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# The Sound Changes in the Transliteration of Indonesian Regional Names into Arabic: A Phonological Study

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# The Sound Changes in the Transliteration of Indonesian Regional Names into Arabic: A Phonological Study

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**Abstract**

*This study aims to determine the change in the consonant phoneme that is found only in the Indonesian language which occurs in the Indonesian region when it is transliterated into the Arabic language. The research method uses a qualitative method of descriptive with review literature techniques. The data obtained from various regional names in Indonesia contained in the Arabic version of Google Maps and then grouped by certain criteria. There are five consonant phonemes that are only available in Indonesian language and are not found in Arabic, such as: /c/ ,/g/ ,/p/ ,/ŋ/, and /ñ/, so variations appear in the Indonesian transliteration symbols to the Arabic. The results showed that phoneme /c/ could be represented by the phoneme <س> ,<ك>, or grapheme <تش>, Phoneme /g/can be represented by the phoneme <غ> or <ج>, phoneme /p/ can be represented by the phoneme <ب> or <ف>, phonemes/ŋ/or grapheme <ng> can be represented by the grapheme <نج> ,<نغ> ,<نق>, or <نك>, for the phonemes /ñ/ or grapheme <ny> can be represented by the grapheme <ني>. The phoneme changes are based on the proximity of articulation points. This research is a preliminary study to map the transcription symbol of Indonesian phonemes into Arabic.*

*Keywords: indonesian-Arabic Transliteration; phonology; graphology*

## 1. Introduction

The development of globalization today allows every member of a linguistic community to interact with members of other linguistic communities through online media or direct interaction. Communication between two or more languages requires individuals to master a foreign language in order to engage effectively. By mastering two languages, one can compare the two languages in terms of writing, phonetics, or grammar. From this comparison, differences between the two languages can be observed, enabling scientific research to facilitate the teaching of the foreign language mastered or for other purposes.

Language is a phonetic system that serves as a means of communication, unique to humans alone. As Anwar stated: "Language is a tool for thought and a means of expressing what occupies the human mind in terms of ideas, as well as what resides in their emotions and feelings. It is a medium of communication and understanding among peoples and individuals, as well as a tool for learning and education. Without it, the educational process would not be possible" (Al Musa, 2016, p. 5). Similarly, Martinet defined language as "a means of communication that analyzes human experience differently within each local community, breaking it into units that contain semantic content and phonetic expression" (Martinet, 1987, p. 32). Furthermore, the revelation of sound is expressed through different and sequential units known as phonemes, which have a specific number in each language. Language is one of the elements of global culture and plays a crucial role in society. Without language, all systems of life within a community would break down and be unable to function properly. Therefore, the attention given by experts to the development of language cannot be underestimated, as it is the key to the progress and evolution of a society's culture. It is well understood that humans are social beings who require interaction with one another.


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In this modern era, the importance of understanding written language is no less significant than understanding spoken language. This is due to the advancement of technology, which facilitates human communication not only through speech but also through writing. Written language serves as the second form of spoken language, emerging to represent the ideas conveyed through the sounds of language. Writing is derived from speech, speech is derived from thought, and writing represents the sounds articulated in speech. Thus, every set of letters in writing plays a pivotal role in conveying the author's ideas through the written composition (Gazali, 2014, p. 210). It can be concluded that writing is a system of communication among humans, utilizing traditional visual means.

Every nation has its own language, which differs from that of other nations in terms of phonology, morphology, and grammar. For instance, phonology, as a branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of language in general, varies from one language to another. An example of this is the difference between the phonology of Arabic and Indonesian. This is due to certain phonetic features in the Indonesian language that are absent in Arabic phonetic features. Consequently, the pronunciation of some Arabic consonants changes during the process of phonetic translation of Indonesian place names into Arabic. Suherman stated that the alteration of a consonant to another occurs because of the influence of a sound that is phonetically closer to that consonant. This process is referred to as "depalatization," which is the substitution of one consonant with another due to its proximity to the sound (Suherman, 2012, p. 22).

