

## Murut Language Variation in Sipitang Sabah

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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBS/v10-i9/7865> DOI:10.6007/IJARBS/v10-i9/7865

**Published Date:** 27 September 2020

### Abstract

In general, this study aims to examine the variation of Malay language among the people in Sabah Sipitang is done because of differences bachelor's Sabah Malay dialect, the ambiguity of language and vocabulary differences between the races. Generally, varieties of Malay analyzed using the framework nature of the lexicon, Malay style changes were analyzed based on the theory of substrate, thereby developing a variety of Malay culture. In particular, two objectives, namely to identify and analyze varieties of Malay society Sipitang in Sabah. Samples of the study were Sabah natives of Murut residents of Sipitang district. This study uses the Asma Haji Omar (2008) lexicon character framework by focusing on the formation of lexical texts consisting of standard languages, dialects, bilinguals and bilinguals. Subsequent studies conducted in this field involved 40 respondents comprising people in Sipitang district. As most speakers of the indigenous people of Sabah Sabah Malay language as a second language, they tend to borrow the words of their native language. Of particular importance in this study were the variation of the regions or regions because differences in the use of words and expressions could be detected from the five-person conversation studied. Next, the results of this study researchers found that respondents from five races in Sipitang is a very active group to shape variation Malay Sabah. The essence of the study showed that the dialects of Brunei and Kedayans very influential in lexical Malay Sabah Malay Sabah is a branch of the Brunei Malay vernacular that has received regional influence and developed into a communication between people with pidgin features.

**Keywords:** Variation, Malay Language, Community, Sipitang, Lexicon Character Framework.

### Introduction

A language distribution area will have variations based on area. Sabah has many variations of the language, which is the variety of languages spoken in one particular area. Speakers of a variety of regions can understand some of the variations of other areas, especially those close to it. Variation of area is also known as dialect, dialect, or accent (Asmah, 2008: 54). In this study, the dialect of the area in question is Sabah Malay dialect.

Variation in Sabah Malay different than in Peninsular Malaysia. These differences result from the influence of local languages (eg, language Dusun, Bajau and Murut) which is also the language of neighboring countries (Brunei Malay and Indonesian). Malay dialect in Papar, Beaufort, Labuan, Kuala Penyu and Sipitang accept the influence of Malay Brunei, while the Malay language in the East Coast of Sabah (Sandakan, Lahad Datu, Tawau, Kunak and Semporna) also are absorbing the Tagalog language Indonesia. In the Ranau, Keningau, Tambunan, Tamparuli, Tuaran, Kundasang, Papar, Penampang, Kudat, Tongod, and Beluran areas, the Dusun or Kadazan language influences. In this study, the researchers chose to represent the district of Sipitang district in Sabah Malay deployment. This is due to the influence of Sipitang Brunei Malay language and also the language of the indigenous people residing in Sipitang (Hoogervorst, 2011: 50-51).

Sipitang residents usually speak in a dialect that was influenced by the Malay Brunei for Sipitang never take shelter under the Sultanate of Brunei. Malay dialect in Semporna influenced Suluk language, Tagalog, and Indonesia as Semporna is an island in the southern state of Sabah waters near the Philippines and Indonesia. Malay dialect in Ranau, located on the north west coast of Sabah Dusun language was influenced by the majority of the population in the area comprising the village. The focus of the Malay language variants in this study is the Sipitang area.

Based on initial observations the researchers, the use of the Sabah Malay dialect as the language spoken at home among the younger generation seemed to decline. Most of the older and older people in Sipitang, Sabah, dominate more than two languages, either native and English or other indigenous languages. Sabah Malay dialect they use in everyday communication. As such, there is a tendency of mixing code of Malay and English as well as other indigenous languages.

### **Statement of Problems and Objectives of the Study**

This study was done because of the occurrence of a difference of scholarly opinion concerning the Sabah Malay dialect between races. In this context, the difference bachelor's Sabah Malay dialect which require clarification and further discussion is generally for the benefit of all parties. The gaps in this study include language confusion and vocabulary differences between races.

Descriptions of Malay dialects in Sabah so that the opinion of the three leaders of languages, yet to identify a disorder that can be regarded as a Sabah Malay dialect. Scholars who study the Malay language as Collins (1989: 240; 2006: 46); Clynes (2001) argued that the Malay language is spoken in Sabah Malay dialect of Malay Brunei. But, Hoogervorst (2011) found that the influence of the indigenous and immigrant speech Sabah phonologically and lexically. The words and sentences recorded by Hoogervorst during fieldwork in various parts of Sabah explain the influence. Therefore, this study was carried out to achieve the objective of identifying Murut Language Variation in Sipitang, Sabah.

