## How Bòsò Walikan Malangan complies to Javanese phonology

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Bòsò Walikan Malangan ([bɔsɔ waliʔan malaŋan]), hereafter Walikan, is an Indonesian youth language that originated as a secret code among guerilla fighters. Walikan in Javanese means 'reversed', as it mixes words originating from the Malangan dialect of Javanese as well as the local variety of Indonesian and reverses them into distinct lexical forms that cannot easily be deciphered by non-speakers of Walikan. This paper examines the different reversal processes through the lenses of phonology and phonotactics. We analyze a selection of Walikan words pronounced by two speakers of Walikan. The results show that word reversal in general complies with Javanese phonology and phonotactics. Our research is intended to serve as a springboard towards a fuller understanding of the reversal rules in Walikan.

# 1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>

Language manipulation has been a common strategy to conceal messages in different languages (Bagemihl 1989, Conklin 1956, Lefkowitz 1991, Storch 2011). It can be done through many ways, for instance the addition or reversal of syllables, the deletion of certain sounds, and the creation of language metaphors (Storch 2011:19). From secret languages, these language registers can then develop into popular language games, and subsequently as the 'cool language' of young people (urban youth language). In Java, Indonesia, there are two popular reversed languages which developed from secret languages that are now seen as integral parts of youth culture. Bòsò Walikan Yogyakarta in Central Java is part of the identity of the hip-hop community in Yogyakarta (Nugraheni 2016), while Bòsò Walikan Malangan in East Java has become the language of solidarity and regional pride spoken by the people of Malang (Hoogervorst 2014, Yannuar 2018). Previous research has started the description of these varieties (c.f. Espree-Conaway 2012, 2013; Hoogervorst 2014; Prayogi 2013; and Pujileksono & Kartono 2007), but none of them have provided a detailed study on the phonology and phonotactics of these or other Javanese youth languages.

This paper explores the phonology and phonotactics of *Bòsò Walikan Malangan* by comparing it to its matrix language, the Malangan dialect of East Javanese. Our data

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mainly consists of wordlists taken from previous research and recordings of elicitation sessions with two Walikan speakers. Their pronunciations were carefully transcribed using IPA and then compared to Javanese phonology and phonotactics. The analysis of the data was complemented by our native speaker intuitions of Javanese.

We start by sketching out some definitions and descriptions of different kinds of language manipulation strategies in section 2. This is intended to call attention to processes of reversal cross-linguistically, before focusing on the current research on the phonology and phonotactics of Walikan. We then present the methodology and the findings of the study in sections 3 and 4 respectively. After briefly presenting the phonology of Malangan Javanese, we examine the extent to which Walikan complies with the Javanese phonological system in section 4.2. In addition, we also review certain irregularities that might show influence from Indonesian phonology. In summary, our findings show that Javanese phonology and phonotactics govern processes of word-formation in Walikan, although the phonotactics of conventional East Javanese are occasionally violated – yielding words that would not be permissible in "non-reversed" speech.

This research is linguistically important, because ludlings, language games, reversed languages, and other types of linguistic manipulation constitute a possible source of insight into the structure of human languages (Gil 2002; Lefkowitz 1991). A more specific reason is described by Laycock (1972:4): "Ludlings give valuable information on the native-speaker's intuition as to what constitutes a syllable, a vowel, a consonant, a consonant cluster, a word, or a suprasegmental". Lefkowitz (1991:11) elaborates: "language games and speech disguises reveal information concerning the internalized grammar of the native speaker. They can also help define the canonical syllable structures which languages use". The findings of the present paper indicate that the speakers of Walikan employ the phonology of Javanese when they manipulate words to play their language game.

# 2. Language manipulation

Language manipulation involves intentional linguistic modifications, resulting in changes that can conceal original messages, which may give rise to a secret language (Storch 2011). Language manipulation can be classified into: play languages, honorific registers, hunting and blacksmithing special-purpose registers, avoidance language and word tabooing, ritual language, spirit language, and secret language (Storch 2011:19).

Bòsò Walikan Malangan can be categorized under 'play languages', which Storch describes as "rule-governed systems that are representations of ordinary language, which simply means that they use the *syntactic*, *phonological*, and *morphological* systems of rules that govern the matrix languages from which they are derived' (2011:20). These have also been termed 'ludlings' by Laycock (1972): the regular and systematic transformation of a certain language form into a completely different one. In Conklin (1956:136), a similar process of changing the phonological structure of words is labeled 'speech disguise', which happens "when a speaker in conversation attempts to conceal the identity and hence the interpretation of what he says".

Ludlings can be divided into three general groups: templatic, infixing, and reversing (Bagemihl, 1988:181). Templatic ludlings make use of certain patterns which act as a template in the phonological transformation. This type of change can create longer words and give rise to "new vowel patterns and significant consonant repetition and reduplication" (Storch, 2011:21). Example (1) is a templatic ludling in Amharic:

Template CayC<sup>n</sup>Ca⇒Ca
 wərk' → wayrk'ərk' 'gold'
 (Hudson 1993 as cited in Storch (2011:21))

The second type of ludling is infixing, or syllabic affixation. During the 1990s, young students in Malang inserted the infix -va into every open syllable. In closed syllables, the infix appeared before the final consonant. A simple Indonesian word like makan 'to eat' for instance, would be transformed into mavakavan. To our surprise, a Malay Singaporean friend of ours turns out to have used the same secret language when she was studying in a Singaporean elementary school in late 1980s. This demonstrates the mobility of these popular language games.

