Anglicism in Indonesian

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Abstract
This article discusses a language phenomenon currently occurring in Indonesia which is related to borrowing English words with the addition of a prefix ng-/nge in the Indonesian. The purpose of this article is to show how some English words are borrowed in Indonesian and what changes occur within this borrowing process which will be seen on two linguistic levels (phonological and semantic). The data were collected through an observation either in writing forms found in social media or oral form used in daily conversations. The interim results show that phonologically, in general the loan words follow the Indonesian phonological rules with little divergence in certain cases. From the semantic analysis it was found that these Anglicism words can be divided into three categories based on their meanings: restriction, expansion and static.

Keywords: Anglicism; phonology; semantic; prefix ng- / nge-
Introduction

The influence of English on other languages in the world began in the 17th century and somehow assumed to be related to the discovery of the British continent. Since then it was known that there has been an ongoing linguistic relationship between English and other languages. Basically, this phenomenon occurs because of the cultural, political and trade communication contacts between Britain and America with other countries.

English influence to Indonesian itself has reached its peak along with the era of globalization. Until today, Indonesian is facing many problems due to the existence of English in reference with the language development and its existence. The use of English in publics has become an inevitable habit. This resulted in the tendency of reluctant to use Indonesian language and culture, which slowly but surely has made English a more preferred language in this country.

Alwi, et al. (eds.) (2003, p. 9) states that the inclusion of elements of English by some people is considered as a contamination of the authenticity and purity of Indonesian as a whole. This is the cause of its interference. Chaer (1994, p. 66) gives limitation on interference as the entrance of other language elements into a language being used in a community which triggered a deviation of the rules of the language being used. In addition to interference, integration is also regarded as a contaminant of the Indonesian language. Chaer (1994, p. 67) states that integration is the elements of another language being brought which is considered, treated, and used as part of the language it enters. This integration process certainly takes a long time, because the elements integrated have been adjusted in pronunciation, spelling, and form.

The way a language borrows foreign words is actually quite a complex process. In Indonesian, the coming of English words happened through written and spoken media that influence it. It follows the pattern that a linguistic loan between two languages can occur when there is a close contact between the speakers of both languages and the use of the internet, especially social media. The terms in English which are associated with computers, technology and even sports such as football can be easily adopted in the Indonesian language because Indonesians feel that their language does not have the exact equivalent of the concepts. Bojčić, et al, (2012, p. 2) state the use of an English word as a foreign language is actually called Anglicism. Basically word absorption / loan (loanwords) can also referred to as Anglicism because there is a fact that the original words are English words; the words are taken from English, and that the words refer to the object or idea that comes from English and closely related to the lifestyle and culture of English and Americans.

One of the language phenomena that caught the attention of the writer related to Anglicism is the emergence of English words that enter the Indonesian language in the form of direct absorption both in form and pronunciation.
combined with informal Indonesian affixation, especially a prefix *ng-/*nge- as in *ngorder, ngeblock, ngebully, etc. These words are often found in social media and are actively used by young people. The use of these words is very interesting in terms of phonology and semantics, since Indonesian and English are genetically different languages. Based on this fact, the writer intends to examine whether the addition of prefixes to English words follows the Indonesian phonological rules in general, and whether there is a difference in meaning with English. In this borrowing process, it seems that the foreign words should be adapted to Indonesian in order to function properly and not to lose meaning in its new language. In short, the purpose of this article is to show how some English words are borrowed in Indonesian and what changes occur in this borrowing process in both linguistic levels (phonological and semantic).

**Method**

The method used in this research is a descriptive one because it describes and examines a language phenomenon by looking at the Indonesian phonological rules and the semantic changes of the Anglicism. The data are taken from the social media and conversation amongst the youngsters through note taking and recording. However, not all the data are used in this research. The data are selected carefully based on the category of loan words required: the full absorption (form and pronunciation) of English words.