Graphology, or the study of writing systems, is a branch of linguistics that examines written language (Soeparno, 2002, p. 26). Graphology is concerned with graphemes, which are essentially orthographic systems. On the other hand, phonology is the branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of language (Chaer, 2009, p. 5). In linguistics, graphology is analogous to phonology in its study of the units of human language sounds. A unit in graphology is referred to as a grapheme, which corresponds to a phoneme. A phoneme is an auditory impression produced by speech organs, defined by a specific meaning that is unique and not shared by other phonemes. Simultaneously, it also represents a distinct written form that is independent of other shapes (al-Halwi, 2016, p. 211). Graphology plays an active role in the formulation of spelling systems. Spelling can describe both the segmental and suprasegmental elements of spoken sounds. Writing spoken sounds requires a phonological study, particularly in phonetics.

It is certain that the phonetic transition of Indonesian words into Arabic pronunciation will differ from the original sounds in the Indonesian language. While some Indonesian words can be transliterated into Arabic, there are also differences in certain sounds. The most common problems encountered during the phonetic transition from Indonesian text to Arabic text stem from the fact that many letters in the Indonesian language, both vowels and consonants, do not exist in Arabic. The process of letter transition or transliteration involves expressing the original word from the source language using equivalent letters in the target language. It is essentially the transcription and representation of letters using a different writing system, establishing a correspondence between two languages and replacing each letter, where possible, with its equivalent counterpart.

According to Thoyib, when comparing the consonant phonemes of Arabic and Indonesian, the summary can be outlined as follows: The consonant phonemes that exist in both Indonesian and Arabic amount to eighteen, which are: /b/, /t/, /d/, /j/, /k/, /ʔ/ (glottal stop), /f/, /s/, /z/, /ʃ/ (sh), /x/ (kh), /h/, /m/, /n/, /r/, /q/, /w/, and /y/. The consonant phonemes that exist only in Indonesian are five: /c/ (ch), /g/, /p/, /ɲ/ (ny), and /ŋ/ (ng). The consonant phonemes that exist only in Arabic are eleven: /ṭ/, /ḍ/, /ṣ/, /ẓ/, /x/ (kh), /ṣ/, /θ/, /ð/, /ʕ/ (ʿain), /ɣ/ (gh), and /ħ/ (ḥ) (Thoyib, 2017, p. 65).

Several studies have been conducted regarding the transliteration of Indonesian words into Arabic. Among these studies are: The research conducted by Irfan Ghazali titled "The Transliteration of Indonesian Names into Arabic Letters: Problems and Solutions." The findings of his study indicate that names are not translated but can be written in another language using a set of letters that closely match the original pronunciation. This involves reconstructing the name using the phonetic system of the target language. The study by Lili Maziah titled "Arabization Phenomena in Translating Foreign Words: Various Patterns of Their Transformation." Her findings reveal that the transliteration of foreign words into Arabic can be categorized into three types based on the phonetic system: Arabization of consonants: Replacing letters with the closest Arabic equivalent in articulation. Arabization of compound consonants: Transforming the compound sound into the nearest Arabic equivalent, or adapting it to an Arabic sound. Arabization of vowels: Using Arabic vowel letters and adding diacritics (long or short vowels) to the alphabet. Two additional studies by Irfan Ghazali titled "Alih Aksara 'C' Dalam Nama Indonesia Ke Bahasa Arab" (Transliteration of 'C' in Indonesian Names into Arabic) and "Alih Aksara 'G' Dan 'Ng' Dalam Nama Indonesia Ke Bahasa Arab" (Transliteration of 'G' and 'Ng' in Indonesian Names into Arabic). His findings suggest that: The phoneme /c/ can be represented in Arabic as /ش/, /س/, or /تش/. The phoneme /g/ can be represented in Arabic as /ق/, /ج/, /غ/, or /ك/. These studies highlight the phonetic and orthographic adjustments necessary for accurate transliteration from Indonesian to Arabic.

