

# ANALYZING HOMOGRAPHS IN ACEHNESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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## Abstract

The aims of this study were to figure out the number of homographs in Acehese and English languages and the examples of homographs. Qualitative approach was used to conduct the study. Both Acehese dictionary and Oxford dictionary were used to collect the data. The results of the study indicated that there were 157 words found between Acehese and English languages. In addition, those words were written in the same spelling but those are different from the meanings and pronunciation. It was clear that interlingual homograph can be found between Acehese and English words.

**Keywords:** *Language, Acehese, English, Homograph*

## INTRODUCTION

Language cannot be separated from our lives because it is a device to communicate with others. In other words, a person can communicate with others if she or he uses the same language. Most people know at least one language such as his or her mother tongue or national language. Nowadays, many people try to master not only his or her mother tongue or national language but also other languages, for instance English as a foreign language in Indonesia.

Indonesia as a country which consists of 34 provinces in which each province has its own language like Javanese in Java, Batakese in North Sumatra, Acehese in Aceh, Minangkabaunese in West Sumatra, Rejangnese in South Sumatra, and others. Furthermore, diversity of languages also exists in every province in Indonesia. For example, Aceh which consists of several regencies has different languages used to communicate. Umar (2008) noted that "There are seven types of languages in Aceh, namely: Acehese, Gayonese,

Kluetnese, Tamiangnese, Alasnese, Simeulueneese, and Jameenese" Among all types of languages, Acehese most used in Aceh to communicate. It is a unique language because there are some words that are written as same as English.

Curtiss et al (2000) explained that "Semantic is the study of linguistic aspect of the meaning of expressions." Knowledge of semantic is study the meaning of words relation. The meaning of relation usually talks about synonyms, antonyms, hyponymy, homonymy, homophone, polysemy, and homograph and this study focused on homograph.

Homograph is written identically, but sounds differently (Pateda, 2001). Also, Chaer (2012) defined that "Homograph is words same the spelling, but different its pronunciation and meaning." As stated by Sudaryat (2004) in his article with the title *struktur makna*, homograph is homonymy that same written form, but different its meaning and pronunciation. In brief, homographs are two words that have same writing, but they have different meaning and pronunciation.

## Homographs

Puschmann (2009) revealed that “Homograph is when two terms are spelled similarly but the sound patterns differ”. In addition, Delahunty and Garvey (2010) added that “Homograph is a single spelling has two or more quite unrelated meanings”. Likewise, Algeo (2010) proposed that “Words that are written alike are called homographs”. Then, Rinawati (2014) termed that “Homograph is the form of the similarity is located on orthography identically.”

Based on the definition, the researcher concluded that homographs are two words that same written, but they have different meaning and pronunciation. The examples of homograph could be found in English are “can” /kən/ that mean “able” and “can” /kæn/ that mean “tin”. While the examples of homograph in Acehnese, “cot” /cot/ that means “straight” and “cot” /côt/ that means “pluck”. One example of homographs found in Acehnese and English is the word “let” in Acehnese means “chase” while in English means “allow”.

## Interlingual Homographs

Jouravlev and Jared (2013) defined that “Interlingual homographs have the same orthographic word form in two languages but have different meanings (e.g., *let* refers to “allow” in English, but “chase” in Acehnese), and often have different pronunciations.” While, Dijkstra et al (2000), “Interlingual homographs were defined as words having the same orthography but different meanings across different languages. An example is the word “ate” which means “heart” in Acehnese.”

Then, Nakayama and Archibald (2005) mentioned that “Interlingual homographs are words from different languages that are spelled identically but are different in their pronunciation or meaning. For example, ‘awe’ is an interlingual homograph between English and Acehnese (pronounced awé, meaning rattan).” Indeed, interlingual homograph is the word from two languages that are written same but different its meaning and pronunciation.

**Tabel 1 Interlingual Homographs**

Interlingual homograph	Pronunciation		Meaning	
	English	Acehnese	English	Acehnese
Awe	ɑ:	Awé	Amazement	Rattan
Ate	Et	Ate	Eat	Heart
Base	Beɪs	Base	Foundation	Spoiled
Cot	Kɒt	Cot	Small bed	Straight
Go	Gəʊ	Go	Leave	Handle
Top	Tɒp	Top	Summit	Close
Data	ˈDeɪtə	Data	Fact	Flat
Gala	ˈGɑ:lə	Gala	Party	Pawn
Had	Həd	Had	Have	Border
Jab	Dʒæb	Jab	Stab	Close
Judo	ˈDʒu:dʌʊ	Judô	Judo	Pair
Lino	ˈLaməʊ	Lino	Linoleum	Turn
Mate	Meɪt	Maté	Pair	Dead
Pet	Pet	Pét	Animal	Close eyes
Ripe	Raɪp	Ripe	Cooked	Gift

## **METHODOLOGY**

### ***Research Object***

The objects of this research were all of words written in “Acehnese-Indonesian” dictionary and English written in Oxford dictionary.

