



## Lexical variations of Minangkabau Language within West Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia: A dialectological study

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### Abstract

Minangkabau people have a long history of migrating overseas especially to Peninsular Malaysia. They migrated to overseas with their soul, original culture and language. This study attempted to trace the Minangkabau of the language's aspects, in particular, lexical aspect by using the theory in dialectology. For grouping variations of language is used the dialektometri's method. Within the framework of solving the problem of research, there are three stages of the method used: 1) the stage providing data; 2) the stage analysing data; and 3) the stage presenting the analysis results. The population of this study was the whole speech Minangkabau society in the area of origin (Kabupaten 50 Kota and Kabupaten Tanah Datar) and in the overseas area (Negeri Sembilan, Melaka and Pahang). The sample was speech Minangkabau society in Nagari Koto Baru Simalanggang and Nagari Rao-Rao. The sample in the overseas area is a region of Rembau, Nanning and Kuantan. After being done the comparison, the fourth samples show the lexical similarities and lexical differences. However, the calculation of dialektometric method is not indicating the degree of variation at the languages and dialects level. It is only at the subdialect and different talk level. The lexical differences in overseas areas show that there has been a change. The change was caused by lingual factors and nonlingual factors.

**Keywords:** dialectology, language, lexical, migration, Minangkabau, variation

### Introduction

The Minangkabau people are known as people who love to migrate. They migrated not only to surround area (Luhak 50 Kota, Luhak Agam, Luhak Tanah Datar) but also to the west coast of Sumatra Island (Jambi, Bengkulu, North Sumatra, Aceh) and the east coast of Sumatra Island. In the 11th and 12th centuries, they were migrated to the Malay Peninsula (Norhalim, 1995). According to R.O. Winstedt in Dutch sources, in 1682 there were several areas inhabited by Minangkabau people in the Malay Peninsula, including Sungai Ujong, Nanning, Rembau, Jelai, Hulu Pahang, Jelebu, Johol, and Segamat (Khoo Kay Kim n.d) . After that, the number of Minangkabau people who came to the Malay Peninsula simultaneously increased. In this study, the language of Minangkabau descendants which aimed to be analyzed is spoken by Minangkabau people live in Negeri Sembilan, Nanning and Pahang.

According to Norhalim (1995), the arrival of Minangkabau in the 13th century consisted of several groups. The first group was those who come to find new placements. The second group was those who come to trade. Among these two groups there are those who come to trade only and at certain times return to the homeland Minangkabau by bringing wealth. Some of these groups were also those who come early to trade and some also end up looking for new areas to done agriculture (Norhalim, 1995).

Minangkabau people in Negeri Sembilan not only come and live in Negeri Sembilan, they also establish a kingdom. They took the king to the Kingdom of Pagar Ruyung in Minangkabau. King Malewar was the first king to be inaugurated as Yang Dipertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan in 1773. That was the beginning of Negeri Sembilan as a kingdom. After the reign of King Radin who was

appointed as Yamtuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, the king of Negeri Sembilan was succeeded from the descendant of the king who was born in Negeri Sembilan.

The people of Negeri Sembilan have different tribes with the tribe in the area of origin, now the Province of West Sumatra (exclude the Mentawai Islands). The tribes in Negeri Sembilan are based on the origin *nagari* or the place they came from. The tribes are Biduanda (the tribe of Minangkabau marriage with the *Orang Asli* or indigenous (Jakun sometimes also called Batin), Payakumbuh, Batuhampar, Semelenggang, Batu Belang, Lemak Series, Tiga Granma, Mungka (these are the names of *nagari* in Limapuluh Kota Regency) Tanah Datar (name of district in West Sumatera Province), Anak Aceh and Anak Melaka. Naning is a small region situated between Melaka and Rembau. It is adjacent to the area of Rembau and Tampin, Negeri Sembilan which is close to Taboh. Taboh is the center of the authority of Naning.

