

## **Comparative Analysis of Verbal Communication Vocabulary between Indonesian-Afrikaans for Foreign Language Teaching**

**Wati Istanti**

Universitas Negeri Semarang – Semarang, Indonesia  
*Email: [istanti@mail.unnes.ac.id](mailto:istanti@mail.unnes.ac.id)*

**Izzati Gemi Seinsiani**

Universitas Negeri Semarang – Semarang, Indonesia  
*Email: [izzatiseinsiani@mail.unnes.ac.id](mailto:izzatiseinsiani@mail.unnes.ac.id)*

**Johannes Gerhardus Visser**

Marubeni Corporations-Afrika Selatan  
*Email: [johannes-visser@mcc.co.id](mailto:johannes-visser@mcc.co.id)*

**Ahlul Izza Destian Lazuardi**

Universitas Negeri Semarang – Semarang, Indonesia  
*Email: [ahlulizza@students.unnes.ac.id](mailto:ahlulizza@students.unnes.ac.id)*

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### **Abstract**

Every nation has its own language with distinctive features and historical background that differentiate between one another. Indonesian language and Afrikaans language is regarded to possess several historical resemblances. Indonesia was once colonized by the Dutch for 350 years, and therefore, some of the words or language structure in Indonesian language are influenced by Dutch language. In the meantime, South African people in the northern part of the country are very familiar with Dutch language. The study found out several similar words between Indonesian and Afrikaans language. The unique variations discovered in this study comprised: 1) similar spelling and pronunciation, 2) different spelling but similar pronunciation, 3) similar spelling but different pronunciation, and 4) almost similar spelling and pronunciation, but with similar meaning. Therefore, both languages are comparable in terms of identifying similarities and differences between both languages' sound and spelling. The study intended to provide a reference for the Indonesian Language for Foreign Learners (*Bahasa Indonesia bagi Penutur Asing*, or henceforth, BIPA) teachers that conduct language teaching to the BIPA learners from South Africa. Vice versa, the BIPA learners will be able to comprehend Indonesian words following the dissemination of language kinship between Indonesian and Afrikaans language. Following that, the BIPA learning process will be more effective.

**Keywords:** comparative analysis, conversation vocabulary, verbal language, Indonesian Language, Afrikaans

## Introduction

Language is regarded by many as a nation's identity and way of communication. Every nation has its own language with distinctive features and historical background. The data from Republika (2005) reports that there are roughly 7,000 active languages used by almost seven million people on Earth. However, the amount is not evenly distributed in every continent (Republika, 2005). Asia and Africa are the continents with the largest linguistic variety. On top of that, Indonesia, consisting of roughly 700 languages used, is the country with the second most language in the world. Such large varieties of the language worldwide make it possible for kinship or relation between one language and another, as language does not just develop in one exact location. "The simplest kind of influence that one language may exert on another is the "borrowing" of words. When there is cultural borrowing there is always the likelihood that the associated words may be borrowed too" (Sapir, 2018). The argument states that the emergence of a language is influenced by other languages.

Essentially, language is classified into two, namely verbal and written language. As an effective way to communicate one's message, a verbal language is highly potential to influence other languages or to construct a new language. "Research with speakers of different languages revealed that bilingual speakers not only look at words that share sounds in one language but also at words that share sounds across their two languages" (Viorica, 2015). Languages are able to develop rapidly due to the process of vocalization, or used directly in a verbal manner to express a matter.

Indonesian and Afrikaans languages are said to have several historical resemblances between one another. The influence of Dutch language in Indonesian words and language structure has taken place since Indonesia was colonized by the Dutch for 350 years. In the meantime, South African people in the northern area of the country are very familiar with Dutch language. "We remain grateful to South Africa's indigenous people who embraced our brothers and sisters as their own, granting them succor in times of strife. Not only do we share a history of political struggle, but our bloodlines also merged in the rich diversity of the South African people, notably in the community that became known as Malay at the Cape"(The Jakarta Post, 2019). The argument above shows that Indonesian and Afrikaans languages are quite interrelated. In particular, the Soewandi spelling version of Indonesian language features close resemblances with Afrikaans language. As an instance, the spelling for /u/ is [oe], and /y/ is spelled [j]. At present, the spelling type is still widely used in South Africa, while in Indonesia, such spelling is rarely used in daily contexts.

