

THE GRAMMAR

Chapter 1

THE SOUND SYSTEM

The Malay and Indonesian sound system has 25 consonants and six vowels. The vowel system is discussed first, followed by the consonants. Concluding the chapter is a discussion of timing and word stress.

Each sound is discussed as to where it occurs in the word, that is, in closed or open syllables (explained in the following section), and whether at the beginning of a word (initially), in the middle of a word (medially), or at the end of a word (finally); how it is represented in the writing system, and how it compares to similar sounds in English.

Examples first show words as they are represented in the standard writing system. This is followed by the English gloss or meaning, and finally by a linguistic representation of the sounds. A [.] indicates the division between syllables, and [:] indicates lengthening of a vowel.

1.1 Vowels

Malay and Indonesian have a basic six vowel system. Each of these vowels has a long and short variant. The long variant occurs in open syllables, that is, syllables ending in vowels, and the short variant in closed syllables, that is syllables ending in consonants. Vowels are sounds in which there is very little obstruction of the air as it leaves the mouth.

/i/ This is a high front unrounded vowel. This means that the tongue is high and located toward the front of the mouth, and the lips are stretched. In open syllables it is long, [i:], and is similar to the pronunciation of "ee" in the English word "beet". English speakers, however, tend to pronounce the [i:] with a "y" off-glide. This means that after the initial pronunciation of [i:], the body of the tongue rises toward the top of the mouth, or hard palate, as it does in the pronunciation of [y]. Malay and Indonesian speakers do not do this and students should be careful not to let this happen.

<i>ini</i>	this	/i:.ni/
<i>siapa</i>	who	/si:.apa/
<i>pagi</i>	morning	/pa.gi:/

In closed syllables /i/ is short, [i], similar to the pronunciation of "i" in the word "bit".

<i>ilmu</i>	science	/il.mu/
<i>lintah</i>	leech	/lin.tah/
<i>kasih</i>	love	/ka.sih/

/e/ This is a mid front unrounded vowel. In open syllables it is long, [e:], and is pronounced like the "ai" in the English word "bait". Again, as with the pronunciation of [i:], English speakers tend to pronounce [e:] with a "y" off-glide. This is not the pronunciation of Malay or Indonesian speakers and so should be avoided.

<i>ekor</i>	tail	/e:.kor/
<i>merah</i>	red	/me:.rah/
<i>sate</i>	satay	/sa.te:/

In closed syllables the /e/ is short, [e] and is pronounced like the "e" in the word "bet".

<i>menteri</i>	minister	/men.te.ri/
<i>pendek</i>	short	/pen.deʔ/

The writing system does not distinguish between the mid front unrounded vowel /e/ discussed here, and the mid central unrounded vowel, /ə/ discussed in the following section. Both are written *e*. There are a number of instances, however, when the pronunciation of written *e* is predictable either from its position in a word, or from its occurrence with other vowels in a word. The written *e* represents /e/ in the following instances.

(i) If it occurs in the final syllable of a word.

<i>sate</i>	satay	/sa.te:/
-------------	-------	----------

(ii) If it occurs in the first syllable of a word containing *o* in the final syllable.

<i>ekor</i>	tail	/e:.kor/
-------------	------	----------

(iii) If both syllables of a two syllable word contain *e*.

<i>pendek</i>	short	/pen.deʔ/
---------------	-------	-----------

If an *a* occurs in the final syllable of a two syllable word, there is no way of determining if the written *e* in the first syllable represents /e/ or /ə/. Only a knowledge of what the word means can lead to a correct pronunciation. In such instances, however, written *e* more frequently represents /ə/ than /e/.

/ə/ This is a mid central unrounded vowel made with the tongue lying in the centre of the mouth, neither high nor low, nor front nor back. It approximates the pronunciation of *a* in the English word *sofa*, or the final "e" in "teacher". It is, however, not identical to either of these sounds, being more centralised (the tongue is concentrated in the centre of the mouth) and more tense (the muscles of the mouth are pulled tighter) than the English equivalent.

CHAPTER 1

The /ə/ in general linguistics is called *schwa*, and in the tradition of Malay language and literature, the *pepet*. It is written in the spelling system as *e* and is, therefore, indistinguishable from the /e/ discussed in the previous section.