This study will analyze the variations of the five consonants that exist only in the Indonesian language and how they change when transliterated into Arabic. The objects of analysis are the names of regions in Indonesia as written in Arabic on Google Maps. Why Indonesian regional names? Because they contain the original phonetic features of the Indonesian language. These two languages belong to different linguistic systems and originate from distinct language families. Arabic is classified as a member of the Semitic languages, while Indonesian belongs to the Austronesian language family, specifically the Malayic subgroup (Snedon, 2003, p. 22).

Currently, the study of the Arabic language in Indonesia is highly developed. However, field observations reveal that there are numerous challenges faced during the learning process. The main issue lies in the fact that Arabic language education remains heavily focused on understanding grammar, morphology, and rhetoric, often neglecting the study of phonology or Arabic sounds and how they compare to Indonesian phonology. As a result, many students who have studied Arabic for an extended period still struggle to transliterate Indonesian words or terms into Arabic, especially those that involve sounds not present in Arabic. Based on this study, the author offers several suggestions to address these issues and improve the learning process.

## 2. Research Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study is descriptive and qualitative. The primary data source consists of Indonesian regional names written in Arabic as found on the Google Maps application. The data collected does not include all Indonesian regional names but is limited to those that contain the five specific consonants: /c/, /g/, /p/, /ɲ/ (ny), and /ŋ/ (ng).

The analysis in this study involves two languages, namely Indonesian and Arabic. Consequently, the appropriate method for analysis is the transitional method. This method is used to observe and compare the analyzed elements, specifically the changes in phonemes in Indonesian when transliterated into Arabic. The research procedures can be detailed as follows: Identifying Indonesian regional names written in Arabic on the Google Maps application. Observing the transliteration process based on the data obtained in the first step. Classifying the analyzed data accordingly.

## 3. Result and Discussion

There are several methods for transferring foreign words into the Arabic language, including ta'rib (Arabization), translation, derivation, and borrowing, among others. Generally, the names of foreign regions are not translated into Arabic; rather, they are borrowed. Borrowing foreign words and terms into Arabic is considered a relatively new phenomenon in the Arabic language because earlier linguists had coined words and terms that conformed to the rules of Arabic grammar and relied on translation (Malik, 2009, p. 270). After being borrowed, the foreign word or term undergoes phonological changes in accordance with the rules of the Arabic language. In this study, borrowing is specifically observed in the names of regions in Indonesia.

Sounds play a crucial role in distinguishing human language, both in its production and structure. They are closely linked to human thought in terms of substance and meaning, as the primary form of language is spoken. This level of study focuses on the fundamental components, which are sounds. Studying the sounds of Arabic involves describing them in terms of articulation and characteristics (Idris, 2017). Linguistic sounds are specific sounds or unique instances within the broader set of sounds. According to some modern linguists, these sounds are produced by the human speech apparatus (Gazali, 2017, p. 1260). Every language is represented by sounds. The identifiable sounds of a language are those based on the human speech organs. A linguistic sound that can distinguish forms and meanings is called a phoneme (Alwi, 2003, p. 26). A phoneme is the smallest sound unit of a language, while a grapheme is the smallest basic unit of written language. According to Muhammad Ali Al-Khūli in his dictionary Mu'jam 'Ilm al-Aswat (Dictionary of Phonetics), slashes "//" are used to indicate phonemes (Al-Khūli, 1982, p. 6). For example, /b/, /t/, /j/, and /d/. On the other hand, graphemes are written like this: <>. For instance, the phoneme /g/ corresponds to the grapheme <g>, the phoneme /ŋ/ corresponds to the grapheme <ng>, and the phoneme /ñ/ corresponds to the grapheme <ny>.

In the Indonesian language, there are 26 known alphabet letters, consisting of five vowels (a, i, u, o, e) and twenty-one consonants (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z). In addition to these letters, in terms of phonetics, the sounds produced based on the letters can vary. Kentjono stated that the Indonesian language has 24 phonemes as the smallest sound units that function to differentiate meaning. These phonemes are: /i, e, a, ə, o, u, p, t, c, k, b, d, j, g, m, n, ñ, ŋ, s, h, r, l, w, y/. Alternatively, it can be said to have 28 phonemes if /f, z, ʃ, χ/ are fully assimilated into Indonesian (Kentjono, 2005, p. 164).

