

**PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF MUARASIPONGI CREOLE:  
Identification and Distribution of Phoneme**

**Thesis**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
to Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree*



**By:**  
**Husnil Hidayat**  
**15019009/2015**

**Advisor:**  
**Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum**  
**19670722 199203 1 003**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS  
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG  
2019**

## HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

Judul : Phonological System Of Muarasipongi Creole:  
Identification and Distribution of Phoneme

Nama : Husnil Hidayat

NIM : 15019009/2015

Program Studi : Sastra Inggris

Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2019

Disetujui oleh,

Pembimbing



Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum  
NIP. 19670722 199203 1 003

Mengetahui  
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.  
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003



## HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi  
Program Studi Sastra Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang  
dengan judul


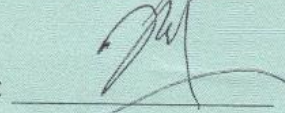
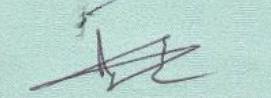
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Nama : Husnil Hidayat  
NIM : 15019009/2015  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris  
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2019

Tim Penguji

Tanda Tangan

1. Ketua	: Dr. Havid Ardi, S.pd., M.Hum.	: 
2. Sekretaris	: Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum.:	: 
3. Anggota	: Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum	: 





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**FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN SENI**  
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 Jl. Belibis. Air Tawar Barat. Kampus Selatan FBS UNP. Padang. Telp/Fax: (0751) 447347

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Nama	: Husnil Hidayat
NIM/TM	: 15019009/2015
Program Studi	: Sastra Inggris
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Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.  
 NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003



Saya yang menyatakan,

Husnil Hidayat  
 15019009/2015

## **ABSTRACT**

**Hidayat, Husnil. 2019. “Phonological System of Muarasipongi Creole: Identification and Distribution of Phoneme”. Thesis. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

As a result of language contact, creole is a language phenomena which must be investigated by linguists. This research investigated the phonological system of Muarasipongi creole. The aim of the research was to identify the phonemes and determine the distribution of phonemes. Descriptive-qualitative method was used in conducting the research. Based on the findings, there are 36 phonemes found in Muarasipongi Creole. The phonemes are /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /k/, /g/, /ʔ/, /h/, /s/, /ʃ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /ɲ/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /j/, /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, /ai/, /ua/, /uo/, /ou/, /oi/, /au/, /ei/, /iu/, /ui/, /ae/, and /ia/. In term of phonemes distribution, Muarasipongi creole have variation. The consonants have variation in distribution. Moreover, vowels are complete distributed in Muarasipongi Creole. Furhermore, none of diphthongs have complete distribution, only phoneme /ai/ is complete distributed.

**Key words:** consonant, vowel, diphtong, Muarasipongi Creole

## **ABSTRAK**

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Sebagai hasil dari sebuah kontak bahasa, kreol merupakan sebuah fenomena bahasa yang harus diungkap oleh para linguist. Penelitian ini menginvestigasi sistem bunyi pada kreol Muarasipongi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi fonem-fonem dan distribusinya di kreole Muarasipongi. Metode deskriptif dengan pendekatan kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Berdasarkan temuan penelitian, ada 36 foneme pada kreol Muarasipongi. Fonem-fonem tersebut adalah /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /k/, /g/, /ʔ/, /h/, /s/, /ʃ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /ɲ/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /j/. /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, /ai/, /ua/, /uo/, /ou/, /oi/, /au/, /ei/, /iu/, /ui/, /ae/, and /ia/. Fonem-foneme tersebut mempunyai variasi dalam distribusinya. Fonem konsonan mempunyai ragam variasi pada distribusinya, fonem bisa mempunyai distribusi lengkap ataupun tidak lengkap. Selanjutnya, semua fonem vokal terdistribusi lengkap. Pada bagian vokal rangkap, hanya fonem /ai/ yang memiliki distribusi lengkap.

Kata kunci: konsonan, vokal, vokal rangkap, kreol Muarasipongi

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Finally, the researcher realizes that this thesis is not yet a perfect research. Therefore, any constructive criticism and advice are highly welcomed. Hopefully, this thesis will be useful for everyone who are interested in academic works.

