



‘Social Gap’ on Chinese Loanwords Motivation in KBBI: A Response to Zenner *et al* (2019)

Sophia Kardiana Bertha Sugiarto*, Ika Nurhayani, Ismatul Khasanah
Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia
Email: sophianakardiana14@gmail.com*

Abstract

This study is motivated by the absence of application in specific *language contact* areas, which creates a gap in the study of social motivation as highlighted by Zenner *et al*. The research aims to identify the ‘social gap’ in the absorption of Chinese loanwords in the *KBBI* from the perspective of employees at PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery, as well as to analyze absorption patterns using the approach employed by Zenner *et al*. (2019) to address this gap. This approach refers to the four main theories of Zenner *et al*. (2019): *Social Meaning*, *Social Identity*, *Indexicality*, and *Language Regard*, with the benefit of enriching the understanding of social motivation in the process of lexical borrowing. This study analyzes 117 data points using a triangulation method involving questionnaires, comparisons, and literature studies. The data were analyzed through reduction, verification, and presentation using a thematic analysis approach to identify patterns of lexical absorption. The study results reveal the patterns represented by (BE-0-1-D-1-0) and (AD-0-1-D-1-0), with the following explanation: influenced by cultural and environmental backgrounds; not dependent on social strata, occupation, or societal dominance; not influenced by the intended impact of speakers on interlocutors; supporting divergence; non-indexical in nature; and positively perceived.

Keywords: Chinese, KBBI, Motivation, Loanwords, Social Gap

INTRODUCTION

The development of culture and technology in the era of globalization has impacted language evolution, as evidenced by several linguistic phenomena (Mohammed, 2020; Satibaldieva, 2024). Among these are the increasing resolution of *language barrier* issues and the excessive use of *loanwords* within languages. Generally, the overuse of *loanwords* is addressed through *language planning* in each region as a preventive measure to maintain the integrity of a language against external identities (He, 2018). This occurs because *loanwords* are often only examined in research that focuses on foundational aspects, such as definitions and concepts, which may overlap with other phenomena (Tadmor, 2009).

However, research that re-centers on the core value of *loanwords* has also succeeded in generating theories for testing the acceptability of a word (Zhang *et al.*, 2021). Thus, the study of *loanwords* encompasses two main discussions: the concept and the principal idea of *loanwords*. In developing the concept, the term *loanwords* itself remain debated. For instance, due to limited vocabulary, the term *loanwords* in Indonesian often refers only to one general concept, namely *Borrowed Words*. The term *borrowed* tends to emphasize the donor language, not the recipient. For example, if a researcher examines Indonesian *loanwords* from English, the *loanword* approach typically focuses on English rather than on how Indonesian absorbs English.

Other terms, such as *Loanwords*, refer to the opposite concept, focusing on the recipient language. In the previous example, this would mean the focus is on Indonesian. Although these are distinct approaches, they are often conflated, resulting in the use of a single term and relegating the other to an alternative. This conflation leads to overlapping theories, as they originate from different conceptual bases with differing foci.

The primary motivation for the emergence of *loanwords* is linked to the community’s need for new semiotic forms (Poplack, 2017). Such needs arise from the absence of a lexeme in a language to represent a particular concept or object (the *lexical gap*). The *lexical gap* is widely recognized as the main driver for adopting foreign words as semiotic signs. However, more recent research has begun to explore motivations beyond the *lexical gap* in the process of *loanword* absorption.

According to Calude et al. (2019), another motivating factor is the concept of *lagging*, a sociolinguistic tool that allows speakers to consciously describe their use of *loanwords*. This concept, analyzed through frequency of use and semantic categorization in New Zealand English, demonstrates that *loanword* adoption can be driven by socio-political identity and language ideologies. Similarly, Schoofs & Van De Mierop (2019) found that borrowing between German and Belgian communities during World War II was motivated by social relationships, with *indexicality* in social contexts distinguishing the two languages through gestures and language products. Divita & Curtis (2019) also identified a relationship between semiotics, *lexical gap*, and social factors, noting that social motivations—sometimes contrary to the *lexical gap*—are reflected in mass media content as a mirror of societal reality.

