

# ABSORPTION OF ARABIC IN THE CENTRAL JAVA REGION: PHONOLOGICAL STUDY

No. Abstract: ABS-ICOLLITE-24222

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# INTRODUCTION

This research aims to examine the absorption of Arabic in the Central Java region and its phonetic adaptation within the context of local culture. The spread of Islam by scholars and Arab traders since the 13th century has significantly influenced the language in this area. Through an ethnographic approach, this study documents and analyzes Arabic loanwords used in the daily language of the Central Javanese people and the phonological adaptations that occur.

Arabic loanwords in Karimun Java undergo unique phonological adaptations to fit the Javanese sound system. This research will examine how these adaptations occur, including sound substitution, consonant and vowel adjustments, and other structural modifications (yahya, n.d.; Chang, 2013). Understanding the phonetics of these Arabic loanwords is crucial for a deeper insight into how the Arabic language influences the local language and culture.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Ethnography of language is a study that focuses on how language is used within specific social and cultural contexts (Kleden & Probonegoro, 2012).

In Karimun Java, the absorption of Arabic reflects the history, values, and identity of the local community. An ethnographic study of the Arabic language in Karimun Java can reveal how this influence has developed and adapted in daily life, as well as how it interacts with the region's tourism development.



# METHOD

Researchers use ethnographic methods to explore and understand educational practices within a cultural context in depth (Endang Susilawati & Asmah Haji Omar, 2017; Sari et al., 2023).

Ethnography is a qualitative research approach that focuses on direct observation and participation in the daily lives of research subjects (Hammersley, 2006; Walford, 2009).

It aims to understand and describe in detail the daily life and culture of a group (Ploder & Hamann, 2021; Gertner et al., 2021)

in this case, the predominantly Muslim community of Karimun Java, which is closely connected to Arabic loanwords. The ethnography of language focuses on how language is used in specific social and cultural contexts.

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

## Phonetic understanding of Arabic loan words in the Karimun Java location

The spread of Islam in Karimun Java began in the 13th century with the arrival of Arab scholars and traders. This dissemination continued with the significant role of the Walisongo, particularly Sunan Nyamplungan, who spread Islamic teachings in the area. This Islamization brought the influence of the Arabic language into the local community's life, which is evident in various aspects of life, from religious practices to the use of everyday vocabulary (Jati, 2017).



# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

## Phonology of Arabic Loan Words in Karimun Java

The phonology of Arabic loanwords (Rohmah et al., n.d.) in Javanese shows several adjustments to fit the Javanese sound system. Here are some key phonological patterns:

### Phoneme Substitution:

Sounds not present in Javanese are often replaced with the closest equivalent. For example, the Arabic sound /ʕ/ (ain) is usually replaced with /a/ in Javanese.

The sound /ɣ/ (ghain) is often replaced with /g/ in Javanese.

### Consonant Adjustments:

Double consonants in Arabic are often simplified (Algethami, 2022). For instance, the Arabic word "shaddah" becomes "syahada" in Javanese.

Uvular consonants like /q/ are often adapted to /k/. For example, "Qur'an" becomes "Kuran."

Fakir. Meaning in Javanese: Poor or needy person. Origin from Arabic: "Faqīr" فَقِير meaning poor or someone in material need. This term is often used in social contexts to refer to people in need of assistance.

Barakah. Meaning in Javanese: Blessing or grace.

Origin from Arabic: "Barakah" بَرَكَة meaning blessing or grace. This word is frequently used to describe the blessings or divine grace bestowed upon someone's life.

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

## The Influence of Arabic on the Development of Language and Culture in Karimun Jawa

The influence of Arabic on the development of language and culture in Karimun Jawa is profound (Humaedi, 2015). The absorption of Arabic has not only enriched the local vocabulary but also strengthened the cultural and religious identity of the local community. Education and phonological adaptation contribute to the harmonious integration between Arabic and Javanese, while cultural influence and its role in tourism enhance the social and economic life in Karimun Jawa.



Islamic educational institutions such as pesantren and madrasah in Karimun Jawa play a central role in disseminating Arabic language and culture (Sauri, 2020). These institutions serve as centers for Islamic education, teaching various Islamic disciplines including Arabic. They are crucial for learning religious teachings and internalizing Islamic values into daily life.

# CONCLUSION



The phonological adjustments of Arabic loanwords in Karimun Jawa illustrate how Arabic has been adapted to fit the phonetic system and structure of the Javanese language. This process not only facilitates pronunciation but also aids in the integration of these words into the everyday life of the local community. Examples of loanwords such as "amal" (good deeds), "ilmu" (knowledge), and "iman" (faith) reflect the profound influence of Arabic on the culture and language of Karimun Jawa, enriching the vocabulary and strengthening local cultural identity.

The integration of Arabic loanwords into Javanese demonstrates how cultural and religious contact can impact language. These loanwords not only expand the Javanese vocabulary but also adapt to the phonological and structural systems of the Javanese language. This adaptation highlights the flexibility and capacity of Javanese to absorb foreign influences while maintaining its distinctive characteristics.





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THANK YOU!