

## **Local Elements in Betawi Malay**

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Betawi Malay is the home language of Jakarta's indigenous ethnic group, and was the basis on which Jakarta Indonesian developed. While the origin of Betawi Malay is the subject of some controversy, there is no question that (1) the homeland of Malay was not on Java, so the language must have been introduced to the area at some point; and that (2) Betawi Malay contains many elements from local languages. These local languages include Sundanese, the language of western Java, where Jakarta is located; Javanese, the language of central and eastern Java, but also of the large and old Javanese community of Banten; and Balinese, which is not an indigenous language of Java, but was the first language of the largest Indonesian ethnic group in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Batavia, when Betawi Malay first emerged. The Sundanese and Javanese (the two were not distinguished in early Dutch censuses) replaced the Balinese as the largest indigenous ethnic groups in the city, so it is not surprising that their languages have left a distinct mark on its language. This paper discusses phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical elements of Betawi Malay that can clearly be traced to local languages. Based on this analysis, some ideas are presented regarding the possible origin of Betawi Malay.