

## LEXICAL CHANGE IN MINANGKABAU LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

*This study deals with the lexical change in Minangkabau language. It employs qualitative descriptive research. The focus of this study is the lexical creations in which aim to describe: (1) the processes of lexical creation in Minangkabau language, (2) to explain the reasons of lexical creation in Minangkabau language. The source of the data was short stories in Minangkabau language written by Miranda. In this study, the technique of collecting data was documentary technique. To get more accurate data, the process is done by interviewing some informants who speaks Minangkabau language in the family. The researcher recorded the interview and wrote it down in transcript. The processes of lexical change were found in Minangkabau language i.e. derivation, compound, borrowing and coinage. For example, the word parak previously in Minang language means almost = almost noon / early morning. The word parak is derived from English means park. This process occurs because sporadic relationships in trade in the past. another example is the word apo becomes a only when they express the sentence Apo kecekyo jo kau simply A kecekyo jo kau? This process happens because of more popular than the original term usually because the original is too long or outdated.*

**Key Words:** *Lexical Change, Minangkabau Language*

### INTRODUCTION

The change in vocabulary is just one aspect of language change, though it is the most noticeable one. (Ke, Geoong & Wang, 2008, p. 937) language change can be viewed as a diffusion process of some new linguistic elements (linguistic innovations) in a language community. It indicates an important characteristic of language: language changes with time. There is no language that remains stable all the time. Take English for example; the history of English is divided into three periods: Old English, Middle English and Modern English. English today is very much different from Shakespeare's time. There are considerable differences between the three stages of English development. Of course, the change from one stage to another is not sudden, but gradual.

Every language has a large vocabulary to meet the demands for social communication. However, the words in the vocabulary of a certain language are constantly changing instead of being invariable. With the unceasing rapid development of society, some words cease to exist and new words constantly appear to meet the need of expressing new ideas or naming new products. Many new words become stable after some time.

The study of words is always interesting to be investigated because there are still many words/ lexicons of languages haven't been observed how actually they have change process, besides by studying lexicon we can understand as the stock of words in given a language.

Word/lexical change is the process in which the word, concept or meaning are totally or partly replaced by another lexical item. The change spreads gradually through the vocabulary of a language affecting an increasing number of words. (Varshney, 1995, p. 283) It is sometimes convenient to subdivide lexical change into three facts: 1) loss of lexical items, 2) change of meaning, 3) creation of new lexical items.

Indonesia which consists of many islands and religions with the different ethnic groups has a lot of vernacular. There are 746 vernaculars which are spread in Indonesia.

([www.depdikdas.go.id/pusat-bahasa/746-jumlah-bahasa-daerah](http://www.depdikdas.go.id/pusat-bahasa/746-jumlah-bahasa-daerah)).

Many vernaculars in Indonesia are endangered. There are only 13 vernaculars have more than one million language users. They are Javanese, Batakese, Sundanese, Balinese, Bugisnese, Maduranese, Minangkabau language etc.

One of the vernacular languages is Minangkabau language (ML). It is one of the vernaculars comes from the Austronesia. This language has grown and developed in West Sumatera province. Minangkabau language is also widely used in vary area outside West Sumatera.

The phenomenon of lexical change happens in ML. One of the case of lexical change in ML is the creation of new lexical item which is divided into two processes; 1) internal lexical borrowing; the created items within the ML. This process is also called lexicalization encompasses *derivation*: the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word. For example, the word *lubang* as noun turns into *balubang* as adjective. It happens the affix *ba* within the word.

Besides, 2) external lexical borrowing (Varshney et al., 1995) states that external lexical borrowing is the created items derive from other languages. For example, the

word *pakiah* which in ML means; a) *someone who is an expert in religious law* b) *as commonly known in the past for teachers Qur'an*. This happens because in ML doesn't have the concept so that borrowing Arabic language is a process creating new word. Another example is the word *capek tuo* becomes *CT* because it has acronym process. An acronym is a word formed from the initial letters of a name (Allan, 1991) (for example, NATO, from North Atlantic Treaty Organization) or by combining initial letters of a series of words (radar, from radio detection and ranging). In ML the word *CT* is often used among young generation. This process occurs because it is pronounced easier and more prestigious among them.

