategies in RW and TP, two dialects which show substantially different phonological properties. We also develop a phonological analysis relating name adaptation to the broader phonotactic properties of Kerinci.

¹ Most lexical roots in TP, RW and other core dialects of Kerinci exhibit two morphological forms which are distinguished by the shape of their final syllable, all forms listed here appear in the so-called ‘absolute’ form (c.f. Steinhauer & Usman, 1978 inter alia).

Steinhauer, H., and A. Hakim Usman (1978) "Notes on the Morphemics of Kerinci (Sumatra)",
in: S.A. Wurm and Lois Carrington (eds.), *Second International Conference on
Austronesian Linguistics. Fascicle I. Western Austronesian. Pacific Linguistics C-61*:
483-502.