Languages in Contact : A Study of Arabic Loanwords in Malay/Indonesian Language.

Rozanna Mulyani1*, Noordin Mohd Noor2
Universitas Sumatera Utara1
Universiti Sains Malaysia2

Abstract. This paper discusses the contact language between Malay and Arabic language. Objectives of the study are to look into the similarities etymology of the two countries national language. This paper will implement qualitative analysis, which is based on discussions and comparison. The results of this study show that cultural contact especially the reach of Islam in Southeast Asia results in linguistic contact. Linguistic borrowing in most cases exhibits as a response to language borrowing. A number of motivations stand behind the phenomenon of borrowing. As a result of cultural and linguistic contact between Malay language as a lingua franca of the region in the early days and Arabic languages so many Arabic words absorbs into Malay languages.

Keywords: language contact, Arabic language, Malay language.

Received 15 May 2018 | Revised 25 July 2018 | Accepted 20 August 2018

1. Introduction

Malay language is a major language in Southeast Asia. Malay language has undergone various stages of development that derived from different layers of foreign languages influences through various activities such as international trade, religious expansion, colonization and developments of recent socio-political trends. The oldest form of Malay language is believed descended from the Proto-Malayo-Polynesian language spoken by the earliest Austronesian settlers in Southeast Asia. This form would later evolve into Old Malay language when Hindu-Buddhism cultures and religions began penetrating the region. Old Malay language contained some Sanskrit terms that exist today and perhaps unintelligible to current Malay language speakers, on the other hand, the modern Malay language form is recognizable in written Classical Malay language.

Classical Malay language undergoes the gradual borrowing of numerous Arabic vocabularies. It happen when Islam made its way to the region. Initially, Classical Malay language was a diverse group of dialects, reflecting the varied origins of the Malay kingdoms of Southeast Asia. One of these dialects that were developed in the literary tradition of Melaka Sultanate in the 15th century.
eventually became predominant. The strong influence of Melaka Sultanate in international trade in the region resulted in Malay as a *lingua franca* in commerce and diplomacy, a status that it maintained throughout the age of the succeeding Malay sultanates, the European colonial era and the modern times.

The study Arabic loan words in Malay and Indonesian Language has done individually by a scholar like J. Russell (1978) [1] and M.A.J Beg (1977)[2]. Jones claims that his works focused on Indonesian language. Whereas Beg collects Arabic words that found in Malay language, Urdu and few others. This study is different hence it is collaboration by two scholars from Malaysia and Indonesia. Definitely there are some new angles to be discussed in this study.

2. Objectives

Objectives of the study are to look into the similarities etymology of the two countries national language. Malay language in Malaysia known as *Bahasa Kebangsaan* or Standard Malay language. In Singapore and Brunei it is called *Bahasa Melayu* (Malay language); in Malaysia as *Bahasa Malaysia*. In Indonesia, this language is called *Bahasa Indonesia* (Indonesian language). The choice to use Bahasa Indonesia involves political home affairs reasons for the purpose of "unifying language" (*Bahasa Persatuan/Pemersatu*). In general, some Indonesians (not linguistically speaking) refer and consider *Bahasa Melayu* is just one of their regional languages, *Bahasa Indonesia* is not *bahasa Melayu*. However, in Malaysia generally refer or consider *Bahasa Indonesia* is just another form of Malay language, or Malay language with Indonesian accent (*bahasa Melayu loghat/lenggok/cengkok Indonesia*). This is similar to the case of British English and American English.

Furthermore Malay magnum opus literary works such as *Hikayat Hang Tuah, Sulalatus Salatin, Hikayat Raja-raja Pasai* (just to name a few) unites Malaysia and Indonesia. The works crossed the political territorial boundary of the two or more countries. Besides the language, the usage of Jawi scriptures too will make us come to some sort of agreement that Malaysia and Indonesia shares the same values regarding national language. The scenario of Indonesia and Malaysia, when Malaysian and Indonesian using their national language, parts that can be understood were much bigger, therefore we better reconsider whether it is true or not the statement that Indonesian language is very different from the Malay language which is the root of both languages are the same. Isn’t it possible to describe that the stance was influenced by national political mind. [3]
4. Limitation

This study is limited to the selected word Arabic only. These selected words are basic words that maintain or retain the same meaning as in Arabic. Derivative verb that borrowed from Arabic will not be discussed due to this matters will definitely involve other disciplines of linguistics approaches.

5. Research Methodology

This paper will implement qualitative analysis which is based on discussions and comparison. In terms resource this paper involving the analysis of the contents of the dictionary as a unit of analysis of the study to evaluate the absorption of Arabic words according to the classification of words. Dictionaries as a unit of analysis for this study are Kamus Dewan (KD) [4] and Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) [5] that contains Arabic words in Malay/Indonesia Language. The words further analysed by a Malay Language-Jawi glossary, Daftar Kata Bahasa Melayu Rumi-Sebutan-Jawi (DBKM) [6] that contains the Arabic spelling of words in Jawi writing. For the purposes of the discussions, some Arabic words which have been absorbed into the Malay language either marked with the abbreviation "Ar" in KD or not (because of its strong use of the Malay language) were included. Further analysis of the types of absorption of whether these words have full absorption (spelling preserved) or change (spelling) will not be discussed due to it could lead to another research.

6. Discussions

6.1. The Influence of Arabic Loanwords in Malay Names.

Malay people are synonyms with Muslims. In general for Malay Muslim man and woman will use Arabic names. Mostly the name selected are from prophets names and the names that has a good meaning. For example:

- Adam, Hawa, Idris, Nuh, Soleh, Ibrahim, Ismail, Yaakub, Isa Muhammad etc.
- Mariam, Siti Hajar, Siti Fatimah, Khadijah, Aminah etc.
- The names that start with Nur such as Nurhayati, Nuraini, Nurhaliza etc.
- The names started with Ahmad and Muhammad such as Ahmad Yani, Ahmad Dani, Ahmad Daud, Muhammad Nur, Muhammad Yamin, Muhammad Lukman

6.2. Arabic Loanwords for Days in a Week.

- Senin-Insin = Monday
- Selasa = Teusday
- Rabu = Wednesday
- Kamis-Khamis = Thursday خميس
- Jumat-Jumaat = Friday جمعة
- Sabtu = Saturday يوم السبت
- Ahad for Sunday للاحد

Arabic words exist in various areas or parts of Malay / Indonesian language. These are more examples. Words such as hukum, hakim, adil contributed to law terms. In education term we could find words like kuliah, madrasah, telaah, ilmu alamiah, etc. Everyday usages such as hadir, kerusi, kemeja, wasit, wali, syukur, doa, ruh etc.

It is undeniable that Arabic has contributed to the vocabulary of the Malay language in the region.

7. Conclusion

Cultural contact especially the reach of Islam in Southeast Asia results in linguistic contact. Linguistic borrowing in most cases exhibits as a response to language borrowing. A number of motivations stand behind the phenomenon of borrowing. As a result of cultural and linguistic contact between Malay language as a lingua franca of the region in the early days and Arabic languages so many Arabic words absorbs into Malay languages. This is just a small study, the study of loanwords could be expand in accordance to the linguistic system of the receptor language in many other disciplines such as phonology, morphology, and semantics.
REFERENCES