In Arabic, the phonological structure consists of the following units: 28 consonants (ʾalif hamzah, bāʾ, tāʾ, thāʾ, jīm, ḥāʾ, khāʾ, dāl, dhāl, rāʾ, zāy, sīn, shīn, ṣād, ḍād, ṭāʾ, ẓāʾ, ʿayn, ghayn, fāʾ, qāf, kāf, lām, mīm, nūn, hāʾ, wāw, yāʾ), three short vowel units (ḥarakāt qaṣīrah): fatḥah /ـَـ/, kasrah /ـِـ/, and ḍammah /ـُـ/, and three long vowel units (ḥarakāt ṭawīlah): alif al-madd (long fatḥah /ـَـا/), yāʾ al-madd (long kasrah /ـِـي/), and wāw al-madd (long ḍammah /ـُـو/). Thus, Arabic has 34 phonological units, consisting of consonants and vowels (Hijazi, 1997, p. 46). Some sounds in Indonesian are absent in Arabic and do not have corresponding symbols to represent them in Arabic. These sounds include /c/, /g/, /p/, /ŋ/ (represented as grapheme <n>), and /ñ/ (represented as grapheme <ny>). This study analyzes how these five sounds transform when transliterated into Arabic. The limited number of Indonesian consonants that lack Arabic equivalents does not mean that transliteration is impossible. The presence of these unique Indonesian consonants necessitates the creation or adaptation of equivalent Arabic symbols to represent them. There are various approaches to addressing this issue, such as replacing the foreign letter with the phonetically closest Arabic letter, deleting or adding letters, removing one of two consecutive consonants when they appear together, or beginning a word with a hamzah when the original word starts with a consonant cluster.

There are numerous factors that contribute to differences in transliteration from one language to another. These include: Differences in pronunciation of the sound in the source language, which is considered during transliteration. The absence of the sound in Arabic, leading to variations among Arabs in how it is transliterated. The descriptive or articulatory interchangeability within Arabic. Preference for either articulation or phonetic quality over the other. The sound being originally a compound, but treated as if it were non-compound. Influence from another language. Significant alterations or modifications of the sound within Arabic. Phonetic assimilation or dissimilation. Considering the written form in transliteration without focusing on pronunciation. Variations between languages. These factors highlight the complexity of adapting foreign sounds into Arabic (al-Ghaili, 2008).

Transliteration is one of the methods used for reproducing content between two symbolic systems. It refers to transferring linguistic content from one writing system to another, typically from one alphabet to another. Transliteration systems aim to achieve precise and complete correspondence between the two alphabets, enabling the user to reconstruct the original script, provided they have the necessary tools to generate the output in the transliteration process. However, we must not underestimate the negative impact of the inverse relationship between the degree of compatibility between the two alphabets in encoding sounds and the transparency of transliteration tools. The lower the level of compatibility in sound encoding between the two alphabets, the greater the complexity and intricacy of transliteration tools, including correspondence lists and processing strategies (al-Mahna, 2006).

The relationship between the two sides of the literal transfer can be shown in Figure 1.

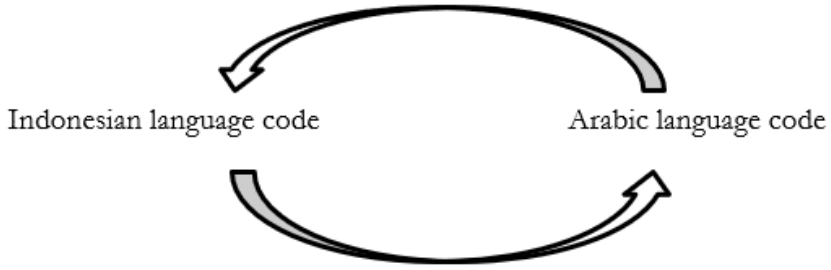


Figure 1. Relationship between the two sides of the literal transfer

*3.1. Transformations of the Phoneme /c/ or the Grapheme <c>*

In the application Google Maps, several Indonesian place names use the letter c. When transliterated into Arabic, this letter changes. Three Arabic letters are commonly used to replace the letter c: ك ,س, and the grapheme <تش>. This can be observed in the following table.

