THE PHONOLOGICAL PROCESS OF THE SUFFIX /-i/ IN THE JAVANESE LANGUAGE:

A GENERATIVE PHONOLOGY APPROACH

Ulin Nuha Al Haris

Project Advisor: Cut Aja Puan Ellisafny

English Department, Faculty of Humanity

Diponegoro University, Semarang 50275

This research explains the Javanese sound distribution, the sound change that is caused by the suffix /-i/, and the phonological process of the base word that is attached by the suffix /-i/. The data used in this study are from the utterances of Javanese native college students from Semarang, Kendal, and Solo. The result shows that the distribution is divided into two based on the position. Besides, in Javanese, the suffix /-i/ has the functions, which are (1) to change the part of speech, (2) to show the passive verb, (3) to show the repetitive action. The result also shows that there are two phonological processes that are caused by the suffix /-i/. They are addition of the /n/ consonant and the vowel weakening.

Keyword: Phonological Process, suffix /-i/, Javanese

1. INTRODUCTION

Javanese is one of many local languages in Indonesia which has the biggest number of users. (Sudaryanto, 1992: 3).

Javanese has words and sentence structure which is similar to Indonesian. In Javanese, there are many affixes. According to Tofani (2004), in Javanese, there is suffix -i from Javanese affixes. (Rusydi dkk., 1985). The addition of the suffix /-i/ at the end of a word can trigger a phonological process.

In this research, there are three problems that the writer wants to analyse. from the research problems, there are several objective that have to be fulfilled, such as: (1). To describe the distribution of vowels and consonants in Javanese. (2). To describe what changes that caused by the suffix /-i/. (3). To analyse the phonological process of –i suffix in Javanese explained in Generative Phonology.

The researcher uses the data from the Javanese dictionary and the daily conversation of Javanese in Semarang, Kendal, and Solo.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In discussing the topic and research about Phonological Process, I used Phonology Generative from Schane (1973).

In order to show the relationship of segments on phonological process, listing explicitly the properties of features for each segment is indeed important. According to Schane, there are six types of segmental features, but only five types that are used to distinguised the phenomenon in this research (Schane, 1973).

If we can state the exact conditions under which a phonological process takes place, we have in effect given a rule. Schane has been considered four types

of rules, but there are only two rules that occur, those are nasal /n/ consonant addition on deletion & insertion rules and vowel weakening on feature changing rules. Before discussing the data, the description of Javanese sound distribution should be showed and followed by the description of the suffix /-i/.occurs.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1.The Distribution of Vowels and Consonants in Javanese

According to the data, the distribution of Javanese sounds are divided into two, those that can distribute to the front, middle, and end of a word and those which only distribute to the front and middle of a word.

The sounds that can distribute to the front, middle, and end of a word are all Javanese vowels and some consonants, the consonants are /p/, /m/, /t/, /f/, /v/, /n/, /r/, /s/, /z/, /ŋ/, /h/, /l/, /ʔ/ e.g:

In addition, the Javanese consonants that distribute to every place on a word, there are others that only distribute to certain places. The data below show how the /y/, /w/, /b/, /d/, /k/, /t̪/, /d̪/, /c/, /j/, /g/, /ɳ/ distribute to the Javanese word, which is placed on the front and middle of the word.

3.2.The Suffix /-i/

In Javanese the suffix /-i/ has several functions. Based on the data that has been collected, this suffix can indicate that the word added by the suffix /-i/ will

change its part of speech into verb. The other function is to show the passive command, and the third function is to show the repetitive action.