The /ə/ may occur in both open and closed syllables, though it generally occurs in open syllables which are not word final (at the end of a word). When it does occur in word final position, it does so only as a variant of /a/, discussed in the following section. Only in final position is it significantly lengthened.

<i>emas</i>	gold	/ə.mas/
<i>entah</i>	who knows	/ən.tah/
<i>kerja</i>	work	/kəɾ.ja/

The /ə/ is an epenthetic vowel, that is, the vowel that is added to separate consonant clusters in words borrowed from other languages. (A consonant cluster is two consonants which occur in sequence as part of the same syllable.) For example, the loan words from English "glass" and "class" are pronounced as /gə.las/ and /kə.las/. They are written, as well, to reflect this pronunciation: *gelas* and *kelas*.

/a/ This is a low central unrounded vowel made with the tongue low in the mouth. It is pronounced like the "a" in the English words "mama" and "papa". In open syllables the vowel is longer than in closed syllables, but the vowel quality remains basically the same. In other words, it is still pronounced [a].

<i>apa</i>	what	/a:.pa:/
<i>nama</i>	name	/na:.ma:/
<i>malam</i>	night	/ma:.lam/
<i>ambil</i>	take	/am.bil/

In the standard Malay of Malaysia, however, the /a/ in final position, that is, at the end of the word, is commonly pronounced as a *schwa*, /ə/. While this is not the case throughout the whole country, it is true of the prestigious dialects of the central and southern peninsula, including the capital of Kuala Lumpur.

<i>apa</i>	what	/a:.pə:/
<i>nama</i>	name	/na:.mə:/
<i>kerja</i>	work	/kəɾ.jə:/

/u/ This is a high back rounded vowel made with the back of the tongue pushed up high at the back of the mouth with the lips pursed. In open syllables it is long, [u:], and is pronounced similar to the "oo" in the English word "boot". English speakers, however, tend to pronounce the [u:] with a "w" off-glide. What this means is that after the pronunciation of [u:], the back of the tongue rises to the top of the mouth (the soft palate or velum) as in the pronunciation of [w]. This does not happen in the pronunciation of [u:] in Malay and Indonesian and should be avoided.

<i>ular</i>	snake	/u:.lar/
<i>bumi</i>	Earth	/bu:.mi/
<i>itu</i>	that	/i.tu:/

In closed syllables the /u/ is shortened, [u], though the vowel quality remains basically the same.

<i>tunggu</i>	wait	/tuŋ.gu:/
<i>turut</i>	follow	/tu:.rut/

/o/ This is a mid back rounded vowel that is long in open syllables, [o:]. It is pronounced like "o" in the English word "boat". In English, however, [o:] is followed by a "w" off-glide. In Malay and Indonesian there is none.

<i>oleh</i>	by	/o:.leh/
<i>boleh</i>	able	/bo:.leh/
<i>domino</i>	domino	/do:.mi.no:/

In closed syllables /o/ is shortened to [o], though the vowel quality remains basically the same.

<i>ekor</i>	tail	/e:.kor/
<i>kontot</i>	stubby	/kon.tot/
<i>bodoh</i>	stupid	/bo:.doh/

1.2 Diphthongs

Malay and Indonesian have three diphthongs, /ai/, /au/ and /oi/. These are sequences of vowels which are pronounced as part of a single syllable. Their pronunciation is similar to related diphthongs in English. The diphthong /ai/ is pronounced like the "i" in "bite", /au/ like the "ow" in "cow", and /oi/ like the "oy" in "boy".

The diphthongs /ai/ and /au/ occur initially, medially and finally (at the beginning, middle and end of words). The diphthong /oi/, however, occurs only finally.

<i>aib</i>	shame	/aib/
<i>daif</i>	powerless	/daif/
<i>pandai</i>	clever	/pan.dai/
<i>aur</i>	bamboo (sp-)	/aur/
<i>haus</i>	thirsty	/haus/
<i>hijau</i>	green	/hi:.jau/
<i>adoi</i>	ouch	/a:.doi/

There are in Malaysia and Indonesia, however, dialectal variants where vowel coalescence occurs. This means that a sequence of two vowels combines to form a single sound. As a result /ai/ is pronounced [e] and /au/ is pronounced [o]. This will be particularly noticeable to students travelling in Indonesia where these variants in pronunciation commonly occur in conversational speech. The following are examples.

