

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Findings

For this chapter, the the researcher has found and compiled 36 tweets from 2023 that fit the theories discussed in Theoretical Review. The tweets were obtained using the netnography method, which observes data from various sources that already exist on the internet. The sources in question are variations of user X from their respective accounts.

1. Tweets and Word Variants

The tweets listed below are a collection of 36 tweets by Indonesian X users with examples of each correct English spelling. The researchers are careful in selecting data with the following conditions: the person tweeting is Indonesian, in the tweet there are Indonesian words which state that they are Indonesian, it has the example in question, and the elements of the tweet do not contain ethnic, religious, and racial issues (SARA). For one English word, there can be several variations of phonetic spelling, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.1. English Words and Misspelled Variants

| Correct Spelling of Words | Misspelled Variants |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Guys | gais |
| | guis |
| | ges |
| | gaes |
| | geys |
| Good | gud |
| | gut |
| Please | pls |
| | plis |
| | pelis |
| | flis |
| | felish |
| Nice | nais |
| | nays |
| Question | kwesyen |
| | kuisyen |
| | kwesyong |
| Thank You | tengkyu |
| | tengs |
| Oh My God | omaigat |
| | omegot |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| | omagah |
| People | ppl |
| | pipel |
| | pipol |
| Friend | fren |
| | frend |
| FYI (For Your Information) | ef wai ai |
| | ef way ay |
| OTW (On the Way) | otewe |
| Speechless | spicles |
| | sepicles |
| | sepijles |
| Handphone | henpon |
| | hempon |
| | hengpon |

From Table 4.1, there are 8 English words that the researcher breaks down into more than two examples of inaccurate spelling each, according to how they are pronounced by Indonesians.

The classification of the word variants mentioned above can be organized into specific categories, accompanied by the examples, as illustrated below:

a. Guys → *gai / gui / ges / gaes / geys*



Figure 4.1. Example of “gais”



Figure 4.2. Example of “ges”



Fyi gaes

Figure 4.3. Example of “gaes”



Figure 4.4. Example of “geys”



Figure 4.5. Example of “*guis*”

Figure 4.1 to Figure 4.5 show variations in phonetic spellings of "Guys", which are *gais*, *ges*, *gaes*, *geys*, and *guis*. Each of them is a simple form of the pronunciation of the word.

b. Good → *gud* / *gut*



Figure 4.6. Example of “*gud*”



Figure 4.7. Example of “*gut*”

Both pronunciation shown in Figure 4.6 and Figure 4.7, which are *gud* and *gut*, have almost no difference in pronunciation, so the researcher understand they are used as phonetic spellings for "Good".

c. Please → *pls / plis / pelis / flis / flish*



Figure 4.8. Example of “*pls*”



Figure 4.9. Example of “*plis*”

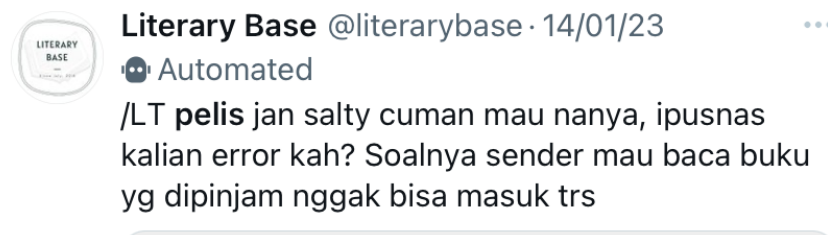


Figure 4.10. Example of “*pelis*”

The variants Figure 4.8 is a bit different to Figure 4.9 and Figure 4.10, because Figure 4.8. is an abbreviation. However, all three are examples of variants of the word "Please", and are pronounced as "please" is usually pronounced, meaning there is no difference.

Figure 4.11. Example of “*flis*”Figure 4.12. Example of “*flish*”

In Figure 4.11 dan 4.12 is when the spelling is added with personal stylization, using the letter /f/ instead of /p/.

d. Nice → *nais* / *nays*

Figure 4.13. Example of “*nais*”

Figure 4.14. Example of “*nays*”

Figure 4.13 and Figure 4.14 are examples of "Nice" spellings. Both have no differences except for /i/ and /y/.

e. Question → *kwesyen* / *kuisyen* / *kwesyong*

Figure 4.15. Example of “*kwesyen*”Figure 4.16. Example of “*kuisyen*”Figure 4.17. Example of “*kwesyong*”

