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Morphophonemic Phenomenon in Larantuka Malay Language East Flores District, Indonesia

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A B S T R A C T

This article examines morphonemic phenomenon in Larantuka Malay (LM). This research uses the qualitative descriptive method and data was collected using the proficient observation method. The results of data analysis show that the morphonemic phenomenon in LM includes phoneme deletion, such as the release of a consonant sound at the end of a word, deletion at the beginning of a word, deletion of sound at the end and change of vowel sound, the release and change of the vowel sound, release of initial, final and changes in final sound, dropping of sounds at the end and replacement of vowel, elimination of consonant at the beginning and end, replacement of nasal, the release of the consonant sound /h/ phoneme change such as change in vowel phoneme, change in consonant, change in sound and elimination of phoneme, release of sound as a contraction, loss of, change, and addition of sound, and monophthongization.

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INTRODUCTION

Language skills, the ability to communicate with other people, indicate that humans are homo communicus or homo communicant creatures (DroŜdŜ, 2009). As homo communicant creatures, humans really need a means of communication called language. Language is structured using words arranged in certain orders in the form of meaningful sentences. The sentences spoken or heard always consist of words or groups of words. There are no sentences without words, or vice versa, there are no words without sentences. In other words, it is the words used to construct the sentence that is spoken.

In relation to language, Devianty (2017), Fernandez, F. X. Edmundus, Elisna Huan, (2023) states that language is a means of communication between members of society in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech organs. This states that language covers two areas. First, the sound produced by the speech apparatus and the meaning or meaning implied in the sound stream itself. The sound is a vibration that strikes the ear. Second, meaning, namely the content contained in the sound stream which causes a reaction to what is heard. Thus, the sound flow is called the speech flow.

Larantuka Malay, hereinafter abbreviated to LM, is a Malay-based creole language spoken by speakers in the cities of Larantuka and Konga, East Flores and Wure districts in the western mainland of Adonara Island (Paauw, 2008; Steinhauer, 1991). BML speakers still maintain a separate cultural and linguistic identity from the Lamaholot speakers around the city. Larantuka Malay is used as the main language in daily life by the majority of Larantuka City residents. The Larantuka Malay language is referred to as 'Bahasa Nagi', a name that comes from the word nagi meaning 'village' (Sanskrit). Nagi is also the name for the cities and ethnic groups that speak the language.

Referring to the previous description, it can be concluded that it may belong to the Austronesian language family. Larantuka Malay or Nagi is the language used by the Larantuka people. The speakers are found in the cities of Larantuka and Konga, in East Flores and Wure (West Adonara) districts. As a creole language, a number of LM vocabulary was absorbed from Portuguese (Fernandez, 2020) and Lamaholot.

Larantuka Malay, as Kupang Malay, Ambon Malay and Bacan Malay, has left behind original Malay characteristics. The reason is that Larantuka City has become a meeting place for many speakers of various regional languages. Larantuka Malay has become a language with a large amount of vocabulary absorbed from Lamaholot speakers with various dialects, Kedang language, Bugis language, Portuguese and Dutch. The absorption of various words from many languages makes the LM morphonemic phenomenon interesting to study. This article focuses on the morphonemic processes of Larantuka Malay. Demon (2022) states that every language has differences and similarities in its linguistic system. This is based on the assumption that the languages used by humans throughout the world originate from a common ancestor. However, there are phenomena that are unique to each language. Morphophonemic processes are a universal phenomenon, meaning that all languages have this phenomenon (Demon, 2006; Demon, 2017).

As a universal phenomenon that occurs in many languages, Larantuka Malay also has a number of morphonemic processes that are very interesting to explored and study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This morphophonemic study is at the level of phonology and morphology. The morphophonemic process is the event of a change in morphemic form in a morphological process, whether affixation, reduplication, composition or internal modification (Demon,2023). In relation to morphonemics, Ramlan (2009) states that morphophonemics is a change in phonemes that arises due to the meeting of one morpheme and another.

As stated by Ramlan, Verhaar (2008,2016) also claims that morphophonemics is a rule that adjusts the forms of allomorphs phonemically. Furthermore, Chaer (2015) said that morphophonemics (also called morphonology or morphophonogy) is the study of sound changes or phoneme changes as a result of morphological processes, both affixation processes, reduplication processes, and composition processes. Kridalaksana (2009) groups morphonemics into ten types of morphophonemic processes in Indonesian, namely: (1) phoneme emergence, (2) phoneme maintenance, (3) phoneme emergence and retention, (4) phoneme shift, (5) change and shift phoneme, (6) phoneme decay, (7) phoneme decay, (8) historical phoneme insertion, (9) appearance of phonemes based on foreign language patterns, (10) variations in source language phonemes. In contrast to Kridalaksana, Tarigan (2009) divides the morphophonemic process into three, namely the process of changing phonemes, adding phonemes, and dating phonemes.

METHODOLOGY

The approach used in this research is the qualitative descriptive approach (Moleong, 2017; Sugiyono, 2013,). The data was collected using the listening and speaking methods. These two methods are equipped with proficient involved listening techniques, proficient non-involved listening techniques, face-to-face proficient techniques, as the basic techniques and refined with the recording technique and note-taking technique as the advanced techniques. The data was collected through direct communicative interaction and written form from sentences or phrases in Malay Larantuka into Indonesian. Oral data was collected through recording discussions between the informants and the writer. The data was analyzed using the data analysis models such as data collection, data reduction, and drawing conclusion (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The presentation of the results of data analysis uses the informal method.