### **Scope of the Research**

The scope of this study includes the identification of varieties of Malay speech community in town Sipitang, Sabah, which is located near the border with Sarawak-Brunei Darussalam. There are three Suburbs in Sipitang, Sabah, Mesapol, Bandar and Sindumin. These three districts were chosen as the study area because the residents of the area are Murut, Dusun, Bajau, Brunei and Kedayan. They communicate using BMS despite their

differences. Variations in the use of Malay language among the samples investigated using habits framework Lexicon by Omar (2008).

In addition, factors that affect the variation of Malay Sabah processed by a different generation based on theoretical ideas substrate by Aitchison (2001). The method analyzes applied by cognate word Swadesh list ie, between Malay Standard and Sabah Malay dialect, in addition to conducting field survey by distributing questionnaires. This study will be conducted on the generation of Sabah native speakers, namely, youth (16-30 years) of 40 samples. Youths aged 16-30 years are the agreed age range for youth in Malaysia as stated by (Khairy Jamaluddin, 2014) at the presentation of the Malaysian Youth Policy Program (DBM) 2014.

In the context of this study, the researcher researches several definitions of the language variation terms presented by several notable scholars before deciding on the appropriate operational definition.

Language variation is a linguistic feature associated with class or group differences. One way to characterize certain variations is to say that speakers of a particular language sometimes speak different dialects of that language (Wardhaugh, 2006: 135). Furthermore, the definition of language variability according to Mooney & Evans (2015: 240) is the form of language used by a group of speakers; although similar to the term 'dialect', 'variation' is preferred to avoid the negative association of 'dialect'. For Chaer & Leoni (2004: 62), language variation is the use of language based on differences in speakers. Speech differences mean who uses the language, where they live, their social status, gender, and when the language is spoken. Usage also refers to what language is used, in what field, what path and tool it is, and how context is used. This view of Chaer & Leoni (2004) is used to explain the use of language according to the differences of speakers.

The language variation in the context of this study is area variation. In this regard, Asmah (2008: 54) defines regional variation as the language variability spoken in a particular area. Speakers of a variety of areas can understand the variations of other areas, especially those close to it. Variation of area is also known as dialect, dialect, or accent (Asmah, 2008: 54).

Asmah's (2008) Lexicon Character Framework, which comprises four lexicon properties, namely, standard language, dialect, bilingual and bilingual. Standard language means a language other than the language used by a previous community. Most standard languages involve words that are prestigious and also relevant to the development of human technology. The dialect is the language of a community in a particular area. Most dialects involve sound, usage, vocabulary, prose and verse. Borrowing refers to words from a foreign language as borrowing a language, it is considered to be a social symptom that is inherent in human relationships. For example, tom yam (Thai) and tea (Chinese) are used in Malaysia. Duplication is a repetition process that repeats the whole word or part of a word, which brings different meanings and meanings to the language community. For example, children indicate the number and gender of the gender.

Sipitang Society Sabahans are made up of many different ethnicities and backgrounds. The original population, or better known as the bumiputera, comprises at least 31 groups using more than 50 languages and no fewer than 90 dialects. Although the people of Sabah have many languages but all of them use the national language as the official language. In the daily affairs of the population will berkomunikasi use Sabah Malay dialect (BMS). According to the preliminary classification provided by the Northern Borneo Corporations, the indigenous people of Sabah (North Borneo) comprise the Dusun, Murut,

Bisaya, River people, Kwijau, Kedayan, Idahan, Bajau, Brunei, Dayak, Suluk, and others. Hamlet and Murut are two of the largest ethnic groups (Marina, 2009: 7). In this research, the Sipitang communities in question are the Muruts, Brunei Bajau, Bajau and Kedayan settlements in Sipitang District, consisting of three districts namely, Mesapol, Bandar and Sindumin. Each Mukim has several villages where these five tribes live in groups and neighboring one another.

### **Literature Review**

In a study of the variation of Malay spoken in northern Borneo, Clynes (2001: 11-14), found that the Malay language is a variation of Brunei Malay language used for communication between people in the region. The variations identified as Brunei Malay spoken by racial groups Brunei, both Brunei and Malaysia in the neighboring regions - the Eastern Sarawak, Limbang, Lawas, Miri, Sabah, around Beaufort, Kuala Penyu, Sipitang and Labuan.

