

# Examining Javanese Phonology Through Word-Reversal Practices

Nurenzia Yannuar,<sup>†</sup> Tom Hoogervorst<sup>‡</sup>, and Marian Klamer<sup>#</sup>

<sup>†</sup>UNIVERSITAS NEGERI MALANG, <sup>‡</sup>ROYAL NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES AND <sup>#</sup>LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

This paper analyzes aspects of the phonology of Malangan Javanese, spoken in the city of Malang in East Java, Indonesia, through the lens of a reversed language called Basa Walikan Malangan (“Walikan”). Walikan historically functioned as a secret language, but is currently regarded as a marker of a shared local identity. It involves the total reversal of segments of Malangan Javanese and occasionally Indonesian words. Manipulation takes place on a word level and is predominantly phonemic, affecting underlying forms rather than their surface realizations. In a small number of cases, orthography appears to influence word reversal as well. We demonstrate how Walikan reversals chiefly comply with the phonology of Malangan Javanese. Their analysis puts us in the position to cast new light on some under-described issues of Javanese phonology, such as the realization of word-final stops, the syllabification of consonant clusters, and processes of vowel-lowering. We also call attention to instances where Javanese phonotactics are violated, arguing that the phonemic status of a number of vowels and consonants is changing. This is especially the case with the phoneme /ɔ/, which was historically an allophone of /a/ but has now gained phonemic status, as demonstrated by Walikan data.

**Keywords:** Phonology; Phonotactics; Javanese; Reversed Language; Phonemic Manipulation

1. **INTRODUCTION.**<sup>1</sup> Javanese (*basa Jawa* [ˈbɔ̌.sə ˈjɔ̌.wə]) is part of the Malayo-Polynesian branch of Austronesian (Horne 1961; Simons and Fennig 2018). With sixty-nine million speakers in Indonesia, it is the country’s biggest local language. Javanese is divided into three main dialect clusters: Western Javanese, Central Javanese, and Eastern Javanese (Hatley 1984; Nothofer 1980, 2006; Ras 1985). Malangan Javanese, spoken in the city of Malang, falls under the Eastern Javanese cluster. Other Eastern Javanese varieties that have received scholarly attention include Surabayan Javanese (Hoogervorst 2008;

1. We would like to express our thanks to Thomas Connors, Jozina Vander Klok, and two anonymous reviewers for their valuable feedback. We also gratefully acknowledge the Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) for a fellowship awarded to the first author, during which this article was written.

34 Krauße 2017), Paciran Javanese (Vander Klok 2012), and Tengger Javanese  
 35 (Conners 2008). The phonology of Malang Javanese has only recently been  
 36 described by Yannuar (2019a) and the current paper is based on that initial  
 37 analysis.

38 This paper seeks to provide a better understanding of Malang Javanese  
 39 phonology by including its reversed language, Walikan ['wa.lɪʔ.an], in the anal-  
 40 ysis. This allows us to provide a more extensive analysis than an earlier paper  
 41 by Yannuar and Kadarisman (2019). The regular patterns of Walikan word  
 42 reversal will be used to investigate the structure of Malang Javanese seg-  
 43 ments and syllables, and the nature of phonotactic constraints found in this dia-  
 44 lect. Our findings allow for the following generalizations about Malang  
 45 Javanese phonology: (i) the phonation-type distinction of so-called “heavy”  
 46 versus “light” stop is neutralized in word-final position, (ii) the glottal stop [ʔ]  
 47 is a realization of /k/ in syllable-final position, (iii) the fricative /h/ is distinctive  
 48 in word-final position, (iv) consonant clusters in word-initial as well as word-  
 49 medial position are tautosyllabic, and (v) the phonemic status and allophonic  
 50 alternations of the vowels /e/ ~ [ɛ], /o/ ~ [ɔ], and /a/ ~ [ɔ] are currently under-  
 51 going change in Malang Javanese. The latter can be shown to have reached  
 52 phonemic status.

53 The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces Walikan, its func-  
 54 tions in society, and its relation to other reversed languages. Section 3 briefly  
 55 discusses the methods and materials used in this study. Section 4 introduces the  
 56 orthographic, phonemic, and phonetic representations of relevance to this arti-  
 57 cle. Section 5 first discusses the consonants of Malang Javanese that have  
 58 received attention in phonological and phonetic studies of other Javanese vari-  
 59 eties (Adisasmito-Smith 2004; Brunelle 2010; Fagan 1988; Hayward 1999;  
 60 Vander Klok et al. 2018). Next, we investigate the phonology and phonotactics  
 61 of Walikan and its implications for Malang Javanese phonology more  
 62 broadly in the realm of consonants. Section 6 looks at consonant clusters and  
 63 consonant sequences and the ways these are reversed in Walikan. Section 7  
 64 examines the realization of vowels in Malang Javanese and Walikan, arguing  
 65 on the basis of reversed forms that a number of vowels appear to be gaining  
 66 phonemic status in Malang Javanese. Section 8 concludes.

67 **2. WALIKAN AND ITS FUNCTIONS.** As mentioned above, Walikan  
 68 speakers reverse words from Malang Javanese—and to a lesser degree from  
 69 Indonesian, Arabic, and English—and use these newly formed words in sen-  
 70 tences that are structured according to the syntax of Malang Javanese.<sup>2</sup>  
 71 Speakers tend not to reverse every single word in an utterance; typically, only  
 72 a few content words are in Walikan and the rest in non-Walikan Malang  
 73 Javanese. The word-reversal process originally served as a secret code, able

2. We indicate the source language of loans only where relevant for our analysis, and only of loans that are perceived as such according to the intuitions of the first author, a native speaker of Malang Javanese.

74 to produce distinct forms that outsiders could not understand. In the past,  
 75 Walikan was used as an antilanguage, whereas today, it functions as a marker  
 76 of a shared Malang identity (Yannuar 2019a).

77 Walikan is produced by reversing segments at the word level. For example, a  
 78 word like *din* ‘day’ becomes *ɔnid* in Walikan. This manipulation strategy  
 79 serves to deliberately change linguistic forms as part of certain cultural and  
 80 social contexts (Storch 2011). Word reversal is a widespread phenomenon that  
 81 has been observed in many languages.<sup>3</sup> The term “reversed language” is com-  
 82 monly used in linguistic studies of such varieties (Bagemihl 1988, 1989;  
 83 Dreyfuss 1983; Hoogervorst 2014; Lefkowitz 1989). Speakers of Walikan pre-  
 84 dominantly use the so-called Total Segment Reversal strategy: a direct inver-  
 85 sion of all segments in a word.<sup>4</sup> In this type of reversal, the first segment  
 86 of a word will be the last segment of the reversed form, the second segment  
 87 will be the penultimate segment, and so on. For example, a disyllabic word  
 88  $C_1V_2.C_3V_4C_5$  will become  $C_5V_4.C_3V_2C_1$ .

89 Reversal in Walikan is based on the phonemic form of a word, rather than its  
 90 phonetic surface realization. Reversed words must conform to the phonology  
 91 and phonotactics of Malangan Javanese. For example, the Malangan Javanese  
 92 word *arek* [‘ʔa.rɛʔ] ‘kid’ is reversed as *ker*a [‘kɛ.ra] and not as \*[‘ʔɛ.raʔ], since  
 93 it is the underlying form and not the surface form that is being manipulated. The  
 94 above example shows that while the word-final velar stop /k/ is realized as [ʔ] in  
 95 that position, it is underlyingly /k/ as it systematically appears as [k] in the  
 96 word-initial position of a reversed word (see section 5.3). By examining the  
 97 shapes of Walikan words in this way, and comparing them to the realizations  
 98 of the original Malangan Javanese forms, we can thus gain insights into the  
 99 phonemic structure of vowels and consonants in the Malangan Javanese matrix  
 100 language.<sup>5</sup>

101 The above example of *arek* [‘ʔa.rɛʔ] ‘kid’ and its reversed form *ker*a [‘kɛ.ra]  
 102 furthermore demonstrates that, in many but not all cases, the underlying form of  
 103 a word is identical to its orthographical form. Nevertheless, we argue that  
 104 Walikan manipulates primarily the phonemic rather than the orthographic form  
 105 of a word.<sup>6</sup> Reversal takes place on a word level and generally does not affect

3. Bagemihl (1989) presents a typological description of word reversal and a framework of ten different types. Some alternative reversal processes attested in Walikan are typologically identical to the linguistic process of metathesis, which likewise involves a phonological reordering of sounds. However, metathesis never involves a *total* reversal of word segments, which Walikan does.

4. The most productive type of reversal in Yannuar’s (2019b) corpus of Walikan is Total Segment Reversal (96%). The other 4% (26 out of 750 tokens) deviate from the Total Segment Reversal rule and can be categorized as Transposition or Sequence Exchange (Yannuar 2019a).

5. Similar claims have been made with regard to other secret languages or language practices (see Gil 2002; Laycock 1972; Lefkowitz 1989).

6. That is not to say that orthography is completely inconsequential; in a small number of instances, it has evidently overridden phonology, as for example, in the reversed form *ruot* [‘ru.<sup>w</sup>ɔʔ] from English *tour* ‘tour, trip,’ and a small number of words in which the digraph <ng> (representing the phoneme /ŋ/) yields the sequence [gɔn] (with an epenthetic schwa) in reversed form: *tukang* [‘tu.kan] ‘worker’ becomes *gnakut* [gɔ.<sup>w</sup>na.kuʔ], *utang* [‘ʔu.taŋ] ‘debt’ becomes

106 affixes. Instead, Walikan forms may take on the same, unreversed affixes as  
 107 their originals (1). Note that the underlying forms and their surface realizations  
 108 are juxtaposed in this section; their precise relationship is clarified in section 4.

(1) Reversal of affixed words<sup>7</sup>

/bal-bal-an/	[ˈbəl.bəl.an]	>	/lab-lab-an/	[ˈlaβ.la.pan]	‘to play football’
/m-bawa/	[ˈm̩b̩a.wa]	>	/ŋ-awab/	[ˈŋa.waβ]	‘to bring’
/m-bajar/	[ˈm̩b̩a.jar]	>	/ŋ-rajab/	[ˈŋra.jaβ]	‘to pay’
/ŋ-(k)opi/	[ˈŋɔ.pi]	>	/ŋ-ipok/	[ˈŋi.pɔʔ]	‘to drink coffee’

109 In a small number of examples, affixes and locative particles are treated as  
 110 part of the root. As a result, the corresponding Walikan forms do not require  
 111 renewed affixation or cliticization (2).  
 112

(2) Reversal of affixed forms treated as inseparable words

/kətəmo-n/	[kə.t̩ə.ˈmɔn]	>	/nomətək/	[ˈnɔ.mə.t̩əkʔ]	‘busted’
/gujo-n/	[ˈg̩u.jɔn]	>	/nojug/	[ˈnɔ.j̩y̩k]	‘to joke’
/di mana/	[d̩i.ˈma.na]	>	/anamid/	[ˈʔa.na.miɪ]	‘where’ < Ind.
/sə-təŋah/	[sə.t̩ə.ˈŋah]	>	/hatəŋəs/	[ˈha.t̩ə.ŋəs]	‘half’
/ŋ-ərti/	[ŋɔr.ˈti]	>	/itrəŋ/	[ˈʔi.t̩rəŋ]	‘to understand (Actor Voice)’

113 An even smaller number of affixed forms can be reversed in both ways:  
 114 wholesale reversal or root reversal with renewed affixation (3). This suggests  
 115 that their morphological status is perceived as ambiguous by Malangan  
 116 Javanese speakers.  
 117

(3) Multiple reversal options of affixed words

/m-(w)edok/	[ˈm̩.e.d̩ɔʔ]	>	/kodəm/	[ˈkɔ.d̩ɛm]	‘to womanise’
			/ŋ-(k)odew/	[ˈŋɔ.d̩ɛ]	
/dewe-an/	[ˈd̩e.we.jan]	>	/naewed/	[ˈna.ɛ.wɛɪ]	‘to be alone’
			/ewed-an/	[ˈʔɛ.wɛ.t̩an]	

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**3. METHODS AND MATERIALS.** The Walikan words used for the present study constitute “corpus external evidence,” a collection of data created by native speakers through their intuitive knowledge of the rules of their language (Alidou 1997; Bagemihl 1989; Lefkowitz 1991; Ohala and Jaeger 1986). Our data were collected through extensive fieldwork undertaken by the first author. The data set includes 725 Walikan words collected from more than 100 native speakers plus a substantial number of written Walikan materials observed in the media and public areas. Of those 725 Walikan words, 350 were compiled from a corpus of natural spoken data. The spoken data amount to 50 hours and

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*gnatu* [g̩ɔ.ˈna.t̩u], etc. In addition, there is some evidence of the schwa /ə/ being realized as an open-mid front unrounded vowel /ɛ/ in Walikan, which is presumably triggered by the grapheme <e> that represents both phonemes orthographically (section 7.4). Such examples are irregular and few in number. As will be demonstrated throughout this article, the most regular reversal strategy dictates that all segments retain their phonemic value.

