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Article

Phonological Sketch of Malay Jambi Language of Sarolangun, Indonesia

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A B S T R A C T

This research is a cross-sectional sample survey with a qualitative approach of Malay Jambi's phonology in Sarolangun Regency. The data was collected in the field using observation and interview methods. It has a form of notes, interview transcriptions, and audio and video recordings. The data was analyzed using a phonetic articulator matching method with a diving-key-factors technique as a basis. The results are presented based on the phonetic symbols of the IPA Chart (revised 2005). As found in the research, Malay Jambi of Sarolangun has six vowels and twenty consonants, one of which does not occur in native Malay Jambi words. Beyond the phonological system description, this paper discusses various features found in Sarolangun like nasalization and laxing of vowels, consonant and syllable deletion, or glide insertion.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the centuries, Malay was the most influential language in the Southeast Asian region. Its role was even compared to Latin in ancient and medieval Europe (Collins 2005: 32). According to Blust's (1984 in Adelaar 2004: 4) and later also Adelaar's (1985 in Adelaar 2004: 4) theory, Malay language spread beyond its homeland in Southwest Borneo around 2000–2500 years ago. Since that time, its spread resulted in dozens of variations in countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Southern Thailand (Adelaar and Himmelmann (eds.) 2005: 202).

A large number of Malay variations can be found in Indonesia, the country known for its multi-ethnicity. Even though Indonesia has a national language, Indonesian, this country is inhabited by hundreds of ethnic groups that use their languages. Dialects and sub-dialects of Malay language are spoken by approximately 17 million people in Indonesia from Aceh to Irian Jaya province (Lewis 2009).

Although there are many Malay dialects in Indonesia, this paper focuses on Malay Jambi [ISO: jax] variety spoken in Sarolangun Regency. Malay Jambi belongs to Austronesian languages, more precisely Malayic sub-branch of Western Malayo-Polynesian branch (Paauw 2008: 3). The total number of its speakers is estimated at around 1,000,000 (Lewis 2009). Studies of Malay Jambi language among others include Husin et al. (1985), Harahap (2015), Kamarudin and Rustam (2016), and Oktariza and Sufiyandi (2017), but the only one took place in Sarolangun Regency i.e. dialectological research of Malay language in the Batanghari River valley by Anderbeck (2008). Anderbeck analyzed the Jambi people's speech in 16 locations, three of which were located in Sarolangun Regency, namely Dusun Dalam, Aro Island, and Lubuk Kepayang. He classified Dusun Dalam and Lubuk Kepayang isolect as Jambi Ulu dialect of Malay language, while Pulau Aro isolect, which is closely related to Minangkabau language, was classified as Penghulu dialect of Malay language (Anderbeck, 2008: 30). However, he only briefly discussed Malay Jambi language's

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phonological aspect relying on other books, such as Husin et al. (1985 in Anderbeck, 2008: 27) and Gani et al. (2000 in Anderbeck, 2008: 27) without any verification. Therefore, none of the studies of Malay Jambi language described phonology of that language in Sarolangun Regency.

Sarolangun Regency itself, with a total area of 6,184 km2, is the third biggest regency in Jambi Province. The population of Sarolangun reached 315,469 people in 2017. The main religion of that region is Islam, which is the main religion of the Malay ethnic group (Prayogi, 2016: 14, Sunandar, 2015: 60-61). The everyday language between the inhabitants is Malay Jambi of Sarolangun which is commonly called *bahasa Sarolangun* (Sarolangun language), meanwhile the official language used in schools and offices is Indonesian. *Bahasa Sarolangun* has been influenced by the other languages used in this regency i.e. Minangkabau, Javanese, Kubu, Batin, and Penghulu (Anderbeck 2008: 30). One of the characteristics of Malay Jambi spoken in this region is that originally speakers use uvular fricative [ʁ] instead of trill [r] like it happens in Malay Jambi spoken around Jambi city (Husin et al. 1985: 12–13) while trill [r] only appears in loan vocabulary. These differences indicate that *bahasa Sarolangun* is a recognizable mark of its community that appears in the local language.

This paper provides a synchronic description of the phonological system of the Malay Jambi variety spoken in Sarolangun Regency. Due to the fact that Malayic languages do not distinguish phonemic suprasegmental segments (Adelaar and Himmelmann (eds.) 2005: 202), the research is limited to the description of segmental sounds only analyzed phonetically, more precisely using articulatory phonetics and phonemics.