Gil (2002:2) presents a list of ludlings that he has encountered in Malayic languages. As shown in Table 1, out of the seven types of ludlings, five of them are based on infixation (see no 1–5).

Table 1. Gil's (2002) basic rules in Malayic ludlings

No	Name	<b>Basic Rule</b>	]	Examples
1	Bakahakasaka (Bagahagasaga, Bafahafasafa, Baksahaksasaksa)	At each syllable peak, insert k (or g, f, ks)	makan	makakakan magakagan mafakafan maksakaksan
2	Warasa (Dadasa, Mamasa)	In each word, replace the first onset of the final foot and anything preceding it with war (dad, mam)	makan	warkan dadkan mamkan
3	Bahasisa	In each word, replace the final rhyme with <i>iCa</i> , where <i>C</i> is a copy of the final onset	makan	makikan
4	Mabahas	In each word, add ma to the beginning of the word, and delete the final rhyme	makan	mamak
5	Bahabahwalsa	In each word, insert bahwal before the final syllable	makan	mabahwalkan
6	Sabaha	In each word, take the final syllable and bring it to the front	makan	kanma
7	Bahas	In each word, delete the final rhyme	makan	mak

In English, Pig Latin is a common affixation-based ludling. In this language game, the first consonant of a word is moved to the end of the word, to which the suffix -ay /ei/ is then attached. When a vowel occurs in initial position of the original word, the suffix -way /wei/ is simply attached to the otherwise unaltered word. For example, pig becomes igpay /igpei/ and latin is changed into atinlay /atinlei/, while apple will be appleway /epəlwei/ (Bowden 2015:13; Lefkowitz 1991:19). With regard to Indonesian slang, Slone (2003) and Sahertian (1999) (cited in Bowden 2015:14) call attention to the use of the suffix -ong in the formation of gay slang, in terms such as bencong (< banci) 'transexual' and lesbong (< lesbi) 'lesbian'.

Aside from syllabic affixation, reversing the segments of a word or 'speaking backwards' is one of the most common ways to form secret languages (Gil 1996; Bagemihl 1989). While the task "reverse the order of segments" in the word (Gil 1996:297) does not seem complicated in itself, it can become more complex when complicated morphophonemic rules apply, like in Tagalog (Gil 1996). Bagemihl (1989:482) introduces a framework of reversed languages: transposition, interchange, segment exchange, sequence exchange, total syllable reversal, total segment reversal, false syllable reversal, false interchange, and permutation. Examples from languages around the world for each type are illustrated in Table 2.

In Javanese, there are two well-known 'reversed' languages that have been in use for decades. The first is *Bòsò Walikan Yogyakarta* (The Reversed Language of Yogyakarta), spoken in the central Javanese city of Yogyakarta. Word formation in *Bòsò Walikan Yogyakarta* takes place through the reversal of certain letters of the semi-syllabic Indic-based, Javanese script and is thus orthography-based (Hoogervorst 2014). Such type of reversal is not mentioned in Bagemihl's (1989) reversal framework. The other is *Bòsò Walikan Malangan/Walikan* (The Reversed Language of Malang), the topic of this paper. Word formation in Walikan depends on competing types of lexical reversal, including phoneme reversal, syllable metathesis, and phoneme deletion (Espree-Conaway 2013; Hoogervorst 2014; Prayogi 2013). Both *Bòsò Walikan Yogyakarta* and *Bòsò Walikan Malangan* have been around since the 1940s and they function as symbols of solidarity between their speakers (Hoogervorst, 2014).

### 3. Methodology

We began the research by compiling a 229-item wordlist of Walikan tokens from earlier studies (Hoogervorst 2014; Prayogi 2013; Pujileksono & Kartono 2007; and Widodo 2006) as well as from the first author's fieldwork notes from a fieldwork trip to Malang, East Java, Indonesia, in 2015.

Being the second biggest city in East Java, second only to Surabaya, there are around 800,000 people living in the Greater Malang area. The population of the urban area of Malang is comprised mostly of ethnic Javanese, but also includes students coming from other parts of Java and Indonesia. People in Malang are generally conversant in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Another type of popular Indonesian youth slang known as Bahasa Alay, a register used by Indonesian teenagers in social media, has only recently been formed and has not yet yielded long-lasting vocabulary.

Malangan Javanese and colloquial Indonesian, but they prefer to use Standard Indonesian in formal situations.

The main data source for this current study consists of recordings of elicitation sessions with two speakers of Walikan, one male (born 1983) and one female (born 1982). They use Walikan on a daily basis and are familiar with all of the words in our list. Both were born in Malang and had lived in Malang for more than half of their lives. They both finished their studies up to bachelor's degree in Malang. The female consultant went to pursue her master's degree in Sydney, Australia, for two years, from 2006 to 2008, the male consultant had spent five months abroad before first participating in the study. To sum up, both consultants have a higher education background, and both spent their youth in Malang.

