

## **SEMANTIC CHANGE OF LOAN WORDS IN PADANG EKSPRES DAILY NEWSPAPER**

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### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan kata pinjaman di Bahasa Indonesia, asal katanya dan juga perubahan makna pada kata pinjaman tersebut. Data pada penelitian ini adalah seluruh kata pinjaman yang terdapat pada harian Padang Ekspres edisi April 2013. Metode penelitian yang digunakan yaitu metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kata pinjaman di Bahasa Indonesia berasal dari Bahasa Arab, Belanda, Cina, Inggris, Jepang, Portugis dan Sansekerta. Selain itu juga ditemukan beberapa perubahan makna pada kata pinjaman tersebut. Perubahan makna ini bisa dikelompokkan pada sifat alami perubahan maknanya, yaitu *metaphor* dan *metonymy*; atau berdasarkan akibatnya, yaitu *extension of meaning*, *restriction of meaning*, *amelioration* dan *pejoration*.

Kata Kunci: *Semantics, Semantic Change, Loan Words, Newspaper*

### **A. Introduction**

Every aspect of human life must face evolution. As one of the aspects of human life, language also faces evolution. Schendl (2001) says there are four changes in language level and changes on one level of language may influence and trigger the change of another level. The changing of language are in sound change, vocabulary change, semantic change and grammatical change. Borrowing word from the other languages is one of the ways to enrich vocabulary in *Bahasa Indonesia* and borrowing word is one of the strategies in vocabulary change. Borrowing word is also known as loan words. Based on Kemmer (2011), loan word is word adopted by the speaker of a language from another language or source language.

Borrowing words from the other languages can be seen based on the contact of the languages. Bloomfield (2005) divides two kinds of borrowing based on the words being integrated to the target language. They are cultural borrowing, in which happens when the borrowed features come from different language by trade activity, science, technology and religion, and intimate

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borrowing, in which occurs when two languages are used in one topographically or politically speech community such as conquest and migration. Based on the contact in the history, Jones (2007) states the main donor languages of loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* are Arabic, Chinese, Dutch English, Hindi, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Sanskrit and Tamil.

In some cases, when words are borrowed, their forms or meanings sometimes change. A loan word meaning can be completely different from the original one. As the result, people in Indonesia will have their own definition about a word from foreign language and when they want to use it in its native word context, it will create problems. The change of meaning can be seen in the nature of semantic change and also in the results of semantic change. According to Riemer (2010), there are two types of the nature of semantic change, they are metaphor and metonymy. The change of meaning in metaphor is based on the similarity or analogy of something. The similarity or analogy of the words can be from the function, position, shape or color. In metonymy, the change of meaning is seen based on the relation of association. The meaning of a word in metonymy shifts to another word which has contiguous meaning.

McMahon (1999) adds four types of semantic change which can be categorized into the type of results of semantic change. They are extension of meaning, restriction of meaning, pejoration and amelioration. Extension of meaning is the process of making a word meaning becomes more general rather than its original one. On the other hand, restriction of meaning is the process of making a word meaning becomes more specific than its original one. The other two types of semantic change, pejoration and amelioration, are the process to change the sense of the words. In pejoration, it is the process to make a word meaning becomes worse than its original one while amelioration is the process to make a word meaning becomes better than the previous one.

The change of meaning can be seen in the word *travel* in the sentence:

*Ratusan travel liar berhasil dijaring.*  
“Hundreds of illegal travels have been arrested”.

The word *travel* in the example above refers to cars. In this case, only Indonesian people can understand that meaning because the meaning of that word on its origin language is very different from the meaning in that example. Although some people know the usage of that word in that context is wrong, they cannot blame the people who use the word like that. It also seems funny when the real meaning of that word in *Bahasa Indonesia* does still exist so that it creates ambiguity. We can see it in example:

*Penumpang yang tidak puas mendatangi agen-agen travel.*  
“Unsatisfied passengers come to travel agents.”