3.2.1. Change the Part of Speech

Based on the data, the Javanese word that is added by the suffix /-i/ affects the part of speech of a word. It will changes the part of speech into verb. We can see it on the data below.

kanca /kanca/ (n) (friend) ➡ *kancani* /kancani/ (v) (accompany)

mati /mati/ (adj) (dead) ➡ *mateni* /matƐni/ (v) (kill)

pirsa /pirsa/ (v) (see) ➡ *pirsani* /pirsani/ (v) (look)

3.2.2. Show the Passive command

The Javanese word that has the suffix /-i/ inside it, will become a verb. If we look out on the data, almost every verb that is produced from a word that is attached by the suffix /-i/ become passive command. Despite, there is word that will not become pasive command after being added by the suffix /-i/ although that word remains a verb.

jero /jəro/ (adj) (deep) ➡ *jeroni* /jərɔni/ (v) (make it deeper)

e.g. *Sumur e tulung dijeroni sitik!*

Please make the well deeper a little bit!

pepe /pepe/ (v) (hang) ➡ *pepeni* /pepeni/ (v) (hang)

e.g. *Nduk, kumbahane di pepeni ya!*

Honey, please hang the washes!

3.2.3. Show Repetitive Action

Some verbs on the data above show the repetitive action. It can only be seen from the context of the words. In other word, it has no particular pattern for which word that can show the repetitive action when it is attached by the suffix /-i/. Here are some examples.

ombe /ombe/ (n) (drink) ➡ *ombeni* /ombeni/ (v) (drink)

e.g. *Obat e diombeni ben ndang mari!*

Drink the (every) medicine so you can be better soon!

In this data, the word *diombeni* indicates that you have to drink every medicine that has been prepared for you to make you healthy. If the speaker only suggests to drink one of the medicines, the speaker will use *diombe* instead of *diombeni*.

pepe /pepe/ (v) (hang) ➡ *pepeni* /pepeni/ (v) (hang)

e.g. *Nduk, kumbahane dipepeni ya!*

Honey, please hang the washes!

There are two passive verb forms of *pepe*, they are *dipepe* and *dipepeni*. The word *dipepe* is usually be used to indicate that the wash or the cloth is only

one, but the word *dipepeni* is almost used to indicate that the washes or the clothes are more than one.

3.3. The Rule of Sound Changes

Based on the data that have been collected, the researcher has found out that in the suffix /-i/ of Javanese, there are two kinds of phonological processes. They are the addition of /n/ consonant and vowel weakening. The addition of consonant happens to all words that end with vowel and meet the –i suffix, while vowel weakening happens to the words that end with certain vowels followed by the suffix /-i/. The result below explains in detail how those two phonological changes happen.

3.3.1. The Addition of /n/ Consonant

If there are Javanese words that end with vowel followed by the suffix /-i/, the nasal sound /n/ will appear as the connector morpheme of those two vowels.

The data below show about how a word that ends by the /ɔ/ sound meets the –i suffix and produces the additional nasal sound /n/

/sudɔ/ → /sudɔ + an + i/ → /sudɔan + i/ → /sudɔn + i/ → /sudɔni/

(/adj/) (/n/ + /-i/) (/v/)

(reduced)

In Javanese, the nasal sound /n/ acts as the connector between two vowels which the first vowel comes from the end of a base word and the other vowel

comes from the suffix /-i/. The nasal /n/ consonant actually comes from the suffix /–an/ that got contracted with the base word. According to the Uhlenbeck (in Soenarjati, 1982) the suffix /–an/ appears to connect the base form and the suffix /–i/, although it is still an assumption.

On the example above, the word /*sudoni/* has the base form /*sudo/*. Before it meet the suffix /-i/, there is nasal /-n/ sound as the connector morpheme between them. The nasal /-n/ sound comes from the suffix /-an/, so the word /sudɔ/ become /sudɔan/, and the word /sudɔan/ is contracted into /sudɔn/. After the base word /sudɔ/ become /sudɔn/, the suffix /-i/ appears in the word so it becomes /sudɔni/.

Below is the phonological rule for the /n/ nasal consonant additon.

$$\emptyset \longrightarrow n \,/\, V + \underline{\quad} + i$$

$$\emptyset \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} +\text{cons} \\ +\text{son} \\ +\text{cor} \\ +\text{ant} \\ +\text{nasal} \end{bmatrix} \Big/ \begin{bmatrix} +\text{syll} \\ +\text{son} \\ +\text{cont} \end{bmatrix} + \underline{\quad} + \begin{bmatrix} +\text{sil} \\ +\text{high} \\ +\text{tense} \\ -\text{back} \end{bmatrix}$$

The result of analysis above shows that in Javanese, the suffix /-i/ that meet the vowel from end of a word makes /n/ nasal sound appears between them.

