INDONESIAN INFLUENCE IN DUTCH: A CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Cuisine is one of the results of connection between Dutch and Indonesian people. Both of them have loanwords from each other. This paper presents adaptations of Indonesian loanwords in Dutch in the field of cuisine. What are the differences between Indonesian bakmi, gado-gado and Dutch bami, gado-gado? Why are they different? In the field of linguistic adaptations the words like daging smoor and nasibal are examined orthographically and semantically. Semantic explanations will be used to determine the differences between Indonesian nasi and Dutch nasi. The data are gathered from websites on Indonesian cuisine in Dutch.

Keywords: adaptation, culture, linguistic change, language contact, Dutch, Indonesian

Introduction

A language is never 100% isolated from other languages. There are always contacts between different languages. Language contact between Dutch and Indonesian/Malay (later called Indonesian) caused language borrowing. On one hand, Indonesians have approximately 5400 words that are borrowed from Dutch (Grijns et al. 1983, Jones (ed.) 2007) but I am sure that there are more than 8000 loanwords from Dutch. On the other hand, Dutch have approximately 300 loanwords from Indonesians (Van der Sijs 1996). From the numbers of 5400 and 300, we can compare that Dutch-to-Indonesian language influence is way much bigger rather than Indonesian-to-Dutch language influence and it makes Dutch the dominant one. The Indonesian language undergoes the superstratum influence and the Dutch language undergoes the substratum influence. The superstratum influence is a result from a politically and culturally dominant language (Murray 2005: 270). Usually, superstratum influence gives more contributions to the lexicon of the nondominate language. On the other hand, substratum influence causes fewer loanwords to the dominant one.

As we know, Indonesians have many loanwords from Dutch in many fields, such as the fields of law (e.g. beslah, budel), technology (e.g. busi, mobil), and health (e.g. dokter, suster). Dutch loanwords from Indonesians on the other hand are mostly in field of cuisine and culture, for example lontong, gado-gado, bihoen, bami, kris, and batik. This paper will examine Dutch loanwords only in that field.
Naturally loanwords may undergo some changes, adaptations. This paper will study:

What adaptations do the Dutch loanwords from Indonesians undergo?
Why do they undergo the changes?

The data of this research are gathered from websites on recipes of Indonesian cuisine, named: www.tantelenny.com, www.kokkieblanda.nl, www.volrecepten.nl, and www.goeievraag.nl. The words originally from Indonesia are noted and examined linguistically and non-linguistically. Linguistically, I make comparisons between the Indonesian words and the Dutch ones in the field of meaning and orthography. That happens with the help of dictionaries and linguistic rules of the two languages. What I mean with non-linguistically is some factors outside the language such as tradition and habit.

Discussion

One of the results of language contact and culture contact is borrowing. A language borrows some words from another language. Dutch borrows some words from Indonesians. Some works (Gonda 1991, Winford 2005, for examples) mention that the main causes of borrowing are prestige and need. The Indonesian words that enter Dutch vocabulary are mainly caused by need. There are no equivalents in Dutch for the words like *lontong* and *trassi*. The Netherlands does not have coconut and that is why Dutch have the word of *klapper* from *kelapa*.

Loanwords are words that come from other languages. They are usually adapted to the phonological and morphological rules of the borrowing language. Van der Sijs (2002: 64) divides loanwords in three groups: vreemde woorden (foreign words), bastaardwoorden (adapted words) and ingeburgerde woorden (integrated words). Foreign words have the form and/or the pronunciation of the donor language, for example *voorrijder* ‘escort cars/bikes that lead the way’ in Indonesian. The word *voorrijder* does not have real Indonesian features because it has the letter of <v> and the same letters like <oo> in one syllable never appear in Indonesian. Adapted words are adapted to the phonological and morphological rules of the borrowing language, but they can be recognized that they are from other languages. The word *legalisasi* ‘legalization’ can be recognized because it has the bound form -isasi and it can be intuitively seen that it has the basic word of *legal*. Integrated words are fully adapted to the spelling, phonological, morphological rules of the borrowing language – if necessary. They cannot be seen that they are loanwords. Laymen cannot recognize and usually does not care that the words like *kulkas* ‘refrigerator’ and *sopir* ‘driver’ are actually loanwords. They are respectively borrowed from the Dutch words *koelkast* and *chauffeur* in the same meaning.