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The Author

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## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of Research Problem**

Language is a basic need for human beings to communicate. Language is used to create a meaningful communication among human beings. The original form of human language is spoken language. It establishes a kind of interaction between the speaker and the hearer. However, there is also a communication in the written form that builds the interaction between sender and receiver. In communication, people make the transaction and interaction of information. In order to understand the information conveyed, a language must be mutually understandable among the speakers and the hearers, consequently there is no misunderstanding in conveying and receiving the information.

There are more than 700 local languages exist in Indonesia (Ismadi:2015). One of those local languages is Minangkabau language. Minangkabau language undergoes the language contact with the languages around it. For instance, in the north region of West Sumatra, Minangkabau language directly touch with Mandailing language. Mandailing language is the language spoken by Mandailingnese who lives in the South of North Sumatra. The areas belong to mandailing language including Mandailing Natal Regency, Padang Lawas Regency and North Padang Lawas Regency. Jufrizal (2007:6-7) states that in the north of Minangkabunese region, there is Mandailing language . The people of Mandailing communicate using Mandailing language. Almost all Mandailing areas use this language.

In Mandailing Natal regency, one regency of North Sumatra Province, there is sub district called Muarasipongi which has a uniqueness of language. The people who live in Muarasipongi actually are Mandailingnese since in their last name marked by the family name (clan). Even though they are Mandailingnese, they do not speak Mandailing language in their daily activities. They speak their own language which is called as Muarasipongi language. Based on the research done by Harahap (2011), the sociolinguistics status of language spoken in Muarasipongi is categorized to creole. Mostly the lexical is the combination and modification between local language and Minangkabau language, since Muarasipongi directly bordered with Minangkabau area.

Language has variation. In spoken form, language has variation in phonological system. Phonologically, each language has different ways in producing sounds. According to Refnaldi (2008:3) phonology is the study of how sounds are produced by people in particular language, organized and arranged into pattern systems. Phonology deals with the description and the distribution of sounds produced by human organ of speech. Furthermore, phonology provides the way of distinguishing the distributed sounds from human organs of speech whether it has a meaning or not.

There are two scopes of phonology. Those are phonetics and phonemics. Demolin (2005:95) states that phonetics describes how the speech sounds are created, received, and transmitted in language. Furthermore, Refnaldi (2008:116) states that phonetics is the specific study of how speech sounds are produced, their physical properties, and how they are interpreted.

In recent years, many researchers have been attracted to conduct the study that is related to the study that was conducted. At least, there are three studies which focused on the phonological aspect and two studies discuss the latest researches conducted in Muarasipongi Creole. The first study was done by Harahap (2011). The study discussed about the sociolinguistics status of language used in Muarasipongi. Based on the study done, it is concluded that the sociolinguistics status of language spoken in Muarasipongi is creole. The second study was conducted by Agunaldi (2012). The study discussed about the lexical comparison between language used in Muarasipongi and the standard Minangkabaunese. The result is that the lexical of language used in Muarasipongi have sameness with the Minangkabaunese lexicon. The third study was done by Amri, Refnaldi and Rosa (2008). The study describes about the phonological change in Kuranji. The result of the study is two types of phonological changes found in Kuranji. They are deletion and epenthesis. The fourth study was done by Akamarizon and Rosa (2014) which discusses about segmental phoneme. The study located in Kenagarian Air Bangis, Pasaman Barat. It was found that at Kenagarian Air Bangis, Pasaman Barat has 20 phonemes consonant, 5 phonemes vowel and 7 phonemes diphtong. The latest study was done by Putra, Syarif and Marlina (2018). The study was done in Indropuro which is categorized into dialect of Minangkabau Language. The result of the study is that Indropuro dialect has 20 phonemes consonant, 6 phonemes vowel and 5 phonemes diphtong.

