Phonological Change in Willem Iskander Literature: Si Boeloes-Boeloes Si Roemboek-Roemboek

Ida Royani, M. Hum [1*], Nurun Najiah[2],

Corresponding author. Email: idaroyani@uinsyahada.ac.id

[1—2] State Islamic University Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidimpuan, Indonesia

Abstract

The present study investigates a very phenomenal literature found in North Sumatera; Indonesia authored by Willem Iskander (1872). There are various phonological change occurrences which deal with its direct realization of pronunciation on the use of old Mandailing language. By using qualitative methods to analyze the literature materials in the book, this study reveals that phonological change appears in the form of assimilation, deletion, dissimilation, vowel modification (monophthongization), and insertion. The analysis also figures out that there occurs repetition on the use of the same words in the different pages and titles. The results were obtained after reading the entire book and analyzing the process of change. At the end, the researcher clarified that the occurrences of those changes were naturally realized by native speakers. Even though it was a type of written literature, the author still used oral utterances in his literacy work. Further recommendations are discussed at the end of the paper.

Keywords: phonological change; Willem Iskander; Si Boeloes- boeloes Si Roemboek- Roemboek

1. Introduction

Willem Iskander is a phenomenal writer from the northern Sumatera Island, Indonesia. One of his sophisticated works is Si Boeloes- boeloes Si Roemboek- roemboek Sada boekoe Basaon, published in 1872 in Batavia by Landsdrukkerij. His way of expression and utterances used in the book was fully native, traditional, and pure originating from his land of motherhood. Viewing the book from its simplicity emerges this book interesting to read. Experience reading the book had elucidated the readers in various feelings and emotions since interpretation and exploration of affective side of the writing can build intimacy of the writer and readers.

Willem Iskander has successfully reached a communicative process while transferring ideas into written utterances. As (Siregar et al., 2018b) confirmed that by exploring the meaning of the language used by Willem Iskander in the book, the readers are able to synthesize the local culture, landscape demography, people and educational aspect. It is not only from cultural side, the book also figured the spirit of nationalism, education and moral religion as depicted by (Siti Norma Nasution, 2021). Further, (Siregar et al., 2018a) stated that Willem Iskander in the poetry and proses have implemented a clear description of the history of colonialism of Dutch in Indonesia especially in North Sumatera. It is admitted that the book Si Boeloes- boeloes Si Roemboek- roemboek

as a hegemonic text (M. Harahap et al., 2019) and (Muharrina Harahap, 2019) which figured out the relationship between colonialized and colonializing, among indigenous and Dutch. So that, the literary work of Willem Iskander is substantive with its deep meaning and covering multi aspect of human culture and society by portraying full dimension of meaning with an elegant language use.

Concerning the native language used by Willem Iskander in his book, Mandailing Language, the present researcher can view a genuinely natural language use of expressions or utterances. It seemed that Willem Iskander transcribed as he uttered the language. So that, realization of the language becomes innate and natural in which various changes can occur to support a fluent language use.

Nonetheless, there has been uncaptured by any linguistics studies on the phonology dimension and most of papers explored on the (1) semantic; verbal deletion occurred in Mandailing language as stated by (Nursaima Harahap & Mulyadi, 2023), meaning relation in homonym used by Mandailing people as studied by (R. Harahap & Gapur, 2020), the form of question patterned by Mandailing people to ask question as explored by (Zahra & Mulyadi, 2019), and the typology of Mandailing language as (Tarihoran & Mulyadi, 2022) figured out as SVO or VOS pattern.

On the other hand, (2) sociolinguistics field of investigation, (R. U. Lubis & Tamara, 2020) revealed the change and shift of addressing term in Mandailing language. Meanwhile, historical aspect of discourses used which studied by (Siregar et al., 2018b), (Dardanila et al., 2020), (Zulkarnain et al., 2023), and (Sofiyatunnida & Hendrokumoro, 2021) had been revealed by analyzing culturally the language use of Willem Iskander.

Thus, the phonological aspect of the language specifically used by native and traditional Mandailing language presented in the literary works has not been studied apparently. Besides, recent language used by Mandailing language is developed more to be studied in the pragmatic (Sumarsih, 2020) by exploring the interference of Mandailing language on Indonesian language used by non-Mandailing people and the most common use of emotional verbs realized by Mandailing speakers (I. S. Lubis & Mulyadi, 2020). So that, it is necessary to analyze based on the phonological rule of realization of the Mnadailing Language which presented in the oldest written book derived from a person of Mandailing society and importantly by an identical native speaker of Mandailing language.

