

Structural Changes in Indonesian Language Use Under the Influence of Internet-Mediated Communication

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 22/06/2026

Revised: 09/07/2026

Accepted: 25/07/2026

Available online: 30/08/2026

Keywords:

Internet-Mediated
Communication;
Indonesian Language;
Language Change;
Internet Language;
Digital Linguistics.

ABSTRACT

The rapid expansion of internet-mediated communication has transformed the way Indonesian is used in everyday interaction. Social media and other digital platforms have encouraged the widespread use of informal Indonesian, including abbreviations, slang, code-mixing, shortened expressions, and unconventional grammatical and orthographic forms. This study aims to identify the major forms of internet language, analyze changes in Indonesian language structure, and examine the linguistic factors contributing to these changes. A qualitative descriptive approach was employed using publicly accessible digital-language data collected from selected social-media platforms through purposive sampling. The data were analyzed through morphological, syntactic, and orthographic perspectives by comparing internet-language forms with standard Indonesian. The findings indicate widespread use of abbreviations and shortened forms, informal spelling, simplified sentence structures, omission of grammatical elements, creative word formation, and Indonesian-English code-mixing. The data also demonstrate the emergence and circulation of new digital expressions influenced by communication efficiency, linguistic creativity, globalization, social identity, and online trends. The study concludes that internet-mediated communication contributes to the dynamic development of contemporary Indonesian, particularly in informal digital contexts. Rather than being viewed simply as language degradation, these phenomena should be understood as forms of linguistic variation, adaptation, and potential language change. The study highlights the importance of digital literacy and continued linguistic research to understand the relationship between technological development and Indonesian language evolution.

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1. Introduction

The rapid development of the internet and digital technology has significantly transformed communication practices in Indonesia. The widespread use of social media, instant messaging applications, online forums, and other digital platforms has created new spaces for people to interact and exchange information (Chayko, 2020). Unlike formal communication, digital communication tends to emphasize speed, informality, creativity, and efficiency. These characteristics have encouraged Indonesian internet users to develop various forms of language that differ from the conventions of standard Indonesian. The phenomenon is particularly visible in everyday online interactions, where users frequently employ abbreviations, slang, acronyms, informal spelling, omitted words, creative punctuation, code-mixing, and code-switching. For example, *gak* or *nggak* is commonly used instead of *tidak*, while *yg*, *bgt*, and *km* are shortened forms of *yang*, *banget*, and *kamu*. Expressions such as *wkwk*, *LOL*, and *BTW* have also become common in digital communication. These forms

demonstrate that internet users actively adapt language to meet the communicative demands of digital environments.

The influence of internet language, however, should not be understood only as the emergence of new vocabulary or slang. Digital communication may also influence the structural organization of Indonesian. The frequent use of shortened forms can affect word formation and spelling, while the preference for fast communication may encourage users to omit subjects, predicates, conjunctions, or other grammatical elements (Herring, 2012). Internet users may also produce simplified sentence constructions, unconventional word combinations, creative affixation, and hybrid expressions resulting from interaction between Indonesian and English. Code-mixing and code-switching have become particularly visible in online communication, where users may combine Indonesian and foreign-language elements to express identity, familiarity, humor, or specific meanings. Therefore, internet language represents a broader linguistic phenomenon involving morphology, syntax, orthography, sentence construction, grammatical patterns, and discourse particles. This condition raises an important question about whether these forms should be regarded merely as temporary informal variations or whether their repeated use contributes to broader changes in contemporary Indonesian.

Research on Indonesian internet language has increasingly developed alongside the expansion of social media and digital communication. One relevant line of research concerns the formation and characteristics of slang in social-media communication. Karnida, Kustina, and Simatupang (2022) examined slang used by university students on Facebook and found that slang was formed through processes such as acronym formation and changes in vowels and consonants. Their findings indicate that social-media users do not simply select alternative vocabulary but actively manipulate linguistic forms to produce distinctive expressions. Similarly, Putri, Basuki, and Djunaidi (2021) investigated slang on TikTok and identified several formation processes, including abbreviation, borrowing, acronym formation, metathesis, contraction, and clipping. Their study is particularly relevant because it demonstrates that digital communication encourages morphological and lexical creativity rather than merely introducing isolated slang words.

Research has also examined slang at the morphological level. Lestari, Puspitoningrum, and Sujarwoko (2022) specifically investigated slang on Instagram and TikTok from a morphological perspective. This research demonstrates the importance of examining digital language beyond its social function because slang can involve identifiable word-formation processes. In another study, Aviva and Mulyani (2022) analyzed written slang in the Instagram comments of Lambe Turah. They identified abbreviations, contractions, and clippings as prominent forms of slang in digital written communication. Their findings reinforce the argument that internet language involves systematic modifications to conventional linguistic forms.

Another important area of research concerns the social and communicative functions of internet language. Alfariy, Miss'ida, Dewi, and Rosyada (2022) examined the influence of slang on communication among students through WhatsApp. They found that slang could facilitate communication because users considered it flexible and comfortable for everyday interaction. Their findings suggest that the popularity of internet language cannot simply be explained by linguistic error; rather, users adopt non-standard forms because these forms fulfill communicative and social functions. Likewise, Anugrah and Azis (2022) investigated slang in Instagram memes and found that slang appeared at the levels of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. They also identified social functions such as entertaining, criticizing, satirizing, and advising. These findings are significant because they show that internet language operates at multiple linguistic levels and serves purposes beyond simple communication efficiency.