RESEARCH RESULT

The results of data analysis show that the morphonemic processes in LM include (1) sound loss, such as loss of consonant sounds at the beginning of words, loss of consonant sounds at the end of words, loss of consonant sounds at the beginning and end of words, loss of consonant sounds at the end of words and change in the vowel phoneme /u / to the vowel phoneme /o/, the loss of

the consonant sound at the end of the word and the change of the vowel sound /i/ to the vowel sound /e/, the release of the initial consonant sound, and change in the final sound, the loss of the final consonant sound of a word and the replacement of a nasal vowel sound, and the loss of the initial consonant sound, and the replacement of a nasal sound, (2) Sound changes, such as changes in vowel sounds, changes in consonant sounds, (3) changes in sound and loss of sound resulting from contraction (shortening), (4) loss of sound resulting from contraction (shortening), loss, change in sound and addition of sound due to contraction (shortening) and (5) sound changes resulting from monodifthongization.

The morphonemic process in LM includes several phenomena such as loss, change, sound replacement, contraction and monodifthongization. Discussion of morphonemic phenomena in LM can be observed in the following description.

Sound Deletion

Sound loss is the loss of sound either at the beginning or at the end of a morphological form in a morphological process. This sound release includes a sound release at the beginning, a sound release at the beginning and a sound change, a sound release at the end, a sound release at the end and a sound change. The discussion about this morphological process can be seen in the following description.

1. *The release of a consonant sound at the end of a word*

Data 1

Korang	di	rumah	***masa***	apa
Kamu orang	di	rumah	**masak**	apa

'Kamu, di rumah masak apa?'
'What do you cook at home?'

Data (1) illustrates the morphonemic process related to the release of the consonant sound /k/ in the word *masak*. The deletion of this consonant sound causes this word to end with the vowel /a/. The reason why the deletion of consonant sounds at the end of words occurs is that, typologically, regional languages in Flores are vocalic languages. This means that a language where the end of every word is always closed with a vowel. Thus the word *cook* is pronounced with *masa*?.

Data 2

Ae	so	***kelua***	belo	te
Air	sudah	**keluar**	belum	-

'Air sudah keluar belum?'
'Has the water come out yet?'

Data (2) indicates that there is a loss of the consonant sound /r/ at the end of the word *keluar*. This lapse causes the word *keluar* to be pronounced *kelua*. The sound /a/ in the *kelua?* form is pronounced rather short and there is a glottal sound /?/. This deletion has the same properties as data 1, namely when a word ends with a consonant sound, the consonant sound is deleted. The reason why

deletion occurs is that LM is also a vocalic language. This means a typology of language that does not have consonant sounds as word endings.

Table 1. Larantuka Malay Words What Experiences Loss of Consonant Sounds at the End of Words

Gloss	LM	English	Pronounce
lepas	*lepa*	*off*	*ləpa*
rusak	*rusa*	*damaged*	*rusa*
tampar	*tampa*	*slap*	*tampa*
cepat	*cepa*	*fast*	*cəpa*
ceper	*cepe*	*flat*	*cepe*
cerek	*cere*	*kettle*	*cere*
senang	*sena*	*glad*	*səna*

Table data (1) shows that all consonants that end words are always deleted. This deletion causes each word to be closed with a vowel sound. When this vowel sound is pronounced, it produces a glottal sound so that the vowel sound is pronounced with a short duration because it ends with a glottal sound /?/. The pronunciation of words is like *lepas* becoming *lepa*?, *pantat* becoming panta?, *empat* becomeing *empa*?, *rusak* becoming *rusa*?, *tampar* becoming *tampa*?, *cepat* becoming *cepa*?, *ceper* becoming cepe?, *icerek* becoming cere?, *senang* becoming *sena*?

2. *Deletion at the beginning of a word*

Data 3

Sunggo	*sake*	*engko*	*bua*	***ati***	*kita*
Sungguh	sakit	engkau	buat	**hati**	saya

'Sungguh sakit, engkau buat hati saya'
'It really hurts, you made my heart'

Data (3) shows a LM morphonemic process which is related to the deletion of phonemes at the beginning of words, as seen when the word *hati* is pronounced as *ati*. This sound loss also occurs in data (4) below.

Data 4

Kita	merasa	*ampa*	sekəli
Kita	merasa	hampa	sekali

'Saya merasa hampa sekali'
'I feel so empty'

Data (4) has a similar dissipation phenomenon to data (3). The /h/ sound at the beginning of a platitude is pronounced *ampa*. This illustrates that the /h/ sound at the beginning of each word is deleted. This loss occurs due to phonological process. The processes in the form of sound deletions that occur in the field of words are morphological aspects, so they are called morphonological processs. The basic reason for the loss of the /h/ sound at the beginning of each word is that the /h/ sound is a voiceless fricative sound, thus it can be said that every voiceless fricative sound located at the beginning of a word in LM experiences a loss. The elimination of consonant sounds at the beginning and end of words is illustrated below.

