A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND BUGINESE ASSIMILATION

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Abstract

This study aimed to present the differences and similarities of English and Buginese Assimilation. Contrastive analysis was the technique that was used in this study. The data collected by recording the native speaker of Buginese and also the native speaker of English.

The result of this research indicated that English and Buginese have differences and similarities especially in assimilation. The similarities are both of languages have assimilation of place and also assimilation of manner. The differences between English and Buginese are the changed sound of English assimilation generally are the alveolar stop sound but in buginese the changed sound is only velar nasal sound that is /ŋ/ sound. The new sound in English assimilatin can be a same sound and also the different sound with the followed sound contras with Buginese that generally new sound is a same sound with the followed sound. In Buginese, there is a situation where the new sound combines with the followed sound and makes another new sound but in English this situation is impossible. The last different is in English, an assimilation is only happen in one sound but in Buginese one sound can be categorized as assimilation of place and also assimilation of manner. Therefore, buginese students will ease to learn assimilation because they can recognize the differences and similarities between both English and Buginese assimilation.

BASIC CONSIDERATION

As a communication tool, language becomes an interesting subject to be researched. The research is done to find many aspects of language. Grammar is the central component of language (Greenbaum 2002, p.1). However the other aspects of language such as Phonetic, Morphology, Pragmatic and soon, also take an important place in research of language.

In research of language, it is not only the aspects of language that become the important part. The language that is researched is also the important thing. In Indonesia, it is not only Indonesian Language as the National Language of Indonesian or English as the foreign Language that become the object of language research. According to the research in 2012
referring to the data of Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa Departemen Pendidikan, there are 564 local languages which spread from the east to the west of Indonesia. They constitute as an interesting object of language research.

One of those local languages is Buginese. This language constitutes as the mother tongue of 5 millions people of Indonesia (according to data taken in census on 2000) because the native speaker of the language which originally comes from South Sulawesi spread almost in every province of Indonesia in multitudes.

The research of this language becomes very interesting because this language actually has similarity with English. The similarity of these languages is in their Phonetic aspect. As stated by Birjandi and Nodoushan (2005) that “assimilation is when one sound is influenced and changed by a neighboring sound” (p.131). Both of these languages have an assimilation sound.

In English, pronunciation of word “ratbag” becomes [ˈræpbæg]. This example shows that sound of “t” in this word get change. The sound “t” in this word becomes “p”. It is categorized as assimilation of place, because the changing is in the place of articulation that is from alveolar to bilabial or plosive. Another example is word “Indian”. In this word the plosive “d” combines with the approximant “j” and becomes “dʒ”. Because the changing is in the manner of articulation, so this assimilation is categorized as assimilation of manner. There is also an example of assimilation of voice in English the change is in the voicing of sound. The example is word “have to” where word “have” which is ended by sound “v” changed into sound “f” (Birjandi and Nodoushan 2005, p.132).

Meanwhile, in Buginese there is the similar changing process of word like in English. The word “botting paru”, for example, which means newlywed, pronounces “bottimparu”. There are also words “cenning ladde’” which means too sweet pronounces “cennilladde’”. Both of first word of these examples have end sound “ŋ” and both of the sounds are replaced by its neighboring sound.

The changing process that happens in both of these languages constitutes the phonological process. “Phonological processes are no great respecters of word boundaries, operating between words just as well as within them” (McMahon 2002, p.124). Assimilation is the one of the phonological process. That realizes the researcher that in both of these languages have similarities especially in assimilation of manner and place. So that the research about this fact should be done in order to find a way in helping teachers and students in teaching English as a foreign language especially the subject about assimilation

In this research, the researcher focuses in English and Buginese assimilation especially in assimilation of manner and place. It is because in Buginese there are only two possible assimilations. Those are assimilation of place and manner. Assimilation of voice is impossible in Buginese because there is no differentiation between voiced and voiceless sound Buginese.
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Concept of Contrastive Analysis

English, which is generally learnt by student in school, sometimes gives some difficulties to the students. The cause of this problem is because this language is the foreign language in this country. In order to help the student in learning foreign language, the linguist had developed Contrastive Analysis Approach. This approach lets the student to compare two languages, so they can describe clearly the similarities and the differences of the languages. According to Finegan (in Malomis 2009, p.6), contrastive analysis is a method of analyzing language for instructional purposes where a native language are target language and compared in order to clarify the points of differences that may cause difficulties for learner. So, in learning process the learner will be easer because in one case the learner learns their own language as target language. This situation will bring both of languages they learned into the same position that is target language. The foreign language will be seen in different way. It is not an unknown language but a familiar language because it has relationship with their local language. Hamid (in Pranowo 1996, p.42) also supported this concept who said that sometimes contrastive analysis is known as contrastive linguistics.