The purpose of this paper is 1) description and classification of phonemes contained in Malay Jambi of Sarolangun, 2) description of the distribution of these phonemes, and 3) description of Malay Jambi syllable pattern in Sarolangun.

II. METHODS

This research is a cross-sectional sample survey with a qualitative approach. The research covers the whole area of Sarolangun Regency located in the western region of Jambi Province. Taking into account that Sarolangun District is the economic and cultural center of the entire regency, it can be considered as a model of the phonological system of other districts and can be taken as the primary location for this research

The data was collected using observation and interview methods from three speakers who were selected based on the requirements taken from Nadra and Reniwati (2009: 36–42). It took a form of notes, interview transcriptions, and audio and video recordings. In a case of any doubts, data was consulted with an additional speaker and was also supplemented with daily dialogues of Sarolangun residents. The author used a vocabulary list by Nadra and Reniwati (2009: 103) which was revised and reduced according to the needs of this study i.e. from 864 words and sentences to 550 words.

Then the data were analyzed using two methods by Sudaryanto (2015: 25–35). The first one is a phonetic identity method used to identify speech sounds in Malay Jambi of Sarolangun and then distinguish phonemes among recognized sounds. Analytical procedures completed this method by Pike (1966: 57–122). The second one is a distributional method that was used to analyze the syllables of the researched language.

III. RESULT

This section describes phonemes found in Malay Jambi in Sarolangun Regency and their distribution in words and syllables. It also includes discussion about patterns of syllables, clusters and diphthongs, and free variations.

3.1 Description and Distribution of Consonants and Vowels

The description of phonemes in Malay Jambi in Sarolangun Regency divides phonemes into two types, namely consonants and vowels. It explains a manner of articulation, the airstream mechanism, and state of the glottis of found consonants as well as the size and shape of the space within the mouth while producing each vowel – the shape and position of tongue and jaw and the shape of lips. It also describes the loan consonant /r/ which was found in the research. The results are summarized in tables.

Table 1. Consonant Chart of Malay Jambi of Sarolangun

	labial		labio-dorsal	coronal		dorsal			laryngeal
	bilabial		labio-velar	alveolar	alveo-palatal	palatal	velar	uvular	glottal
nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ		
plosive	p	b		t	d		k	g		ʔ
sibilant affricate						tɕ	dʑ			
sibilant fricative				s					ʁ	h
approximant			w			j				
trill				(r)						
lateral approximant				l						

The distribution shows the position of a word and a syllable each consonant and vowel can occur. Positions of the word were divided into three groups, i.e. initial, middle, and final position, while positions of the syllable consist of onset, syllabic nucleus, and coda.

3.1.1 Description and Distribution of Consonants

As found in the research, there are 25 native phonemes in Sarolangun, nineteen of which are consonants, and six are vowels. In addition to the native consonants, one loan consonant was found in studies.

Based on the analysis that has been done, it can be concluded that Malay Jambi of Sarolangun consists of four nasals, seven plosives, two sibilant affricates, three sibilant fricatives, two approximants, one lateral approximant, and one trill which is the loan consonant. The consonants can be also divided into thirteen voiced consonants and seven voiceless consonants. Table 1. is a consonant chart based on the classification of *Handbook of the International Phonetic Association: A guide to the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet* (The International Phonetic Association, 2007). Loan consonant is written in brackets.

Some several phonological dependencies and tendencies have been found in consonants of Sarolangun language. This article provides a short explanation of each of these phenomena.

Phonemes /p/, /t/, and /h/ are unreleased and become [p̚], [t̚], [h̚] in syllable-final position, while phoneme /k/ becomes plosive glottal [ʔ] in that position, examples are /a.sap/ [a.sap̚] ‘smoke’, /ə.pat/ [ə.pat̚] ‘four’, /i.luk/ [i.lʊʔ] ‘beautiful’, and /su.buh/ [su.bʊh̚] ‘dawn’.

The phoneme /k/ and /g/ are released as palatal [c] and [ɟ] and phoneme /h/ as velar [x] if they occur before phoneme /i/, e.g. /bu.kit/ [bu.cɪt̚] ‘hill’, /pa.gi/ [pa.ɟi] ‘morning’, and /li.hi.ja/ [li.xi.ɟa] ‘neck’.