The base Javanese word that is added by the suffix /-i/ should be added by the suffix /-an/ at the first part, then it contracted into /-n/. It is important to connect the vowel sound and the suffix /-i/ sound because the suffix /-i/ can not come adjacent after the base word. The suffix /-an/ is necessary because it can come right after the base word without any condition needed.

3.3.2. Vowel Weakening

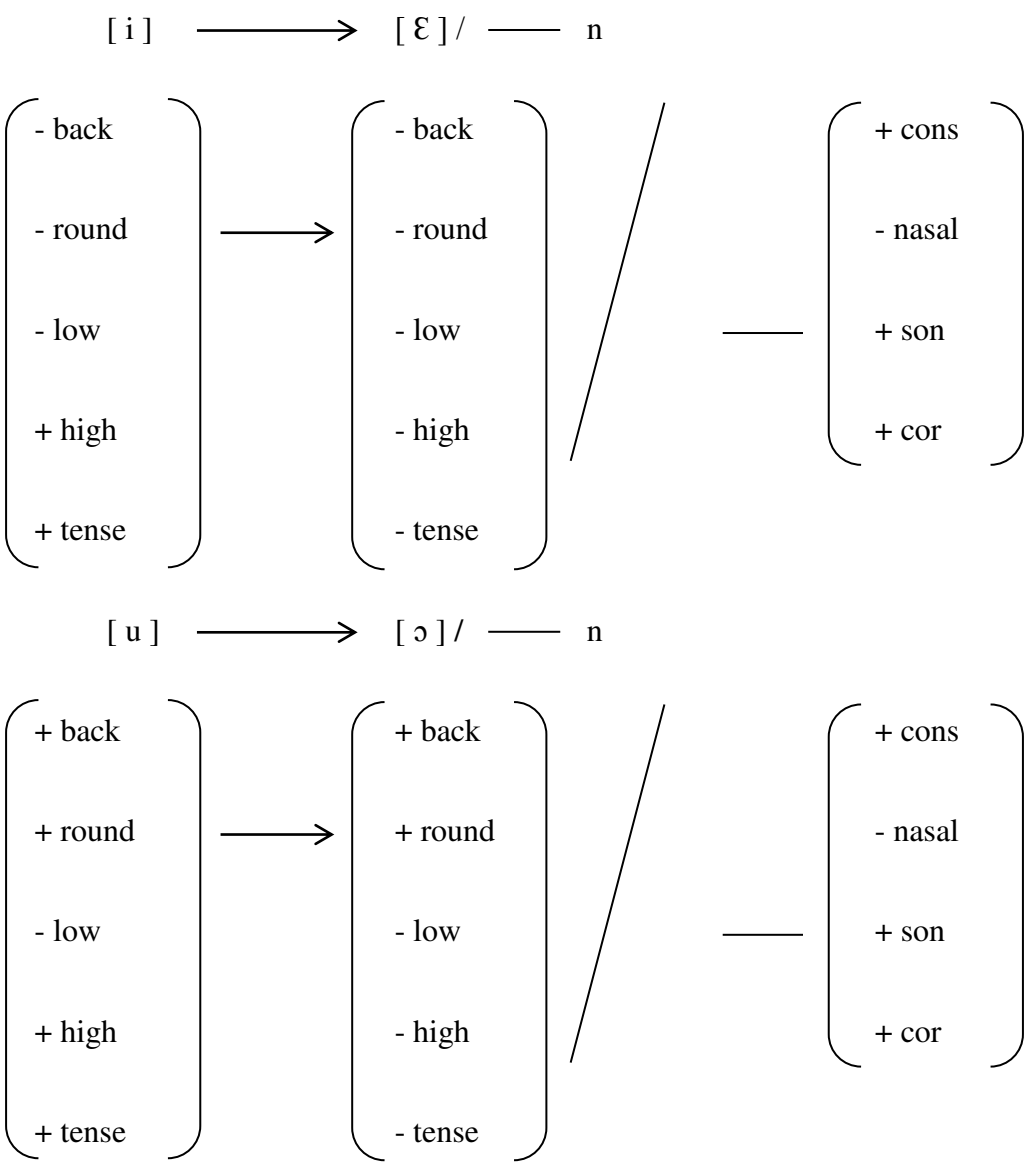
The vowels that are weaken in this case are /i/ and /u/ in the condition if it is followed by the suffix /-an/ before the suffix /-i/. The suffix /-an/ is weaken and mutated with the vowel from the end of a base word into /Ɛ/ and the sound /u/ is mutated into /ɔ/. The data below shows how those sounds are mutated. From /i/ sound into /Ɛ/ and /u/ sound into /ɔ/.