<i>pandai</i>	clever	/pan.de/
<i>ramai</i>	crowded	/ra.me/
<i>pakai</i>	to use	/pa.ke/

CHAPTER 1

<i>hijau</i>	green	/hi.jo/
<i>kalau</i>	if	/ka.lo/
<i>atau</i>	or	/a.to/

Vowel sequences which are not diphthongs fall into different syllables.

<i>dua</i>	two	/du:.a:/
<i>biasa</i>	usual	/bi:.a.sa:/

1.3 Semivowels

There are two semivowels in Malay and Indonesian, /w/ and /y/ and they occur initially and medially in the word. Their pronunciation is similar to their pronunciation in English. Semivowels are sounds which exhibit both vowel and consonant qualities. Consonants are described below.

<i>warna</i>	colour	/war.na:/
<i>awal</i>	early	/a:.wal/
<i>yang</i>	that	/yaŋ/
<i>saya</i>	I	/sa:.ya:/

Whenever an initial syllable begins with a semivowel, there may be an alternative spelling in which it is written as a vowel. Variation in spelling sometimes reflects variation in pronunciation. *Wang* is the standard spelling for "money" in Malaysia. In Indonesia it is *uang*. *Ya* and *ia* [yes] exist as variants in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

<i>wang / uang</i>	money	/u:.aŋ/
<i>ya / ia</i>	yes	/i:.a:/

1.4 Consonants

Malay and Indonesian have a system of 25 consonants, including those consonants borrowed from other languages. Each consonant is described under its manner of articulation. Consonants are sounds in which there is some obstruction of the air stream as it leaves the mouth.

Stops

Malay and Indonesian have a series of voiced and voiceless stops. Each is discussed under the heading of the individual sound. Stops are sounds where the air, at some point in the pronunciation of the sound, is completely stopped from coming out of the mouth. Voiced sounds are accompanied by a humming or vibration. Voiceless sounds have none.

/p/ This is a voiceless bilabial stop (made by both lips coming together) occurring initially, medially and finally in the word. It is pronounced like the "p" in the English word "spin", and not like the "p" in "pin". The difference is this. The "p" following the "s" in "spin" is unaspirated, that is, it is not followed by a puff of air, [p]. The "p" in "pin" is aspirated, [p^h]. All voiceless stops (*p*, *t* and *k*), in Malay and Indonesian are unaspirated.

<i>pola</i>	pattern	/po.la/
<i>apa</i>	what	/a.pa/
<i>tutup</i>	close	/tu.tup/

/b/ This is a voiced bilabial stop similar to the "b" in English. It occurs initially and medially in words. When it occurs written in final position, and this is the case only in words borrowed from other languages, it is pronounced [p].

<i>baik</i>	good	/baiʔ/
<i>labuh</i>	long	/la.buh/
<i>nasib</i>	fate	/na.sip/

/t/ This is a voiceless alveolar stop made by the tip of the tongue resting on the gum ridge behind the teeth. It is pronounced unaspirated in all positions and is thus like the "t" in the English word "stop". It is not like the "t" in "top" which is aspirated. The /t/ occurs initially, medially and finally.

<i>tahu</i>	know	/ta.hu/
<i>hitam</i>	black	/hi.tam/
<i>mulut</i>	mouth	/mu.lut/

/d/ This is a voiced alveolar stop, as it is in English, which occurs initially and medially in the word. When it is written in final position, and this occurs only in loan words, it is pronounced [t].

<i>dapat</i>	obtain	/da.pat/
<i>ada</i>	exist	/a.da/
<i>murid</i>	pupil	/mu.rit/

/k/ This is voiceless velar stop made by the back of the tongue rising to the top of the mouth. It is always pronounced [k] when it occurs initially. When it occurs medially it is pronounced [k] only if it is intervocalic, that is, if it occurs between two vowels. When [k] is written in the middle of a word and is followed by another consonant, or when written in final position, it is always pronounced as a glottal stop, [ʔ].

The /k/ is always unaspirated, pronounced like the "k" in "skill" and not like the "k" in "kill". The glottal stop, [ʔ] is discussed in the following sections.