Finally, the sibilant fricative uvular /ʁ/ occurs as a trill [r] at a final position of a word, as in /i.paʁ/ [i.par] ‘sister/brother-in-law’.

All consonant phonemes can be in the initial and middle position of a word, except /ʔ/ which does not occur in the initial position of a word. However, among discovered phonemes, few of them do not occur in the final position of the word, namely phonemes /ɲ/, /b/, /d/, /g/, /ʔ/, /tɕ/, and /dʑ/. What is more, there are no consonants in Sarolangun that can play a role of syllabic nucleus. Consonants which appear only in onset of syllables are /dʑ/, /tɕ/, /ʔ/, /g/, /d/, /b/, and /ɲ/, other consonants occur both in onset and coda of syllables.

Speakers of Sarolangun tend to insert the approximant /j/ or /w/ to separate close vowels from other vowels in a two-vowel sequence. The close front unrounded vowel /i/ is separated with the voiced palatal approximant /j/ and the close back rounded vowel /u/ is separated with the voiced

labio-velar approximant /w/, as in /ti.jaŋ/ 'tiang' or /pa.ku.wa/ 'hoe'. This phenomenon is usually called approximant or glide insertion. Sometimes, an approximant insertion occurs as a result of a consonant loss, like in /pa.hit/ > /pa .jit/ 'bitter' where after the loss of the phoneme /h/ appeared the approximant /j/ to break the two-vowel sequence.

The longest sequence of consonants in Sarolangun is the two-consonant sequence. Speakers of Malay Jambi in Sarolangun often remove one of the consonants that cause total disappearance of that sequence. In a sequence which consists of nasal and voiced plosive phonemes, the removed phoneme is a voiced plosive, as in /səm.bi.lan/ > /sə.mi.lan/ 'nine', while in the sequence of nasal and unvoiced plosive phonemes, the nasal is reduced, e.g. /san. tan/ > /sa.tan/ 'coconut milk'. In the sequence of nasal /n/ and affricate /ʤ/, the reduced sound could become both phoneme /n/ and phoneme /ʤ/, as in /kə.ʁan.ʤaŋ/ > /kə.ʁa.ʤaŋ/ 'basket' or /an.ʤiŋ/ > /a.niŋ/ 'dog'.

Loan consonant /r/ consists of two allophones, i.e. voiced trill alveolar [r] and voiceless alveolar tap/ flap [ɾ]. Sound [ɾ] only occurs in the intervocal position, while [r] in all positions other than that. This phoneme occurs at the initial, middle, and final position of a word, both in onset and code position of syllable in a vocabulary that is considered unusual/from outside by Sarolangun residents and as an influence from other languages.

3.1.2 Description and Distribution of Vowels

Like most of Malay dialects and sub-dialects, the phoneme inventory of Malay Jambi in Sarolangun consists of 6 vowels, as presented in Table 2. Two of them are close vowels, two close-mid vowels, a middle vowel, and an open vowel. Moreover, there is three front not rounded vowels, one central rounded vowel, and two back rounded vowels.

Regarding distribution in words, it can be concluded that vowels /i/, /u/, /o/, and /a/ can occur in all positions of a word, except the vowel /e/ that has never been found in the initial position and vowel /ə/ that has never occurred in the final position of a word. Furthermore, all of the vowels in Malay Jambi of Sarolangun always play the role of a syllabic nucleus in a syllable.

Table 2. Vowel Chart of Malay Jambi of Sarolangun

	front	central	back
	not rounded		rounded
close	i		u
close-mid	e		o
mid		ə	
open	a		

Generally, all of the vowels which occur after nasal consonants tend to become nasal, e.g. /də.ŋan/ [də. ŋãn] 'with' or /ʁi.mo/ [ʁi.mõ] 'forest'.

Moreover, vowels /u/, /e/, /i/, /o/ become lax, i.e. [ʊ], [ɛ], [ɪ], [ɔ], in final closed syllables, as in / pə.nek/ [pə.nɛ̃ʔ] 'short'. This tendency was also discovered in descriptions of other phonologies of Malay dialects, i.e. Clynes and Deterding (2011: 211), or Soderberg and Olson (2011: 211).

