



## Changes in the Meaning of Foreign Languages, Regional Languages and Similar Languages in Indonesian Language

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**Abstract:** This study analyzes the phenomenon of vocabulary shift in Indonesian, which originates from three main elements: foreign languages, regional languages, and cognate languages. The focus of the study lies in the sociolinguistic relationship between the language-speaking community and this expansion. The research method uses a descriptive-qualitative approach with data drawn from various sources such as mass media, literature, and everyday conversation. The results of the analysis show that vocabulary expansion from foreign languages is often triggered by globalization and technological developments, while the expansion of the language itself reflects the language's creativity in responding to local cultural needs. On the other hand, contributions from cognate languages such as Malay appear more in the context of cultural and historical similarities. This study concludes that language expansion is influenced by social, cultural, and economic dynamics, while also demonstrating that language plays a role as a mirror of societal change. The study of changes in meaning shows that the development of Indonesian not only enriches vocabulary but also reflects the social, cultural, and technological dynamics in society.

**Keywords:** Changes in Meaning, traditional language, similar language, loans words, Indonesian language

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool that continues to evolve in accordance with the social, cultural, and economic dynamics of society. One manifestation of language development is vocabulary expansion, namely the process by which a language adopts, modifies, or creates new terms to meet communication needs. This vocabulary expansion can originate from various sources, such as foreign languages, native languages, or related languages. This phenomenon is not only related to linguistic aspects, but also socio-cultural aspects, making it relevant to

study in the realm of sociolinguistics.

However, the development of the current era has led to the influx of many foreign languages into society. These foreign languages enter through the flow of technology, culture, and even the entertainment world. As it develops, the absorption of these foreign elements has significantly influenced the expansion of the Indonesian vocabulary (Meysitta, 2018). Currently, slang is often used in everyday communication. Slang is a form of language used by certain groups with special and secret characteristics (Zaidan et al., 2018). Slang is

generally used by young people or teenagers. This language is created by playing with sounds or letters through processes such as adding, compressing, or changing the position of sounds or using various words to form new words (Khoirurrohman, 2020). In addition to the expansion of foreign languages, vocabulary is also found in the expansion of native languages or regional languages. The main source of language expansion usually comes from the creativity of the community in utilizing the potential of local languages. This process includes combining words, adding affixes, changing meanings, or creating new terms that remain rooted in the identity of the native language. This expansion not only maintains the authenticity of the language, but also enriches the vocabulary and strengthens the function of language as a means of communication.

The expansion of cognate languages is the process of language development that occurs through interactions between languages from the same language family. Cognate languages, such as Indonesian, Malay, Javanese, and Minangkabau, share common origins. The expansion of cognate languages occurs through various sources, including social contact and cultural exchange, as well as external factors such as trade and globalization. This process results in the absorption and adaptation of words, terms, and expressions from cognate languages, which then enriches the vocabulary and strengthens the relationships between the languages.

Cohn.A.C (2014). Language shift originating from a foreign language generally occurs through cultural, economic, and political contact, where a society acquires new vocabulary or even previously unknown linguistic concepts. An example is the adoption of English words in the fields of technology and science. Mandavilli (2016). Regional language-based development places greater emphasis on exploration and creativity in utilizing existing language elements to create

new terms or structures. This phenomenon is often found in the formation of new words through morphological processes such as affixation, reduplication, and acronymization.

Foreign languages, such as English, are often the dominant source of vocabulary expansion due to globalization and technological advances. According to (Adibah et al., 2023), the entry of foreign terms into local languages is the result of interlingual contact supported by the economic and technological influence of the more dominant country. On the other hand, the expansion of vocabulary within a language reflects the language's ability to innovate and adapt to local needs, as stated by (Misriani et al., 2023) in their study of grammar and word formation. Furthermore, related languages, particularly Malay, also contribute to the development of Indonesian through historical connections and cultural proximity.

McMurray (2016). Language is dynamic and always evolving with the times. Language development will always have both positive and negative impacts on society. Therefore, language always experiences development, shifts, and changes in meaning over a given period. According to Johnstone (2004).The linguistic phenomena around us demonstrate that language in society has evolved over the years. This is because language is no longer used solely for direct communication, but can now be used in modern ways through technologies such as the internet.