7. The arrow ‘>’ is used in this article to indicate transformation from original words to their reversed forms.

128 35 minutes of recorded face-to-face sessions and is archived as Yannuar  
 129 (2019b). These fieldwork sessions consisted of interviews, conversations,  
 130 elicitations, and narratives of the Frog Story (Mayer 1969). Recordings were  
 131 made using a Zoom H4n SP audio recorder and a Samsung NX Mini camera.  
 132 In addition, the spoken corpus included spoken forms of Walikan available in  
 133 public media: approximately 3 hours of songs, video clips, YouTube videos,  
 134 recordings of a local TV news, and a radio show. The spoken data were first  
 135 transcribed using ELAN (ELAN 2015) and then imported into FLEx (FLEx  
 136 2015) for glossing.

137 The written Walikan data set consists of 172 additional Walikan words  
 138 culled from local newspaper columns, printed texts on T-shirts, and read from  
 139 pictures taken around the public spaces of Malang. Combined, the spoken and  
 140 written corpus amounted to 522 words, to which were added 203 Walikan  
 141 words mentioned in previous studies that were confirmed to exist by inform-  
 142 ants, thus creating the final list of 725 Walikan words underlying the present  
 143 study. The pronunciation of the written Walikan inventory was also supplied by  
 144 the informants.

145 **4. REPRESENTATION.** The Malang Javanese data examined in this  
 146 study can be represented in multiple ways. As mentioned in section 2, there  
 147 is considerable overlap between phonemic representations and their ortho-  
 148 graphical counterparts. Notable exceptions include a number of digraphs, such  
 149 as <th> for /t/, <dh> for /d/, <ny> for /ɲ/, and <ng> for /ŋ/ (see section 5.1).  
 150 A number of Malang Javanese vowels are lumped together in colloquial writ-  
 151 ing; the graph <e> can be used for /e/ and /ɛ/, whereas, <o> can be used for  
 152 /o/ and /ɔ/ (see section 7.1). Vowel diacritics may be used to distinguish these  
 153 phonemes, but this is not consistently done by the speech community. In all  
 154 these instances, we observe that phonemic reversal strategies prevail over  
 155 orthographic ones.

156 As the relation between the phonemic and phonetic representations is largely  
 157 predictable, the underlying forms of Walikan words will be omitted in the  
 158 subsequent sections of this paper. The most important points of discrepancy  
 159 are given in (4):

- (4) a. Heavy stops /b d̥ d̥ ɡ/ in root-final position are realized as light on the  
 surface (section 5.2).  
 b. Some loanwords and composite forms exhibit a glottal stop [ʔ] in  
 word-medial position.<sup>8</sup>  
 c. Prenasalized stops trigger a homorganic articulation of the preceding  
 nasals: /nt̥/ [nt̥], /nd̥/ [nd̥], /nt̥/ [nt̥], /nd̥/ [nd̥], /nc/ [ɲc], /nɲ/ [ɲɲ]. These  
 nasals lack phonemic status.  
 d. Closed syllables trigger vowel-lowering of /i/ to [ɪ], /u/ to [ʊ]  
 (section 7.2), /e/ to [ɛ] (section 7.4), and /o/ to [ɔ] (section 7.5).

8. For example, *bakso* [ˈbɑ̃ʔ.sɔ] ‘meatballs’ (< Chinese), *mbakju* [ˈmbɑ̃ʔ.ju] ‘older sister’  
 (< *mbak-ju*), and *sakmene* [saʔ.ˈme.ne] ‘as much as this’ (< *sak-mene*).

TABLE 1. UNDERLYINGLY HEAVY STOPS IN WORD-FINAL POSITION.

Root			With suffix		
/abab/	[ʔa.baḅ]	‘breath’	/abab-e/	[ʔa.ba.pe]	‘the breath’
/urip/	[ʔu.riḅ]	‘life’	/urip-e/	[ʔu.ri.pe]	‘the life’
/ojod/	[ʔo.joḅ]	‘root’	/ojod-e/	[ʔo.jo.ḅe]	‘the root’
/ruwət/	[ru.wəḅ]	‘complicated’	/ruwət-e/	[ru.wə.ḅe]	‘so complicated!’
/semog/	[sɛ.mək]	‘sexy’	/semog-e/	[sɛ.mə.ke]	‘so sexy!’
/bapak/	[ba.paʔ]	‘father’	/bapak-e/	[ba.paʔ.e]	‘the father’

161 Like other Javanese varieties, Malangan Javanese exhibits distinct sets of  
 162 heavy stops /b ḅ dḅ g/ and light stops /p t̚ c k/, as discussed in sections 5.1  
 163 and 5.2. This heavy–light distinction is neutralized word-finally, so that there  
 164 is no acoustic difference in this position between /b/ and /p/, or /ḅ/ and /t̚/. The  
 165 phonemes /g/ and /k/, by contrast, are pronounced differently in word-final  
 166 position, respectively as /k̄/ and /ʔ/. Suffixation does not affect the realization  
 167 of these phonemes (table 1).

168 On the basis of synchronic data, there is no phonological evidence to assume  
 169 underlying /abab/ instead of /abap/, or /ojod/ instead of /ojot̚/; in fact, the under-  
 170 lying heaviness of final stops only becomes apparent in their reversed forms  
 171 (section 5.2).

172 Throughout this paper, word stress is indicated on the basis of the first  
 173 author’s intuition as a native speaker. As a rule, stress in disyllabic words is  
 174 penultimate, except if the penultimate syllable contains a schwa. In trisyllabic  
 175 words, stress is barely audible but generally falls on the antepenultimate syllable,  
 176 except if this is a schwa, in which case stress remains penultimate.

177 **5. CONSONANTS.** In this section, we first present an overview of the con-  
 178 sonants of Malangan Javanese, giving particular attention to issues that have  
 179 received attention in previous studies of Javanese consonants: the distinction  
 180 between “heavy” and “light” consonants, the “retroflex” consonants, and the  
 181 status of the glottal stop (section 5.1). The distinction between “heavy” and  
 182 “light” consonants is neutralized word-finally, but Walikan data show that it  
 183 is present underlyingly (section 5.2). Walikan words also provide evidence  
 184 for two phenomena that distinguish the Malangan Javanese dialect from other  
 185 Eastern Javanese dialects: it lacks a phonemic glottal stop, and it does not drop  
 186 the glottal fricative /h/ in word-final position (section 5.3). We then discuss  
 187 Walikan repair strategies in which illegal consonants—word-final palatal stops  
 188 and bilabial approximants—are adapted or deleted (section 5.4). Section 5.5  
 189 demonstrates on the basis of reversed words that the intervocalic glides [w]  
 190 and [j] are not treated as separate phonemes. Section 5.6 briefly discusses  
 191 the rule ordering in affixed words.

192 **5.1. OVERVIEW OF CONSONANTS.** Malangan Javanese has twenty con-  
 193 sonants, as presented in table 2. Orthographical representations that differ from  
 194 IPA are given in angle brackets in this table.

TABLE 2. MALANGAN JAVANESE CONSONANTS.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
“Light” stops	p	t̪ <t>		ʈ <th>	c	k	
“Heavy” stops	b	d̪ <d>		ɖ <dh>	ɟ <j>	g	
Nasals	m		n		ɲ <ny>	ŋ <ng>	
Fricatives			s				h
Trill			r				
Lateral			l				
Approximants	w				j <y>		

195 The Malangan Javanese stops deserve some discussion. Unlike what their  
 196 orthography suggests, they are not distinguished by voicing: all are acoustically  
 197 voiceless and distinguished by the relative opening of the vocal folds (Brunelle  
 198 2010). The phonetic properties of /p t̪ t̪ c k/ versus /b d̪ d̪ ɟ g/ in Javanese  
 199 varieties have been described as “lax” versus “tense” (Hayward 1999), “heavy”  
 200 versus “light” (Fagan 1988; Hoogervorst 2008; Horne 1961), “slack voiced”  
 201 versus “stiff voiced” (Ladefoged and Maddieson 1996; Thurgood 2004), and  
 202 “breathy” versus “clear” (Adisasmito-Smith 2004). Here, we have chosen the  
 203 terms “heavy” and “light” to describe the two contrasting sets, but nothing in  
 204 the phonological analysis presented in this paper depends on this terminological  
 205 preference. In Malangan Javanese, heavy consonants have a slightly aspirated  
 206 realization. In addition, the /b/ is labialized. These consonants trigger breathi-  
 207 ness on the vowel directly following them, including in recent loanwords.  
 208 Such breathy vowels are allophones of plain vowels and cannot occur after light  
 209 consonants, as the Walikan data throughout this study confirm.

210 The Javanese /t/ and /d/ are designated here as retroflex stops following  
 211 Suharno (1982), but they are less retracted than the retroflex consonants in  
 212 Dravidian or Indo-Aryan languages (Blust 2013:191). They have also been  
 213 described as alveolar stops (Horne 1974) or apico-alveolar stops (Wolff and  
 214 Poedjosoedarmo 1982). A palatographic investigation conducted with one male  
 215 speaker of Central Javanese showed that the retroflex stops are articulated  
 216 by raising the tip of the tongue so that it touches the back of the alveolar ridge,  
 217 and that the “light” /t/ is more retracted than its “heavy” counterpart /d/  
 218 (Hayward and Muljono 1991). A closer phonetic analysis of Javanese retro-  
 219 flexes, possibly comparing different dialects and/or related languages display-  
 220 ing one or more retroflex stops such as Madurese and Balinese, has to our  
 221 knowledge not yet been conducted. Malangan Javanese speakers are generally  
 222 able to differentiate retroflex stops [t̪, d̪] from dental stops [t̪, d̪], especially  
 223 through contrastive examples. However, they sometimes pronounce the retro-  
 224 flex stops, /t/ and /d/, as their dental counterparts, [t̪] and [d̪], respectively.  
 225 Thus, *puṭu* [‘pu.t̪u] ‘snack made of rice flour and coconut’ may be realized  
 226 as *puṭu* [‘pu.t̪u] and *buḍal* [‘b̪u.d̪a] ‘to leave’ as *buḍal* [‘b̪u.d̪a].<sup>9</sup> The original

9. This variable realization is likely due to influence from Indonesian, which has only one set of /t/ and /d/, the former dental [t̪] and the latter alveolar [d].