At last, the mid-central vowel /ə/, known as schwa, might be deleted in the first syllable, which causes the appearance of clusters, for example,/kə.ʁi.tiŋ/ > /kØʁi.tiŋ/ 'curly'. This tendency might also cause a reduction of syllables in words, as in /kə.ʁan. ʤaŋ/ > /kØʁan.ʤaŋ/ 'basket' where three syllables become two. This tendency will be also explained in section §2.3 about clusters in Sarolangun.

3.2 Description of Syllables

In this section, the writer discusses the syllables in Malay Jambi of Sarolangun. Descriptions of found syllable patterns are divided into two, i.e. patterns in native and in loan vocabulary. In addition, the author also analyzes the distribution of syllables in words consisting of one, two, three, and four syllables because the longest words found in that language consist of four syllables.

Based on the collected data, the syllable patterns in Sarolangun consist of six patterns that occur in the native vocabulary, namely N like [u] in [u.ʁaŋ], NC like [əm] in the word [əm.pə.du], ON as [ɕi] in [ɕi.daʊ̯], ONC like [lʊ͡t] in the word [mũ.lʊ͡t], OON as [gra] in [gra.ham], OONC like [kʁan] in [kʁan.ʤaŋ], as well as four patterns found in the loan vocabulary, namely N as [u] in [u.sʊs], ON like [to] in [to.pi], ONC as [man] in the word [man. dɔr] , OON as [sɻo] in [mã.nũ.sɻo]. The canonical syllable structure is (O1)(O2)(N)(C1), with N as the simplest, e.g. /u/ in /u.sus/ 'intestine' and OONC as the most complex structure, e.g. /kʁik/ in

/ʤaŋ.kʁik/ ‘cicada’. In Malay Jambi of Sarolangun, the syllable nucleus is always a vowel phoneme. In contrast, in onset and coda positions, there are always consonant phonemes, so it can be assumed that the nucleus (N) is equal to the vowel (V), while the onset (O) and coda (C) is the same as a consonant (K). All possible syllable variations can be seen in table 3.

Table 3. Description of Syllables

	native vocabulary	loan vocabulary
monosyllabic words	ON ONC OON OONC	ONC
two-syllable words	N.ON N.ONC NC.ONC ON.N ON.ON ON.ONC ON.OONC ONC.ON ONC.ONC NC.OONC OON.ONC	N.ONC ON.ON ON.ONC ONC. ON ONC.ONC
three-syllable words	N.ON.ON N.ON.ONC NC.ON.ON ON.N.ONC ON.ON.ON ON.ONC.ON ON.ON.ONC ON.ONC.ONC ONC.N.ON ONC.ON.ON ONC.ON.ONC	N.ON.ON ON.ON.ON ON.ON.ONC ON.ON.OON ONC.ON.ON OON.ON.ONC
four-syllable words	ON.ON.ON.ONC ON.ONC.ON.ON ONC.ON.ON.ONC	ON.ON.ON.ON

Syllable patterns in Sarolangun change when considered from a phonemic or phonetic perspective, especially in derivative words. The derivative word is a word that is produced in the process of adding affixes, such as affixation, reduplication, or merging (Kridalaksana, 2008: 111). Phonemic syllable patterns in derivative words can be different when compared with the phonetic syllable patterns, for example, the phonetic pattern for the word ‘diikuti’ is ON.ON.ON.ON - /di.ʔi.ku.ti/, while phonemic one is ON.ON.ONC.N - /di.ʔi.kut.i/. In the article, the phonetic pattern is used.

In Sarolangun, the consonants /h/ or /ʁ/ which occur in the word’s initial or final position tend to be omitted. Moreover, the consonant /h/ can also be omitted in onset of a second syllable, which might cause a reduction of syllables, an insertion of approximant, or an insertion of a glottal stop. The examples can be seen in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Deletion of /h/ and /ʁ/

	example
initial position of a word	/hi.duŋ/ > /Øi.duŋ/ ‘nose’, /ham.baʁ/ > /Øam.ba/ ‘tasteless’ /ʁu.mah/ > /Øu.mah/ ‘house’
an onset of second syllable	/ba.hu/ > /ba.wu/ ‘to smell’, /da.han/ > /da.ʔan ~ dan/ ‘branch’, /ta.hu/ > /ta.wu/ ‘to know’
final position of a word	/lebaʁ/ > /li.baØ/ ‘wide’, /la.paʁ/ > / la.paØ/ ‘hungry’, /bə.naʁ/ > /bə.naØ/ ‘correct’ /ba.sah/ > /ba.saØ/ ‘wet’, /sə.pu.luh/ > / sə.pu.luØ/ ‘ten’, /tu.ʤuh/ > /tu.ʤuØ/ ‘seven’