The Concept of Assimilation

Assimilation is one of the phonological processes. As stated by Kreidler (2004) “four different phonological processes: vowel reduction, vowel loss, consonant loss, and assimilation” (p.223). Assimilation is a situation when the speaker pronounces two close sounds more like each other. According to Birjandi and Nodoushan (2003) “Assimilation is when one sound is influenced and changed by a neighboring sound” (p.131). It is happened because generally the speakers always try to make some easer ways in speaking. As stated by McMahon (2002) “processes of assimilation like this involve two sounds close together in a word becoming closer together in terms of pronunciation, making life easier for the speaker by reducing vocal tract gymnastics” (p.4). So this process actually does by the speaker unconsciously to get easer in speaking. This situation may be caused by the manner or the place of articulation of sound is too far from the sound that follows it. So the sound is changed into a sound which has a similar place or manner of articulation with the sound that follows it.

Furthermore, McMahon (2002) also stated that “assimilation is generally a response to speed of speech, and involves ease of articulation pressures” (p.130). This means that beside of for ease, the assimilation process also happens because of the speed of speech of the speaker. So, in
some cases, when the speaker speaks slowly, the assimilation sound does not happen. This situation can be shown, for example, when Indonesian who is still in the beginner level of English subject pronounces words “not me”, the speaker will pronounce it without assimilation sound. It can be happen because the speaker still does not know how to pronounce it or because the speaker still speaks slowly. However, by native speakers who have always used English, they will pronounce it with assimilation sound because they speak fast.

In Buginese, when the native pronounces words “macenning ladde” (too sweat) slowly, sound /ŋ/ in word “macenning” will still be pronounced. However, when the speaker speaks fast the sound /ŋ/ will change into sound /l/. It shows an assimilation sound process.

Types of Assimilation

According to Birjandi and Nodoushan (2005) there are three types of assimilation that can be identified: assimilation of place, assimilation of manner, and/or assimilation of voice (p.132).

1. Assimilation of place is when the place of articulation of the sound get change. In English, it can be demonstrated by ratbag (that is, [ˈreɪpbæɡ]) where the /t/ sound is replaced by a /p/ sound. This is because the alveolar plosive /t/ is simplified into the /p/ sound which is closer to the bilabial plosive /b/(Birjandi and Nodoushan 2005, p.132). In Buginese, it can be demonstrated by jancing mu (your promise) that is pronounced [jancimmu]. The sound /ŋ/ (velar nasal sound) is replaced by sound /m/ (bilabial nasal sound). The manner of articulation of both these examples do not get change (stop /t/ is changed into stop /p/ and nasal /ŋ/ is changed into nasal /m/). However, the place of articulation of the examples above gets change into another place of articulation. /t/ alveolar is changed into /p/ bilabial and /ŋ/ velar is changed into /m/ bilabial.

In their book, Birjandi and Nodoushan also present some rules about assimilation sounds that generally appear in English. the rules can be seen below:

- When a /d/ sound occurs before a /g/ sound, it is usually converted into the /g/ sound.
- When /t/ is followed by /m/, it usually changes into a /p/ sound.
- When /t/ is followed by /p/, it usually changes into a /p/ sound.
- When /t/ is followed by /b/, it usually changes into a /b/ sound.
- When /d/ is followed by /b/, it usually changes into a /b/ sound.
- When /d/ is followed by /p/, it usually changes into a /b/ sound.
2. Assimilation of manner refers to when two different manners of articulation influence each other to form a different type of manner of articulation (Birjandi and Nodoushan 2005, p.132). The examples of this assimilation in English is the pronunciation of ‘s (r). This is because the plosive /d/ combines with the approximant /j/ to form the affricate /ʤ/. In Buginese, the example of this assimilation is the pronunciation of “elong kelong” (song) that is [elokkelong]. This example shows that the nasal /ŋ/ is changed into another manner of articulation that is stop /k/.

