

The Role of the Sound of the Letter "Q" in the Middle and End of Words in Mandar Language

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ABSTRACT

This study raises the role of the sound of the letter "q" in Mandar, especially when it is in the middle and end of the word. The Mandar language, which lives and is used by the people of West Sulawesi, has characteristics that are often misunderstood by non-Mandar speakers. One of the most common mistakes is to replace the sound of the letter "q", which is actually a glottal stop, with the sound of "k", which results in a significant shift in meaning. This study aims to reveal the importance of correct understanding of the pronunciation of glottal stops, especially in the context of the Mandar language. Through a qualitative descriptive method, this study collected data from native speakers and the Great Dictionary of Mandarin-Indonesian Language, to analyze words containing the letter "q". The results of the study show that the sound of glottal stop is very crucial in maintaining the authenticity of the meaning and understanding of a word in Mandar. With a collection of 55 words, the study highlights the urgency of preserving the correct way of pronunciation to avoid misunderstandings among non-native speakers. This research not only contributes to the development of linguistics, but also supports efforts to revitalize the Mandar language, which is now endangered. By understanding the sound of this glottal stop, it is hoped that news anchors, journalists, and the general public can better appreciate and use the Mandar language appropriately, so that this regional language remains alive and developing.

Keywords: *Q Sounds, Mandar Language, Glotal Stop*

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INTRODUCTION

The majority of people in West Sulawesi communicate using the regional language, namely the Mandar language. People who are Mandar usually interact more using the Mandar language and Indonesian (Muthalib et al., 1986). There are several dialects of the Mandar language, including the following: 1. Balanipa, Banggae, Pamboang, Sendana dialects (Baqba Binanga Group), 2. Mambi, Aralle, Tabulahan, and Ulumandaq dialects (Ulu Saluq Group), 3. Mamuju, Padang, Sadoang, and Sinyinyio, Botteng, and Tapalang dialects (Mamuju Group), 4. Campalagian (Tomadio) dialects, and Nepo (heavily influenced by the Bugis language, 5. Tapango, Paliliq, Pakkaoq, Pattae, Pallea, and others dialects (Idham et al., 2010). In this study, the sound of the letter q as a substitute for glottal stop which is often mispronounced by speakers from outside Mandar (Wahyu Citrawati et al., 2019). Researchers have observed several times in the news delivered by news anchors on National TV and also journalists who often make mistakes in mentioning some words in the Mandarin language. One example, is Sandeq which should be read as Sande', they actually read it as Sandek (Taha, 2013). Substitution of the letter q with k sounds is common among non-Mandar speakers, which may be due to a lack of understanding of the proper way of pronunciation or their ignorance of the phonological norms that prevail among native speakers (Sobarna, 2007).

This phenomenon underscores the importance of research that aims to provide additional understanding to non-Mandar speakers, especially those involved in the collection and dissemination of information in the media, such as journalists and news anchors, regarding the

correct pronunciation of the letter q in accordance with the rules of pronunciation of native Mandar speakers (Finegan, 2015). This research is relevant considering the limitations of literature that specifically discusses the phonological aspects of the Mandar language. This research is also based on awareness of the threat of extinction of the Mandar language, as recorded in the 2017 Language Data, which indicates that there are 18 regional languages that are endangered, including Mandar (Al Fatana & Azis, 2021).

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method, focusing on Mandar vocabulary that contains the letter 'q' element as a glotal stop. Data were obtained through interviews with native speakers and recording techniques for sorting elements from the Great Dictionary of Mandarin-Indonesian Language (Wongkar et al., 2019). The presentation of the data was carried out by grouping words containing the letter 'q', which were then elaborated based on the pronunciation of the glotal stop ('), meaning, and the context of its use. Phonological analysis techniques were used to highlight the function and pattern of use of the glotal stop, as well as to analyze the presence of pronunciation errors by non-Mandar speakers (Ningtyas et al., 2019). The research data was obtained through direct interviews with native speakers of the Mandar language, and using a recording and recording technique taken from 55 words in the Great Dictionary of the Mandar-Indonesian Language which contains the letter q in the middle and end of the word (Nur, 2010).

In this study, the researcher carried out a recording technique. This is done so that the data collection carried out by the researcher can obtain speech about the sound of the letter q in Mandar from native speakers. The recording tool will later produce a lot of useful information and become a whole material that produces a form of careful analysis when the researcher pours it into the field notes (Carr, 2000). Through this recording technique, the researcher tried his best to get a recording of speech about the shape of the letter q sound which became a glottal stop as much as possible from the question-and-answer process between the researcher and the respondent. It is hoped that with the use of this technique, the collected data can be sufficient for the purpose of data analysis and research as a whole, both in terms of quality and quantity. In addition, the technique of recording and sorting elements from the Great Dictionary of the Mandar-Indonesian Language is also used, sorting and selecting vocabulary that contains the letter q both in the middle and at the end of each alphabet presented. There was random sampling and 55 data were generated from the sorting results and then recorded using a table by attaching the pronunciation and translation in Indonesian.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are many words in the Mandaric language that contain the letter "q" in the middle or at the end of the word, which actually refers to the sound of a glotal stop or the closing of the glotis (marked with an apostrophe ' in its pronunciation). This misconception is common among non-Mandar speakers, who often replace the sound 'q' with the sound [k], whereas the 'q' in Mandar is a glottal stop, i.e. a short pause or pulse produced in the throat.

Sound Glotal Stop:

Glotal Stop (' sign) is a sound produced by closing the airflow in the throat, precisely in the vocal cords, then releasing it suddenly. In phonetics, this sound is referred to as a glottic stop. In Mandar, the letter "q" in the middle or at the end of a word is pronounced as ' (glotal stop), which is similar to the sound we make when we stop abruptly in the pronunciation of words such as "uh-oh" in English. This sound occurs at the pause between two vowels or at the end of a word.

