

Emotive negative particles in Minangkabau

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Minangkabau speakers do not only express negative emotions by exploiting the voice quality, but also by lengthening or reducing the syllables, as in (1) and (2), or by marking the utterance with final particles, as in (3) and (4). The utterances ‘How come you did this.’/‘How come you acted that way.’ in (1) and (2) are expressions of anger, with (a) being a “normal” and (b) a “stronger” tone. The emphatic tone, with ‘you (F)’ is marked with the shortened form, while with ‘you (M)’, it is marked with the lengthening of the diphthong into a sequence of two vowels.

- (1) a. *Baa waang ko.*
how you (F) this
b. *Baa ang ko.*
how you (F) this
- (2) a. *Baa kau ko.*
how you (M) this
b. *Baa ka-u ko.*
how you (M) this

Feeling of annoyance may be expressed with the final particle *do* (3), *mah* (4), but whether *do* is only used negative while *mah* in affirmative constructions require further scrutiny.

- (3) *Itu sajo ndak mangarti ang do.*
that only not understand you PART
‘How come you don’t understand such a (simple) thing.’
- (4) *Karajo ang duduak-duduak se mah.*
work you sit-RED only PART
‘How come you just sit and do nothing.’

The present paper is an attempt to investigate what particles are used to express negative emotions and in what senses. If cases like *do* and *mah* may be interchangeable, what different sense each of the two may convey.