



Phonological Language Errors in President Joko Widodo's Final State Address at the 2024 Annual Session of the People's Consultative Assembly

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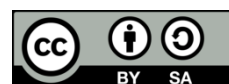
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ABSTRACT

Phonological deviations in formal political speech constitute a productive site for investigating the intersection of language error, dialectal interference, and sociophonetic identity. Despite a growing body of research on language errors in Indonesian political discourse, the phonological profile of President Joko Widodo's final presidential address, the culminating communicative act of a decade-long presidency, has not been examined. This study addresses that gap through a systematic analysis of phonological deviations in the speech delivered at the Annual Session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) on 16 August 2024. Employing a descriptive qualitative design with content analysis, the study transcribed the full speech from the official Kompas TV recording and identified deviations using an established phonological error taxonomy. Inter-rater verification was conducted to ensure coding reliability. A total of 29 phonological deviations were identified: 15 phoneme omissions (51.7%), 12 phoneme substitutions (41.4%), and 2 phoneme additions (6.9%). Crucially, the study demonstrates that the dominant omission pattern, including systematic deletion of medial /e/, fricative /h/, and palatal /y/, reflects stable Javanese L1 phonological transfer rather than transient performance error, a finding grounded in the foundational distinction between errors and mistakes in error analysis theory. Drawing on the principle of systematic sociolinguistic variation and psycholinguistic speech production theory, the study argues that several identified forms constitute sociophonetic variation rather than error, and proposes a theoretically grounded error-variation distinction for Indonesian phonological research. Implications for language policy, political communication, and applied linguistics pedagogy are discussed.

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ABSTRACT

Penyimpangan fonologis dalam pidato politik formal merupakan ruang kajian yang produktif untuk meneliti persinggungan antara kesalahan berbahasa, interferensi dialek, dan identitas sosiofonetik. Meskipun penelitian mengenai kesalahan berbahasa dalam wacana politik Indonesia terus berkembang, profil fonologis pidato kenegaraan terakhir Presiden Joko Widodo, sebagai tindak komunikasi puncak dari satu dekade masa kepemimpinannya, belum pernah dikaji secara khusus. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengisi kesenjangan tersebut melalui analisis sistematis terhadap penyimpangan fonologis dalam pidato Presiden pada Sidang

**Keywords:**

Kesalahan Fonologis,
Kesalahan Berbahasa, Pidato
Presiden, Joko Widodo,
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Tahunan Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat (MPR) tanggal 16 Agustus 2024. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain deskriptif kualitatif dengan metode analisis isi. Data berupa pidato lengkap yang ditranskripsikan dari rekaman resmi Kompas TV, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan taksonomi kesalahan fonologis yang telah mapan. Verifikasi antarkoder dilakukan untuk memastikan reliabilitas pengodean data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan terdapat 29 penyimpangan fonologis yang terdiri atas 15 penghilangan fonem (51,7%), 12 penggantian fonem (41,4%), dan 2 penambahan fonem (6,9%). Temuan utama penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pola penghilangan fonem yang dominan, termasuk penghapusan sistematis vokal tengah /e/, frikatif /h/, dan semivokal palatal /y/, lebih mencerminkan transfer fonologis bahasa pertama (L1) penutur yang berlatar belakang bahasa Jawa daripada sekadar kesalahan performansi yang bersifat sementara. Temuan ini didasarkan pada perbedaan konseptual antara error dan mistake dalam teori analisis kesalahan berbahasa. Dengan memanfaatkan prinsip variasi sosiolinguistik yang sistematis serta teori psikolinguistik produksi ujaran, penelitian ini berargumen bahwa sejumlah bentuk yang teridentifikasi lebih tepat dipahami sebagai variasi sosiofonetik daripada kesalahan berbahasa. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini mengusulkan pembedaan yang lebih teoretis antara kategori kesalahan dan variasi dalam penelitian fonologi bahasa Indonesia. Penelitian ini memberikan implikasi bagi kebijakan bahasa, komunikasi politik, serta pengajaran linguistik terapan, khususnya dalam memahami hubungan antara variasi fonologis, identitas kebahasaan, dan praktik komunikasi publik.

