

## The Slang ways of Mat Rempits in Malaysia

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The paper examines the richness and variety of slang language used by Mat Rempits or unlawful motorcycle racers, who are reported in the local media in Malaysia to be linked to gang robbery, fighting, raping, theft and road bullying. Mat Rempits are predominantly poor young ethnic Malay boys from the rural villages, but city dwellers as well as young Malay girls called Mat Minahs have also joined the ranks.

To maintain their way of life, define group membership and develop contact among themselves in conversation and deviant activities, these public menace and dropouts from society have developed terms and expressions that have an origin that escape from their general use, and which outsiders cannot easily comprehend nor interpret.

This study found that Mat Rempit slang language is a mixture of non-standard Malay, English and Chinese dialect. This aspect of their language responds to a need in this group to be secretive, guarded, mysterious and defiant. One example of this slang is a conversation overhead between two groups of Mat Rempits talking about their illegal motorbike racing around town in the wee hours of the morning: *“gua lari punya moto kat selekoh Rothman ... belakang satu mat sudah main gila sama gua, habis gua tangkap benganglah ... belakang gua pun main-main sama dia, pulak gua ajak dia rentap, gua cakap sama lu, dia tinggal lima tiang, cirit-cirit...”*