Comparative analysis, or as others refer to as comparative historical linguistics, is common in the field of history, development, and comparison between languages. Comparative linguistics is a branch of linguistics that plays a significant role in understanding the nature of language in its practice and the development (and changes) of languages around the world (Robins, 1975).

Among many languages in the world, one can identify any resemblance or differences between one language with another in terms of the sound or pronunciation. The same also applies to Indonesian and Afrikaans language; there are several similarities and differences in the languages' sound and pronunciation. Based on the information from a media (Detiknews., 2011), a Capetonian man, Adam Philander stated that there are phrases commonly used in Cape Town that are quite similar with those of Indonesian language, such as "*mintam maaf*" (Indonesian: "*mintam maaf*" [English: "I'm sorry"]) or "*tarima kasih*" (Indonesian: "*terima kasih*" [English: "Thank you"]). The phrases have become the widely-used local language in Cape Town, South Africa.

The resemblance is also apparent in several words, such as: “*maniengal*” (Indonesian: “*meninggal*” [English “die”]) or “*boeka pwasa*” (Indonesian: “*buka puasa*” [English: “break the fasting”]).

The notions regarding the relation of Indonesian and Afrikaans language above serve as the study rationale, as the research delves to investigate the in-depth comparison of both languages’ vocabulary. Therefore, the study intends to focus on comparative analysis of the vocabulary structure of verbal communication between Indonesian language and Afrikaans language.

### Research methodology

The study employed comparative-descriptive design, in which two or more groups are compared in terms of their variables. Simply put, it intended to compare and elaborate on the similarities and differences of Indonesian and Afrikaans language. The unique variations discovered in this study comprised: 1) similar spelling and pronunciation, 2) different spelling but similar pronunciation, 3) similar spelling but different pronunciation, and 4) almost similar spelling and pronunciation, but with similar meaning. Moreover, classification was conducted to group the words of both languages based on the above categories. Further, the data were analyzed by comparing the process of verbal words uttered by BIPA teachers from Indonesia, BIPA learners from South Africa, and the BIPA learning material texts, particularly those discussing verbal communication.

### Findings and discussion

Comparative historical linguistic is a linguistic branch that compares between languages of the same family and studies the development of language throughout the periods; it also investigates the language’s progress/shift and elaborates on the underlying cause why a language shifts. A language’s development process gives rise to a change in the language’s internal and external history. The term “internal history” refers to an internal change that occurs in a language’s history; this term encompasses changes in vocabulary, sentence structure, and other matters. Meanwhile, “external history” refers to a change that occurs outside the language’s historical aspects. External history consists of changes in social, cultural, political, geographical, and other aspects; in particular, it revolves around the notion of language development as an element of a community’s culture (Yartseva, Klimov, & Zhuravliov, 1990).

Comparative linguistics is a linguistic branch that focuses on comparing different languages of the same family, as well as investigating the historical development of a language. The field’s contribution to understanding the nature of a language has been acknowledged by many. By that, all languages in the world are comparable between one another, as majority of the languages possess the characteristics of language universality: 1) the languages have similarity in form and meaning; 2) the languages have the smallest functional unit (phoneme and morpheme); 3) each language possesses a particular system of class or degree. Moreover, the similarity of form and meaning between languages takes place due to three factors: direct inheritance from Proto language, borrowing, and coincidence.

#### 1 Direct inheritance from proto language

Languages that share direct inheritance from a Proto language possess several resemblances in the languages’ cognate words. The resemblance is relatively logical and consistent. It is apparent in many language phenomena, one of which is the change of sound. As an instance, the sound [p] in South European languages resembles the sound [f] of those in the Northern part of Europe.

## 2 Borrowing

Borrowing refers to the phenomenon in which the borrowing language adopts completely new words with similar meaning from the borrowed language. Some words that carry specific meanings are more polite to express in the borrowed word form.

## 3 Coincidence

In this phenomenon, the speakers of languages that possess several similarities have never established either physical or cultural contact with one another. Coincidentally, the amount of language elements that share any similarities is very little.