Minangkabau people came to Naning the 14th century. They reached Naning through the Melaka River, then walked all the way to Kelek, Baya Datuk, Malekek to Panyalang Hill. They come in groups. The first family gathering to arrive at Naning is the Nan Bogajah Tungga family, the Semelenggang family, the Three Stone family, the Mungka family and the Melaka Children's family. The name of the tribe in this country is related to the name of this first-come collection, the Semelenggang, Tiga Batu, Mungka, Anak Melaka. The first three names are the names of *nagari* in Kabupaten Koto, West Sumatra.

Before the occupation of Dutch 1832, Naning was a part of Negeri Sembilan (Abdullah, n.d), who adhered Adat Perpatih with Negeri Sembilan. Adat Perpatih is the Minangkabau rule adopted by the people of Negeri Sembilan which according to them based on rule of Datuk Perpatih Nan Sabatang.

Minangkabau people came to Naning the 14th century. They reached the Naning base through the Melaka River, then walked all the way to Kelek, Baya Datuk, Malekek to Panyalang Hill. From the Melaka River, the Minangkabau people also navigate the Linggi River and reach the Rembau area and spread to Tampin and the other State of Sembilan.

Pahang State is located in the central part of Peninsular Malaysia. Its population is made up of various peoples and nations (Ministry of Information & Communication, 2002). Various such people are indigenous, Malay, Chinese, Indian, Cambodian, and others.

Minangkabau people crowded to Pahang in the 16th century. They come to Pahang because in mine and gold trading. They enter Pahang through the Ulu Muar, Jelai and Lipis rivers and down to Luit. They settled in the areas such as Triang, Bera River and along the Semantan River and the Bilut River. In 1612, they moved to the Jelai River area and surrounding areas where they were together indigenous people working on gold mining (Zakaria, 1977).

In the 16th and 17th century Minangkabau much gold mining in Ulu Pahang and Jelai became the central inhabitant of Minangkabau in Pahang. The old Ulu Pahang was the aras near Bera, Triang and Semantan rivers, Jelai is flowed by the Tembeling, Jelai and Lipis rivers, therefore the regions were well known as an advanced area in terms of agriculture and mining (Zakaria, 1977).

Minangkabau people settled in Pahang are named by their origin in Minangkabau (West Sumatra), such as Mungkal, Lemak, and Batuhampar. When they moved to Negeri Sembilan, they named their tribe like Seri Lemak Pahang. Similarly, the name of their place of residence, such as the Raub derived from the name of their original area, namely Rao. Minangkabau people are also found in Kuantan. They entered Kuantan via Kuantan River. The history of Pahang has a very close relationship with the history of Pekan Pekanbaru at a time when it was once the city and the most important area in the State of Pahang.

Pahang's historians said that Islam became the official religion in Pahang in mid-15th century, from the year of Melaka's conquest to the time of Sultan Mahmud Shah 1 who became the first Sultan of Pahang as the descendants of the king of Melaka. Since then, the position of Islam was getting stronger in Pahang. In mid-16th century, Minangkabau people who came from Sumatra Indonesia have moved to several places in Pahang. They had embraced Islam five centuries earlier than the inhabitants of Pahang (Abdul Jalil, 2010).

The number of Minangkabau people in Pahang was influenced by transportation system which was sailing and Minangkabau people were very good in water transportation from their hometown in Minangkabau to other places.

Research on sociocultural aspect has also been done by sociocultural experts. Researchers in linguistics conducted research to trace Minangkabau root by analyzing isolect and dialect. It includes the comparison between origin area (Minangkabau) and migrated area (*rantau*). The comparison is made by comparing the phonological, morphological, and lexical aspects between Minangkabau languages used migrated area (*rantau*) and Minangkabau origin (root). In this article, the lexical aspects will be compared. This comparison is an attempt to track the trace of Minangkabau in isolect used by people in the *rantau* area.

The research problem focuses on the lexical variations in the origin and the *rantau* area are; (i) what is the level of language variation between the origin and the *rantau* area; and (ii) what are the factors influence the variation of Minangkabau language in both areas. Thus, the purpose of the study is to describe the lexical variations of the Minangkabau language in the area of origin and the *rantau* area; Grouping the variations into the language variation level; And explains the factors influence the changes.

