

## *Spelling Variations of Standard Arabic Loanwords in Indonesian and Malay*

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### **Abstract**

Arabic is one of the most influential languages on the development of Indonesian and Malay. However, Arabic linguistic characteristics are quite different from linguistic characteristics of Indonesian and Malay so they require many adjustments. Pronunciation adjustments follow the rules of articulation, while the written forms require orthography adjustments in this case with regard to the language policy. This research focuses on spelling forms of standard Arabic loanwords in Indonesian and Malay associated with spelling system and articulation adjustments. The data are standard loanword entries in official dictionaries of Indonesian and Malay, KBBI V and KDBM IV with Ar or Isl labels which indicate Arabic loanwords. There are some loanwords which are not in accordance with the orthography guide adjustments so that spelling variations of standard Arabic loanwords appear. Some variations are connected to orthography guide adjustments including the development of the guides and the others are connected to the way of articulation.

Keywords: Arabic loanwords, orthography guide, articulation, Indonesian standard words, Malay standard words

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## Introduction

Indonesian and Malay used in Malaysia are from the same language, that is the Malay language (Chaer, 2014). The both languages also absorb thousand words of the same foreign languages. Arabic is one of the most widely absorbed foreign languages by these two languages. However, their developments as a national language of different countries make the two languages apply different language policies. The orthography guide of each country plays a main role in the adjustments of foreign language loanwords that carry different language characters, including Arabic loanwords adjustment. In addition, Arabic is a language which many differences in phonological and orthographical system if it is compared to Indonesian and Malay.

Several previous relevant studies have been done by researchers such as Yusoff and Adnan (2009), Aaron and Lopez (2015), and Suyuti (2015). However, connecting orthography, phonology, and Arabic standard loanwords in Indonesian and Malay could become something different on this field. The aim of this study is to describe spelling variations of Arabic standard loanwords in the latest version of official dictionary of Indonesian, Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) V, and Malay, Kamus Dewan Bahasa Melayu (KDBM) IV. By doing so, this study would be able to explain the effect of the rules of adjustments in orthography guide to standard loanwords.

The data in this study are entries which carry an Ar (Arabic) or Isl (Islam) label in KBBI V and Ar label in KDBM IV. This happens to indicate that those words could still be obviously compared to the origin (Arabic words). Thus, the data are not loanwords which have been fused and changed a lot. If an entry in one of the dictionaries does not carry an Ar or Isl label then the word is not used as data. By considering the criteria and distribution of graphemes and phonemes of the three languages, one hundred of entries in KBBI V and KDBM IV are used as data.

Analysis methods used in this research is relate-compare methods with translational compare techniques. The comparisons used in analysis are orthographic and phonemic comparison. The orthographic comparison is used to analyze the suitability of the standard spelling with the orthography guide, while the phonemic comparison based on the articulation of the phonemes is used for additional explanation about spelling variations that is not in accordance with the orthography guide. In this study, Arabic grapheme-phonemes conversion is based on Thelwall and Sa'adeddin (IPA, 1999), Indonesian based on Chaer (2009) and also considering Alwi et al (2003), and Malay based on Karim et al. (2008). The form of the Arabic words are based on Sudarno (1990) and Hadi (2015). The phoneme symbols are adapted from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA, 199).

According to Hauge and Hsia (via Ruskhan, 2007) loanword is a totally morphemic absorbed word from another language without any morphemic element addition from the language recipient. Based on the definition, the loanwords in this research are full loanwords, not mixed or partial loanwords and translational loanwords.

Transcribing language in writing form is a duty of linguists, but it can be useful only if it is approved by the community which have a connection to political and social-cultural aspects (Moeliono, 1985). Adjustments of loanwords in Indonesian give

more priority to visual form or written than spoken (PUPI, 2004). It is also valid in Malay, although adjustments based on pronunciation has been prioritized previously (Dahaman in Mabbim, 1992). It reveals that Indonesian and Malay linguists, especially state language institution, focus on absorbing written forms of the loanwords.

The writing of language symbols is referred to the transcription. Chaer (2009) explains that there are three language transcriptions, i.e. phonetic, phonemic, and graphemic or orthographic transcription. Phonetic transcription uses phone as the unit, the smallest sound language unit. Phonemic transcription uses phoneme as the unit, a distinct unit of the language sound that distinguish one word from another. Graphemic transcription uses letters arranged into the spelling system (orthography guide). Spelling system is graphic conversions, an agreement of the speakers to write down their language. Now, the Indonesian official spelling system is Pedoman Umum Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia (PUEBI) and the Malay official spelling system is Pedoman Umum Ejaan Bahasa Melayu (PUEBM). All of the transcriptions are connected to symbolizing language in written form.

