

A survey of phonation driven vowel shifts in traditional Malay(ic)

Timothy Mckinnon
MPI EVA (Jakarta)
& University of Delaware

Vowel changes triggered by consonant phonation are attested in geographically and genetically diverse languages throughout SE Asia, including Madurese (Stevens, 1966; *inter alia*), Javanese (Fagan, 1988; *inter alia*) Mon Khmer languages, Chamic languages (Thurgood, 1999; *inter alia*) and the Berawan languages of Northern Sarawak (Blust, 2000). Such changes are illustrated by data from Batu Belah, a Berawan language spoken in Sarawak. Notice that the reflexes of *a are raised and fronted when preceded by a voiced obstruent.

(X) Phonation driven vowel changes in Batu Belah, Berawan (Blust, 2000)

W/Voiced Obstruent		No Voiced Obstruent	
PNS	BB	PNS	BB
*danau	> dinaw	*taneq	> tana
*baqu	> biꞤoh	*paqa	> paah
*batu	> bittoh	vs. *mata	> mattah

Given how widespread phonation driven vowel changes (PDCs) are in SE Asia as a whole, it is somewhat surprising that similar phenomena are only sporadically discussed in the literature on Malay/Indonesian, the most widely spoken language group in SE Asia. To date, PDCs have only been observed in a limited number of Malay varieties (e.g. Kerinci (Prentice & Usman, 1978 *inter alia*), Tioman Malay (Collins, 1985), Kutai Malay (Collins, 1993), Natuna Malay (Collins, 1998)).

In this paper, I show that a broad survey of wordlists and other materials collected from traditional Malay(ic) varieties reveals that PDCs are attested across a much broader geographic area than previously thought. I provide a typology of PDCs in Malay, and I consider what these phenomena might tell us about the history of Malay(ic) languages.

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