### ***Research Design***

To collect the data, first, the researchers opened both Acehnese-Indonesian dictionary and Oxford dictionary. Next, the researchers looked for one by one word at Acehnese-Indonesian dictionary alphabetically and inspected the word in Oxford dictionary. Then, the researchers found Acehnese words written same as English words. Finally, the researchers coded the data. In brief, it spent nine days in 34 hours to analyze the data.

## **RESEARCH FINDING**

### ***The Total Number of Homographs in Acehnese and English Languages***

157 written same words between Acehnese and English found in both dictionaries. First, there were 44 words started from letter A (8 data), letter B (13 data), letter C (12 data), letter D (11 data). Second, 27 words started from letter G (13 data), letter H (9 data), letter I (2 data), and letter J (3 data). Third, nine words started from letter K (1 datum) and letter L (8 data). Fourth, 33 words started from letter M (12 data), letter N (3 data), letter O (3 data), and letter P (15 data). Fifth, 28 words letter R (12 data) and letter S (16 data). Finally, 16 words started from letter T (10 data), letter U (1 datum), letter W (3 data), and letter Y (2 data). Surprisingly, the researchers did not find the words started from letter E, F, Q, V, and Z.

### ***The Homographs found in Acehnese and English Languages***

These were the words found in Acehnese-Indonesia and Oxford dictionaries: ale, am, an, are, at, ate, awe, aye, bade, bale, ban, bang, base, be, bee, bet, bike, bit, bland, bob, bra, cake, cane, cap, carat, cat, cob, con, cot, crab, cub, cue, cut, dab, dam, dame, dare, data, diet, doe, don, dub, due, duet, gap, gala, get, glib, glue, glum, go, gong, got, gram, grub, gum, guru, had, hale, he, hi, hindu, hit, hob, hue, hut, ie, in, jab, jihad, judo, king, lain, lame, lan, let, like, lob, long, lot, ma, mad, male, mama, man, mane, mat, mate, me, men, met, mom, nab, nit, not, oh, ok, on, pace, page, pat, pate, pet, pie, pike, pilot, pipe, po, pot, pram, prise, pun, puree, rabbi, ram, ran, rang, rat, re, rot, rim, ripe, rob, roe, rom, sae, saga, sale, salon, same, sang, sat, set, sire, sit, site, so, son, sue, suet, sure, tan, tang, tape, that, tire, toe, top, tot, tub, tuba, use, wap, wet, woe, yob, yum. For detail information, please see appendix.

### ***Discussion***

From the dictionaries, the researchers examined that interlingual homographs found between Acehnese and English languages but the words which begin with letter E was not found similar between Acehnese and English. It might happen because most Acehnese words used prefix “Eu-.”

The findings of the study were consistent with several previous studies. First, the result of Jouravlev and Jared (2013) indicated that the presence of a language specific writing system and sentence context do not constrain activation to target language representations. English letters that are the same as Russian letters appear to activate Russian words that contain those letters even in the presence of

strong local and global language cues. Therefore, their findings provided particularly compelling evidence that activation in bilingual word recognition was not selective for language. For example, “pot” was an interlingual homograph between Russian and English which means “mouth” and another word was “tot” that means “that” in Russian.

In addition, Nakayama and Archibald (2005) investigated the bilingual lexical processes in reading, especially with regards to the selective versus nonselective account of bilingual lexical activation. With the Dutch-English bilinguals, Experiment 1 observed that the bilingual’s fixation patterns on interlingual words were significantly different from those on monolingual English words, even when the participants were reading English text. With the English monolinguals, the null effects in Experiment 2 confirmed that the results from Experiment 1 were indeed caused by the bilingual’s knowledge of Dutch language. For examples, angel was an interlingual homograph between Dutch and English, refers to “hook” and another word was “rug” refers to “back” in Dutch. Finally, it can be assumed that interlingual homograph found from different languages such as Acehnese-English, Russian-English, and Dutch-English.

## CONCLUSION

There were 157 homographs found in Acehnese-Indonesian and English dictionaries. The words were beginning of letter A (8 data), letter B (13 data), letter C (12 data), letter D (11 data), letter G (13 data), letter H (9 data), letter I (2 data), letter J (3 data), letter K (1 datum), letter L (8 data), letter M (12 data), letter N (3 data), letter O (3 data), letter P (15 data), letter R (12 data), letter S (16 data), letter T

(10 data), letter U (1 datum), letter W (3 data), and letter Y (2 data).

## SUGGESTION

Concerning with the result of the analysis of the research, the researchers has two suggestions: First, the Acehnese are suggested to use Acehnese as mother tongue to their children, so that the language will not disappear in the future. Second, by having the limited sources, it will be better for the next researchers to use different kinds of sources to gain the data more completely.

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