**Results**

There are two types of results found in this research. The first one is the result of phonological analysis as seen in Table 1. The second one is the result of semantic analysis illustrated in Table 2. Table 1 consists of base word and prefix (*meng-* and its allomorph), formal, informal and phonetic forms of the words. Formal form is the grammatically accepted form (standardized form) while the informal form is the cultural accepted form (mostly used in oral communication). The informal form is actually the simplified version of the formal form by deleting some parts of the prefix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word + Prefix</th>
<th>Formal Form</th>
<th>Informal Form</th>
<th>Phonetic Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>add + meng-</td>
<td>mengadd</td>
<td>ng(e)add</td>
<td>[ŋæd]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blank + mem-</td>
<td>*memblank</td>
<td>ngeblank</td>
<td>[ŋæblæŋk]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blur + mem-</td>
<td>*memblur</td>
<td>ngeblur</td>
<td>[ŋæblər]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blunder + mem-</td>
<td>memblunder</td>
<td>ngeblunder</td>
<td>[ŋə blʌndər]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blog + mem-</td>
<td>*memblog</td>
<td>ngeblog</td>
<td>[ŋəblɔːɡ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bully + mem-</td>
<td>membully</td>
<td>ngebully</td>
<td>[ŋəbʊli]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>download + meng-</td>
<td>mengdownload</td>
<td>ngedownload</td>
<td>[ŋədənˈlɔud]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 projects the meaning of the bases and Anglicism words. The meaning of the base words is taken from Oxford online dictionary (2017) while the meaning for Anglicism is found in the distribution of the words in sentences: written and spoken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Anglicism</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>add (V)</td>
<td>tambah, menambahkan</td>
<td>ngeadd</td>
<td>menambahkan pertemanan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blank (Adj)</td>
<td>kosong</td>
<td>ngeblank</td>
<td>tidak ada ide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blur (Adj)</td>
<td>terlihat kabur/tidak jelas</td>
<td>ngeblur</td>
<td>terlihat kabur/ tidak jelas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blunder (Adj)</td>
<td>kesalahan besar</td>
<td>ngeblunder</td>
<td>membuat kesalahan besar, campur aduk (menjadi tidak jelas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blog (N)</td>
<td>tulisan online</td>
<td>ngeb.blog</td>
<td>membuat tulisan online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bully (V)</td>
<td>menggertak, memukuli, menakut-nakuti</td>
<td>nge.bully</td>
<td>mengolok/mengejek, menghina, mengganggu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>download (V)</td>
<td>tengunduh</td>
<td>ngedownload</td>
<td>mengunduh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fly (V)</td>
<td>terbang</td>
<td>ngefly</td>
<td>berbunga-bunga, memakai narkoba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Base Words | Meaning | Anglicism | Meaning
---|---|---|---
game (N) | permainan | ngègame | main game (online)
gym (N) | senam, gedung olahraga (gimnasium) | ngègym | senam di gedung olahraga (gimnasium)
hack (V) | meretas/membajak | ngèhack | meretas/membajak
judge (V) | menduga, menaksir, menghakimi | ngèjudge | menilai seseorang
like (V) | suka | ngèlike | menyukai postingan
mall (N) | pusat perbelanjaan | ngèmall | pergi ke mall
order (V) | memesan, memerintah, menyuruh | ngèorder | memesan
post (V) | mengposkan | ngèpost | membuat postingan (tulisan atau foto) di media sosial
request (N) | permintaan, permohonan | ngèrequest | meminta pertemanan
update (V) | memperbaharui | ngèupdate | memperbaharui

Discussion

Borrowing is a phenomenon which may throw light on the internal organization of language (Hudson, 1980, p. 61). It is common for words with foreign sounds being replaced by native sounds or the native uses some sounds taken from foreign sounds that does not exist in their phonological system before. This is an extremely common phenomenon in many languages. Borrowing seems not to be restricted to words only. Bynon (1977, p. 255) (as cited in Hudson, 1980, p. 60) had proven that borrowing is also possible in inflectional level. In Indonesian, borrowing can occur in the base words mixed with Indonesian prefix, which in it uses the informal form of prefix meng- (ng-/nge-).

