



## Sound Change of Batahan Language as Malay Dialect in Mandailing Natal Regency

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 15 February 2024

Revised 18 March 2024

Accepted 21 April 2024

Available online 17 May 2024

E-ISSN: 2962-1208

P-ISSN: 2807-3118

#### How to cite:

Lubis M A Z and Lubis T 2024  
Sound Change of Batahan  
Language as Malay Dialect in  
Mandailing Natal Regency  
Tradit. Mod. Humanit. 4 36–43.



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<https://doi.org/10.32734/tmh.v4i2.17101>

### ABSTRACT

This research deals with comparative historical linguistic studies that discuss the types of sound changes from Proto-Austronesian into Batahan Malay. This research uses qualitative methods with listening and recording techniques. Data sources were obtained from informants who are native speakers of Batahan Coastal Malay. Vocabulary taken from the speakers' recordings are those listed in the swadesh list. In the sound changes of the Austronesian language into Batahan Coastal Malay based on sound position, there are only six changes out of seven changes namely metathesis, apheresis, syncope, apocope, prothesis, and paragoge.

**Keywords:** Sound change, Batahan language, Malay dialect, Mandailing Natal

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berkaitan tentang kajian linguistik historis komparatif yang bertujuan membahas tipe-tipe perubahan bunyi dari Bahasa Proto-Austronesia ke dalam Bahasa Melayu Batahan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan teknik simak dan catat. Sumber data didapatkan dari informan yang merupakan penutur asli Bahasa Melayu Batahan. Kosakata yang diambil dari rekaman penutur adalah yang terdaftar di daftar swadesh. Pada perubahan bunyi bahasa proto Austronesia ke dalam Bahasa Melayu Batahan berdasarkan posisi bunyi hanya ada enam perubahan dari tujuh perubahan yaitu metatesis, afresis, sinkop, apokop, protesis dan paragog

**Keyword:** Perubahan bunyi, bahasa Batahan, dialek Melayu, Mandailing Natal

### 1. Introduction

Every language in the world evolves and changes. The reason behind language change is variation in pronunciation and vocabulary. Language change occurs within the language itself, which causes differences in language structure. As a result, over some time a word is pronounced differently. These changes begin with the behavior of speakers in their daily lives to adapt to each other and are followed by the tendency to innovate in community groups. Languages undergo development and change from the Proto language (old language) to the language we use today. Proto-language is an old language that is derived from several related languages: for example, Proto-Austronesian is the ancient language of Indonesian languages [1].

Proto-Austronesian is the name of a language family that inhabits mainland Southeast Asia. The Austronesian language family is grouped into two sub-groups, namely the Western Austronesian sub-group (Indonesian languages or Malay languages) and the Eastern Austronesian sub-group (Oceania languages or Polynesian languages). The West Indonesian language group includes Malagasy, Formosa, Filipino, Minahasa, Aceh, Gayo, Batak, Malay, Madurese, Sundanese, Nias, Minangkabau and the East Indonesian language group includes Timor-Ambon, Sula-Bacan, South Halmahera-West Indies [2]. With the division of the Austronesian sub-tribe, we can mention that the many diverse regional languages in Indonesia have the same ancient mother tongue. But in its journey, the similarity of the sub-tribe language with the proto-language itself undergoes changes and developments due to many factors. The phenomenon of language change is universal and universal. Language change as a general phenomenon can be seen from sound changes at the level of phonology which is a very basic and important linguistic level in the context of a study in the field of comparative historical linguistics [3].

According to [1], Historical Linguistics or Comparative Historical Linguistics is a branch of linguistics that questions language in the field of time and changes in language elements that occur in the field of time. Language change as a general phenomenon can be observed through sound changes. In other words, this

change can be observed at the phonological level which is the most basic and important linguistic level in the context of the study of the field of comparative linguistics [4].

This comparative historical linguistic study will try to observe the sound changes from proto-language (Austronesian) into regional languages. On this occasion, the author chose the Batahan Malay language which will be analyzed for types of sound changes. Batahan Coastal Malay is one of the many coastal Malay languages spread in Indonesia and is part of the western Austronesian sub-tribe. So it is important to know the process of changing the sound of this related language with a fundamental change process, namely at the phonological level. Sound changes that occur from the Proto language into Batahan Coastal Malay include:

1. Metathesis is a process of sound change that takes the form of exchanging the place of two phonemes.
2. Aphesis is a process of sound change in the form of removing a or several phonemes at the beginning of a word.
3. Syncope is a sound change in the form of omission of a phoneme or several phonemes in the middle of a word.
4. Apokop is a sound change in the form of omission of a phoneme or several phonemes at the end of a word.
5. Prothesis is a change in sound in the form of adding a phoneme or several phonemes at the beginning of a word.
6. Paragogue is a sound change process in the form of adding a phoneme or several phonemes to the end of a word.