Therefore, the writer is interested in observing the lexical change in Minangkabau language (ML) particularly the lexical creations. The writer would like to know the processes of lexical creations and the reasons of lexical creation occur in Minangkabau language. Lexical change is the process in which the word, concept or meaning are totally or partly replaced by another lexical item (Hana, 2006, p. 2). An interesting method emerges in lexical change is that a change does not immediately encompass all possible inputs one speaks of lexical diffusion: the change spreads gradually through the vocabulary of a language affecting an increasing number of words (Hickey, 1987, p. 16).

The process of lexical change is technically termed as lexicalization. Traditionally, lexicalization refers to routine process of word formation, such as compounding: the unifying of two or more autonomous words to form a third word; derivation: the formation of a new word or inflatable stem from another word or stem; and conversion; the creation of a word from an existing word without any change in form. These are usually construed the productive principle enabling a speaker's dynamic,

creative language use to produce new words. (Varshneyal., 1995) the lexical change can be in the forms of lexical loss (or a phenomenon in which a particular lexicon disappears), semantic change (or the shifting meaning in language), and creation of new lexical item (or the process of creating of a new lexical item to name an object, concept and place through the internal and external borrowing words).

Lexical creation is one of the types of lexical change which focuses on the process by which lexical item appears among the language users. According to (Varsney al., 1995, p. 289), the methods of creating new lexical item can be assigned to two main classes: 1) items created from sources within the language (internal borrowing) and 2) items created from sources (external borrowing). "When any part of the structure of a language is changed by importation of features, whether from some other part of the language or from some external source, the imported features are said to be borrowed" (Hall, 1969, p. 55).

### **1. Internal Borrowing**

Internal borrowing frequently starts out as slang, which later becomes accepted, such as snob, squabble, hard up, and so on (Varshney al., 1995, p. 292). A general type of internal borrowing is the adoption of proper names, as the word sandwich from Lord Sandwich, the person to eat his meat between two slices of bread. Like another occurrence has its own system and method, in this case the methods of forming an lexical items are also figure out, such as acronyms or initials, compounding, derivation, conversion, clipping, blending, back formation, loan translation, coinage or root connection, and metalinguistic citation (Brinton & Traugott, 2005, p. 34-44). Every single sort of these methods has been explored by in detail below.

### **a) Derivations**

In linguistics, derivation is the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word, e.g. happiness and un-happy from happy, or determination from determine. Derivation stands in contrast to the process of inflection, which uses another kind of affix in order to form grammatical variants of the same word, as with determine/ determine-s, determin-ing/ determin-ed (Crystal, 1999). Generally speaking, inflection applies to all members of a part of speech (e.g., every English verb has a past-tense form), while derivation applies only to some members of a part of speech (e.g., the nominalizing suffix -ity can be used with the adjectives modern and dense, but not with open or strong).

### **b) Acronyms**

Acronyms are historically the most recent group; two types are usually distinguished, acronyms and abbreviations. Though both consist a number of first letters, acronyms as pronounced as words (they are also called syllable words) whereas abbreviations are pronounced as series of letters (letter words) well established acronyms are laser (light wave amplification by stimulated emission of radar) and scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus). Those words are different from AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) are the abbreviations. Acronyms may be represented as fully formed, unified lexemes in lower case, but they are more often represented in upper case and hence are less obviously lexemes (Brinton & Traugott et al, 2005, p.41), for instance, (a) laser < l(ight) a(mplification) (by) s (timulated) e (mission) (of) r(adiation), (b) Sumut < Sum(atera)ut(ara), etc. Acronyms are also made up of initials of words, combined into a pronounceable word. Examples:

DUMBO(Down Under the Manhattan-Brooklyn Overpass).

### c) Compounds

Compounding is simply defined as the unifying of two or more autonomous words a third word (Bauer, 1983 in Brinton & Traugott, 2005, p. 34), e.g. blackboard, wallpaper and so on. After unification, the parts are no longer fully independent; for example in black + board (Adj + N) > blackboard (N), there is a stress shifting to the first syllable and loss of semantic motivation (blackboards may be black, blue, green, not, however, white). (Brinton & Traugott et al, 2005, p.34) state that for inflected languages, it is preferable to think of the combination of roots or stems rather than words (where 'root' is a form that carries primary lexical meaning and cannot be analyzed further, and 'stem' is a lexical form minus inflectional morphology). They may involve phonological changes meaning from slight (e.g. placement of stress and reduction of unstressed vowels as in some body < somebody).