227 heavy alveolar stop /d/ is retained in Indonesian loanwords—such as *di mana*  
 228 [d̥i.ˈma.na] ‘where’, *dua* [ˈdu.ˈa] ‘two’, *sodara* [sɔ.ˈd̥a.ra] ‘relative’, and *sapeda*  
 229 [sə.ˈpɛ.d̥a] ‘bicycle’ (< Dutch)—although, some speakers might realize it as  
 230 as [d̥].

231 Finally, the glottal stop [ʔ] is analyzed as nonphonemic in Malangan  
 232 Javanese. It is the phonetic realization of /k/ in word-final and root-final posi-  
 233 tion. In addition, it appears in some loanwords and irregular forms (Yannuar  
 234 2019a:78–80). In word-final position, all Malangan Javanese stops are realized  
 235 as unreleased. Throughout the paper, this is denoted phonetically with an upper-  
 236 right corner diacritic <̚>. Consonants that are phonotactically illegal in word-  
 237 final position are the palatal stops /c, ɟ/ and the bilabial approximant /w/. This  
 238 restriction is directly relevant for the shape of so-formed Walikan attestations  
 239 (section 5.4).

240 **5.2. THE NEUTRALIZATION OF HEAVY CONSONANTS.** As men-  
 241 tioned above, Javanese stops—in the Malang variety and elsewhere—are dis-  
 242 tinguished by larynx lowering rather than voicing (Brunelle 2010). As a result,  
 243 the phoneme inventory shows two sets of stops: ‘heavy’ stops /b ɗ d̥ ɟ g/ and  
 244 ‘light’ stops /p t̚ t̚ c k/. In word-final position, heavy consonants become light.  
 245 In addition, the so-formed word-final stops are obligatorily unreleased, for  
 246 instance: \*b > p̚ / #.

247 When a word with a heavy consonant in initial position undergoes Total  
 248 Segment Reversal in Walikan, this heavy consonant is moved to word-final  
 249 position, where neutralization applies. This is illustrated in (5) for the heavy  
 250 bilabial stop /b/, which in word-final position is realized as a light bilabial stop  
 251 [p]. The examples, furthermore, show that the breathy vowels originally follow-  
 252 ing word-initial heavy consonants are likewise neutralized in their new posi-  
 253 tion, as breathiness is dependent on the preceding consonant.

(5) /b/ realized as [p] in word-final position

[ˈb̥ɛ.caʔ] > [ˈka.cɛp̚] ‘pedicab’<sup>10</sup>  
 [ˈb̥ɔ.kɔŋ] > [ˈŋɔ.kɔp̚] ‘buttocks’

254 Word-final neutralization of the heavy dental stop /ɗ/ and the heavy retroflex  
 255 stop /d̥/ in word-final position can be observed in (6). Both /ɗ/ and /d̥/ are real-  
 256 ized as the light dental stop [t̚].  
 257

(6) /ɗ/ and /d̥/ are realized as [t̚] in word-final position

[ˈɗ̥ɔ.lɔr] > [ˈrɔ.lɔt̚] ‘sibling; relative’<sup>11</sup>  
 [ˈɗ̥ɔ.ɗ̥ɔl] > [ˈlɔ.ɗ̥ɔt̚] ‘to sell’  
 [ˈd̥ɛ.we] > [ˈʔɛ.wɛt̚] ‘oneself; alone’  
 [ˈd̥i.nɔ] > [ˈʔɔ.nɪt̚] ‘day’

10. Note that in Central Javanese dialects the high-mid front vowel /e/ is realized as [ɛ] in an open syllable, yielding the form [ˈb̥ɛ.caʔ]. Realization of vowels is discussed further in detail in section 7.

11. In Central Javanese dialects, the high-back vowel /u/ is realized as [u] in an open syllable preceding a closed syllable, yielding the form [ˈɗ̥u.lɔr].



259 In word-final position, the light retroflex stop /t/ is also realized as an unre-  
 260 leased light dental stop [t̪], as shown in (7). This obeys Javanese phonotactics,  
 261 in which retroflex consonants cannot occur word-finally. For the same reason,  
 262 *dewe* ['d̪e.we] 'oneself; alone' in (6) is realized as ['ʔe.wet̪] rather than  
 263 \*['ʔe.wed̪].

(7) /t/ is realized as [t̪] in word-final position  
 ['ti.t̪iʔ] > ['ki.t̪iʔ] 'a little'

265 Example (8) shows the word-final neutralization of the heavy velar stop /g/,  
 266 which is realized as a light velar stop [k]. As it is underlyingly heavy, it is not  
 267 pronounced as a glottal stop [ʔ] as in (11).

(8) /g/ is realized as [k] in word-final position  
 ['g̪ə.ləm] > ['mə.lək] 'to want'  
 ['g̪ə.rɛŋ] > ['ŋɛ.rək] 'fried'  
 [g̪r.'mə] > ['ʔo.mrək] 'pimp'

268 Walikan reversed forms also reveal another interesting phonological feature  
 270 of Malangan Javanese: some word-final consonants show up as light on the  
 271 surface, yet are underlyingly heavy. This can be seen after Total Segment  
 272 Reversal, which moves such consonants to the word-initial position where they  
 273 are realized as heavy, and the vowels following these heavy consonants become  
 274 breathy, as shown in (9). The word ['ʔa.bəp̪] 'breath', for example, is underly-  
 275 ingly /abab/. As discussed in section 4, this underlying heaviness is not revealed  
 276 by nonreversed data.

(9) /C<sub>heavy</sub>/ is realized as [C<sub>light</sub>] in word-final position

/arab/	['ʔa.raḅ]	>	/bara/	['b̪a.ra]	'Arab'
/abab/	['ʔa.bəp̪]	>	/baba/	['b̪a.b̪a]	'breath'
/mohamad/	[mo.'ha.maḅ]	>	/damahom/	[ḅa.'ma.həm]	(a name)
/kəlud/	[kə.'luḅ]	>	/dulək/	['ḅu.lək]	(a toponym)
/semog/	['sɛ.mək]	>	/gomes/	['g̪o.mɛs]	'sexy'

278 In sum, Walikan words provide evidence for the surface neutralization of  
 279 phonation contrasts in word-final consonants, yet also show that the contrast  
 280 is underlyingly still present.

281 **5.3. THE STATUS OF GLOTTAL STOP AND /h/.** The phonemic status of  
 282 a glottal stop in Javanese dialects is a topic of debate. In some closely related  
 283 Eastern Javanese dialects, the glottal stop has been analyzed as at least partly  
 284 phonemic (Hoogervorst 2008; Krauß 2017). In Malangan Javanese, however,  
 285 the glottal stop [ʔ] chiefly shows up as the regular allophonic realization of /k/  
 286 in root-final position, corresponding to its historical and orthographic status. As  
 287 shown in (10), words with an underlying /k/ in word-final position are realized  
 288 with a final [ʔ]. When Total Segment Reversal moves these final consonants to  
 289 the initial position, they are indeed realized as [k]; *kubam* 'drunk' and *kaceb*  
 290 'pedicab'.

- (10) [ʔ] is underlyingly /k/ in word-final position

[ˈma.bʊʔ] > [ˈku.bʌm] ‘drunk’  
 [ˈbɛ.caʔ] > [ˈka.cɛp̚] ‘pedicab’

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As suffixes do not affect the realization of root-final /k/ (see section 4), this phoneme remains realized as [k] in reversed form (11).

- (11) [ʔ] is underlyingly /k/ in root-final position

/walik-an/ [ˈwa.liʔ.an] > /kiwal-an/ [ˈki.wa.lan] ‘reversed language’  
 /kasi-i/ [ˈka.siʔ.i] > /isak-i/ [ˈʔi.saʔ.i] ‘give to sb.’ < Ind.  
 /kənal-an/ [kə.ˈnal.an] > /lanək-an/ [ˈla.nəʔ.an] ‘acquaintance’

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The allophonic relation between /k/ and [ʔ] is also shown in (12). A light velar stop /k/ in word-initial position always becomes [ʔ] in word-final position after the Total Segment Reversal process.

- (12) /k/ is realized as [ʔ] in word-final position

[ˈki.wə] > [ˈʔɔ.wɪʔ] ‘left’  
 [ˈkɔ.ŋtɔl] > [ˈlɔ.ŋtɔʔ] ‘male genitals’<sup>12</sup>  
 [kə.tə.ˈmɔn] > [ˈnɔ.mə.təʔ] ‘busted’

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It is not uncommon for Walikan to draw from basilectal forms. These may exhibit a word-final glottal stop not attested in other varieties, such as Malangan Javanese *mateʔ* ‘to die’ (mesolectal Javanese: *mati*) and *taeʔ* ‘shit’ (mesolectal Javanese: *tai*) or Malangan Indonesian *mintəʔ* ‘to ask for’ (mesolectal Indonesian: *mintə*) and *bawaʔ* ‘to bring’ (mesolectal Indonesian: *bawa*). When such words are reversed as in (13), the word-final glottal stop likewise appears as /k/ in the word-initial position. The common spelling of these words as *matek*, *taek*, *mintak*, and *bawak* suggests that the sound is reinterpreted as an underlying /k/ in analogy with the examples in (10) and (11). Here, orthography follows phonology rather than the other way around.

- (13) [ʔ] in word-final position is reanalyzed as /k/

[ˈma.tɛʔ] > [ˈkɛ.tʌm] ‘to die, dead’  
 [ˈmi.ŋtʌʔ] > [ˈkaŋ.nim] ‘to ask for’<sup>13</sup>  
 [ˈbʌ.waʔ] > [ˈka.waʔ] ‘to bring’<sup>t</sup>  
 [ˈtʌ.eʔ] > [ˈke.jʌt] ‘shit’

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The corpus contains one loanword exhibiting the same process of reanalysis on a syllabic level (14).

- (14) [ʔ] in syllable-final position is reanalyzed as /k/

[ˈbʌʔ.so] > [ˈʔɔ.skʌp̚] ‘meatballs’ (< Chinese)

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When speakers were asked to produce additional examples, [ʔ] in syllable-final position was likewise reanalyzed as /k/ (15).

12. In most other Javanese varieties the corresponding form is *konʔol*, yet the retroflex stop appears to be losing its phonemic status in Malangan Javanese as mentioned in section 5.1.

13. Homorganic consonant clusters in Walikan are typically retained, see section 6.2. The words *katnim* [ˈkaŋ.nim] ‘to ask’ and *tapmə* [ˈtʌp̚.mə] ‘four’ are exceptions, presumably as they are from mesolectal Indonesian. These are the only words in our corpus that exhibit reversed homorganic clusters. This is discussed more detail in section 6.

- (15) [ʔ] in syllable-final position is reanalyzed as /k/  
 [ˈbaʔ.wan] > [ˈnaw.kap̚] ‘a kind of vegetable fritter’ (< Chinese)  
 [ˈmaʔ.mur] > [ˈrum.kam] ‘prosperous’ (< Arabic)

316 The alternation of [k] and [ʔ] in the above Walikan examples substantiate  
 317 that speakers take the underlying phonemic form of a segment as input for  
 318 the reversal process, treating word-final glottal stops [ʔ] as allophones of /k/.  
 319 Word-initial glottal stops, conversely, correspond to zero in reversed Walikan  
 320 words, indicating that they are not phonemic, and function as phonetic onsets to  
 321 underlyingly vowel-initial words (16).