3. Assimilation of voice is the assimilation that gets changing in the voicing of sound. This assimilation happened in English. It is illustrated by the pronunciation of "have to" with a /f/ sound rather than the /v/ sound (i.e., [ˈhaft]) as the voiced fricative is followed by a voiceless consonant. However in Buginese this kind of assimilation does not happen. So that in this research the researcher will only focus in assimilation of place and manner.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this research is found that there are some similarities and differences between English and Buginese. The similarities are both of these languages have Assimilation of Place and Assimilation of manner. As shown in the previous section, the example of assimilation of place in English that is;

\[
\text{Good boy [ g \ bbɔɪ]} \\
/d/ (alveolar stop sound) - /b/ (bilabial stop sound) \\
\downarrow (becomes) \\
/b/ (bilabial stop sound) - /b/ (bilabial stop sound)
\]

Sound /d/ is changed into sound /b/. Both of these sounds are stop sound which means when these sounds are made the airflow from the lungs is completely block at some point. However, these sounds have a different place of articulation. It means this assimilation is assimilation of place because the articulation that changed is the place of articulation. The new sound that is /b/ sound is a same sound with the followed sound. This happens because the speaker wants to be easer in pronounce the words so the changed the changed sound into a same place of articulation with the followed sound.

The example of Buginese assimilation of place is;

\[
\text{Macenning mo? [Macennimmo]} \\
\text{Is it sweet?} \\
/ŋ/ (velar nasal sound) - /m/ (bilabial nasal sound) \\
\downarrow (becomes) \\
/m/ (bilabial nasal sound) - /m/ (bilabial nasal sound)
\]

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/h/ sound is changed into /m/ sound. Both of these sounds are nasal. So, the changing is their place of articulation that is bilabial becomes velar. Same as the reason of the assimilation of place in English, the reason of assimilation of place in Buginese is also because the speaker wants to be easier in pronounce the words.

The next are the differences between these languages. The first difference is the changed sounds of English assimilation generally are the alveolar stop sound. Those are /t/ and /d/ sound. However in Buginese, the changed sound is only velar nasal sound that is /ŋ/ sound.

Two examples of English assimilation below show the assimilation of place in English where the changed sounds are /t/ and /d/ sound

**ENGLISH**

*That Boy* [ðæp ɔi]  
\( /l/ \) (alveolar stop) - \( /b/ \) (bilabial stop)  
\[ \downarrow \text{(becomes)} \]  
\( /p/ \) (bilabial stop) - \( /b/ \) (bilabial stop)

The data above shows that the changed sound is /t/ alveolar stop. This also happens in the words “that person” where /t/ sound is changed into /p/ sound (see, table 3)

*That Person* [ðæp ˈs ən]  
\( /l/ \) is changed into /p/ sound

The changed sound is /t/ sound change into /p/ sound

The next alveolar sound is /d/ sound. This shows by the diagram below:

*Good parking* [g bɒ. ˈkn̩]  
\( /d/ \) (alveolar stop) - \( /p/ \) (bilabial stop)  
\[ \downarrow \text{(becomes)} \]  
\( /b/ \) (bilabial stop) - \( /p/ \) (bilabial stop)

The data above shows that the changed sound is /d/ alveolar stop. This also happens in the words “good boy” where /d/ sound is changed into /b/ sound (see, table 5)

*Good boy* [g ˈbbɔi]  
\( /b/ \) is changed into /b/ sound

**BUGINESE**

In Buginese, the assimilation only happens when /ŋ/ sound is at the final sound the first word. This situation makes the first sound of the second sound or followed sound changes the /ŋ/ sound into another sound. However when the end sound of the first sound is not /ŋ/ sound the assimilation will not happen.
Two examples below will prove that the assimilation in Buginese is only happen when the end sound of the first sound is /ŋ/ sound.

1. Here are the examples of words with end sound /ŋ/
   
Pettang Kape (soo dark)
   It is pronounced [pettakkape]. The example shows that the /ŋ/ sound is replaced by /k/ sound. Another example is “Bolong Keppu” (so black). It is pronounced [bolokkeppu]. This example also shows that sound /ŋ/ is replaced by the followed sound that is /k/ sound.