As a supporter of this paper, several related articles are expected to support the findings in the field so that the theory can be strengthened and the data obtained is accurate. Among them are entitled "*Sound Changes of Proto-Austronesian Language into Tamiang Dialect Malay (BDMT)*". And entitled "*Sound Changes of Proto Austronesian Language into Javanese Dialect Sumatra: A Comparative Historical Linguistic Study*". These two studies both discuss the types of sound changes from Proto-Austronesian languages into regional languages, the first study of Tamiang Dialect Malay and the second study of Javanese Dialect Sumatra [5][6]. Likewise, this research will discuss the types of sound changes from Proto-Austronesian into the regional language, namely Batahan Malay.

**2. Method**

The research method is the way that is carried out [7][8]. The method in this research is descriptive qualitative. The data were taken from native speakers of the Batahan language. Data collection is obtained from the Swadesh list, and the theory used is Comparative Historical Linguistics. The data in this study is a list of basic Swadesh vocabulary. Swadesh basic vocabulary list is a list of basic words developed by Morris Swadesh which consists of 200 words that are considered universal so there is an assumption that these words tend to be owned by every language [9]. The data collection technique used is the listening and note-taking method. Data collection is done by observation, interview, and documentation. So the data collection in this study is by interview.

**3. Result and Discussion**

Sound change as one of the smallest changes in language elements is generally a process in which language sounds change from the initial sound to another sound. The type of sound change focuses more on individual changes, which only questions the proto-sound without linking it to other phonemes in the environment it enters. Various sound changes are based on the relationship of certain sounds with other phonemes in a segment, or a wider environment. These sound changes include metathesis, afferesis, syncope, apocope, prothesis, epenthesis or mesogogue, and paragogue [10].

Table 1. List of 200 Swadesh Vocabulary [11]

No.	PAN	Batahan Malay	Gloss
1	* 'abu	Abu	Abu
2	* wai	Ayie	Air
3	* 'akaR	Aka	Akar
4	* anak	Anak	Anak
5	* anjin	Angin	Angin
6	* asu	Anjiang	anjing
7	* 'apa'	Apo	apa
8	* apuy	Api	api

9	* qasap	Asok	asap
10	* 'atep	Atok	atap
11	* avan	Awan	awan
12	* manuk	Ayam	ayam
13	* ku'a[']	Bekmano	bagaimana
14	* bagey'	Bagi	bagi
15	* bisul	Bisuo	bisul
16	* bapa'	Apak	bapak
17	* baRu	Baghu	baru
18	* bat'ah	Basah	basah
19	* batanj	Batang	batang
20	* batu'	Batu	batu
21	* buhat	Bakojo	bekerja
22	* pute/r/	Belok	belok
23	* bener	Bona	benar
24	* b ndul	Bongkak	bengkak
25	* beRat	BoRek	berat
26	* 'in p	BaRiang	baring
27	* buru	buRu	buru
28	* diri	Togak	berdiri
29	* lanjuj	BaRonang	renang
30	* dalam	Jalan	jalan
31	* hucap	Kato	kata
32	* ['ji(m)pi'	Mimpi	mimpi
33	*na ava	Ongok	napas
34	* 'ajen	Pikie	pikir
35	* tu(m)buh	Tumbuoh	tumbuh
36	* besa/r/	Godang	besar
37	* bintang	Bintang	bintang
38	* bu'ah	Buah	buah
39	* bulan	Bulan	bulan
40	* bulu'	Bulu	bulu
41	* buņa	Bungo	bunga
42	* buruN	Bughuong	burung
43	* bayuk	Busuok	busuk
44	* cacin	Caciang	cacing
45	* dajiņ	dagiang	daging
46	* den	Jo	dan, dengan
47	* danaw	Dano	danau
48	* dayah	Daghah	darah
49	* dataņ	Tibo	datang
50	* da'un	Daun	daun
51	* dabuk	Baghabu	debu
52	* di	Di	di
53	* atas	Ateh	atas
54	* babah	Bawah	bawah
55	* dalem	Dalam	dalam
56	* i(nn)u	Di mano	di mana
57	* -n,a	Inyo	dia
58	* diņin	Dingin	dingin
59	* duwa	Duo	dua
60	* dukdu?	duduo?	duduk
61	* 'ikuR	Ikuo	ekor
62	* 'e(m)pat	Ompek	empat
63	* kaw	Waang	engkau,
64	* sira	Gagham	garam
65	* ip n	Gigi	gigi
66	* gu(n)duh	Gughuoh	guntur
67	* waRih	ARi	hari
68	* hati	Hati	hati
69	* ?iduņ	Iduong	hidung
70	* hudip	Iduk	hidup
71	* hizau	Ijo	hijau
72	* 'i(n)t m	Itam	hitam
73	* kira	Etong	hitung
74	* hujan	Ujan	hujan
75	* utan	Utan	hutan
76	* 'ibu'	Umak	ibu
77	* ikan	Lawuok	ikan
78	* ini	Iko	ini
79	* binay	Bini	isteri