- (16) [ʔ] is reanalyzed as zero in prevocalic position  
 a. [ˈʔu.ɖan] > [ˈna.ɖu] ‘rain’  
 [ˈʔa.rɛʔ] > [ˈkɛ.ra] ‘kid’  
 [ˈʔɛ.ɖan] > [ˈna.ɖɛ] ‘crazy’  
 b. [ˈsi.ji] > [ˈʔi.jis] ‘one’  
 [ˈdu.wa] > [ˈʔa.ut̚] ‘two’ (< Ind.)  
 [ˈpɛ.sʈa] > [ˈʔa.sʈɛp̚] ‘party’ (< Ind.)

323 Another area where Javanese dialects show variation is in the pronunciation  
 324 of the word-final glottal fricative /h/. Several Eastern Javanese subdialects have  
 325 dropped the Javanese final /h/ (presumably under the influence of Madurese,  
 326 Hoogervorst 2008; Kisyani-Laksono 1998; Krauß 2017). In Malangan Javanese,  
 327 however, final /h/ is retained, as confirmed by Walikan data presented in (17).  
 328 In these examples, reversals of words with a word-final /h/ yield /h/ as onset  
 329 of the reversed word, while reversals with a phonetic glottal stop as onset are  
 330 not correct.

- (17) /h/ is retained in reversed forms  
 [ˈmu.rah] > [ˈha.rum] \* [ˈʔa.rum] ‘cheap’  
 [ˈka.bɛh] > [ˈhɛ.baʔ] \* [ˈʔɛ.baʔ] ‘all’  
 [sə.ˈkɔ.lah] > [ˈha.lɔ.kəs] \* [ˈʔa.lɔ.kəs] ‘school’

332 Interestingly, /h/ also appears word-initially in a number of Walikan forms  
 333 whose nonreversed counterparts at present *lack* a word-final /h/, as shown in  
 334 (18). An underlying /h/ was historically present in pronunciations like *səpedah*  
 335 (< Dutch *velocipede*) and *mutiah* (< Arabic *muṭīʿa*), which are indeed still  
 336 attested among older speakers. The word-initial /h/ in the Walikan forms does  
 337 not reflect orthographical influence here, as the forms are always spelled with-  
 338 out a word-final /h/.

- (18) /h/ is underlyingly present in some reversed forms  
 [sə.ˈpɛ.da] > [ˈha.dɛ.pəs] ‘bicycle’<sup>14</sup>  
 [ˈmu.ti.ʔa] > [ˈha.i.tum] (a name)

340 In sum, Walikan words provide additional evidence for two phenomena that  
 341 distinguish Malangan Javanese from the other Eastern Javanese dialects:  
 342 Malangan Javanese has no phonemic glottal stop and does not drop its final  
 343 glottal fricative.

14. However, *adepəs* [ˈʔa.dɛ.pəs] is also attested.

344 **5.4. FINAL PALATAL STOPS AND /w/ ADAPTED OR DELETED.** The  
 345 Malangan Javanese palatal stops /c/ and /j/ and the bilabial approximant /w/ are  
 346 disallowed in word-final position. When in reversed words they do end up in  
 347 word-final position, they are realized as the stop with the closest phonotacti-  
 348 cally legal place of articulation: the light dental stop [t̪], as shown in (19).<sup>15</sup>

(19) /c/ and /j/ are realized as [t̪] in word-final position

[ʃa.ˈkar.ta] > [ˈʔa.tra.kaṭ̪] (a toponym)  
 [cə.ˈla.na] > [ˈʔa.na.ləṭ̪] ‘trousers’ (< Ind.)

350 The word-final bilabial approximant /w/ in Walikan words is realized as a  
 351 light bilabial stop [p], as shown in (20), presumably via a heavy bilabial stop [b]  
 352 which became neutralized.<sup>16</sup>

(20) /w/ is realized as [p] or deleted in word-final position

[ˈwɛ.ḍɔʔ] > [ˈkɔ.ḍɛp̚] ~ [ˈkɔ.ḍɛ] ‘woman’  
 [wə.ˈḍʊs] > [ˈsu.ḍɛp̚]<sup>17</sup> ~ [ˈsu.ḍɛ] ‘goat’  
 [wə.ˈḍi] > [ˈʔi.ḍəp̚] ‘to be afraid’

354 The alternation between [w] and [p̚] does not apply to a number of loan-  
 355 words. In addition to the elicited example *nawkab* [ˈnaw.kaṭ̪] ‘kind of vegeta-  
 356 ble fritter’ from *bakwan* [ˈbaʔ.wan] (15), consider the English loanword *səlow*  
 357 [sə.ˈlow] ‘slow’, which is reversed as *woləs* [ˈwɔ.ləs].

358 In some instances, speakers have the alternative option to delete the illegal  
 359 final consonant /w/, so that *wedok* [ˈwɛ.ḍɔʔ] ‘woman’ becomes [ˈkɔ.ḍɛ] and  
 360 *wəḍus* [wə.ˈḍʊs] ‘goat’ becomes [ˈsu.ḍɛ], as in (20). The phonotactics of  
 361 Malangan Javanese, which forbid word-final bilabial approximants, are thus  
 362 obeyed by either adapting or deleting this ‘illegal’ final consonant.

363 **5.5. THE GLIDES [w] AND [j].** The glides [w] between /u/ and /a/ and [j]  
 364 between /i/ and /a/ are not analyzed as separate phonemes in Malangan  
 365 Javanese. Their reversed forms no longer contain /w/ and /j/, as seen in  
 366 (21). (Nor are the glides present in the orthographical forms of these words:  
 367 *dua*, *keluarga*, *Mutia*.)

(21) The glides /w/ and /j/

[ˈdu.wa] > [ˈʔa.ʊṭ̪] ‘two’ (< Ind.)  
 [kə.lu.ˈwar.gə] > [ʔa.gra.ˈu.ləʔ̪] ‘family’ (< Ind.)  
 [ˈmu.ti.ja] > [ˈha.i.t̪um] (a name)  
 [ˈdu.wa] > [ˈʔa.ʊṭ̪] ‘two’ (< Ind.)

368 **5.6. RULE ORDERING IN AFFIXED WORDS.** Affixed words in Walikan  
 369 demonstrate a rule ordering where the neutralization of heavy consonants, the  
 370

AQ4 15. Younger speakers may retain the palatal stops /c, j/ in word-final position (Yannuar, 2011).

16. In colloquial Malangan Javanese, the fortition of /w/ into /b/ is commonly attested. For example, *weneh* [ˈwɛ.nɛh] ‘to give’ may be realized as [ˈbɛ.nɛh], especially by older speakers.

17. The unexpected vowel realization in this form is discussed in section 7.4.

371 adaptation of palatal stops, and the realization of /k/ as [ʔ] in root-final position  
 372 apply before the resyllabification (22).

- (22) Phonotactic adjustment precedes resyllabification
- /di-bajar-i/ [d̥i.ˈba.ja.ri] > /di-rajab-i/ [d̥i.ˈra.ja.pi] ‘being paid for’
  - /cipok-an/ [ˈci.pɔʔ.an] > /kopik-an/ [ˈkɔ.pi.t̚an] ‘to kiss sb.’
  - /dodol-an/ [ˈdɔ.dɔl.an] > /lodod-an/ [ˈlɔ.dɔ.t̚an] ‘items to sell’
  - /dewe-an/ [ˈd̥e.we.jan] > /ewed-an/ [ˈʔe.wɛ.t̚an] ‘to be alone’

373  
 374 **6. CONSONANT CLUSTERS AND SEQUENCES.** In this section, we  
 375 first present the types of consonant clusters that are allowed in word-initial  
 376 and word-medial position in Malang Javanese (section 6.1). By reversing  
 377 words in Walikan, the order of the consonants is also reversed, which may  
 378 result in ill-formed clusters. Three repair strategies are employed to deal  
 379 with forbidden sequences: maintaining the original order of the cluster  
 380 (section 6.2), deleting a consonant (section 6.3), and/or reordering the conso-  
 381 nants (section 6.4). Through these strategies, Walikan forms are made to con-  
 382 form to the phonotactics of Malang Javanese. The syllabification of  
 383 intervocalic consonant sequences is discussed in section 6.5.

384 **6.1. OVERVIEW OF CONSONANT CLUSTERS.** Malang Javanese syl-  
 385 lables allow consonant clusters of eight types, shown in table 3. These tauto-  
 386 syllabic clusters occur in word-initial and word-medial position. They cannot  
 387 occur word-finally.<sup>18</sup>

388 A number of three-consonants clusters are attested (table 4). Historically,  
 389 they only occurred word-medially. Word-initially, they are only attested in  
 390 loanwords.

391 **6.2. WORD-MEDIAL CLUSTERS RETENTION.** Total Segment Reversal  
 392 cannot be applied to words exhibiting certain word-medial clusters, as doing so

**TABLE 3. CLUSTERS OF TWO CONSONANTS IN MALANGAN JAVANESE SIMPLEX WORDS.**

Cluster type	Example	Root-initial position	Root-medial position
Fricative-stop	/sp/	[ˈspir.t̚ɔs] ‘burning fuel for lamps’ (< Dutch)	[ˈka.spe] ‘cassava’ (< Portuguese)
Fricative-liquid	/sl/	[ˈsli.mɔt̚] ‘blanket’	[ˈʔa.sli] ‘origin, original’ (< Arabic)
Fricative-stop	/st/	[st̚an] ‘handlebar of bike’ (< Dutch)	[ˈʔas.t̚ɔ] ‘to bring (polite)’ (< Sanskrit)
Glide-liquid	/wr/	[wrɔ.ˈnɔ] ‘color’ (< Sanskrit)	[ˈka.wrɔh] ‘knowledge’
Nasal-liquid	/mr/	[ˈmri.paŋ] ‘eye’ (HON)	[ˈʔa.mrm] ‘lover’
Nasal-stop	/mb/	[mbah] ‘grandparent’	[ˈt̚ɔ.mbɔ] ‘medicine’
Stop-glide	/bj/	[ˈbja.jaʔ] ‘careless’	[gɔ.ˈbjɔk̚] ‘wooden wall’

18. One exception is the English loanword *rileks* [ˈri.lɛks] ‘relaxed’.

TABLE 4. CLUSTERS OF THREE CONSONANTS IN MALANGAN  
JAVANESE SIMPLEX WORDS.

AQ1	Cluster type	Example	Root-initial position	Root-medial position
	Nasal-stop-liquid	/ɲɲl/	no data <sup>†</sup>	[ʔa.ɲɲlɔk] ‘plummeted’
	Nasal-stop-glide	/mbj/	no data	[ʔa.mbjar] ‘shattered’
	Nasal-fricative-liquid	/ɲsl/	no data	[me.ɲsle] ‘not straight’
	Fricative-stop-liquid	/str/	[ʔstriβ] ‘stripe’ (< Dutch)	[ʔi.stri] ‘wife’ (< Sanskrit)

<sup>†</sup> Some Malangan Javanese words exhibit this type of cluster in word-initial position, for example, *ɲɲlambɾɛ* ‘mussy’ and *ɲɲɾawasi* ‘worrisome’. However, such forms are polymorphemic: the initial /n/ is a nasal prefix (N-) that serves as an active verb marker separable from the verbal root.

393 would yield an ill-formed medial cluster in the Walikan form. In such cases, as  
394 shown in (24), the original order of the cluster is maintained. Such retained  
395 clusters can be tautosyllabic (table 2) or three-consonant clusters (table 3).

