

**MALAY LANGUAGES AND  
CHANGE IN THE MELANAU  
LANGUAGE:  
A STUDY IN KUALA REJANG**



This study focuses on language variation of the Melanau language in the Kuala Rejang region, covering the area of Bandar Baru Tanjung Manis, Kampung Rejang, Jerijeh and Belawai. The industrial development in the Kuala Rejang region, particularly in Tanjung Manis, may affect the development in the Melanau language which may result in a conflict between the Melanau language and other languages and dialects. The study aimed to examine the influence of Bahasa Malaysia and Malay dialects on the Melanau language. The changes in the language, including use of terms in the Melanau language and pronunciation of Malay terms in the Melanau language across four generations, were studied. Questionnaires based on domains of language usage were distributed to determine the extent of the change. Respondents were also interviewed. Socio-economic and linguistic factors were found to influence the language change, and the change is spreading in the Melanau community. Other than these, the mass media also contributes to the change in mastery of the language.

**Researchers**

Dr Norsiah Fauzan, Salbia Hassan, Dayang Sariah Abang Suhai

**Supporting Grant**

STIDC.9. PRO