From these studies, it is evident that there are “other” motivations for *loanword* use, particularly those rooted in social factors. This pattern forms the research gap identified by the author, which centers on *social motivation* arising from social phenomena. In this study, the author refers to this as the *Social Gap*. *Social motivation* challenges prior theories that position the *lexical gap* as the primary motivation for *loanword* use. Zenner et al. (2019) detail the role of social factors such as *prestige* and *social identity* in *loanword* adoption, providing four key theoretical perspectives: *Indexicality*, *Social Identity*, *Language Regard*, and *Social Meaning*. However, Zenner et al. (2019) also note that these theories have not been deeply applied to specific language contact situations, highlighting a research gap that this study aims to address.

To fill this gap, the present study examines *loanword* contact between Indonesian and Chinese, using data from the *KBBI* (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia), the national language standard in Indonesia. According to the *KBBI*, there are 117 recognized *loanwords* from Chinese in Indonesian. This research builds upon Sugiarto & Goeyardi (2022), who classified *loanwords* in the *KBBI* into those motivated by *lexical* and *social* factors, based on lexical-semantic analysis. Of these, 52 Chinese *loanwords* are motivated by *lexical*

needs, while 65 are attributed to *social motivation* due to their lexical similarity with existing Indonesian words.

Using these 65 socially motivated *loanwords*, this study applies the theoretical framework of Zenner et al. (2019) to analyze their absorption patterns. The objective is to identify and analyze the existence of the *Social Gap* as a form of social motivation in the absorption of Chinese *loanwords* into the *KBBI*, and to explain these patterns through Zenner et al.’s theoretical approach. This research aims to make a theoretical contribution to linguistics by introducing the concept of *Social Gap* as a unique motivation beyond the *Lexical Gap*, thereby enriching our understanding of the factors driving *loanword* absorption, particularly from a social perspective.

The benefits of this research are multifaceted. Theoretically, it expands the understanding of *loanword* absorption by highlighting social motivation as a significant factor, complementing the *lexical gap* theory. Methodologically, the study employs a comprehensive triangulation approach—questionnaires, literature reviews, and comparative analysis—to explore social motivation in linguistics. Practically, the findings can inform language planning, education, and policy related to *loanwords* and social identity. Socially, the study provides insights into the dynamics of social and cultural interaction as reflected in language, especially in the context of Indonesian-Chinese contact. Thus, this research not only addresses an academic gap but also offers tangible implications for the advancement of linguistics and society.

RESEARCH METHOD

This qualitative study aims to produce descriptive data in the form of words and verbal expressions observed from the subjects (Meleong, 2006). A Method Triangulation approach is employed to explore and explain complex human behavior through a combination of research mechanisms for balanced and comprehensive results (Denzin, 1970). Method Triangulation integrates questionnaires, literature reviews, and comparative studies to collect and analyze data.

Data Collection Techniques

1. **Comparative Method:** The comparative method focuses on systematic variables, particularly macro-variables, for broad analyses (Hudson, 2007). This method is used to generate secondary data from previous research (Sugiarto & Goeyardi, 2022), which classified 117 Chinese-origin borrowed words in KBBI. Words were categorized into socially motivated and lexically motivated groups through semantic and lexical analysis. For example, the word ‘shou shui’ was classified as a lexical gap, while ‘Ace’ was identified as socially motivated due to its semantic overlap with existing Indonesian vocabulary.
2. **Literature Review:** This method involves collecting relevant theories to support the social motivation framework, particularly Zenner et al.’s (2019) theories. Literature reviews provide a theoretical foundation for analyzing

socially motivated borrowed words.

3. **Questionnaire:** Questionnaires were distributed to employees of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery to assess social meaning, social identity, indexicality, and non-linguists’ perspectives on borrowed words. Random sampling was used to ensure unbiased representation. Respondents included 65 employees from diverse backgrounds. The Likert scale (Likert, 1932) was employed to measure responses on a scale from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data were analyzed using thematic analysis, as described by Miles et al. (1992). The process included data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing:

1. **Data Reduction:** All Chinese-origin borrowed words in KBBI were analyzed and reduced to 65 words identified as socially motivated. Dialects such as Hokkien and Mandarin were included.
2. **Data Presentation:** Reduced data were grouped based on Zenner et al.’s (2019) theories: Social Identity, Social Meaning, Indexicality, and Language Regard. Questionnaires provided insights into respondents’ perspectives.
3. **Conclusion Drawing:** Data were coded to identify patterns in borrowing motivations. Codes included themes such as social meaning, social identity, and context-dependent indexicality.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following are the results of the analysis of the motivation of Chinese-Indonesian loanwords which are analyzed and grouped according to the theory of Zenner et al., (2019). The data used in this study are 65 loanwords which are the results of data reduction from 117 Chinese-Indonesian vocabularies in KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) which will be analyzed one by one according to the concept of the approach of each theory which is a process to support and see loanwords as a sociolinguistic phenomenon because they are influenced by social motivation.