Arabic has 29 consonant phonemes and 8 vowel phonemes including diphthong (Thelwall and Sa'adeddin in IPA, 1999). The number of Arabic graphemes are 29 consonants, 3 vowels and 1 diacritic to represent double letters. Indonesian has 23 consonant phonemes and 10 vowel phonemes including diphthong (Chaer, 2009). On the other hand, Alwi et al (2003) mentioned 22 consonants only, glotal stop is regarded as an allophone of phoneme /k/. Malay has 27 consonant phonemes and 9 vowel phonemes including diphthong (Karim et al, 2008). Indonesian has 26 letters and 4 compound letters (PUEBI, 2015). Malay has 26 letters and 5 compound letters (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 1992).

## **Discussion**

### **Spelling Variations of Standard Arabic Loanwords in Indonesian**

Based on the data, eleven graphemes are found in standard Arabic loanwords which are variously spelled. The eleven graphemes are < ي, و, ع, أ, ش, ق, َ, ِ, ُ >. From the eleven graphemes, only <ق> and <ع> that the phonemes, /q/ and /ʕ/, are not available in Indonesian, while the phonemes of the other graphemes are available in Indonesian, including phonemes /ʃ/ absorbed from Arabic. There are six variations in accordance with the PUEBI, namely < ي, و, ع, أ, َ, ِ > and five are not in accordance with PUEBI, namely < ش, ق, ِ, ُ >.

Table 1: Arabic Graphemes Written with Spelling Variations in Indonesian

Arabic Grapheme	Indonesian Grapheme Variations	Arabic Grapheme	Indonesian Grapheme Variations
ي	y, i, Ø	ش	sy, s
و	w, u, Ø	ق	k, q
ع	k, Ø	َ	a, e
أ	k, Ø	ِ	i, e
ة	h, t	ُ	u, o
ّ	single, double		

Variations that appears on grapheme <ي> are <y, i, Ø> on data A1, A47 (خير becomes *khair*), and A20. On grapheme <و> variations that appears are <w, u, Ø> on data A91, A92 (يوم becomes *yaum*), and A90. Those are commonly found because grapheme <ي> and <و> represent semivowel phonemes /j/ and /w/ which in PUEBI is denoted with grapheme <y, i, Ø> and <w, u, Ø>. Grapheme <ع> and <أ> are found in variations <k> and <Ø> on data A12 and A68 for grapheme <ع> and A58 (مؤمن becomes *mukmin*) and A90 for grapheme <أ>. Those are in accordance with the PUEBI, <ع> and <أ> absorbed into <k> when at the end of syllable and become vowel or not denoted as at the middle and the beginning of the word. Related to the phoneme, /ʕ/ which is not available in Indonesia would be applied as /ʔ/, the closest place of articulation phoneme which is available in Indonesian.

Grapheme <ة> absorbed into <t> on data A45 and <h> on data A51. It is in accordance with the PUEBI, but not related to the closeness of articulation phonemes which is represented, but related to the Arabic spelling system. Grapheme <ة> represents /t/ as it is followed by vowel and /h/ as it is not followed by vowel. Grapheme <ّ> which represents double phonemes absorbed into single grapheme on data A15 and double grapheme on data A4. It is in accordance with the PUEBI explaining double grapheme absorbed into a single except words which can be confusing. Related to the articulation, actually there is no double phonemes in Indonesian.

