

Chinese Dialects in Javanese Diaspora: Changes in the Speech of the Chinese of Java

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The ethnic Chinese of Central and East Java speak or use grammatical and lexical items from Hokkien (Southern Min) and Mandarin Chinese (Chinese Putonghua) alongside Javanese, Malay and Indonesian. These range from borrowings from the two Chinese dialects in the latter languages all the way to entire discourses (usually in Chinese Putonghua). The presentation will look into how the phonology of the Chinese dialects is in most cases adapted to that of Javanese. An attempt will be made to hypothesize about the retention of certain features of Javanese phonology (mainly the breathy voiced consonants) by Chinese speakers, when they tend to be abandoned due to influence from Jakarta Indonesian phonology in the speech of younger ethnic Javanese speakers.