Table 2. Bagemihl's (1989) reversal framework

No	Type of Reversal	Language Name	Original Words	Reversed Words	Gloss
1	Transposition	Tagalog	kamatis	tiskama	'tomato'
2	Syllable Interchange	Luchazi	njikuleke	njikukele	'let me tell you'
3	False Interchange	Sanga	baatemwaa	baamwatee	(unspecified)
4	Segment Exchange	Javanese	satus	tasus	'one hundred'
5	Sequence Exchange	Hanunoo	balaynun	nulayban	'domesticated'
6	Exchange with Nonsense Word	Finnish	susi	kosi suntti	'wolf'
7	Total Syllable Reversal	Saramaccan	valisi	siliva	'valise'
8	Total Segment Reversal	Javanese	dolanan	nanalod	'play around'
9	False Syllable Reversal	Bakwiri	luuŋga	ngaalu	'stomach'
10	Permutation	Bedouin Hijazi Arabic	jtimaθ	θtijam	(unspecified)

The consultants were invited to an elicitation session, where they were asked to pronounce the words in the aforementioned wordlist. When they did not recognize a certain word, they skipped it and moved to the next word. They were allowed to

produce different forms of Walikan when they saw fit or to add words that were yet to be included in the list. The sessions with both consultants finally yielded 239 Walikan words in total. The sessions were recorded using a Zoom H4n Handy Recorder. The elicited words were then transcribed using ELAN (ELAN 2015) and FLEx (Fieldworks Language Explorer 2015) in International Phonetic Alphabet (henceforth IPA) and analyzed with a focus on the phonology and phonotactics.

# 4. Findings and discussion

### 4.1 Phonology and phonotactics of Malangan Javanese

This subsection briefly presents the descriptions of consonants and vowels in Malangan Javanese. Malangan Javanese has 20 consonants and 6 vowels, as presented in Tables 3 and 4. The orthographical representations of phonemes that differ from IPA are given in round brackets. Square brackets are used to indicate allophones.

Table 3.	Consonant	Inventory	of Mala	ingan Javanese	

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	p	ţ		t (th)	c	k [?]	
	b	ф		d(dh)	յ (j)	g	
Nasal	m		n		n (ny)	ŋ (ng)	
Fricative			S				h
Trill			r				
Lateral			1				
Approximant	W				j (y)		

Table 4. Vowel Inventory of Malangan Javanese

	Front	Central	Back
High	i [1]		<b>u</b> [σ]
High-mid	e [ε] (é)		o [c] o
Mid		ə (e)	
Low		a [ɔ] (a/ò)	

The phonetic properties of /b d d J g/ and /p t t c k/ in Malangan Javanese are not voiced as opposed to voiceless, because both sequences are acoustically voiceless. In this study, the former set is termed as heavy, and the latter as light, following Horne (1961) and Hoogervorst (2009). The heavy stops have a wider opening of the vocal folds and are followed by a breathy vowel. The light consonants, on the other hand, are followed by a non-breathy vowel. Most consonants can occur in word-initial and word-medial positions. In coda position, the phonation type distinction of the heavy stops /b d g/ is neutralized since they do not occur in such a position, but the light stops /p t k/ do. In

addition, /t d c J n w j/ cannot occur in word-final position. Note that in word-initial position, a glottal stop [?] can only occur phonetically before vowels. The glottal stop [?] also appears as the realization of /k/ in coda and root-final position.

The Javanese high front vowel /i/ has one allophone: [1], while the allophone of the high back vowel /u/ is [ $\sigma$ ]. These allophones appear in final closed syllables as well as penultimate open syllables. The allophones of /e/ and /o/ are [ $\varepsilon$ ] and [ $\sigma$ ] respectively, which appear in a final closed syllable and in a penultimate open syllable based on the vowel in the following syllable. Also, [ $\sigma$ ] is the allophone of /a/ in a word-final open syllable. All vowels can occur in all positions, except for the mid central vowel / $\sigma$ / that does not occur in word-final position.

Malangan Javanese allows clusters of two consonants, which occur word-initially and word-medially, but never in word-final position. Clusters of more than two consonants do not occur in native words, and only appear marginally in loanwords. All stops can occur as part of a consonant cluster. The first consonant of a cluster is either a stop consonant, the fricative /s/, or one of the nasals /m n ŋ/. When the first consonant is an obstruent (stop, fricative), the following consonant is a liquid (trill, lateral). When the first consonant is a nasal, the following consonant is either an obstruent or a liquid.

There are three types of consonant clusters in Malangan Javanese: 1) clusters with obstruent + liquid sequence, 2) clusters with nasal + obstruent sequence, and 3) clusters with nasal + liquid sequence. Their examples are shown as follows in respective order: <code>jrangkòng</code> [<code>jran.kon</code>] 'skeleton', <code>mambu</code> [ma.mbu] 'to smell', and <code>mlaku</code> [mla.ku] 'to walk'.<sup>3</sup>

### 4.2 Reversal level in Walikan

In line with the observation that there have never been any "backwards languages in which there is syntactic reversal as the major rule within the clause or phrase" (Dreyfuss 1983: 56), reversal in Walikan takes place at the lexical level, not at the syntactic level.

Because reversal only takes place on a lexical level, the word order in phrases and sentences is retained (compare (3) and (4)). Speakers do not reverse the whole construction of the sentence; rather, they only reverse certain words within a sentence. They may also use reversal that is derived from Indonesian, such as the word *ayas* (< saya '1SG') in (3). Hence, (4) is not an acceptable sentence in Walikan.

- 2. Aku tuku segò pecel ndhik kònò (Malangan Javanese) 1SG buy rice salad in there 'I buy a plate of pecel rice there.'
- 3. Ayas ukut òges lecep ndhik kònò (Walikan)
  1SG buy rice salad in there
  'I buy a plate of pecel rice there.'
- 4. \*kònò ndhik lecep òges ukut uka

In (3), out of six lexical items, only the first four lexical items are being inverted. The word ayas '1SG' is the reversed form of Indonesian word saya, not its East Javanese

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Word stress in Malangan Javanese generally takes place in the penultimate syllable; it will not be indicated in the transcriptions presented in this paper.

counterpart *aku*. Ukut is an inversion from *tuku*, òges is derived from segò and lecep is the reversed form of pecel. Meanwhile, the demonstrative ndhik kònò 'there' is not being inverted and remains intact. According to our consultants, speakers of Walikan must know for which words reversal is acceptable or common.