Although acting as variants of "Question", the data from Figure 4.15, Figure 4.16, and Figure 4.17 have their own differences. "Kwesyen" is the closest pronunciation, "kuisyen" is a variation of "kwesyen", and "kwesyong" is the furthest example of a pronunciation that adds the digraph /ng/ at the end of the word.

f. Thank You / Thanks → *tengkyu* / *tengs*



Figure 4.18. Example of “*tengkyu*”



Figure 4.19. Example of “*tengs*”

. Example Figure 4.18 is an example of saying "Thank You, and Figure 4.19 is an example of "Thanks"

g. Oh My God → *omaigat* / *omegot* / *omagah*



Figure 4.20. Example of “*omaigat*”



Figure 4.21. Example of “*omegot*”



Figure 4.22. Example of “*omagah*”

Figure 4.20 and Figure 4.21 are the closest examples of "Oh My God", with the additional variant of Figure 4.22 with its "Omegah" which is an example where "Oh My God" is not fully enunciated at the end of the phrase.

h. People → *ppl* / *pipel* / *pipol*



Figure 4.23. Example of “*ppl*”



Figure 4.24. Example of “*pipel*”



Figure 4.25. Example of “*pipol*”

The variants Figure 4.23 is a bit different to Figure 4.24 and Figure 4.25, because Figure 4.23. is an abbreviation. However, all three are examples of variants of the word "People", and are pronounced no differently.

i. Friend → *fren* / *frend*



Figure 4.26. Example of “*fren*”



Figure 4.27. Example of “*frend*”

Figure 4.26 is and Figure 4.27 are examples of the word “Friend”. The difference in pronunciation is minimal.

j. FYI → *ef wai ai* / *ef way ay*



Figure 4.28. Example of “*ef wai ai*”



Figure 4.29. Example of “*ef way ay*”

There is no difference in pronunciation of “FYI”, except for the spellings shown in Figure 4.28 and Figure 4.29

k. OTW → *otewe*

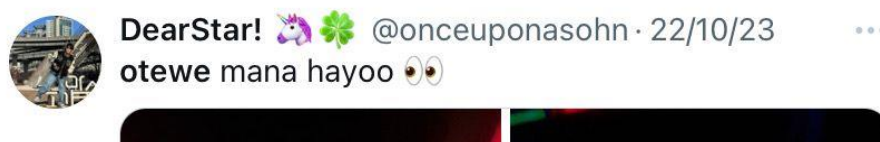


Figure 4.30. Example of “*otewe*”

Figure 4.30 shows the pronunciation of “O-T-W” acronyms.

l. Speechless → *spicles* / *sepicles* / *sepijles*



Figure 4.31. Example of “*spicles*”



Figure 4.32. Example of “*sepicles*”



Figure 4.33. Example of “*sepijles*”

Figure 4.31 as well as Figure 4.32 used /c/ while Figure 4.33. used /j/ for the spelling of “Speechless” pronunciation.

m. Handphone → *henpon* / *hempon* / *hengpon*



Figure 4.34. Example of “*henpon*”

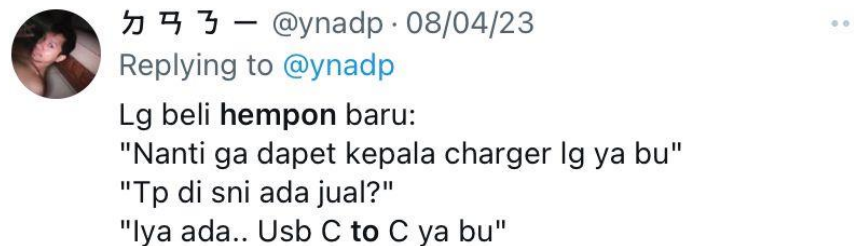


Figure 4.35. Example of “*hempon*”



Figure 4.36. Example of “*hengpon*”

Each of Example 4.34, Figure 4.35, and Figure 4.36 shows different variations for the phonetic spelling of "Handphone". Figure 4.34 is the closest, Figure 4.35 replaces /nd/ with /m/, and Figure 4.34 uses /ng/ in the middle.

After analyzing the obtained data, the researcher noticed similar patterns that appear in attempts to simplify spelling that corresponds to their pronunciation. The data shows there is a simplification of phonetic spellings done by X Indonesia users in their social media activities. The tweets were made in casual setting which also involved code-mixing English and Indonesian in one tweet.