Data 5

Eso	torang	pi	menggae
Besok	kita orang	pergi	memancing

'Besok kita pergi memancing!'
'Tomorrow we go fishing!'

Data (5) shows a morphonemic process in LM which is related to the phenomenon of eliminating the initial and final phonemes of words, as seen in the word *besok* which is pronounced eso?. The deletion of the /k/ sound at the end of this word is replaced by the glottal sound /?/.

Data 6

So	*abi*	le	doi	kita	pu
Sudah	habis	-	uang	saya	punya

'Saya punya uang sudah habis'
'I have run out of money'

Data (6) describes the same morphonemic process as data (5) when the word end is pronounced *abi*. The /h/ sound at the beginning of a word and the /s/ sound at the end of a word is lost. Observing the phenomenon of decay at the beginning and end of words in LM, it can be stated that every fricative sound is voiceless except for the sound /f/ which decays.

3. *Deletion of sound at the end of the word and change of vowel sound /u/ to vowel sound /o/*

Data 7

Uto	pu	***rambo***	kibo	ngeri
Uto	punya	**rambut**	keribo	sekali

'Rambut Uto, keribo sekali'
'Hair Uto, very curly'

Data (7) shows a morphonemic process in LM, where the phenomenon of phoneme deletion at the end of a word and phoneme changes simultaneously occur. The word *rambut* has two syllables, *ram-but*, the second syllable -*but* first undergoes the sound /t/. The release of the /t/ sound causes the word *rambut* to be pronounced *rambo*. However, the sound /u/ in the word *rambu* actually changes its sound to /o/ so it is not pronounced *rambu* but it is pronounced *Rambo*, instead. The change in the sound /u/ to /o/ results from the vowel sound /u/ and the vowel sound /o/ that have the same sound, namely they are both round vowels and have back vowel positions.

Data 8

Viana	***tido***	di	siang	hari
Viana	**tidur**	di	siang	hari

'Viana tidur di siang hari'
'Viana sleeps during the day'

Data (8) shows a morphonemic process, similar to data (7). The /r/ sound in the second syllable -*dur* is lost so the word *tidur* is pronounced *tido*. The release of the /r/ sound triggers the change of the /u/ sound to the /o/ sound. The change in sound results from the vowel sound /o/ and the vowel sound /u/ that have the same characteristics, namely they are both rounded vowels and back vowels. Losses and changes in sound also occur in a number of words as illustrated in table (2) below.

Table 2. Release and Sound Changes at the End of LM Words

Gloss	**English**	**Alternasi LM**		**Pronounce**
Vegetable	*vegetable*	*sayu*	*sayo*	*sayo*
soft	*soft*	*lembu*	*lembo*	*ləmbo*
somach	*stomach*	*peru*	*pero*	*pəro*
knees	*knee*	*lutu*	*luto*	*luto*

Table (2) shows that all vowel sounds /u/ undergo a change to sound /o/. The change in the vowel sound /u/ to the sound /o/ is triggered by the same distinctive characteristics, namely both are back vowels and round vowels. Prior to a change in the vowel sound, there is a deletion of the consonant phoneme at the end of each word. This results from the fact that LM is a vocalic language. Every consonant sound at the end of a word is always deleted. This deletion causes the final sound to be a vowel. The final sound that is close to this vowel is responsible for the change in sound from one vowel to another. The table shows that the word *sayur* is pronounced *sayo*?, the word *lembut* is pronounced *ləmbo*?, the word *perut* is pronounced *pero?*, the word *lutut* is pronounced *luto?*; the pronunciation of these words has a short duration, as they end with the glottal sound /?/.

4. *The release and change of the vowel sound /i/ to the vowel /e/*

Another morphonemic process is the decay and change of the vowel sound /i/ to the vowel /e/. The sound release referred to in this process is the release of the consonant sound at the end of the word.

Data 9

Ujã məsi ***rinte*** di lua
Hujan masih **rintik** di luar
'Di luar, hujan masih rintik'
'Outside, it's still drizzling rain'

Example (9) shows a morphonemic process in LM that occurs in a number of words such as *uja*, *mesi*, and *rinte*. However, what is discussed in data (9) is the phenomenon of final phoneme loss and phoneme change such as in the word *rintik*. The word *rintik* undergoes the loss of the final sound /k/ so the form *rinti* is obtained. The core form in LM is not found or is not acceptable. The deletion of the consonant sound /k/ causes the syllable to be close to the vowel sound /i/. The vowel sound /i/ changes to the vowel /e/. The change in sound results from the two vowels /i/ and /e/ that have the same distinctive characteristics, namely they are both unrounded sounds; they have front vowels and the vowel /e/ is the vowel closest to the vowel /i/. If observed closely, the loss and change occurs in the second syllable, namely *-tik*.

Data 10

Engko ***inte*** apa ma situ
Engkau **intip** apa - di situ
'Apa yang engkau intip di situ?'
'What are you peeking there?'