# 4.3 Reversal types in Walikan

There are several types of reversal in Walikan as mentioned in Hoogervorst (2014) and Prayogi (2013). However, we focus on a certain type of reversal that appears most frequently in our data, Total Segment Reversal. This type of reversal allows for direct inversion of all the segments (Bagemihl 1989). The last segment of the original word will be the first segment of the reversed form, the penultimate segment will be the second segment, and so on. Example (5) shows how the phonemes in *makan* 'to eat' are reversed entirely.

5.	a.	m	a	k	a	n	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		n	a	k	a	m	
		5	4	3	2	1	
	b.	maka	<i>an</i> [ma.	kan]	$\rightarrow$	nakam [na.kam]	'to eat'

Speakers also apply a syllabification process during Total Segment Reversal. Example (6) shows how speakers avoid rigid reversal of the syllable.

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6. a. ma.buk CV.CVC → *kub.am CVC.CV
b. ma.buk CV.CVC → ku.bam CV.CVC 'drunk'
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Our consultants explain that they need to adjust certain sounds that they perceive to be difficult to pronounce. The consonant /b/ that originally belonged to the second syllable stays in the second syllable of the reversed word. Instead of occurring in the coda position of the first syllable, /b/ occurs in the onset position of the second position, as seen in (6b). The adjustment process follows the principle of onset maximization.

The Total Segment Reversal rule requires segments to be fully inverted, however, modifications are sometimes necessary. A consonant cluster in word-initial position, for example, will be transposed into a word-final position after Total Segment Reversal. As this is not allowed in Malangan Javanese phonotactics, an adjustment strategy such as consonant exchange is required to create an acceptable form. In (7 a-c), we observe the process of how *uklam*, the attested reversed form of *mlaku* 'to walk' is created.

7. a.	m 1	1 2	a 3	k 4	u 5		
	u 5	k 4	a 3	1 2	m 1		
b.	mlak	u [mla	.ku]	$\rightarrow$	*uka <b>lm</b>	[ʔu.ka <b>lm</b> ]	
c.	ukali	<i>m</i> [?u.k	calm1	$\rightarrow$	u <b>kl</b> am	[?u. <b>kl</b> am]	'to walk'

In (7a), Total Segment Reversal creates *ukalm*, a form that is not used by the speakers of Walikan. The cluster /lm/ in word-final position is considered an ill-formed coda. The attested word *uklam* is then formed by switching the position of the vowel /a/ and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The sociopragmatic reasons behind this choice are explained in (Yannuar, Iragiliati & Zen 2017).

the liquid consonant /l/. The adjustment yields a more preferred consonant cluster /kl/ in word-medial position and avoids the word-final cluster /lm/ (7c).

Consonant clusters do not occur in word-final and coda position in Javanese. On the other hand, the cluster /kl/ in onset position occurs in many Javanese words, as seen in example (8).

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8. cuklék [cu.klɛʔ] 'fractured' 
klambi [kla.mbi] 'shirt'
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# 4.4 Phonology and phonotactics of Walikan

Here we provide a closer look at instances in which Malangan Javanese phonology and phonotactics are reflected in the Total Segment Reversal process. They include: neutralization of final consonants, alternation of velar and glottal consonants, vowel lowering, and retainment of homorganic consonants and prenasalized stops.

### a. Neutralization of final consonants

In Malangan Javanese, the heavy stop consonants  $/b \not g / have$  a restricted distribution in word-final position, unlike their light stop counterparts  $/p \not k / have$ . The common orthography may still show b' d' and g' in word-final position, but speakers realize them as  $[p \not k] (9)$ .

9.	abab	/abab/	[ʔa.bap]	'breath'
	babad	/babad/	[ba.ba <u>t</u> ]	'chronicle'
	mbadhog	/mbadəg/	[mba.dɔk]	'to eat'

The first example in (9) shows that /abab/ 'breath' is pronounced as [?a.bap], not \*[?a.bab]. This subtle difference becomes more evident when speakers attach a suffix to the word: /abab-e/ 'his breath', which is realized as [?a.ba.pe] instead of \*[?a.ba.be].

When Total Segment Reversal is applied to a word with a heavy consonant in the initial position, it transforms the position of the heavy consonant into word-final position. Following the phonology and phonotactics of Malangan Javanese, the consonant in the word-final position will undergo a neutralization process.

The word-final neutralization process for reversed words with the heavy bilabial stop /b/ in final position can be observed in (10).

10. bécak	[bɛ.ca?]	$\rightarrow$	kacéb [ka.cεp]	'pedicab'
beras	[bə.ras]	$\rightarrow$	sareb [sa.rəp]	'rice'
banyu	[ba.nu]	$\rightarrow$	unyab [ʔu.nap]	'water'
bojo	[bo.jo]	$\rightarrow$	ojob [ʔo.top]	'spouse'
budhal	[bu.dal]	$\rightarrow$	ladhub [la.dup]	'to leave'

The neutralization process for the heavy dental stop /d/ and the heavy velar stop /g/ are shown in (11). The Walikan words with [k] and [t] in the coda position are evidently derived from Javanese words with [q] and [d] in the onset position.

