

## The lexicon of 'peace' in Indonesian

Antonia Soriente

University of Naples 'L'Orientale'

This paper gives a lexicographic analysis of the concept of peace in Indonesian addressing problems of etymology, borrowings, development of terminology and use of the terms.

In the framework of the International Project concerning the words for 'peace' in the languages of the world '*Les mots de la paix*' carried out by the research group *Islam Medieval* in Paris, I would like to focus my attention to the development of the terminology of 'peace' in the Indonesian (and Malay) world by performing an analysis of dictionaries and thesaurus and observing texts that go from the 14th till the 21st century.

I propose to study the terms for peace starting from classical texts contained in the Malay Concordance Project to arrive to contemporary texts contained in a small database of Indonesian literary texts. I observe the terms related to peace as opposed to war and the words expressing peace as a state of mind. In Indonesian the concept of peace as opposed to war and of peace as a mental state coincide in the words *damai* and *aman*. A punctual study of the words *damai* and *aman* and their derivations has been done starting from dictionaries and thesaurus and a list of words and synonyms has been produced. Then, going back to texts of the classical period and arriving up to contemporary Indonesian, I attempt to trace the history and the development of the words for peace in Indonesian.

From the analysis of dictionaries I have observed the word for peace and related concepts from the perspective of borrowings. If *damai* for instance is a Malay word, the lexeme *muakafat* (Arabic) has been used since the 14th century as a synonym of peace. Nowadays this borrowed word is rarely employed and replaced by words in other languages like for instance, *islah* (Arabic) or *rekonsiliasi* (English, Dutch). The word for peace as far from war come mostly from Arabic whereas the words for peace as a state of mind go back to the Sanskrit borrowings.

Two main corpuses, the Malay concordance project, a corpus of classical Malay texts and a smaller corpus of contemporary Indonesian literary texts has become the place to perform different kinds of searches. The Malay Concordance Project comprises 165 classical texts, whereas the Indonesian literary database comprises four novels and 20 short stories of the 21 century or a bit earlier. These texts can be searched to provide useful information about contexts in which words are used, where particular terms occur in texts, patterns of morphology and syntax.

Nevertheless it has to be pointed out that the word for *damai* has never been reconstructed in Austronesian, being, as Nothofer and Collins point out (p.c.) that this is a recent Malay replacement. If it is true that occurrences of *damai* are found in the MCP since the very early texts but in very small percentage, on the other hand a much larger amount of terms with the prefix *se-* with the meaning of peace, agreement and lack of conflict, such as, *sepakat*, *serasa*, *sejiwa* abound in the database.

The ultimate task of this project is to compile a glossary of terms for 'peace' in Indonesian.