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INTRODUCTION

Language constitutes the primary instrument through which political leaders construct authority, convey vision, and maintain public legitimacy (Fairclough, 2001). In formal state communication, presidential speeches are not merely informational events but performative acts through which the head of state projects credibility, national identity, and institutional authority. In Indonesia, the Annual Session of the People's Consultative Assembly (Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat/MPR) represents the most constitutionally significant forum in which the President delivers a state address subject to intense scrutiny by citizens, media, and international observers.

Phonological accuracy constitutes a fundamental dimension of oral language use and is closely bound to questions of prestige, identity, and social evaluation (Labov, 1973). In multilingual contexts, the phonological norms of a speaker's first language frequently exert influence on their production of a second or prestige variety, a process theorised as phonological interference or L1 transfer (Trudgill, 2000). From the standpoint of error analysis, Allen & Corder (1974) draws a foundational distinction between systematic errors, which reflect the speaker's underlying interlanguage grammar, and unsystematic mistakes, which are performance-based and self-correctable. James (1998) further distinguishes between errors



attributable to incomplete competence and those arising from communicative pressure in high-stakes contexts, a distinction with direct relevance to presidential speech. At the phonological level, observable deviations from prescribed sound norms may be classified as omission, substitution, or addition of phonemes (Sabardila, 2014; Suhardjono et al., 2024), yet such classifications must be interpreted against the sociolinguistic backdrop of the speaker's dialectal background and sociophonetic repertoire.

President Joko Widodo, who served two consecutive terms (2014-2024), has been the subject of linguistic scholarship due to his distinctive Javanese-inflected speech style in formal settings. Several prior studies have documented language errors in his speeches: Saputri (2020) identified morphological errors in his 2019 inauguration speech, while Muliya et al. (2022) documented phonological errors in his address to the 75th United Nations General Assembly, finding a predominance of phoneme substitution errors attributable to L1 (Javanese) transfer. Senjaya et al. (2021) similarly reported phonological deviations, including omission, substitution, and addition errors, in formal YouTube speeches. Additionally, Sikana et al. (2024), working on the speech of a COVID-19 government spokesman, confirmed that omission, addition, and substitution constitute the three core categories of phonological error in Indonesian public discourse. Recently, Darsono et al. (2025) analysed phonological and morphological errors in President Joko Widodo's final state speech at the 2024 MPR Annual Session. Their findings identified phoneme omission, addition, and substitution as well as several morphological deviations, with morphological errors occurring more frequently than phonological errors. However, the study combined phonological and morphological analysis and did not provide a systematic quantitative account of phonological patterns nor a theoretical discussion distinguishing phonological errors from sociophonetic variation. Therefore, further investigation focusing specifically on phonological deviations remains necessary. Collectively, these studies establish a research tradition demonstrating that phonological deviations by senior public officials in Indonesia are systematic rather than random.

Although Darsono et al. (2025) examined phonological and morphological errors in the speech, their study did not focus exclusively on phonological patterns, nor did it investigate the theoretical distinction between phonological error and dialectal variation. Consequently, the phonological profile of the speech remains insufficiently explored from a sociophonetic and error-analysis perspective. This address carries a distinctive significance: as a culminating moment of ten years of presidential communication, it offers a terminal data point for assessing the consistency or evolution of his phonological patterns. Moreover, research on presidential language errors in commemorative or valedictory contexts remains understudied within Indonesian applied linguistics.

Against this background, this study pursues three objectives: (1) to identify and classify phonological errors occurring in President Joko Widodo's final state address at the 2024 MPR Annual Session; (2) to analyse the linguistic characteristics and patterns of each error type; and (3) to discuss the findings in dialogue with prior research on phonological errors in Indonesian political speech, thereby extending the cumulative knowledge base regarding language use in high-stakes formal discourse.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach with content analysis as its primary analytical technique. This methodological choice is appropriate given the study's objective of systematically identifying, describing, and classifying linguistic phenomena in a naturally occurring text, without seeking to manipulate variables or establish causal relationships (Moleong, 2017).



Data Source

The primary data source is the audio-visual recording of President Joko Widodo's state address delivered at the Annual Session of the MPR on 16 August 2024, obtained from the official YouTube channel of Kompas TV (<https://youtu.be/jzYFZQrTMFg>). This channel constitutes a credible, publicly accessible archive of Indonesian state events. The speech was selected because it represents the final formal presidential address of President Joko Widodo's administration, delivered in the most constitutionally significant formal setting available to an Indonesian president.

