

Colloquial varieties in comparison: Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian and Papuan Malay.

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This is a preliminary study about the similarities between two colloquial and informal varieties of Malay/Indonesian spoken in Indonesia, Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian and Papuan Malay.

Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian is the "recognized" form of colloquial Indonesian born in Jakarta and spread to almost everywhere in the Indonesian archipelago whereas Papuan Malay is the regional variety of Malay used in Papua and in West Papua territory. The Papuan Malay variety that I will discuss here is the variety spoken in the city of Manokwari, West Papua.

There are some characteristics of Papuan Malay that I consider particularly interesting and that will be addressed in this paper and compared to the Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian variety.

These are: the personal and the possessive pronouns, the negation, the temporal markers, the absence of the verbal prefix *men-*, the zero copula, the behaviour of serial and modal verbs, the causative form, the reduplication, the use of interjections, the passive system, the double meaning of "boleh", the use of different kinship and friendship's names, the use and the meaning of "pamace" and "paitua-maitua", the peculiar sentence structure in Papuan Malay and some frequent speech structures like "itu lagi" or "tra kosong" and so forth.

The main question that I am trying to answer is whether the Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian, being widespread everywhere in the archipelago, has already influenced Papuan Malay or if the latter still retains most of its features.

I will try to answer this question, or at least try to raise the issue about that, by showing examples of sentences in a three language scale 'Formal Indonesian-Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian-Papuan Malay' and by stressing the attention about the similarities and differences between Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian and Papuan Malay.