11. gadhis	[ga.dɪs]	$\rightarrow$	sidhag [si.dak]	ʻgirl'
goréng	[gɔ.rɛŋ]	$\rightarrow$	ngérog [ŋɛ.rək]	'fried'
gaji	[ga.ɟi]	$\rightarrow$	ijag [ʔi.ɟak]	'salary'
dulur	[dʊ.lʊr]	$\rightarrow$	<i>rulud</i> [rʊ.lʊt̪]	'sibling/relative'
désò	[dɛ.sə]	$\rightarrow$	òséd [ʔɔ.sɛt̪]	'village'

### b. Alternation of velar and glottal consonants

In Malangan Javanese, /k/ in word-final position has restricted distributions. In the common orthography, the grapheme 'k' can be found in coda position, but it generally represents glottal stop [?]. For example, Malangan Javanese speakers would pronounce bapak as [ba.pa?] 'father'. 5

In Walikan, following the Malangan Javanese phonotactics, the original light velar stop /k/ in word-initial position becomes [?] in word-final position after undergoing the Total Segment Reversal process (12).

12. <i>kiwò</i>	[ki.wə]	$\rightarrow$	<i>òwik</i> [?ɔ.wɪ?]	'left'
kontol	[kɔ.n <u>t</u> ɔl]	$\rightarrow$	lontok [lɔ.nt̪ɔʔ]	'scrotum, penis'

The same alternation also affects original words with the glottal stop [?] in word-final position. After reversal, [?] becomes [k] in word-initial position (13).

13. mabuk	[ma.bʊʔ]	$\rightarrow$	kubam [ku.bam]	'drunk'
bécak	[be.ca?]	$\rightarrow$	kacéb [ka.cεp]	'pedicab'

# c. Vowel lowering

Malangan Javanese phonology requires the lowering of tense vowels such as /i/ and /u/ in a closed syllable into their lax allophones /i v/; the lowering will also affect the tense vowels in the preceding open syllable. For example, Malangan Javanese speakers would pronounce *piring* as [pi.rin] 'plate' and *gunung* as [gv.nvn] 'mountain'.

The same phonological process can be seen in Walikan (14).

14. mabuk	[ma.bʊʔ]	$\rightarrow$	kubam [ku.bam]	'drunk'
manuk	[ma.nu?]	$\rightarrow$	kunam [ku.nam]	'penis'
sabun	[sa.bon]	$\rightarrow$	nubas [nu.bas]	'soap'

Example (14) shows that the  $[\sigma]$  in the second syllable of the original word is moved into the first syllable after Total Segment Reversal. Subsequently, the transformation process also affects the syllable, causing /u/ to occur in an open syllable. Thus, the /u/ originally realized as  $[\sigma]$  is pronounced as  $[\sigma]$  after the reversal.

Similarly, when the reversal yields a high back rounded vowel /u/ in a closed syllable, it shows vowel lowering (15).

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15. ruwet [ru.wet] \rightarrow téwur [\underline{t}e.wor] 'bad, chaotic' surat [su.rat] \rightarrow tarus [\underline{t}a.ros] 'letter'
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The vowel lowering process is also apparent when the high back rounded vowel /u/appears in both syllables of bisyllabic words (16).

16. <i>pukul</i>	[pʊ.kʊl]	$\rightarrow$	<i>lukup</i> [lʊ.kʊp]	'to hit'
Sukun	[sʊ.kʊn]	$\rightarrow$	Nukus [no.kos]	'place name'

<sup>5</sup> [ba.pak] occurs in a number of other Javanese dialects such as Banyumasan Javanese, which is distinct from Malangan Javanese.

In addition to the alternation of tense vowels /i u/ and lax vowels [I  $\sigma$ ], it should also be noted that there are few cases where [ $\varepsilon$ ] is yielded after reversal from /e/ and /ə/, such as in [de.we] > [h $\varepsilon$ .we $\underline{t}$ ] 'own, self' and [k $\sigma$ .ba.len] > [n $\varepsilon$ .la.be?] 'place name' respectively.

# d. Homorganic consonants

The term 'homorganic consonants' refers to more than one consonant of the same or neighboring place of articulation occurring in a sequence. Homorganic consonants with NC (nasal + consonant) sequence are salient features in Javanese (Ogloblin 2005). Based on phonological patterns and acoustic analysis, the nasal + obstruent sequence in word-medial position is tautosyllabic, meaning that they occur in the same syllable (Adisasmito-Smith 2004). We can therefore expect that homorganic consonants with nasal + obstruent sequence will be retained in Walikan. Examples (17–20) provide instances in which homorganic consonants stay intact in the reversed forms.

17. /mb/ <i>mambu</i> <i>rambut</i>	[ma.mbu] [ra.mbo <u>t</u> ]	→ umbam → tumbar	[ʔu.mbam] [t̪u.mbar]	'to smell' 'hair'
18. /mp/ sémpak tempik	[sɛ.mpak] [t̪ə.mpɪʔ]	→ kampés → kimpet	[ka.mpɛs] [ki.mpə <u>t</u> ]	'man underwear' 'vagina'
19. /nt/ kontol suntik	[kə.ntəl] [su.ntɪʔ]	→lontok →kintus	[lə.ntəʔ] [kɪ.ntos]	'scrotum, penis' 'to inject'
20. /nd/ sandhal pendhék	[sa.ndal] [pə.ndɛʔ]	→ landhas → kéndhep	[la.ndas] [kɛ.ndəp]	'sandal' 'short'

A famous phrase in Walikan, which is often cited by the community of Walikan speakers, is *néndhés kombét*. It is derived from the phrase *séndhén témbok*. Currently, speakers use this phrase when they want to chill out or calm themselves in difficult situations. Literally, *séndhén* means 'to recline', while *témbok* means 'wall'. The reversal process of the phrase can be seen in (21).

