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Malayic varieties of Kelantan and Terengganu: description and linguistic history

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English summary

This dissertation presents a synchronic description and an analysis of the historical developments of the Malayic varieties spoken in Kelantan and Terengganu, two Malaysian states situated on the northeast coast of the Malay Peninsula. Specifically, it examines three distinct varieties, namely Kelantan Malay (KM), Coastal Terengganu Malay (CTM) and Inland Terengganu Malay (ITM). These belong to the Malayic subgroup within the Austronesian language family and are collectively referred to as Northeastern Peninsular Malayic varieties (NEPMs).

Chapter 1 offers an overview of Malayic languages with more detailed background information on NEPMs, as well as an overview of the geo-historical settings of the area where these languages are spoken. It also explains the methodology and data collection of the present study. This dissertation is furthermore divided into two parts. Part one provides descriptive grammar sketches of NEPMs, comprising five chapters. Chapters 2 to 4 focus on the phonology of KM, CTM and ITM respectively. Chapters 5 and 6 describe the basic morphosyntax of NEPMs. Building on the description in Part one, Part two delves into the historical development of NEPMs. Chapters 7 and 8 draw comparisons between NEPMs and the pre-existing reconstructions in their common ancestral language, namely Proto Malayic, investigating the historical phonology and morphology respectively. Sound changes and their chronological order are established, and the potential factors contributing to the morphological reduction observed in these languages are discussed. Chapter 9 is a concluding chapter which draws upon the linguistic data and historical records to infer the migration patterns of

NEPM speakers.

While NEPMs share many common sound patterns, particularly in terms of syllable and word structure, as well as the distribution of consonants, each NEPM variety has its own distinct phonological system. Notably, the presence of initial geminate consonants, both in morphologically simple and complex forms, represents a remarkable and typologically unusual feature within NEPM phonology. The morphosyntactic aspects of NEPMs also display significant similarities, characterised by a largely isolating-analytic profile. Diachronically, the evolution of NEPMs is marked by substantial phonological and morphological reduction. Word-final consonants have often undergone mergers and losses, and only a limited number of prefixes are retained from Proto Malayic. Furthermore, original prefixation has given its way to initial gemination, which is a polyfunctional morphophonological operation. While some previous studies suggest that the morphological reduction may be attributed to language contact, this dissertation argues that the primary driving force behind the morphological reduction is internal phonological changes, and no clear traces of substrate influences have been found.

Among the three NEPM varieties, this study highlights the similarities between KM and CTM on the one hand, and the distinctiveness of ITM on the other hand, which is manifested in various aspects of its grammar including phonology, morphology and specific syntactic structures. The shared changes observed in the consonant systems of NEPMs must also have followed distinct developments in the vowel systems. It is suggested that ITM represents a separate variety, distinct from KM and CTM, and that NEPMs do not form a discrete subgroup within the Malayic languages despite their commonalities. On the basis of the geographical distribution and linguistic differentiation of NEPMs, a two-wave migration pattern is hypothesised. It is posited that the ancestors of ITM speakers arrived earlier and settled in the inland region of Terengganu, while those of KM and CTM speakers arrived at a later stage, primarily dispersing along the coastal areas.