While in Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Malay currently experiencing strong pressure from the English as happened in the Malay community in Singapore, the Malay language Brunei serves as a vehicle used in the communication between the people in Sabah, especially in Beaufort, Kuala Penyu, Sipitang and Labuan Island (Clynes, 2001). The Sipitang area is the site of this research and one of the 5 ethnic groups (Murut, Dusun, Bajau, Brunei, Kedayan) involved in the study is Kedayan. According Asmah (2008: 66), the Kedayan and Brunei, the Brunei Malay dialect speakers, living side by side in areas such as Sipitang, Labuan, Beaufort and Kota Kinabalu. Kedayans dialect can be considered a Malay dialect Sabah. This is the only Malay language variants can be identified with the state. If the calculation dialektometrik BMS Murut, Dusun, Bajau and Brunei yield percentage can be classified into sorting language, namely, a difference in terms of conversation, sub dialect, dialect, or it can be said that new language as a dialect Kedayans Sabah Malay dialect.

Ramendra (2013) conducted a study on language variations and factors that influence users' language variation in a community. This study uses quality and quantitative. The study data consisted of 120 subjects consisting of Balinese occupation in Singaraja City. In connection with this study, Ramendra has described identity factors and identity preservation as the main reasons for the use of certain language variations. The results show that there are 3 language variations in the Singaraja language community, namely, language variation (BH), common language variation (BB) and gross language variation (BK). The people of Bali, Singaraja City use fine language (BH) to express their degrees by the subjects of the upper castes. In this case, BH is also considered a superior language (BA). BA is viewed as a good language, related to the decency, subtlety and tradition of the upper and middle class. In fact, the general norm in Bali is that BA is used by most people to the highest, but this norm is not fully applied in the Singaraja community (Ramendra, 2013: 284).

Evidence for language change is also derived from the findings of Siti Noraini, et. al, (2014: 39), explaining that the younger generation is more likely to use standard lexical measures in both the Perpetual and Upstream Silver Areas. This is because the younger generation of educated people are influenced by the standard language used in schools and television. This is in contrast to older generations who are more likely to maintain their identity by maintaining the use of existing words.

A study conducted by Dani & Syeril (2016) aims to examine the Malay word which has been absorbed into the vocabulary remains Kadazan Dusun and factors influencing changes in the use of language. The results obtained from 300 students at four Malaysian

public universities indicate that BMS is more commonly used by the younger generation of Kadazan Dusun in everyday communication than in the mother tongue. The word BMS that has been absorbed into the mother tongue involves new equipment, feelings, and objects not found in the Kadazan Dusun vocabulary. Another factor is that the change in language use among the younger generation is due to the need for language use over time. Surveys on the frequency of use of BMS in daily communication show that 90% of the sample chose the 'always', 'sometimes' 7% and 'rare' 3% categories. This data shows that the preferred language of the sample when relating to the community in various situations is BMS. The use of BMS is obvious in situations where you speak with a teacher or lecturer of the same race. The mother tongue is not practiced by most samples even though they speak with people of the same race. On top of that, BMS is also a top choice in informal situations. 83% of the sample uses BMS when speaking with neighbors or friends of other races. The use of native language is no longer a common practice even at home.

### **Research Design**

Researchers use strata sampling. In this study, the sample refers to the young adults Dusun, Murut, Bajau, Brunei and Kedayan aged 16-31. The researchers chose the youths as they were generally in the middle and had completed formal education in schools. They have been exposed to many languages besides having their own native language background. They are also considered to be the most active groups in language change at school, outdoors with peers and at home. They also use the languages pidgin, creole, market and rojak.

In connection with this study, researchers use field methods to obtain more detailed information and to better understand this study. Through this method the questionnaire is distributed to the study sample. This study was intensively conducted on youths from Murut, regardless of religious practice. This research uses the form of DMS word list and Swadesh list (Malay Swadesh List, 2013). The table form data contains detailed data information about a group that enables the researcher to understand the scope of the study more thoroughly. DMS and Swadesh word list form (Malay Swadesh List, 2013) is distributed and collected according to the schedule set by the researcher. The researcher also used a tape recorder for the purpose of interviewing the respondents so that information was obtained directly from the respondent himself. Interview results were recorded as evidence of research reference.