21. séndhén témbok [se.nden te.mbo?] 
$$\rightarrow$$
 [ne.ndes ko.mbet] \*[ned.nes kob.met]

The homorganic consonants /nd/ and /mb/ typically remain intact in the reversed form, as total reversal of the segments would violate Javanese phonotactic constraints, which allows nasal + obstruent sequence, but not obstruent + nasal sequence. Our consultants confirmed that \*[nɛd\_nɛs kɔb.mɛt] is both difficult to pronounce and unpleasant to hear.

### e. Prenasalized stops

Malangan Javanese speakers prenasalize initial stops, which can be observed in several toponyms (22).

22. Dampit	[nda.mpɪ <u>t</u> ]	'place name'
Batu	[mba. <u>t</u> u]	'place name'

In our Walikan data, voiced stops in onset position are also prenasalized in toponyms, as observed in (23).

23. Kelud [ke.lot]  $\rightarrow$  Ndulek [ndu.lə?] 'place name'

The reversed forms discussed in (a-e) can all be explained through our understanding of Javanese phonology. In (f), however, we call attention to some examples where speakers of Walikan violate Malangan Javanese phonotactics.

### f. Palatal stops and bilabial approximant consonants

The palatal stops  $/c \, J/$  and bilabial approximant /w/ in Malangan Javanese do not occur in word-final position. When a word with /c/, /J/, or /w/ in word-final position is yielded after reversal, speakers will realize them differently. /c/ and /J/ in word-final position are realized as a light dental stop  $[\underline{t}]$ . On the other hand, the bilabial approximant /w/ is realized as a light bilabial stop  $[\underline{p}]$ .

However, we observed certain examples where /c/, /J/, and /w/ occur in the word-final position and are realized as such in the pronunciation of our consultants (24).

24. celana	[cə.la.na]	$\rightarrow$	analec	[ʔa.na.ləc]	'trousers'
cinò	[ci.nə]	$\rightarrow$	ònic	[?in.cs]	'Chinese'
Jakarta	[ɟa.kar.t̪a]	$\rightarrow$	Atrakaj	[ʔa.t̞ra.kaɟ]	'Jakarta'
jòwò	[tə.wə]	$\rightarrow$	òwòj	[tcw.cf]	'Javanese'
wédok	[ve.do?]	$\rightarrow$	kodéw	[kə.dɛw]	'female'

At this point, we believe that the written form of Walikan has influenced the reversal process, especially among younger speakers.

### 5. Conclusion

Throughout the paper we have explored the phonological and phonotactic processes that operate in Walikan. Walikan's reversal only takes place at the lexical level, thus its syntax is the same as Javanese. Speakers only reverse certain words, instead of all the words in the sentence.

The most productive reversal strategy in Walikan is Total Segment Reversal, which is employed by the speakers as they also apply segment resyllabification and some other modification processes which comply with Malangan Javanese phonology and phonotactics (section 4.3–4.4). They include neutralization of final consonants, alternation of velar and glottal consonants, vowel lowering, and retainment of homorganic consonants and prenasalized stops in toponyms.

However, there is a slight deviation from Javanese phonology, in which speakers chose to conform to the orthography of Walikan and Javanese. As a result, some examples show palatal stops and bilabial approximants occurring in word-final position. With regard to our limitation of speakers, our consultants only consisted of two Walikan speakers from the same age group. More observation and data from different age groups of speakers in future work can help clarify this matter.

Nevertheless, this early stage research is in line with the idea that focusing on the structure and rules of language games can give us insights and better understanding of the structures of the base language (Gil 2002, Laycock 1972). Word reversal in Walikan is typically performed according to the rules of Javanese phonology; accordingly, observation to word reversal in Walikan can enhance our understanding of Javanese phonology. A more extensive analysis on Malangan Javanese and Indonesian phonology in conjunction with reversal rules in Walikan will be discussed in Yannuar (2019).

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# Appendix. Wordlist

	Original Words	Walikan Words	Walikan Words in IPA	Gloss
1	sepédha	adhapes	adapəs	bike
2	tiga	agit	agi <u>t</u>	three
3	lima	amil	amil	five
4	celana	analec	analəc	trousers
5	siapa	apais	apais	who
6	Madhura	arudham	arudam	Madura
7	biasa	asaib	asaip	ordinary
8	asrob	asrob	asrop	alcoholic drinks
9	pésta	astép	as <u>t</u> ep	party
10	Jakarta	atrakaj	atrakaj	Jakarta
11	dua	aud	au <u>t</u>	two
12	Surabaya	Ayabarus	ajabarus	Surabaya
13	saya	ayas	ajas	1SG
14	ébés	ébés	εbεs	father
15	ébés wédok	ébés kodéw	ebes kodew	mother
16	ébés lanang	ébés nganal	εbεs ŋanal	father
17	gedhé	édheg	εdək	big
18	selawé	élawes	elawəs	twenty-five
19	gulé	élug	εluk	curry
20	umi	émes	emes	mother
21	dhéwé	éwédh	ewe <u>t</u>	own, self
22	luwé	éwul	ewul	hungry
23	omong	genomo	gənomo	to talk
24	orang	genaro	gənaro	person
25	utang	genatu	gəna <u>t</u> u	debt
26	sepédha	hadhépes	hadepəs	bicycle
27	kalah	halak	halak / hala?	to lose
28	sekolah	halokes	halokəs	school
29	mbah	ham	ham	grandparent
30	rumah	hamur	hamur	house
31	rumah sakit	hamur tikas	hamur <u>t</u> ikas	hospital
32	setengah	hangetes	haŋətəs	half
33	murah	harum	harum	cheap
34	gedhé	hédheg	hedək	big
35	mulih	hélum	hɛlum	to go home
36	putih	hitup	hi <u>t</u> up	white
37	sepuluh	holopes	holopəs	ten
38	sepuluh	hulupes	hulupəs	ten
39	babi	ibab	ibap	pig
40	rabi	ibar	ibar	marry
41	grogi	igrog	igrək	groggy