The prefix meng- in Indonesian has some allomorphs me-, mem-, men-, meny- and menge-, while the prefix ng-/nge- is an informal affix in Indonesian which generally represents the formal form of prefixes meng- and menge-, but it is also possible to replace other allomorphs. It has been said so because there are some cases where words such as me-lihat (see) used in non-formal form becomes nge-liat but the word me-minum (drink) in a non-formal form becomes minum. In this phonological level, the analysis will be done by looking at the initial letters of the basic words and trying to apply the rules of attaching the prefix meng- (formal and informal form) onto full absorption of English words.
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The data used as examples in this article are words with the same form and pronunciation either when functioning as Indonesian words or English words. Table 1 shows in general the phonological rules for prefix meng- which is applicable to Anglicism words. However, there are some words in which the rules are hard to apply. Those words are add, hack, like and post. Below are the phonological analysis of the unacceptable phonological rules for Indonesian language.

1. Add

By looking at the first letter of the word [a] supposedly, the word add should receive the prefix meng- and becomes meng-add in formal form and *ngadd in informal form. This refers to the rule when adding prefix meng- to words beginning with vowels then the prefix takes its original form. To illustrate this, some Indonesian words asap, ekor, iris and oceh are presented:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meng Word</th>
<th>Ng Word</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>asap</td>
<td>mengasap</td>
<td>ngasap</td>
<td>Rio lagi ngasapin rumahnya:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smoke</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Rio smokes his house”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ekor</td>
<td>mengkor</td>
<td>ngekor</td>
<td>Kenapa sih dia ngekorin kita terus?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Why is she following us all the time?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iris</td>
<td>mengiris</td>
<td>ngiris</td>
<td>Ibu lagi ngiris bawang di dapur:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Mum is cutting onion in the kitchen”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oceh</td>
<td>mengoceh</td>
<td>ngoceh</td>
<td>Anak kecil itu suka banget ngoceh:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“That little girl loves to talk”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nonetheless, this rule is unworkable to the word add in non-formal contexts. This is because this word simply consists of one syllable. It is also the reason why the affix of ng- when attached to the word add cannot comply to the Indonesian phonological rules, therefore the accepted non-formal affix for the word add is nge- (add → ngeadd).

2. Hack

The word hack is a word that begins with the sound [h] in which according to the Indonesian phonological rules, the word will receive the affix meng-. Consider Indonesian examples hilang and hisap for illustration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meng Word</th>
<th>Ng Word</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hilang</td>
<td>menghilang</td>
<td>ngilang</td>
<td>Aris ngilang dari tadi pagi:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disappear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Aris went off since the morning”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hisap</td>
<td>menghisap</td>
<td>ngisap</td>
<td>Mereka ngisap setiap hari:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“They are sucking drugs every day”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For words borrowed in English the above rule does not seem to meet the terms. The [h] sound, which is a fricative sound, should have been disappearing when it gets the prefix ng-. However, in this case it did not. In fact, the word hack has to take an informal prefix nge- instead of ng- for the reason that the word hack consists of only one syllable, which made it impossible for the word hack to follow the addition of prefix ng- rule for words beginning with the letter h.
3. Like

For words beginning with the letter l, the phonological rules of adding prefix meng- in Indonesian are as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{langkah} & \rightarrow \text{melangkah} \rightarrow \text{ngelangkah} & \text{“Kalau ngelangkah mesti hati-hati.”} \\
\text{step} & & \text{“Be careful when you take a step.”} \\
\text{lapor} & \rightarrow \text{melapor} \rightarrow \text{ngelapor} & \text{“Resi suka sekali ngelapor ke gurunya.”} \\
\text{report} & & \text{“Resi likes to report things to her teacher.”}
\end{align*}
\]

In contrast, for the word like, the addition of prefix me- to it is unacceptable because even though the writing form of *me-like is acceptable but the pronunciation is not quite correct. The addition of sound [ŋ] to the transitive form of the word like is needed because between the sounds [ə] and [l] it requires a sound that can give emphasis to the first syllable and separate the two sounds. However, the non-formal form of the word like (ngelike) follows the non-formal rules as in the example above.