## Methods and research techniques

There are three methods and techniques of research that are used in this research, namely: (i) methods and techniques in collecting data; (ii) methods and techniques analysing data; and (iii) methods and techniques of presenting the results of data analysis.

The methods and techniques used in collecting data are observational methods and conversational method. The method is used to look at the use of language spoken by informants. In the observational method, the techniques used to include nonparticipant (SLC), noting techniques, and recording techniques. In this case, while listening to the speech of the researcher informants at once do the recording on the card and and at the same time do the recording. For the conversational method, the researcher initiate conversation with the informant. The technique used is face to face conversation.

In analyzing the data, the methods and techniques are translational identity method and an articulatory identity method. Translational identity method is used to find the equivalent of Minangkabau language used in each research area with the target language, that is the Indonesian language. Meaningful diagrams are used to identify the sounds produced by speech or speaker/informer articulate areas. The sounds are largely determined by the state or position of the articulated area of the speaker. The technique used comparison technique, in order to see the phonological difference between the both research areas.

In the presentation result of data analysis, the current research employs formal and informal method. The presentation is formally done using a set of symbols including tables and graphs. The method of informal presentation is the presentation of the results of the analysis in the form of a series of sentences.

The population of research data is the Minangkabau language-spoken residents in West Sumatra and Malaysia. The sample is the public utterance in the area that has a historical relationship between the area of origin with the *rantau* area. The samples are taken from five observation points. In West Sumatra, the observation points are Nagari Rao-Rao (Tanah Datar Regency) and Koto Baru Simalanggang (50 Kota Regency). While in Malaysia, the observation points are Rembau (Negeri Sembilan), Naning (Melaka), and Kuantan (Pahang). Each of the observation points was taken by three informants as the source of this research data.

Sources of research include oral sources and written sources. Oral sources serve as primary data sources, while written sources are used as secondary data sources. From this written source will be obtained preliminary information about isolek studied and information about the culture of the community. Both pieces of information are required in compiling a list of research questions.

## Theory

Dialectology is the study of language variations used by a small group of speakers of a language (Francis, 1983). The Atlas Committee European Languages (Ayatrohaedi, 1985) formulate the

dialectological notion as a linguistic system used by a society to distinguish it from other neighboring societies who use different systems in spite of their close relationships. By these two formulas, dialectology can be defined as the study a dialect of a language and can also study dialects that exist in a language (Nadra & Reniwati, 2009). From the above formulas it is clear that the scope of the dialectology study is the variation of a language.

Every language has a spoken area. It can be narrow and also wide. Spreading and widespread use of language depends on the dynamics of the speakers of that language. Asmah (1985) calls the spread of language to work together with the spread of speakers as migratory or migratory deployments. The diversity of languages according to Guiraud (Ayatrohaedi, 1985) can also be attributed to the existence of the relationships or the superiority of languages brought about during the migration. The language units brought by the nomads can change and result in many differences with the original Minangkabau language. In this case, neighboring isolects play a role in the process of the occurrence of a dialect. As is known, the study area is an area surrounded by areas that may also have uniqueness and potentially helped shape the isolation of the research area.

Variations of language units can be sound (phonological), morphemes (morphology), sentences (syntax), meanings (semantic), and lexicon (lesicology). Theoretically, dialect differences with one another are particularly apparent in the field of phonology and lexicon (Nothofer, 1996).

From the comparison of the three aspects mentioned above will be obtained answers units that show the similarities and differences. In addition, the comparison of dialectal variations will be obtained, the level of the Minangkabau language kinship relationship in Koto Baru Simalanggang (50 Kota Regency) and Rao-Rao (Tanah Datar Regency) with Minangkabau language spoken in Rembau (Negeri Sembilan), Naning (Melaka) and Kuantan (Pahang) Malaysia. To analyse the phonological and lexical variations, the current research uses dialectometric. Dialectometry is a statistical measurement to obtain clarity of the degree of variation of the language in which the measurement is made by comparing a number of ingredients collected from the area under study using the following formula (Seguy in Ayatrohaedi, 1985):

$$\frac{S \times 100}{n} = d\% \dots (i), \text{ where:}$$

S = the number of different with other points of observation

n = number of maps compared

d = the vocabulary distance between the observed points being compared

The groupings are based on Guiter's formulation (Ayatrohaedi, 1985): small or equal to 20% are considered unequal, 21%-30% are considered speech differences, 31%-50% are considered subdialect differences, 51%-80% are considered dialect differences, and > 80% are considered language differences.