## 2. External Borrowing

Borrowing is a very common linguistic phenomenon; no language is completely free of borrowed forms. The external borrowing is regarded as the creation of lexical item from outside sources or languages (Varshneyet al, 1995, p. 290). It is divided into 1) dialectal borrowing; the borrowing from one dialect to another 2) archaisms; the borrowing from an earlier stage of the same language, and 3) loans; the borrowing from other languages. A common cause of lexical borrowing is the need to find words for objects, concepts, and places. For example, alcohol, nadir, algebra, zero, and so on.

### a) Modified Lexical Creation

Modified lexical creation is meant as the processes of borrowing of the lexical item from other languages through naturalization. This process may go hand

in hand with the development that the word, each time it is passed on from one language to another, is adjusted phonologically/orthographically to make it fit to the phonological/ orthographical system of the recipient language. The Turkish word *kahveh* has been passed on to Arabic as *kahva*, from there the Dutch borrowed it as *koffie* and finally it was taken over by the English in the form *coffee* (Katamba, 1994, p. 191).

### b) Total Lexical Creation

Total lexical creation refers to the processes by borrowing lexicons which are not naturalized due to the same characteristics of the two languages or it is also called as direct borrowing is when a language takes over a term directly from another language. The English word *omelette* is an example for direct borrowing because it has been taken over from French (French: *omelette*) directly, without any major phonological or orthographical changes (Katamba et al, 1994, p. 191).

### c) Loan Translation/ Calque

A Loan-translation or calque occurs when the native language uses an item-for-item native version of the original. It shows replication of the structure of a foreign language word or expression by use of synonymous word forms in the borrowing language, e.g. French *prêt-à-porter* is a calque on English ready-to-wear. We might be tempted to define loan translation as the use of the corresponding word forms in the borrowing language, but this begs many questions, as there is seldom a precise one-to-one correspondence between any parts of the lexicon of two languages. Even in the example of *prêt-à-porter* it is not completely certain that the French expression is modeled on English ready-to-wear rather than being a less exact loan translation of the synonymous ready-for-wear, *beer garden* (German – *Biergarten*), *blue-blood* (Spanish –

*sangre azul*), commonplace (Latin – *locus commūnis*).

#### a. The Reasons of Lexical Creations

The commonest motivations for lexical borrowing have traditionally been identified as *need* and *prestige*.

##### a) Need

One reason for borrowing a suitable word from another language is the need to find a term for an unfamiliar thing, animal, or cultural device. The most obvious and maybe also the most profound one is the introduction of new concepts for which there are no suitable words in the task language.

##### b) Prestige

Moreover, a further, often underestimated reason for borrowing is prestige. Katamba notes here that people have always liked to show off (Katamba et al, 1994, p. 194). People would only take loan words from other languages if they believed that either the device/object for which the denotation is taken over or the language, from which the term comes, itself is prestigious. Borrowing for prestige is a more difficult concept, and can sometimes lead to oversimplification of complex sociolinguistic situations.

## METHOD

### Research Design

This is qualitative research. In this research, the methods documentary technique and interviewing some native speakers as the advanced method. In this research, the project is based on the language and literary resources.

The source of the data was short stories in Minangkabau language written by Miranda. The researcher took three short stories as the sample. First title is *Emak* which has 12 paragraphs, second *Barubek* with 23 paragraphs and the third is *Anak Partamo* 10 paragraphs.

The instrument of the research was the writer herself. (Sugiono, 2008)

states that instrument in naturalistic inquire the human. The writer applied the theory and the data were analyzed by the processes and reasons of lexical creation.

In relation to this, the Interactive Model Technique of Miles and Huberman (1984) was applied to analyze the data of this study. The analysis consisted of three concurrent flows of activities: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/ verification. The steps will be carried out to analyze the data arranged as follows.

- 1) Collecting the lexical creations in *the short Minangkabau stories* written by Miranda.
- 2) Identifying the class lexical creations
- 3) Classifying the lexical creations into the more specific categories namely internal lexical borrowings; derivations, acronyms, compounds, coinages and external lexical borrowing; modified lexical borrowing, total lexical borrowing, and loan translation/ calque and the data were analyzed deal with the theory provided in the previous chapter.
- 4) The writer listed some words and asks the informant to pronounce the words. During the interview, the writer took some important notes that will be found which is related to the data.
- 5) Translating some difficult words by using a dictionary; *Kamus Minang-Indonesia* written by Marah Rusli 1985.
- 6) Reducing the words which don't have the meaning in dictionary.
- 7) Writing the recapitulation of the data analyzed.
- 8) Displaying the recapitulations of the data by tables. This was vitally indispensable to display the percentages of the lexical creation processes and the reasons of lexical creations in Minangkabau language. Finally, after get the data the writer began to analyze the data.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**1 Result**

Based on the data obtained from Minangkabau short stories written by Miranda, the writer found the processes of the lexical changes occur.