Examples of Reading Errors by Non-Mandar Speakers:

Words like "Adaq" are often read by non-Mandar speakers as "Adak" with a sound [k] at the end. However, the correct pronunciation is "Ada'" with a glottic pause at the end, not a loud consonant sound. The word "Ammaq" is read as "Ammak" by outsiders, even though the pronunciation is "Amma'" with a pause sound.

The word "Sandeq" is often read by Sandek when it should be "Sande'"

The word "Kalindaqdaq" should be read Kalinda'da', not kalindakdak.

Data Analysis:

1. Adaq → read Ada', which is a local law or custom. The pronunciation should be with a glotal stop at the end of the word.
2. Ajumaq → pronounced Ayuma', i.e. Friday. The glotal stop is at the end of the word.
3. Alisiq → pronounced Alisi', i.e. Bamboo weaving. The glotal stop sound replaces the letter "q" at the end of the word.
 - Place of Articulation: Glotis (vocal cords).
 - Articulation Way: Glottal stop; The vocal cords are temporarily closed, then opened with a quick release.
4. Aqba → pronounced A'ba, is the name or call of the Father. The sound of the glottal stop is in the middle of the word between the vowel a and the consonant b.
5. Beqi → pronounced Be'i, is heavy. The sound of the glotta stop is in the middle of the word squeezed by both the vowel e and i.
 - Place of Articulation: Glotis.
 - Articulation Way: Glottal stop; The pause in the middle of a word causes a brief jolt between two syllables.
6. Beruq-beruq → pronounced Beru'-beru', i.e. jasmine flower. There is a reduplication or repetition of the word, which is a unit that cannot be separated, because the meaning of the word beruq does not exist in the Mandar language, it is not a basic word but a kesamaster, but for the structure it is stated as a reduplication process. The sound of glottal stop is pronounced at the end of the two words. It cannot be read by apes but beru'-beru'.
 - Place of Articulation: Glotis in both parts of the word.
 - Method of Articulation: Glottal stop occurs on both repeated words, giving a jolt effect to each duplicated word.

7. Ceq→ pronounced Ce', which is paint commonly used to color pictures or walls of buildings. The sound of a glottal stop is located at the end of the word. Not a check, but a ce'.
 - Place of Articulation: Glotis (vocal cords).
 - Articulation Way: Glottal stop; The vocal cords are temporarily closed, then opened with a quick release.
8. Coqboq→pronounced Co'bo', which is a birthmark located on a person's forehead. There are two glottal sounds, namely in the middle and at the end of the word.
 - Place of Articulation: Glootive, both in the middle and at the end of the word.
 - How to Articulate: Two glottal stops in one word with a jolt in both positions.
9. Coeq vs coweq→pronounced Coe' vs Cowe', i.e. join vs cobek. Incorrect pronunciation will change the meaning, so that the word in the Mandar language is pronounced coe' which is naturally pronounced cowe'. So that the word cobek in the Mandar language is often reduplicated to menjain cowe-cowe' or sambal. So that it can make it easier to distinguish the meaning of participation and cobek or chili sauce.
 - Place of Articulation: Glotis (vocal cords).
 - Articulation Way: Glottal stop; The vocal cords are temporarily closed, then opened with a quick release.
10. Eqe→pronounced E'e, which is an upset expression or a mispronounced expression and is sometimes used when someone wants to wait. The glottal stop is in the middle which is not read by Eke but must be E'e.
 - Place of Articulation: Glotis.
 - Articulation Way: Glottal stop; The pause in the middle of a word causes a brief jolt between two syllables.

Table 1. Data Analysis

LOCATION	MIDDLE	END	MID-LATE	DUPLICATION
EXAMPLE	Aqba	Ajumaq	Coqboq	Beruq-beruq
DATA VOLUME	8	43	3	1

Source: research data

In the data that has been collected as many as 55 vocabulary words with the letter q in the middle and at the end of the word, it can be an example of the correct reading or pronunciation for both native and non-Mandar speakers. It was found that as many as 8 words had the letter q in the middle of the word, 43 words had the letter q at the end of the word, 3 words had the letter q in the middle and end of the word, and 1 word had the letter q at the end of the word repeatedly.

Why is the letter "Q" misunderstood?

Speakers from outside the Mandar area who are not familiar with the glotal stop sound often replace the letter "q" with the sound [k] because the letter "q" is often associated with

loud sounds in some languages. In Mandar, "q" does not represent a loud sound, but rather a short pause or pulse, so it is often mispronounced if you are not familiar with the glotal stop.

CONCLUSION

The Mandar language, a valuable cultural heritage, is deeply characterized by the sound of the letter 'q', which functions as a glottal stop. This study highlights the importance of preserving the authenticity of this sound, especially in word-medial and word-final positions, as errors like replacing the "q" sound with "k" can distort meanings and hinder understanding. The analysis of 55 vocabulary items shows how the glottal stop contributes to the beauty and depth of the language. The research not only emphasizes the need for correct pronunciation but also calls for broader efforts to preserve regional languages, especially considering the diminishing literature on Mandar. As the language faces the threat of extinction, this study serves as a crucial step in its conservation. By educating communicators and the public about its proper usage, we can help maintain the language's uniqueness and cultural richness. The researcher also urges further exploration into the sounds and structure of Mandar, including dialects and other unique sounds, and advocates for collaboration across linguistics, education, and technology to create accessible language learning methods. These efforts will ensure the Mandar language thrives and remain an essential part of the nation's cultural identity for future generations.

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