

Divergent Varieties of Malay in Upstream Jambi
Timothy McKinnon, Yanti, Peter Cole, Gabriella Hermon

Descriptions of the Malay spoken in the Batanghari watershed (Jambi, Sumatra) have primarily focused on varieties spoken in two geographic regions which are quite distant from one another: Jambi City and its vicinity (Tadmor & Yanti (2005, 2006); Cole et.al (2010); Yanti and Raimy (2010); Yanti (2010)) and Kerinci, specifically in the direct vicinity of Sungai Penuh (Isman (1958); Prentice & Usman (1978); Steinhauer & Usman (1978); Usman (1988) Mckinnon (2011) inter alia). The Malay spoken in these two regions is not mutually intelligible and, as the works cited above demonstrate, the grammars of these varieties differ in very significant ways.

One of the unique characteristics of Kerinci is that, in core dialects, the majority of lexemes exhibit two or more morphological forms which differ in the phonological shape of their root-final syllable rime (1). These two forms exhibit distinct morphological and morphosyntactic functions.

This paper describes two previously undescribed Malay dialects which are geographically situated between Kerinci and Jambi City: Lempur Malay (LM) and Rantau Panjang (RP) Malay. These varieties also show an interesting mixture of the grammatical characteristics found in Jambi Malay and Kerinci. Lexemes show an alternation similar to that found in Kerinci (2); however, the distribution and function of the two alternating forms in LM and RP varieties is quite distinct from that found in Kerinci. To illustrate this point, Kerinci verbs typically appear in Form 1 in sentences like (3a) where no direct object is present. With a direct object, however, active verbs typically appear in Form 2 (3b). In LM and RP, however, transitive verbs typically appear in Form 1 regardless of whether the verb takes a direct object (4). Form 2 only occurs in some special environments, such as when the direct object of an active verb is topicalized (5).

In this paper we provide an initial report on the unique features of the divergent Malay varieties of Rantau Panjang and Lempur. Our discussion will focus specifically on the unique morphological properties of these varieties.

(1) Alternate forms of Lexemes in Kerinci (Tanjung Pauh dialect) (Mckinnon, 2011)

Form 1	Form 2	Gloss	Indonesian
pike	pikə̃e	think	pikir
gahi	gahʌŋ	salt	garam
dahih	dahiwh	blood	darah

(2) Rantau Panjang

Form 1		Form 2		Gloss	Indonesian
Form 1	Form 2	Form 1	Form 2		
piki ^o	pikih	pike	piki ^o	think	pikir
gaham	gahom	gɛrʌm	gɛrʌb ^ʌ	salt	garam
dahah	dahoh	dɛrʌh	dɛrʌh ^ʌ	blood	darah

(3) Kerinci: Tanjung Pauh (Mckinnon, 2011)

- a. ka ndə̃oʔ **maka**
 1. SG FUT **eat(form1)**
 'I want to eat.'
- b. ka ndə̃oʔ **makən** rutiy
 1. SG FUT **eat(form2)** bread
 'I want to eat bread.'

(4) Lempur

- a. aku dʌh **makan**
 1. SG finish **eat(form1)**
 'I have already eaten'
- b. aku dʌh **makan** kue təw
 1. SG finish **eat(form1)** cake that
 'I have already eaten that cake'

(5) Object topicalization: Lempur

- kue təw aku yaŋ **makat^a**
 cake that 1. SG REL **eat(form2)**
 'As for that cake, I am the one that ate it.'

References

- Cole, Peter, Gabriella Hermon and Yanti. 2010. Anaphora in Traditional Jambi Malay. In R. Mercado, E. Potsdam dan L. Travis (Eds.), *Austronesian and Theoretical Linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Isman, Jakub. 1958. Kerinchi Phonology. Bloomington: Department of Linguistics, Indiana University. M.A. thesis
- McKinnon, Timothy A., 2011. The Morphology and Morphosyntax of Kerinci Word-Shape Alternations. University of Delaware, Doctoral Dissertation.

- Prentice, D.J., and A. Hakim Usman. 1978. Kerinci Sound-changes and Phonotactics. In: S.A. Wurm and Lois Carrington (eds.), *Second International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics. Fascicle I. Western Austronesian*. Pacific Linguistics C-61: 121-163.
- Steinhauer, H., and A. Hakim Usman. 1978. Notes on the Morphemics of Kerinci (Sumatra), in: S.A. Wurm and Lois Carrington (eds.), *Second International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics. Fascicle I. Western Austronesian. Pacific Linguistics C-61*: 483-502.
- Tadmor, Uri and Yanti 2005. Prenasalization as a boundary marker in traditional Jambi Malay. Paper presented at *ISMIL 9*, Maninjau, July 27-29
- Tadmor, Uri and Yanti. 2006. Are there clusters and diphthongs in Malay – Indonesian? Paper presented at *SEALS XVI*, Jakarta, September 20-21.
- Usman, A. Hakim. 1988. Fonologi dan Morfologi Bahasa Kerinci Dialek Sungai Penuh. Jakarta: Universitas Indonesia Fakultas Pascasarjana Doctoral Dissertation.
- Yanti and Raimy. 2010. Reduplication in Tanjung Raden Malay. In R. Mercado, E. Potsdam and L. Travis (Eds). *Austronesian and Theoretical Linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Yanti. 2010. A Reference Grammar of Jambi Malay. University of Delaware, Doctoral Dissertation.