(23) Ill-formed medial clusters are avoided

$$C_1V_2.C_3C_4V_5 > *V_5.C_4C_3V_2C_1 > V_5.C_3 C_4V_2C_1$$

$$[ma.mbu] > *[ʔub.mam] > [ʔu.mbam] \text{ ‘smelly’}$$

397 This tendency to maintain word-medial clusters generally applies to homo-  
398 rganic nasal-stop clusters, stop-liquid clusters, and fricative-stop clusters (24).  
399 Reversing such clusters would yield stop-nasal, stop-fricative, and liquid-  
400 stop sequences, which are strongly disfavored in Malangan Javanese and pri-  
401 marily seen in loans (e.g., [bɔʔ.so] ‘meatballs’) and composite words (e.g.,  
402 [saʔ.me.ne] ‘as much as this’). Other possible repair strategies, such as schwa  
403 epenthesis or the adaptation of palatal final stops (see section 5.4), are like-  
404 wise disfavored. Here, Walikan differs significantly from loanword integration  
405 in generic Malangan Javanese, in which schwa epenthesis is common; for  
406 example, *kaləm* ‘calm’ (< Dutch *kalm*), *qinəs* ‘government service’ (< Dutch  
407 *dienst*), and *saləp* ‘ointment’ (< Dutch *zalf*).<sup>19</sup>

(24) Clusters are maintained in word-medial position

$$[ra.mbuʔ] > [tu.mbar] \text{ ‘hair’ (< Ind.)}$$

$$[se.mpaʔ] > [ka.mpeŋ] \text{ ‘underwear’}$$

$$[tə.mprʔ] > [ki.mpeʔ] \text{ ‘vagina’}$$

$$[sə.ɲtʔ] > [ki.ɲtʔ] \text{ ‘to inject’}$$

$$[kə.ɲtʔ] > [lə.ɲtʔ] \text{ ‘male genitals’}$$

$$[sa.ɲdɔl] > [la.ɲdɔs] \text{ ‘sandal’}$$

$$[pə.ɲdɛʔ] > [ke.ɲdɛβ] \text{ ‘short (of size)’}$$

$$[mʊ.klis] > [si.klɔm] \text{ (a name)}$$

$$[sʊ.krɔn] > [nɔ.krɔs] \text{ (a name)}$$

$$[pe.ʃta] > [ʔa.ʃteβ] \text{ ‘party’ (< Ind.)}$$

409 Three-consonant clusters of the type nasal-stop-liquid and fricative-stop-  
410 liquid are also retained word-medially, as shown in (25). The liquid-stop-nasal

19. Cross-linguistically, anaptyxis and prothesis are common strategies to leave clusters intact (Fleischhacker, 2002). It has been shown for Tagalog that the splitability of clusters is increased by the sonority of the second sound (Zuraw, 2007).

411 \*/rcn/ and liquid-stop-fricative \*/rŋs/ clusters that would otherwise emerge are  
 412 phonotactically illegal.

- (25) Nasal-stop-liquid and fricative-stop-liquid clusters are maintained  
 [ˈmɛ.ŋcrɛŋ] > [ˈtɛ.ŋcrɛm] ‘diarrhea’  
 [ˈlɪ.strɪk] > [ˈkɪ.strɪl] ‘electricity’

413 **6.3. CONSONANT DELETION.** The second strategy to repair illegal con-  
 414 sonant clusters is to delete one of the consonants. The only examples known to  
 415 us display the relatively rare word-initial clusters /mb/ and /nd/, the phonemic  
 416 status of which is ambiguous. In (26), an illegal cluster in the reversed form is  
 417 “repaired” by deleting the sequence-initial consonant of the newly formed coda.  
 418

- (26) Segment deletion of /b/ in /mb/  
 $C_1C_2V_3C_4 > *C_4V_2C_2C_1 > C_4V_2C_1$   
 [mbəh] > \*[habm] > [ham] ‘grandparent’

419 The above strategy in which the stop is deleted is relatively rare and irregu-  
 420 lar. The Walikan forms in (27) and (28) exhibit the more common strategy of  
 421 nasal deletion.  
 422

- (27) Segment deletion of /m/ in /mb/  
 $C_1C_2V_3.V_4C_5 > *C_5.V_4.V_3C_2C_1 > C_5.V_4V_3C_2$   
 [mbə.is] > \*[si.ɔbm] > [si.ɔp] ‘boyish’ (< Eng.)  
 (28) Segment deletion of /n/ in /nd/  
 $C_1C_2V_3.C_4V_5 > *V_5.C_4V_3C_2C_1 > V_5.C_4V_3C_2$   
 [ndɛ.sə] > \*[ʔə.sɛdn/ > [ʔə.sɛ] ‘provincial; hill-billy’

423 In (29), the sequence-final /m/ and the /k/ (glottal stop [ʔ] in the nonreversed  
 424 original) are deleted to create legitimate onsets and avoid unacceptable codas,  
 425 since glide-stop clusters \*/jk/ and stop-nasal clusters \*/bm/ are illegal.  
 426

- (29) Segment deletion of /m/ in /mb/  
 $C_1C_2V_3C_4.C_5V_6 > *V_6.C_5.C_4V_3C_2C_1 > V_6.C_5V_3C_2$   
 [ˈmbaʔ.ju] > \*[ʔu.jkabm] > [ʔu.jaɓ] ‘older sister’

427 Consonant deletion can also be observed in reversed words exhibiting a con-  
 428 sonant cluster in word-medial position, although, this is relatively rare. There  
 429 are only three tokens in the corpus which display this innovation: *təntara*  
 430 [tə.ˈn̄ta.ra] > *aranət* [ˈʔa.ra.n̄ət] ‘soldier’, *sunkan* [ˈsu.ŋkan] > *nakus* [ˈna.kʊs]  
 431 ‘shy’, and *bencōj* [ˈbɛ.ŋcōj] > *yoceb* [ˈjɔ.cɛɓ] ‘transvestite’. The majority  
 432 (80%) of such forms retain the original word-medial consonant cluster, as  
 433 discussed in section 6.2.  
 434

435 **6.4. CONSONANT REORDERING.** Consonant reordering, that is, creating  
 436 legitimate onsets and avoiding unacceptable codas, is another strategy in  
 437 Walikan to repair illegal consonant clusters. The following examples display  
 438 the word-initial cluster /ml/.<sup>20</sup> This cluster is the result of prenasalization before

20. We have not come across Walikan forms of words originally containing other nasal-liquid clusters, such as /mr/ and /wr/.

439 roots starting with /l/, which has become unproductive in current speech. In  
 440 (30), the first consonant in a prohibited coda cluster is reordered to become part  
 441 of an acceptable onset cluster.

(30) Consonant reordering to create onset clusters

$$C_1C_2V_3.C_4V_5 > *V_5.C_4V_3C_2C_1 > V_5.C_4C_2V_3C_1$$

[mlə. 'bɯ]	>	*['ʔu.bəlm]	>	['ʔu.bləm]	‘to enter’
[ 'mla.ku]	>	*['ʔu.kalm]	>	['ʔu.klam]	‘to walk’

443 Of the three-consonant clusters listed in table 4, the Walikan data show that  
 444 /ɲɲl/ can be used to repair an unacceptable coda. In (31), the sequence-initial  
 445 consonant in a prohibited coda cluster is reordered to become part of an accept-  
 446 able three-consonant onset.

(31) Consonant reordering to create a three-consonant onset cluster

$$C_1C_2V_3.C_4C_5V_6 > *V_6.C_5C_4V_3C_2C_1 > V_6.C_5C_4C_3V_2C_1$$

[ 'blə.ɲɔ]	>	*['ʔɔ.ɲɲɔlp̄]	>	['ʔɔ.ɲɲɔp̄]	‘to shop’
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448 Another Walikan attestation with an illegal coda cluster exhibits a differ-  
 449 ent strategy, as shown in (32). The verb *mlaju* /'mla.ju/ ‘to run’ constitutes a  
 450 prenalization of the root *plaju* /'pla.ju/ in the same meaning. Both display  
 451 permissible onset clusters: nasal-liquid /ml/ and stop-liquid /pl/. Reversal  
 452 would yield \*['ʔu.jalm], with an illegal liquid-nasal coda, whereas reorder-  
 453 ing would yield \*['ʔu.lajm], with an illegal glide-liquid coda. Thus, an  
 454 epenthetic schwa is inserted between the glide and liquid, yielding  
 455 ['ʔu.la.jəm]. Together with a small set of Walikan forms exhibiting [gɹn]  
 456 for /gn/ (section 2), this is the only example of an epenthesis strategy found  
 457 in our data. Alternatively, the epenthetic schwa could have been inserted in  
 458 \*['ʔu.jalm] to create a permissible form \*['ʔu.ja.ləm], but this form is  
 459 unattested.

(32) Consonant reordering followed by schwa epenthesis

$$C_1C_2V_3.C_4V_5 > *V_5.C_2V_3C_4C_1 > V_5.C_2V_3.C_4əC_1$$

[ 'mla.ju]	>	*['ʔu.lajm]	>	['ʔu.la.jəm]	‘to run’
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461 A more complex example, featuring competing phonological processes,  
 462 is the reversal of *klambi* ['kla.mbi] ‘clothing’ to *imblak* ['ʔi.mblaʔ] in (33).  
 463 Total reversal would have yielded \*['ʔib.malʔ], with two illegal clusters  
 464 (stop-nasal, liquid-stop). Using the strategy to retain the homorganic cluster  
 465 /mb/ would yield \*['ʔi.mbalʔ], which still features an illegal liquid-stop coda.  
 466 Thus /l/ is moved to the syllable onset, producing the form ['ʔi.mblaʔ] whose  
 467 nasal-stop-liquid cluster is permitted in word-medial onsets (cf. table 4).

(33) Complex consonant reordering to create a three-consonant onset cluster in  
 the reversed form of *klambi* ‘clothing’

$$C_1C_2V_3.C_4C_5V_6 \quad [ 'kla.mbi]$$

>	*V <sub>6</sub> C <sub>5</sub> .C <sub>4</sub> V <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> C <sub>1</sub>	*['ʔib.malʔ]	
>	*V <sub>6</sub> .C <sub>4</sub> C <sub>5</sub> V <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> C <sub>1</sub>	*['ʔi.mbalʔ]	
>	V <sub>6</sub> .C <sub>4</sub> C <sub>5</sub> C <sub>2</sub> V <sub>3</sub> C <sub>1</sub>	['ʔi.mblaʔ]	



470 **6.5. HETEROSYLLABIC CONSONANT SEQUENCES.** Adjacent con-  
 471 sonants can also be separated by a syllable boundary in Malangan Javanese.  
 472 Table 5 lists the heterosyllabic consonant sequences attested in our data.  
 473 Note that many of these only occur in loanwords or compound words. This  
 474 would suggest that such sequences are possible but not favored in Walikan,  
 475 and the data discussed earlier in this section indeed bear this out.

476 Our data contain various Walikan forms of words originally exhibiting het-  
 477 erosyllabic consonant sequences which are resyllabified with an onset cluster  
 478 (34). For instance, a liquid in coda position followed by a syllable with a stop  
 479 onset yields a reversed word with a stop-liquid onset cluster.