If a loanword does not have the same linguistic structure of the donor language, it will undergo some adaptations. For example there is a phonological adaptation in the word of *kulkas* in Indonesian. This word comes from the Dutch word of *koelkast*. Indonesians do not have consonant cluster at the end of a word.
Another example is *sup brenebon*. That compound word comes the Dutch *bruineboon soep*. Indonesians do not have the phoneme /œy/. On the other hand, phonological adaptations in Dutch do not happen as much as in Indonesian because Dutch phonology is more complex compared to Indonesian phonology, so we have the words like *lontong, toko,* and *nastar* in Dutch, the same as in Indonesians.

Because of linguistic adaptations, the Dutch words such as *pisang goreng* and *bami* have undergone some changes. Some adaptations happen because of differences in traditions and habits of the both cultures. As mentioned earlier that there are two kinds of examination: linguistically and non-linguistically. Not all words are analyzed with these two approaches. Some words are interesting to be analyzed only with the linguistic approach and some other with the non-linguistic one. The following section discusses the analyzed words per item in alphabetical order. Some words are discussed with the item that semantically related to those words.

*Bami*

For Indonesians, we pronounce the word of *bakmi* as [ba?mi]. Indonesians do not have long and short vowel, but Dutch have many vowels with those distinctions. The word of *bami* is pronounced as [bami] with the long vowel [a].

*Bami, mie, mihoen, bihoen goreng* is made with instant seasonings that sold in the *toko*. Many people especially Indonesians that live in the Low Countries find that the taste varies differently with our original bakmi. Dutch people make *bami* from fresh spaghetti because it is easier to find in the supermarket. Bakmi in Indonesia is associated with broth, while Dutch *bami* is actually our *mie goreng* for it is in general without broth. Dutch people eat *bami, mie, mihoen, bihoen goreng* as variation for their diner. However for Indonesians it is not enough to have dinner with the main course of *bami*. If they want to be full they have to eat *nasi* or double portions of *bami*.

*Gado-gado*

Dutch *gado-gado* is pronounced as in the Indonesian way although the grapheme <g> in Dutch is mostly pronounced as [γ] or [x]. In this case the pronunciation of the words is the same. What interesting is how Dutch people serve *gado-gado*. The main different between Indonesian *gado-gado* and the Dutch one is that the Dutch *gado-gado* is served warm. Before served, *gado-gado* is put into the microwave. Dutch people eat three times a day; they have cold breakfast and lunch. Usually they eat bread for breakfast and lunch. In the evening they eat warm meal (Van der Toorn-Schutte, 2009). *Gado-gado* usually is served in the evening. That’s why they eat warm *gado-gado*. Another reason is that the peanut sauce is sold in a plastic sack or container. It has to be warmed before they put together with the vegetables.
**Kokkie**

This word can be interestingly analyzed in two ways: semantically and etymologically. Semantically, there is narrowing of meaning. *Kokkie* means *kookster* ‘feminine cook’ (Veen 1990: 410) and that word is used only in the context of Indo or Indonesia. The narrowing of meaning happens because Dutch has naturally the word for kokkie, namely *kookster*. Dutch does not need a new word for that word.

Etymologically, this word comes from the Indonesian word of *koki* that has the meaning of ‘cook’. The word of *koki* comes from the Dutch word of *kok*. Dutch has diminutives –*tje* and –*ie*. The word of koki comes then from the Dutch word *kok + –ie*. In the word of *kokkie* we can see that there is a ‘cyclic’ borrowing: a language lends a word to a recipient language and at a given time the donor language receives the loanword back in a new form, in this case: *kok* (Dutch) > *koki* (Indonesian) > *kokkie* (Dutch).

**Lontong and Toko**

This word is a loanword from Indonesian word of *lontong*. This word is not interesting to be analyzed linguistically. What important to be discussed is the making of *lontong* in the Netherlands. In Indonesia lontong is wrapped with banana leaves. However, in the Netherlands there are no banana leaves. If you want to make *lontong* you have to do it with plastic sacks.

In the Netherlands, Dutch people also eat rice, *nasi*. Usually *nasi* means *nasi goreng* ‘fried rice’. They eat *nasi, nasi goreng* as their dinner as a variation of their menu, unlike Indonesians who eat *nasi* three times a day.

