

Indonesian Words in *Basa Walikan Malangan*

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Abstract: This research examines Indonesian lexicons that are used in *Basa Walikan Malangan* (BWM), by focusing on their usage in comparison to the Javanese counterparts, as well as their phonology and phonotactics. *Basa* is Javanese for *Bahasa*, or language, and *Walikan* refers to the reversal process in the language. BWM is often described as a colloquial variety of East Javanese dialect, as it is spoken in Malang, a city where *Ngoko* East Javanese is the primary medium of informal communications. However, BWM mixes lexicons of different origins: Malang Javanese, local variety of Indonesian, English, Arabic, Chinese, and few others. As an illustration, Javanese words like *mlaku* (to walk) is changed into *uklam*; Indonesian word *makan* (to eat) is pronounced backwards as *nakam*; and English words such as *slow* is conveniently reversed into *woles*.

Particularly interested in the Indonesian lexicons used in BWM, this research explores a list of words in BWM originating from Indonesian (see Table 1). It aims at describing how these words are incorporated in the variety and why they are more preferable to their East Javanese equivalents. Some Indonesian words are unexpectedly used as the only acceptable forms in BWM, for example, /litʃək/ 'small' is derived from Indonesian word /kətʃil/. BWM does not approve the reversal of East Javanese word /tʃiliʔ/ into /kitʃil/. On the contrary, BWM also has words originated from Indonesian which are used side by side with their East Javanese equivalents. /ubləm/, derived from Javanese /mləbu/, is used interchangeably with /raulək/, which originates from Indonesian /kəluar/. Both words denote similar meaning: 'to exit'. There are also BWM words like /kera/, taken from East Javanese /arəʔ/, and /kana/, derived from Indonesian /anaʔ/, which can both literally mean 'kid'. However, /kera/ carries more metaphoric meaning than /kana/; the latter is mostly used to refer to small or biological child. Finally, the study explains the phonological rules employed during the reversal process of these Indonesian words; it attempts to observe to what extent Indonesian or Javanese phonology and phonotactics influence the process.

Keywords: *youth language, backwards language, East Javanese dialect, Indonesian*

Table 1. *Basa Walikan Malangan* Words Originated from Indonesian (adapted from Hoogervorst 2013:14)

BWM	Local Indonesian	Meaning	East Javanese Equivalent	Disapproved forms of BWM
/hamur/	/rumah/	'house'	/ɔmah/	*hamɔ
/rudit/	/tidur/	'to sleep'	/turu/	*urut
/unjap/	/punja/	'to have'	/duwe/	*ewud
/libɔm/	/mɔbil/	'car'	/mɔntɔr/	*rɔntɔm

References:

Hoogervorst, Tom. 2013. Youth Culture and Urban Pride: The Sociolinguistics of East Javanese Slang. *Wacana*, 15(1), 104-130.