Grapheme <ش> that represents /ʃ/ is regulated in PUEBI that it is absorbed into <sy>, but in the data there are two variations, <sy> on data A78 and <s> on data A70. Related to the articulation, phoneme /ʃ/ represented by grapheme <sy> and phoneme /s/ represented by grapheme <s> are similar, but it is indicate dissonance with PUEBI. Grapheme <ق> that represents /q/ absorbed in two variations, <q> on A65 (قضاء menjadi *qada*) and <k> on A49. It is not in accordance with the PUEBI explaining that <ق> is absorbed into <k>. Although in PUEBI is described that grapheme <q> is used for special purposes only, but data A65 and A49 have same status, namely loanwords from Arabic and Islamic terms which should be absorbed with same spelling adjustments. Related to the articulation, phoneme /q/ is not available in Indonesian and phoneme /k/ is the most similar. Grapheme <َ> representing phoneme /a/ is absorbed into <a> on A1 and <e> on A20. It is not in accordance with the PUEBI explaining <َ> is absorbed into <a>. Grapheme <ِ> representing phoneme /i/ is absorbed into <i> on A51 and <e> on A80 (طريقة menjadi *tarekat*). Related to the articulation, phoneme /e/ is at the middle which is often replace the sound /i/ in spoken language, but not replace phoneme /a/. Grapheme <ُ> representing phonem /u/ is absorbed into <u> on A49 and <o> on A97 and A98. Phoneme /u/ and /o/, both are back vowels so

replacement phoneme /u/ with /o/ is often occurs in spoken language. All of variations of the equivalent absorbed vowels are not accordance with PUEBI which describes /a/, /i/, and /u/ from Arabic are absorbed into same sounds.

### Comparison of Spelling Variations of Standard Arabic Loanwords in Indonesia and Malay

There are nine graphemes which are absorbed in variations in Malay, namely <ع, و, ي>, <أ, ة, ق, ش, ّ, ّ, ّ>. PUEBM does not specifically describe about Arabic loanwords. However, if it is connected with PUEBI and the prevalence of the of Malay loanword forms about the nine variations found, there are three graphemes which are not in accordance with the orthography guide, namely <ّ>, <ق>, <ش>.

Table 2: Comparison of Spelling Variations in Indonesian and Malay

Arabic Grapheme	Indonesian Grapheme Variations	Arabic Grapheme	Malay Grapheme Variations
ي	y, i, Ø	ي	y, i, Ø
و	w, u, Ø	و	w, u, Ø
ع	k, Ø	ع	k, Ø
أ	k, Ø	أ	k, Ø
ة	h, t	ة	h, t
ّ	single, double	ّ	single, double
ش	sy, s	ش	sy, s
ق	k, q	ق	k, q
ّ	i, e	ّ	i, e
ّ	a, e		
ّ	u, o		

Explanation about spelling variations of the seven graphemes including <ّ> does not have a lot of differences from the explanation on the Indonesian above. However, there is a difference in absorption of grapheme <ش>. Only one of the grapheme found which is absorbed into <s> on A16 (درويش becomes *darwis*), in Malay, while in Indonesian it is found in two words on data A16 dan A70. Spelling variation about grapheme <ق> in the form of <k> is found in five words in Malay, while in Indonesia it occurs in many words. Writing of double grapheme from grapheme <ّ> absorption is more found in Malay, data A4, A15, and A86 (أصول الدين becomes *usuluddin*), while in Indonesian it only occurs on data A86. Beside those words, Indonesian and Malay use double grapheme (double <ل>) for words which consist of word *Allah*. In addition, on case A60, there is grapheme <ي> with <ّ> indicating double phoneme. In Malay, these graphemes are absorbed into <iy>, while in Indonesia these grapheme are absorbed into single grafem, <y>.

Generally, both Indonesian and Malay have similarities in absorptions of seven Arabic loanword graphemes. Nevertheless, there is a bit difference in the writing of grapheme <أ>. In Malay grapheme <أ> without vowel is absorbed consistently into <k>, including at the end of word on data A90, while in Indonesian grapheme <أ> is absorbed into <k>, but it is removed at the end of word on data A90. Whereas, in Indonesian and Malay

grapheme <ع> which is not followed by vowel consistently becomes <k>, but there is an omission of the equivalent grapheme on A12 in Malay.

Comparing to Indonesian, Malay has fewer loanwords spelled variously. Three graphemes <ش, ق, ِ> are found only slight variations in Malay, but in Indonesian these are found a lot of variations. Besides, Malay absorbs consistently grapheme <ح> into <h>, while in Indonesian an omission of the equivalent grapheme occurs on A25. Grapheme or diacritical mark <َ> is always written with grapheme <a> in Malay, but in Indonesian it is still written variously.

In addition to the differences in absorption of the graphemes above, Malay has a difference in absorption grapheme <غ>. Indonesian absorbs grapheme <غ> into <g> and no variation in standard Arabic loanwords. Malay absorbs it into <gh> and also no variation in standard Arabic loanwords. In this regard, Malay has phonemes /ɣ/ represented grapheme <gh> which is the absorption of Arabic that is not available in Indonesian. Here is a table of the differences of Arabic loanwords in Indonesian and Malay.

