

Makang sup di Swering
Dutch loanwords in Ternate Malay

Ternate Malay is a variety of Malay spoken on the island of Ternate (Maluku Utara, Indonesia). In former times the only town on the island, also called Ternate, was an important harbor in the clove trade. Traders from various places in and outside the Indonesian archipelago (Buginese, Arabs, Chinese, Malays, Portuguese, Dutch, English) came here to participate in this profitable trade. As in many places along the trading route Malay was the lingua franca used by these traders and in their contacts with the local people. Nowadays, Ternate Malay is the first language of the majority of people living in Ternate Town and the second language of many people living on the rest of the island, where the original Ternate language is still in use.

The utterance *makang sup di Swering* ‘eating soup at Swering’ contains two words which are considered to be from Dutch origin: *sup* ‘soup’ and *Swering* ‘sea wall’, deriving from the Dutch words *soep* ‘soup’ and *zeewering* ‘sea wall’ respectively. When we take a closer look at these and other Dutch loanwords some questions may arise: is a word really a Dutch loanword or is it possible that it was borrowed from another language into Ternate Malay? Is the word borrowed directly from the source language into Ternate Malay or did it enter Ternate via another Malay variety or another language? Are Dutch loanwords in Ternate Malay also known in other Malay varieties, such as Indonesian? What does that tell us about the borrowing process in Ternate Malay? These questions will be addressed in the paper with the aim to get more insight in the role of Dutch language in Ternate and the way Dutch words came into Ternate Malay.