The calculation of dialectometry is done in two ways, ie an antartitic observational dialectometric triangle in accordance with the provisions of determination of observed points of comparison and permutations between one observation point and all other observation points. The application of dialectometry will prove the hypothesis of this study and find out the extent to which the similarities and differences of Minangkabau language originate with Minangkabau rantau languages.

### **Level of language variation**

As described in the previous section, dialectometry is a method of finding the level of language variation. The method of dialectometry is done in two ways. First is the calculation of the triangle of dialectometry. This will calculate the lexical difference between the observed antartitudes. The observed point of comparison complies with the provisions of the determination of the observed points of comparison. Therefore, not all observation points can be compared. Second is by calculation of permutation. This will count between one observation point and all other observation points. The application of dialectometry will prove the hypothesis of this study and the findings of the extent of

the difference of observation points in the area of origin with observation points in the rantau and antartitik observations in the origin and rantau areas. The lexicon (gloss) compared to 698 lexicon. This amount will be divided by the number of the lexicon that shows the difference between the observed points being compared.

### Dialectometric triangle

Based on the dialectometric triangle, the observed points to be compared shall not be tangent. Therefore, the observation points to be compared are: Koto Baru Simalanggang (TP1) with Rao-Rao (TP2), TP1-Rembau (TP3), TP1-Naning (TP4), TP1-Kuantan (TP5), TP2 -TP4, and TP3-TP4, TP3-TP5, and TP4-TP5. Two TPs that should not be connected are between TP2-TP3 and TP2-TP5. The line can not be drawn a line because it is blocked by the line connecting the TP. Therefore, the calculation of the dilectometry with triangle tripectometric technique can not be performed. The map of the triangle of dialectometry can be seen below (Figure 1).

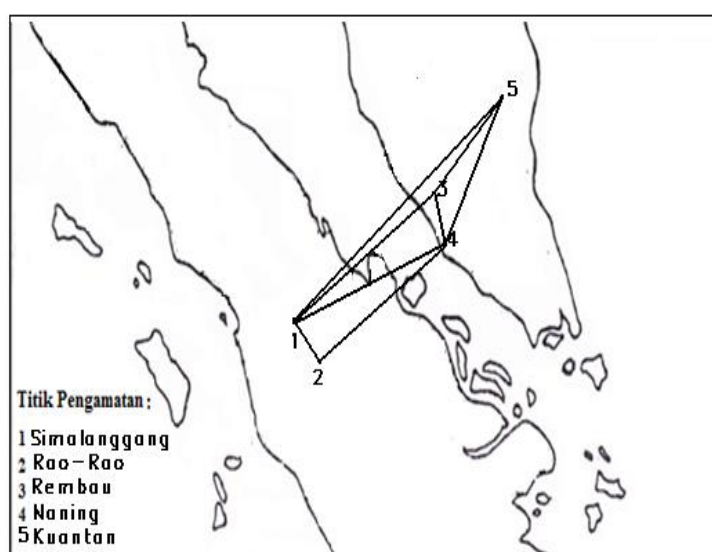


Figure 1. Map of dialectometry triangle

The following table provide lexical variations in the observer points (Table 1).

Table 1. Lexical Variation

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
TP1	-	169	317	327	189
TP2	v	-	-	303	-
TP3	v	V	-	146	252
TP4	v	V	v	-	243
TP5	v	V	v	v	-

From Table 1, it appears that the highest difference is between TP1-TP4 followed by between TP1-TP3 and TP2-TP4. A high difference rate also can be seen between TP3-TP5 and TP4-TP5. The table above also shows a low number of difference figures, ie between TP1-TP2. The lowest difference rate is between TP3-TP4.

