

Kupang Malay: isolating or not

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Lingua franca Malay varieties from eastern Indonesia are typically seen as largely isolating languages, with very little productive morphology. Adelaar and Prentice (1996) for example, argue that in contrast to literary varieties of Malay, Lingua Franca Malay only has two productive affixes: reflexes of proto-Malayic * *ter-* and * *ber-*.

In this paper, I show evidence that certain other items may need to be added to the list of productive morphology in Kupang Malay. It would appear that their existence has probably been overlooked because observers have tended not to look at lingua franca Malay varieties in their own terms, but instead have seen them through the prism of the literary varieties. The items concerned are all reduced forms of independent words in other varieties of Malay. These include elements derived from serial verb constructions such as the putative causative prefix *kas-* (< *kasi* 'give'), pronominal clitics such as *be* (< *beta* '1sg.')

and aspect markers such as *su* (< *sudah* 'already').

References

Adelaar, K. A. and D.J. Prentice, 1996. 'Malay: its history, role and spread.' In Stephen A Wurm, Peter Mühlhäusler and Darrell T Tryon, eds. *Atlas of Languages of Intercultural Communication in the Pacific, Asia and the Americas (Volume II.1: Texts)*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.