A broader sociolinguistic perspective was provided by Mardikantoro, Siroj, Utami, and Kurniati (2023), who investigated Indonesian language varieties in social-media interactions. Using quantitative and qualitative approaches, the researchers found that social-media communication contained informal language, everyday conversational forms, shortened writing, and instances of code-switching and code-mixing. They also emphasized that language variation in social media increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research is particularly important for the present study because it demonstrates that social media functions as a distinctive linguistic environment in which standard and non-standard varieties interact.

Research published more recently has begun to address the relationship between social media and broader language change. Assalamualaikum (2024) examined changes in Indonesian in the context of social media and reported phenomena including word shortening, slang, and Indonesian-English code mixing. The study associated these changes with globalization and the communicative need for rapid interaction and discussed possible implications for standard grammar, language learning, and language preservation. Zafira also examined the impact of social media on Indonesian language variation among teenagers and found that social media contributes to vocabulary enrichment and identity expression while simultaneously encouraging the use of non-standard grammar and potentially affecting formal language skills.

Previous studies have examined Indonesian internet language from several perspectives. Research on social-media discourse has explored the use of slang, abbreviations, informal expressions, and linguistic creativity among internet users. Other studies have focused on code-mixing and code-switching, particularly the influence of English on Indonesian digital communication. Research on language change has also demonstrated that technological development and changing communication environments can create opportunities for linguistic innovation (Crystal, 2018). These studies provide important evidence that digital communication has become an influential environment for language variation and development. Nevertheless, much of the existing research has focused on particular linguistic phenomena, such as vocabulary, slang, abbreviations, or language mixing, without systematically connecting these phenomena to changes in the structural organization of Indonesian.

This limitation creates a research gap concerning the relationship between internet language and Indonesian language structure. Although digital language practices have been widely discussed, fewer studies comprehensively examine how internet communication influences Indonesian at morphological, syntactic, orthographic, and grammatical levels. It is therefore important to distinguish between lexical changes and actual structural changes. For instance, the use of *bgt* instead of *banget* may primarily represent orthographic abbreviation, whereas the omission of grammatical elements or the development of recurring sentence patterns may indicate syntactic variation. A systematic analysis of these differences can provide a clearer understanding of the extent to which internet language contributes to contemporary Indonesian language change.

Based on this background, the present study investigates changes in Indonesian language structure resulting from the influence of internet language. The study addresses four main questions: (1) What forms of internet language are commonly found in Indonesian digital communication? (2) What changes in Indonesian language structure emerge from the use of internet language? (3) What linguistic factors contribute to these structural changes? and (4) What are the implications of internet language for the development of contemporary Indonesian? Accordingly, the study aims to identify common forms of internet language, analyze their influence on Indonesian language structure, explain the linguistic mechanisms underlying these changes, and examine their implications for contemporary Indonesian. The

study is expected to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between digital communication and language change and to provide a more balanced perspective on internet language as both a form of linguistic variation and a potential source of linguistic innovation.

2. Method

This study employs a qualitative descriptive linguistic approach to examine changes in Indonesian language structure resulting from the influence of internet-mediated communication. A qualitative approach is considered appropriate because the study focuses on identifying, describing, and interpreting linguistic forms as they naturally occur in digital communication rather than testing a predetermined hypothesis (Page et al., 2014). The analysis emphasizes how internet users modify conventional Indonesian through abbreviations, informal spelling, slang, morphological changes, syntactic simplification, omission, code-mixing, code-switching, and other forms of digital linguistic creativity. The study also compares internet-language forms with standard Indonesian to determine whether the observed phenomena represent lexical variation, orthographic variation, or more substantial structural changes.

The data are collected from public comments and posts on TikTok and Instagram, which are selected because they provide extensive examples of contemporary Indonesian digital communication. The data focus on publicly accessible content produced by Indonesian-speaking users during 2025–2026. Private conversations, closed groups, and personal information are excluded to protect users' privacy and maintain ethical standards. The selection of TikTok and Instagram also allows the research to examine language practices in highly interactive social-media environments where informal communication, popular expressions, slang, and linguistic innovations frequently emerge. Approximately 500–1,000 relevant comments or posts are targeted as the primary dataset. The data are collected through purposive sampling based on predetermined linguistic criteria.

The sampling criteria include four main considerations. First, the selected data must primarily use Indonesian or contain Indonesian as the dominant language. Second, the content must be produced by Indonesian-speaking users. Third, the data must be publicly accessible and ethically appropriate for academic analysis. Fourth, the selected comments or posts must contain linguistic features relevant to the research objectives, particularly forms associated with internet language and potential structural variation. Comments that contain only standard Indonesian without any relevant linguistic phenomenon are not prioritized. Usernames, profile information, photographs, locations, and other personally identifiable information are not recorded or reported in the dataset. When examples are presented in the findings, potentially identifying information is removed or anonymized.