After calculating the percentage of variation level, the percentage variation number is in line with the previous difference figures. The following table shows the calculation results in percentage form.

**Table 2. Level of Language Variations of Dialectometry Triangle**

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
TP1	-	24.21	45.42	46.85	27.11
TP2	v	-	-	43.41	-
TP3	v	v	-	20.92	36.10
TP4	v	v	v	-	34.81
TP5	v	v	v	v	-

After calculating the percentage according to the formula of dialectometry, then obtained the formulation of the level of language variation between the observed points are reflected as follows:

- a) In general there is no single point of observation that indicates language and dialect differences.
- b) The level of language variation between all observed points of comparison is at subdialect and speech levels.

The lowest percentage, ie between TP3-TP4. The low percentage level of language variation between these two TPs can be explained as follows. These two points of observation are in two neighboring countries. Naning is an area of Melaka State located near the border with Negeri Sembilan. Among the area in Negeri Sembilan which neighbored to Naning is Rembau. In addition, Naning in the history of migration of Minangkabau people to Negeri Sembilan is one of the areas through which to go to Negeri Sembilan. Furthermore, between TP1-TP indicates the low percentage of variation. Both these TPs belong to the same region, namely West Sumatra Province. These two TPs are also located in neighboring districts, namely 50 Kota regency and Tanah Datar regency.

Low percentage rates also exist between TP-TP far apart from different countries, namely TP1-TP5. The migration age of most Minangkabau in Kuantan is still young. This is very different from the age of migration of Minangkabau people in Naning and Rembau. Migration has taken place hundreds of years ago. The age of migration is reflected in the percentage of dialectometry calculations. The highest percentage is between TP1-TP4 followed by between TP1-TP3 and TP2-TP4. Nevertheless, the percentage difference is at the level of dialect.

### Permutation calculation

Based on permutation calculation rules, each observation point is compared with other points of observation. In this way, the observed points are TP1 with TP2, TP1-TP3, TP1-TP4, TP1-TP5, TP2-TP3, TP2-TP4, TP2-TP5, and TP3-TP4, TP3-TP5, and TP4-TP5. Table 3 below shows the lexical differences between the points of observation.

**Table 3. Lexical variation**

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
TP1	-	169	317	327	189
TP2	v	-	308	303	169
TP3	v	v	-	146	252
TP4	v	v	V	-	243
TP5	v	v	V	v	-

There are four TPs that are not compared in the dialectometric triangle technique, ie TP2-TP3 and TP2-TP5. The number of lexical differences between the two is different. Between TP2-TP3 shows a high difference. In contrast, between TP2-TP5 shows a low difference rate, ie 169 lexicon. After applying the dialectometric formula, the percentage difference is as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Level of Permutation Variation**

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
TP1	-	24.21	45.42	46.85	27.11
TP2	V	-	44.13	43.41	24.21
TP3	v	v	-	20.92	36.10
TP4	V	v	V	-	34.81
TP5	V	v	V	v	-

The percentage difference lexicon calculation results by way of this permutation are equal to the way the triangle of dialectometry. The formula used is the same. The difference lies in the presence of a percentage between TP2-TP3 and TP2-TP5. The results of the calculations can be seen in Table 4 above. Description of the percentage is equal to the percentage number of the dialectometric triangle. The percentage between TP2-TP3 is high. Meanwhile, between TP2-TP5 included low rate. Nevertheless, such high percentage rates do reach neither the level of dialect nor language.

The difference permutations support the previous research, by means of the dialectometric triangle that the percentage of lexicon difference between observation points located in the same state is low. In contrast, the percentage of lexicon difference between observation points located in different countries is high.