Example (10) is a morphonemic process in LM which is the same as data (9) in which the phenomenon of final phoneme deletion and phoneme change occur as in the word *intip*. The word *intip* is divided into two syllables *in-tip*, the final phoneme /p/ is removed in the second syllable -tip. The reason is that the people of Flores have a vocalic language, where the language always ends with vowel sounds. In this way, the word *intip* is pronounced *inte.* The vowel change from /i/ to /e/ results from the two vowel sounds that have the same sound; they are both unrounded sound and front vowels. Similar processes can be observed in table (3).

Table 3. The release and change of the vowel sound /i/ to the vowel /e/ in LM

Gloss	**English**	**Alternasi LM**		**Pronounce**
Water	*water*	*ae*	*ae*	*ae?*
White	*white*	*puti*	*pute*	*pute?*
Hill	*valley*	*buki*	*buke*	*buke?*
Line	*line*	*bari*	*bare*	*bare?*

Table (3) shows that all words show the loss of the final consonant phoneme and the change in the vowel sound /i/ to the vowel sound /e/. This results from the vowel sound /i/ and the vowel sound /e/ that are both the same vowel; both are front and unrounded vowels. Another reason is that the LM community replaces the vowel sound /i/ with the vowel /e/. The reason is that the vowel sound /i/ is a high sound and the vowel sound /e/ is a low sound; this change then causes all the words in table (3) to be always pronounced with short duration and to end with the glottal sound /?/. The pronunciations of these words are that *air* becomes *ae?*, *putih* becomes *pute*?, *bukit* becomes *buke?*, and *baris* becomes *bare?*

5. *Release of initial, final sounds and changes in final sound*

Data 11

Lia bero hana so ***anyo*** jau
Lihat perahu sana sudah **hanyut** jauh
'Lihat, perahu di sana sudah hanyut jauh'
'Look, the boat over there has drifted far away'

Example (11) is the process of eliminating consonant phonemes at the beginning and end of a word, as in the word *hanyut*. LM speakers pronounce it *anyo*. The process is that the word drift experiences the front consonant phoneme /h/ and the final /t/ is deleted. The loss of the consonant sound at the end of a word is responsible for the change in the vowel sound /u/ to sound /o/. This change results from the vowel sounds /u/ and the vowel /o/ that are both round and back vowel sounds. Another reason why the consonant phoneme /t/ at the end of a word is deleted is that languages in Central Indonesia generally say that the language always ends with a vowel sound.

Data 12

Torang	pu	***ido***	sapa	yang	tau
Kita orang	punya	**hidup**	siapa	yang	tahu

'Hidup kita, siapa yang tahu'
'Our life, who knows'

Example (12) shows a morphophonemic process similar to the word *hidup* becoming *ido* in the pronunciation of LM speakers. The morphophonemic process that occurs is the release of the initial consonant /h/ and final consonant /p/. This results from the two consonant sounds that are both voiceless consonant sounds. As for changes in the vowel phoneme /u/ and vowel /o/, the change in vowel sound results from the two vowels that have similarities, namely they are both round vowels, and back vowels.

Data 13

Apa	yang	***ango***	ni
Apa	yang	**hangus**	ini

'Ini, apa yang hangus?'
'This, what's burnt?'

Data (13) illlustrates the release of the sound at the beginning of the word /h/ and the end of the word /s/ in the word *charred*. This deletion causes this word to be close to the vowel /u/ to become *angu*. The form *angu* in LM is not found or is not acceptable. The deletion of the consonant /h/ and the consonant /s/ results from the two consonant sounds that are both voiceless consonant sounds, as a result, they are eliminated. The deletion of the /s/ sound at the end of a word causes the word to be close to the vowel sound /u/. This vowel sound is changed into the sound /o/ so the acceptable form is *anyo* instead of *anyu*. The vowel /u/ changes to the vowel /o/ because the two vowels have the same characteristics, namely they are both back vowels and the vowel /o/ is close to the vowel /u/.

6. *Dropping of sounds at the end of words and replacement of vowel sounds with slang*

Data 14

Kombong	te	***ikã***	ena	ngeri
Kombong	-	**ikan**	enak	sekali

'Kombong adalah ikan paling enak!'
'Kombong is the most delicious fish!'

Data (14) shows a morphonemic process in LM in which the final phoneme is lost and the final vowel sound is changed to nasal. As in the word *fish*, there is a loss of the consonant sound /n/ at the end of the word, and the change in the final vowel sound /a/ is pronounced nasal [ng]. The deletion of the consonant sound /n/ at the end of a word results from the fact that the languages in Central Indonesia are generally vocalic languages, namely the languages that always end with vowel sounds. The vowel sound is pronounced nasally so it becomes *ikã*.

Data 15

Meri	torang	***makã***	sesama	sini
Mari	kita orang	**makan**	sama-sama	sini

'Mari, kita makan sama-sama disini!'
'Come on, let's eat together here!'

Data (15) shows a morphonemic process that is similar to data (14). The phenomenon of sound loss at the beginning and end of words as well as change in the vowel sound /a/ at the end of words is pronounced nasally [ng] as in the word *makan*. The deletion of the consonant sounds at the beginning and end of a word causes it to end with the vowel sound /a/. The pronunciation of the vowel /a/ at the end of a word becomes a nasal /ã/ sound. The acceptable form in LM is *makã*.

