

SALUTATION SYSTEM IN THE MELANAU COMMUNITY: A PRELIMINARY STUDY



This research examined the salutation system that is used by the Melanau community in Belawai, Sarawak. The different types of salutations that are used by the Melanau community were analysed to examine the influence of standard Malay on the salutation system of the Melanau community. The framework for the analysis was based on Jariah Mohd Jan (2006)'s three-pattern usage, namely, basic family categorisation, family-related salutations and relationships and general salutation in the community, and Ervin-Tripp's (1974) rules of salutation which encompasses alternative rules, same-incident rules and consecutive rules. In the preliminary analysis, it was found that the forms of salutations in the Melanau language showed differences as well as similarities with the standard Malay salutation system. The three patterns of salutation usage comprised reciprocal *Bahasa Halus* – *Bahasa Halus*, reciprocal *Bahasa Kasar* – *Bahasa Kasar* and non-reciprocal *Bahasa Halus* – *Bahasa Kasar* or *Bahasa Kasar* – *Bahasa Halus*. This research identified the important role played by social and economic factors in influencing the salutation system of the Belawai Melanau community.

Researchers

Salbia Hassan, Dayang Sariah Abang Suhai

Supporting Grant

STIDC.9. PRO