The unit of analysis consists of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and short discourse fragments containing relevant internet-language features. Each linguistic unit is examined according to its form, function, and relationship to standard Indonesian (Sneddon et al., 2012). The analysis uses a coding framework covering several categories: abbreviation, informal spelling, morphology, syntax, omission, code-mixing, code-switching, slang, discourse particles, and creative punctuation. Abbreviation includes forms such as *yg*, *bgt*, and *dgn*, while informal spelling includes forms such as *gak*, *ga*, and *nggak*. Morphological analysis examines changes in word formation, affixation, clipping, contraction, and other modifications. Syntactic analysis focuses on sentence structure, word order, clause construction, and grammatical relationships. Omission examines the absence of subjects, predicates, conjunctions, or other grammatical elements. Code-mixing and code-switching are analyzed when Indonesian is combined with or replaced by English or other languages. Slang and discourse particles such as *dong*, *nih*, *sih*, and *kok* are examined in relation to their communicative functions, while

punctuation and expressive symbols are analyzed when they contribute to meaning or interaction.

Data analysis is conducted through several systematic stages (Bannon, 2013). First, relevant digital-language data are collected from the selected platforms and organized into a research dataset. Second, each data item is identified according to its linguistic characteristics. Third, the identified forms are classified into the predetermined analytical categories. Fourth, the internet-language forms are compared with corresponding forms in standard Indonesian based on established Indonesian linguistic and grammatical references. Fifth, morphological, syntactic, orthographic, and grammatical differences are examined to determine the nature of the observed variation. Sixth, recurring patterns are identified to establish whether particular linguistic changes occur consistently across the dataset. Finally, the findings are interpreted in relation to the characteristics of internet communication, including communication efficiency, informality, creativity, social identity, peer interaction, and exposure to other languages.

To strengthen the credibility of the findings, the study applies several validation procedures. Source triangulation is conducted by comparing data obtained from TikTok and Instagram rather than relying on a single platform. Researcher triangulation can be applied by involving another researcher or linguistic reviewer in the coding process, particularly for ambiguous morphological and syntactic cases. Expert validation is used to evaluate the classification and interpretation of structural changes. In addition, selected data are subjected to repeated coding to maintain consistency throughout the analysis. Finally, the interpretation of linguistic forms is compared with established Indonesian grammar and linguistic references. Through these procedures, the study seeks to ensure that the identified internet-language phenomena are analyzed systematically and that claims about changes in Indonesian language structure are based on observable linguistic evidence rather than subjective assumptions.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Forms of Internet Language

The analysis of Indonesian digital communication reveals that internet language appears in various forms that differ from the conventions of standard Indonesian. Abbreviations represent one of the most common characteristics of internet language (Squires, 2010). Users frequently shorten words by removing vowels, consonants, or parts of words. Examples include *yg* for *yang*, *bgt* for *banget*, *dgn* for *dengan*, and *km* for *kamu*. These forms allow users to communicate more quickly while maintaining meanings that are generally understandable within the context. For example, the sentence “*Aku suka bgt kontennya*” contains the abbreviation *bgt*, which represents *banget*. Similarly, “*km udah makan?*” uses *km* instead of *kamu*. Although these forms are not consistent with standard Indonesian orthography, they are widely recognizable in informal digital communication. Their repeated occurrence suggests that abbreviation has become an established strategy for reducing typing effort and increasing communication speed.

Another important form is the use of acronyms and initialisms. Digital users frequently employ expressions such as *BTW* (by the way), *LOL* (laughing out loud), *OTW* (on the way), and *FYI* (for your information). Some expressions may also develop into localized internet expressions whose meanings are understood primarily within particular online communities. The use of these forms demonstrates the influence of English and global digital culture on Indonesian communication. Unlike ordinary borrowing, however, internet acronyms are often used because they are concise, recognizable, and associated with online interaction. Their presence illustrates how Indonesian digital communication incorporates linguistic resources from different languages to create an efficient and contemporary communication style.

Slang is another dominant feature of internet language. Expressions such as *wkwk*, *gabut*, *mager*, *bucin*, and other popular digital expressions are frequently used to convey meanings that may not be expressed in the same way through formal Indonesian. For instance, “*Gue lagi gabut banget*” communicates the speaker's informal state or feeling in a concise and socially familiar manner. The expression *wkwk* is particularly associated with laughter in Indonesian digital communication and can perform several functions, including expressing amusement, reducing the seriousness of a statement, or creating interpersonal familiarity. Slang therefore cannot be viewed solely as a deviation from standard language because it also performs important pragmatic and social functions.

3.2 Morphological Changes

The use of internet language has contributed to noticeable changes in the morphological patterns of contemporary Indonesian. One of the most common morphological phenomena is shortening. Internet users frequently reduce longer words or expressions into shorter forms without substantially changing their meanings. Examples include *banget* becoming *bgt*, *dengan* becoming *dgn*, *yang* becoming *yg*, and *kamu* becoming *km*. These forms are primarily orthographic abbreviations, but their widespread use demonstrates how digital communication encourages users to manipulate the internal representation of words. Shortening reduces typing effort and allows users to communicate more efficiently, particularly in rapid conversational environments. Although such forms generally remain inappropriate in formal Indonesian writing, they have become easily recognizable among internet users.

