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## MALAY PERSONAL PRONOUNS

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By

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PERPUSTAKAN  
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## INTRODUCTION

### A. PURPOSE

Personal pronouns are part of the stock-in-trade of any living language. The Malay language is rich in personal pronouns. These pronouns exist as expressions of differential status, familiarity and politeness. In their social life the Malays are very conscious of the conventional rules of etiquette and of mutual courtesy and respect for each other as indicated in this saying: "Berbahasa dengan orang enche' dengan enche', tuan dengan tuan." In English it means to be studiously polite, that is, to address an enche' as enche' and a tuan as tuan. Thus the rules of etiquette are observed by employing appropriate pronouns for different occasions.

This study is an attempt to record, explain and illustrate the existing usage of the Malay personal pronouns, both literally and colloquial. The social aspect of this study forms only the sideline.

### B. SCOPE AND METHOD

In this exercise the Malay personal pronouns as used in the Malay Peninsula are classified into two classes - the genuine pronouns and the semi-pronouns (the nouns used as pronouns for special purposes) - and then their general usage is examined. The colloquial pronouns, that is, those pronouns found in each of the state in Malaya will then be presented and discussed. This section also includes those pronouns which are used by the common people for the members of royalty in the different states in Malaya.

In order to assess how far the usage of those pronouns found in Malay literature conforms to the general usage of the genuine pronouns and semi-pronouns, and the colloquial pronouns, the writer has referred to a list of books and a comparative study is made between the usage of the "literary" pronouns and the other pronouns already discussed. Finally, it is considered necessary to examine those pronouns which have been imported into the Malay language due to foreign impact on Malay language and society. It is interesting to note that some of these pronouns are found in works of literature, which belong to the modern period, starting with Abdullah Munshi.

The examination of the colloquial pronouns is limited to one district in each of the states in Malaya and based on the informations provided by the members of the Loghat Committee (1957/58), Malay Language Society, University of Malaya. It would be more beneficial if the choice of books studied for Chapter IV is made according to chronology, but this is in fact impossible as most of the dates when these books were written down are not known.

The writer hopes that in the future other students of Malay grammar or literature would be able to make a more detailed and thorough study of this subject and attempt it on a wider scope.

### C. DIFFICULTIES

In trying to trace the development of nouns into pronouns there is an unavavoidable occasional overlapping of explanations in Chapter I and Chapter II. Chapter III has to be presented in

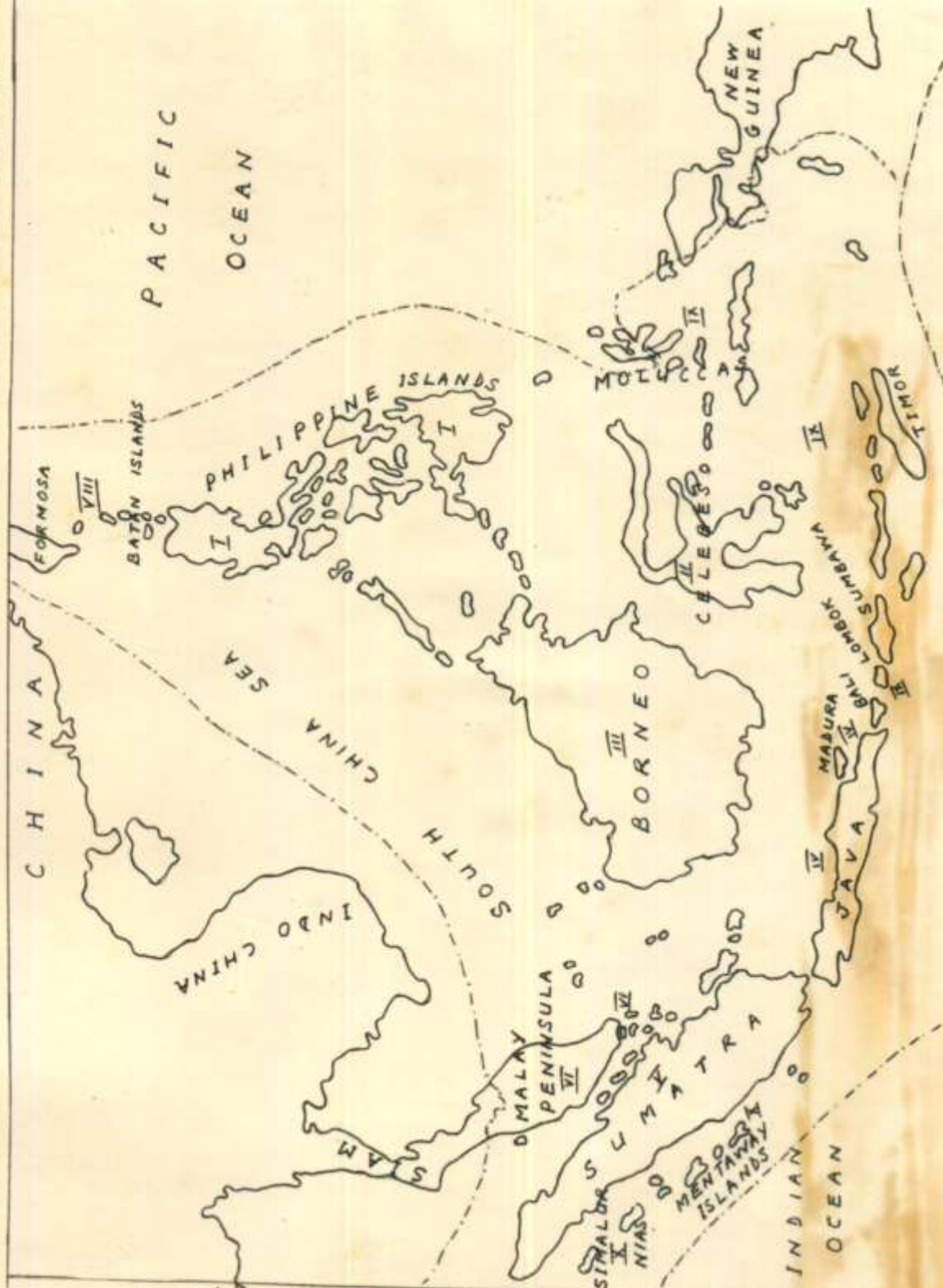
tabular forms so as to make a clearer distinction between the pronouns found in the different states in Malaya. In Chapter IV only an average number of each class of pronouns is recorded for to note down every single pronoun used in the books read would involve a detailed study and a longer period of time. Finally, as Jawi script entails difficulties in typing, it is avoided in this exercise and some of the examples of the "literary" usage of pronouns in Chapter IV are written down in Romanised script.