	Original Words	Walikan Words	Walikan Words in IPA	Gloss
42	gaji	ijag	iֈak	salary
	ilat	ilat	ila <u>t</u>	tongue
44	peli	ilep	iləp	penis
45	klambi	imblak	imblak / imbla?	shirt
46	kunci	intuk	intuk / intu?	key
47	kopi	ipok	ipo?	coffee
48	irung	irung	ıruŋ	nose
49	polisi	isilup	isilup	police
50	ngerti	itreng	itrəŋ	understand
51	gaji	jiga	Jiga	salary
52	becak	kacéb	kacep	pedicab
53	tidhak	kadhit	kadi <u>t</u>	no
54	rujak	kajur	kajur	type of food, rojak
55	sémpak	kampés	kampes	men underwear
	maksud	kamsud	kamsu <u>t</u>	meaning
57	énak	kané	kane	delicious, good
58	banyak	kanyab	kanap	many
59	masak	kasam	kasam	cook
60	awak	kawa	kawa	body
61	bawa	kawab	kawap	bring
62	taék	kéat	keja <u>t</u>	shit
63	élék	kélé	kele	bad
64	tempik	kempit	kəmpi <u>t</u>	vagina
65	pendhék	kéndhep	kendəp	short
66	arék	kéra	kera	kids
67	séks	kés	kes	sex
68	maték	kétam	ke <u>t</u> am	dead
69	tuwék	kéwut	kewu <u>t</u>	old
70	adhik	kidha	kida	younger sibling
71	balik	kilab	kilap	to reverse
72	suntik	kintus	kın <u>t</u> us	to inject
73	apik	kipa	kipa	good
74	pitik	kitip	kıţıp	chicken
75	titik	kitit	kiţi <u>t</u>	a little
	walik	kiwal	kiwal	to reverse
77	wédok	kodéw	kəde	woman
78	mélok	kolém	kəlem	join
79	sémok	komés	kəmes	callipygian
80	cipok	kopit	kəpi <u>t</u>	to kiss
81	bosok	kosob	kəsəb	rotten
82	mabuk	kubam	kubam	drunk

	Original Words	Walikan Words	Walikan Words in IPA	Gloss
83	manuk	kunam	kunam	penis
84	masuk	kusam	kusam	to enter
85	mbakyu	kuyam-uyab	kujam ?ujap	older sister
86	bal-balan	lab-laban	lap lapan	to play football
87	budhal	ladhub	ladup	to leave
88	pancal	lancap	lancap	to pedal
89	sandhal	landhas	landas	sandal
90	djoewal	lawét	lawe <u>t</u>	sell
	pecel	lecep	Іәсәр	salad with peanut sauce
92	gelem	legem	ləgəm	to like
93	sambel	lémbas	lembas	sambal
94	kesel	lesek	ləsək / ləsə?	tired
95	kethel	lethek	lətə?	thick
96	mobil	libom	libəm	car
97	kecil	licek	licək / licə?	small
98	sikil	likis	lıkıs	foot
99	kontol	lontok	lon <u>t</u> o?	scrotum, penis
100	pukul	lukup	lukup	fight, hit
101	ayam	maya	maja	chicken
102	édan	nadé	nade	crazy
103	Poléhan	Nahélop	nahelop	Polehan
104	kasihan	naisak	naisa?	pity
105	jajan	najaj	naja <u>t</u>	snack
106	makan	nakam	nakam	eat
107	sungkan	nakus	nakos	reluctant
				salad, fresh
	lalapan	napalala	napalala	vegetables
	kawan	nawak	nawa?	friend
	lumayan	nayamul	najamul	pretty good
	Kebalén	Nelabék	nəlabɛk	Kebalen
112	Kelud	Ndulek	ndulə?	Kelud
113	gedhang	ngadheg	ŋadək	banana
	Malang	Ngalam	ŋalam	Malang
115	lanang	ngalan	ŋalan	man
	1 0	ngalup	ŋalup	to go home
		Ngambab	ŋambap	Bambang
		nganal	ŋanal	man
	sembahyang	ngayambes	ŋajambəs	to pray
120	seneng	ngenes	ŋənəs	happy
	ireng	ngeri	ŋəri	black
122	goréng	ngérog	ŋɛrək	fry
123	meteng	ngetem	ŋətəm	pregnant