Social Meaning

Social Meaning is the meaning of a word in a language that is created, interpreted and negotiated based on its social context (Hodge, 2017). Based on the book "*Social Semiotics for a Complex World: Analyzing Language and Social Meaning*" Bob Hodge's work, the meaning approach is based on several ideas such as social context recognition, multimodal communication, sign analysis, understanding social actors and their roles, investigating the meaning-making process, considering ideology and power to exploring dynamic changes. Based on the approach given by Hodge (2017), social meaning in this study will provide an approach that focuses on social context recognition. This is based on data suitability, namely analyzing a loan word as the only research object owned by the author. Several other approaches require

further data collection methods such as interviews, case studies, or linguistic corpora to be further analyzed using the given approach.

In recognizing social context in social meaning, several key factors are needed such as identifying culture and social environment, power dynamics and social structures and the purpose of communication. Based on the key factors above, questions representing this theory were asked to respondents with the following questions:

1. 'Does the word have, in your opinion, another meaning? or refers to another meaning?'
2. 'If Strongly Agree and Agree, what are the other meanings of the words?'
3. 'Do you think the word is associated with a particular group?'
4. 'What group is that?'

Below is a table showing the results of Chinese loan words in KBBI which are classified as having social meaning according to the perspective of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery employees.

Table 1.
Social Meaning Analysis Results (first question)

No.	Category	Words
1.	Strongly Agree	'Ciu', 'Loleng', 'Samseng', 'Soja', 'Taci'
2.	Agree	'Cah', 'Gong Xi Fat Chai', 'Kia-Kia', 'Kiaupau', 'Kio', 'Pao-Pao', 'Pangkin', 'Tekpi', 'Ungti'
3.	Neutral	'Cincu', 'Cuan', 'Kamsia', 'Kiunghi Sinnyen', 'Kipsiau', 'Koh', 'Imlek', 'Loki', 'Melecun', 'Nyolo', 'Sincia', 'Sioca', 'Taiko', 'Taipan', 'Tikpi'.
4.	Disagree	'Ace', 'Apek', 'Ciak', 'Cengkau', 'Cincai', 'Engkoh', 'Engkong', 'Empek', 'Hoki', 'Jicing', 'Loksun', 'Makaopo', 'Ongji', 'Suhian', 'Sie-Sie', 'Tekte', 'Teyan', 'Tengkoh'
5.	Strongly Disagree	'Anglung', 'Camca', 'Ceban', 'Ceceng', 'Cepek', 'Goban', 'Goceng', 'Gotun', 'Ji', 'Jicap', 'Jicappo', 'Nopek', 'Potia'

Based on the data above, it can be seen that there are 14 loan words (five with strongly agree answers and nine with agree answers) from 65 Chinese loan words that the author believes have other social meanings according to the perspective of PT. Indonesia employees. Technical Machinery. Below are other social meanings contained in 14 Chinese loanwords.

Table 2.
Social Meaning Analysis Results (second question)

No.	Category	Loanword	Social Meaning
1.	Strongly Agree	Ciu	Refers to wine
		Loleng	Native Chinese descent
		Samseng	Tradition
		Soja	Not just bowing like lowering the head and body, but usually done in ceremonies by kneeling and lowering the whole body.
		Taci	A form of respect for older women, not just older sisters
2.	Agree	Cah	Chinese food tends to be spicier and not black using soy sauce.
		Gong xi fat chai	Good luck and be rich
		Kia-kia	Partying until drunk
		Kiaupau	Immigrants from China
		Kio	Chinese dolls that look like ondel-ondel
		Pao-pao	Stupid
		Pangkin	Wooden divan
		Tekpi	A sword with two additional shorter ends on the left and right but not a trident.
		Ungti	Chinese dolls that look like ondel-ondel