In the field of Comparative linguistics, three methods are employed to determine the language kinship: quantitative method with lexicostatistic and glottochronology techniques, a qualitative method with reconstruction technique, and sociolinguistic method. The research applies the sociolinguistic method to focus more on the verbal communication of Indonesian and Afrikaans language.

### Sociolinguistic aspects of verbal communication between Indonesia – Afrikaans language

Regarding its linguistic aspects, Afrikaans language is closely related to Dutch language in the period of the 17th century as well as the modern Dutch language. The speakers of both language are able to understand one another without any hindrance. The influence of sociocultural aspects between both cultures allows the speakers of both language to interact with one another easily. Particularly, in verbal communication, the speakers are able to comprehend the spoken words of both languages automatically. That being said, a language is inseparable from the social and economic aspects; such a relation between the aspects is discussed in-depth within sociolinguistics (Stroud, 2001).

The study identifies a kinship in verbal communication and the vocabulary between Indonesian and Afrikaans languages. Being historically connected from the Dutch language, both languages developed their own variation in their progress throughout the time. As an essential aspect of sociolinguistics, language variation investigates the correlation between language variation characteristics and social characteristics. Simply put, language variation focuses on identifying the ties between language and the social context within a community (Fishman, 1975; Wardhaugh, 2006; Mesthrie, Joan, Deumert, & L, 2009; Meyerhoff, 2011).

### Similarities and differences between Indonesian and Afrikaans language

The kinship between Indonesian and Afrikaans language is apparent in the similarities (and differences) in the words' spelling and pronunciation. More than just a coincidence, the phenomenon is regarded to root from both languages' ties with Dutch language. As many as 3,280 Dutch words are absorbed into Indonesian language (Sundiawan, 2013). The same also applies to Afrikaans language that is dominated by Dutch language.

The study categorizes the relation between Indonesian and Afrikaans language into four points:

#### 1. Similar spelling and pronunciation

The results find out a similarity between Indonesian and Afrikaans languages' spelling and pronunciation. Such a similarity is apparent in words spoken by the speakers of both language. The following table displays words in both languages that are considered similar in terms of their spelling and pronunciation.

Table 1. Similarity of Spelling and Pronunciation between Indonesian-Afrikaans Languages

No.	Indonesian	Afrikaans
1.	<i>bank</i>	<i>bank</i>
2.	<i>Desember</i>	<i>Desember</i>
3.	<i>diktator</i>	<i>diktator</i>
4.	<i>dokter</i>	<i>dokter</i>
5.	<i>kalender</i>	<i>kalender</i>
6.	<i>karton</i>	<i>karton</i>
7.	<i>Mei</i>	<i>Mei</i>
8.	<i>meter</i>	<i>meter</i>
9.	<i>Oktober</i>	<i>Oktober</i>
10.	<i>periode</i>	<i>periode</i>
11.	<i>proses</i>	<i>proses</i>
12.	<i>semester</i>	<i>semester</i>
13.	<i>September</i>	<i>September</i>
14.	<i>status</i>	<i>status</i>
15.	<i>tante</i>	<i>tante</i>
16.	<i>tas</i>	<i>tas</i>
17.	<i>wortel</i>	<i>wortel</i>
18.	<i>teks</i>	<i>teks</i>

Based on the table, the similarity of spelling and pronunciation in both language is apparent in the topics of directions, calendar, or short chit-chat. In this category, the words' verbal form is similar to their written form (spelling).

## 2. Different spelling but similar pronunciation

The verbal communication in Indonesian and Afrikaans language also features several structures that have different spelling but similar pronunciation. The words express similar meaning when used by the languages' speakers in their conversation.

