

International Workshop on Endangered Scripts of Island Southeast Asia

Abstract: Aksare Sasak: an endangered script and scribal practice

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The island of Lombok, eastern Indonesia, has a scribal tradition of writing on the leaves of the dried lontar palm that probably dates back to 14th century and arises from contact with similar traditions practised in Java and Bali (Austin 2010). The script used in this tradition is called *aksare Sasak*, and is similar, but not identical to the *aksara Bali* script used on the island of Bali, immediately to the west of Lombok. In this paper, I present an overview of the structure of the script and its relationship to the phonology of Sasak, an outline of the history of *aksare Sasak*, including its current domains of use (which are primarily restricted to literary contexts or iconic use elsewhere), and a discussion of attempts to revive the teaching of it in schools in recent years (Sudirman et al. 2007, Ratmaja et al. 2009).

References

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