Data 16

Kemare	korang	***jalã***	pi	kebun
Kemarin	kamu orang	**jalan**	pergi	kebun

'Kamu, kemarin jalan pergi kebun?'
'You, did you go to the garden yesterday?'

Data (16) illustrates that there are 4 morphonemic processes in LM, namely the release of the word-final consonant sound in the word *kemare*, change in the word *korang*, the release and change of sound in the word *jalan* and the release in the word *pergi*. The current study only focuses on the loss of consonant sounds at the end of words and change in vowel sounds that are pronounced nasally as seen in the word *jalan*. The loss of the consonant sound /n/ at the end of words and the change in the pronunciation of the vowel sound /a/ which is pronounced nasally [ng]. Thus, the acceptable form in LM is *jalã*. The morphonemic processes that occur in the words *kemare*, *korã* and *pi* are not explained here.

Data 17

Daő	papaya	tu	pae	ngeri
Daun	papaya	itu	pahit	sekali

'Daun papaya itu, pahit sekali'
'That papaya leaf is so bitter'

Data (17) describes the morphonemic process in LM in which there is a loss of consonant sound at the end of words and a change in vowel sound pronounced nasally. This process can be observed in the word *daun*, in which the consonant sound /n/ is lost at the end of the word, the vowel /u/ changes to /o/ and the vowel /o/ is pronounced with a nasal sound [ng]. The acceptable form in LM after this process is *daõ*.

7. *Elimination of consonant sounds at the beginning and end of words, and replacement of nasal sounds*

The morphonemic process that occurs is that there is a loss of consonant sound at the beginning and end of a word and a change in the vowel sound to be pronounced nasally, as can be observed in the following example.

Data 18

Baju	Vina	warna	***itã***
Baju	Vina	warna	**hitam**

'Baju Vina warna hitam'
'Vina's clothes are black'

Data (18) shows a morphonemic process in LM in which the phenomenon of consonant sound at the beginning and end of words and the pronunciation of vowel sound with a nasal sound [ng] occur. The word *hitam* experiences the loss of the initial consonant sound /h/ and the final consonant

sound /m/ so it becomes *ita*, the vowel /a/ in the *ita* form is pronounced with a nasal sound so it becomes *itã*.

Data 19

Toni	pu	***idô***	te	pese	mae
Toni	punya	**hidung**	-	pesek	-

‘Hidung Toni, pesek sekali’
'Toni's nose is very flat'

Data (19) shows the morphonemic process in LM in which there is a loss of consonant sound at the beginning and end of words and the pronunciation of vowel sound with a nasal sound [ng]. This process can be observed in the word *hidung*, where the consonant sound /h/ at the beginning of the word and the consonant sound /ng/ at the end of the word are removed so it becomes *idu*. The vowel sound /u/ is changed to the vowel sound /o/; this vowel is pronounced with a nasal sound so it becomes *idõ*. The change in the vowel sound /u/ to the sound /o/ results from the two sounds that have the same phonological characteristics, namely they are both sound rounded vowels and have back vowels. The form accepted in LM is *idõ* instead of *idu*.

Data 20

Kita	pu	uang	***ilã***	kemarin
Saya	punya	uang	**hilang**	kemarin

‘Kemarin, uang saya hilang’
‘Yesterday, my money was lost’

Data (20) reflects the same morphonemic phenomenon as data (19) does in which there is a loss of phonemes at the beginning and end of words and there is a change in the pronunciation of vowel sound to nasal sound as seen in the word *hilang*. The loss of the initial sound /h/ and the final sound /ng/ as well as the change in the pronunciation of the vowel sound /a/ to become nasal resulting in *ilã*.

8. *The release of the consonant sound /h/ in the middle of a word*

The consonant sound /h/ in the middle of a word can be erased. This can be exemplified by data (21).

Data 21

Lia	***kita***	dike	ka
Lihat	**kita**	sedidkit	juga

‘Perhatikan kita juga’
'Pay attention to us too'

Data 21 indicates that there is a loss of consonant sound in the middle of words. The word *lihat* is pronounced *lia*, indicating that the consonant sound /h/ is exfoliating. This loss results from the consonant sound /h/ containing a voiceless stop consonant that is accompanied by two different vowels. These two different vowel sounds affect the voiceless consonant /h/. In this way, the consonant sound /h/ is dropped or not pronounced.

The process of change in sound

The process of phoneme change itself is the change in a phoneme or sound due to morphological processes.

1. *Change in vowel phoneme*

Data 22

Buah	***cile***	tu	banya	mae
Buah	**cili**	itu	banyak	-

‘Buah cili itu, banyak sekali’
'That's a lot of chili fruit'

Data (22) is a morphophonemic process related to the change in vowel sound. This is similar to what happens in the word *cile*; the vowel /i/ at the end of the word changes to the vowel /e/ so the word *cili* becomes *cile*. Is there a change in the vowel phoneme /i/ at the end of the word to the vowel phoneme /e/ so the pronunciation of the word changes to *cile* when pronounced by LM speakers? The change in the vowel phoneme /i/ to the vowel /e/ results from the two vowels that have the same phonological characteristics, namely they both have front vowels and unrounded vowels.