Table 2 below shows the words with different spelling but similar pronunciation between both languages:

Table 2. Differences of Spelling and Similarity of Pronunciation between Indonesian-Afrikaans Languages

No.	Indonesian	Afrikaans
1.	<i>kardus</i>	<i>kardoes</i>
2.	<i>kondisi</i>	<i>kondisie</i>
3.	<i>konsultasi</i>	<i>konsultasie</i>
4.	<i>koordinasi</i>	<i>koordinasie</i>
5.	<i>korespondensi</i>	<i>korespondensie</i>
6.	<i>kulkas</i>	<i>koelkas</i>
7.	<i>lokomotif</i>	<i>lokomotief</i>
8.	<i>menit</i>	<i>minuut</i>
9.	<i>permisi</i>	<i>permisie</i>
10.	<i>pisang</i>	<i>piesang</i>
11.	<i>plastik</i>	<i>plastiek</i>

12.	<i>spesial</i>	<i>spesiaal</i>
13.	<i>stabil</i>	<i>stabiel</i>
14.	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>subtotaal</i>
15.	<i>televisi</i>	<i>televisie</i>
16.	<i>total</i>	<i>totaal</i>
17.	<i>variasi</i>	<i>variasie</i>
18.	<i>ja</i>	<i>ya</i>

The phenomenon above is apparent during the conversation between the speakers of both languages. The words in this category have a similar meaning; therefore, the speakers of both languages can understand each other. The study discovers several differences of spelling between words in both languages: 1) the vowel *i* in Indonesian is written as *ie* in Afrikaans, but pronounced as *i* in both languages; 2) the Indonesian letter *u* is written as *oe* in Afrikaans, but pronounced as *u* in both languages; 3) the vowel *a* in Indonesian is written as *aa* in Afrikaans, but pronounced similarly as *a* in both languages; 4) the end consonant *n* in Indonesian is written as *nt* in Afrikaans, but pronounced similarly in both languages as *n* (as in Indonesian); 5) the Indonesian phoneme *y* is written as *j* in Afrikaans, but pronounced similarly as *y* in both languages.

The spelling in Afrikaans is closely related to the Van Ophuijsen spelling (1901-1947) in Dutch language and similar to the Indonesian Soewandi spelling (1947-1956). The spelling possesses several traits, such as the unique pronunciation of several letters. For instance, the letter '*j*' is pronounced as '*y*' (example: *jang* = *yang*), '*oe*' is pronounced as '*u*' (as in *boelan* = *bulan*), '*tj*' is pronounced as '*c*' (*Tjinta* = *cinta*), '*ch*' is pronounced as '*kh*' (*chidmat* = *khidmat*), '*dj*' is pronounced as '*j*' (*djoedjoer* = *jujur*). The Soewandi spelling is very identical with the present-spoken spelling in Afrikaans language. It is indeed that the current version of Indonesian language is standardized to adhere to the Indonesian Language Spelling Guidelines. Despite that, the kinship between Indonesian and Afrikaans language is identified in terms of the words' pronunciation and meaning. The vocabulary in this category is used in formal communication settings such as discussion or meeting.

### 3. Similar spelling but different pronunciation

Aside from the two categories above, the kinship between Indonesian and Afrikaans language is identified in words that have similar spelling but different pronunciation. The study finds out several words in both languages that have similar spelling but different pronunciation. The words are somewhat rarely used in either formal or informal context. The words are depicted in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Similarities of Spelling and Difference of Pronunciation between Indonesian-Afrikaans Languages

NO.	INDONESIAN	AFRIKAANS
1.	<i>bonus</i>	<i>bonus</i>
2.	<i>April</i>	<i>April</i>
3.	<i>gratis</i>	<i>gratis</i>
4.	<i>kubus</i>	<i>kubus</i>
5.	<i>November</i>	<i>November</i>
6.	<i>spesialis</i>	<i>spesialis</i>

As presented in the table, the words have similar spelling and meaning in both languages but are pronounced differently. The words are used in the conversation topic of calendar (month)

and other common daily contexts. The phenomenon is apparently similar to the Indonesian homographs (two different words with similar spelling but different pronunciation). However, in this context, the words between Indonesian and Afrikaans language express the same meaning but with different pronunciation.