1.1. Literature Review

Phonology (Utami & Lintangsari, 2021) discusses phonetics in terms of transcribing the speech sounds. Realization of words are studied in this branch of linguistics. (Nurhayati, 2019) stated that phonetics provides objective ways of describing and analyzing the range of sounds humans use in their languages. More specifically, articulatory phonetics identifies precisely which speech organs and muscles are involved in producing the different sounds of the world's languages. How the speaker pronounces the words includes in the study of phonological rule where there happened natural speaking in speech. Further, phonological processes are rules used to simplify pronunciation of words in a language (Leung & Brice, 2012).

(Masthuroh et al., 2020) stated there are 4 categories of phonological processes: (1) assimilation, (2) syllable structure processes, (3) weakening and strengthening, and (4) neutralization. Not only preserving those phenomena, but phonological process also associated by the process of changing when replacing sound into another form because of the features of influenced sounds (Chandra Dewi -, 2016).

1.2. Phonological change

Phonological changes in pronouncing a word can occur in the form of phonetic changes sounds. (Diani & Azwandi, 2021). The changes can be varied in several forms and processes that can be analyzed systematically by the rule of process.

Assimilation

It is defined that *assimilation* as a significant difference in natural connected speech is the way that sounds belonging to one word can cause changes in sounds belonging to neighboring words. It is a particular word would be realized when the word is pronounced in isolation, in cases where we find a phoneme realized differently because of being near some other phoneme belonging to a neighboring word as stated by (Arsala et al., 2022).

Elision/ deletion/ zeroization

Realization of words which certainly deleted one phoneme is a technical language of saying that in certain circumstances a phoneme may be realized as zero or have zero realization or be deleted. It is rapid and casual speech naturally occurred by native speaker which influenced by less stressed syllable or a weak consonant.

Dissimilation and Metathesis

Dissimilation takes place when a sound is modified so that it differs from a neighboring sound in some property. It is the process of two similar sounds that become less similar. Meanwhile, *metathesis* takes place when the order of segments changes (Pandey, 2017).

Insertion

Insertion occurs when one or more segments are added to a morpheme or a word. Insertion at the beginning of words is called *prothesis* and in the middle of words is called e*penthesis.* More precisely, epenthesis of vowels is called *anaptyxis*, and epenthesis of consonants is called *excrescence*. Insertion at the end of words is called *paragoge*.

Vowel modification

(Akhyaruddin, Eddy Pahar Harahap, 2020) stated that some words are realized by forming a single monophthong to be diphthong vowels known as diphthongization. Besides, there also changes occur when two vowels become single sound known as monophthongization.

2. Research Methods

The researchers used the qualitative method to analyze selected materials to explore the process of phonological change in the literature work of Willem Iskander: Si Boeloes boeloes Si Roemboek- roemboek. The researcher read and comprehended the written work, identified utterances that contain phonological change, classified the changes into their types, and then analyzed the process of its changes. The book contains various types of texts such as poems, short stories, spoofs, and anecdotes. The present study was focusing only on the poem because of its huge number of occurring in the book, noted 11 (eleven) poems. Also, the book is famous for its poems not for any other types of literary works.

3. Results and Discussion

Based on the results of data analysis, it was revealed that phonological change processes occurred in the book Si Boeloes boeloes si roembook roembook. The process consisted of the following types. According to the data analysis, assimilation process found in Willem Iskander literary work is presented in the following.

Assimilation process occurs in various ways. For instance, the word 'di**gi**ndjang' is realized without realizing '**gi**' phonemes which follows /n/ sound. In some cases, Mandailing speakers also produce sound /r/ to be realized /ŋ/ when it is followed by /k/ as 'ma**r**kodari' becomes 'ma**ng**kodari'. It happens when native speakers are acquiring the pre-phoneme /h/ to be less stress and being stronger at the first syllable becoming /k/ as example 'ning **h**alai' becomes 'ning **k**alai'. For more interesting, / ŋ / at the end of the word which followed by /t/ sound will be assimilated to /n/ sound as found in the example 'ina**ng** ta' being 'ina**n**ta'. (Obied, 2015) argues that assimilation creating sounds become more like neighboring sounds.

When a sound such as stressless syllable or weak consonant, it is not pronounced and for ease production. This change also occurred in the book. Deletion in the beginning words known as aphaeresis have been found as seen in the above table. Initial phoneme /h/ mostly deleted and realized by / ɸ / which influences removal of present phoneme which resulted loss of /h/ sound. The rest of occurrences were not identified as the neighboring sounds. However, native speakers seem to be more precisely not realized to connect rapidly the sounds. It is not only those at the starting sound, but there is also found internal deletion known as syncope of the /h/ sound. Final deletion, apocope also occurs to change the production and varied in many ways, example 'ngada' becomes 'nga' deleted element was 'da'. Sound / ŋ/ becomes / ɸ/ without any certain circumstances as found in the word 'ina**ng**', 'ama**ng**', and 'sidoe**ng**'.