Data Collection

Data were collected through repeated and close listening of the speech recording, with simultaneous transcription of the spoken text. The researchers compared the spoken transcription against the normative forms of Standard Indonesian, as codified in the *Pedoman Umum Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia* (PUEBI) and *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI). Each instance of phonological deviation identified during transcription was recorded on a data card noting: (a) the erroneous form as produced; (b) the standard target form; and (c) the timestamp of occurrence within the recording.

Data Validity and Reliability

Data validity and analytical reliability were ensured through a multi-stage verification procedure consistent with best practices for qualitative linguistic research (Creswell, 2014; Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). First, the primary researcher conducted four independent listening sessions of the full speech recording, producing an orthographic transcription on each occasion. Discrepancies between transcription passes were resolved by reference to the audio recording at reduced playback speed. The finalised transcription was then used as the basis for error identification.

Second, each identified phonological deviation was independently coded by a second qualified linguist, who was provided with the transcription and error taxonomy but had not participated in the initial identification phase. The second coder was blind to the primary researcher's classifications. Inter-rater agreement was calculated using Cohen's Kappa statistic on the full set of identified deviations (N=29). An agreement coefficient of $\kappa=.84$ was obtained, indicating strong inter-rater reliability (Landis & Koch, 1977). Discrepancies (n=3) were resolved through discussion and consensus, following established procedures for qualitative content analysis (Krippendorff, 2018).

Third, the reliability of the error/category classifications was further assessed by comparing the codes assigned by both raters against the formal definitions provided by Setyawati (2010) and Sabardila (2014). Any case that could not be unambiguously classified under a single category was retained in the dataset but flagged for discussion in the analysis. This procedure ensures that the frequency counts reported in the results represent only those deviations for which category membership was established with high confidence, thereby minimising the risk of classification artefacts inflating the frequency distribution.

It should be noted that this study employs orthographic rather than phonemic (IPA) transcription, which is a limitation acknowledged in the methodological design. The orthographic transcription is derived directly from the audio and thus reflects the researchers' phonemic perceptions; however, it does not provide the level of precision that an IPA transcription would offer for confirming the exact phonological processes involved. Future replications of this study should adopt IPA notation to improve phonological precision and enable cross-linguistic comparison with international studies of phonological variation.



Data Analysis

The analysis followed three sequential stages: (1) identification of phonological deviations in the speech transcription; (2) classification of each deviation into one of three error categories, phoneme omission, phoneme substitution, or phoneme addition, in accordance with the taxonomy of Setyawati (2010) and Sabardila (2014); and (3) interpretive analysis of error patterns, including discussion of potential linguistic and sociolinguistic factors underlying each error type. The frequency distribution of errors by category was computed and presented in tabular form to support quantitative description within the qualitative analysis.

RESULT

The analysis of President Joko Widodo's final state address at the 2024 MPR Annual Session yielded a total of 29 phonological errors. These were distributed across three categories as follows: phoneme omission (n=15; 51.7%), phoneme substitution (n=12; 41.4%), and phoneme addition (n=2; 6.9%). The detailed findings for each category are presented below.

Phoneme Omission

Phoneme omission refers to the deletion of one or more phonemes from a target word, resulting in a reduced phonological form. Fifteen instances were identified in the present data set. The full data are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Phoneme Omission Errors in President Joko Widodo's 2024 MPR State Address

No	Error Type	Erroneous Form	Standard Form	Timestamp
1	Phoneme Omission	Slamat	Selamat	00:47
2	Phoneme Omission	Repblik	Republik	01:01
3	Phoneme Omission	Majlis	Majelis	01:20
4	Phoneme Omission	Jendral	Jenderal	02:00
5	Phoneme Omission	Mentri	Menteri	02:30
6	Phoneme Omission	Taun	Tahun	02:55
7	Phoneme Omission	Amnah	Amanah	03:30
8	Phoneme Omission	Diadapi	Dihadapi	03:47
9	Phoneme Omission	Dislesaikan	Diselesaikan	03:52
10	Phoneme Omission	Masarakat	Masyarakat	04:08
11	Phoneme Omission	Disukuri	Disyukuri	07:17
12	Phoneme Omission	Karna	Karena	12:46
13	Phoneme Omission	Pertaun	Pertahun	09:20
14	Phoneme Omission	Negri	Negeri	14:16
15	Phoneme Omission	Kusus	Khusus	14:21