<i>kata</i>	say	/ka.ta/
<i>makan</i>	eat	/ma.kan/
<i>rakyat</i>	populace	/raʔ.yat/
<i>tidak</i>	no	/ti.daʔ/

/g/ This is a voiced velar stop which is pronounced like the "g" in the English word "good" when it occurs initially and medially. When it occurs written in final position, /g/, like other voiced stops occurring only in loan words, it becomes voiceless. Just as /b/ is pronounced [p], and /d/ is pronounced [t] in final position, /g/ should be pronounced [k].

CHAPTER 1

The consonant /k/, however, as discussed previously, does not occur in final position. When it does occur written in that position, it is pronounced as a glottal stop [ʔ]. A /g/, then, written in final position is generally pronounced as [ʔ]. Since /g/ only occurs in loan words from other languages, its pronunciation may vary depending upon the familiarity of the speaker with those languages.

<i>guna</i>	use	/gu.na/
<i>bagus</i>	good	/ba.gus/
<i>beg^M</i>	bag	/beʔ/
<i>bedug^I</i>	drum (type)	/be.duʔ/

/ʔ/ This is a voiceless glottal stop made by cutting the air off as it passes through the throat. It is represented in the writing system as *k* when it occurs finally, and medially when followed by another consonant.

<i>rakyat</i>	populace	/raʔyat/
<i>tidak</i>	no	/ti.daʔ/

The glottal stop also occurs between identical vowels in a sequence, although it is not written in this position.

<i>maaf</i>	forgive	/maʔ.af/
-------------	---------	----------

The glottal stop is not a meaningful sound in English, although it does occur. It is the sound between the two "oh's" in "oh oh". It is also the sound that replaces the "t" in certain dialectal pronunciations of "mountain" and "fountain": "mounʔn" and "founʔn" respectively.

In Indonesia, due to the influence of a speaker's native language, final [ʔ] may indeed be pronounced as [k].

<i>baik</i>	good	/baik/
-------------	------	--------

Affricates

Malay and Indonesian have two affricates, /c/ and /j/. Affricates are sounds in which the air is first stopped from coming out of the mouth, and then allowed to continue with some friction. An affricate is a combination of a stop and a fricative (discussed below).

/c/ This is a voiceless palatal affricate, [č], made by the central part of the tongue rising to the top of the mouth. It occurs initially and medially in Indonesian, and initially, medially and finally in Malay. It is similar to the "ch" in the English word "chip". The English sound, however, is aspirated. The Malay and Indonesian sound is not. The /č/ is written *c* in the writing system.

<i>cakap</i>	speak	/ča.kap/
<i> baca</i>	read	/ba.ča/
<i>Mac^M</i>	March	/mač/

/j/ This is a voiced palatal affricate, [j], which occurs initially and medially in Indonesian and initially, medially and finally in Malay. It is like the English sound "j" in "jump". It is written *j* in the writing system.

<i>jumpa</i>	meet	/jum.pa/
<i>ajak</i>	invite	/a.jaʔ/
<i>kolej^M</i>	college	/ko.lej/

Flaps and Trills

The consonant /r/ is generally a voiced alveolar flap, [ɾ], which is made by the tip of the tongue quickly touching the top of the mouth. It is similar to the sound of "dd" in the English word "ladder". It occurs initially and medially and is written *r* in the writing system.

<i>rokok</i>	cigarette	/ʔo.koʔ/
<i>orang</i>	person	/o.ɾaŋ/

At the end of a closed syllable, either medially or finally, the written *r* is not pronounced as [ɾ] in the standard Malay of Malaysia. It is pronounced as a centralised glide associated with the preceding vowel. This means that after the pronunciation of the vowel, the tongue is allowed to drift to the centre of the mouth. In the following examples, the *schwa*, [ə], represents this centralised glide.

<i>pergi</i>	go	/pə:.gi/
<i>besar</i>	big	/bə.saə /

In Indonesia, at the end of a closed syllable, either medially or finally, the written *r* is not pronounced as [ɾ], but as a trill, [r̄]. A trill is made when the tip of the tongue is allowed to vibrate in the stream of air leaving the mouth.

<i>pergi</i>	go	/pə̄r̄.gi/
<i>besar</i>	big	/bə̄r̄.sār̄/

The trill [r̄] may also be used as an alternative to the flap [ɾ] in Indonesian.

<i>rokok</i>	cigarette	/ʔo.koʔ/
<i>orang</i>	person	/o.ɾaŋ/

It is very common in Malaysia, as well as in some areas of Indonesia, to hear the /r/ in medial position pronounced as a voiced velar fricative, [ɣ], discussed in the following section. Although this pronunciation is not considered standard, it is very widespread.