According to Rahutomo (2018).The number of words in the Indonesian dictionary continues to grow. This development can be seen from each word's essence, which has a meaning that changes over time. Syamsuri. (2015). Vocabulary development is a condition where the form and meaning of vocabulary in a language increases, decreases, and changes. Vocabulary development in Indonesian is necessary to complement the shortcomings in Indonesian, namely the limited types of words, expressions, and terms that can accommodate



and express aspects of life, psychology, society, culture, science, and modern technology well. Language development is a process of expanding meaning, where new meanings are broader than the previous meanings.

According to Meysitta, L. (2018). The development of Indonesian vocabulary can be done in several ways, namely: collecting other languages such as regional languages and foreign languages, determining the balance of expressions and terms from other languages with Indonesian material, analogy, reviving old words with new values, and creating new words. Zaim, M. (2015). Word formation in Indonesian can be done in two ways, namely; the formation of words originating from regional languages and from outside Indonesian (loan elements), loan words that no longer sound foreign occur because there is an adjustment.

The language that will be preserved needs to be maintained because according to some language experts, it is impossible to maintain the purity of the language. According Bonvillain, N. (2019) A pure language is a language that eventually dies and is no longer used for communication, language shifts in the world have occurred very broad shifts, this has happened to Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin. However, if it is too open to the influence of other languages, it can cause problems such as Malay because the language already has too many variations and is uncertain, making it difficult to find which ones are worth taking and which ones are not worth taking.

## **METHOD**

This research was conducted using a descriptive-qualitative approach that aims to identify and analyze the phenomenon of language expansion based on three main sources, namely foreign languages, native languages, and cognate languages (Fitriani, 2019). Research data was obtained from various sources, including mass media such as newspapers, magazines, and online media, to

detect new vocabulary originating from foreign languages. In addition, data was also collected from Indonesian language literature, such as dictionaries, grammar books, and literary works, which reflect the development of native language sources. Other data sources came from historical documents and Malay literary works as representations of cognate languages.

This research method uses a descriptive method. Descriptive research is a method used to describe research results. As the name suggests, this type of descriptive research aims to provide descriptions, explanations, and validation of the phenomenon being studied (Ramdhan, 2021). The research source used the KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary). The data consists of foreign loanwords from KBBI, originating from four foreign languages that have been adopted into Indonesian. Data collection was conducted using a listening method with note-taking techniques. Data were collected by selecting a representative sample of loanwords originating from foreign languages such as Arabic, English, Greek, and Italian. Loanwords originating from native languages include Sanskrit, Australian, and Indonesian. Similar loanwords also come from Malay, Arabic, and Javanese.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Changes in Language Meaning Based on Foreign Language Sources**

The results of the study show that the development of the Indonesian language from foreign language sources is dominated by the entry of new terms, especially from English. This occurs along with the development of globalization and technology, where foreign terms such as download, startup, online, software, digital, and webinar have become part of everyday conversation. The use of these terms not only reflects practical needs, but also indicates a change in social values in society, such as the tendency to adopting global culture. This adoption often occurs without morphological changes, thus maintaining the original form of the word.

**Table 1. Changes in Foreign Languages**

Field	New Vocabulary	Origin of Language	Context of Use
Technology	<i>Download</i> , Software	English	Information Technology
Economy	<i>Startup</i> , E-commerce	English	Online business
Education	<i>Webinar</i> , E-learning	English	Distance learning

Indonesian has a close relationship with English. Much of Indonesian has been influenced by English. Many forms of Indonesian are derived from English, such as positive, negative, computer, and television. Although most Indonesian vocabulary originates from English, the language itself has evolved.

Therefore, vocabulary and expressions will always evolve in line with science and technology. As a result, vocabulary and expressions will adapt to the pronunciation and letter formation of their native language, experiencing both broadening and narrowing of meaning.

- 1) Cloud: means "cloud" but now has a new meaning, namely a place to store data technologically (cloud storage).
- 2) Mouse: The word "mouse" means "rat," meaning a small, four-legged animal that lives in sewers. However, the word "mouse" has a broader meaning, meaning it can be used to operate computers and laptops.
- 3) Like has a meaning and its old meaning was as a form of expressing liking for something, but now its meaning is

broader, namely giving a sign as a sign of liking a post on social media.

- 4) The old meaning of filter was to filter something whether it was right or wrong, but now its meaning has become broader, including digital effects on cameras on social media.

