

# Nasal Prepllosion in Jakun

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Nasal prepllosion is a linguistic phenomenon in which a common nasal consonant is preceded by an epenthetic homorganic stop. The occurrence of nasal prepllosion in Austronesian languages depends upon the nasality of the preceding vowel. If the preceding vowel is nasal, the syllable-final common nasal consonant remains as is. If, however, the preceding vowel is non-nasal, the syllable-final nasal consonant is preploded by the homorganic stop. An example of each is given below:

[taŋãn] 'hand'  
[ikadn] 'fish'

Only in the past 50 years have nasal prepllosion and other related phenomena received attention from the linguistic community, and very limited attention at that. Indeed, in 1997, Robert Blust could only point to eight Austronesian language communities where nasal prepllosion was observed. This paper seeks to add to the discourse by reporting on nasal prepllosion as observed on the Malay peninsula, in the Jakun dialect of Malay. The Jakun are one of the few minority indigenous groups on the peninsula that speak an Austronesian language. Also discussed in this paper are other related nasal phenomena found in Jakun, such as prenasalized stops and the simplification of word-medial nasal-obstruent clusters, also referred to (by Blust) as postploded nasals.

Besides Blust's article, this paper will serve to complement the more recent findings of Collins (1998) and of Anderbeck (2003). It is hoped that similarities identified in this paper, as well as innovations which are at this time unique to Jakun, will clarify how and why nasal prepllosion occurs.