

Malay Loanword Adaptation in Japanese

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As commonly known, lexical borrowings will lead to phonological changes which involved alteration in the phonology of the loanwords. The underlying motivation of phonological alteration is that the borrowed words have to conform to the phonology of the native language. If the words do not comply, 'repair strategies' are applied in order to make them compatible to the native words. This phenomenon is generally dubbed as loanword adaptation, and has been considered a source of evidence about the phonological grammar of the recipient language. Accordingly, this paper aims to examine the phonology of Malay loanwords adaptation in Japanese. The data used in the study are secondary data gathered from the *Senyum* magazines which are written in Japanese and published in Malaysia. Based on the available data, repair strategies involved segmental and prosodic changes. Alteration in the former is triggered by phonemic and phonotactic constraints, whereas in the latter it is instigated by syllable structure constraints. Instances of segmental changes are (i) consonant /l/ becomes [r], (ii) vowel /ə/ becomes [u], (iii) /si/ becomes [fi], and (iv) /tə/ becomes [te]. Prosodic changes involved vowel lengthening and vowel epenthesis.

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