	Original Words	Walikan Words	Walikan Words in IPA	Gloss
124	maling	ngilam	ŋilam	thief
	Blimbing	Ngimblib	ŋɪmblɪp	Blimbing
	bingung	ngingub	ŋiŋup	confused
127		ngokob	ŋəkəp	buttocks
128	kawin	niwak	niwa?	get married
129	sabun	nubas	nubas	soap
130	takon	nokat	noka <u>t</u>	to ask
131	sekun	nokes	nokəs	cable shoe
132	balon	nolab	nəlap	prostitute
				european/caucasia
	lòndò	nòlò	nələ	n
134	rawon	nowar	nowar	rawon, black soup
-	abis	nubis	nubis	all gone, used up
	Sukun	Nukus	nokos	Sukun
137	sidò	òdis	ogis	agree
138	mudò	òdum	odum	naked
139	segò	òges	ogəs	rice
140	raijo	ojir	əjir	money
141	bojo	ojob	oìob	partner, spouse
142	rokok	okér	okər	to smoke
143	tekò	òket	okə <u>t</u>	to come
144	òmbò	òmbò	əmbə	wide
145	germò	òmreg	əmrək	pimp
146	kòncò	òncòk	onco?	friend
147	ròndhò	òndhòr	əndər	widow
148	cinò	ònic	oni <u>t</u>	chinese
149	pirò	òpir	əpir	how much
150	pirò	òrip	ərip	how much
151	Dipònegòrò	Òrògenòpid	orogənopi <u>t</u>	Diponegoro
152	mòròtuò	òròmaut	oromau <u>t</u>	parents in law
153	Suròbòyò	Òròsòyòb	ərəsəjəp	Surabaya
154	Medhurò	Òrudhem	ərudəm	Madura
155	désò	òséd	əse <u>t</u>	village
156	isò	òsi	osi	can
157	bakso	oskab	əskap	meatball
158	bòsò	òsòb	dese	language
159	soto	otos	otos	soto, chicken soup
160	kiwò	òwik	Siwc	left (direction)
161	dòwò	òwòd	owo <u>t</u>	long
162	jòwo	òwòj	owoj	Java, Javanese
163	iyò	òyi	oji	yes
164	papat	papat	papa <u>t</u>	four

	Original Words	Walikan Words	Walikan Words in IPA	Gloss
165	polisi	pil	pil	police
				boyfriend/
166	pacar	racap	racap	girlfriend
167	Sawojajar	Rajajowas	Rajajowas	Sawojajar
168	anyar	ranya	rana	new
169	pasar	rasap	rasap	market
170	keluar	raulek	raulək	out
171	bayar	rayab	rajap	pay
172	bérés	rébés	rebes	settled
173	geger	regeg	rəgək	back
174	bundher	rendhub	rəndup	round
175	telor	rolét	rəle <u>t</u>	egg
176	congor	rongot	rəŋət	mouth
177	motor	rotom	rotom	motor
178	tidhur	rudhit	rudit	sleep
179	mundhur	rundhum	rondom	moving backwards
180	mas	sam	sam	older brother
181	panas	sanap	sanap	hot
182	beras	sareb	sarəp	rice
183	lawas	sawal	sawal	old (thing)
184	bedhés	sédheb	sedəp	monkey
185	pedhes	sedhep	sədəp	hot, chilly
186	menjés	sénjem	senjəm	menjes
187	habis	siba	siba	all gone, used up
188	gadhis	sidhag	sidak	girl
189	polisi	silup	silup	police
190	manis	sinam	sinam	sweet
191	kaos	soak	soa?	t-shirt
192	adus	suda	suda	bathe
193	ratus	sutar	sutar	hundred
194	séhat	tahés	tahes	healthy, sexy
195	lihat	tail	<u>t</u> ail	see
196	sikat	takis	<u>t</u> akis	go for it
197	sikat	takis	<u>t</u> akis	brush
198	selamat	tamales	<u>t</u> amaləs	congratulations
199	tangan	tangan	<u>t</u> aŋan	hand
200	surat	tarus	tarus	letter
	séket	tékes	tekəs	fifty
202	silit	tilis	<u>t</u> ılıs	arse
	méncrét	téncrém	<u>t</u> encrem	diarrhoea
	Mendhit	Téndhem	Tendəm	Mendit
	ruwet	téwur	tewur	broken, bad, chaotic

	Original Words	Walikan Words	Walikan Words in IPA	Gloss
206	medhit	tidhem	tidəm	stingy
207	sakit	tikas	tikas	ill
208	répot	topér	toper	busy body
209	maut	tuam	tuam	super, deadly
210	takut	tukat	tukat	afraid
211	rambut	tumbar	tumbar	hair
212	babu	ubab	ubap	female servant
213	ribu	ubir	ubir	thousand
214	mlebu	ublem	ubləm	to enter
215	tahu	uhat	uha <u>t</u>	tofu
216	таји	ијат	ијат	moving forward
217	реји	ијер	ијэр	sperm
218	tujuh	ujut	uju <u>t</u>	seven
219	aku	uka	uka	1SG
220	mlaku	uklam	uklam	walk
221	tuku	ukut	uku <u>t</u>	to buy
222	gulu	ulug	uluk	neck
223	kamu	umak	umak / uma?	2SG, 2PL
224	tamu	umat	uma <u>t</u>	guest
225	mambu	umbam	umbam	stinky
226	lemu	umel	uməl	fat
227	untu	untu	un <u>t</u> u	teeth
228	banyu	unyab	илар	water
229	punya	unyap	илар	have
230	рири	ирир	upup	upper leg
231	susu	usus	USUS	breast, milk
232	sepatu	utapes	u <u>t</u> apəs	shoes
233	satu	utas	utas	one
234	metu	utem	u <u>t</u> əm	to go out
235	setuju	utujes	utujəs	agree
236	рауи	иуар	ujap	in demand, sold
237	wanyik	wanyik	wanı?/wani?	woman, girl
238	wolu	wolu	wolu	eight
239	piyé	yipé	jipe	how