Data 23

Sabar	sedike	***ləgi***	kita	bale	
Sabar	sedikit	**lagi**	saya	pulang	

‘Sabar, sedikit lagi saya pulang’
'Be patient, I'll be home in a little while'

Data (23) indicates the morphonemic process occurring in a number of words such as *sədike*, *ləgi*, and *bale*. Even though it occurs in three lingual forms, this analysis only applies to the word changing to *ləgi*. There is a change in the vowel sound /a/ in the first syllable *la-* to the vowel /ə/, to become *ləgi*. The vowel /a/ changes to the vowel /ə/ because these two vowels have the same characteristics, namely they are both middle vowels and the vowel /ə/ is the vowel closest to the vowel /a/. The similar morphonemic process also occurs in data (24) below.

Data 24

Tədi	korang	ada	lia	Kobus	ne
Tadi	kamu orang	ada	lihat	Kabus	tidak

‘Tadi, kamu ada lihat Kobus tidak?’
'Did you see Kobus earlier?'

Data (24) also shows a morphonemic process similar to that in data (22) and (23). The vowel sound /a/ changes to the vowel sound /ə/ as in the word above and it is pronounced *tədi*. The change in the vowel sound /a/ in the first syllable *ta-* to the vowel /ə/ resulting from these two vowels that have the same distinctive characteristics, namely they are both middle vowels and the vowel /ə/ is the vowel sound closest to the vowel /a/.

2. *Change in consonant sound*

Data 25

Minta	engko	pu	pensil	***hatu***	se
Minta	engkau	punya	pensil	**satu**	-

‘Minta engkau punya pinsil satu dulu!’
‘I wish you had a pencil first!’

Data (25) shows that the morphonemic process in which the consonant sound /s/ at the beginning of a word changes into the sound /h/. This type of change gradually occurs, meaning that in the first stage the /s/ sound changes to the /h/ sound so it becomes *hatu*. Gradually, the consonant sound /h/ is dissolved to become *atu*. The change in the consonant sound /s/ at the beginning

of the word to the sound /h/ results from these two consonant sounds that have the same distinctive characteristics, namely they are both voiceless consonants and have fricative (sliding) sound. The loss of the /h/ sound in the *hatu* form does not only occur because the /h/ sound is a voiceless consonant, but it also occurs because of the influence of the voiced vowel following the /h/ consonant. This also occurs in data (26).

Data 26

Dorus	***hana***	Simon	pu	rumah	ne
Dorus	**sana**	Simon	punya	rumah	tidak

'Dorus di sana Simon punya rumah tidak?'
'Dorus there Simon, does he have a house?'

Data (26) illustrates a morphonemic process similar to that in data (25). The consonant sound /s/ in the word *sana* is lost and replaced by the consonant sound /h/ so the word *sana* is pronounced *hana*. Phonologically, these two consonant sounds have the same distinctive characteristics, namely that they are both voiceless consonants and are fricative consonants. When used, the consonant sound /h/ in the word *hana* is dissolved so it is pronounced *ana*. The vowel that follows the consonant sound /h/ dominates the voiceless sound so much that the voiceless sound disappears. The deletion of the consonant sound /h/ in data (25) and (26) shows that in LM the consonant sound /h/ at the beginning of words is always deleted. Apart from the fact that the consonant sound /h/ is a voiceless consonant, this loss is also due to the influence of the vowel sound following it.

3. *The process of change in sound and elimination of phoneme due to contraction (shortening)*

Contraction is the omission of phonemic sounds as a result of an attempt to save or maintain speech.

Data 27

Təmala	te	ujä	lebat	ngeri
Tadi malam	-	hujan	lebat	sekali

'Hujan tadi malam lebat sekali'
'It rained really hard last night'

Data (27) describes the morphonemic process occuring as a result of the contraction (shortening) process. The *təmala* form is the short form of the phrase *tadi malam*. The contraction process of *təmala* occurs in stages; first, the change in the vowel sound /a/ in the first syllable *ta-* in the word earlier so it is pronounced tədi, then the change in the consonant sound /m/ at the end of the word *malam* leading to the form *tədi mala*. Next, the deletion of the second syllable *-di* in the word *tədi* so there is only the first syllable *tə-* which is then combined with the second word *mala* in which the loss of the sound /m/ occurs, leading to the form *təmala*.

Data 28

Kemarî	korang	jalâ	***pəgari***	sekəli	ka
Kemarin	kamu orang	jalan	**pagi hari**	sekali	-

'Kamu berangkat pagi hari sekali?'
'You left so early in the morning?'

Data (28) describes a morphonemic process similar to that in data (27). The form *pəgari* is formed from the phrase *pagi hari*. The word *pəgari* is formed in stages; first, the change in the vowel /a/ in the first syllable of the word *pagi* to

the vowel sound /ə/, forming the word *pəgi* ; then the consonant sound /h/ in the word *hari* is removed resulting in *ari*. Next, the vowel /i/ in the second syllable of the word *pəgi*is removed, leading to the form *peg* and, finally, the second word *ari* is added to it, resulting in *pegari*. The change in the vowel sound /a/ to the vowel sound /ə/ and the deletion of the consonant sound /h/ at the beginning of words are triggered by phonological process as explained in the description of data (24). The lingual form *pəgari* is a new form occurring as a result of word shortening and merging.