Another tendency found in Sarolangun is the deletion of the whole syllable. This tendency might concern only the first and second syllables of a word. The first lost syllables are /ma/, /kə/, /pə/, and /mə/, while the second lost syllables might be / hi/, /mu/, /ʁe/. All of the found examples are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Deletion of a Syllable

	example
first syllable	/ma.ʧam/ > /Ø.ʧam/ ‘kind/type’, /kə.pa.la/ > /Ø.pa.la/ ‘head’, /pə.li.pis/ > /Ø.li.pis/ ‘temple (part of the body)’, /məŋ.ga.tuŋ/ > /Ø.ŋga.tuŋ/ ‘to hang’
second syllable	/li.hi.ja/ > /li.Ø.ja/ ‘neck’, /ni.mu.wa/ > / ni.Ø.wa/ ‘coconut’, /ka.ʁe.no/ > /ka.Ø.no/ ‘because’

3.3 Clusters and Diphthongs

Three diphthongs were found in research in Malay Jambi of Sarolangun language, i.e. diphthongs /aw/ and /aj/, which occur frequently and diphthong / oj/, which only appears in the loan word /a.soj/ borrowed from Betawi language. Therefore, only two diphthongs are native diphthongs, namely /aw/ and /aj/. All found diphthongs are falling diphthongs because the first vocal majority is higher than the second vocal majority.

In general, clusters do not appear in Sarolangun language. However, the author found several examples of clusters resulting from the weakening of the phonemes or syllables. The found clusters are /gr/ for example, in /gra.ham/ 'molars', /kʁ/ in /kʁan.ʤaŋ/ 'basket', /pʁ/ in /pʁa.buŋ/ 'join', /ng/ in word /ŋga.tuŋ/ 'hang', and /mw/ in /ni.mwa/ 'coconut'. These clusters are in the first syllable of words, except /ni.mwa/ which is in the second syllable. Phonemes and syllable in which weakening occurred are /ə/, /u/, and /mə/. Examples of these types of weakening can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Clusters

	examples
/ə/ > /Ø/	/g**r**a.ham ~ gə.ra.ham/, /**kʁ**i.tiŋ ~ kə.ʁi.tiŋ/, /**p**ʁa.buŋ ~ pə.ʁa.buŋ/, dll.
/u/ > /Ø/	/ni.**mw**a ~ ni.mu.wa/
/mə/ > /Ø/	/ŋga.tuŋ ~ məŋ.ga.tuŋ/

3.4 Free Variations

Besides the few phonological tendencies, which were found in Malay Jambi in Sarolangun, free variations can also be observed in this language. Free variation occurs in the same environment, for example, in words whose meanings are the same, but pronunciation is different (Kridalaksana, 2008: 254). It might apply both to consonants and vowels. All of the found examples are presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Free Variation

Variation	Example
/a/ and /ə/	/ma.nan.tu/ and /mə.nan.tu/ 'daughter/son-in-law', /ka.ʁak/ and /kə.ʁak/ 'eggshell', /ma.tah/ and /mə.tah/ 'raw', /la.mak/ and /lə.mak/ 'tasty'
/o/ and /u/	/tu.pul/ and /to.pol/ 'blunt', /ɲja.kol/ and /nja.kul/ 'to hoe'
/i/ and /e/	/sə.min/ and /sə.men/ 'cement', /sə.nin/ and /sə.nen/ 'Monday'
/in/, /it/, and /et/	/ʨə.ʁe.win/, /ʨə.ʁe.wit/, and /ʨə.ʁe.wet/ 'miser'
/d/ and /b/	/ʨe.dok/ and /ʨe.bok/ 'scoop'
/r/ and /h/	/kə.le.la.war/ and /kə.le.la.wah/ 'bat'
/k/ and /g/	/ku.tu/ and /gu.tu/ 'flea', /kə.lak/ and /gə.lak/ 'later'