80	* itu(h)	Itu, du	itu
81	* jahat	Jahek	jahat
82	*zantuN	Jantuong	jantung
83	* zaRum	Jaghum	jarum
84	* dabuh	Jatuoh	jatuh
85	* jahit	Jaik	jahit
86	* jawuh	Jauoh	jauh
87	* kambin	Kambiang	kambing
88	* kabut	Kabuk	kabut
89	* kaki'	Kaki	kaki
90	*wanan	Kanan	kanan
91	* ija(nN)	Bilo	kapan
92	* kayu'	Kayu	kayu
93	* kulambu	Klambu	kelambu
94	* ulu	Kapalo	kepala
95	* keRin	Koghiang	kering
96	* kilap	Kilek	kilat
97	* wiri	Kida	kiri
98	* kita	Ito	kita
99	* labu	Kumuoh	kotor
100	* kulit	Kulik	kulit
101	* kuniŋ	Kuniang	kuning
102	* kutu	Kutu	kutu
103	* lawa(lawa)	Lilaba	laba-laba
104	* lain	Lain	lain
105	* laki	Lilaki	laki-laki
106	* laŋit	Langik	langit
107	* la'ud	Lauk	laut
108	* bi(n)daŋ	Loweh	lebar
109	* lihiy	Lihie	leher
110	* lima	Limo	lima
111	* dilah	Lidah	lidah
112	* ma-kan	Makan	makan
113	* malem	Malam	malam
114	* malu	Malu	malu
115	* mata	Mato	mata
116	* matay	Mati	mati
117	* l mpit	Lipek	lipat
118	* teŋuk	Like	lihat
119	* ludah	Ludah	ludah
120	* miriŋ	Mighiang	miring
121	* tunu'	Baka	bakar
122	* b lah	Bolah	belah
123	* beli	Boli	beli
124	* buka'	Bukak	buka
125	* bunuh	Bunuoh	bunuh
126	* pegaŋ	Pocik	pegang
127	* (k.g)emes	Pogheh	peras
128	* pilih	Pilieh	pilih
129	* keRat	Kuduong	potong
130	* pu(ŋ)kul	Tenju	pukul
131	* tan m	Tanam	tanam
132	* taŋis	Nangih	tangis
133	* ciyum	Idu	cium
134	* maliŋ	Cilok	curi
135	* deŋar	donga	dengar
136	* tembak	Tembak	tembak
137	* 'aliy	Alie	alir
138	* tuk(tuk)	Kotok	ketuk
139	* kali'	Kali	gali
140	* garut	Gaghuk	garuk
141	* kaPu	Gigik	gigit
142	* iket	Kobek	ikat
143	* sepsep	Isok	isap
144	* huwap	Manguok	menguap
145	* kunaq	Kunyah	kunyah
146	* (t)ikam	Pakuok	tikam
147	* tiyup	Ombuh	tiup
148	* timuR	Timuo	timur
149	* meRa	Merah	merah
150	* tu(O,q)a	ughangdu	mereka

