

The use of *pa* in Ternate Malay (Indonesia)

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One of the two main languages on the island of Ternate (North Maluku, Indonesia) is Ternate Malay. Most of the mother tongue speakers can be found in the only town on the island with the same name. For the people outside the town, Ternate Malay is the second language while the indigenous language, Ternate, is their mother tongue.

The Portuguese have been the first Europeans who visited Ternate. Traces of this contact can be found in a number of words of Portuguese origin. It is possible that function words have also been borrowed into Ternate Malay. One of these words is *pa* (Den Besten 2000).

In this presentation I would like to focus on *pa*, a preposition meaning ‘to, at’. In addition to the idea that it is borrowed from Portuguese, it would be interesting to look into its function and meanings as, amongst others, optional case marker in direct and indirect objects. I want to compare this with the use of similar markers in other varieties of Malay. In Ambon Malay, which is also spoken in eastern Indonesian the word *par* (and variations of it) is used, while in e.g. Riau Indonesian and Jakarta Indonesian, spoken in the western part of Indonesia *sama* ‘with’ seem to fulfil more or less the same functions (Gil 2004). It is hoped that this gives us more insight into the structure of Ternate Malay and, more generally, into case markers in Malay varieties.

References

- Den Besten, Hans, 2000, ‘The slaves’ languages in the Dutch Cape Colony and Afrikaans *vir*’, *Linguistics* 38–5:949-971.
- Gil, David, 2004, ‘Riau Indonesian *Sama*: Explorations in Macrofunctionality’, in: Haspelmath, M. (ed.), *Coordinating Constructions*, Amsterdam: Benjamins, pp. 371-424 (*Typological Studies in Language* 58).