Table 1. Region written in both language

| The name of the region written in Arabic | The name of the region written in Indonesian |
|---|---|
| سيربيون | Cirebon |
| سيلاكاب | Cilacap |
| كالانغ | Calang |
| آتشيه | Aceh |

The letter c in Indonesian is a consonant and the third letter in the Latin alphabet. The sound /c/ is considered foreign to the Arabic language, classified as a voiceless palatal stop (Muslich, 2012, p. 52). It is one of the phonemes absent in Classical Arabic, with no symbol representing it in Arabic script and no equivalent in Arabic phonemes. Consequently, when words are transliterated from Indonesian into Arabic, the sound must undergo a transformation. It is sometimes replaced with the closest Arabic sounds, which are /ك/ ,/س/, or /تش/. The /س/ sound is a voiceless dental stop, which shares a similar articulation point with /c/. For this reason, /c/ is often replaced with /س/, as in the case of "Cirebon," which becomes "سيربيون." This substitution frequently occurs in oral transliteration. The /ك/ sound, on the other hand, is a voiceless velar stop, and the velar place of articulation is relatively close to that of /c/. Hence, /c/ can be substituted with /ك/, as in the case of "Calang," which becomes "كالانغ." Lastly, /ش/ is a voiceless fricative palatal sound. By adding a preceding /ت/ to create /تش/, it becomes closer to the /c/ sound. Therefore, /c/ is sometimes replaced with /تش/, as seen in the case of "Aceh," which is written as "آتشيه" in Arabic. English has had a significant influence on the transformation of the /c/ sound into /س/ and /تش/ in Arabic, as the letter c in English is pronounced [si].

### *3.2. Transformations of phoneme /g/ or grapheme <g>*

On the Google Maps application, several Indonesian regional names containing the letter g were found, and when transliterated into Arabic, they changed. Two Arabic letters are used as replacements for the letter g, namely: ج (jeem) and غ (ghain). This variation can be observed in the Table 2.

The letter g in Indonesian is a consonant and the seventh letter in the Latin alphabet. The phoneme /g/ is a voiced velar stop, which is absent in Modern Standard Arabic (al-Arini, 2007, p. 145). This sound lacks a direct representation in the Arabic script and does not have an equivalent phoneme in Classical Arabic. As a result, when transliterating Indonesian words into Arabic, the /g/ sound often undergoes substitution. It is sometimes replaced by the closest sound in Arabic, /j/ (jeem), which is a voiced palatal stop with a softened articulation. For example, Gorontalo becomes جورونتالو. In other cases, the /g/ sound is replaced by /gh/ (ghain), a voiced velar fricative. Both /g/ and /gh/ share the same place of articulation (velar) and voicing, but they differ in manner of articulation: /g/ is a stop, while /gh/ is a fricative. For instance, Gresik becomes غريسيك. When the /g/ sound is transliterated into Arabic, it is either converted to /gh/ or /j/. However, /gh/ is generally considered the closer equivalent, which is why many Arabic loanwords use /gh/ to represent the /g/ sound.