<i>orang</i>	person	/o.ɣaŋ/
--------------	--------	---------

The /r/ in English is a palatal retroflex, [ɻ]. To make this sound the tongue is bent back toward the central part of the mouth. The English "r" is completely different from the various *r* sounds discussed for Malay and Indonesian. Care should be taken to avoid the English pronunciation.

CHAPTER 1

In many dialects of English, however, the /r/ occurring in a closed syllable following a vowel is also pronounced as a centralised glide. This is the same centralised glide used in Malay.

portly	/pɔɹ.tli/
door	/dɔɹ/

Fricatives

All of the fricatives, except /s/ and /h/, have been introduced through loan words from other languages. As a result, there tends to be a variation in pronunciation depending upon how familiar the speaker is with the language from which the loan words have come. Fricatives are made when some friction is introduced into the air stream as it leaves the mouth.

/f/ This is a voiceless labio-dental fricative pronounced like the initial sound in the English word "fish". It is made by the bottom lip touching the upper teeth. It occurs in all positions, initial, medial and final. Speakers unfamiliar with the sound pronounce it as [p] initial position. This is particularly true in Indonesian where pronunciations such as *pikir* [think] and *pilem* [film] are commonly used. In Malaysia the equivalent words are *fikir* and *filem*.

<i>fasih</i>	fluent	/fa.sih/
<i>wafat</i>	die	/wa.fat/
<i>wakaf</i>	donation	/wa.kaf/

/v/ This is a voiced labio-dental fricative pronounced like the "v" in the English word "vote". It occurs in initial and medial position. Those unfamiliar with the sound may pronounce it as [b].

<i>vokal</i>	vowel	/vo.kal/
<i>novel</i>	novel	/no.vel/

/s/ This is a voiceless alveolar fricative occurring in all positions. It is like the "s" in the English word "sip". It is made by the tip of the tongue resting on the gum ridge behind the teeth.

<i>sama</i>	same	/sa.ma/
<i>asal</i>	origin	/a.sal/
<i>atas</i>	above	/a.tas/

/z/ This is a voiced alveolar fricative occurring in all positions. It is like the "z" in the English word "zip". Among Indonesians, it is commonly pronounced as [j] in initial and medial positions. In Indonesia, for example, *zaman* and *izin* are commonly pronounced *jaman* and *ijin*. In final position the situation in Indonesia is more complicated. While a word like *ustaz* may be pronounced with a z, for most speakers a final d will be used: *ustad*. A word like *lafaz* [to utter], however, which is pronounced

with a final *z* in Malaysia, is most commonly pronounced with a final *l* in Indonesia: *lafal*.

<i>zaman</i>	era	/za.man/
<i>izin</i>	permission	/i.zin/
<i>ustaz</i>	religious teacher	/us.taz/

/ʃ/ This is a palatal fricative pronounced like the "sh" in the English word "ship". It is made by the mid-part of the tongue touching the top of the mouth. It occurs in initial and medial positions. It may be pronounced as [s] by those unfamiliar with the sound, particularly in initial position. In Indonesia, for example, a pronunciation such as *surga* for *syurga* is common. The /ʃ/ is written *sy* in the writing system.

<i>syurga</i>	heaven	/ʃur.ga/
<i>masyarakat</i>	society	/ma.ʃa.ra.kat/

/x/ This is a voiceless velar fricative occurring in all positions in the word. It, however, does not occur in English. /x/ is the sound of the "ch" in the standard German "ich" [I]. Those unfamiliar with this sound pronounce it as [k] or [h]. It is written *kh*.

<i>khas</i>	special	/xas/
<i>akhir</i>	finally	/a.xir/
<i>tarikh</i>	date ^M / era ^I	/ta.rix/

/ɣ/ This is a voiced velar fricative occurring initially and medially. There is no equivalent sound in English. One way of making the sound, however, is to first say [a]. Keep uttering [a] as you raise the back of your tongue to make the sound [g]. If done properly, this should give you the sound of /ɣ/. Speakers unfamiliar with the sound will generally say [g] initially and medially, and [h] finally. This is particularly true in Indonesia where *gaib*, *magrib* and *mubaligh* are common pronunciations and spellings for *ghaib*, *maghrib* and *mubaligh*. The /ɣ/ is written *gh* in Malaysia, and *g* or *h*, depending on its position, in Indonesia.