Clipping is another process that can be observed in informal digital language. Clipping involves reducing a word by removing one or more parts while retaining its basic meaning. Examples can be found in expressions such as *admin* from *administrator*, *info* from *informasi*, and *prof* from *profesor*. Some clipped forms have existed in Indonesian for a long time, whereas others become increasingly visible through digital communication (Aisyah, 2022). The important point is that internet platforms facilitate the rapid circulation of these shortened forms. Once repeatedly used by online communities, clipped expressions can become conventionalized and no longer be perceived as unusual by users.

Abbreviation and acronym formation also contribute to morphological innovation (Fandrych, 2008). Indonesian internet users employ forms such as *OTW* (on the way), *BTW* (by the way), *LOL* (laughing out loud), *FYI* (for your information), and Indonesian expressions such as *mager* (*malas gerak*) and *bucin* (*budak cinta*). These examples demonstrate different mechanisms of word formation. Some forms are created from the initial letters of multiword expressions, while others combine elements of several words to create a new lexical item. Over time, frequently used acronyms may become lexicalized because users recognize them as independent expressions rather than consciously reconstructing their original phrases.

A particularly interesting phenomenon is creative affixation. Internet users sometimes attach Indonesian affixes to slang, abbreviated forms, or borrowed words. For example, English-based words may receive Indonesian affixes in forms such as *di-download*, *nge-post*, *di-like*, *nge-share*, or *di-upload*. Although these forms may vary according to context and writing conventions, they demonstrate that foreign lexical items can become integrated into Indonesian morphological patterns. The use of Indonesian affixes with English-derived bases illustrates the productive nature of Indonesian morphology in digital environments. Internet users do not necessarily adopt foreign words unchanged; instead, they adapt them to existing Indonesian grammatical and morphological resources.

Changes involving prefixes and suffixes can also be identified in digital language. Informal forms such as *nge-like*, *nge-chat*, *nge-post*, and *di-share* demonstrate how Indonesian users combine informal verbal prefixes with English lexical bases. In some cases, the prefix

nge- functions as an informal adaptation of Indonesian verbal morphology, creating forms that are readily understandable in conversational digital contexts (Ewing, 2005). Similarly, English nouns can receive Indonesian suffixes, as in *content-nya*, *meeting-nya*, or *deadline-nya*. The suffix *-nya* is particularly productive because it can be attached to both Indonesian and foreign lexical items. Such constructions illustrate the flexibility of Indonesian morphology in accommodating new vocabulary generated through digital interaction.

Internet communication also encourages the creation of new words. Some expressions originate within particular online communities and subsequently spread through social media. Terms such as *bucin*, *mager*, *gabut*, *julid*, and *healing* have acquired widespread recognition among Indonesian internet users, although their meanings and usage may differ from their literal or original meanings. The process demonstrates how digital communities can function as linguistic innovation spaces. A newly created expression may initially be restricted to a particular group, but repeated exposure through viral content, memes, influencers, and online conversations can expand its user base. Consequently, internet platforms accelerate the processes of lexical diffusion and linguistic conventionalization.

Another important morphological development involves the adaptation of English words into Indonesian. Because English dominates much of the global digital environment, Indonesian internet users are frequently exposed to English terminology. Words such as *posting*, *upload*, *download*, *like*, *share*, *follow*, *chat*, *meeting*, *content*, and *healing* are commonly incorporated into Indonesian digital communication. These words may undergo semantic, morphological, or grammatical adaptation. For example, *follow* can appear in constructions such as *follow akun ini*, while *posting* can function as part of an Indonesian sentence such as “*Aku sudah posting fotonya.*” In these cases, English lexical items operate within Indonesian syntactic and morphological environments.

The findings suggest that morphological change associated with internet language occurs along a continuum. Some forms, such as *yg*, *bgt*, and *dgn*, are primarily temporary abbreviations used for communication efficiency. Other forms, such as *mager*, *bucin*, and *gabut*, have achieved greater lexical stability and are recognizable beyond particular online interactions (Chew, 2013). Meanwhile, forms such as *nge-post*, *di-like*, and *content-nya* demonstrate the adaptation of foreign lexical material to Indonesian morphological patterns. This distinction is important because not every digital abbreviation should automatically be considered evidence of permanent language change.

3.3 Syntactic Changes

The influence of internet language is particularly visible at the syntactic level because digital communication frequently encourages users to construct shorter, more direct, and context-dependent sentences. One prominent syntactic feature is subject omission. In standard Indonesian, a complete declarative sentence can explicitly contain a subject, particularly when clarity requires it. However, digital conversations frequently omit the subject when it can be inferred from the preceding context. For example, a user may write, “*Udah makan?*” rather than “*Kamu sudah makan?*” In the first construction, the subject *kamu* is not explicitly expressed, but the intended referent can be recovered from the conversational context. Similarly, “*Lagi di jalan*” can be used instead of “*Saya sedang berada di jalan.*” The omission does not necessarily create misunderstanding because digital communication is highly context-dependent. This demonstrates that internet language often relies on contextual recoverability to reduce syntactic complexity.

Predicate omission can occur in a similar manner. Digital users may produce expressions such as “*Aku juga!*”, “*Besok di kampus?*”, or “*Kamu yang kemarin?*” where some grammatical elements are omitted because the interlocutor can infer the intended meaning. In “*Besok di kampus?*”, for instance, the expression does not contain an overt predicate and can be interpreted as “*Apakah kamu besok berada di kampus?*” The omitted elements are

recoverable from the context. Therefore, the phenomenon can be understood as ellipsis, in which linguistic material is deliberately left unexpressed because it is considered unnecessary for successful communication.