The researcher paired the data with the theory that became the base for the research hypothesis. The data above are then matched with examples of each theory

of simplified phonetic spelling: (1) abbreviation, (2) acronyms, (3) letters removal, (4) letters substitution, (4) L1 influence.

2. Phonetic Spellings in Common Words

At the beginning of the data collection process, the researcher focused on the use of commonly used words in English conversation. So that the majority, except for data related to other theories, of the data are common words.

Table 4.2. Phonetic Spellings in Common Words

| Correct Spelling | Phonetic Spellings in Common Words |
|-------------------------|---|
| Guys | gais |
| | guis |
| | gaes |
| | geys |
| Good | gud |
| | gut |
| Please | plis |
| | pelis |
| | flis |
| | felish |
| Nice | nais |
| | nays |

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Question | kwesyen |
| | kuisyen |
| | kwesyong |
| Thank You | tengkyu |
| | tengs |
| Oh My God | omaigat |
| | omegot |
| | omagah |
| People | pipel |
| | pipol |
| Friend | fren |
| Handphone | henpon |
| | hempon |
| | hengpon |

3. Phonetic Spellings in Abbreviations

Based on the data obtained, an example was found that follows the theory of phonetic spelling in abbreviation. Abbreviation is the shortening of a word without changing the meaning of the actual word. In this example, it is the word "please" and "people".

Table 4.3. Phonetic Spellings in Abbreviation

| Correct Spelling | Phonetic Spellings in Abbreviation |
|-------------------------|---|
| Please | pls |
| People | ppl |

4. Phonetic Spellings in Acronyms

Based on the data obtained, an example was found that follows the theory of phonetic spelling in acronyms. Acronym is abbreviation using the initial letters only.

Table 4.4. Phonetic Spellings in Acronyms

| Correct Spelling | Phonetic Spellings in Acronyms |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FYI (For Your Information) | ef wai ai |
| | ef way ay |
| OTW (On the Way) | otewe |

We can see “FYI” and “OTW” are acronyms with widely known full forms. Therefore, when we see those words we will say the actual spelling, which will then be rewritten in phonetic spelling.

5. Letters Removal

Letters removal is part of Cut Spelling, which is removing some redundant letters to simplify the pronunciation. Letters removal here includes silent letters,

which according to X Indonesia users do not need to be spelled again. The example used is the word “frend”, which is missing the letter /i/ in “friend”.

Table 4.5. Phonetic Spellings in Letters Removal

| Correct Spelling | Letters Removal |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Friend | frend |
| Guys | ges |

The example used is the word “frend” which is missing the letter /i/ in “friend”, and “ges” which is a shortcut to the pronunciation of “guys”. Both words just barely miss a letter, and the pronunciations are still the same.

6. Letters Substitution

Letters substitution, just like letters removal, is part of Cut Spelling. However, in letters substitution, letters are replaced with letters that are closest to the pronunciation of the word.

Table 4.6. Phonetic Spellings in Letters Substitution

| Correct Spelling | Letters Substitution |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Question | kwesyong |
| Speechless | sepicles |
| | sepijles |

The example shows the /st/ in “question” can be replaced by /sy/, to support the real pronunciation. In the case of the "speechless" example, the /ch/ part is much closer to /c/ or /tsh/ but because it is in the middle of the word, the pronunciation sometimes sounds like a thin /j/.

B. Discussion

In this section, the the researcher compared the existing data to see whether it was in accordance with the previously obtained theories. Based on the existing data, it shows that most of the theories are in accordance with the examples, except for several: (1) double letter removal, (2) /ə/ vowel removal, (3) and some letter substitution.

1. Phonetic Spellings in Common Words

According to Kolobe and Ekanjume (2023) common words are words that are often used in everyday life according to familiar cultural styles and identities in the way we speak or express ourselves. This is in accordance with the data used: “good”, “please”, “nice”, “thank you”, “people”, and “friend” are the most commonly used words according to the selected data.

The unique example is the word "guys". While it is a word that is also commonly used in English, however, in the social media community in Indonesia, the frequency of use of the word "guys" is very often used. Guys is used to refer to social media users who are enjoying the content provided; tweets on X. That is the reason why the researcher chose the word as a part of data.