4. Words that have almost similar spelling and pronunciation, but with similar meaning

Table 4. Spelling and Pronunciation between Indonesian-Afrikaans Languages with Similar Meaning

No.	Indonesian	Afrikaans
1.	<i>advokat</i>	<i>advokaat</i>
2.	<i>apotek</i>	<i>apteek</i>
3.	<i>ban</i>	<i>band</i>
4.	<i>biskuit marie</i>	<i>marie biskuit</i>
5.	<i>buku</i>	<i>boek</i>
6.	<i>buncis</i>	<i>boontjies</i>
7.	<i>ember</i>	<i>emmer</i>
8.	<i>faktur</i>	<i>faktuur</i>
9.	<i>identitas</i>	<i>identitief</i>
10.	<i>Januari</i>	<i>Januarie (Yanuari)</i>
11.	<i>Juni</i>	<i>Junie (Yuni)</i>
12.	<i>Juli</i>	<i>Julie (Yuli)</i>
13.	<i>kantor pos</i>	<i>pos kantoor</i>
14.	<i>keran</i>	<i>kraan</i>
15.	<i>kol</i>	<i>kool</i>
16.	<i>mebel</i>	<i>meubels</i>
17.	<i>nama</i>	<i>naam</i>
18.	<i>menit</i>	<i>minnut</i>
19.	<i>nomor</i>	<i>nommer</i>

The table above shows several words in both languages that have almost similar spelling and pronunciation, but with similar meaning. The double vowels *aa* (pronounced a bit longer) in Afrikaans is spelled and pronounced as short *a* phoneme in Indonesian language. However, as the table suggests, the word has a similar meaning (example: *advokat-advokaat*). The same condition also applies in the word *kantor pos* that is pronounced as *pos kantoor* in Afrikaans. In this particular case, the spelling and pronunciation of both words are almost similar; the difference is in the pattern of noun-modifier versus modifier-noun. Moreover, the word *nama* (Eng: name) in Indonesian is spelled *naam* in Afrikaans. In this context, the kinship of both language is apparent in words have almost similar spelling and pronunciation, but similar meaning.

Words in this category are widely used by Afrikaans speakers during the conversation, particularly when communicating with Indonesian speakers. Despite the slight difference in the spelling and pronunciation, the speakers of both language are able to understand one another.

#### Analysis of Indonesian language and Afrikaans comparisons in foreign language teaching

Learning a foreign language does not escape the knowledge of other languages learned and taught. When teaching Indonesian to Afrikaans learners, you should know the concept of Afrikaans. Similarities of spelling, sound, or closeness of meaning should be observed.

Comparative analysis of both languages needs to be done. This is very affecting in foreign language teaching. Foreign language teaching can be more effective if in the teaching process, teachers know the origin of the learning language or the kinship of the language taught. Similarly, the learner must understand in order to be quick in the process of absorption of the material. The benefits obtained in comparative analysis of Indonesian language with Afrikaans in foreign language teaching are: (1) Equalizing the perception of language in spelling and pronunciation between teachers and learners; (2) Facilitate in pronouncing the correct articulation; (3) Knowing the appropriate meaning; and (4) Know the culture that accompanies the kinship of the language. Foreign language teaching is expected not only on a two-language analysis but can linearly compare with other foreign languages to be studied.

### Conclusion

The comparative analysis of vocabulary in verbal communication between Indonesian and Afrikaans language discovers four categories of kinship between the languages:

1. Similar spelling and pronunciation, e.g., *bank, Desember, diktator*.
2. Different spelling but similar pronunciation, e.g., *kardus-kardoes, kondisi-kondisie, ya-ja*. The Afrikaans vocabulary tends to adopt Van Ophuijsen spelling of Dutch language that was once applied in Indonesian language.
3. Similar spelling but different pronunciation, e.g., *bonus-bonus, gratis-gratis, kubus-kubus*. The words in the category are different in spelling but pronounced similarly in both languages.
4. Almost identical spelling and pronunciation, but similar meaning, e.g., *advokat-advokaat, apotek-apteek, ban-band*. Although the words in this category have slight difference in spelling and pronunciation, they express the same meaning in both languages.
5. This research can be used in foreign language learning, for teachers and learners.

### Implication

This research is expected to be beneficial as additional information for Indonesian language teachers as well as foreign speakers (especially those from South Africa) who are learning Indonesian. The research findings are able to facilitate the BIPA learning process that involves Indonesian language teachers and language learners from South Africa. By understanding the kinship between Indonesian and Afrikaans, the learning process will be more effective.

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The authors state that there is no conflict of interest concerning the publication of this paper.

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