Table 2. Variation on phoneme /g/ or grapheme <g>

| The name of the region written in Arabic | The name of the region written in Indonesian |
|---|---|
| جورونتالو | Gorontalo |
| بوجور | Bogor |
| غريسيك | Gresik |
| تيغال | Tegal |

The letter g in Indonesian is a consonant and the seventh letter in the Latin alphabet. The phoneme /g/ is a voiced velar stop, which is absent in Modern Standard Arabic (al-Arini, 2007, p. 145). This sound lacks a direct representation in the Arabic script and does not have an equivalent phoneme in Classical Arabic. As a result, when transliterating Indonesian words into Arabic, the /g/ sound often undergoes substitution. It is sometimes replaced by the closest sound in Arabic, /j/ (jeem), which is a voiced palatal stop with a softened articulation. For example, Gorontalo becomes جورونتالو. In other cases, the /g/ sound is replaced by /gh/ (ghain), a voiced velar fricative. Both /g/ and /gh/ share the same place of articulation (velar) and voicing, but they differ in manner of articulation: /g/ is a stop, while /gh/ is a fricative. For instance, Gresik becomes غريسيك. When the /g/ sound is transliterated into Arabic, it is either converted to /gh/ or /j/. However, /gh/ is generally considered the closer equivalent, which is why many Arabic loanwords use /gh/ to represent the /g/ sound.

### *3.3. Transformations of phoneme /p/ or grapheme <p>*

On the Google Maps application, several regional names containing the letter p were found, and when transliterated into Arabic, they changed. Two Arabic letters are used as substitutes for the letter p, namely: ب (baa) and ف (faa). This variation can be observed in Table 3.

Table 3. Variation on phoneme /p/ or grapheme <p>

| The name of the region written in Arabic | The name of the region written in Indonesian |
|---|---|
| بابوا | Papua |
| بالو | Palu |
| فونوروغو | Ponorogo |
| سنغافورة | Singapura |

The letter p in Indonesian is a consonant and the sixteenth letter in the Latin alphabet. The phoneme /p/ is a voiceless bilabial stop (Nasution, 2017, p. 80) and, like /g/, it is absent in Modern Standard Arabic. This phoneme has no direct representation in Arabic script and no equivalent in Classical Arabic phonemes. When words containing /p/ are transliterated from Indonesian to Arabic, the sound must be substituted. It is sometimes replaced with /b/ (baa), which, though voiced, shares the same bilabial place of articulation as /p/. For example, Papua becomes بابوا. In other cases, /p/ is substituted with /f/ (faa), as the two sounds share some phonetic proximity. /f/ is a voiceless labiodental fricative, and its articulation is close enough to serve as a substitute. For instance, Ponorogo becomes فونوروغو. In summary, the closest Arabic sounds to /p/ are /b/ (a voiced bilabial stop) and /f/ (a voiceless labiodental fricative). However, /b/ is generally preferred because of its identical bilabial articulation, making it the more common substitute for /p/ when transliterating into Arabic.

*3.4. Transformations of phoneme /ŋ/ or grapheme <ng>*

On the Google Maps application, several Indonesian regional names containing the grapheme <ng> were found, and when transliterated into Arabic, the representation changed. Four Arabic graphemes are used as substitutes for <ng>, namely: <نج>, <نغ>, <نق>>, and <نك>. This variation can be observed in Table 4.

The sound /ŋ/ is one of the sounds found in the Indonesian language, and this sound is formed by the combination of the letters "n" and "g," referred to as the grapheme <ng>. The sound /ŋ/ is a nasal velar sound (al-Ghamidi, 2006, p. 30), and it does not exist in the Arabic language. Therefore, when it is transliterated into Arabic, it is replaced by sounds that are adjacent to it in articulation. There are at least four combinations of the letter "noon" (ن) with other letters used to represent the sound /ŋ/ in Arabic, namely: <نج> (nj), <نق> (nq), <نك> (nk), and <نغ> (ng). In the rules of Tajweed (the art of Quranic recitation), when a noon sakinah (a noon without a vowel) meets one of the letters of ikhfa (concealment), it is pronounced in an intermediate state between clear articulation (idh-har) and merging (idgham), without doubling the letter, while retaining the nasal sound (ghunnah) (Mua'bad, 2003, p. 22). This sound corresponds to the /ŋ/ sound in Indonesian. The first three combinations, namely <نج> (nj), <نق> (nq), and <نك> (nk), align with the rule of ikhfa in Tajweed, which closely resembles the /ŋ/ sound. Meanwhile, <نغ> (ng) corresponds to the rule of idh-har (clear articulation), which also approximates the /ŋ/ sound but to a lesser extent compared to ikhfa.

