

HYBRID JAVANESE OF 'METRONIAN' IN CENTRAL LAMPUNG

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Javanese has been the dominant local language in Metro, the biggest district in Central Lampung, for more than six generations. Extensive transmigration is perceived as the main cause of positioning Javanese as the pivotal means of communication among the residents, even between different ethnics. As the Javanese communities own different homelands, they bring their original dialect and accent which are eventually melted within their daily communication. In this particular sense, Metro has been 'the melting pot' of different Javanese dialects and accents which create a sort of hybrid Javanese

The hybrid sense of 'Metronian' Javanese is glaringly characterized by the inclusion of some dictions and function words from different regions of Java, including Sundanese. Specific accent of Central Java is mainly used but the function words, such as '*geh*' and '*tah*' apparently exist with their different functions due to the change of intonation. Interestingly, the two also appear in informal Indonesian with quite similar linguistic functions. However, within Javanese interactions, the two function words perform beyond their linguistic features. A careful sociolinguistic investigation leads to more specific roles which primarily indicate in-group belonging and solidarity which simultaneously depict group identity. It is worth noting that the group identity is formatted by embarking them to the hybrid Javanese which implicates unfastening their original Javanese.