<i>ghaib^M / gaib^I</i>	disappear	/ɣaib/
<i>maghrib^M / magrib^I</i>	sunset	/maɣ.rib/
<i>mubaligh^M / mubalih^I</i>	preacher	/mu.ba.liɣ/

/h/ This is a voiceless glottal fricative occurring in all positions. It is made when a small amount of friction is added to the air as it passes through the throat. It is the sound in the English word "house".

In English, however, /h/ does not occur in syllable final position. As a result, when English speakers speak Indonesian or Malay, they tend not to pronounce the /h/ when it occurs in this position. Whether at the beginning or the end of a syllable, students should take extra care to pronounce the /h/ in all positions where it occurs.

<i>harap</i>	hope	/ha.rap/
<i>ahli</i>	member	/ah.li/
<i>putih</i>	white	/pu.tih/

CHAPTER 1

Nasals

There are four nasal consonants in Malay and Indonesian. Nasal sounds are made when the air is blocked from coming out of the mouth by the tongue or lips, and exits through the nose.

/m/ This is a voiced bilabial nasal resembling the "m" in the English word "milk". It occurs in all positions in the word.

<i>mana</i>	where	/ma.na/
<i>jumpa</i>	meet	/jum.pa/
<i>malam</i>	night	/ma.lam/

/n/ This is a voiced bilabial nasal similar to the "n" in the English "nice". It occurs initially, medially and finally.

<i>nama</i>	name	/na.ma/
<i>sana</i>	there	/sa.na/
<i>papan</i>	board	/pa.pan/

/ɲ/ This is a voiced palatal nasal which is similar, though not identical, to the "ny" sequence in the English word "canyon". It occurs initially and medially and is represented in the writing system by *ny*.

<i>nyaman</i>	fresh	/ɲa.man/
<i>tanya</i>	ask	/ta.ɲa/

/ŋ/ This is a voiced velar nasal occurring in all positions in the word. It is represented in the writing system by *ng*.

<i>nganga</i>	open-mouthed	/ŋa.ŋa/
<i>tengah</i>	middle	/tə.ŋah/
<i>garang</i>	fierce	/ga.raŋ/

It is important to remember the *ng* represents a single sound, [ŋ], and not a sequence of /n/ + /g/ which does not exist in Indonesian or Malay. If a sequence of /ŋ/ + /g/, which does exist, is desired, it will be written *ngg*.

<i>panggil</i>	call	/paŋ.gil/
<i>tinggal</i>	stay	/tiŋ.gal/

The /ŋ/ occurs medially and finally in English. It does not occur initially. Furthermore, in some dialects of English, and medially in particular words of all dialects, a written sequence of *n+g*, such as in the word *finger*, is pronounced as a sequence of /ŋ/ + /g/, which is not the way it is pronounced in Indonesian or Malay. The /ŋ/ is like the *ng* in the English word *sing*.

Lateral

There is one lateral consonant in Malay and Indonesian. A lateral sound is made when the air passes around the sides of the tongue.

/l/ The /l/ is a voiced alveolar lateral. It is generally referred to as a light or clear "l", that is an "l" made with the tongue high in the mouth, close to the palate. In English this is the "l" used before high front vowels such as in the word "lip". This is the correct /l/ to use in the pronunciation of Malay and Indonesian words.

<i>lama</i>	long	/la.ma/
<i>malam</i>	night	/ma.lam/
<i>awal</i>	early	/a.wal/

The pronunciation of /l/ in English, however, varies depending upon the height of the preceding or following vowel. All other /l/ sounds in English except those made before a high front vowel, "i", would be made lower in the mouth and would, therefore, not be the proper /l/ to use for Malay or Indonesian.

1.5 Timing

Malay or Indonesian is a syllable-timed language. This means that each syllable in an utterance takes approximately the same amount of time to pronounce. There are, of course, variations in timing due to the relative emphasis given to specific parts of the utterance by a speaker.

Jang.an pe.du.li apa ka ta o.rang lain.
Don't pay any attention to what others say.

English, conversely, is a stress-timed language. In English, then, it is not the syllable that receives equal time in pronunciation, but the segments bounded by primary stresses. Stress refers to the emphasis given to particular syllables.