However, the study that was conducted is related to the three previous studies mentioned above in term of investigating and finding the



phonological system in Muarasipongi creole. In addition to similarities, there are differences among those previous studies and the study that has been conducted. This research is explained from different view of linguistics. If the study done by Harahap (2011) discusses about the sociolinguistics status of language used in Muarasipongi Creole, so this study was done to see the phonological aspects. Second, the study that has been conducted did not describe about the phonological change, but phonological system as done by Amri, Refnaldi and Rosa. Akamarizon and Rosa (2014) chose Kenagarian Air Bangis as the subject of the research, however the study which was held chose Muarasipongi creole as the subject of the research. The latest study done by Putra, Syarif and Marlina (2018) chooses the Indropuro dialect as the subject of the research. Meanwhile the study that was conducted chose the different subject which is Muarasipongi creole.

From those studies above, it is not found yet the study about phonological system of a creole language which focuses on segmental phoneme in Muarasipongi. Although there are two researches conducted which is related to Muarasipongi Creole, that researches did not discuss further and deeply about the phonological system of Muarasipongi Creole. Therefore, this research has strong reasons to be conducted as further studies of language phenomena especially by using phonological approach. The identification and distribution of phonemes are two things that become the foci of the research. Furthermore, it is also necessary to explore the Minangkabunese-based lexicon by seeing it from the phonological aspects. Therefore, to explore such kind of language phenomena this research is in highly need in finding out the phonological system especially segmental phonemes in Muarasipongi Creole.

## **1.2 Identification of Research Problem**

Based on background of the research problem, this study was conducted in micro linguistics scope. There are at least three potential aspects that can be discussed related to the Muarasipongi creole. Firstly, it can be seen by the study of dialectology by means investigating the possibility for creole whether it is a variation of a language or having possibility to be a new language. Second, this language phenomena can be studied through the study of morphology by seeing the morphological processes of lexicon modified from Minangkabunese into Muarasipongi Creole. At last, it can be seen through the study of phonology that deals with sound system in particular language. This is to have a clear linguistics answer about the assumption of a sound system toward Creole. In addition, sound system is important field of linguistics to be researched due to its function as determiner whether the sounds meaningful or meaningless. Therefore, the study on segmental phoneme is in highly need to be done.

## **1.3 Limitation of Research Problem**

Based on the identification of research problem, the limitation of the research is the phonological system of Muarasipongi Creole. The research focused on the identification and distribution of segmental phonemes of Muarasipongi creole. Therefore, the research discusses the identification and the distribution of consonant sounds, vowel sounds, and diphtong sounds found in Muarasipongi creole.

#### **1.4 Formulation of Research Problem**

In relation to the limitation of research problem above, the research problem can be formulated as follows: “What are the phonemes and their distributions in Muarasipongi creole?”

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

There are four research questions that can be derived from the formulation of the problem above, as follow:

1. What are the segmental phonemes of Muarasipongi Creole?
2. What is the distribution of consonants in Muarasipongi creole?
3. What is the distribution of vowels in Muarasipongi creole?
4. What is the distribution of diphthongs in Muarasipongi creole?

#### **1.6 Purposes of Research**

In order to have clear objective of the research, it is necessary to elaborate the purposes of the research, as follow:

1. To find out the segmental phonemes of Muarasipongi Creole
2. To find out the distribution of consonants in Muarasipongi creole.
3. To find out the distribution of vowels in Muarasipongi creole.
4. To find out the distribution of diphthongs in Muarasipongi creole.

#### **1.7 Significance of Research**

Theoritically, this study is expected to give more understanding in the field of linguistics about phonological system. This study is expected to enlarge the further development of phonological system by using this study as on of



references. Practically, this study is expected to give more contribution related to the further researchers by seeing from different point of view.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

Phonology	: One of linguistic study which studies about sound of language.
Segmental Phoneme	: The consonant sounds, vowel sounds, and diphthong sound.
Mandailing Language	: A local language that is used in the south of North Sumatra and in the North of West Sumatra Indonesia.
Minangkabau Language	A local language used by Minangkabaunese, Highly used in West Sumatera
Muarasipongi	: A sub-district in Mandailing Natal, North Sumatera Province.
Creole	: A mother tongue formed from the contact of two languages through an earlier pidgin stage.