The word *travel*, on the other hand; has different meaning from the first example. The meaning of the word is similar with the real meaning in the original language. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word *travel* means “go from one place to another; or go at a particular speed or in a particular direction”. As a result, one loan word can create different meaning in the different context.

However, the meaning change of loan words does not only happen because one word has bundle of meanings. The meaning may shift to another

meaning because of the speakers' environment; it can be caused by the lack of knowledge about the real meaning or just to show the high prestige. For example in *Bahasa Indonesia*, *real estate* often refers to luxurious residence. *Real estate* is borrowed from English and according to Oxford Dictionary, *real estate* means "property in the form of land and buildings; or business of selling houses or land". In its original language, *real estate* can be used to all types of the house. In Indonesia, it cannot be used to all types of the house, but only to specific kind of house. The meaning of the word *real estate* becomes narrow or can be said it gets the restriction meaning process.

Based on the explanation above, it is interesting to study about semantic change of loan words. The data of this research itself were taken from *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper. There are few reasons of choosing *Padang Ekspres*. The first is there are a lot of loan words from many fields in *Padang Ekspres* because this newspaper talks about many topics on its news. There are politics, economics, humanitarian, sports, gossips and many more. This newspaper also belongs to *Jawa Pos* Group, as a consequence there are also several loan words from Javanese and since the office of the newspaper is in West Sumatera, there are also several words from Minangkabau. As a result, loan words in *Padang Ekspres* are not only from foreign languages but also it can be from local languages.

The purpose for doing this research are (i) To find out the loan words and source languages of loan words in *Padang Ekspres* published on April 2013 edition, (ii) to find out the most source language of loan words in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper published on April 2013 edition and (iii) to find out the types of semantic change of loan words used in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper published on April 2013 edition.

## **B. Research Methods**

This research is a kind of descriptive qualitative research because this research describes and explains about the types of semantic change in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper. Key (1997) states descriptive research is used to get information concerning status of phenomena to describe what happens in a condition or situation. This research also describes the types of semantic change by exploring the concept or phenomenon.

The data of this research were all of loan words found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper which published on April 2013 edition and consists of 30 editions. There were several instruments for collecting the data. They were writing equipment such as pen, paper/book, and ruler. Then, check list table were also be needed to arrange the data. To make easier in analyzing the data, some indicators based on the theory were formulated.

The data were collected by reading the newspaper to find out the loan words. Then, the loan words were identified by highlighting them with using neon colored pen (*stabilo*). After all of the loan words were marked, the data were tabulated into the table and after that the data were analyzed.

## **C. Findings and Discussion**

There are 683 loan words were found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper published on April 2013 edition and consists of 30 editions. There were only 52 of 683 loan words got semantic change process.

**Table 1. Loan Words and Source Languages of Loan Words Found in Padang Ekspres Daily Newspaper.**

No.	Source Languages of Loan Words	Total	Percentage
1	Arabic	42	6.2%
2	Chinese	5	0.7%
3	Dutch	262	38.4%
4	English	298	43.6%
5	Japanese	8	1.2%
6	Portuguese	18	2.6%
7	Sanskrit	50	7.3%
Total		683	100%

Table 1 shows the findings of loan words in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper. There were 683 loan words which borrowed from several languages. They were 42 (6.2%) of loan words from Arabic, 5 (0.7%) from Chinese, 262 (38.4%) from Dutch, 298 (43.6%) from English, 8 (1.2%) from Japanese, 18 (2.6%) from Portuguese and 50 (7.3%) from Sanskrit.

There were seven donor languages of loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* that were found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper. Loan words from English and Arabic can be classified into cultural borrowing. The first is the word *monitor* which is usually used in technological term. Most of English loan words were related to science and technology. It can be seen in the sample above in the word *monitor* which was adopted from the same word. However, Arabic loan words can be classified into cultural borrowings because it is related to religion. Since the majority of people in Indonesia are Muslim, the contact between *Bahasa Indonesia* and Arabic happens in the religious activity. The word *fatwa* is usually used only by Muslim people.

