

## **Variations in Melanau: Phonology and Lexical**

Ajid Che Kob<sup>1</sup> and Norfafazila Ab. Hamid<sup>2</sup>  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (1) and  
Islamic University College of Selangor(2)

The paper discussed phonological and lexical variations found in Melanau, one of the indigenous language of Sarawak using structural approach. The data for the paper was taken from Melanau language spoken in seven districts, namely Mukah, Matu, Dalat, Igan, Oya, Balingan and Daro. From the phonological aspects, the correspondences of certain consonants, vowels and diphthongs in various positions found in the seven areas will be discussed. Based on the similarities of phonological correspondences found within the seven areas discussed. Beside that, certain lexical items used to denote certain meanings used in the seven areas will also be compared. Based mainly on similarity of phonological correspondences and supported by lexical similarities found certain areas, the paper will classify or subgrouped the seven Melanau dialects or subdialects under discussions. The paper will show that the seven variants of Melanau dialects can be classified into three subgroups, namely the Matu-Daro, the Mukah-Igan-Oya-Dalat, and the Balingian.