The omission errors in Table 1 display several patterned subtypes. The most frequent subtype involves the elision of the vowel /e/ in medial position: Repblik (Republik), Majlis (Majelis), Jendral (Jenderal), Mentri (Menteri), Negri (Negeri). A second prominent pattern is the deletion of the fricative consonant /h/: Taun (Tahun), Diadapi (Dihadapi), Pertaun (Pertahun). A third pattern involves the omission of the palatal fricative /y/ (represented orthographically as 'sy' or 'y'): Masarakat (Masyarakat), Disukuri (Disyukuri), Kusus (Khusus). The deletion of /a/ in Amnah (Amanah) and the elision of an entire syllable in Dislesaikan (Diselesaikan) and Karna (Karena) represent further instances of reduction processes.



Phoneme Substitution

Phoneme substitution refers to the replacement of a target phoneme with a non-target phoneme. Twelve instances were identified. The full data are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Phoneme Substitution Errors in President Joko Widodo's 2024 MPR State Address

No	Error Type	Erroneous Form	Standard Form	Timestamp
1	Phoneme Substitution	Persiden	Presiden	01:02
2	Phoneme Substitution	Partae	Partai	02:41
3	Phoneme Substitution	Sodara-sodara	Saudara-saudara	02:45
4	Phoneme Substitution	Sebagae	Sebagai	03:12
5	Phoneme Substitution	Ijinkan	Izinkan	04:38
6	Phoneme Substitution	Titek	Titik	05:15
7	Phoneme Substitution	Mengekspot	Mengekspor	10:50
8	Phoneme Substitution	Enerji	Energi	13:05
9	Phoneme Substitution	Tehnologi	Teknologi	13:25
10	Phoneme Substitution	Baek	Baik	14:04
11	Phoneme Substitution	Aparatul	Aparatur	16:53
12	Phoneme Substitution	Terbaek	Terbaik	20:27

The substitution errors in Table 2 reveal systematic patterns. The most recurrent substitution involves the replacement of the diphthong /ai/ with the monophthong /e/: Partae (Partai), Sebagae (Sebagai), Baek (Baik), Terbaek (Terbaik). This is a well-documented feature of Javanese-influenced Indonesian, in which the diphthong /ai/ is commonly realised as the cardinal vowel /e/. A second pattern involves consonant substitution: Ijinkan (Izinkan) replaces the alveolar fricative /z/ with the affricate /dʒ/ (written 'j'); Enerji (Energi) and Tehnologi (Teknologi) reflect consonant shifts attributable to dialectal transfer. The substitution /r/→/rs/ in Persiden (Presiden) involves metathetic rearrangement of a consonant cluster. Aparatul for Aparatur reflects final-syllable substitution. Titek for Titik and Mengekspot for Mengekspor represent vowel and final consonant substitutions, respectively. Sodara-sodara for Saudara-saudara involves the deletion of the diphthong's glide component /w/.

Phoneme Addition

Phoneme addition refers to the insertion of an extraneous phoneme into a target word. Two instances were identified, as presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Phoneme Addition Errors in President Joko Widodo's 2024 MPR State Address

No	Error Type	Erroneous Form	Standard Form	Timestamp
1	Phoneme Addition	Jugak	Juga	03:56
2	Phoneme Addition	Sampek	Sampai	09:02



The addition errors are limited in number but linguistically notable. *Jugak* for *Juga* involves the insertion of an obstruent /k/ in final position, a feature characteristic of Javanese and certain Betawi dialect speakers. *Sampek* for *Sampai* combines addition (/k/ insertion) with vowel substitution (/ai/→/e/), suggesting a compound error or a single dialectal reanalysis of the word form.

DISCUSSION

Consistency with Prior Research and Explanatory Analysis

The present findings require explanation at three levels: the phonological level (what processes produce these specific deviations?), the psycholinguistic level (why do these processes occur in formal speech contexts?), and the sociolinguistic level (what do these patterns mean for the speaker's identity and the broader language policy context?). Each level is addressed in turn.

