

Abstract

The Use of Melayu Tenggara Jauh in the Social Media Among the Oirata Community on Facebook Group Putra Putri Oirata

by

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Supporting Engelenhoven's (2015) argument, Southwest Maluku is an ethnolinguistically complex zone on the Indonesian – East Timor border. On the area, Malay is the only vehicle (at least started in the colonial periods) for interethnic communication, especially on the Kisar Island. He also mention that Melayu Tenggara Jauh (MTJ, 'Far Southeast Malay') mimics the syntactic structures of the regional languages while colloquial Indonesian and east Indonesian Malay variants are the main sources for its lexicon (Engelenhoven 2003). This paper aims to investigate the language use by the Woirata community in the Facebook Group "Putra Putri Oirata" and "Keluarga Manheri Mauhara". In this paper, I classified the language use in the Facebook Group comments to recognize the language repertoires of Woirata people in the social media and to describe the Malay's colloquial written form. In this on going research, I found that Woirata community use different codification for different domains, such as formal Indonesian for the funeral announcement and politics, local Malay (Ambonese Malay, MTJ, or even mixed) for the identity talks and comments on politics, and Woirata for the self-expression comments. As for the younger users, they type the language with some code expressions, which is not necessarily accessible to the outsider and this unique writing style provides opportunities for creativity. It seems like they develop a new lingua franca on the Internet that can be defined as a new "writing orality".

Keywords : Melayu Tenggara Jauh, Language use in social media, colloquial written form, Malay varieties, languages on Southwest Maluku