Another significant phenomenon is the use of shortened sentences. Internet users often reduce complete sentences to their most informative components. Consider the standard sentence “Saya tidak tahu mengapa dia tidak datang.” In internet communication, it may appear as “Gatau knp dia ga dateng.” Several changes occur simultaneously. *Saya* is omitted, *tidak* becomes *gak/ga*, *mengapa* becomes *knp*, and *datang* is represented through the informal form *dateng*. Although some of these changes are morphological or orthographic rather than purely syntactic, the overall sentence demonstrates a reduction in grammatical and textual complexity. The communicative meaning remains largely recoverable because the participants share sufficient contextual knowledge.

Internet language can also display fragmented sentences. Expressions such as “Parah banget.”, “Nggak percaya!”, “Serius?”, “Masa sih?”, and “Besok aja.” may not contain all the grammatical components expected in formal written sentences. Nevertheless, they function effectively as complete communicative units in online interaction. For example, “Nggak percaya!” can represent the speaker's reaction to surprising information, while “Besok aja” communicates a suggestion or decision even though the subject and predicate are not explicitly expressed. These constructions illustrate how digital writing adopts characteristics of spoken conversation, where incomplete sentences can function successfully because meaning is supported by context, shared knowledge, and interaction.

Simplified clause structures are also common in internet communication (Al-Sa’Di & Hamdan, 2005). Users may coordinate ideas without explicitly marking grammatical relationships through conjunctions. For example, instead of writing “Saya ingin pergi ke sana karena saya ingin bertemu dengan teman saya,” a user may write “Mau ke sana, ketemu teman.” The second construction contains reduced clauses whose logical relationship is understood implicitly. Similarly, “Aku capek, mau tidur” may be used instead of a more formally structured sentence such as “Saya merasa lelah sehingga saya ingin tidur.” The digital form relies on juxtaposition rather than an explicit conjunction. This reflects a tendency toward economical sentence construction.

The omission of conjunctions is therefore closely related to clause simplification (Lee et al., 2020). Words such as *karena*, *sehingga*, *tetapi*, *kemudian*, and *meskipun* may be omitted when the relationship between clauses is sufficiently clear. For example, “Hujan, tetap berangkat” can be interpreted as “Meskipun hujan, saya tetap berangkat.” The relationship between the two propositions is inferred rather than grammatically marked. This pattern demonstrates a shift from explicitly encoded grammatical relationships toward context-based interpretation. However, it is important to determine whether such omission represents genuine syntactic change or simply the normal use of ellipsis in informal conversation.

Another feature is unconventional or conversational word order. Digital communication may contain constructions that closely imitate spontaneous spoken Indonesian, such as “Bagus banget filmnya,” “Lucu banget kamu,” or “Enak ini makanan.” These expressions place emphasis on particular elements rather than following a neutral formal structure. The construction “Bagus banget filmnya,” for example, foregrounds the evaluative expression *bagus banget* before introducing *filmnya*. Such word-order patterns can serve pragmatic purposes by highlighting the speaker's emotional evaluation. Consequently, syntactic variation in internet language is not necessarily random; it can be motivated by emphasis, emotional expression, and conversational style.

The overall pattern indicates that written digital Indonesian increasingly incorporates characteristics traditionally associated with spoken language. In face-to-face conversation, speakers commonly rely on intonation, gestures, shared context, and immediate interaction to

interpret incomplete sentences. Digital communication lacks some of these resources but compensates through contextual knowledge, emojis, punctuation, and rapid conversational exchange. Consequently, expressions such as “Serius???” , “Aku juga 🤔,” or “Udah?” can function as meaningful utterances despite their reduced grammatical structure. The combination of linguistic and visual resources allows internet users to communicate meanings that would otherwise require longer and more structurally complete sentences.

Importantly, these syntactic phenomena should not automatically be interpreted as evidence that Indonesian grammar is being fundamentally replaced. Many of the observed patterns can be explained through ellipsis, conversational syntax, contextual dependency, and the communicative principle of efficiency (Haselow, 2017). The crucial issue is whether these structures remain restricted to informal digital contexts or increasingly appear in formal writing and other communicative domains. If shortened and context-dependent structures become conventionalized and widely transferred into formal communication, they may provide stronger evidence of long-term syntactic change.

Thus, the influence of internet language on Indonesian syntax can be understood as a process of simplification, contextualization, and conversationalization. Subject and predicate omission, fragmented sentences, reduced clauses, omitted conjunctions, and flexible word order demonstrate that digital users frequently construct messages according to the demands of rapid interaction rather than formal grammatical completeness. These patterns suggest that the internet is creating a distinctive environment for syntactic variation. At the same time, determining whether such variation constitutes permanent structural change requires longitudinal research comparing digital communication across different generations, platforms, and formal-informal contexts.