(34) Consonant sequence reversal to form new onset clusters

[kər. d̥i]	>	[ʔi. d̥rəʔ]	‘to work hard’
[ˈmar.sə]	>	[ʔə.sram]	(a name)
[ŋər. ti]	>	[ʔi. trəŋ]	‘to understand (AV)’
[gər. mə]	>	[ʔə.mrək]	‘pimp’
[ˈbɑʔ.sə]	>	[ʔə.skap]	‘meatballs’
[ˈpal.su]	>	[ʔu.slap]	‘fake’
[ˈbər.kat]	>	[t̚.krəp]	‘blessed food’
[kə.lu. ˈwar.gə]	>	[ʔa.gra. u.ləʔ]	‘family’ (< Ind.)
[ri.lɛks]	>	[skɛ.lɪr]	‘relaxed’ (< English)
[mər.ʝə. ˈsa.ri]	>	[ʔi.ra. ˈsə.ʝrəm]	(a toponym)

**TABLE 5. HETEROSYLLABIC CONSONANT SEQUENCES IN MALANGAN JAVANESE.**

Sequence type	Attestation	Root-medial position
Liquid-stop/glide/nasal	/r.t̚/	[ʔar.t̚i] ‘meaning’ (< Sanskrit)
	/r.d̥/	[kər. d̥i] ‘to work hard’
	/r.d̥/	[ˈsar.d̥ɛn] ‘sardines’ (< Dutch)
	/r.c/	[mər. cən] ‘fireworks’
	/r.k/	[mər.kə] ‘greedy’ (< Sanskrit)
	/r.g/	[mər. gə] ‘because’ (< Sanskrit)
	/r.s/	[kər. ˈsə] ‘to want’ (< Sanskrit)
	/r.m/	[gər. mə] ‘pimp’
	/r.w/	[ˈgər.wə] ‘spouse (polite)’ (< Sanskrit)
	/l.k/	[t̚əl. kən] ‘turkey’ (< Dutch)
	/l.s/	[ˈpal.su] ‘false’ (< Portuguese)
/l.m/	[ŋel.mu] ‘knowledge’ (< Arabic)	
AQ2 Stop-stop	/k.t̚/	[ˈpra.k̚.t̚ɛk]† ‘practice’ (< Dutch)
	/ʔ.t̚/	[səʔ. t̚i] ‘supernatural powers’ (< Sanskrit)
	/ʔ.d̥/	[ˈpaʔ.d̥ɛ] ‘uncle older than parents’
	/p.t̚/	[ˈsɑp̚.t̚u] ‘Saturday’ (< Arabic)
	/t̚.b/	[ˈkə.t̚.bəh] ‘sermon’ (< Arabic)
	/k.b/	[ˈt̚ak.bir] ‘the phrase <i>Allāhu akbar</i> ’ (< Arabic)
Stop-nasal	/ʔ.m/	[saʔ. ˈme.nɛ] ‘as much as this’
Stop-liquid	/ʔ.l/	[ˈpaʔ.lɪʔ] ‘uncle younger than parents’
Stop-fricative	/ʔ.s/	[ˈbɑʔ.sə] ‘meatballs’ (< Chinese)
	/p.s/	[ˈnaʔ.su] ‘urge’ (< Arabic)

† Due to its loanword status, the expected pronunciation \*[ˈpraʔ.t̚ɛʔ] is uncommon.

480 **7. VOWELS.** In this section, we present an overview of the vowels of  
 483 Malangan Javanese and the major phonological processes that apply to them  
 484 (section 7.1). In the following sections 7.2–7.6, we describe in more detail  
 485 how pairs of vowels are realized before and after reversal, using evidence from  
 486 Walikan words to determine whether the phonological processes and con-  
 487 straints of Malangan Javanese are productively applied or losing ground.

488 **7.1. OVERVIEW OF VOWELS.** Malangan Javanese conventionally exhib-  
 489 its six phonemic vowels /i, u, e, ə, o, a/ as presented in table 6. Their common  
 490 spelling is given in angle brackets, although, diacritics are often omitted in  
 491 Malangan Javanese writings. This inventory of Malangan Javanese vowels  
 492 is in line with the one reported for Central Javanese (Adisasmito-Smith  
 493 2004; Dudas 1976; Hayward 1999; Nothofer 2006; Uhlenbeck 1978; Yallop  
 494 1982).

495 Note that we have included /ɔ/ as seventh vowel to the inventory in table 6;  
 496 in this section, we present arguments that it has gained phonemic status. The  
 497 mid-front vowel /ɛ/ is phonemic only in a limited set of contexts, as indicated  
 498 by the question mark and further discussed in section 7.3.

499 As will be discussed below, four of the vowels /i u e o/ show allophonic  
 500 variation based on their position in the root syllable (open vs. closed), and  
 501 may also be influenced by vowels in the following syllable, while schwa  
 502 /ə/ is consistently realized as [ə] in Malangan Javanese. In Walikan, it  
 503 is occasionally realized as [ɛ], which we argue is reinforced by writing  
 504 (section 7.4).

505 Historically, /ɔ/ was an allophone of /a/ in word-final open syllables and in  
 506 the syllables preceding them (Nothofer 2006; Uhlenbeck 1978). But, as we will  
 507 demonstrate in section 7.6, /ɔ/ is never interpreted as /a/ in Walikan, indicating  
 508 that this historical allophonic correspondence is currently disappearing.

509 The high vowels /i/ and /u/ are generally realized as [i] and [u] in final closed  
 510 syllables, in the open syllables preceding them, and in open syllables preceding  
 511 closed syllables containing other high vowels. Some speakers pronounce these  
 512 allophones closer to [e] and [o] than [i] and [u].

513 The mid vowels /e/ and /o/ are realized as [ɛ] and [ɔ] in final closed syllables.  
 514 They are also realized as such in penultimate open syllables preceding either an  
 515 open syllable with a high vowel or a closed syllable with a nonhigh vowel. In  
 516 the Eastern Javanese dialect of Surabaya, [ɛ] and [ɔ] have been described as

TABLE 6. MALANGAN JAVANESE VOWELS.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i <i>		u <u>
High-mid	e <é>		o <o>
Mid	ɛ <è>?	ə <e>	ɔ <ò>
Low		a <a>	

517 phonemic vowels on the basis of competing historico-phonological processes  
 518 (Hoogervorst 2008; Krauße 2017). In our current description of Malangan  
 519 Javanese, [ɛ] and [ɔ] are analyzed as the allophones of /e/ and /o/. However,  
 520 they seem to be gaining phonemic status, as will be shown in sections 7.3  
 521 (/e/ and /ɛ/) and 7.5 (/o/ and /ɔ/).

522 **7.2. REALIZATIONS OF /i/ AND /u/.** The phonemes /i/ and /u/ are real-  
 523 ized as [i] and [u] in open syllables or before syllables with nonhigh vowels,  
 524 and lowered to [ɪ] and [ʊ] in final closed syllables. This lowering also affects  
 525 high vowels in the preceding open syllables, a principle that is referred to  
 526 as vowel harmony. This has also been documented in other Eastern Javanese  
 527 dialects (Conners 2008; Hoogervorst 2008). Vowel-lowering in antepenul-  
 528 timate syllables appears to be absent in Central or Western Javanese  
 529 dialects.

530 The same process of lowering can be observed in Walikan words. Example  
 531 (35) shows how /i/ and /u/, which are originally realized as [ɪ] and [ʊ] on  
 532 account of their position in closed syllables, become part of open syllables after  
 533 reversal. Since there is no high vowel in the following closed syllable, they are  
 534 no longer realized as [ɪ] and [ʊ], but as their allophones [u] and [i].

(35) /i/ and /u/ are realized as [i] and [u] in open syllables

- [ˈpa.kɪs] > [ˈsi.kap̄] (a toponym)
- [pə.ʔɪs] > [ˈsi.təp̄] ‘shrimp paste’
- [ˈma.lɪŋ] > [ˈŋi.lam] ‘thief’
- [ˈma.bʊʔ] > [ˈku.bam] ‘drunk’
- [ˈma.nʊʔ] > [ˈku.nam] ‘penis’
- [ˈsa.bʊn] > [ˈnu.bas] ‘soap’
- [ˈmʊ.kɪs] > [ˈsi.klɔm] (a name)

536 By contrast, Walikan forms displaying a single high vowel /i u/ in a closed  
 537 syllable do not always show the expected process of vowel-lowering. Instead,  
 538 /i/ and /u/ may occur in closed syllables as [i] and [u]. This is illustrated in (36).  
 539 For instance, *pirɔ* [ˈpi.rɔ] ‘how much’ is reversed to *ɔrip* [ˈʔɔ.rɪp̄] and not  
 540 \*[ˈʔɔ.rɪp̄], violating the Malangan Javanese phonotactics which require vowel-  
 541 lowering in this position.<sup>21</sup>

(36) /i/ and /u/ are realized as [i] and [u] in final closed syllables

- a. [ˈpi.rɔ] > [ˈʔɔ.rɪp̄] ‘how much’
- [ˈsi.ŋɔ] > [ˈʔɔ.ŋis] ‘lion’
- [ˈsi.kat̄] > [ˈta.kis] ‘to fight; to finish off’
- b. [ˈru.wət̄] > [ˈt̄ɛ.wur] ‘complicated’
- [ˈbʊ.dal] > [ˈla.duṕ] ‘to depart’
- [ˈbʊ.le] > [ˈʔɛ.luṕ] ‘white person’
- [ˈsu.we] > [ˈʔɛ.wus] ‘long (time)’

21. An exception is the Walikan word *ɔnic* [ˈʔɔ.nɛ̄] from *cinɔ* [ˈci.nɔ] ‘Chinese (pejorative)’. In this isolated case, the high-front vowel /i/ in the final closed syllable is reinterpreted as the low mid-front vowel [ɛ] in Walikan.

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However, when both syllables of a disyllabic word contain high vowels, vowel-lowering occurs across the word, in both open and closed syllables, as shown in (37).

- (37) /i/ and /u/ are realized as [i] and [u] in both syllables
- a. [ˈpi.tʰʔ] > [ˈki.tʰɨ] ‘chicken’  
[ˈsi.kil] > [ˈli.kis] ‘foot’
- b. [ˈpʊ.kəl] > [ˈlʊ.kʊɨ] ‘to hit’  
[ˈsʊ.kʊn] > [ˈnʊ.kʊs] ‘breadfruit; a toponym’

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A few words in Malangan Javanese do not exhibit lowering of a high-front vowel /i/ in a final closed syllable and its preceding syllable (Yannuar 2019:84–85). They behave atypically in both Malangan Javanese and Walikan (38).

- (38) /i/ remains [i] in closed syllables
- [ˈti.tʰʔ] > [ˈki.tʰɨ] ‘a little’  
[ˈpi.pis] > [ˈsi.piɨ] ‘to urinate’

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This atypical behavior requires further explanation, but the reduplication-like structure of the above examples might be relevant; it is possible that the high degree of internal self-similarity plays a role in blocking the otherwise expected vowel-lowering.<sup>22</sup>

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In some Walikan words, the realization of /i/ and /u/ in closed syllables shows variability, reflecting competing processes: the default vowel-lowering of /i/ and /u/ in closed syllables versus the maintenance of their original phonetic value, as in (39). The observed variability of [u] ~ [ʊ] and [i] ~ [ɨ] in closed syllables is only attested if the nonreversed originals exhibit /i/ and /u/ in open syllables (39).

- (39) /i/ and /u/ are optionally lowered in closed syllables
- [ˈgʊ.jʊn] > [ˈnʊ.jʊk] ~ [ˈnʊ.jʊk] ‘to joke’  
[ˈmi.nʰtaʔ] > [ˈkaɬ.nim] ~ [ˈkaɬ.nim] ‘to ask for’  
[ˈtu.kan] > [gə.na.kʊɨ] ~ [gə.na.kuɨ] ‘worker’  
[ˈru.jaʔ] > [ˈka.jʊɨ] ~ [ˈka.jʊɨ] ‘seasoned unripe fruit salad’

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**7.3. REALIZATIONS OF /e/ AND /ɛ/. In Malangan Javanese, the high-mid front vowel /e/ is realized as [ɛ] in closed syllables. In open syllables, it is realized as [e], except when it precedes either an *open* syllable with a high vowel, or a *closed* syllable with any of the other vowels /e o ə a/. The same rules apply to Walikan forms, shown in (40). The reversal of [ˈʔɛ.wɛɨ] from *dewe* [ˈdɛ.we] ‘oneself, alone’ additionally shows that /e/ is realized as [ɛ] in both syllables, complying with the expected rules of vowel-lowering.**

- (40) /e/ is realized as [ɛ] in word-initial position
- [gə.ˈdɛ] > [ˈʔɛ.dək] ‘big’  
[ˈsa.tɛ] > [ˈʔɛ.tas] ‘satay’  
[ˈdɛ.we] > [ˈʔɛ.wɛɨ] ‘oneself, alone’

22. If so, this has a precedent in Tagalog (Zuraw, 2002). We thank one of the reviewers for pointing this out.

570 In a final open syllable, /e/ systematically appears as [ɛ]. This is also seen  
 571 in the Walikan forms in (41), in which \*[ka.nɛ] and \*[na.ɔɛ] would be  
 572 ungrammatical.

