

**Eastern Indonesian Trade Malay**  
*Scott Paauw*  
*University of Rochester*

The Malay language has long served as a lingua franca throughout the islands of Indonesia and beyond. Over the past millennium, in a number of locations in eastern Indonesia, far from the Malay homeland, communities speaking the Malay language have emerged. The precise mechanisms involved in transplanting the language to these locations have been poorly understood, apart from an understanding that the language was brought to these regions by a language termed *Bazaar Malay* or *Vehicular Malay*. The nature of this trade language how it became established as a communal language in places such as Ambon, Manado, Kupang and the North Moluccas has not been clear.

This study is based on a typological comparison of the morphosyntax, phonology and lexicon of seven Malay varieties of eastern Indonesia, with the goal of gaining a better understanding of how these varieties developed. Features which these varieties share with Malay varieties of western Indonesia can be attributed to Vehicular Malay.

Other features are shared by all but one of the Malay varieties of eastern Indonesia and are evidence that these varieties descend from a single previously unidentified ancestor language, termed Eastern Indonesian Trade Malay (EITM). EITM had a number of specific innovations when compared with the Malay varieties of western Indonesia. The probable original location of EITM and the probable patterns by which the language spread from this location are also discussed, with innovations shared by subsets of the languages as evidence of these patterns, and a model describing the spread of Malay in eastern Indonesia is presented. It is also noted that one variety of eastern Indonesia, Larantuka Malay, had a different history and did not descend from EITM.