

The Malays of southern Sumatra: *Unity in diversity*
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Abstract:

The relationships between the profusion of Malayic speech varieties spoken in southern Sumatra have received scant attention in the past, though individual isolects have been studied. This presentation details further advances in the dialectology of Malayic speech varieties of Lampung, Bengkulu, and South Sumatra provinces. The speech varieties, their geographic extents, the lexical and phonological variation found within and between different speech varieties, the ethnolinguistic self-identity of the groups, and attitudes towards their own and other speech varieties are presented. Proposed groupings of these Malayic speech varieties are made based upon the aforementioned factors, and a revised dialect map modeled on Wurm & Hattori's is submitted for criticism.

Domains of language use and language use by age groups are also documented and paint a vigorous picture of language vitality in these large Malayic speaking populations.