**2 Discussion**

The writer picked up three titles of the story; *Emak, Barubek, Anak*

*Partamo* totally there are 45 paragraphs which consist of more than 1.000 words. It was found that the processes of lexical change encompass *derivations, acronyms, compounds, coinage, modified lexical borrowing, total lexical borrowing, and loan translation/ calque*. The processes are displayed on the table below.

**Table 1. The Processes of Lexical Change in ML written in short stories**

No	Process	Origin Word	English	Lexical Creation	Meaning
1	Derivation	<i>sawah</i>	field	<i>basawah</i>	to plant rice in the filed
2	Compound	gulai& paku	-	gulai paku	-
3	Acronym	apo	what	a	what
4	Borrowing	balig	puberty	baligh	puberty

Based on the finding above it can be seen that the processes change the original word into a new lexicon. Derivations change the lexical of category of words (part of speech), compound is formed when two or more words are put together to form a new word with a new meaning, acronym is a word formed from the initial letters of a name, and borrowing is the process by which a word from one language is adapted for use in another.

Derivations also deal with the principles governing the making up of new words without indication to the specific grammatical role a word might play in a sentence. The process is known as *affixing*. Obviously, derivations in Minangkabau language is various. According to Silvia Zeli in her research Minang language has prefix *ba-, ta-, man-, pe-*, and suffix *i-*. Those prefix occurred all in the short stories. it can be seen in table below:

**Table 2. Derivational process of Prefix and Infix**

No	Prefix	ML	English	Lexical Change	Meaning
1	<i>ba-</i>	anak	child	<i>baranak</i>	to give birth
		lubang	hole	<i>balubang</i>	hollow
2	<i>ta-</i>	raso	taste	<i>taraso</i>	tested
		lambek	soft	<i>talambek</i>	late
3	<i>man-</i>	sabik	sickle	<i>manyabik</i>	to sickle
		talepon		<i>manalepon</i>	to call
4	<i>pan-</i>	bali	buy	<i>pambali</i>	buyer
		tangih	cry	<i>panangih</i>	fractious
5	<i>pe-</i>	muda	young	<i>pemuda</i>	youth
No	Infix	ML	English	Lexical Change	English
1	-an	makan	to eat	<i>makanan</i>	food

From the data above the process of prefix and infix derivation automatically change in function. The word *anak* as noun becomes *baranak* as verb. On the other hand, the word *lubang* as noun becomes

*balubang* as adjective. Another process is the word *bali* as verb becomes *pambali* as noun. It happens because the process of derivation created new words with changing the functions of the word.

**Table 3. Compound**

No	Origin Words	Compound	Meaning
1	mato & ari	matoari	sun
2	baso & minang	basominang	Minangkabau language
3	limau & kapeh	limau kapeh	lime
4	kulik & ula	kulik ula	snake skin

Mostly compound nouns are dominant in the short story written by Miranda. A compound noun is a noun made by putting two or more words together to act as one noun. These nouns can be written as one word (as in *kulik*

*ula* and *limau kapeh*). It's different from English, hyphenated words are used (as in *well-being*). In ML if there is hyphen it's not called as compound instead of repletion word, for example *raso-raso*.

**Table 4. Acronym**

No	Original word	Acronym	Meaning
1	Ikatan Malalo	IKMAL	Malalo family
2	bagaimano	baa	how
3	CT	capek tuo	to get old easily
4	kanceh	kancang cemeeh	disappointed

In the short story written by Miranda, acronym is very rare. For example, IKMAL is acronym formed from the initial letter. IKMAL is an organization of Padangnese family who doesn't live in Padang but still meet in city.

If we want to ask "*How?*", we can use "*Ba a caronyo?*" or "*Bagaimano caronyo?*". The morphem */gaimano/* is missing and they give the alphabet only to create a new one. Shortened words are

more often used, especially in everyday conversation because it is more simple.