3.4 Changes in Spelling and Orthography

The influence of internet language on Indonesian is also clearly visible in changes in spelling and orthographic practices. One of the most common phenomena is phonetic spelling, in which users write words according to how they are commonly pronounced in everyday speech rather than according to their standardized written forms. Examples include *gak*, *ga*, *nggak*, *udah*, *kalo*, and *aja*, which are frequently used instead of *tidak*, *sudah*, *kalau*, and *saja*. For example, the standard sentence “*Saya tidak tahu*” may appear in digital communication as “*Aku gak tahu*” or “*Aku ga tau*.” These forms reflect the close relationship between spoken Indonesian and digital writing. Rather than representing completely new words, they reproduce informal pronunciation and conversational patterns in written form.

Another frequent phenomenon is vowel deletion. Internet users may remove vowels to make words shorter and faster to type (Sullivan, 2017). Examples include *banget* → *bgt*, *yang* → *yg*, and *dengan* → *dgn*. In “*Bagus bgt filmnya*,” the vowel letters in *banget* have been deleted, while the meaning of the word remains recognizable. This type of modification is primarily an orthographic strategy because the underlying lexical and grammatical identity of the word remains relatively stable. The same principle applies to *yg*, which functions as a shortened written representation of *yang*. Such forms demonstrate how digital users manipulate the visual representation of words without necessarily changing their pronunciation or grammatical function.

Consonant deletion can also occur in internet writing. Users may remove consonants or groups of letters from words when the remaining form is sufficiently recognizable from context. For example, some users employ highly abbreviated forms such as *krn* for *karena*, *dr* for *dari*, or *sm* for *sama*. In these cases, the deleted letters do not necessarily affect comprehension because the reader is familiar with the digital convention. Consonant deletion therefore functions as an efficiency mechanism. However, the extent to which such forms can be considered established linguistic patterns depends on their frequency, consistency, and distribution across different users and platforms.

Another characteristic is the use of repeated letters. Digital users may write forms such as “seriussss,” “iyaaaah,” “makasiiii,” or “bagusss banget.” Repetition in these examples does not normally create a new lexical or grammatical meaning. Instead, it communicates emotional intensity, enthusiasm, hesitation, affection, surprise, or emphasis. The written form therefore attempts to represent features of spoken language, particularly intonation and emotional emphasis. Repeated letters can be regarded as a form of expressive orthography because they provide visual representations of meanings that would otherwise be conveyed through voice quality or prosody.

Lowercase writing is another common characteristic of digital communication (Vorotilina & Dmitrieva, 2019). Users may write entire sentences without capitalization, such as “aku lagi di rumah sekarang”, even though standard Indonesian orthography requires appropriate capitalization in particular contexts. Lowercase writing is often associated with informality and conversational style. In many digital communities, capitalization is perceived as unnecessary unless it serves a particular communicative purpose. The preference for lowercase writing therefore reflects a change in writing conventions rather than a fundamental transformation of Indonesian grammar.

Conversely, unconventional capitalization can be used deliberately to emphasize particular words or imitate emotional expression. For example, users may write “AKU SERIUS!”, “Jangan BAPER ya,” or “INI BAGUS BANGET.” Capital letters in these examples function pragmatically to express emphasis, intensity, anger, excitement, or surprise. The deviation from conventional capitalization is therefore meaningful rather than random. Digital communication has expanded the pragmatic functions of orthographic choices, allowing capitalization to substitute partially for intonation and other prosodic features found in spoken interaction.

The omission of punctuation is also widespread. Users frequently write messages such as “kamu udah makan” without a question mark or “aku pergi dulu ya” without a period. In rapid online conversations, punctuation may be considered unnecessary because the conversational context already provides sufficient information about the intended meaning. However, punctuation can also be used creatively and excessively. Expressions such as “Serius???” , “Kenapa!!!”, “Aduhhh 🤔🤔”, and “Masa sih???” demonstrate creative punctuation, where multiple question marks or exclamation marks intensify emotional or pragmatic meaning. These practices show that digital writing has developed expressive conventions that differ from formal written Indonesian.

The examples *banget* → *bgt*, *yang* → *yg*, and *tidak* → *gak/ga/nggak* illustrate an important distinction for this research. The first two primarily represent orthographic variation, because the words are visually shortened while their basic lexical and grammatical functions remain unchanged. The forms *gak*, *ga*, and *nggak*, however, are more complex because they are not simply shortened spellings of *tidak*. They represent established informal variants associated with spoken Indonesian and informal communication. Consequently, their use can be examined as a form of lexical and phonological variation rather than merely spelling error.

3.5 Code-Mixing and Code-Switching

Code-mixing and code-switching are important features of contemporary Indonesian digital communication because internet users are increasingly exposed to multiple languages, particularly Indonesian and English. One important phenomenon is lexical borrowing, which occurs when words from another language become incorporated into the vocabulary of a receiving language. In Indonesian digital communication, words such as *meeting*, *deadline*, *posting*, *download*, *upload*, *follow*, *share*, *content*, and *healing* are frequently encountered. Some English-derived forms have become sufficiently familiar that users may no longer perceive them as completely foreign. For example, in the sentence “Besok ada *meeting* pagi,”

the English word *meeting* is incorporated into an otherwise Indonesian sentence. Similarly, “*Aku belum selesai karena deadline-nya besok*” combines an English lexical item with Indonesian grammatical elements. When such forms are repeatedly used across different contexts and understood by a broad community, they may move toward lexical borrowing and become part of the developing vocabulary of Indonesian.