**2. Changes in the meaning of language based on regional language sources**

Meanwhile, language change from its own source language is evident in the community's efforts to create new terms relevant to local needs. Examples include the formation of new words through morphological processes such as affixation (*pemelajar*), reduplication (*kekinian*), and acronymization (*posbindu* for Integrated Guidance Post). This phenomenon reflects the creativity of the Indonesian language in adapting to the social and cultural developments of its society. The expansion of the language from its own source is prominent in the creativity of word formation through morphological processes. This process involves affixation, reduplication, and acronymization to create terms appropriate to the local context. For example, the word *pemelajaran* is an affixed form of the root word *ajar*.

**Table 2. Changes in Regional Languages**

Morphological Process	New Vocabulary	Context of Use
Affixation	<i>Learning</i>	Education
Reduplication	<i>Current</i>	Popular culture
Acronymization	<i>Integrated Health Post</i>	Public health

Language is an inseparable part of human life. This study uses the researcher as a research subject. In my daily life, I use slang more often than using standard Indonesian. This study explains that the current use of language is no longer pure, but has been mixed with other languages, or what is known as code switching, to facilitate understanding and become more trendy. (Wiyanti et al., 2024) And what will be discussed now is the expansion with its own language sources that are often used daily:

- 1) "You're so crazy about it," the word "Bucin" is a combination of two words, the word "Budak" and the word "cinta" which has a broader meaning, such as: a person who is crazy about love, will do anything for the person he loves.
- 2) "I swear you look so beautiful today, Mom," the word "Bunda" is derived from the old word "Bunda," meaning the mother who gave birth to us. However, the pronunciation has now been updated to "Bund" for a more trendy look.
- 3) "My helmet is bogo, but my beauty makes you melogo Meledag" The word Meledak is taken from the old word

"Meledak" which means explosion. However, now the pronunciation has been updated to "meledag"

- 4) "The martabak there is really addictive," the word "Nagih" has a broader meaning such as; addictive, delicious, and always wanting something.

### 3. Language Change Based on Allied Language Sources

The expansion of related languages, particularly Malay, is evident in the similarity of terms used in the context of shared culture (Mujianto & Sudjalil, 2021). For example, terms like gotong royong (mutual cooperation) and adat istiadat (customs) demonstrate historical and cultural continuity between languages. Indonesian and Malay. This underscores the importance of genealogical connections in enriching the Indonesian vocabulary. Related languages, such as Malay, have contributed significantly to the expansion of the Indonesian vocabulary. Adopted vocabulary is generally rooted in cultural and historical similarities, such as terms used in Nusantara customs and traditions.

**Table 3. Changes in cognate languages**

New Vocabulary	Cognate Language Source	Context of Use	
<i>Mutual cooperation</i>	Malay	Social traditions	
<i>Customs</i>	Malay	Culture and customary law	
<i>Deliberation</i>	Malay	Decision making process	

According to Kridalaksana (1986) Indonesian vocabulary originates from Malay, because Indonesian is a development of the language in the archipelago, namely Malay. (Wurianto et al., nd). The development of Indonesian has experienced changes in vocabulary, both from related languages,

regional languages, and foreign languages. This occurs due to trade, colonialism, and socio-political changes. Of all the vocabulary in Indonesian, it adopts loan words, one of which comes from Malay and Sanskrit. The Sanskrit language that developed in Indonesia was used to write Hindu literature. The

Sanskrit language and literature in Indonesia played a significant role and had a significant influence on language and literature in Indonesia, especially in Old Javanese and Balinese. Ancient Javanese literature also influenced the development of Malay and modern Indonesian.

The influence of Sanskrit on the languages of the Indonesian archipelago began in the first century and continued through the 14th century, when Hindus from southern India traded with the archipelago. Consequently, Sanskrit spread throughout the archipelago. Sanskrit was absorbed into Indonesian to enrich its vocabulary. Sanskrit, as a cognate language, was absorbed into Indonesian, both in the form of terms and words derived from Malay, whose basic form is derived from it.