2. Here are the example of words with another end sound
   Maddoko’ beppa (wrap the cake)
   It is pronounced [maddoko’ beppa]. The end sound of the first word sound likes /k/ sound but actually it is not. This sound is generally happens in Buginese because mostly words in buginese end with vowel sound, /ŋ/ sound or /-'/ sound. So actually there is no consonant sound in Buginese except /ŋ/ sound.

The third difference is the new sound in English assimilation can be a same sound with the followed sound and also can be a sound that has a same place of articulation with the followed sound. Contras with Buginese assimilation, generally the new sound is a same sound with the followed sound.

The examples below will explain what the same sound and also the same articulation change. In English when assimilation happens, the changed sound can be a same sound with the followed sound. Words “good boy” can explain this. The changed sound in this example is sound /d/ and the followed sound is sound /b/’. The followed sound in this example changes the changed sound into a same sound with the followed sound that is /b/’. Another example is words “that person”. The end sound of word “that” is /t/. It meets with the followed sound /p/. Then followed sound /p/ changes the /t/ sound into /p/ sound. Furthermore, the changed sound that is changed into a same place of articulation with the followed sound can be seen in the words “that boy”. The changed sound is /t/ sound is changed by /b/ sound into bilabial place that is /p/ sound where /b/ and /p/ are the bilabial sound.

In buginese, the changed sound will not change into a same place of articulation but it will change into a same sound. The words “batang pao” (mango tree) can be the example of this. “Batang pao” is pronounced [batappao]. It shows that the /ŋ/ sound is changed into /p/ sound, a sound that is same with the followed sound.

Actually, there is a possible situation where the changed sound of Buginese assimilation is changed into another sound not the same sound with the followed sound. It is a combination between the new sound and the followed sound. For example words “Botting paru” (newlywed), in this example the sound /ŋ/ will be changed into /m/ sound. Furthermore, the new sound /m/ combines with the followed sound /p/ make another sound that is sound /mpa/ (see appendix 8).
It is also one of difference of assimilation in English and Buginese. Because in English, it is impossible to happen.

The last difference between English and Buginese assimilation is in the English assimilation it is only one kind of assimilation that possible to happen. So when the assimilation is assimilation of place so it can not be assimilation of manner too. However, in Buginese, this situation is possible. So, one sound can be both assimilation of place and also assimilation of manner.

Here are the examples:

In English, words “sad girl” is just an assimilation of place. The changed is only in the place of articulation of /d/ that changed into place of articulation of /g/. So that, the words “sad girl” is pronounced [sæg3:l].

In Buginese, words “cenning ladde” (too sweat) is pronounced [cennilladde]. The /ŋ/ sound is changed into /l/ sound where the /ŋ/ sound and /l/ sound are different in both of their place and manner of articulation. /ŋ/ sound is velar nasal sound and /l/ sound is alveolar liquid sound.

From the explanation above, we can see that English and Buginese have similarities and differences especially in assimilation. It is proved through the research by using contrastive analysis.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of research about contrastive analysis between English and Buginese assimilation that have done, the researcher concluded that both of English and Buginese have assimilation of place and also assimilation of manner. In English words “Sad girl” are the example of Assimilation of Place and word “Soldier” is the example of assimilation of manner. In Buginese, assimilation of place for example words “Macenning mo” and the assimilation of manner for example is the words “Batakkaluku”. The changed sound of English assimilation is more various than Buginese assimilation. For example; sound /t/ and /d/. The changed sound in Buginese assimilation is only /ŋ/ sound. In English, a sound can only make one kind of assimilation. However, in Buginese, one sound can make both assimilation of place and also assimilation of manner. For example; in English sound /t/ is changed into sound /p/ is only assimilation of place. In Buginese, sound /ŋ/ is changed into sound /p/ is assimilation of place and also assimilation of place. In Buginese, it is possible that in assimilation a new sound combines with followed sound and makes another new sound. For example words “Bottimparu” where /ŋ/ sound is changed into /m/ sound and /m sound combines with /p/ sound to make /mpa/ sound.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