Dón't pay any attén tion to what ó thers sáy.

Each group of syllables between the primary stresses takes approximately the same amount of time to pronounce, even though each group may have a different number of syllables.

dón't	1 syllable
pay any attén	5 syllables
tion to what ó	4 syllables
thers sáy	2 syllables

In English vowels are sometimes reduced or shortened. This is one way in which a greater amount of syllables can be pronounced in the same amount of time as a lesser amount of syllables. In Malay and Indonesian this does not happen, and care should be taken to pronounce the full quality of vowels in all the positions in which they occur.

CHAPTER 1

For example, in the English utterance above, "Don't pay any attention **to** what others say", the **o** in the word **to** is reduced. If this word were spoken alone it would be pronounced [tu:]. Pronounced as part of the above utterance, however, the vowel is reduced to *schwa* and it is pronounced [tə].

1.6 Word Stress

Word stress in Malay and Indonesian is on the penultimate syllable, that is, on the second to the last syllable in the word.

<i>selamat</i>	safe	/sə.lá.mat/
<i>malam</i>	night	/má.lam/

The main exception to the above rule is as follows. If the penultimate syllable contains a *schwa*, /ə/, then stress falls on the final syllable in the word.

<i>petang</i>	afternoon	/pə.táŋ/
<i>tengah</i>	middle	/tə.ŋáh/

In words in which a /ə/ occurs in a closed penultimate syllable, stress is generally penultimate. In the speech of many Malays and Indonesians, however, both syllables may appear to receive almost equal stress.

<i>kerja</i>	to work	/kə.r.ja/
<i>henti</i>	to stop	/hən.ti/

Stress on the root word does not change when the root is suffixed if the stress is on the final syllable of the root.

<i>letak</i>	put	/lə.táʔ/
<i>letakkan</i>	to put something down	/lə.táʔ.kan/

If the stress on the root word, however, is penultimate, that is, placed on the next to the last syllable, the stress generally moves one syllable to the right. In other words, it still retains its penultimate position on the affixed word.

<i>turun</i>	to climb down	/tú.run/
<i>turunkan</i>	to lower something	/tu.rún.kan/

There are some complicating factors. Certain particles are written as suffixes. They, however, function as if they were separate words. In cases like this, the stress on a root word does not move. The most common of these particles are *-nya* indicating possession, *-lah* showing emphasis, and *-kah* showing interrogation and marking a question.

<i>rumah</i>	house	/rú.mah/
<i>rumahnya</i>	her house	/rú.mah.nya/
<i>duduk</i>	to sit	/dú.duk/
<i>duduklah</i>	please have a seat	/dú.duk.lah/

<i>málam</i>	night	/má.lam/
<i>málamkah</i>	is it at night	/má.lam.kah/

1.7 Spelling System

Malaysia and Indonesia use the Roman alphabet, although in Malaysia the Arabic script adopted for Malay, called *Jawi*, is also still actively used. The letters of the alphabet in Malaysia are pronounced as they are in English. In Indonesia, however, the pronunciation follows a Dutch model. Only the Indonesian pronunciation is presented here. The sounds serving as a pronunciation model are pronounced as indicated in the preceding section. For example, [e] is pronounced as "ay" in the English word "bay".

A	/a/	I	/i/	R	/er/
B	/be/	J	/je/	S	/es/
C	/ce/ or /se/	K	/ka/	T	/te/
D	/de/	L	/el/	U	/u/
E	/e/	M	/em/	V	/fe/
F	/ef/	N	/en/	W	/we/
G	/ge/	O	/o/	Y	/ye/
H	/ha/	P	/pe/	Z	/zet/
		Q	/ki/		

CHAPTER 1

1.8 CHART OF VOWELS

	FRONT UNROUNDED	CENTRAL UNROUNDED	BACK ROUNDED
HIGH	i		u
MID	e	ə	o
LOW		a	

1.9 CHART OF CONSONANTS

	BI-LABIAL	LABIO-DENTAL	ALVEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTAL
voiceless STOP voiced	p b		t d		k g	ʔ
voiceless AFRICATE voiced				č j		
voiceless FRICATIVE voiced		f v	s z	š	x ɣ	h
NASAL	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
LATERAL			l			
FLAP			ɾ			
TRILL			ʀ			
GLIDE	w				y	