(41) /e/ is realized as [ɛ] in word-final position

- [ʔɛ.naʔ] > [ka.nɛ] ‘delicious, nice’
- [ʔɛ.ɔɔn] > [na.ɔɛ] ‘crazy’

574 The examples in (40) and (41) support the analysis that [ɛ] is the allophone  
 575 of /e/, appearing in predictable positions. However, some speakers of Walikan  
 576 pronounce /e/ as [ɛ] even when it occurs in a closed syllable or an open syllable  
 577 preceding a closed syllable (42). This degree of variability indicates that  
 578 the Malangan Javanese rules regarding the realization of [ɛ] vis-à-vis [ɛ] do not,  
 579 or no longer, apply strictly in Walikan.

(42) /e/ is realized as [ɛ] or [ɛ̃] in word-initial or word-final position

- [sa.tɛ] > [ʔɛ.tas] ~ [ʔɛ̃.tas] ‘satay’
- [dɛ.we] > [ʔɛ.wɛt̚] ~ [ʔɛ̃.wɛt̚] ‘oneself; alone’
- [sə.'la.we] > [ʔɛ.la.wəs] ~ [ʔɛ̃.la.wəs] ‘twenty-five’<sup>23</sup>

581 The above example of *dewe* [dɛ.we] exhibiting variation between [ʔɛ.wɛt̚]  
 582 and [ʔɛ̃.wɛt̚] demonstrates variable rule application rather than variation on the  
 583 level of individual segments; in the latter case, we would additionally expect  
 584 the unattested forms \*[ʔɛ̃.wɛt̚] and \*[ʔɛ̃.wɛt̚].

585 There are also Walikan words where [ɛ̃] appears in positions that violate  
 586 Malangan Javanese rules. In (43), the Walikan reversed form yields an [ɛ̃] in  
 587 a word-final open syllable and in the open syllable preceding it. In default  
 588 Malangan Javanese, [ɛ̃] has to be realized as [ɛ] in final open vowels and is  
 589 not lowered in the preceding open syllable (cf. *dewe* ‘oneself; alone’). The  
 590 examples below demonstrate that some Walikan attestations do not comply  
 591 to these rules. Previously, in (20), additional words displaying /e/ in word-final  
 592 position were discussed.

(43) [ɛ̃] in word-final position

- [ʔɛ.bɛs] > [sɛ̃.bɛ̃] ‘father’
- [ʔɛ.lɛʔ] > [kɛ̃.lɛ̃] ‘ugly’

594 The Walikan forms in (43) are rare attestations of /e/ being realized as [ɛ̃]  
 595 word-finally: \*[sɛ̃.bɛ̃] and \*[kɛ̃.lɛ̃] would conform to Malangan Javanese pho-  
 596 notactics but are unattested. Therefore, we can conclude on the basis of [sɛ̃.bɛ̃]  
 597 and [kɛ̃.lɛ̃] that [ɛ̃] is gaining phonemic status in Malangan Javanese.

598 To sum up, some Walikan forms do not strictly follow the Malangan  
 599 Javanese rules regarding the distribution of [ɛ] and [ɛ̃]. The examples in  
 600 (40) and (41) show that [ɛ̃] is still considered an allophone of /e/, but (42)  
 601 and (43) indicate a change in progress where [ɛ̃] functions as separate phoneme,  
 602 independent from /e/. It is uncertain in which direction this process will evolve.

23. In this instance, the formation of *elawəs* [ʔɛ.'la.wəs] ‘twenty-five’ from *səlawe* [sə.'la.we] involves Total Segment Reversal which is then followed by Segment Exchange (Yannuar 2019:147). The reason for this additional innovation is unclear.



603 **7.4. REALIZATIONS OF /e/ AND /ə/.** As discussed in section 2, /e/ and /ə/  
 604 are both written as <e> in Javanese. This convention presumably triggered a  
 605 degree of variation between these orthographically undistinguished phonemes  
 606 in Walikan. However, the examples discussed below indicate that there is no  
 607 free variation and speakers have to choose one particular variant.

608 In Malangan Javanese as well as other Javanese varieties, the mid-central  
 609 vowel /ə/ is a fully independent phoneme. It cannot occur word-finally. The  
 610 same restriction is seen in Walikan words, where the /ə/ of an input word is  
 611 realized as [ɛ] when it ends up in final position through the reversal process,  
 612 as in (44).<sup>24</sup> (In these examples, Walikan still violates the phonotactics of  
 613 Malangan Javanese, in which we would expect [e] rather than [ɛ] in final  
 614 position).

(44) [ə] is realized as [ɛ] in word-final position

[ʔə. 'nəm] > ['mɔ.nɛ] 'young'  
 [ʔə. 'nam] > ['ma.nɛ] 'six' (< Ind.)

615 The Walikan forms in (45) show variable pronunciations of [ə], unlike the  
 616 attestations in (44) that behave regularly.

(45) [ə] is sporadically realized as either [ə] or [ɛ] in closed syllables

[kə. 'bɑ.lɛn] > ['nɛ.la.bəʔ] ~ ['nɛ.la.bɛʔ] (a toponym)  
 [sə. 'la.wɛ] > ['ʔɛ.la.wɛs] ~ ['ʔɛ.la.wɛs] 'twenty-five'  
 [ʔə. 'n̩t̩a.ra] > ['ʔa.ra.nəʔ] ~ ['ʔa.ra.nɛʔ]<sup>25</sup> 'a soldier' (< Ind.)

618 The influence of orthography is also confirmed by the two isolated examples  
 619 in (46). The form *ruwət* ['ru.wəʔ] is reversed as ['ʔɛ.wur] rather than \*[ʔə. 'wur],  
 620 while *wəɖus* [wə. 'ɖʊs] yields ['su.d̩ɛʔ] or ['su.d̩ɛ] instead of the expected  
 621 \*[ 'su.d̩əʔ]. The nonexistence of \*[ 'su.d̩ə], however, is expected on account  
 622 of its illegal word-final schwa.  
 623

(46) [ə] is sporadically realized as [ɛ]

['ru.wəʔ] > ['ʔɛ.wur] 'complicated'  
 [wə. 'ɖʊs] > ['su.d̩ɛʔ] ~ ['su.d̩ɛ] 'goat'

624 **7.5. REALIZATIONS OF /o/ AND /ɔ/.** The high-mid back vowel /o/ is real-  
 625 ized as [ɔ] in closed syllables. In open syllables, this phoneme is realized as [o]  
 626 except when it either precedes an *open* syllable with a high vowel, or a *closed*  
 627 syllable with any of the other vowels /e o ə a/. We have also seen this type of  
 628 lowering with /e/ (section 7.3). The same rules apply to Walikan forms, as  
 629 shown in (47).  
 630

(47) /o/ is realized as [o] in a word-final position

['ʔɔ.raŋ] > [gə. 'na.ro]<sup>26</sup> 'person' (< Ind.)  
 ['ʔɔ.mɔŋ] > [gə. 'no.mo] 'to speak'

24. The only attestation of a Walikan word with a final schwa in our corpus is *təpmə* ['təp̩.mə] 'four', the reversed form of *əmpat* (< Ind.), see also footnote 14.

25. See section 6.3 about consonant deletion.

632 The realization in Malangan Javanese of /o/ as [ɔ] in closed syllables and the  
 633 open syllables preceding them is also attested in their reversed forms, as shown  
 634 in (48).

- (48) /o/ is realized as [ɔ] in closed syllables and the preceding open syllables  
 [ˈbɔ̌.tɔ̌] > [lɔ̌.tɔ̌p̌] ‘bottle’  
 [ˈbɔ̌.kɔ̌ŋ] > [ŋɔ̌.kɔ̌p̌] ‘buttocks’

636 Consistent with Malangan Javanese rules, /o/ in Walikan forms is realized  
 637 as /ɔ/ in an open syllable preceding a closed syllable with a low-central vowel  
 638 /a/ (49).

- (49) /o/ is realized as [ɔ] in open syllables preceding syllables with /a/  
 [ˈbɑ̌.lɔ̌n] > [ˈnɔ̌.lɑ̌p̌] ‘prostitute’  
 [ˈtɑ̌.kɔ̌n] > [ˈnɔ̌.kɑ̌ť] ‘to ask’

640 The above examples support the analysis that [ɔ] is an allophone of /o/, as  
 641 it appears in predictable contexts. However, as with [e] and [ɛ] discussed in  
 642 section 7.3, some Walikan speakers alternate between [ɔ] and [o] in closed  
 643 syllables and in open syllables preceding a closed syllable that contains /e/  
 644 /ə/, or /a/, see (50).

- (50) /o/ is realized as either [ɔ] or [o] in word-initial or word-final position  
 [ˈtɔ̌.kǒ] > [ˈʔɔ̌.kɔ̌ť] ~ [ˈʔǒ.kǒť] ‘store’  
 [ˈsǒ.tɔ̌] > [ˈʔɔ̌.tɔ̌s] ~ [ˈʔǒ.tɔ̌s] ‘a kind of soup’  
 [ˈsǒ.lǒ] > [ˈʔɔ̌.lɔ̌s] ~ [ˈʔǒ.lɔ̌s] (a toponym)  
 [sɔ̌.ˈdɑ̌.ra] > [ˈʔɑ̌.ra.dɔ̌s] ~ [ˈʔɑ̌.ra.dɔ̌s] ‘relative’ (< Ind.)  
 [sɔ̌.ˈkɔ̌.lah] > [ˈhɑ̌.lɔ̌.kəs] ~ [ˈhɑ̌.lɔ̌.kəs] ‘school’

646 Just like the examples in (45), the forms in (50) indicate that the Malangan  
 647 Javanese rules regarding the distribution of high–mid vowels do not, or no longer,  
 648 apply strictly in Walikan. They also confirm that variation does not take  
 649 place on the level of individual segments, but results from variable rule  
 650 application.

651 In two Walikan examples, the /o/ can only be pronounced as [o] despite its  
 652 occurrence in closed syllables (51). This suggests that /o/ is no longer system-  
 653 atically undergoing lowering in closed syllables. In other words, the distribu-  
 654 tion of [o] is expanding.

- (51) /o/ is sporadically realized as only [o] in closed syllables  
 [ˈbɔ̌.ʔǒ] > [ˈʔǒ.ʔǒp̌] ‘spouse’  
 [ˈfɔ̌.tɔ̌] > [ˈʔǒ.tɔ̌f] ‘photograph’ (< Dutch)

656 As in (38), the suspension of vowel-lowering in the above examples may  
 657 have been influenced by the identical vowels in both syllables, although this  
 658 does not happen on a regular base.

26. In most cases, the velar nasal [ŋ] yields /ŋ/ rather than /g.n/ in reversed forms. The two examples given here are exceptions, likely influenced by the orthography in which /ŋ/ corresponds to <ng> as discussed in section 2.