151	*‘inum	Minum	minum
152	*babah	Muncuong	mulut
153	*muta	muntah	muntah
154	* naik	Nanyiek	naik
155	* gelar	Namo	nama
156	* namuk	Nyamuok	nyamuk
157	* ‘uyaj	Ughang	orang
158	* panas	Angek	panas
159	* pand’anj	Panjang	panjang
160	* kesik	Pasie	pasir
161	* dada	Memek	payudara
162	* pandak	Pendek	pendek
163	* daRa	Padusi	perempuan
164	* (t)ijan	Poghuk	perut
165	*pitu	Tujuoh	tujuh
166	* putih	Putieh	putih
167	* bulu’	Ghambuk	rambut
168	* Yumah	Ghumah	rumah
169	* rumput	Ghumpuk	rumpuk
170	*sakit	Sakik	sakit
171	*sa	Satu	satu
172	* ‘aku’	Ambo	saya
173	* kapak	Kopak	sayap
174	* buni’	Baghondok	sembunyi
175	* se(m)pit	sompik	sempit
176	* (‘)abih	Sadonyo	semua
177	* sai’	Siapo	siapa
178	* laki’	Laki	suami
179	* tahu’	Tau	tahu
180	* tahun	Taun	tahun
181	* tazem	Tajam	tajam
182	* (t)akut	Takuk	takut
183	* tali’	Tali	tali
184	* tanah	Tanah	tanah
185	* tajanj	Tangan	tangan
186	* t b l	Toba	tebal
187	* taliŋa’	Talingo	telinga
188	* telur	Toluo	telur
189	* layanj	Tobang	terbang
190	* tawa	Golak	tertawa
191	* janji	Janji	janji
192	* tidur	Tiduo	tidur
193	* telu’	Tigo	tiga
194	* tikus	Moncik	tikus
195	* tipis	Tipih	tipis
196	* tuha’	Tuo	tua
197	* tulang	Tulang	tulang
198	* but k	Tumpuo	tumpul
199	* nipa	Ula	ular
200	* bi(t)uka(‘)	Usus	usus

*Metathesis Change*

Metathesis change is a process of sound change in the form of exchanging the places of two phonemes. It is the last section in the AIM (RAD) C model. It summarizes some information of the research finding and discussion.

Table 2: Metathesis sound changes

No	PAN	Batahan Malay	GLOS
1	dilah	lidah	Lidah

The word \*/dilah/ undergoes a metathesis sound change → /lidah/ in Batahan Malay, which is the sound that moves \*/d/ → /l/. The consonant phoneme /d/ is plosive, dental, and voiced. While the characteristics of the consonant phoneme /l/ are lateral, dental/alveolar, and voiced.

*Aphthesis Change*

Aphthesis change is a process of sound change in the form of omission of a phoneme or more at the beginning of a word.

Table 3. Afferent Sound Changes

No	PAN	Batahan Malay	GLOS
1	Hati	ati	Hati
2	Hujan	ujan	Hujan
3	Hizau	ijo	Hijau
4	waRih	aRi	Hari

- a. The word \*/hati/ undergoes an afferesis sound change to /ati/ in Batahan Malay. The consonant \*/h/ fricative, glottal, voiceless is lost in word-initial position in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- b. The word \*/rain/ undergoes an afferent sound change to /rain/ in Batahan Coastal Malay. The consonant \*/h/ is fricative, glottal, voiceless lost in word-initial position in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- c. The word \*/hizau/ undergoes an afferent sound change into /ijo/ in Batahan Coastal Malay. The consonant \*/h/ is fricative, glottal, voiceless lost in word-initial position. The diphthong \*/au/ changes to the middle, back, rounded vowel /o/ in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- d. The word \*/waRih/ undergoes an afferesis sound change to /aRi/ in Batahan Coastal Malay. The semi-vowel, bilabial, and voiced consonant \*/w/ is lost in word-initial position in Batahan Coastal Malay.

1. Syncope Change

Syncope change is a sound change in the form of the removal of a phoneme or more in the middle of a word.

Table 4. Syncope Sound Changes

No	PAN	Batahan Malay	GLOS
1	duwa	duo	dua
2	dukdu?	duduok	duduk
3	Jahit	Jai?	jahit
4	Jawuh	jauoh	jauh
5	Kulambu	klambu	kelambu
6	Tahun	taun	tahun
7	tuha	tuo	tua

