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**Adventures in a World of Words:
Javanese, a historical approach**

Dr Stuart Robson,
Honorary Research Associate,
School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics,
Monash University

There are many productive and useful approaches to the study of a language; in the case of Javanese, we have the opportunity to observe its development over a long period of time, in view of the existence of a literary record, roughly datable, that can serve as a source of data.

One fascinating project would be to outline the ways in which Javanese grammar has changed over the centuries; changes can also be traced by identifying the loanwords that appear at the various stages in the history of the language. These loanwords include a large number of Sanskrit origin which can be seen in Old Javanese, but there are also some of less clear (but Indic) derivation. After these, there are even some originating from Persian, as well as some curious early items from Portuguese and Dutch.

In this way, the language follows the broad outline of Javanese cultural history, and shows how international contacts have had linguistic reflexes over an extended period, just as has happened in the case of other languages, such as English or Indonesian/Malay.

This paper will offer a number of examples to illustrate the above, and will thus pave the way for a contribution by etymology to the lexicography of Javanese.