

Kerata basa : Folk etymology in Javanese

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Speakers of Javanese are known for their love of devising folk etymologies, called Kerata Basa. This custom may have influenced the acceptance of a very large number of acronyms in Bahasa Indonesia. Kerata Basa has been discussed as a traditional Javanese language game, played by participants in lesehan, [which means? "sitting together, enjoying discussion over cups of tea"?] with peers and class mates. Kerata Basa comes in two varieties: established Kerata Basa as 'saying', and current product of creativity, as Javanese, young and old, are active producers of Kerata Basa. An example of the first category is; guru : kena digugu lan ditiru 'teacher: to be followed and imitated'.

This paper discusses what kinds of lexical sources are drawn upon in the creation of Kerata Basa, from phonological as well as semantic points of view. I will also describe how very productive Kerata Basa can be, and who are the innovative producers of Kerata Basa.]