Loan words from Sanskrit, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and Dutch are the types of intimate borrowings. Netherlands, Japanese and Portugal were conquering Indonesia long time ago, as the result there were contacts between *Bahasa Indonesia* and languages from those three countries. Loan words from Dutch are usually found in government terms. The word *birokrasi* was used to explain how the government works. Loan words from Portuguese are also similar with the loan words in Dutch. They are borrowed in the government terminology; it can be seen in the word *sekolah*. However, since Japanese only conquered Indonesia in short period of time, there are not many loan words from Japanese that can be found in *Bahasa Indonesia*. The loan words from Japanese are borrowed recently and only to enrich vocabulary in *Bahasa Indonesia*. The word *tsunami* has become popular in 2004 after a disaster in Aceh. After that, people in Indonesia more familiar to say big wave after earthquake with *tsunami* rather than *ombak besar*.

Loan words from Sanskrit and Chinese are found in *Bahasa Indonesia* because of migration. Sanskrit was used long time ago when there were a lot of kingdoms such as *Sriwijaya*, *Majapahit*, *Tarumanegara* and so on still ruled Indonesia. Those kingdoms belief were Hindu and brought Sanskrit from India. Because of the process of borrowing words happened long time ago, most of people in Indonesia do not realize a Sanskrit loan word is borrowed from Sanskrit. It can be seen in the word *menteri* which is used in the government terminology. The last is the word *taipan* which is fully adopted from Chinese

into *Bahasa Indonesia*. Chinese loan word is brought by the Chinese people who migrated and lived in Indonesia. Since Chinese people have the freedom to express their existence, most of their culture and also their language become more familiar to Indonesian people which make people begin to accept them and the language contact happened.

Based on the finding, the most source language of loan words found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper was borrowed from English. Kemmer (2011) explains the process of making foreign word becomes loan word in a language. When a word from foreign language is frequently expressed and becomes more common for native, then that word can be called as loan words. As international language, English has contact with many languages in the world, including *Bahasa Indonesia*. The numbers of speakers who can speak English compared to the number of the other foreign languages speakers make the words in English become more common for Indonesian people.

The finding of this research supports the finding of two previous researches which found the most source language of loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* is from English. The research by Widyaningsih (2010) says most of the data that she found were in English loan words. That is because she focused on the sport terminology and most of the sport terminologies nowadays are from English since the rules of the sport and terms are used internationally. Then, the research by Susilowati (2012) also found most of the loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* were borrowed from English. She also focused on specific topics only. However, the research about semantic change of loan words did not only find the loan words from English and this research did not only focus of to the specific topic only.

**Table 2. The Nature of Semantic Change Found in *Padang Ekspres* Daily Newspaper**

No.	Nature of Semantic Change	Total	Percentage
1	Metaphor	27	52%
2	Metonymy	25	48%
Total		52	100%

Table 2 shows the finding in the nature of semantic change. Metaphor had the biggest meaning change of loan words by 27 (52%) of loan words which have semantic change process and there were 25 (48%) of loan words which have semantic change process in the metonymy.

The sample of metaphor is the word *amunisi* which is borrowed from Dutch *ammunitie*. This word was taken from the sentence “*Kebutuhan PSMS versi PT Liga Indonesia akan hadirnya amunisi baru untuk putaran kedua Divisi Utama akan segera terpenuhi*”. The original meaning of the word *ammunitie* in Dutch is a supply of bullets to be fired from guns or the information that can be used against another person in an argument. However, in the sentence italicized above, the meaning of the word *amunisi* becomes football players. The word *amunisi* is categorized into the type of metaphor because the word *amunitie* which means bullet that is usually used to attack or even kill somebody changes become football players that are the analogy of function of bullets in a football club on the field that are used to win the game.