Looking at other meanings mentioned based on the results of the community perspective, it was found that other meanings were focused on certain groups by presenting several traditions related to the group or products that were also related. For example, the word 'soja' which has a lexical meaning in KBBI meaning 'submit/respect' without knowing its social meaning, then with Indonesian identity and culture, the word 'submit/respect' in general is an action carried out by bowing to or the body to form approximately 150 degrees as a tradition that represents the group in general. However, the word 'soja' turns out to have a different meaning because it refers to a certain traditions, although lexically it has the same meaning. This also applies to several other words such as, 'ciu' 'taci', 'samseng', 'loleng', 'gong xi fat chai', 'kia-kia', 'cah', 'tekpi', and 'kio'

Unlike the others, the word 'pao-pao' has a significant shift in meaning, derived from the word 'waist bag', the word 'pao-pao' shifts into a word that means 'stupid'. In the context of meaning, the shift that occurs is usually caused by the situation and conditions that occur in the language that absorbs it. So, the

word 'pao-pao' should not refer to the same group as several other words that fall into the categories of agree and strongly agree.

To look more deeply into the context of the social meaning of loan words, according to the key contained in recognizing social context according to (Hodge, 2018). Therefore, it is necessary to identify key factors related to cultural background and social environment. Below are the results of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery's perspective in analyzing related groups that reflect the cultural background and social environment related to loan words in KBBI

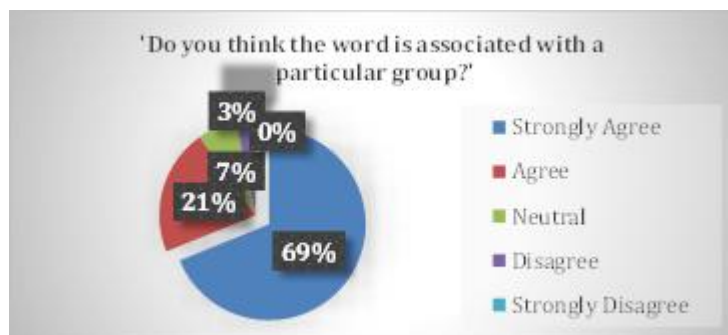


Figure 1.
Social Meaning Analysis Results (third question)

The above is the result of data analysis from the perspective of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery related to whether the words obtained by each respondent refer to a particular social group. Based on the diagram above, it is believed that almost 70% of the total number of loan words originating from Chinese refer to a particular group. From this data, it can be concluded that the social meaning contained in Chinese loan words in KBBI has a significant relationship to a particular group.

Thus, the motivation of the loanwords used in this study according to the social meaning approach has the result of the existence of 'other' motivations that are not the main motivation, namely 'lexical gap'. The existence of this 'other' motivation is supported by the background of a particular group with the following results: "Chinese ethnicity", "Medan society", "Chinese family", "Betawi", "Chinese Khek", "West Java Chinese". According to the perspective of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery, several environments and socio-cultures that support the social meaning of the loanword Cina in KBBI refer to the groups above. This can of course explain how the loanword in the first example question produces a meaning that refers to Chinese traditions and culture which is a replication and representative of its absorption in Indonesian society.

Looking at some of the results above, this 'other' social motivation can indeed be seen in its form and existence through a social meaning approach. In addition, it can also be seen that the motive for borrowing loan words has a close relationship to its social meaning, not just its lexical meaning as *semantic*

gaps'. The existence of social meaning in the absorption of loan words is also related to certain groups as speakers of loan words, existing groups are represented through culture and traditions that are indirectly referred to by the loan words. Although not all social meanings can be seen in loan words, the social meaning approach can be a linguistic strategy that can be used to see the motivation of loan words.

Social Identity

Social Identity is an exploration of the function of language as a tool to express and shape social identity. According to Tajfel & Turner (1970), SIT (Social Identity Theory) is actually a study related to how an individual obtains his identity from the social group he follows and influences his behavior and attitude towards others.

In the context of this research, the theory above will be used to see from the opposite point of view, namely from the behavior and attitudes expressed through language, how the identity of the individual can be known. According to Giles and Johnson (1987), social identity can be discussed with the concept of language convergence and divergence. Convergence is the use of language spoken with the intention of creating closeness, while divergence is to show differences. The concept of language convergence and divergence is used as a linguistic strategy to affirm one's identity.