At the phonological level, the dominant omission pattern, specifically the deletion of medial /e/ in consonant clusters (Repblik, Majelis), the elision of fricative /h/ in medial position (Taun, Diadapi), and the omission of palatal /y/ in the digraph 'sy' (Masarakat), is explicable as the operation of a consonant cluster preference rule from the Javanese phonological system. Javanese permits a more restricted set of consonant clusters than Standard Indonesian, favouring CV (consonant-vowel) syllable structures and disavouring complex codas and onsets (Muliya et al., 2022). When the speaker's Javanese phonological grammar is activated during articulation, as Levelt's (1989) model predicts it will be under conditions of processing load, it imposes Javanese syllable structure preferences on Indonesian lexical forms, producing the observed simplifications. This is not a random omission of sounds but a principled application of an alternative phonological grammar.

At the psycholinguistic level, the predominance of omission errors in the present data, contrasting with the substitution-dominant profile found by Muliya et al. (2022) in the UN General Assembly speech, is theoretically informative. Levelt (1989) distinguishes between the phonological encoding stage, where phonological representations are assembled, and the phonetic encoding stage, where these representations are translated into articulatory motor plans. Substitution errors are more characteristic of phonological encoding errors, incorrect phoneme selection, while omission errors are more characteristic of articulatory simplification under conditions of automaticity or reduced monitoring. The dominance of omissions in the MPR speech, compared to the dominance of substitutions in the UN speech, is consistent with the hypothesis that the MPR domestic audience induced a lower level of phonological self-monitoring, allowing more automatised Javanese articulatory patterns to surface. This interpretation is consistent with style-shifting research in sociolinguistics (Labov, 1973), which demonstrates that formal style shifts are gradient and context-dependent, and that speakers do not maximally activate normative norms in all formal contexts equally.

At the sociolinguistic level, the persistence of these patterns across a decade of presidential communication, from the 2019 speeches documented by Senjaya et al. (2021) to the 2024 address analysed here constitutes evidence for what Labov (1973) would classify as a stable sociolinguistic variable: a phonological feature that is consistently present in the speaker's production as a marker of regional identity. Trudgill (2000) would characterise this as incomplete phonological accommodation to the prestige variety, attributable to the strength of the speaker's early phonological socialisation and the automatised Javanese phonological routines. Critically, this finding challenges the implicit assumption in prescriptive



language policy discourse that formal contexts will automatically produce standard-norm phonological production.

The three-category typology of omission, substitution, and addition that emerges from the present data is identical to that documented by Sikana et al. (2024) and Muliya et al. (2022). This convergence across speakers and contexts confirms that the Setyawati (2010) and Sabardila (2014) typology possesses robust classificatory validity for Indonesian oral political discourse.

Extending the Longitudinal Profile of President Joko Widodo's Phonological Patterns

Taken alongside the findings of Saputri (2020) on morphological errors in the 2019 inauguration speech and Senjaya et al. (2021) on phonological errors in 2019 YouTube speeches, the present study contributes to a longitudinal profile of President Joko Widodo's language use across his presidency. The persistence of the same error types, particularly diphthong reduction (/ai/→/e/), consonant omission (/h/ deletion), and vowel reduction, across speeches from 2019 to 2024 indicates that these are stable features of the President's idiolect rather than situational performance errors. This finding supports the view that habitual phonological patterns from a speaker's first language (in this case, Javanese) can become entrenched even under formal communicative conditions, consistent with the theoretical positions of Setyawati (2010) and Sabardila (2014), Allen & Corder (1974), and Trudgill (2000) regarding the role of L1 interference in adult language production.

This finding partially challenges the prescriptivist assumption, sometimes implied in Indonesian language policy discourse, that formal speech contexts will automatically elicit normative Standard Indonesian pronunciation. The evidence across multiple studies suggests that high-level phonological monitoring does not fully neutralise dialectal influence, even in the most formal of communicative settings. This observation resonates with sociolinguistic research on the relationship between formality and phonological variation (Labov, 1973; Nurwicaksono & Amelia, 2018), which shows that register-shifting toward formal norms is gradient rather than categorical.

Error or Dialectal Variation? Towards a Theoretically Grounded Distinction

A critical limitation of the prescriptive analytical framework deployed in this and cognate studies (Muliya et al., 2022; Sikana et al., 2024) is the implicit equation of deviation from Standard Indonesian norms with linguistic error. While such an equation is operationally convenient and is sanctioned by the normative language policy context, Presidential Regulation (Peraturan Presiden RI No. 16 Tahun 2010) and (Peraturan Presiden Nomor 63 Tahun 2019) explicitly mandates the use of standard Indonesian in presidential communications, it obscures an important theoretical distinction between errors in the technical sense of error analysis and systematic dialectal or sociophonetic variation.