APPENDIX II

A MAP OF MALAYA SHOWING THE DIFFERENT STATES AND AREAS OF WHICH THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED IN CHAPTER III



APPENDIX IV - A MAP SHOWING THE GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF THE INDONESIAN LINGUISTIC AREA.



- KEY :
- I - PHILIPPINES
  - II - CELEGES
  - III - BORNEO
  - IV - JAVA (WITH MABURA AND BALI)
  - V - SUMATRA
  - VI - THE MALAY PENIN- SULA AND ADJACENT ISLANDS
  - VII - MADAGASCAR (NOT SHOWN ON THE MAP AS IT IS TOO FAR TO THE WEST)
  - VIII - THE THREE BORDER DISTRICTS
  - VIII - NORTHERN BORDER (BATAN ISLANDS AND FORMOSA)
  - IX - EASTERN BORDER (THE ISLANDS FROM LOMBOK TOWARDS NEW GUINEA)
  - X - SOUTH - WESTERN BORDER (THE ROW ISLANDS BEHIND SUMATRA -SIMALUR, NIAS, MENTAWAY)
- LINE SHOWING THE APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF THE WHOLE AREA

TAKEN FROM :

ENSIKLOPEDIA INDONESIA  
 N.V. PENERBITAN W. VAN HOEVE  
 BANDUNG 'S GRAVENHAGE

APPENDIX III

TABLE TO SHOW A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MALAY PERSONAL PRONOUNS WITH THE OTHER

PRONOUNS IN THE INDONESIAN LANGUAGES AS ESTABLISHED BY BRANDSTETTER 1

PRONOUN	MALAY PENINSULA	PHILIP- PINES.	CELEBES	JAVA	BORNEO	SUMATRA	MADA- CASCAR.	NORTHERN BORDER	EASTERN BORDER	S-WEST BORDER
I	aku (Malay)	ako (Bisaya)	aku (Tontembo -an)	aku (Old Java -nese)	aku (Dayak)	aku (Gayo)	ahu and Zahu <sup>2</sup> (Hova)	ako (Batak)	yako <sup>3</sup> (Masarete -se)	aku (Mentaw -ay)
Thou	kaw and enkaw (Malay)	ikao <sup>4</sup> (Bisaya)	kaw (Makassar)	ko (Old Java -nese)	ikaw (Dayak)	kaw (Minang- kabau)			kaw (Sumbawa- nese)	
He or She	iya (Malay)	ya (Bisaya)	iya (Makassar)	iya (Near Java -Balinese)	iyae (Sampit)	ia (Angkolo)	ia (Hova)		izi <sup>5</sup> (Sumbawa- rese)	ia (Nias)
We	kami (Malay)	kami (Inivatan)	kami (Tontembo -an)	kami (Old Java- nese)	kami (Bolong -an)	kami (Gayo)			kami (Masarete -se)	
You	kamu (Malay)	kamu (Ibanag)	kamu (Tontembo -an)	kamu (Old Java- nese)		kamu (Karo)				
They	iya (Malay)	ira (Ibanag)	sira (Barege)	sira (Old Java- nese)	sida <sup>6</sup> (Bolong- an)	nasida (Toba)			sira (Masarete -tese)	ira (Nias)