4. Post

For words with p initials, the addition of prefix meng- to the formal and non-formal forms follows the phonological rules in which the basic word received the prefix mem- and the sound of [p] disappears, whereas for the non-formal form it was found there are two phonological rules in which the first rule allows the use of affixes while the second rule does not. Here are the example of Indonesian:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{paku} & \rightarrow \text{memaku} \rightarrow \text{ngepaku} & \text{“Bapak sedang ngepaku triplek di belakang.”} \\
\text{nail} & & \text{“Dad is nailing the plywood.”} \\
\text{pasang} & \rightarrow \text{memasang} \rightarrow \text{masang} & \text{“Ibu nyuruh saya masang AC di kamar.”} \\
\text{install} & & \text{“Mum asks me to install an AC in the room.”}
\end{align*}
\]

Unlike Indonesian words above, the word post, the formal rule cannot be applied. When the word post takes the prefix meng-, the [p] sound does not disappear additionally when attached to a non-formal affix nge- (ngepost).

Note that in some Anglicism words (marked *) there are phonologically unacceptable words of formal forms. Those words are never used by Indonesian speakers because they sound awkward/abnormal. Uniquely, although the words cannot be used in a formal form, the non-formal form are used widely.

Semantic Analysis

Table 2 consists of 18 Anglicism words. It shows that the prefix ng-/nge- can be attached to the English word – classes of Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives, in which Verbs are dominated. The syntactic function of adding this prefix to Anglicism words is to formulate active verbs. Another interesting factor that can be analyzed in addition to phonological rules is the semantic aspect of those words. This will be done by looking at whether there is a change in the meaning of the words from the base to the Anglicism.
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"The most basic function of language is to communicate, as a means of association and communication among fellow human beings, so as to form a social system or society" (Nababan, 1984, p. 2). In addition, Bloomfield (as cited in Alwasilah, 1993, p. 37) says that the language community is a group of people who use the same system of signs and speech. The principle of language society is formed by mutual intelligibility, mainly because of the existence of togetherness in linguistic codes.

Based on the statement above, the meaning of a word can be formed through mutual agreement between its speakers. Often the same word has different meanings in different places because the meaning of a word is based on elements of linguistic knowledge possessed by its speakers, which was introduced by Chomsky (2000, p. 48) as the concept of language. This is why semantic analysis related to loan words is considered necessary to see whether there is an extension of meaning of the words, restriction and dynamic/changing when they become Anglicism.

Looking at the overall data and by comparing it with the original meaning of the words taken from Oxford online dictionary (2017), the meaning of Indonesian words (Anglicism) can be categorized into restriction, expansion, and zero semantic extension (Bojčić, et al., 2012, p. 9-10).

**Restriction of Meaning**

Restriction of meaning occurs in words like ngeadd, ngeblank, ngegame, ngelike, ngorder, ngepost, and ngerequest, which can be proven by looking at the distribution of the words in sentences.

1. *Saya mau ngeadd dia di facebook.*
   "I'd like to add her on facebook."

2. *Ga tau kenapa pas di depan tiba-tiba saya ngeblank.*
   "I dont know why when in front (of the class) I suddenly have no idea"

3. *Pacarku suka sekali ngegame di warnet.*
   "My boyfriend loves to play online game in an internet cafe."

4. *Kok ga ada yang ngelike status saya ya?*
   "Why isn’t anybody liking my status?"

5. *Ayo, siapa yang mau ngorder tuk hari ini?*
   "Come on, who wants order for today?"

   "Wait a minute, I want to post this on instagram."

7. *Dia sudah ngerequest di facebook sii tapi ga saya respon.*
   "He’s been requesting to be my friend on facebook but I don’t give a response."

The sentences above prove the restriction of meaning because in Indonesian the words can only be used in context related to certain things such as social media, technology, mental condition or things that are closely related to the lives
of young people. For example, for the word *ngeblank*, which derived from the word *blank* (empty), *ngeblank* can only be associated with the absence of an idea/thought (mental state), in which the base word (*blank*) can actually be associated with objects such as paper (*blank paper*) or whose basic meaning generally refers to empty space. Likewise, the word *ngegame* also has a restriction of meaning from the basic word *game* that means “any kind of games” into “playing just an online game only”.