This strategy is related to the use of language as a maintainer of social identity, so that the choice of speakers to use words that have an impact on convergence and divergence can reflect the identity of the speaker in interpreting themselves as individuals in a group or outside the group (In - Out Group). To see the existence of language convergence and divergence that occurs in Chinese loanwords according to the perspective of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery employees, it is necessary to know the questions related to this approach, including:

1. 'In your opinion, if you say that word, will it create distance between you and the speaker or will it actually strengthen your relationship with the speaker?'
2. 'Why?'

In the first question, there are two answer choices that aim to represent convergence and divergence. Convergence is stated by strengthening the relationship and divergence is stated by creating distance. Then, the question why aims to find out the causes of convergence and divergence. Below are the results of the PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery perspective questionnaire on Chinese loanwords in KBBI:

Table 3.
Social Identity Analysis Result

Convergence	Divergence
Apek, Cepek, Ceban, Cincai, Cincu, Cuan, Empek, Goban, Gocap, Goceng, Gong xi fat chai, Gotun, Hoki, Imlek, Ji,	Ace, Anglung, Camca, Cah, Ceceng, Cengkau, Ciak, Ciu, Compoh, Engkong, Engkoh, Jicap, Jicapgo,

Convergence	Divergence
Kamsia, Kipsiau, Nopek, Sinse, Sie- sie, Taiko	Jicing, Kiunghi Sinnyen, Kia-kia, Kiaupau, Kio, Loleng, Loksek, Loki, Loksun, Melecun, Nyolo, Ongji, Pao-pao, Pangkin, Potia, Samseng, Sincia, Sincia cuyi, Sioca, Suhian, Soja, Taci, Tekte, Tengkoh, Teyan, Tekpi, Tikpi, Ungti

From the perspective of PT. Indonesia employees Technical Machinery above, it was found that Chinese loan words contained in KBBI tend to lead to divergence. Of the 65 loan words represented by 65 respondents, there were only 22 loan words that had an impact on convergence and the rest had an impact on divergence. This means that Chinese loan words in KBBI tend to provide distance by increasing differences according to the prevailing speaking style. In addition, the occurrence of divergence is also related to the affirmation of the unique identity of the speaker to show a certain social distance.

For example, the pronunciation of the word 'Soja' which is a form of respect with a different meaning from national respect as seen in social meaning. The pronunciation of the word 'Soja' which refers to the meaning of a particular word of respect tends to interpret oneself as an individual who is not a group because it has no national meaning. Thus, the status of social identity in loan words shows that the speaker of the word 'soja' is an individual outside the group (Out Group).

On the other hand, the small amount of convergence that occurs in Chinese loanwords indicates that Chinese loanwords do not refer to the conformity of speaking style with the aim of creating a sense of equality or to show that the speaker wants to be identified with the group. For example, the pronunciation of the word 'Imlek' which shows a cultural unity between the two nations. The pronunciation of the word 'Imlek' which is a formal word and acceptable to everyone will tend to show convergence because individuals choose to pronounce words that give a national impression. Thus, the social identity status in loanwords shows that the speaker of the word imlek is an individual in the group (In Group)

To further understand the form of social identity as a social motivation for word absorption, below is a grouping of the reasons respondents chose 22 loan words that tend to have an impact on a convergence phenomenon

Table 4.
Social Identity Analysis Results (second question)

No.	Reason	Amount
1.	The breadth of meaning of words	Imlek, Gong xi fat chai, Goban, Gocap, Sie-sie, Cuan, Hoki, Cepek, Nopek.
2.	Cultural unity	Taiko, Sinse, Kamsia, Gotun, Cincu, Apek,

No.	Reason	Amount
Cincai, Kipsiau		
3.	Based on Personal Impressions	Ji, Makaopo, Ceban, Goceng, Empek,

Looking at the results above, it can be seen that the reasons for the use of Chinese loanwords in KBBI that have an impact on convergence tend to lead to the breadth of word meanings. This is in line with how the breadth of word meanings will give the impression of equality for speakers and interlocutors because of the knowledge of equivalent word meanings.

