

The influence of substrate on body parts idioms in Kupang Malay

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Kupang Malay is a stigmatised Malay-based creole spoken in eastern Indonesia. While it shares some linguistic features with other contact varieties of Malay in the region, it is also distinguished by its own contact history and unique features in its phonology, lexicon and grammar, all showing evidence of significant influence from substrate languages. As a creole, Kupang Malay has a rich inventory of idioms, drawn from many sources. Idioms are part of the creativity of a language, the idiosyncratic part that shows the character of the language (Fernando 1996). Body part idioms are not exclusive to creole languages; they are more likely to be universal since we use our bodies to relate to the world around us. In any given language, only some body parts are used in expressions. Usually there are a few that are very productive and others that are very rare (McElhanon 1978a:9). The purpose of this paper is to see the extent influence of substrate languages (Uab Meto, Amarasi, Helong and Rote) have on Kupang Malay in the area of body part idioms. Body part idioms from Uab Meto, Amarasi, Helong, and Rote will be collected in Kupang. These idioms later be compared with idioms collected in Standard Malay (Bahasa Indonesia) through literature and dictionaries. The linguistic and sociolinguistic factors are explored of substrate influence on body part idioms in Kupang Malay.