The sample of metonymy is the word *logat* which is borrowed from Arabic *lughah*. The word *logat* was taken from the sentence “*Saksi mata mengatakan dari logatnya bisa disimpulkan bahwa pelaku bukanlah warga pribumi*”. The original meaning of the word *lughah* in Arabic is language. However, in *Bahasa Indonesia* the meaning of the word *logat* changes into dialect or accent. The word *logat* belongs to metonymy because dialect or accent is the part of language. The meaning of the word *logat* in *Bahasa Indonesia* can be said has contiguity and association meaning with the other concept in *Bahasa Indonesia*. It makes the word *logat* can be classified into the type of metonymy.

**Table 3. Results of Semantic Change Found in Padang Ekspres Daily Newspaper**

No.	Results of Semantic Change	Total	Percentage
1	Extension of Meaning	32	62%
2	Restriction of Meaning	10	19.2%
3	Pejoration	6	11.1%
4	Amelioration	4	7.7%
Total		52	100%

Table 3 is the finding in the results of semantic change. Most of the change of meaning of loan words process found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper was extension of the meaning. It can be proved with the amount of the loan words which got this process. There were 32 (62%) of loan words that got extension of the meaning process. Restriction of meaning is the second type of semantic change loan words found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper with 10 (19.2%) of loan words. Then, there were 6 (11.1%) of loan words found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper and can be categorized into the type of pejoration. The last type of semantic change is amelioration with 4 (7.7%) of loan words.

The sample of the extension of meaning is the word *alumnus* which is borrowed from English as adoption of the same word *alumnus*. This word was taken from the sentence “*Alumnus Universitas Catolica Argentina tersebut (refers to Queen Maxima from Holland) merasa lebih nyaman menggunakan busana formal atau semi-formal*”. In its original language, the word *alumnus* is used to differentiate the former male and female student of a school, college or university. English people use the word *alumnus* as the pointing to the male students and the word *alumna* to refer to the female one. However, in *Bahasa Indonesia* the word *alumnus* is used to the entire former students without differentiate their gender. As the result, the meaning of the word *alumnus* becomes more general in *Bahasa Indonesia* and makes this word can be classified into the type of extension of meaning.

Restriction of the meaning can be seen in the word *madrasah* which is also borrowed from Arabic *madrasa*. This datum was taken from the sentence “*Sekolah dan madrasah negeri harus bisa menghasilkan lulusan yang berkualitas*”. The process of narrowing the meaning of the word *madrasah* is almost similar with the previous datum. The original meaning of the word *madrasa* is all school in general. However, the word *madrasah* in *Bahasa Indonesia* only can be used to refer to Islamic school. The pre existence of the word *sekolah* which has the same meaning with *madrasa* makes the word

*madrrasah* only can be used in the specific context in *Bahasa Indonesia* rather than in the original language. It can be said the meaning of the word *madrrasah* restricts into Islamic school in *Bahasa Indonesia*.

The sample of pejoration is in the word *sindikat* which comes from Dutch *syndicaat*. The original meaning of the word *syndicaat* is a group of companies or people who work together and help each other in order to achieve a particular aim. However, the meaning of the word *sindikat* in *Bahasa Indonesia* becomes worse than its original meaning. The sentence “*Polsekta Padang Selatan membongkar sindikat jambret yang beraksi di kawasan Padang Selatan, Padang Timus dan Naggalo*” shows the change of meaning. In its original meaning the word *syndicaat* has neutral meaning, but in *Bahasa Indonesia* the word *sindikat* has negative meaning than the original one. In *Bahasa Indonesia*, the word *sindikat* can be used only to call a group of criminal, while in its native language the word *syndicaat* is not only can be used to call a group of criminal.

The sample for the type of amelioration is the word the word *invasi* which is borrowed from Dutch *invasie*. The original meaning of the word *invasie* in Dutch is the fact of a large number of people or things arriving somewhere, especially people or things that are disturbing or unpleasant. The word *invasie* is usually used to say an unexpected action when a military forces or even a country comes to another country to colonize that country or area. However, in the sentence “*Suzuki Ertiga invasi Padang*”, the meaning of the word *invasi* in *Bahasa Indonesia* becomes better. In that sentence, the meaning of the word *invasi* does not bring negative meaning anymore because it has changed into to promote products by sending them in large number to a place. The word *invasie* in Dutch loses its negative meaning since in *Bahasa Indonesia* it has changed into the better one.