On the other hand, the reason for cultural unity is in line with the concept that speakers are usually aware and have knowledge of the concept of absorbing their words. Speakers of loanwords who choose this reason realize that they are part of a national group from the beginning and choose to use loanwords in KBBI to produce convergence.

In contrast to convergence, the reasons for divergence tend to be only one main reason, namely: 'because it refers to a certain context'. This reason actually has a close relationship with social meaning, this can also be proven by the words that are included in the divergence group also included in the strongly agree and agree groups on social meaning.

The difference in context speaks about how the speaker wants to convey a certain meaning related to the appropriateness of the context. Thus, giving the right word that fits this context creates divergence and unconsciously defines the speaker as an individual outside the group (Out Group).

Based on all the data above regarding this social identity, it can be concluded that according to the social identity approach, the form of Chinese loan words in KBBI has a social motivation related to the social identity of speakers outside the group (Out Group). Although some loan words do have a form of social identity within the group, their use is not as much as speakers outside the group who do it based on the urgency of the importance of the context.

Indexicality

Indexicality refers to a linguistic form that carries social meaning connected to a specific context, society or identity. Usually words related to indexicality are pronouns or deictics that depend on the speaker, such as 'I', 'you', 'he', 'now', 'there' and several other adverbs.

On the other hand, some forms of linguistics are within the scope of science. Indexicality is also a form of non-indexicality. Non-indexical words refer to words that have stable meanings. For example, nouns such as 'chair,' 'blue,' 'big' do not depend on context even though their meaning can be narrowed by adding other adverbs. However, the word 'chair' will continue to have a stable meaning as a place to sit.

Below are the results of PT. Indonesia's perspective Technical Machinery on 65 Chinese-Indonesian loan words that have a linguistic context in accordance with the Indexicality theory. The results were obtained through

representative questions as follows:

1. Do you think the word is related to a particular context?
2. What kind of context is that?

The first question is divided into five answers that refer to how speakers see their words as word forms related to a particular context. Below are all related results according to PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery employees:

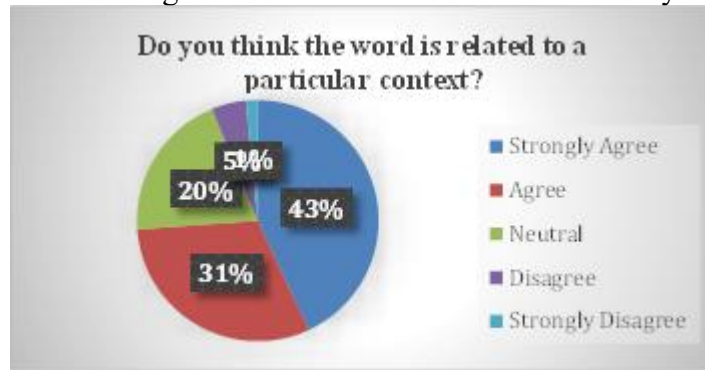


Figure 2.
Indexicality Analysis Results

According to the results above, the word indexicality in linguistics refers to the ability of a word to show meaning that is influenced by the context of its use, such as situation, place, time, or social relations. In Chinese loan words in KBBI, according to the perspective of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery, the use of words tends to be greatly influenced by the context to be conveyed, this is also indirectly related to the previous theory which is the reason for the many divergences that occur.

The tendency of Chinese loanwords that are highly influenced by context can be seen through the results of Strongly Agree and Agree with a percentage of 43% and 31%. If added up, there are 74% of Chinese loanwords in KBBI which are indexical words, namely 48 loanwords out of 65 loanwords depending on a particular context. Although when viewed from the form of the word, Chinese loanwords in KBBI are mostly nouns that have a fixed meaning, unlike deictic words which are closely related to indexicality.

For example, in the words *Imlek*, *Kiaupau*, *Sinse* which are included in the category of strongly agree, in essence the words above are terms that generally have fixed meanings because they are nouns, namely words that tend not to depend on who is speaking or the situation. But if we look at the speaker's reasons, the word is included in the word that depends on the context because it adjusts to the background of the interlocutor or whether or not the interlocutor understands as the majority result in the category of agree and strongly agree for the question representing 'What kind of context?'