659 **7.6. DISTRIBUTION OF /a/ AND /ɔ/.** In Malangan Javanese, as in most  
 660 other Central and Eastern Javanese dialects, the historical low-central vowel  
 661 /a/ (as attested in Old Javanese, [Zoetmulder 1982](#)) is realized as [ɔ] in word-  
 662 final open syllables, see (52).<sup>27</sup> This innovation also spreads to /a/ in the pre-  
 663 ceding syllable unless it is blocked either by a heterorganic consonant cluster or  
 664 a heterosyllabic consonant sequence. Single consonants or homorganic conso-  
 665 nant clusters (with or without liquids), by contrast, do not block this change as  
 666 seen in table 7. As will be demonstrated below, this historical rule is no longer  
 667 fully productive.<sup>28</sup>

668 One [a] ~ [ɔ] alternation is still active in Malangan Javanese, suggesting that  
 669 the rule remains synchronic in a limited domain. If followed by the derivational  
 670 applicative suffix *-(n)i*, /a/ does not change into [ɔ], see (52).

- (52) Examples of /a/ realized as [a] preceding the applicative suffix *-(n)i*
- |                |              |                        |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| *m-(p)ara      | [ˈmɔ.rɔ]     | ‘to approach (intr.)’  |
| > *m-(p)ara-ni | [ma.ˈra.ni]  | ‘to approach (trans.)’ |
| *n-ḡaga        | [ˈn̄.ḡ.ḡ]    | ‘to guard’             |
| > *n-ḡaga-ni   | [ˈn̄.ḡ.ḡ.ni] | ‘to prevent that’      |

671 Inflectional suffixes, by contrast, are not part of the phonological word  
 672 domain of this rule. Therefore, definite/possessive suffixes do not block the \*a  
 673 > ɔ/# rule, as shown in (53). This marks a contrast with Central Javanese dia-  
 674 lects, where inflectional suffixes block the realization of /a/ as [ɔ] in the word-  
 675 final position in the same way that derivational suffixes do.  
 676

TABLE 7. REALIZATIONS OF /a/ IN WORD-FINAL POSITION.

Single consonants/homorganic consonant clusters		
Old Javanese ( <a href="#">Zoetmulder 1982</a> )	Malangan Javanese	
<gawa>	[ˈḡ.ɔ.wɔ]	‘to take’
<kana>	[ˈkɔ.nɔ]	‘there’
<mata>	[ˈmɔ.tɔ]	‘eye’
<tampa>	[ˈtɔ.m̄.pɔ]	‘to receive’
<wañša>	[ˈb̄.ɔ.ɲsɔ]	‘people’ (< Sanskrit)
<cakra>	[ˈcɔ.krɔ]	‘a weapon in wayang puppetry’ (< Sanskrit)
<candra>	[ˈcɔ.ɲdrɔ]	‘moon (poetic)’ (< Sanskrit)
Heterorganic consonant clusters/heterosyllabic consonant sequences		
<añasta>	[ˈɲa.s̄tɔ]	‘to bring (polite)’ (< Sanskrit)
<tan apa>	[ˈt̄.ɲ.pɔ]	‘without’
<dharma>	[ˈd̄.ɲ.m̄]	‘donation’ (< Sanskrit)
<mārga>	[ˈm̄.ɲ.ḡ]	‘because’ (< Sanskrit)

27. In Western Javanese dialects and Tengger, by contrast, /a/ remains [a] under all circumstances.

28. In mesolectal Malangan Javanese, only the final /a/ in *ora* ‘no/not’ is still realized as [a]. Recent loanwords are also exempt from this process, whereas older ones are affected by it. Names form another exception: the final \*/a/ is realized as [ɔ], yet it remains [a] in the preceding syllable.



(53) Examples of /a/ reanalyzed as [ɔ] preceding inflectional suffixes<sup>29</sup>

- \*tamba [ʔɔ.mba] ‘medicine’
- > \*tamba-ne [ʔɔ.mba.ne] ‘the medicine’
- \*kanca [ʔɔ.kɔɔ] ‘friend’
- > \*kanca-ku [ʔɔ.kɔɔ.ku] ‘my friend’
- \*mata [ʔɔ.tɔ] ‘eye’
- > \*mata-mu [ʔɔ.tɔ.mu] ‘your eyes’

678 Malangan Javanese has one isolated example where speakers realize /a/ in  
 679 root-final position alternatively as [ɔ] or [a], see (54). This suggests that the  
 680 \*a > ɔ/# rule described in table 5 is not consistently applied in the domain  
 681 of fixed expressions.

(54) Variation between [a] and [ɔ] in a fixed expression

- \*səpura-ne [sə.pu.ra.ne] ~ [sə.pu.ra.ne] ‘sorry’

682 These variable realizations presumably contributed to the dissociation of [ɔ]  
 684 in root-final position as an allophone of /a/, except in the specific context of  
 685 the applicative suffix *-(n)i* where the allophony remains productive. This is  
 686 undoubtedly reinforced by the influence of Indonesian and other languages  
 687 in contact. The reanalysis of /ɔ/ as an independent phoneme is also seen in  
 688 the loanword *sprentɔ* [ʔsprɛ.nɔ] ‘jump rope’ (< Dutch *springtouw*), which  
 689 lacks a historical \*/a/. In Walikan, /a/ and /ɔ/ function as nonalternating seg-  
 690 ments. Since the allophony has completely ceased to be productive, reversals  
 691 yielding a word-final /a/ are systematically pronounced as [a] rather than  
 692 [ɔ], (55).

(55) /a/ and [ɔ] in Walikan

- [ʔa.naʔ] > [ka.na] ‘child’
- [ʔa.rɛʔ] > [kɛ.ra] ‘kid’

694 The historical \*/a/ in word-final position, now realized as [ɔ], likewise  
 695 retains its realization as [ɔ] in Walikan, see (56). This corroborates that /ɔ/  
 696 has lost its allophonic status with /a/ and has become a separate phoneme.

(56) /a/ and [ɔ] in Walikan

- \*sapa [ʔsɔ.pɔ] > [ʔɔ.pɔs] ‘who’
- [ʔla.pɔ]<sup>30</sup> > [ʔɔ.pal] ‘what are you doing?’
- \*tiba [ʔti.bɔ] > [ʔɔ.biɫ] ‘to fall’
- \*jaga [ʔjɔ.gɔ] > [ʔɔ.gɔɫ] ‘to guard’

698 Considering that 40% of the Walikan vocabulary we collected consists of  
 699 reversed Indonesian words,<sup>31</sup> the influence of this language to the discussed  
 700 process of dissociation is likely. Note that in Indonesian, /a/ in word-final posi-  
 701 tion always remains [a] and is never realized as [ɔ].

29. This process also takes place in other East Javanese dialects, such as Surabayan Javanese, Paciran Javanese, and Osing.

30. The occurrence of /aCɔ/ in this form is phonologically irregular, see table 5. Historically, it reflects the phrase *olah ɔpɔ* ‘do what?’

31. For more information on Indonesian-based Walikan forms, see Yannuar (2019)



702 **8. CONCLUSIONS.** The deliberate word manipulations created in Walikan  
 703 largely comply with the phonological system of Malangan Javanese, the  
 704 embedding matrix language. The phonemic forms of words, rather than their  
 705 phonetic realizations, are taken as input for reversal. The reversal process  
 706 can be summarized as follows:

- 707 1. The manipulation affects the underlying forms rather than the surface  
 708 forms.
- 709 2. Walikan is structure-preserving and predominantly yields phonotacti-  
 710 cally legal sequences.
- 711 3. Most instances of allophony in Walikan are regular and predictable.  
 712

713 In some exceptional cases, orthographical conventions can influence the  
 714 reversal or even override phonology, as in the reversal of the segment  
 715 <ng> [ŋ] as [gŋ]. However, such orthographically influenced processes are  
 716 irregular and constitute a small minority; /ŋ/ is typically retained in Walikan,  
 717 as are other phonemes orthographically represented with digraphs. We also sus-  
 718 pect that orthography has reinforced the allophony between [k] and [ʔ]; the lat-  
 719 ter predictably occurs in syllable codas as an allophone of the former  
 720 (section 5.3). Orthography may furthermore have triggered a degree of varia-  
 721 tion between /e/ and /ə/, yet, this variation is not regular, free, or predictable  
 722 (section 7.4). In sum, despite some exceptions, reversal predominantly takes  
 723 place on a phonemic rather than orthographic level.

724 An even smaller set of Walikan forms are based on earlier pronunciations of  
 725 Malangan Javanese rather than the ones currently in evidence. This is seen in  
 726 some loanwords with a word-final /h/. In these examples, the phoneme is not  
 727 represented in writing and only pronounced by elderly speakers. The underly-  
 728 ing /h/ becomes evident from Walikan forms, but not or no longer from their  
 729 nonreversed counterparts (section 5.3).

730 Walikan words generally obey Malangan Javanese phonology and phono-  
 731 tatics. This can be seen from the way segments are realized and ill-formed  
 732 consonant clusters are avoided or repaired. Malangan Javanese phonology  
 733 affects the neutralization of heavy final consonants (section 5.2), the alternation  
 734 between velar and glottal stops, the status of the word-final glottal fricative  
 735 (section 5.3), the realization of palatal stops and bilabial approximants in  
 736 word-final position (section 5.4), consonant sequences and clusters' constraints  
 737 (section 6), prenasalized stops (section 6.3), and the phonemic statuses of  
 738 the vowel sets /e/ ~ [ɛ] (section 7.3), /o/ ~ [ɔ] (section 7.5), and /a/ ~ [ɔ]  
 739 (section 7.6).

740 In the domain of consonant clusters and sequences, different strategies are in  
 741 place to fix phonotactic problems introduced by reversal. One strategy is con-  
 742 sonant reordering, which is predictably applied to avoid unacceptable codas  
 743 (section 6.4). Another strategy is consonant deletion, which is only attested  
 744 in nasal-stop clusters. Here, the nasal consonant is typically deleted to avoid

745 a stop-nasal sequence (section 6.3). Word-medial clusters are commonly main-  
 746 tained, especially if their reversal would yield disfavored stop-nasal, stop-  
 747 fricative, or liquid-stop sequences (section 6.2). These repair strategies are  
 748 unique to Walikan and differ significantly from the way generic Malangan  
 749 Javanese treats clusters in loanwords. In loanwords, cluster maintenance serves  
 750 to achieve maximal auditory similarity between input and output. In Walikan,  
 751 by contrast, schwa epenthesis or other strategies to ensure input–output simi-  
 752 larity are rare.

753 Nevertheless, the Walikan forms examined in this study also shed light on  
 754 broader phonological issues Malangan Javanese. It is interesting to note that  
 755 rules of vowel allophony are not respected in the same way as those of conso-  
 756 nant allophony. A small number of historically allophonic vowel relations have  
 757 now become phonemic, even though predictable alternations remain the norm.  
 758 We have argued in favour of the phonemic status of the segment /ɔ/ (section 7.6)  
 759 and against the phonemic status of [i] and [u] (section 7.2). A number of  
 760 reversed Walikan words furthermore reveal that the allophonic relation between  
 761 /o/ ~ [ɔ] (section 7.5) and /e/ ~ [ɛ] (section 7.3) shows signs of becoming pho-  
 762 nemic. It is not entirely clear whether this indicates a phonological change that  
 763 is currently taking place in Malangan Javanese more generally, possibly rein-  
 764 forced by contact with Indonesian and other languages, or whether the expected  
 765 alternations are blocked by identical vowels in adjacent syllables.

766

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