- a. The word \*/duwa/ undergoes a syncopal sound change to /duo/ in Batahan Malay. The semi-vowel, bilabial, voiced consonant \*/w/ is lost in the middle position of the word. The low, middle, unrounded vowel \*/a/ changes to the middle, back, rounded vowel /o/ in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- b. The word \*/dukdu?/ undergoes a syncopated sound change to /duduok/ in Batahan Malay. The consonant \*/k/ is plosive, velar, and voiceless lost in the middle position of the word. The high, back, rounded vowel \*/u/ changes into the diphthong /uo/ in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- c. The word \*/jahit/ undergoes a syncopated sound change to /jai?/ in Batahan Malay. The consonant \*/h/ fricative, glottal, voiceless is lost in the middle position of the word. The consonant \*/t/ voiceless glottal hitch changes to the consonant \*/?/ voiceless glottal hitch consonant in Batahan Malay.
- d. The word \*/jawuh/ undergoes a syncopal sound change to /jauoh/ in Batahan Malay. The consonant \*/w/ is semi vowel, bilabial, and voiced lost in the middle position of the word. the vowel \*/u/ is high, back, rounded changing into diphthong /uo/ in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- e. The word \*/kulambu/ undergoes syncopal sound change into /klambu/ in Batahan Malay. the vowel \*/u/ high, back, round is lost in the middle position of the word in Batahan Malay.
- f. The word \*/tahun/ undergoes a syncopated sound change to /taun/ in Batahan Coastal Malay. The consonant \*/h/ fricative, glottal, voiceless is lost in the middle position of the word in Batahan Coastal Malay.
- g. The word \*/tuha/ undergoes a syncopal sound change to /tuo/ in Batahan Malay. The consonant \*/h/ is fricative, glottal, voiceless lost in the middle position of the word. The low, middle, unrounded vowel \*/a/ changes to the middle, back, rounded vowel /o/ in Batahan Malay.

2. Apocryphal Changes

Apocryphal change is a sound change in the form of omission of a phoneme or more at the end of a word.

Table 5. Apocryphal Sound Changes

No	PAN	Pesisir Batahan Malay	GLOS
1	akaR	Aka	Hati
2	apuy	api	api
3	danaw	dano	Hijau
4	telur	toluo	telur
5	tidur	tiduo	Tidur

- a. The word \*/akaR/ undergoes an apocryphal sound change to /aka/ in Batahan Malay. Velar fricative \*/R/ consonant is lost in word-final position in Batahan Malay.
  - b. The word \*/apuy/ changes its sound apocopally to /api/ in Batahan Malay. The consonant \*/y/ semi palatal vowel is lost in word-final position. the vowel \*/u/ high, back, rounded changes to the vowel /i/ high front not rounded in Batahan Coastal Malay.
  - c. The word \*/danaw/ undergoes apocryphal sound change to /dano/ in Batahan Coastal Malay. The consonant \*/w/ is semi-vowel, bilabial, and voiced missing in word-final position. The low, middle, unrounded vowel \*/a/ changes to the middle, back, rounded vowel /o/ in Batahan Malay.
  - d. The word \*/telur/ undergoes an apocryphal sound change to /toluo/ in Batahan Malay. Consonant \*/r/ alveolar vibration is lost in word-final position. The high, back, rounded vowel \*/u/ changes into the diphthong /uo/ in Batahan Coastal Malay.
  - e. The word \*/tidur/ undergoes apocryphal sound change into /tiduo/ in Batahan Coastal Malay. Consonant \*/r/ alveolar vibration is lost in word-final position. The high, back, rounded vowel \*/u/ changes into the diphthong /uo/ in Batahan Coastal Malay.
3. Prothesis Change

Prothesis change is a process of sound change in the form of adding a phoneme or more at the beginning of a word.

Table 6. Change in Prothesis Sound

No	PAN	Pesisir Batahan Malay	GLOS
1	'inum	minum	minum

The word \*/'inum/ undergoes a sound change by prothesis to /minum/ in Batahan Malay. The nasal, bilabial, voiced consonant /m/ increases in word-initial position in Batahan Malay

*Paragogue Change*

Paragogue change is a process of sound change in the form of adding a phoneme or more to the end of a word.

Table 7. Paragogue Sound Changes

No	PAN	Batahan Malay	GLOS
1	muta	mutah	muntah

The word \*/muta/ undergoes a paragogue sound change to /mutah/ in Batahan Malay. The fricative, glottal, voiceless consonant /h/ increases in word-final position in Batahan Malay.

**4. Conclusion**

Based on the results of the analysis and description of the sound changes of the Proto-Austronesian language into the Batahan Coastal Malay Language, a Comparative Historical Linguistic Study, it can be concluded that the Proto-Austronesian language experienced sound changes based on place into the Batahan Coastal Malay Language. Sound changes in Batahan Coastal Malay based on place are found in six types of sound changes which can be detailed as follows. Metathesis is a process of sound change that takes the form of exchanging the places of two phonemes. Aphesis is a process of sound change in the form of omission of one or several phonemes at the beginning of a word. Syncope is a sound change in the form of the omission of one or more phonemes in the middle of a word. Apokop is a sound change in the form of omission of a phoneme or several phonemes at the end of a word. Prothesis is a sound change in the form of adding a phoneme or several phonemes at the beginning of a word. Paragogue is a sound change process in the form of adding one or more phonemes to the end of a word.

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