In error analysis, as Allen & Corder (1974) and James (1998) have established, an error is a deviation attributable to an underlying competence gap, something the speaker cannot produce correctly. A dialectal variant, by contrast, is a form that the speaker produces systematically and consistently as part of their native phonological grammar. The distinction has profound consequences for interpretation: if a deviation is an error, it implies incomplete acquisition of the target norm and potentially calls for remediation; if it is a dialectal variant, it is a legitimate phonological form within a different grammatical system, and its evaluation as 'wrong' is a matter of language ideology rather than linguistic fact (Labov, 1973).



Applying this distinction to the present data reveals that several of the most frequent ‘errors’ are more accurately described as stable dialectal features. The monophthongisation of /ai/ to /e/ (Partai→Partae, Baik→Baek, Sebagai→Sebagae) is not merely frequent in the present data, it is categorical: across all relevant instances in the speech data, not a single instance of standard /ai/ realisation was recorded in word-final position. This categoricity is inconsistent with an error account (which would predict variable alternation between target and non-target forms) and is consistent with a phonological rule account: the speaker’s phonological grammar lacks the diphthong /ai/ as a contrastive unit in certain phonological environments, replacing it categorically with /e/. This is precisely what would be predicted by a Javanese phonological system in which word-final /ai/ is absent (Muliya et al., 2022).

Similarly, the deletion of fricative /h/ in medial position (Tahun→Taun, Amanah→Amnah, Dihadapi→Diadapi) reflects a systematic process of intervocalic /h/ deletion that is well documented in Javanese and in colloquial Betawi Indonesian (Wouk, 1999). Rather than being a random omission error, /h/ deletion in these environments constitutes a phonological process of the speaker’s L1 grammar that surfaces in formal Indonesian production. Labov (1973) would characterise this as a covert prestige feature, one that carries positive indexical value within the speaker’s community even if it carries negative evaluative weight in the eyes of prescriptive language authorities.

This is not to argue that the distinction between error and variation can be established with certainty on the basis of the present dataset alone. A definitive determination would require: (1) production data across multiple speech events to confirm categoricity; (2) acoustic phonetic analysis to determine whether the produced forms are phonetically identical to Javanese phonological targets; and (3) metalinguistic interview data to assess the speaker’s awareness and evaluative stance toward these forms. What the present analysis does establish is that the blanket classification of all phonological deviations as ‘errors’ is theoretically untenable, and that future research in this tradition must adopt an analytical framework capable of distinguishing systematic sociophonetic variation from genuine competence-based error.

The Sociolinguistic Significance of Phonological Variation in Presidential Discourse

The phonological patterns identified in this study should not be interpreted exclusively as deficiencies. From a sociolinguistic perspective, the consistent presence of Javanese phonological features in President Joko Widodo’s formal Indonesian may be understood as a form of identity-marking or audience alignment. While prior studies in this tradition (Saputri, 2020; Senjaya et al., 2021) have generally framed such features as errors requiring remediation, it is also possible to read them as sociolinguistic resources through which a speaker signals regional solidarity or projects an accessible, non-elite persona. The present study does not adjudicate between these interpretations but notes that a purely prescriptive framework, while analytically tractable, may not capture the full communicative significance of phonological variation in presidential discourse.

At the same time, the present findings do not support the dismissal of phonological accuracy as a legitimate concern in the context of formal state addresses. The Indonesian Presidential Regulations (Peraturan Presiden RI No. 16 Tahun 2010) and (Peraturan Presiden Nomor 63 Tahun 2019) mandate the use of Standard Indonesian in official presidential communications. Phonological deviation from this standard, however systematically explicable, represents a departure from the legal and normative framework governing presidential language use, and warrants attention in the design of pre-speech language support mechanisms for public officials.



Towards a Dialogue Between Empirical Findings and Theoretical Frameworks

The theoretical frameworks most commonly cited in the Indonesian language error analysis literature, Setyawati (2010) and Sabardila (2014), provide a descriptively adequate taxonomy for classifying phonological errors, and the present study confirms their utility. However, these frameworks do not fully account for the differential frequency distributions observed across studies (e.g., the dominance of substitution in some contexts and omission in others), nor do they theorise the conditions under which dialectal features are suppressed or expressed during formal speech production. Future research would benefit from integrating psycholinguistic models of speech production, such as Levelt's (1989) speaking model, to provide a more explanatorily adequate account of why specific error types predominate in specific communicative contexts.