IV. DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that the phonological system of Malay Jambi in Sarolangun Regency consists of twenty consonants and six vowels. Those twenty consonants are as follows – nineteen native ones: /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ŋ/, /p/ consisting of allophones [p ~ p̚], /b/, /t/ with allophones [t ~ t̚], /d/, /k/ with allophones [k ~ c ~ ʔ], /g/ with allophones [ɟ ~ g], /ʔ/, /ʨ/, /ʤ/, /s/, /ʁ/ with allophones [ʁ ~ r], /h/ with allophones [h ~ x ~ h̚], /w/, /j/, and /l/, and one loan consonant, /r/ with allophones [r~ ɾ]. Meanwhile six vowels are /i/ with allophones [i ~ ĩ ~ ɪ ~ ɪ̃], /u/ with allophones [u ~ ũ ~ ʊ ~ ʊ̃], /e/ with allophones [e ~ ẽ ~ ɛ ~ ɛ̃], /o/ with allophones [o ~ õ ~ ɔ ~ ɔ̃], /ə/ with allophones [ə ~ ə̃], and /a/ with phonemes [a ~ ã].

The analysis of the Jambi Malay's phonological system in Sarolangun shows that there are both similarities and differences between Sarolangun and other Jambi Malay isolects that have been studied previously well as with Standard Malay. It can be concluded that although the number of consonants is the same as their number in Husin et al. (1985), several phonemes are different. Husin et al. (1985) do not differentiate loan phonemes and they describe the archives /P/ and /T/ as phonemes that appear in the final position only, whereas in this study, the closed sounds [p̚] and [t̚] are considered as allophones of consonants /p/ and /t/.

Comparing consonants in Sarolangun to Standard Malay consonants, differences can also be found. Usually, Malay consonants consist of 19 original phonemes, except Adelaar (1992) and Clynes and Deterding (2011), which do not distinguish the glottal stop /ʔ/ as a separate phoneme. In contrast to other authors, in this study no palato-alveolar affricates /ʧ/ and /ʤ/ (Clynes and Deterding, 2011 and Sari and Syapturi, 2019) or palatal plosives /c/ and /ɟ/ are found, but what is observed are alveo-palatal sibilant affricates /ʨ/ and /ʥ/. The loan phonemes found in Standard Malay are also different from the loan phonemes in Sarolangun which have only one loan phoneme, namely /r/. In Standard Malay, Hassan (1972) found consonants /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /x/, /ɣ/, Omar (1993) - /f/, /v/, /ş/, /z/, /x/, /ʁ/, while Clynes and Deterding (2011) - /f/, /v/, /z/, /ʃ/, /x/, /ʔ/.

In addition, in Sarolangun, the phoneme /ʁ/ is the native sound in Sarolangun, while the phoneme /r/ occurs only in the loan vocabulary. This is a difference with the consonant phonemes by Husin et al. (1985: 12) and Adelaar (1992) because in their analysis, the sound [ʁ] was not found at all either as a separate phoneme or as an allophone from a phoneme /r/. In contrast to other writers, the author also found that phonemes /p/, /t/, and /h/ and phoneme /k/ is pronounced as /ʔ/ are pronounced in the closed syllable position of the last syllable, this phenomenon was only described by Clynes and Deterding (2011). The author also found that the phoneme /h/ can be pronounced as [x], /k/ as [c], and /g/ as [ɟ] when occur before phoneme /i/. This phenomenon was not discussed in previous studies.

The vowels found in Sarolangun are the same as those described by Husin et al. (1985) in Malay Jambi. Studies of Standard Malay, such as Hassan (1972), Omar (1993), and Adelaar (1992) as well as studies of various dialects of Malay, for example, Soderberg (2014a), also found the same six vowels. However, the discovered allophones were different from allophones in previous studies. Usually, previous studies did not discuss aspect of allophones in vowels (Hassan, 1972, Omar, 1993, and Adelaar, 1992), except for Clynes and Deterding (2011), which showed low sounds and free variations as allophones of vowels in Standard Malay. Meanwhile, in the Jambi Malay language, Harahap (2015: 3-5) found the same allophones as in Sarolangun, i.e. [ʊ], [ɛ], [ɪ], [ɔ], however with a different pattern of occurrence, while Husin, et al. (1985: 28) only mentioned that the vowel /i/ and /u/ could irregularly be pronounced longer.