Phonological changes that replace feature values segment to make them less similar are also found in the book, known as dissimilation. The word, 'inanang' had been found to change the basic word 'inang'. Interchanging is also found in the word 'akkak' which initiated from 'kahak'. Another, there involves nasal sound / m/ in 'do**m**an' has changed the sound / ŋ/ in the word 'do**ng**an'.

Vowel modification classified as monophtongization which happened by two vowels have been realized by only single vowel. In the example word 's**ai**narat', diphthong /ai/ becomes /ɪ/ short vowel. Not only this diphthong, but it has also frequently happened to sound /u:/ long vowel followed by / ə / will be produced by allophone approximant /w/ sound to modify diphthong /uə / as seen in the example 'djoear' / dʒu: wə /. Another occurrence is the ending / ŋ/ sound before / uə / will place /w/ to produce rounded lip motion before it is realized such as /tɪŋ

gu:wʌŋ/. So that, diphthong / uə/ had been monophthongized into /u:/ by adding /w/ sound to support its rounded vowel.

Instead of deleting elements, changes of phone can be inserted. In the beginning word, insertion can occur known as prothesis.

Baen + /am/ → / ʌmbeən/

Inside a word, insertion also can occur, and it seen in the following example.

Tarida + /pa/ → /təpaidʌ/

Paragoge, insertion at the end of the word also can be found in the realization of written work in the book as seen in the following.

Denggan + /an/ → /deŋʌnən/

The phonological change found in the literary work of Willem Iskander Siboeloes-boeloes Siroemboek-roemboek have been revealed and analyzed according to the phonological rule of (Obied, 2015), namely assimilation, deletion, insertion, and metathesis. Meanwhile, vowel modification in term of monophthongization had been dealt with (Akhyaruddin, Eddy Pahar Harahap, 2020). The number of phonological changes found in the book can be presented in the following table.

A proportion of the changes can be seen mostly in deletion in which aphaeresis occurred to the phoneme /h/ at the beginning and inside of the words. Commonly realized by native speakers of Mandailing language that /h/ was less stressed and categorized as weak sound in each place of the word, beginning, middle and ending sound. However, the ending sound of /h/ cannot be found realized in the work of Willem Iskander. Besides, there have been found other aphaeresis such as (**an** and **nan**) for words '**an**tong', '**nan**idokon' respectively.

On the other hand, there have been found fifteen words which changed based on assimilation process to the neighboring sounds such as /g/, / ŋ/, /k/, /n/, /m/, /r/ and /t/. Furthermore, dissimilation change can be found to phonemes /h/ → /k/ in the word 'kahak' becomes 'akkak', /g/ → /l/ in the word 'gindjang' becomes 'lindjang'. This occurs by connected speech uttered by speakers to support actual language use.

Other changes were inserted into the basic form of the words. There were found minimally to the written literature. The substituted phonemes were found in the initial words as (am), (ti), (na), inside the word such as (pa), (nga), and in the end of the word such as (an) and (ng). There have occurred because of speaker's linking phonemes, which frequently used by Mandailing speakers as nasal consonants and/or bilabial sounds.

4. Conclusion

Phonological changes found in the book of Willem Iskander Si Boeloes- boeloes Si Roemboek-roemboek are assimilation, dissimilation, deletion, insertion, and vowel modification to be monophthong. Those changes realize the actual connected speech while delivering utterances in the speaking activity. Meanwhile, those have been revealed in the written form of literary work which meant that interestingly author used those oral language intentionally to be recorded in the form of poem composition. So that, reading the book established interaction between readers to the author to be likely spoken and heard. Importantly, this book contemplates absolutely the idea of writing at the period of that time were seemingly to communicate to the world outside. Therefore, learning about living ate that age can be described literally by reading the book as like Willem Iskander emerged in his book Si Boeloes boeloes Si Roemboek- roemboek.

References

Akhyaruddin, Eddy Pahar Harahap, H. Y.. *BAHAN AJAR Fonologi Bahasa Indonesia*. Komunitas Gemulun Indonesia: 2020.

Arsala, Y. Z., Hanafi, H., & Dako, R. T.. English Phonological Process Applied in Instagram Feed Video. *Jambura Journal of English Teaching and Literature*. 2022: *3*(2), 57–65. https://doi.org/10.37905/jetl.v3i2.16822

Chandra Dewi -, N.. *The Phonological Processes of Metathesis Words in Indonesian Slang Language Used by Jabotabek Teenagers*. 2016: https://ejournal3.undip.ac.id/index.php/engliterature/article/view/13777/13331

Dardanila, ., Mulyadi, ., & Tantawi, I.. *Lexicostatistics of Gayo Language with Mandailing Language*. *September*. 2020:1199–1203. https://doi.org/10.5220/0010069511991203

