

Translation Study: Photograph App on a Jawi Arabic Text

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ABSTRAK

Aksara Arab Jawa (Jawi Arab) adalah fenomena budaya yang berkembang dari daerah Veranda Mekah. Aksara Arab Jawa memiliki fungsi strategis sebagai bahasa tulis yang berkaitan dengan penyebaran pengetahuan di berbagai bidang dan studi keagamaan. Aksara Arab Jawa telah terpinggirkan dan mengalami fase penurunan dalam menanggapi tantangan zaman dan meskipun aksara Arab Jawi semakin memudar dan hampir punah. Oleh karena itu, perlu dipahami dan mampu menggunakan aplikasi perekaman teks untuk penerjemahan, yang merupakan fitur Google Lens yang dapat diakses dengan mudah melalui smartphone dengan akses internet, di mana hasil terjemahan diperoleh secara real-time. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data diperoleh dengan menggunakan aplikasi penerjemahan teks pada fitur Google Lens dengan bahasa sumber Melayu (Jawi) ke bahasa sasaran Indonesia. Aksara Arab Jawi akan diuji berulang kali menggunakan metode coba-coba terkait dengan kualitas terjemahan. Hasilnya menunjukkan perlunya peningkatan kualitas.

Kata Kunci: Google Lens; Jawi; Kualitas; Terjemahan

ABSTRACT

Arabic Javanese (Jawi Arabic) is a cultural phenomenon that developed originally from the Veranda of Mecca region. The Javanese Arabic script has a strategic function which acts as a written language related to the dissemination of knowledge in various fields and religious studies. The Javanese Arabic script has been marginalized and experienced a phase of decline in responding to the challenges of the times and despite the fading and nearing extinction of the Jawi arabic script. It is necessary to understand and be able to use text recording applications for translation, which is a Google Lens feature that can be easily accessed via smartphones with internet access, where the translation results are obtained in real time. This research uses a qualitative descriptive. Data was obtained by using the text translation application on the Google Lens feature with the source language being Malay (Jawi) to the target language Indonesian. The Jawi Arabic script will be tested repeatedly using trial and error methods related to the quality of the translation. The result requires a quality upgrade.

Keywords: Google Lens; Jawi Arabic; Quality; Translation

1. INTRODUCTION

Arabic Javanese (Jawi Arabic) is a cultural phenomenon that developed originally from the Veranda of Mecca region, which is part of the Indonesian archipelago, where it was used during its golden age in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Moro in the Philippines, and even Pattani in Thailand. The Jawi Arabic letter is an adaptation of the Arabic script writing system which is adapted to the typical sounds of the Malay language where modifications are made by adding special letters that represent phonemes not found in Arabic such as the sounds /ng/, /ny/, /c/, and /g/, each of which is represented by the letters , چ غ , ڤ , and ڠ (Wardaniet al., 2025).

The origin of the name "jawi" has various meanings where in the Riau and Minangkabau regions "jawi" is known as meaning "buffalo" while in Malaysia the word "jawi" means "rice" and the understanding that "jawi" is meant in relation to the tribe or island of Java, but these things are less common as a logically good translation, so it is possible that the word "jawi" refers to the Arabic word "Aljawwah" which means the island of Sumatra in accordance with Ibnu Battutah

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was a traveler who traveled around many countries in the world during the heyday of Javanese Arabic writing (Nuruzzahri, 2023).

Masyhur (2018) stated that the Javanese Arabic script has a strategic function which acts as a written language related to the dissemination of knowledge in various fields and religious studies. Mayuso et al. (2024) "Jawi" writing is seen as a gateway to understanding Islam and the Qur'an through the Malay language medium, whereas Pallava writing, which was previously used by the Malays, was felt to not be a suitable vehicle to become a treasure for the spread of the Islamic religion.

The Javanese Arabic script has been marginalized and experienced a phase of decline in responding to the challenges of the times in the dynamic historical arena of the archipelago because it is no longer the prima donna used by the Malay people (Riadussolihin et al., 2024). The fading of the use of the Arabic Javanese script, which had been the dominant literacy in the Indonesian archipelago during the golden age of the Islamic sultanate, in the fields of education, government administration, preaching, literature and religion, was due to colonialism and modernization and was replaced by the Latin script brought by the colonizers. However, despite the fading and nearing extinction of the Arabic-Javanese script, efforts are still being made to preserve it in certain communities and it is experiencing revitalization in this digital era. (Barus and Mawaddah, 2025; Rizkia and Mawaddah, 2025). Due to the need for revitalization of the Arabic-Jawi script related to the rapid development of digital technology in this era, it is necessary to understand and be able to use text recording applications for translation, which is a Google Lens feature that can be easily accessed via smartphones with internet access, where the translation results are obtained in real time (Nasrullah and Nafiah, 2025; Rachmayanti and Alatas, 2025).

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method that describes and explains the events of the object of study as they are, realistically, subjectively, and interactively with participants based on the situation. This method aims to understand the details and deepen the portrait of the conditions in a context in the field. (Fadli, 2021; Septiani et al., 2022; Waruwu, 2023).

