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Variation and change in Abui : the impact of Alor Malay on an indigenous language of Indonesia

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Stellingen

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Variation and change in Abui:

The impact of Alor Malay on an indigenous language of Indonesia

van

George Saad

1. Language is the one of the few true ways to phenomenologically experience human diversity. Through speaking (multiple) foreign tongues, an individual may embody, reenact, and connect with the richness of human diversity.
2. Every natural language spoken today has evolved from an earlier variant. Languages are in a constant state of change, even if inaudible to the naked ear. Studies of language variation, especially in minority languages, can tell us more about language change and diversification.
3. Most indigenous languages of Indonesia are in contact with a colloquial variety of Indonesian and/or Malay.
4. Multilingualism is a blessing that should be welcomed and celebrated.
5. Unlike many other bilingual speech communities, Abui speakers only become fluent in their native tongue during or after adolescence.
6. Due to a combination of incomplete acquisition of Abui and transfer from Alor Malay, young Abui speakers are stripping the language of some of its morphosyntactic and lexical semantic complexity.
7. If used in the right way, social media provides an ideal platform for the continued used and preservation of indigenous languages.
8. Dutch Protestant missionaries and colonial administrators were among the first groups to introduce Malay to the Abui territories.
9. In order to conduct successful fieldwork in Alor, one ought to combine language and laughter. Harnessing the ability to make people laugh using Abui as well as impersonating members of the community for comic relief can go a long way.
10. Being raised multilingual and in multiple homes is both a curse and a blessing. It may give rise to perennial confusion about where you belong. However, it provides you the tools and the appetite to go out in search of new languages, new adventures, and new homes.
11. The consistent practice of yoga during a PhD project is essential in ensuring powerful mental, physical, and spiritual health.