However, not every occurrence of a foreign-language element should automatically be classified as borrowing. Code-mixing refers more specifically to the incorporation of elements from another language into a sentence or discourse while the speaker's primary language remains Indonesian. For example, “*Aku lagi healing dulu karena capek banget*” contains the English word *healing* within an Indonesian grammatical structure. The sentence remains structurally Indonesian, while the English lexical element adds a particular expression or nuance. Another example is “*Content-nya bagus banget*,” in which the English noun *content* is combined with the Indonesian enclitic *-nya*. This construction demonstrates that English vocabulary can be integrated into Indonesian morphological and syntactic patterns rather than simply appearing as an independent foreign expression.

The form “*Meeting-nya jam berapa?*” provides an even clearer example of integration. The English noun *meeting* is combined with the Indonesian suffix-like element *-nya*, while the rest of the sentence follows an Indonesian interrogative construction. This phenomenon demonstrates morphological adaptation, because a foreign lexical item is incorporated into an Indonesian grammatical environment (de Vries, 2004). Similar constructions can be observed in expressions such as “*Upload-nya kapan?*”, “*Link-nya mana?*”, or “*Postingannya sudah dilihat?*” Such forms indicate that internet users are not simply inserting English words into Indonesian but are actively adapting foreign vocabulary to existing Indonesian linguistic patterns.

In contrast, code-switching involves a shift from one language to another that may occur between sentences, clauses, or larger discourse units. For example, an Indonesian social-media user may write, “*Hari ini aku benar-benar capek. I just need some time alone.*” The first sentence is in Indonesian, while the second is in English. Unlike code-mixing, where individual words or smaller elements are inserted into an Indonesian sentence, code-switching involves a more noticeable change in the language being used. In digital communication, switching may be motivated by the availability of particular expressions in English, the influence of global internet culture, or the user's desire to create a particular tone or identity.

The increasing presence of English in Indonesian digital communication can also be interpreted as a form of linguistic innovation. Digital environments allow new expressions to spread extremely quickly through viral posts, hashtags, memes, influencers, online communities, and popular entertainment (Mina, 2019). A term that initially appears within a small online community can become familiar to a much larger population through repeated digital exposure. Words such as *healing*, for example, may acquire meanings and usage patterns that differ from their conventional English meanings. In Indonesian online discourse, *healing* is frequently used in contexts referring to taking a break, relaxing, or engaging in activities intended to improve one's emotional condition. This demonstrates that borrowed expressions can undergo semantic adaptation after entering Indonesian digital discourse.

Code-mixing and code-switching also have important identity-construction functions (De Fina, 2007). Language choices allow internet users to position themselves socially and demonstrate membership in particular communities. The use of English may signal familiarity with global digital culture, education, professional environments, popular entertainment, or particular online communities. For younger internet users, expressions such as “*so relatable*,” “*literally me*,” “*I'm done*,” or “*need a break*” can function as markers of shared digital culture. Consequently, language mixing is not always motivated by a lack of Indonesian

vocabulary. Users may deliberately choose English because the expression carries a particular cultural association, emotional nuance, humor, or social meaning that they consider desirable.

Furthermore, code-mixing can serve a pragmatic function. English expressions may be selected because they are perceived as more concise, fashionable, humorous, or emotionally appropriate within a particular online context. For instance, “Aku lagi healing dulu” may communicate a different social tone from “Aku sedang memulihkan diri terlebih dahulu.” Although the latter is closer to formal Indonesian, the former may sound more natural and familiar in digital interaction. The choice between the two therefore reflects not only linguistic structure but also the communicative context and social expectations of the participants.

The findings suggest that code-mixing and code-switching should not automatically be interpreted as evidence of the decline of Indonesian. Instead, they demonstrate the dynamic and adaptive nature of language in response to globalization and technological development (Blommaert, 2010). Some foreign expressions remain temporary digital trends, while others become increasingly conventionalized and may eventually enter broader Indonesian usage. The distinction between borrowing and code-mixing is therefore important. A frequently borrowed word may become integrated into Indonesian vocabulary, whereas occasional code-mixing may remain strongly associated with a particular social group or digital context.

3.6 Factors Behind Structural Changes

The changes in Indonesian language structure found in internet-mediated communication do not occur randomly. The first major factor is communication efficiency. Internet users generally prefer to convey information quickly and with minimal effort, particularly in instant conversations and comment sections where interactions occur rapidly. Abbreviations such as yg, bgt, dgn, and km allow users to communicate the same basic meanings using fewer characters. Similarly, expressions such as “Udah makan?” are preferred over longer constructions such as “Apakah kamu sudah makan?” because the intended meaning can be understood from context. This tendency demonstrates the principle of linguistic economy, in which speakers or writers attempt to communicate effectively while minimizing the effort required to produce an utterance.

Closely related to efficiency is limited typing time and character economy (Alves et al., 2007). Digital users often communicate through smartphones, where typing can be slower than speaking and where shorter messages are easier to produce and read. Although some platforms no longer impose strict character limitations, the cultural expectation of rapid communication remains influential. Consequently, users may remove vowels, shorten words, omit grammatical elements, or replace expressions with acronyms. Forms such as bgt for banget and yg for yang demonstrate how users reduce the visual length of words. The purpose is not necessarily to change the meaning of Indonesian but to make digital interaction more economical.

