

HIGH-LEVELLED JAVANESE BEBASO IN PALEMBANG SOUTH SUMATERA

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In Palembang grows Palembangis-Malay and what people call Bebaso. From the firstly usage, Bebaso was only limitedly used in the royal family in the palace (kesultanan) and community around it; in Tangga Buntung, Mosque Agung, etc. Even, nowadays, the users or the native-speakers of this language have been shrinking because of the speakers –mostly old– have died and their heirs also do not concern with the development of Bebaso.

Linguistically, Bebaso (or some people call it Bahaso) is High-Javanese. Bebaso, at least, is a combination of Mid-Javanese (*Kromo Madyo*) and/or High-Javanese (*Kromo Hinggil*) and Malay, although the influence of Javanese is far more than Malay. Some examples of Bebaso vocabulary are *dalem* (I), *kulo* (I), *niku* (you), *diaturi* (please, go head, come on –slightly different from High-Javanese *monggo*), *niki* (this), *leser* (right – High-Javanese *leres*), *bedamel* (work), *malih* (more/again), etc. Indeed, not all Bebaso is fully Javanese, like *rompok* (house/home –High-Javanese *griyo*), *ciendo* (good/pretty – High-Javanese *ayu/apik*), *pangkeng* (room –High-Javanese *kamar*), etc.

Actually, bebaso is not native language in Palembang (Sumatera). Based on the history, Bebaso came from Java. It was brought by the Javanese nobles (a group of captains or princes) –the Sultanate of Demak– who arrived at Palembang shortly before the founding of the Sultanate of Palembang Darussalam. Although Bebaso is claimed as the language of Palembang community but linguistically it is Javanese. What I want to say is that the Javanese language, with the diasporas community and spread everywhere, follows the habits of their people who like to wander and spread everywhere –including to Palembang– despite its name of the language is to be Bebaso.

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