

Word Prominence in Pontianak Malay

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Abstract:

The aim of this presentation is to look into the word prominence in a variety of Malay spoken in and around the city of Pontianak through observing the loudness, pitch, quantity, and quality of vowels in di- and tri-syllabic words. It is widely known among Malay-Indonesianists that Malay/Indonesian do not have phonemic stress/accent, and that [ə] does not bear stress in these languages. Also, Pontianak Malay does not have phonemically contrastive word prominence. This presentation carefully investigates, by means of acoustic analysis of originally recorded data obtained from native speakers, whether the vowel [ə] in Pontianak Malay is a prominence bearing vowel or not. Furthermore, it provides a descriptive generalization of the word prominence in Pontianak Malay.