Rabi /rabi/ /rabi + an/ ⟶ /rabƐn + i/ /rabƐni/ (marry)

Bumbu /bumbu/ /bumbu + an/ ⟶ /bumbɔn + i/ /bumbɔni/ (seasoning)

In the data above, the sound /i/ in the word /tali/ turned into /Ɛ/ in the condition that the base word meets the suffix /-an/ that comes before the suffix /–i/. If we pay attention to the sequence of sounds, those vowels are not actually meet. Between the sounds /i/ from the end of word /tali/ and the sound /i/ from the –i suffix there is /n/ sound that appears as the result of suffix /-an/ that is contracted into /-n/. The environment where the phonological change happens only between the vowel on the end of a base word and the suffix /-an/. It makes the word */tali/* changes into */talƐn/* because there is the suffix /-an/ that takes part and mutating the base word. After the condition to appear the suffix /-i/ has been

fulfilled, the suffix /-i/ comes after the suffix /-an/ that has been mutated. The foregoing also applies to the sound /u/ which is weaken into /ɔ/.



The figure above shows that the vocal weakening only happens in a high vowels, such as /i/ and /u/ into /Ɛ/ and /ɔ/. On the left side of figure, where the /i/ and /u/ features are shown, it appears that the place of articulation of that two sounds are high, and also tense, (+ high, + tense). From those two sounds, /i/ and /u/, the vowel weakening that occurs are from (+ high) to (-High) and also from (+

tense) into (-tense). Although the vocal weakening that occurs is from (+ high) into (-high), the weakening is neither in high or low (-high, -Low). The sounds that are produced from this weakening are medium sounds, they are /e/, /ɛ/, /o/ and /ɔ/. From those sounds that are eligible to this change is the (-high) and (-tense) sound. So, the most suitable sounds are /ɛ/ and /ɔ/

4. CONCLUSION

There are three conclusionons from the analysis about the the phonological process of the suffix /-i/. The first conclusion is that all Javanese vowels and the consonants (/p/, /m/, /t/, /f/, /v/, /n/, /r/, /s/, /ŋ/, /h/, /l/, /ʔ/) could distribute to every place in a word, beside the other consonants, (/y/, /w/, /b/, /d/, /k/, /t̲/, /d̲/, /c/, /j/, /g/, /ŋ̣/) could only distribute in the front and middle of a word. The second conclusion is that in Javanese, the suffix /-i/ that is applied to the base word has the functions (1) to change the part of speech into verb, (2) to show the passive command, and (3) to show the repetitive action. The third conclusion is that the suffix /-i/ could trigger two rules of the phonological processes. The first is nasal /n/ consonant addition, that every vowels from the end of Javanese words which meet the suffix /-i/ produces nasal /-n/ from the suffix /-an/ that is contracted. Another change that occur is that some of the vowels from the end of word in Javanese which meet the nasal /n/ from the previous phonological process triggers the vowel weakening. Those weaken vowels that are /i/ and /u/. Because of this the sound /i/ is weaken into /ɛ/ and sound /u/ is weaken into /ɔ/.

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