

## The Phonology of North Selangor Temuan

This paper offers a description of the phonology of the North Selangor dialect of Temuan, a Proto-Malay language spoken by scattered communities in a range of suburban, rural and forest communities in the Malaysian states of Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Pahang and Melaka.

Due to the proximity of most Temuan communities to urban centres and the high degree of mutual intelligibility between their language and Standard Malay, a significant degree of language attrition is in progress. This process is most marked in the domain of phonology. Younger speakers, especially, tend to be pulled towards Standard Malay in this respect, and not produce such typically Proto-Malay features as nasal prelosion:

|       | <b>Standard Malay</b> | <b>Temuan</b>         |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Makan | [makan]               | [maka <sup>d</sup> n] |

There is consequently a need to document this language in a comprehensive manner.

This study is based on extensive field recording by the researcher in the Temuan community of Ulu Kuang, located about 30 km northwest of Kuala Lumpur. This is supplemented by field recording from a few other localities in North Selangor such as Sg. Kelubi, Ulu Serendah and Pertak. The fieldwork is being carried out in the first instance to enable a thorough revision of a wordlist compiled by US researcher Adela Baer in North Selangor in the 1970s, but will also feed into a larger study of Temuan dialects.

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