Data 29

Dənari	tədi	dinge	sekəli
Dini hari	tadi	dingin	Sekali

'Dini hari tadi dingin sekali'
'It was very cold this morning'

Data (29) expresses the same morphonemic process as that in data (27) and (28). The change occurring in the shape of the *dənari* is also gradual. The phrase *dini hari* consists of the free morphemes *dini* and *hari*. The vowel sound /i/ in the first syllable in the word initial changes to the vowel /ə/, leading to *dəni*; the consonant sound /h/ at the beginning of the word *hari* becomes *ari*. The second stage is the removal of the vowel /i/ in the second syllable *–ni* of the initial word causing the form *dən* to combine with the second form of *ari*, forming *dənari*. The form *dənari* is a new form of LM due to the contraction process.

Data 30

Torang	pi	***kəba***	dulu
Kita orang	pergi	**ke bawah**	dulu

'Kita pergi ke bawah dulu!'
'Let's go downstairs first!'

Data (30) shows a morphonemic process occurring as a result of the loss of and change in phoneme in the contraction process. The phrase *ke bawah* consists of two morphemes *ke* and *bawah*. The second lower basic morpheme is shortened to *ba-*, in which there is the deletion of the second syllable *-wah*. The first syllable *ba-* in the word *bawah* is then combined with the first basic morpheme, leading to *kəba* which is a new word or form resulting from the contraction process. This kind of change also occurs in the phrase *di bawah*. The phrase *di bawah* changes, the first basic form is retained while the second basic form undergoes the deletion of the second syllable *-wah*, causing the the first syllable *ba-* to be used. In this way, the phrase *di bawah* becomes a new contracted form *diba*.

Release of sound as a result of contraction (shortening)

The loss of sound in LM can be observed in the following example.

Data 31

Torang	pi	mengae
Kita orang	pergi	memancing

'Kita pergi memancing!'
'We go fishing!'

Data (31) describes the morphonemic process in the form of sound loss resulting from contraction as in the phrase *kita orang*. This change also occurs gradually; first, the first syllable *ki-* and the vowel sound /a/ in the second syllable *-ta* are deleted, causing -t- to appear. Next, the double sound /ng/ at the

end of the word *orang* is removed, leading to *ora*. The deletion of this double consonant sound causes the word *orang* to be close to the vowel sound /a/. The vowel sound /a/ is nasally pronounced due to the influence of the double sound /ng/ nasal. Thus, the phrase *kita orang* is pronounced *torã*....

Data 32

Kemari	***korang***	pi	ənа
Kemarin	**kamu orang**	pergi	mana

‘Kemarin kamu pergi ke mana?’
'Where did you go yesterday?'

Data (32) illustrates the same morphonemic process as that in data (31). The process of the appearance of the form *korang* which comes from the phrase *kamu orang* also occurs in stages. First, the vowel sound /a/ in the first syllable *ka-* and the second syllable *-mu* in the word *kamu* are removed. Then the double consonant sound /ng/ in the word *orang* is removed, causing the form *ora* to appear. This double sound /ng/ interpolation causes the vowel /a/ at the end of the word to be nasally pronounced. This nasalization occurs due to the influence of the double sound /ng/ which has already been eliminated. In this way, the sound /k/ is taken from the first word, combined with the second form *ora* , leading to the form *korã*.

Data 33

Kora	*so*	pula	te
Kamu orang	sudah	palang	kah

‘Kamu sudah pulang kah?’
'Are you home yet?'

Data (33) shows that there is abbreviation or shortening of word form. The word *sudah* is shortened to *so*. Phonologically, the form *so* comes from the first syllable *su-* while the second syllable *-dah* is deleted. In everyday life there are two forms that are often used, namely the form *su* and the form *so*. The most dominant form used is the latter. The change in the vowel sound /u/ to the vowel /o/ results from these two sounds that have the same phonological characteristics, namely they are both back and round vowel sounds. The vowel sound /o/ is the middle sound and is closest to the back-height vowel sound /u/. Such changes can also be observed in the word *punya*. The form of the word undergoes the loss of its second syllable, causing this form to be close to the vowel sound /u/. Missing a syllable containing the double nasal sound /ng/ affects the pronunciation of the vowel sound /u/; as a result, this vowel is pronounced with a nasal sound like *pũ*.

Data (34)

Engko	*pi*	di	ena
Engkau	pergi	ke	mana

‘Engkau pergi kemana?
'Where are you going?

Data (34) shows the abbreviated or shortened form of the form *pergi* to *pi*. There is a loss of the sound *-erg-*, leaving the first consonant sound /p/ and the last vowel sound /i/. Such a change rarely occurs or is not productive; it only applies to the word *pergi*.

Loss of sound, change of sound and addition of sound due to contraction (shortening)

The loss, change and addition of sounds resulting from contractions can be seen in the following examples.

Data 35

Kita	pu	doi	so	***tərada***
Kita	punya	uang	sudah	**tidak ada**

'Saya punya uang sudah tidak ada !'

'I have no more money!'

