

## The Pepet Law in Philippine Languages.

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In the vocalism of Indonesian languages the original indifferent vowel plays an important rôle. Resembling the Hebrew *shēwa*, and the obscure vowel of many Indo-European languages, it was so colorless and indefinite in pronunciation that it developed differently in different speech groups. In some languages it remained practically unchanged, as in Javanese, where it is called *pepet*<sup>1</sup>, while in others it evolved into various and more or less definite vowel sounds, e. g., IN<sup>2</sup> *atēp* roof became Jav. *atēp*, Mal. *atap*, Tag. *átip*, and Bis. *atúp*.

BRANDSTETTER<sup>3</sup> gives the following concise statement of the varied representation of *pepet* in several of the more important languages of Indonesia:

"The *Pēpēt* Law: Where the IN parent speech (Ursprache) had an *ē* (called *pēpēt* in Javanese), OJav., Tontb., Bug. and Karo also have *ē*, Mkb. and Mak. *a*, Bis. and Toba *o*, Tag. *i*, Day. *e*, Mal. in final syllable *a*, in the penultimate syllable *ē*, Mlg. in accented syllable *e*, in a syllable following the tone, *i*."

The following table will illustrate the above law:

	rice	sugar cane	roof	hear	six
Jav.	—	<i>tēbu</i>	<i>atēp</i>	<i>dēñēr</i>	<i>ēñēm</i>
Mak.	—	<i>tabu</i>	<i>ata</i>	<i>lahéré</i>	<i>anañ</i>
Bis.	<i>bugás</i>	<i>tubó</i> <sup>4</sup>	<i>atúp</i>	<i>duñóg</i>	<i>unóm</i>
Toba	<i>boras</i>	<i>tobu</i>	—	—	<i>onom</i>
Tag.	<i>bigás</i>	<i>tubó</i>	<i>átip</i>	<i>diníg</i>	<i>anim</i>
Day.	<i>behas</i>	<i>tewu</i>	<i>atep</i> door	—	—
Mal.	<i>bēras</i>	<i>tēbu</i>	<i>atap</i>	<i>dēnar</i>	<i>ēnam</i>
Mlg.	—	—	—	<i>reni</i>	<i>enim</i> .

<sup>1</sup> *Pepet* or *ē* will be employed throughout the article to designate the original indifferent vowel.

<sup>2</sup> The list of abbreviations:

Bgb. Bagobo	IN Indonesian	OMlg. Old Malagasi
Ban. Banawi	Inb. Inibaloi	Pamp. Pampanga
Bat. Batán	Isn. Isinai	Pang. Pangasinan
Bil. Bilan	Itw. Itawi	Phil. Philippine
Bkl. Bikol	Jav. Javanese	Sml. Samal
Bis. Bisaya	Klm. Kalamian	Sbl. Sambal
Bol. Bolinao	Knk. Kankanai	Sng. Sangir
Bon. Bontok	Kuy. Kuyunon	Sund. Sunda
Bug. Bugis	Lep. Lepanto	Tgk. Tagakaolo
Chro. Chamorro	Mgd. Magindanao	Tag. Tagalog
Day. Dayak	Mak. Makassar	Tgb. Tagbanwa
Gad. Gaddang	Mal. Malay	Ting. Tingyan
Har. Haraya	Mlg. Malagasi	Tir. Tirurai
Hlg. Hiligaina	Mnb. Manobo	Tontb. Tontemboan
Ibg. Ibanag	Mkb. Minankabau	Yog. Yogad
Ilk. Iloko	OJav. Old Javanese	

Bis., when not qualified, will be here intended to include the three great dialects, Hiligaina, Cebuan, and the Samar-Leyte dialect.

<sup>3</sup> "Mata-Hari", Luzern 1908, p. 52.

<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, *u* and *o* are interchangeable in Philippine languages.