Table 3: The Differences of Standard Arabic Loanwords in Indonesian and Malay

Arabic		Indonesian		Malay		Difference	Code
Graphemic	Phonemic	Graphemic	Phonemic	Graphemic	Phonemic		
أبدية	/abadijjah /	abadiah	/abadijah/	abadiah, abadiat	/abadijah/ /abadijat/	h—h,t	A1
اللهم	/alʕlʕaahu mma/	Allahuma	/allahuma/ /alʕlʕahuma/	Allahuma	/allahuma / /alʕlʕahu ma/	Single—double	A4
برقع	/burqaʕ/	burkak	/burkaʔ/	burka	/burka/	k—Ø	A12
ضمّة	/dʕammah /	damah	/damah/	dammah	/damah/ /dammah /	Single—double	A15
امير	/amijr/	emir	/emir/	amir	/amir/	e—a	A20
فقيه	/faqijh/	fakih	/fakih/	faqih	/faqih/	k—q	A21
فرق	/farq/	farak	/farak/	faraq	/faraq/	k—q	A23
فارق	/faariq/	farik	/farik/	fariq	/fariq/	k—q	A24
فتحة	/fathah/	fatah	/fatah/	fathah	/fathah/	Ø—h	A25
فقهاء	/fuqahaaʔ /	fukaha	/fukaha/	fuqaha	/fuqaha/	k—q	A28
كفارة	/kaffarah /	kafarat	/kafarat/	kafarah	/kafarah/	t—h	A45
قنوت	/qunuwt/	kunut	/kunut/	qunut	/kunut/	k—q	A49
ليلة القدر	/lajlatul qadr/	Lailatulka dar	/lajlatulka dar/	Lailatulqa dar	/lailatulka dar/	k—q	A50
مغفرة	/mayfirah /	magfirah	/makfirah/	maghfiat	/mayfiat/	g—gh, h—t	A51
مغرب	/mayrib/	magrib	/magrib/	maghrib	/mayrib/	g—gh	A52
مغرور	/mayruwr /	magrur	/makrur/	maghrur	/mayrur/	g—gh	A53
مميز	/mumajiz /	mumayiz	/mumajiz/	mumaiyiz	/mumajiz/	Ø—i	A60
سعادة	/saʕaadah /	saadah	/saʔadah/	saadah saadat	/saʔadah/ /saʔadat/	h—h,t	A68
شخص	/ʕaxsʕ/	sakhsi	/saxsi/	syakhsi	/ʕaxsi/	s—sy	A70
شبهة	/ʕubhah/	syubhat	/ʕuphat/	syubhah	/ʕuphah/	t—h	A78
تحفة	/tuħfah/	tuhfah	/tuhfah/	tuhfah, tuhfah	/tuhfah/ /tuhfat/	h—h,t	A83
وضوء	/wudʕuwʔ /	wudu	/wudu/	wuduk	/wuduʔ/	Ø—k	A90
وقف	/wuquf/	wukuf	/wukuf/	wuquf	/wukuf/	k—q	A91
زحل	/zuħaal/	zohal	/zohal/	zuhal	/zuhal/	o—u	A97
زهرة	/zuhrah/	zohrah	/zohrah/	zuhrah	/zuhrah/	o—u	A98
ذرية	/ðurrijjah/	zuriah	/zurijah/	zuriah	/zurijah/	h—t	A100

## **Conclusion**

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that the standard Arabic loanwords in Indonesian are written variously. Not all words are written in accordance with the rules of loanword writing in orthography guide, PUEBI, although the words have Ar label indicating that the words are clearly absorbed from Arabic and still own Arabic trait. Spelling variations found are still related to letters that represent phonemes that still have the same or near place of articulation so that the difference is not too far.

Spelling variations in standard Arabic loanwords in Indonesian and Malay do not have much differences. Based on the result above, spelling variations found in Malay are less than in Indonesian. This indicates the level in conformity with the rules of loanwords writing in orthography guide that is higher. In addition, the consistency of original form maintaining of loanword is higher than Indonesian. In Malay, spelling variations found are still related to letters that represent phonemes that still have the same or near place of articulation too. Besides, Indonesian has one standard word form for each loanword, while in Malay there are still many two standard word forms for a loanword.

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