Syllable patterns in Sarolangun can have six forms, i.e. N, NC, ON, ONC, OON, OONC. The syllable nucleus is always a vowel, whereas in the onset and coda position is always the consonant. All consonants can occur at the onset of a syllable. The phonemes that are not in the coda are /b, d, g, tɕ, dʑ, ʔ/. The longest found word consists of four syllables. Although the discussion of syllable patterns in other articles of Malay Jambi's phonology was not observed, analysis of the syllable pattern of Melawi dialect of Malay language can be found (Noviani et al., 2020: 6-7). Comparison of Sarolangun's syllables with Melawi's shows that Melawi dialect has only one monosyllabic pattern which is KVK whereas Sarolangun has four – KV, KVK, KKV and KKVK. What is more, in two- and three-syllabic words of Sarolangun language, more patterns can be found than in Melawi dialect, and only three Melawi patterns were not discovered in Malay Jambi of Sarolangun, i.e. KV.KV, KV.KVV, KV.KVKV. Patterns that were not found in Melawi but were found in Sarolangun are VK.KVK, KV.V, KV.KKVK, VK.KKVK, KKV.KVK for two-syllabic words and V.KV.KV, V.KV.KVK, VK.KV.KV, KV.V.KVK, KV.KVK.KV and KVK.V.KV for three-syllabic words. Four-syllabic words were not found in Melawi dialect.

Jambi Malay language in Sarolangun has three diphthongs, namely /aj/, /aw/, and /oj/ in which it is similar to Malay Jambi (Husin, et al., 1985: 32) and Standard Malay language (Clynes and Deterding, 2011). However, diphthong /oj/, which in other studies was an original diphthong, in this study was found as a loan diphthong because it only occurred in one word from the Betawi language. The presence of clusters is a result of the weakening of the phonemes or syllables. Discovered clusters are /gr/, /kʁ/, /pʁ/, /ng/, and /mw/. The study of clusters was not found in previous studies of Malay language.

In addition to the phonological system of Malay Jambi in Sarolangun, the author also discusses several phonological tendencies that were found. For vowels, described tendencies are vowel nasalization after nasal consonant, vowels /u/, /e/, /i/, /o/ become lax in final closed syllables, an insertion of approximant /j/ or /w/ to separate close vowels from other vowels in a two-vowel sequence, and a weakening of /ə/. Meanwhile, for consonants, the observed phenomena include a weakening of /r/ and /h/ at the onset of a first syllable and at the end of a word, weakening of /h/ at the onset of a second syllable, and weakening of consonant in a two-consonant sequence. Weakening of /r/ and /h/ in initial and medial position as well as deletion of syllable, especially /kə/, /ma/, and /pə/, in initial position was also found in Malay language variation in Pulau Rengas region in Bangko Barat subdistrict in Jambi province (Aditiawarman and Hilda, 2018: 38-43). Deletion of /h/ and /r/ in final position of a word was also found in Riau Malay subdialect Kepulauan in Batam (Ambalegin and

Arianto, 2020: 170-171). In syllables a tendency was noticed, namely a compression of the whole syllable. This tendency might concern only the first or second syllable of a word. Finally, the free variations found are /a/ and /ə/, /o/ and /u/, /i/ and /e/, /in/, /it/, and /et/, /d/ and /b/, /r/ and /h/, and /k/ and /g/.

V. CONCLUSION

This study is a synchronic sketch of a phonological system of Malay Jambi as spoken in Sarolangun Regency in Indonesia. It is the first phonological research in that region of Jambi province and probably the first analysis of syllables, diphthongs and clusters, and phonological tendencies that occur in Malay Jambi language.

Although, this discussion can provide a fairly detailed picture of the phoneme system, syllable patterns, and phenomena found in Sarolangun, there are still many linguistic aspects that need to be investigated in Malay Jambi language as well as that language as spoken in Sarolangun Regency. This paper aims to become a basis for further studies in morphology, syntax, and dialectology of Malay Jambi both in Sarolangun and generally.

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