

Basò Kulònggé: **The Honorifics of Jambi, Central Sumatra**

Uri Tadmor and Yanti

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

One of the areal features of Southeast Asian languages is the presence in many of them of special sets of honorific vocabulary, used when addressing royalty. Well-known examples are the Javanese *Krama Kedhaton* (Soepomo et al. 1979) and the Thai *Rachasap* (Kulasap and Saimai 2002). Malay has its own royal vocabulary, known as *Bahasa Diraja* (Asmah 2004).

Tanjung Raden is a village in Jambi, Central Sumatra, where the descendants of the royal family of Jambi live. In the village's dialect, honorifics are used when addressing senior members of the community. This honorific system is known as *Basò Kulònggé*; *basò* means 'language', and '*kulònggé*' is made up of the honorific 1st person singular pronoun *kulò* and the honorific affirmative particle *nggé*. A study of this honorific system indicates that, even though the inhabitants speak a Malay dialect, the honorifics seem not to be related to Malay royal vocabulary (*Bahasa Diraja*). Rather, they are more closely related to the Javanese *Krama*, although not necessarily to forms used in modern Javanese when addressing royalty. This paper discusses *Basò Kulònggé*, its origins, and its sociolinguistics, and compares it to *Bahasa Diraja* and *Krama Kedhaton*.

REFERENCES

- Asmah Haji Omar. 2004. *Bahasa Diraja: Edisi Baharu* (Royal Language: New Edition). Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Kulasap Ketmankit, and Saimai Jobkolasuk, eds. 2002. *Rachasap* (Royal Vocabulary). Bangkok: Office of National Identity Promotion.
- Soepomo Poedjosoedarma, Th. Kundjana, Gloria Soepomo, and Alip Suharso. 1979. *Tingkat Tutur Bahasa Jawa* (Javanese Speech Levels). Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa.