

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BABA CREOLE MALAY
OF MELAKA

by

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OF MELAKA

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To My Family

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Abstract

In the following chapters, the Baba Creole Malay Language of the Babas of Melaka will be studied under three areas. The first is its nature and origin as a creole language, that is its historical background and its general characteristics.

The second area of the study is an analysis of its language structure in terms of its phonology, morphology and syntax, and vocabulary. This is the linguistic aspect.

The third and last is the social aspect whereby its scope and significance to the Baba community and to the society at large in relation to socio-economic and cultural trends and the country's language and educational policies, current and past, will be evaluated.

Abi satu hari dia kasi ŋa lima sen tau. Wah, tiŋam^a lima sen bəsɛ. Satu sen bole bəli ae batu ... satu sen bole bəli goreng pisaŋ, satu sen b'le b'li coklat, ah, kuo apombale? pun satu sen tau. Bəsɛ lima sen, makan kəpaŋ tuŋam. Niŋam ta? Jumpa lagi oh.

Abi dudo? lah, bila dia ŋaet kasot ŋa ŋaet tali-oto dudo? lah. Abi ŋa kun (pun) raskal (rascal) tau, kuat maen goli oh, kəčiči-kəči? ... (laughter). Bəla də s'ru ŋa pi kəde sɛ (sia/saja), ŋa pi b'li baraŋ ta? b'li baraŋ ... pi ka? dorong (lorong) tu, rumah tu ŋalan sikit ada dorong, ah 'anti maen goli sama kawan-kawan. Dia ame? rotan, də pi kəŋɛ ŋa, pukol ŋa. Pulaŋ 'naŋi sədəh-sədəh. Ai lein (lain) kali, buat lagi tau.

(Tiŋam b'rapa bəsɛ?)

Keci?, mačam 'mpat-lima taun lah. Suka maen goli.

^a Tiŋam and tuŋam are used variably to mean 'at that time'.

APPENDIX V

<u>Baba</u>	<u>Translation</u>
aksio	duck dish with gravy
asam	maidservant
batsat	bed-bug
bio	temple
bochai-kang	wasted effort or labour
bojin-cheng	ungrateful
cha	fry
chaipo	dried turnips
chau	brother-in-law
chap goh mei	last day of the New Year
cheki	card game
chek kong	paternal granduncle
chek'm	term of address bet. mothers-in-law
cheng beng	all soul's day
chia	invite
chia lang kek	first day of wedding ceremony
chiang	ride
chiong	incompatible, superstition
chim poh	grandaunt
chinchai	anything, anyhow, simple
chinchu	pearl
chinpang	unveiling ceremony of a wedding
cho	great grandmother
chokim	towel
chuak	terrified
gua	I
homia	fortunate

<u>Baba</u>	<u>Translation</u>
huan sui	coriander leaves
hu	talisman
'itek' tim	duck soup
jiho	name crest, shop sign
jiu	wipe, mop
kancheng	drinking water vessel
kanchek	worm ailment
kambuan	satisfied
kechuak	cockroach
kek-ki	sad, broken-hearted
kek-sim	sad, broken-hearted
kepoh	'busybody'
kewat	fussy
kiam-chai	salted vegetable
kiasai	bridegroom
kichiak	beggar
kimpo	wife of grandmother's brother
kionghi	congratulate
kitang	tea cup
koh	aunt
kongsi	company, association
kepoh	great paternal aunt
kosin	aphis
koyok	medicinal plaster
'kueh' chang	glutinous rice dumpling
kui	kneel
kueypang	adoption
lakpe	verandah
loteng	upstairs

<u>Baba</u>	<u>Translation</u>
lu	you
mek	pulse
'mpek	paternal uncle (senior)
mopeng	pock-marked face
mueta	diapers
'Nehék	paternal uncle (junior)
'Nehim	'Nehék's' wife
'Nkim	elder brother's wife
'Nko	elder brother
'Nkua	father-in-law
'Nkong	grandfather
'Nku	maternal uncle
'Nsoh	brother's wife
Nioo	mother-in-law
'Ntio	aunt's husband
opau	cloth purse
oto	baby's vest
pakau	card game
pak-chin-dek	'ceremonial father' of a wedding
pak-puey	coin ritual in ancestor worship
pekchai	white cabbage
pekak	uniseed
pokho	peppermint
popi	god's protection
popoc	precious, jewel
puakiah	best man at a wedding
puntau	dust pan

Baba

Translation

puthau	unfilial
sam-kai	three gods of heaven, earth and water
samseng	gangster, ruffian
sangkek ^{'m}	'ceremonial mother' of a wedding
saupi	sarcastic remark or scolding
sch-jit	birthday
seng	pamper, 'spoil'
sengsu	Chinese incense
siau	crazy, to digest
singkek	novice, newcomer
smput	abacus
soja	pray, bow in worship
soy ^o	pray with joss-sticks
Tachi	elder sister
taiko	leprosy
tan	card game
tanglong	lantern, lamp
tauyu	soy sauce
tausap ^{ih}	Chinese cake
tebien	prestige
teko	kettle
tekuan	tea-pot
teng	lantern, lamp
tekyan	subscription
tia	lounge, front hall
tim	to 'steam' food
t'ngsi	soup spoon

Baba

Translation

tochang	plaits
tu	cupboard
tuaha	mourn
tuak	drawer
tua-lau-kau	lit, 'big, old, dog' i.e. old (derogatory)
Tuapekong	god
yōsua	joss-sticks
yoktua	medicinal prescription

(The list is not exhaustive)

Footnote References

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- 15 Felix Chia, Ala Sayang! (Singapore, 1983), p.83.
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