Observations revealed several Sanskrit-derived words used by related languages, both Indonesian and Malay, that have undergone changes in form and meaning. The findings are as follows:

- 1) *Purna* in Sanskrit it means full but is absorbed into Indonesian as *Purnama* which has the meaning of just becoming full moon.
- 2) *Vayas* in Sanskrit, it means age and life period such as youth, but it is absorbed into Indonesian as *Ayah*, which means a man who is the head of the family at home.
- 3) *Aneka* in Sanskrit, it means "various" and was then absorbed into Indonesian to become the word "*Air*" which has a new meaning of "atmosphere".
- 4) *Udara* in Sanskrit, it means stomach or womb, then it was absorbed into Indonesian without changing the word in the vocabulary but has a different meaning, in Indonesian it means atmosphere.
- 5) *Ama* in Sanskrit, "ham" means raw or unripe, and not yet perfect. It was later absorbed into Indonesian as "hama," meaning "annoying."

Further discussion shows that language

expansion is not only a linguistic process, but also a socio-cultural phenomenon. The expansion of foreign languages is influenced by economic factors and global cultural dominance, while the expansion of one's own language demonstrates the resilience and innovation of local culture. On the other hand, the contribution of cognate languages emphasizes the importance of regional solidarity in strengthening linguistic identity. This study emphasizes that language expansion is the result of a dynamic interaction between society and language. This process reflects the evolving needs for communication, innovation, and cultural identity, along with changing times. The results of this study provide in-depth insights into the contribution of each source to language expansion, while also emphasizing that language is a reflection of complex social change.

The research results show that changes in the Indonesian language from foreign sources are primarily driven by globalization and technological advances. The entry of terms like "download," "startup," and "webinar" reflects society's need to keep up with developments in the modern world. This phenomenon demonstrates the strong influence of the dominant culture disseminated through mass media, information technology, and education. In this context, the adoption of foreign vocabulary often occurs without changes in word form, resulting in

This allows people to directly integrate it into everyday communication (Darwis & Kamsinah, 2019). However, this also poses challenges to preserving local language identity, given that the dominance of foreign vocabulary can displace the use of native Indonesian terms.

Changes in the meaning of language from its own source language reflect the Indonesian language's ability to innovate and adapt to local needs. Morphological processes



such as affixation and reduplication enable the creation of new words relevant to the cultural and social context of society. For example, the word "pemelajaran" demonstrates the Indonesian language's ability to create terms appropriate to developments in the field of education. This process not only enriches vocabulary but also strengthens the Indonesian language's ability to remain a primary, adaptive and functional means of communication. This creativity demonstrates that the Indonesian language has great potential to continue developing independently without over-reliance on foreign language influences (Hastuti & Nevriyani, 2021).

Native languages, such as Malay, have also contributed significantly to the development of the Indonesian language. Words derived from Malay, such as "gotong royong" (mutual cooperation) and "ada istiadat" (customs), not only illustrate linguistic similarities but also reflect deep cultural and historical ties. The development of these native languages serves as a reminder that Indonesian did not develop in isolation, but rather within a framework of strong regional connections. This vocabulary often reflects the cultural values of the archipelago, which are an important part of the community's collective identity. In this context, the development of native languages can be seen as an effort to preserve a shared cultural heritage.

Overall, the development of languages from these three sources demonstrates the dynamic interaction between language and society (Rosadi & Hermanto, 2018). Foreign languages make significant contributions to technology and globalization, while native languages offer flexibility in responding to local needs. On the other hand, cognate languages reinforce the historical and cultural dimensions of Indonesian. This emphasizes that language is not merely a means of communication but also a reflection of the

social, cultural, and economic dynamics of society. By understanding the process of language development from these various sources, we can see how Indonesian continues to evolve as a language.

## CONCLUSION

This study reveals that the expansion of Indonesian vocabulary is influenced by three main sources: foreign languages, native languages, and cognates. Expansion from foreign languages, especially English, is largely due to globalization and technological developments. Vocabulary such as download, startup, and e-learning have become essential components of modern communication, reflecting the language's need to adapt to global change. On the other hand, expansion from native languages demonstrates Indonesian's creativity in forming new terms through morphological processes, such as affixation (learning) and reduplication (contemporary), reflecting Indonesian's efforts to remain relevant to local cultural needs.

The contribution of related languages, particularly Malay, is evident in vocabulary that reflects shared cultural and historical values, such as mutual cooperation and customs. This demonstrates that Indonesian develops not only in response to external influences but also as part of regional cultural solidarity. The study's conclusions affirm that social, cultural, and economic dynamics play a significant role in language development, and that Indonesian serves as a mirror of societal change, continually evolving amidst local and global influences.

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