Some other examples that have the most striking reasons are the word *Cincai* which is often used in informal contexts, especially in everyday conversation to express 'easy', 'as is', or 'not too complicated'. According to the

speaker's reasons, this word can indeed be because it is an expression, this indicates that the speaker is aware of the type of word that is often related to the context. So that the use of the word 'cincai' in the eyes of the speaker produces a meaning that depends on intonation and situation.

In conclusion, this approach shows how Chinese loanwords in KBBI can be formed in the form of indexicality by looking at the dependence of loanwords on certain contexts. With reasons that are quite unique to other indexicality words, the form of 'Social Gap' or social motivation proven in this indexicality approach shows that Chinese loanwords in KBBI depend on the background of the interlocutor.

Language Regard

Language regard is a term developed by Preston and Niedzielski (2019) to replace language attitude because it concerns perspectives, beliefs and non-linguistic responses to language and its variations. In their research, Preston & Niedzielski (2019) emphasize the importance of experimental research in understanding this perspective on language.

In analyzing perspectives on language, analysis that refers to the perspective of a person or group assessing and viewing a language, dialect or variation is divided into two assessments, namely *Positive Regard* and *Negative Regard*.

Looking at the analysis above by emphasizing the importance of an experiment, this study distributed questionnaires to employees of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery as a representative of non-linguistic society. Below are the results of a questionnaire on the views on language (Language Regard) of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery employees towards Chinese loanwords in KBBI which are represented by the questions:

1. In your opinion, what perspective comes to mind when you hear this word?
2. Why? Give a reason.

In the first question, two answers are provided, namely negative perspective and positive perspective to see the motivation of the loanword itself. Through this last approach, the existing results will provide a form of 'social gap' as the motivation of the loanword whose existence is seen from how the perspective of society encourages the application of the word. Meanwhile, in the second question, the results will show the reasons that influence the perspective to be able to see the objectivity of the speaker in providing his perspective.

Positive Regards and Negative Regards

Of the total 65 loan words in KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) Online VI that are classified as having social motivation, there are 53 vocabularies that have a positive perspective and 12 others are negative perspectives. Below is a grouping of words that are included in the positive and negative perspectives:

Table 5.
Language Regard Analysis Results

Positive Regards	Negatif Regards
Kiaupau, Imlek, Soja, Gong xi fat	Ciu, Loki, Melecun, Jicing, chai, Sincia, Sincia cuyi, Ciak, Ace, Cengkau, anglung, Nyolo, Kia- kia,
Potia, Sioca, Taiko, Tekte, Teyan, Sinse, Taci, Ceban, Ceceng, Camca, Loksek	Tengkoh, Suhian, Makaopo,
Anglung, Cah, ungti, Pangkin, Kiunghi Sinnyen, Tikpi, Tekpi, Loksun,	
Samseng, Kamsia, Kipsiau, Cincu, Engkoh, Engkong, Goban, Gotun,	
Gocap, Goceng, Ji, Jicap, Jicapgo, Cepek, Nopek, Sie – sie, Kio, Ongji,	
Pao – pao, Cuan, Compoh, Taipan, Koh, Loleng, Empek, Hoki, Apek, Cincai	

Based on the results above, it can be seen that Chinese loan words in KBBI according to the speaker's perspective tend to have a positive perspective compared to a negative one. This can be understood by the meaning of the word which is increasingly visible through the speaker's reasons. However, what needs to be considered in these results is how the form of 'social gap' as the motivation for Chinese loan words tends to be seen as a positive perspective. Below are the reasons that support the perspectives that represent both groups of perspectives.

Influencing factors or supporting attitudes

Table 6.
Positive Regards Analysis Results

Supportive attitude	Public arguments	Amount
Prestige	'showing cultural merging' , 'a form of respect'	22
Beauty	'it's fine'	1
Functionality	'shorter' 'easier to remember'	4
Identity	'good meaning' 'meaning has different meaning'	26

In Chinese loan words in KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) Online VI, there are 53 vocabularies that have a positive perspective and 12 others are negative perspectives. Below is a grouping of supporting attitudes that influence society in determining positive and negative perspectives in the results that the author has grouped into prestige, beauty, functionality and positive identity. Conversely, the reasons for choosing a negative perspective are grouped based on the tendency to contain negative impressions and negative associations.