Diani, I., & Azwandi, A. Phonological Change Processes of English and Indonesian. *JOALL (Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literature)*. 2021: *6*(1), 133–148. https://doi.org/10.33369/joall.v6i1.13642

Harahap, M., Faruk, F., & Salam, A.. Si Bulus-Bulus Si Rumbuk-Rumbuk Sebagai Teks Yang Hegemonik. *Atavisme*. 2019:

22(1), 88–100. https://doi.org/10.24257/atavisme.v22i1.549.88-100

Harahap, R., & Gapur, A. Homonym in Mandailing Language. *GENTA BAHTERA: Jurnal Ilmiah Kebahasaan Dan Kesastraan*, 2020: *6*(1), 47–59. https://doi.org/10.47269/gb.v6i1.97

Leung, C. B., & Brice, A. E.. An Analysis of Phonological Processes Involved in Spoken English of Hong Kong Primary Pre-service Teachers. *Language Testing in Asia*. 2012: *2*(2), 42–60. https://doi.org/10.1186/2229-0443-2-2-42

Lubis, I. S., & Mulyadi, M.. Emotional Verbs in Angkola-Mandailing Language: a Natural Semantic Metalanguage Approach. *Language Literacy: Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Language Teaching*. 2020: *4*(1), 153–159. https://doi.org/10.30743/ll.v4i1.2218

Lubis, R. U., & Tamara, I.. The Shift of Addressing Terms of Mandailingnese Society in Panyabungan. *Journal of English Education and Linguistics*. 2020: *1*(1), 1–10. https://doi.org/10.56874/jeel.v1i1.42

Masthuroh, S. A., Suryadi, M., & Subiyanto, A. Phonological Process of Prefix /in-/ in French. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Pengajarannya*. 2020: *13*(2), 321–327. https://doi.org/10.26858/retorika.v13i2.13516

Muharrina Harahap, F. and A. S.. International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding Hybridization in Mandailing Culture : An Overview of Willem Iskander ' s Text. *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding*. 2019: *6*(5), 38–49.

Nurhayati, D. A. W.. *Introduction to English Phonology*. Akedemia Pustaka. 2019

Nursaima Harahap, & Mulyadi.. Incorporation With Verbal Deletion In Mandailing Language. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*. 2023: *9*(1), 135–143. https://doi.org/10.55637/jr.9.1.6205.135-143

Obied, I. M. *Phonological Rules 1- What are Phonological Rules ? December*. 2015: https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.2516.7448

Pandey, P. *Types of Phonological Processes-I*. 2017: 1–14.

Siregar, K., Djono, & Agung, L. Implementasi Nilai Pemikiran Willem Iskandar dalam Pembelajaran Sejarah. *Jurnal Education and Development*. 2018a: *5*(1), 58–66.

Siregar, K., Djono, D., & Agung, L.. Analisis Kebudayaan dalam Karya Sastra Willem Iskandar "Si Bulus-Bulus Si Rumbuk-Rumbuk." *Jurnal Sejarah Citra Lekha*. 2018b: *3*(2), 99. https://doi.org/10.14710/jscl.v3i2.19714

Siti Norma Nasution. the Spirit of Nationalism, Education and Moral Religion As Nation Character Building Which Portrayed in Si Bulus-Bulus Si Rumbuk-Rumbuk Written By Willem Iskander. *Dialektika: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra Dan Budaya*. 2021: *8*(1), 19–29. https://doi.org/10.33541/dia.v8i1.3109

Sofiyatunnida, & Hendrokumoro. Leksikostatistik Bahasa Mandailing dan Bahasa Melayu. *Nusa*. 2021:*16*(2), 165–180.

Sumarsih. Lexical Interference of Mandailing Language on Indonesian Language at Sitamiang Baru Padangsidimpuan. *Asian Social Science and Humanities Research Journal (ASHREJ)*. 2020: *2*(2), 63–69. https://doi.org/10.37698/ashrej.v2i2.44

Tarihoran, R. K., & Mulyadi, M. (). Gramatical Typology and Pivot System of Mandailing Language. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal)*. 2022:*5*(3), 18263–18269.

Utami, I. A., & Lintangsari, A. P.. English Phonology for Language Learners: Exploring Learners' Preferences. *International Journal of Humanity Studies (IJHS)*. 2021: *4*(2), 247–255. https://doi.org/10.24071/ijhs.v4i2.3234

Zahra, S. T., & Mulyadi, M. Kalimat Tanya Dalam Bahasa Mandailing: Teori X-Bar. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Pengajarannya*. 2019: *12*(2), 235. https://doi.org/10.26858/retorika.v12i2.9315

Zulkarnain, I., Asmara, S., & Sutatminingsih, R. Tutur: language and traditional communication in the Mandailing community, Indonesia. *Cogent Arts and Humanities*. 2023: *10*(1). https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2211816