There are several reasons why the meaning of loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* tends to change to the new one. Indonesian people want to show the high level status of people in the society by using foreign languages. Recently, Indonesian people prefer to use foreign words from foreign languages rather than their native language to show they are more educated than the other people. However, they are not really mastering those foreign languages which create the meaning of the loan words changes into the new one.

The lack of knowledge of *Bahasa Indonesia* speakers makes loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* become more general rather than on its original language. When borrowing words from the other languages, people in Indonesia usually only know the meaning of those words in general without knowing those words can be used only for specific context. The lack of knowledge of *Bahasa Indonesia* speakers also creates the meaning of loan words becomes better or worse. However, making the meaning of the loan words becomes better is more often rather than making the meaning of the loan words becomes worse. This is supported the theory by Cruse (2006) who says the change of meaning from the worse into the better one is rarer happen rather than in the pejoration process.

The pre existence of another word which has similar meaning with the new one also blocks the loan words from foreign languages get its place in *Bahasa Indonesia*. Usually, the kinds of loan words which get this process do not enrich the vocabulary in *Bahasa Indonesia*. It makes the loan words can be used in the specific context only. There are many Arabic loan words belong to the type of restriction of meaning. This happens because Arabic loan words are often related to Islam terminology and *Bahasa Indonesia* already has another word to express

something or concept in those Arabic loan words. As the result, the meaning of those Arabic loan words become narrow than the original one.

This research is different with the previous research that had already been conducted. First, Adriani (2005) did the research entitled “Morphophonemic Analysis of Loan Words as Found in Editorial of Daily *Media Indonesia*”. She wanted to find out the change of pronunciation and word formation of loan words from English in *Bahasa Indonesia*. However, this research is not only to find out the loan words from English, but also from the other languages that found in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper. Then, Merina (2009) conducted the research with title “The Coining of Borrowing Words in the Process of word Formation Found in *Pulsa* Tabloid”. The data of her research were only the borrowing words related to handphone, while the data of this research were all of loan words that found in more general topic. Overall, the topic of these three researches is similar, to study about loan words. However, the purpose of this research is to find out the loan words and also the change of meaning of the loan words in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper.

#### **D. Conclusion and Suggestions**

The loan words in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper are from Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Japanese, Portuguese and Sanskrit. English is the most source language because English is an international language. Nowadays, many people in Indonesia have better knowledge for English rather than for the other source languages. However, not all of English loan words in Indonesia are truly borrowed from English. Dutch, as the language which also belongs to Latin origin like English, had contact with *Bahasa Indonesia* long time ago before English gets contact with *Bahasa Indonesia*. This often creates misunderstanding in *Bahasa Indonesia* speakers which say a loan word is borrowed from English, although in fact it is borrowed from Dutch.

It is also found that not all of loan words in *Bahasa Indonesia* bring the same meaning with the original one. The change of meaning of the loan words can be classified into the nature of semantic change, such as metaphor and metonymy, or into the results of semantic change, such as extension of meaning, restriction of meaning, pejoration and amelioration. The meaning of the loan words tend to change because of Indonesian people think using loan words is more prestigious rather than using *Bahasa Indonesia*. Beside that, the lack of knowledge about the meaning of the loan words makes the loan words can be used in the different context rather than in its original language. The pre existence of another word which has similar meaning with the loan word blocks the new loan word has its place in *Bahasa Indonesia*.

Since this research is done just to find out the loan words and the loan words which get semantic change process in *Padang Ekspres* daily newspaper by classifying them into several types of semantic change, it is suggested for the further researcher to continue the research. There are a lot of loan words that get semantic change process that are not found yet. It is expected for the next researcher to find out the other loan words which get semantic change process. It can be from the other newspaper, magazine, movie script, news recording, daily conversation or the other media that can become the source of data.



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