2. Phonetic Spellings in Abbreviations

Avazovna (2023) stated abbreviation as a short-form of words minus few letters and in the example in Theoretical Review chapter, the example of "Dr. / Doctor" or "ex / example" as common abbreviations. However, based on the data obtained, these words are not appropriate if phonetic spelling is used. Because these examples of word shortening do not reflect actual pronunciation. If the example is applied in phonetic spelling, it will most likely become "der" and "eks". Meaning in order to achieve phonetic spelling results, they must be broken down into unabbreviated words. Even if they are abbreviated, the abbreviated results resemble the way the original words are pronounced.

Therefore the data obtained is the words "please" and "people". Because these two data, when abbreviated as "pls" and "ppl", still cover the main consonants needed, and the vowel that is removed does not change the pronunciation (both still will be "plis" and "pipel").

3. Phonetic Spellings in Acronyms

Acronyms, if the requirements are sufficient, can be read like ordinary words. This is similar to the research results in the Phonetic Spellings in Abbreviation section, where phonetic spelling can be implemented when the results of abbreviations and acronyms resemble the pronunciation of the word itself. For example, "ASAP", "UFO", and "NASA", can be pronounced as "aysap" and "yufo". This follows the example data "OTW", which can be read as "otewe. However, there are also examples of acronyms that even though the acronym cannot be pronounced as a single word, we must pronounce each letter one by one. The

examples are "UN" which is called "yu-en" and "IQ" as "ai-kyu". The data "FYI" follows these requirements so that it is pronounced as "ef-wai-ai", spelling each letter.

4. Letters Removal

In the data, letters removal only shows the reduction of silent letters; "friend" becomes "fren" and "friend". The letter /i/ in "friend" is very softly or unnoticeably pronounced, so in simplified phonetic spelling many people feel that it does not need to be added. Similar to the word "guys" which if spelled according to its pronunciation will be "gais" (and other similar examples) but in some cases it is spelled as "ges" which merges the letters in the middle. Research results are in accordance with rules by Russo (2022) about Cut Spelling.

Russo also stated the removal of vowel /ə/ and the removal of double consonants are not included in the research data because if applied to simplified phonetic spelling, the difference will not be too significant. Both "rabbit" and "rabit" will be pronounced as "rebit", and vowel /ə/ if we use the example of "listen" and "bottle", will still be pronounced as "lisən" and "botəl".

5. Letters Substitution

Although in Russo's (2022) substitution examples there is no example of /st/ substitutes to /sh/, but /st/ in "question" mimics the pronunciation of /s/ and /sh/ (in Indonesia generally uses /sy/ instead of /sh/ for the same pronunciation). As the reason why changing /ch/ from "speechless" to /j/ "sepijles", although in standard English /j/ does not substitute /ch/ but they can happen if the speaker feels that both

sound not far away. It could be caused by phonological simplification, or it could be a variety of language creation.

6. Influence of Bahasa Indonesia

Although the "Influence of Bahasa Indonesia" is an additional point, the researcher believes it is worth mentioning, as its (Bahasa Indonesia's) phonetic influence affects the English spelling in the data samples. The researcher identified it as the core theme implied by the data as a whole. This conclusion was drawn because interactions between English and Indonesian shows how languages adapt to practical and creative needs .

When Indonesians modify English words, the changes often follow phonetic and morphological patterns in Indonesian as an attempt to integrate English into Indonesian linguistic norms. This supports what Andi-Pallawa (2013) stated about the differences between the phonological systems of English and Bahasa Indonesia, which require adjustments. Specifically, certain groups of English sounds need special attention in pronunciation instruction.

Besides phonetic adjustments, English words often take on new grammatical roles or meanings when integrated into Indonesian linguistic norms. This combination of languages shows how Indonesian often changes loan words to make them more communicative and friendly for Indonesian speakers. Additionally, the widespread use of English in education, media, and technology in Indonesia has created a collaborative linguistic environment, where English words are often spelled or used in ways that reflect Indonesia's linguistic identity.

From the data we can conclude the use English words in a tweet is an example of code-mixing between English and Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesian X users will be using Bahasa Indonesia for the biggest part of their tweet, followed with a dash of English word, misspelled. The reason behind the simplification and/or why they misspelled the English words, compared to using the correct spelling, is yet to be studied by the the researcher as this is beyond the scope of the study.

Although not part of the research, the the researchers recognized that the tweets above had a certain pattern:

1. They predominantly used Bahasa Indonesia in their tweets, with occasional English words;
2. The tweets used informal Bahasa Indonesia; and

The tweets had casual setting;