Data was obtained by using the text translation application on the Google Lens feature with the source language being Malay (Jawi) to the target language Indonesian, as follow



Figure 1. Malay (jawi) on Google lens (Faridy et al., 2025)

And the following is the appearance of the Arabic Jawi script which will be examined using Google Lens as follows:

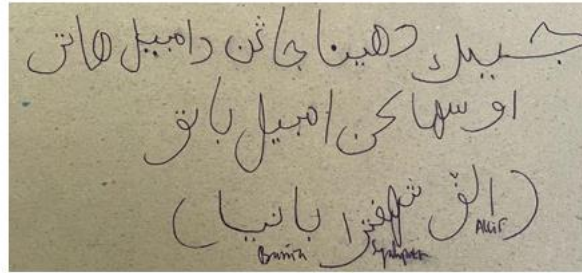


Figure 2. Arabic Javanese script (Bania and Akob, 2025)

The answer key is "if you are insulted, don't take it personally, try to pick up a stone" or "jika dihina jangan diambil hati usahakan ambil batu" in Bahasa. Meanwhile, the Arabic script in brackets is the name of the handwriter of the Arabic script, namely "Allif Syahputra Bania".

The Jawi Arabic script will be tested repeatedly using trial and error methods related to the quality of the translation (Davis et al., 1968; Noviyani, 2023). After the data is obtained from the translation results using Google Lens from Malay (Jawi) to Indonesian, the quality of the translation will be reviewed in 3 aspects, namely accuracy, acceptability, and readability according to Nababan et al. (2012). Then, the research results are presented according to Miles and Hubermann (1992).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following are the results of testing the translation application via Google Lens using text photography from a smartphone with the Vivo Y18 brand, so that translation quality data was obtained from three tests as follows:

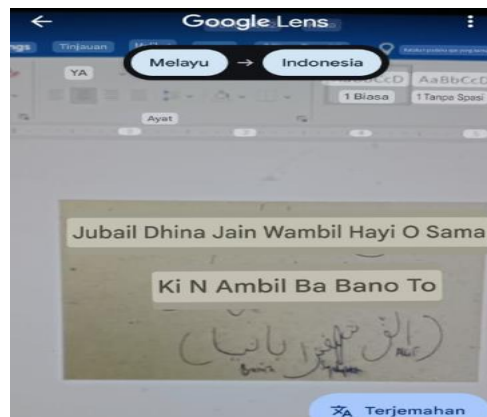


Figure 3. Test and Error 1

In figure 3, which was taken on September 21, 2025 at 10:10 WIB, the translation of the data source in Arabic Jawi into Indonesian via Google Lens was obtained as "Jubail Dhina Jain Wambil Hayi O Sama Ki N Ambil Ba Bano To". So the quality of the translation obtained in this first test was poor in terms of accuracy, acceptability and readability, where only one word was successfully translated, namely the word "Ambil" or "Take" in English.



Figure 4. Test and Error 2

For Figure 4, where the text shooting was carried out on September 21, 2025 at 11:04, the translation results were obtained with poor accuracy, acceptability, and readability aspects, where only the word "take" was successfully translated the same as Figure 3. The following are the results of the Jawi Arabic translation in test and error 2: "Penjara Chhina Jan Dumbbell Hai O Sama Ki Ambil Ba Ke Alera Baniya"

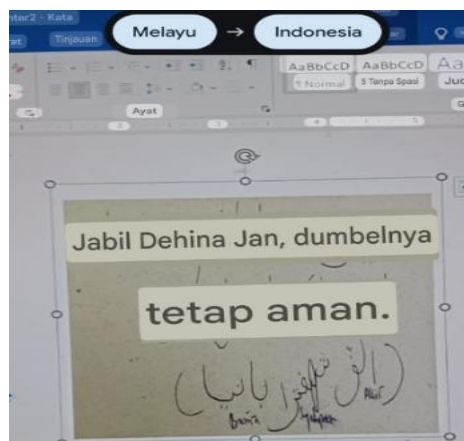


Figure 5. Test and Error 3

For the third final test in Figure 5, the translation quality from Arabic to Indonesian was found on September 21, 2025 at 12:39 WIB as follows: "Jabil Dehina Jan, dumbelnya tetap aman". The two words that are readable and recognized in Indonesian are "tetap" and "aman"; however, this translation does not match the answer key and is far from accurate, acceptable, and readable. Therefore, the translation results are poor.

4. CONCLUSION

The translation of Jawi Arabic into Indonesian using Google Lens for text capture, accuracy, acceptability, and readability is poor, with only one or two words translated into the target language, sometimes correctly and sometimes incorrectly. Future improvements to the application's capabilities, more than three rounds of testing, and a Jawi Arabic script that is not as poorly written as manually or computer-generated, are expected to yield good results

5. ACKNOWLEDGE

This research is part of the fundamental-regular research with the implementation contract for operational assistance of state higher education program research in fiscal year 2025.

539/UN54.6/PT.01.03/2025 according to master contract number 104/C3/DT.05.00/PL/2025 dated May 28, 2025.

Thank to Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi, Sains, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia. And also thanks to Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat Universitas Samudra.

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