Next, the researcher used the Swadesh list for the study conducted. Details of Swadesh list (Swadesh list, Wiktionary, 2013). There are 9 classes of words, 371 words and a list of standard Malay language five races. There are four tables of lexicon, standard language, dialect, loan word, and double word. This material is provided to the 40 informants to answer in writing the language of each based on the same understanding with standard Malay language.

### **Analysis and Discussion**

This section presents the findings of the data based on the study instrument used, Swadesh list and DMS word list of Murut and Dusun for youth as a sample of study to meet the objectives of the study, namely, identify and analyze the variation Malay community in Sabah Sipitang using the framework nature of the lexicon, Omar (2008).

Bahasa Melayu Pekan Sipitang accept the influence of indigenous languages that exist in the area, especially Murut, Dusun, Bajau, Brunei, and Kedayans. Analysis and discussion in Chapter 4 covers the varieties of Malay speakers Murut, Dusun, Bajau, Brunei and Kedayans for youth groups (16-30 years).

### The Variations Murut Language Variation in Sipitang Sabah using the framework (The Lexicon Asmah Haji Omar, 2008)

Analysis of variation Malay community in Sipitang divided into five races, namely, Murut, Dusun, Bajau, Brunei and Kedayans. Further details of the discussion are as follows:

Table 1

#### Variation Malay Murut

No	Nouns	Malay standard	Murut language	Lexicon			
				SL	PF	D	B
1	personal pronouns	29	29	4	25	0	0
2	question words	7	7	0	7	0	0
3	Negation	2	2	0	2	0	0
4	Kata Bilangan	13	13	1	12	0	0
5	Adjective	46	46	14	32	0	0
6	Noun	94	94	45	49	0	0
7	Verb	71	71	25	46	0	0
8	Noun conjunctions	4	4	0	4	0	0
9	Conjunction	5	5	3	2	0	0
Total				92/271	179/271	0/271	0/271

(Sumber: Malay Swadesh List, Wiktionary, 2013)

Note:

SL: Standard language

PF: Plural form

D : Dialect

B : Borrowing of a language

Based on the analysis of Table 1, Variation Malay word Murut There are 271 standard Malay language and Malay matched 271 Murut. In this analysis the main focus of the study is to compute the number of lesions involving Standard Language, Dialect, Borrow and Plural form.

#### Pronoun

There are 29 words English (standard) and 29 Malay word Murut. From number 4 belongs to the standard language and 25 words in dialect .. The analysis shows that the dominant lexicon is the word dialect.

#### Question words

There are 7 words English (default) and 7 Malay word Murut. Daripada number is all the 7 word belongs in the lexicon the word dialect. The results show that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

#### Deny words

There are two words BM (Baku) and 2 Murut Malay word. Both words belong to the dialectic lexicon. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

### **Word Count**

There are 13 words English (default) and Malay Murut. Only 1 contains the standard language and the remaining 12 words are in the dialect lexicon. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

### **Adjective Words**

There are 45 words English (default) and Malay Murut. There are 14 words in the standard language lexicon and 32 words in the dialect. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

### **General Names**

There are 94 words English (default) and Malay Murut. There are 45 words in the standard language lexicon and 49 words in the dialect. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

### **Verbs**

There are 71 words English (default) and Malay Murut. There are 25 words in the standard language lexicon and 46 words in the dialect. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

### **Nickname**

There are four words of English (default) and Malay Murut. The four words in the dialectic are dialects. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the dialect.

### **Connect**

There are 5 words English (default) and Malay Murut. There are 3 words in the standard language lexicon and 2 words in the dialect language. The analysis shows that the most dominant lexicon is the standard word.

Overall the researcher found that 92 words were standard language lexicons and 179 words were dialect word lexicons. In this analysis Malay Murut, use of dialect lexicon word is dominant compared to the standard language lexicon. The findings of this analysis penkaji found Malay Murut more use lesikon compared Malay dialect word raw. This explains the use of the Malay language standard is not working properly because the headhunter prefer to use the language and dialect mixed with standard Malay language. This situation causes language confusion.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the analysis of the above five different ethnic languages, it appears that the Murut, Dusun, Bajau and Kedah languages are dominant dialects while the Brunei people use the standard language more than the dialect. What can be seen is the two clash this language bring negative effects, especially in our efforts to uphold the national language caused confusion Malay Sabah.

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