Another significant factor is the influence of English. English has a strong presence in digital technology, entertainment, social media, gaming, business, and popular culture (Chik, 2015). Indonesian internet users are consequently exposed to English vocabulary and expressions on a daily basis. Words such as meeting, deadline, content, posting, upload, download, follow, share, and healing can be incorporated into Indonesian sentences. In some cases, these words undergo grammatical adaptation, as illustrated by expressions such as “meeting-nya,” “di-upload,” or “nge-post.” This demonstrates that contact with English can contribute not only to vocabulary expansion but also to morphological and syntactic innovation within Indonesian digital communication.

Peer-group identity and youth culture also play important roles (Kyratzis, 2004). Language is an important marker of social belonging, and internet users may adopt particular expressions to demonstrate membership in a specific community. Young users, for example,

may use slang, abbreviations, memes, and English expressions that are widely recognized within their peer groups. Expressions such as *bucin*, *mager*, *gabut*, and *wkwk* can communicate familiarity with contemporary online culture. Using these expressions can make communication feel more informal and strengthen relationships between users. Conversely, avoiding such expressions may create a perception of distance or formality. Thus, internet language can function as a form of social identity construction rather than merely a method of shortening words.

Humor and linguistic creativity constitute another important factor. Digital communication allows users to experiment with spelling, word formation, punctuation, and meaning in ways that are often difficult to reproduce in formal writing. Expressions such as *wkwkwk*, “*seriussss???*”, or creative combinations of Indonesian and English demonstrate how users manipulate linguistic resources to express humor and emotion. Memes and viral jokes can generate new expressions that become temporarily popular among large groups of users. The creative nature of internet communication encourages users to modify existing words and develop novel forms that are memorable and socially recognizable.

Social-media trends and viral expressions further accelerate linguistic change. A new expression can spread from one user to thousands or even millions of users within a relatively short period (Nahon & Hemsley, 2013). Hashtags, memes, influencers, viral videos, and popular online discussions provide mechanisms through which new words and expressions are repeatedly encountered. Repetition increases familiarity, and familiarity can lead to wider adoption. Consequently, social-media platforms function as environments for rapid lexical diffusion. Some expressions disappear when a trend ends, while others survive and become part of everyday informal communication. This difference is important because it demonstrates that not all internet-language innovations become permanent changes in Indonesian.

The role of algorithms and digital circulation is also significant. Social-media recommendation systems continuously expose users to popular content and linguistic expressions. When particular phrases or forms receive high levels of engagement, they can be repeatedly circulated to different communities. This process increases the visibility of emerging language forms and can accelerate their adoption. Although algorithms do not directly create linguistic structures, they can influence which expressions become visible and consequently which forms are more likely to be reproduced by users.

Another important factor is the development of informal communication norms (Helmke & Levitsky, 2012). Digital platforms have blurred the traditional distinction between spoken and written communication. Users often write in ways that resemble everyday conversation, including incomplete sentences, omitted subjects, informal vocabulary, repeated letters, and expressive punctuation. For example, “*Aku juga 🤔*”, “*Serius???*”, and “*Udah?*” can function as complete communicative responses despite their structural simplicity. Such practices are accepted within many online communities because participants share an understanding of the communicative conventions of digital interaction. Over time, repeated use can make previously unusual forms appear normal within informal digital contexts.

Finally, globalization provides a broader social and cultural context for these changes. Indonesian internet users participate in a global communication environment where languages, cultural practices, entertainment, and linguistic expressions circulate across national boundaries. English is particularly influential, but users may also encounter Japanese, Korean, Arabic, regional Indonesian languages, and other linguistic resources through digital media (Danet & Herring, 2007). This multilingual environment encourages borrowing, code-mixing, code-switching, and the creation of hybrid expressions. Globalization therefore

increases the linguistic resources available to Indonesian users and contributes to the continuous development of contemporary digital Indonesian.

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that internet-mediated communication has contributed to significant variation in contemporary Indonesian language use, particularly in informal digital contexts. The dominant forms of internet language include abbreviations, slang, informal spelling, shortened expressions, creative punctuation, and code-mixing and code-switching. Morphological changes are reflected in shortening, clipping, acronym formation, creative affixation, and the adaptation of English words into Indonesian. Syntactic changes include subject and predicate omission, fragmented sentences, simplified clauses, omitted conjunctions, and conversational sentence structures. Orthographic changes include vowel and consonant deletion, lowercase writing, repeated letters, and unconventional punctuation. Meanwhile, code-mixing and code-switching demonstrate the influence of English and other languages on Indonesian digital communication. These findings indicate that internet communication contributes to the emergence of new linguistic patterns driven by efficiency, creativity, social identity, globalization, and digital interaction. The findings have implications for Indonesian language development, language education, digital literacy, and the distinction between formal and informal communication. However, this study is limited by its focus on selected social-media platforms, a relatively limited dataset, and written digital communication, meaning the findings cannot represent all Indonesian speakers. Future research should examine larger datasets, additional platforms, regional languages, different age groups, and digital corpora using computational linguistic methods to investigate the development of Indonesian internet language more comprehensively.

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