Data (35) shows the contraction process resulting from morphonemic processes as seen in the form *tərada*. The new form *terada* is the result of a gradual shortening of the phrase *tidak ada*. First, there is a change in the vowel sound /i/ of the first syllable *ti-* to the vowel /e/ and the deletion of the second syllable *-dak*, causing the form *te ada* to appear. Larantuka Malay speakers in everyday communication may use two forms such as *teada* and *terada*. The second form occurs due to the insertion of the sound /r/ used as a speech enhancer. The insertion of the /r/ sound causes the /e/ to change to /ə/. These two forms are used in balance.

Data 36

Torang	pi	***kədata***	dulu	ka
Kita orang	pergi	**ke atas**	dulu	-

'Kita pergi ke atas dulu!'

'Let's go upstairs first!'

Data (36) shows the contraction process occuring in the phrase *ke di atas*. The phrase *ke di atas* consists of three free forms, namely *ke*, *di* and *atas*. The changes occuring are that the first basic form remains in use, the vowel sound /i/ in the word *di* is removed and the final consonant sound /s/ in the word *atas* is removed, causing the form *data* to appear. So, the new form accepted in LM is *kedata*, the shortened form of the phrase *ke di atas.*

Changes in phonemes due to monophthongization

Monodiphthongization is the process of changing the form of a word from a diphthong to a monophthong to make it easier to pronounce.

Data 37

Begəna	ma	korang	te	jalâ
Bagaimana	maka	kamu orang	tidak	jalan

'Bagaimana sehingga kamu tidak jalan!'

'How can you not walk!'

Data (37) shows the morphonemic process occuring as a result of the monophthongization process, as in the word *bagaimana* which changes its morphological form to become so. This change results from the monophthongization of consecutive vowel sounds, in which the vowels /a/ and /i/ change their forms to become the single vowel /ə/. The vowel sound /a/ changes to the vowel sound /ə/ in the first syllable *ba-*. The reason is that the two vowel sounds have the same phonological characteristics. Apart from the change of the double vowel sound /ai/ in the syllable *-gai* to a single sound /ə/, the vowel sound /a/ in the first syllable *ba-* also changes to the vowel sound /ə/; in addition, the third syllable sound *-ma* is also deleted, leading to a new form *begena* to appear.

Data 38

Sunge	di-ba	te	so	kering
Sungai	di bawah	itu	sudah	kering

'Sungai di bawah itu sudah kering?'
'The river below has dried up?'

Data (38) shows the morphonemic process resulting from the change from monodifthongization of the word *sungai* to *sunge*. The double vowel sound /ai/ in the second syllable *-ngai* changes into a single sound, namely /e/ as seen in the word *sunge*. The change in the diphthong /ai/ to the monophthong /ə/ in the syllable *-ngai* and the diphthong sound /ai/ in the second syllable *-gai* in the word is influenced by the dominance of the vowel sound /a/ which has previously changed to the vowel /ə/ while the change in the diphthong /ai/ in the syllable *-ngai* to one sound /e/ in the word *sungai* is influenced by the vowel sound /i/ at the end of the word. The two vowel sounds /i/ and /e/ have the same distinctive characteristics, namely they are both unrounded and front vowels. Such changes can also be seen in the word *pantai*. The diphthong sound *-ai* in the second syllable *-tai* changes to *pante*.

Data 39

Torang	pi	pesia	di	***pulo***	Waibalun
Kita orang	pergi	pesiar	di	**pulau**	Waibalun

'Kita pergi pesiar di pulau Waibalun!'
'We went on a cruise to Waibalun Island!'

Data (39) shows the morphonemic process occuring as a result of the change in the diphthong /au/ in the syllable *-lau* to the monophthong /o/. The change in the double sound /au/ to a single sound /o/ results the dominance of the vowel /u/ at the end of the word. Thus, the new form resulting from monodiphthongization in LM is *pulo*.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of data analysis proves that morphonemic processes are very interesting and diverse. The morphonemic process in LM includes the release of both vowel sounds and consonant sounds, both at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of words. The deleted consonant sound at the beginning of a word is replaced by a consonant sound that has the same distinctive characteristics. The misalignment of the consonant sound in the middle only occurs with the consonant sound /h/. The deletion of a consonant sound at the end of a word leads to changes in and replacement of vowel sounds such as the back, round, high vowel sound /u/ changes to the back, round, medial vowel sound /o/, the high, unrounded front vowel sound /i/ changes to an unrounded medial front vowel sound /e/ and/or the lower middle vowel sound /a/ changes to a medial middle vowel sound /ə/. Apart from sound decay, there are also changes in consonant sounds and vowel sounds, contractions and monophthongization processes.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Future research on morphonemic phenomena in Larantuka Malay (LM) should move beyond descriptive classification toward deeper theoretical and comparative analysis. Advanced studies may apply morphophonological

frameworks, such as rule-based phonology or optimality theory, to explain systematic patterns of phoneme deletion, change, and alternation in specific morphological contexts.

Comparative research with other Eastern Indonesian Malay varieties is also needed to identify shared and distinctive morphonemic features, while sociophonological approaches can examine variation across age groups, language contact, and usage domains. In addition, incorporating acoustic phonetic analysis would strengthen empirical evidence for vowel change, monophthongization, and consonant weakening. Such multidimensional research will enhance the theoretical contribution, documentation, and preservation of Larantuka Malay.

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