Through acronym, new lexicons can be produced from either one word or a combination of several words. The result of this process indicates that language is dynamic and always develops based on the situation or the need of the speakers. Because of the writer of the ML short story is young generation so she preferred using acronym to original word.

**Table 5. Borrowing**

Borrowing Processes	Original Words	Original Language	ML	Meaning
Modified Lexical Borrowing	<i>khutbah</i>	Arabic	katubah	religious lecture
	<i>makhluq</i>		mukaluak	creature
Total Lexical Borrowing	<i>procold</i>	English	procold	procold
	<i>dumin</i>		dumin	dumin
Loan Translation/ Calque	<i>raso-raso</i>	Indonesian	rasa-rasanya	to feel
	<i>badabok-dabok</i>		berdebar-debar	to flutter

From the table above, Minangkabau language (ML) borrowed the other languages. The word *katubah* is derived from Arabic. It has modification in ML, *khutbah* =

*katubah*. ML doesn't have the phonem *kh* instead of *k*. it also happens with the word *makhluq* = *mukaluak*. For the word *procold* and *dumin*, those don't change at all. ML adopt the total word

from the original language. They are the names of medicines which simply Padangnese speakers automatically mention those words when they get sick. For the words *raso-raso* and *badabok-dabok* are the expressions from Bahasa Indonesia *rasa-rasanya*, *berdebar-debar*. Loan translation occurs when the native language uses an item-for-item native

version of the original. It shows replication of the structure of a foreign language word or expression by use of synonymous word forms in the borrowing language.

The Reasons of lexical creation in Minangkabau Language based on what Miranda wrote in her story were need, prestige, and practicality.

**3.2 Discussion**

There are three reasons of lexical creations have been identified as *need* and

*prestige* and *practicality*. It ca be seen from the table below:

**Table 6. Factors of Lexical Change**

No	Reasons	Processes	Words	Meaning
1	Need	Derivation	<i>raso = dirasoan</i>	<i>feel</i>
		Compound	<i>kulik ula</i>	<i>snake skin</i>
		Borrowing	<i>khutbah = katubah</i>	<i>to lecture religion</i>
2	Prestige	Borrowing	<i>procold</i>	<i>procold</i>
		Acronym	<i>kancang cemeeh = kanceh</i>	<i>dissapointed</i>
3	Practicality	Acronym	<i>IKMAL</i>	<i>Malalo family</i>
		Borrowing	<i>HP</i>	<i>cell phone</i>

Derivation, compound, and borrowing processes were found of the lexical change reason; *Need*. Miranda as the writer of ML short stories need the word categories to complete the sentence. For example, *Itu lah nan dirasoan dek silesuik kini...raso* as noun has turned into *dirasasoan* as verb. Besides, ML need compounds to add the new lexicon by combining two or more words that form new meanings and differ from the original meaning of the word. Then, the word *katubah* is a need because ML doesn't have the concept in the language.

*Prestige* and *practicality* were dominant found in the processes of acronym and borrowing. It can be. Katamba notes here that people have always liked to show off (Katamba et al, 1994, p.194). People would only take loan words from other languages if they believed that either the device/object for which the denotation is taken over or the language, from which the term comes, itself is prestigious. Borrowing for

*prestige* is a more difficult concept, and can sometimes lead to oversimplification of complex sociolinguistic situations. For *practicality* reason, the writer Miranda of the ML short stories used borrowing word to simplicity the expression for example word *hp* is derived from foreign language *handphone*.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the description, explanation and discussion about the processes and the reasons of lexical creations in ML written in Miranda short stories can be drawn as follow:

1. The lexical creation processes in ML flow under the two crisp and concise methods. First, internallexicalborrowings including *derivations*, *acronyms*, and *compounds*. Second, external lexical borrowings encompass the three distinctive domains: *modified lexical borrowing*, *total lexical borrowing* and *loan translation/ calque*.



2. The reasons of lexical creations in ML are substantially influenced by the *need*; to find a term for naming a new object such as *technology, culture, government, art, entertainment, family, medical term, science, building, transportation, sport, fashion, material, academy, food and drink, and animal*. Next, influenced by the *prestige*; it is sometimes said to occur when a speaker perceives that there is greater social cachet attached to a word from another language such as the fields of *technical term, technologies, medical term, building, transportation, sport, food, place, animal, culture, furniture, fashion, art and government*. The last is influenced by *practicality*; this phenomenon happens when a sentence or a phrase is shortened because of the more practical in written or spoken language.

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