

The Influence of the Javanese Word “Kulo →Kaula” as a First Person Pronoun and “Pengiran” in Brunei Darussalam.

In Brunei Darussalam, the word (Kaula) is used as a first person pronoun when speech is directed to a female noble who is an individual from pengiran or to a pehin manteri the highest ranking bestowed title for non-noble. These two words are derived from Javanese words which are [kulo] and [pengiran]. Looking at the linguistic data diachronically, it is certainly true that a long time ago, Brunei and Java had connections specifically within the upper class society. This connection between Brunei and Java was incidentally illustrated in old maps that named Borneo island as JAVA MENOR (map dated 1548 T.M by Giacomo Gastaldi and a map dated 1554 T.M by G.B Ramusio). Denoting Borneo Island as JAVA MENOR was not made to show Borneo as a “Little Java” but to show that at some time before westerners came to this region, there was contact between Borneo Island and a Javanese government. There is a strong possibility that the Javanese government that had contact with Borneo was the Majapahit government that started its golden era at the end of the 13th century after the downfall of the Singasari government. Stories of a link between Majapahit and the Brunei Malay government must be studied from a historic point of view. However, in this working paper, the focus of discussion is concentrated on the analysis of change in pronunciation from [kulo] which is a first person pronoun as used in Javanese soft-sounded to [kaula]. The word [pengiran] which is also from Javanese does not undergo change in pronunciation in the Brunei Malay dialect.