

Dialectal Classification in Kerinci

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Kerinci is a group of divergent Malayic varieties spoken in the Kerinci Regency (Jambi Province) in the Barisan mountains of Sumatra. Usman (1988) suggests that there are dozens of distinct Kerinci varieties. To date, researchers have focused primarily on dialects spoken in the vicinity of Sungai Penuh, the administrative center of the Kerinci Regency (Prentice & Usman, 1978; Steinhauer & Usman, 1978; Anwar, 1984; Yasin, 1983, *inter alia*). Limited work has been done on the genetic classification of dialects. Usman (1988) provides wordlists from several Kerinci dialects and discusses grouping in general terms. Sastra (1994) proposes a reconstruction of 'Proto-Minangkabau-Kerinci' based on Minangkabau and Kerinci varieties. In this paper we present data from a wider variety of Kerinci dialects, and develop a finer-grained genetic classification. On the basis of cross-dialectal comparison, we also propose revisions to the pioneering reconstruction of Kerinci historical changes presented in Steinhauer (2002).

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