Another form of *nasi* is *nasibal*. It is a kind of snack. It is a small ball like *bitterballen* with nasi inside. Beside nasibal, Dutch people have another snack named *bamibal*. It is just like nasibal but it has *mie* inside. It can be said that *nasibal* and *bamibal* are typical Dutch snacks with an Indonesian influence. You can buy *kroket, nasibal* and *bamibal* in the snackbar or by a vending machine.
Pisang Goreng and Pisang

Pisang goreng is a kind of snacks. You can eat it, for example, during tea time. In Indonesia we eat rice with side dish like tahu or tempe but never with pisang goreng. However, in the Netherlands they eat pisang goreng as side dish with nasi. We find it strange, but Dutch people find also strange that we have a kind of pisang goreng that is combined with chocolate sprinkles, condensed milk and cheese. Although Dutch has the word of banana ‘banana’ it has also the word of pisang. However, it is never been used in a single word. It is used only in the idiom of rare pisang for ‘strange person’.

Saté

Phonologically there is no significant difference between Indonesian sate and Dutch saté. The difference is only that the Dutch one has an accent in the last syllable. Orthographically there is a change in the word saté. An open syllable like the syllable té contains only a long vowel. The long vowel [e] in an open syllable can be written as <ee> and <é>. The one with accent aigu is usually used in loanwords from France like logé, coupé, paté/pâté and it can also be used in loanwords from other languages; then we have saté, tauge and oké.

Culturally saté has some differences from Indonesian sate. The peanut sauce is sold in the plastic sack or container and it can be heated it up in the microwave or with hot water. You grill sate on the grill plate and you do not use coal like the coal in Indonesia. Our coal produces much smoke and it can disturb the neighbor. In the Low Country you cannot grill sate like in Indonesia because your neighbors may get mad and can call the police because they are disturbed by the smoke.
Semoer and Daging Smoor

Semoer comes from the Indonesian word of semur and this word comes from the Dutch word of smoor. The infinitive of this word smoren and that means ‘to braise’, to make for example meat done, cooked with a little bit fat and water in a closed pan. The meaning of semur and semoer and (daging) smoor is the same. However, in the Netherlands they have only meat to be ‘smoored’. For Indonesians, we have many kinds of semur: daging ‘meat’, ayam ‘chicken’, hati ‘liver’ and also jengkol. Another interesting one is the etymology of the word semoer. It is a ‘cyclic’ loanword like kokkie: smoor (Dutch) > semur (Indonesian) > semoer (Dutch).

Orthograpically there are two differences between the original Dutch smoer and the new one semoer. The Dutch one has a consonant cluster /sm/ and the Indonesian one has a vowel insertion to break the word into two syllable. The insertion happens to simplify the pronunciation. The long vowel of [o] changes into [u]. In Dutch the vowel of [u] is written with the letter of <oe>. Other loanwords from Indonesian are written with those letters: sroendeng, kroepoek. The word of semoer has more or less the same pronunciation as the Indonesian one because there is no need to change the phonemes. Indonesian phonology and phonetics are simpler than the the Dutch ones.

Tempeh

The spelling of the word of tempe is a little bit different in Dutch. It is spelled tempeh. One letter <e> in an open syllable is pronounced [ə] and to make it pronounced [e] it has to be added with the letter of <h>.

An interesting different between our tempe and the Dutch tempeh is how to eat it with. We usually eat tempe with rice, but in Nederland tempeh can also be eaten with bread like sandwich or hamburger. I think it is strange but, de gustibus non est disputandum.
Conclusion

The changes in the words in the field of cuisine is on one hand inevitable. That happens because there are differences in the language systems of Dutch and Indonesians. Dutch has his own phonological and spelling system and if there are loanwords that do not fit with the system, the loanwords have to follow the rules of the recipient language. On the other hand, negotiations, changes do not have to happen if the loanwords have to fit with the system.

Dutch and Indonesians do not have the same culture. Dutch people eat warm meals only for dinner. The nature of the Netherlands is also different. Those lead to some negotiations and changes of food and how to prepare it.

In short it can be concluded that the Dutch loanwords from Indonesian undergolinguistic (phonological, orthographic, and semantic) changes. The changes happen because of the differences in the language system, nature, culture, and habit of the compared languages and people.
References