Limitations

This study makes several theoretical and empirical contributions to the analysis of phonological deviations in Indonesian formal political speech; however, a number of limitations must be acknowledged in order to properly contextualise the findings and inform future research design.

First, the analysis is based on a single speech event, President Joko Widodo's 2024 MPR Annual Session address, comprising a corpus of 29 identified phonological deviations. While the selection of this speech is motivated by its unique historical significance as the speaker's final presidential address, the corpus is insufficient for the confident generalisation of findings to the speaker's phonological repertoire as a whole, or to Indonesian political speech more broadly.

Second, the study employs a prescriptive analytical framework grounded in Standard Indonesian norms (Sabardila, 2014; Setyawati, 2010) that classifies all deviations from these norms as 'errors.' This classification conflates genuine competence-based errors with systematic sociophonetic variation, potentially overstating the error frequency and mischaracterising the nature of the observed phonological patterns. Future studies should operationalise an explicit error-versus-variation criterion, based on cross-situational consistency and acoustic phonetic data, to ensure that the analytical categories applied are theoretically defensible.

Third, the transcription methodology is orthographic rather than phonemic. The absence of IPA notation means that the phonological processes involved in each deviation are inferred rather than directly observed. Acoustic phonetic analysis, including spectrographic analysis and formant measurement, would provide more rigorous evidence for the phonological processes involved and would enable comparison with international studies employing instrumental methods.

Fourth, the study does not include acoustic measurement of any identified deviation. Without formant data or waveform analysis, it is not possible to determine whether the observed deviations are categorical (as would be expected under a phonological rule account) or gradient (as would be expected under a phonetic accommodation account). Future research should integrate acoustic phonetic analysis using software such as Praat to provide instrumental validation of auditory transcription judgements.

Fifth, the study does not include data on the speaker's metalinguistic awareness or attitudes toward the identified phonological features. Sociolinguistic interview data or matched guise experiments would provide a complementary dimension of evidence for understanding the social and psychological status of the observed phonological patterns.



CONCLUSION

This study has identified and classified 29 phonological errors in President Joko Widodo's final state address at the 2024 MPR Annual Session: 15 omissions (51.7%), 12 substitutions (41.4%), and 2 additions (6.9%). The error patterns are consistent with systematic Javanese L1 interference, particularly in the realisation of Indonesian diphthongs, fricatives, and medial vowels, and are congruent with findings from prior studies on the same speaker and on other Indonesian public officials. The persistence of these patterns across a decade of presidential communication suggests that they represent stable idiolectal features rather than transient performance errors.

Crucially, the study demonstrates that the dominant omission pattern, including systematic deletion of medial /e/, fricative /h/, and palatal /y/, reflects stable Javanese L1 phonological transfer rather than transient performance error, a finding grounded in the foundational error analysis distinction between systematic errors and unsystematic mistakes. Drawing on the principles of systematic sociolinguistic variation and psycholinguistic speech production theory, the study argues that several identified forms constitute sociophonetic variation rather than error in the technical sense, and proposes a theoretically grounded error-variation distinction for Indonesian phonological research.

The study extends the empirical record on phonological errors in Indonesian presidential discourse to Joko Widodo's final address, and contributes to theoretical discussion by highlighting that the dominance of omission errors in the present context differs from the substitution-dominant profile found in the UN speech, suggesting that communicative context modulates the type of phonological deviation that predominates. This finding invites further research into the psycholinguistic mechanisms underlying context-dependent phonological monitoring in formal speech.

The findings have practical implications for language coaching programmes for Indonesian public officials, underscoring the need for explicit attention to Javanese-Indonesian interference patterns, particularly in the realisation of diphthongs, fricative consonants, and medial syllable vowels. Future research should conduct comparative longitudinal analyses across Indonesian presidents, examine the reception of phonological variation by formal audiences, and integrate experimental psycholinguistic methods, including acoustic phonetic analysis and metalinguistic elicitation tasks, to test explanatory hypotheses about the sources of the observed errors.

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