Table 4. Transformations of phoneme /ŋ/ or grapheme <ng>

| The name of the region written in Arabic | The name of the region written in Indonesian |
|---|---|
| باندونج | Bandung |
| سيمارانق | Semarang |
| مجلانغ | Magelang |
| بينكولو | Bengkulu |

*3.5. Transformations of the phoneme /ñ/ or the grapheme <ny>*

I found on the Google Maps application some Indonesian place names that use the grapheme <ny>, and when transliterated into Arabic, it changed. There is only one grapheme in the Arabic language that replaces the grapheme <ny>, which is: <ني>. This can be observed in the following table.

Table 5. Transformations of the phoneme /ñ/ or the grapheme <ny>

| The name of the region written in Arabic | The name of the region written in Indonesian |
|---|---|
| بنيومس | Banyumas |
| بنيوانغي | Banyuwangi |

The sound /ñ/ is one of the sounds found in the Indonesian language. This sound is composed of the letters n and y and is referred to as the grapheme <ny>. The sound /ñ/ is a palatal nasal (Muslich, 2012, p. 95). Like the previously mentioned sounds, it does not exist in the Arabic language. Therefore, when transliterated into Arabic, it transforms into sounds that are structurally similar. This sound transforms into only one form in Arabic transcription, namely the combination of a silent n and y, which is represented as the grapheme <ني>. The sound /ي/ closely resembles the sound /ñ/ as it is also a palatal nasal, with a slight difference in its articulation.

The sound /ñ/ is one of the sounds found in the Indonesian language. This sound is composed of the letters n and y and is referred to as the grapheme <ny>. The sound /ñ/ is a palatal nasal (Muslich, 2012, p. 95). Like the previously mentioned sounds, it does not exist in the Arabic language. Therefore, when transliterated into Arabic, it transforms into sounds that are structurally similar. This sound transforms into only one form in Arabic transcription, namely the combination of a silent n and y, which is represented as the grapheme <ني>. The sound /ي/ closely resembles the sound /ñ/ as it is also a palatal nasal, with a slight difference in its articulation.

Table 6. Transcription

| Arabic Symbol | Indonesian Symbol |
|---|---|
| س, ك, تش | c |
| غ, ج | g |
| ف, ب | p |
| نج, نغ, نق, نك | ng |
| ني | ny |

## 4. Conclussion

The Indonesian language has a phonetic system that differs from Arabic. There are several sounds found only in Indonesian, namely /c/, /g/, /p/, /ŋ/, and /ñ/. These five sounds do not exist in Arabic and therefore undergo transformations when transferred

to Arabic. This can be observed in the names of Indonesian regions transliterated into Arabic. The transformation of the grapheme <c> into Arabic involves at least three types of letters considered phonetically close to /c/, namely: <ك> ,<س>, and <تش>. The transformation of the grapheme <g> into Arabic involves two types of letters considered phonetically close to /g/, namely: <ج> and <غ>. The transformation of the grapheme <p> into Arabic involves two types of letters considered phonetically close to /p/, namely: <ب> and <ف>. The transformation of the grapheme <ng> into Arabic involves four types of letters considered phonetically close to /ŋ/, namely: <نك> ,<نق> ,<نج>, and <نغ>. The transformation of the grapheme <ny> into Arabic involves two types of letters considered phonetically close to /ñ/, namely: <ني>. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the transliteration of foreign sounds into Arabic often requires adjustments to accommodate sounds that do not have equivalents in Arabic. This process involves two stages: first, identifying the closest Arabic sounds phonetically to the foreign sounds, and second, adding additional Arabic letters to fulfill the need for representing foreign sounds that lack equivalents in Arabic. Thus, it can be said that the biggest challenge in transliterating the names of Indonesian regions into Arabic letters is the absence of a standardized approach for this process, whether at the national or international level. This study serves as a foundation for addressing this issue.

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