Based on these results, the reasons above have results that are in accordance with the expected results according to the perspective approach to language, where prestige is indeed the main argument for social motivation for borrowing loanwords which is in line with recent research on loanwords. For example, the words 'Sincia', 'Kiunghi Sinnyen', and 'sincia cuyi' which are included in the positive perspective for reasons of prestige. This answer is in line with how the words above tend to be forms of loanwords which are usually classified as loantranslations which are usually absorbed with the motivation of prestige seeing the Chinese language and the Chinese nation as one of the most widely used languages in the world.

Table 7.
Positive Regards Analysis Results

Supportive attitude	Public arguments	Amount
Social stigma	'rude' 'impolite language'	5
Negative association	'means bad' 'means bad action'	7

On the other hand, the objectivity of speakers in choosing Chinese loan words in KBBI that are categorized as negative is only related to two things, namely social stigma and negative association. Social stigma and negative association in this study are limited to their classification based on the views of the majority group on the meaning of the word. Like the word 'melecun' which tends to fall into the social stigma that has a negative perspective, because the meaning of the word 'melecun' tends to be neutral in several other identities, while negative associations are based on how the tendency of all identities to interpret the word as a negative word.

Through all the results above, it can be seen that the form of 'Social Gap' as a social motivation of loan words can be seen its existence through a perspective approach to language. Where according to this approach, the form of 'social gap' as a social motivation can be seen from the perspective of words that arise in society, the tendency as a positive word with the reason of a prestige becomes the largest group of words that represent the motivation process

The Pattern

By knowing the form of 'Social Gap' in the four theoretical approaches that occur in 4.1 to see the motivation for loanwords, the author aims to also see how the pattern of word absorption can occur socially as something that is commonly studied for lexical reasons or 'Lexical Gap' in research on the motivation for loanwords in general.

This pattern of social motivation absorption aims to find out how the absorption process is specifically gone through by Chinese-Indonesian loan words in KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) according to the perspective of PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery employees taken from the results of the

questionnaire.

To find out the results of the absorption pattern of social motivation, an analysis was carried out by grouping the results of the 'Social Gap' form in four theoretical approaches using thematic study analysis. The absorption pattern was then determined based on the most common code obtained by each word with the ongoing coding mechanism.

a. Pattern with code (BE-0-1-D-1-0). This pattern represents the loan words Ciak, Engkoh, Loksun, and Ongji, where according to the most common pattern with these four similarities, Chinese loan words in KBBI have social motivation as their absorption pattern which is characterized by: Having no social meaning, referring very much to a particular social group, producing divergence, depending on the context and being words with a positive perspective.

b. Pattern with code (AD-0-1-D-1-0). This pattern represents the loan words Ceceng, Cepek, Compoh, and Jicap. where according to the most patterns with these four similarities, Chinese loan words in KBBI have social motivation as their absorption pattern which is characterized by: Having very little social meaning, referring to a certain social group, producing divergence, depending on context and being words with a positive perspective. Based on the results above, the absorption pattern of Chinese loan words contained in KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) tends to vary in providing social meaning, but according to the results of the most patterns, there are three similarities that are the most in seeing the motivation for their absorption, namely: **Refers to a particular social group, Generating Divergence, Depends on context, Generating a positive Perspective**

Through this pattern, other forms of motivation in loan words can be seen because the form of motivation can be seen with the four points above, although the existing pattern does not represent 50% of the total sample. However, what can be seen from the phenomenon of Chinese loan words in KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) is a phenomenon with a unique pattern, because each word has a different way of absorption with a different social motivation approach.

CONCLUSION

This study makes a significant contribution to linguistics by introducing the concept of the *Social Gap* as a unique social motivation in the absorption of loanwords, specifically examining Chinese loanwords in Indonesian as documented in the *KBBI*. By applying Zenner et al.'s (2019) theoretical framework—encompassing social meaning, social identity, indexicality, and language regard—the research demonstrates that social conditions, beyond traditional factors like prestige or cultural appeal, play a crucial role in motivating word adoption. Using data from 65 employees at PT. Indonesia Technical Machinery, the study identifies distinctive absorption patterns (BE-0-1-D-1-0 and AD-0-1-D-1-0) that reflect the nuanced influence of social

factors. For future research, it is recommended to expand this approach to other language contact scenarios and diverse sociolinguistic contexts to further validate and refine the *Social Gap* concept and its applicability across different languages and communities.

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