**Expansion of Meaning**

One example of an expansion of meaning from the basic English words can be seen in the word *ngeblunder*. Look at the following sentences:

1.  
   a. *Kipernya semalem ngeblander makanya kita kalah.*
      “The reason why we lost last night was because the goal keeper blundered.”

   b. *Kok permasalahananya jadi ngeblander gini ya.*
      “The problem seems to be mixed up/unclear now.”

Sentence 1 indicates that the word *ngeblunder* has the same meaning as the basic word *blunder* (making a big mistake). However, this exact meaning is known only to people who like to watch football because this term is often used by football commentators. For people who are not involved in the world of football, the word *ngeblunder* is often defined as “mixed-up or unclear”. This can be seen in sentence 2. The use of the word *blunder* in this case seems to be associated with the use of the word *blender*. This is probably because *blunder* and *blender* bear a resemblance of sounds that are only distinguished by one distinct vowel sound in which the word *blender* itself is very familiar to the Indonesians.

Another example that falls into this category is the word *ngefly*. The word *ngefly* derived from the basic word *fly* experiencing the expansion of meaning “being flattered” and “using drugs”. Below are the examples of the word distributed in sentences.

2.  
   a. *Duh pujian dia buat gue ngefly deh.*
      “His compliment makes me flattered.”

   b. *Tiap hari dia ngefly mulu deh. Kapan sadarnya ya?*
      “Everyday he’s using drugs. When will he ever stop?”

The expansion of meaning in the word *ngefly* in both sentences above actually has a connection with the original meaning (the basic word). In the first sentence, the word *ngefly* shows the feeling of someone who seems to “fly” because of the happy feeling of a compliment given to her. In the second sentence, the word *ngefly* refers to the state of an unconscious person after using a drug as being “flying” into his subconsciousness. In this case the connection of meaning *ngefly* with the word *fly* refers to the mental condition/state of a person.
Zero Semantic Extension

Found in the data are some Anglicism words that do not change in meaning or have the same meaning as the meaning of the basic words. Below are the words in the form of sentences.

1. *Tulisannya ngeblur deh.*
   “The writing is blur.”

2. *Saya tiap hari ngeblog dari pagi sampe sore.*
   “Everyday I write on a blog from the morning until the afternoon.”

3. *Tiap hari Andi selalu ngebully orang.*
   “Everyday Andi always bullies someone.”

4. *Kita ngedownload di warnet ya.*
   “Lets download in an internet cafe.”

5. *Besok pagi saya mau ngegym bareng Lisa.*
   “Tomorrow morning I will go to the gym with Lisa.”

   “My ex-boyfriend likes to hack my account.”

7. *Jangan suka ngejudge orang lain.*
   “Don’t judge other people.”

8. *Pulang kuliah kita ngemall yuk.*
   “Lets go to the mall after class.”

   “I’m updating a status on social media.”

Regardless of the change of the word class, the meaning of the Anglicism words seen in the sentences above do not imply any change in meaning with the original word (basic word). For this case, it shows that the direct lending process of the word (in terms of form and pronunciation) also borrowed the concept brought by the word. Uniquely, although there are some equivalents of these words in Indonesian (*ngedownload* = *mengunduh*, *ngupdate* = *memperbaharui*), people tend to be more comfortable to use the loan words due to familiarity and practicality.

Conclusion

Indonesian is one of the most open languages for foreign influences. The phenomenon of language related to the borrowing of English words (Anglicism) needs a special attention in order to see the forms and tendencies that allow the entering of these words and become part of the Indonesian language. As we know, lately a large number of loan words have been borrowed from English as a reason of the constant changes in all areas, especially in technology.
From the results of the analysis above, it was found that phonologically Anglicism generally follows the rules of Indonesian language although there are some words that do not conform to it. Semantically, however, it was discovered that although most of the data show no change in the meaning of the base words but there seem to be a tendency for changes in meaning, both restriction and expansion, which is of interest and need to be studied further by using larger data corpus.

References