### Lexical changes

The result of dialectometric formulas, triangular dialectometry and permutation, do not indicate language difference. The difference is at the level of subdialect. That is, the lexicon used by people in these observation points is still much the same. However, regarding to lexicon difference, the pattern is varied. The difference is caused by the origin of the lexicon. It seems that the observation points at Rembau and Naning have already begun to be affected by the local Malay lexicon and English. Examples of data showing the influence of Malay are data /abaŋ / for the older brother's gloss (183), /paʔ sədarə / for the elder brother of the father (187), the elder brother of the mother (188), the father's brother (189), and the younger brother of the mother (190), and /maʔ sədarə/ for sister of father (191) and sister of mother (192), and /biliʔ ae/ for latrines (517) in TP3.

There is still a lot of data suspected to be the influence of Malay. On the influence of local Malay it is necessary to be prudent to state so because the Minangkabau language and Malay in Malaysia are derived from the same parent language or in the same language group, the Malay languages. In addition, the trend of change tends to be greater in the language or dialect used in the land of origin (*darek*) than in the *rantau*. Therefore, different lexicon with Minangkabau language of origin is not necessarily the influence of local Malay. The possibility is that Malay still preserves the ancient forms of Malay. In other words, these forms are still used by local Malays. While the forms have changed in the original Minangkabau language. The shapes are gone because they have been replaced with new shapes. For example, *sendok makan* in data 543 is called /sudu/ and *begini* in data (66) is called /cam ni/, and so (67) is called /cam tu/ in TP3. The number of lexicon derived from English is also found in TP rantau area. The example data is *cabe* (344) called /cili/ in TP3. The word *jas* ind data (238) are called with /kot/ in TP 4 and *kantong* in data (240) is called /pockets/. These are English lexicon which adopedted to Malay. As it is known that Malaysia is colonized by the British. This period leaves a trail in the language. Quite a lot of English lexicon in Malaysian Malay now. In addition to English there are also data derived from Arabic such as *celana* (243) is called /səluwa/ in TP3 and /səlua/ in TP4, *napas* (164) pronounced as /napas / in TP3, /napEh/ in TP4, /napeh / in TP5, these are words associated with Islam. Regarding the influence of this Arabic language, in TP-TP area of origin is also much found the influence of this language. It is also related to the Islamic religion of Minangkabau people.

From the description above it can be said that lexicon in TP-TP in overseas areas to be much different from the TP-TP area of origin for several things. This also makes the Minangkabau language in *rantau area* different and have peculiarities. Some of these include English and Arabic (especially)

influences, Malay lexicons, the Minangkabau language lexicon, and lexicon as the creations of the Minangkabau descendants of TP 3, TP4, and TP5.

The following are some of the data showing the differences between Minangkabau languages in origin and rantau (Table 5).

**Table 5. Lexical Variation**

<b>Tanyaan</b>	<b>TP1</b>	<b>TP2</b>	<b>TP3</b>	<b>TP4</b>	<b>TP5</b>
cabe kecil (347)	lado kudu/lado kete?/lado jintan	lado jintan	cili padi	lado api/cili padi	lado kete?
mendung (422)	golap	golo?	mondup	mondup	manduan
cantik (469)	ranca?	ranca?	Lawa	lawa	anca?
malu (486)	malu	malu	Sogan	sogan	malu
rantang (542)	sia	sia	mankup tij kap	mankup tij kap	rantan /sia
onde-onde (619)	puti mandi	onde-onde	kolopon	buah malako	ondeh-ondeh

### **Factors influence the change**

Based on the assumption that the 'language' used by the community in the overseas *Rantau* observation points is Minangkabau language, the differences that exist in the Minangkabau language in this rantau, especially the lexicon derived from local Malay and English are considered as evidence of changes that have been used in Minangkabau in both overseas areas (*rantau*). The change is caused by several factors. The following is an explanation of these factors.

#### *Politics of languages in Malaysia*

Political factors in Malaysia play a role in change. In Malaysia, Malay has been defined as the national language and the official language. This indirect and slowly determination will affect the dialects of Malaysia. Besides acting as a national and official language, this language is also a nexus language. The number of local Malay lexicons in Minangkabau in rantau is understandable because of the role of this language in Malaysia.

In Malaysia, the language of communication is not only Malay Malaysian. Another language that is meant is English. Languages that are colonial inherited languages tend to be used by Malaysians from certain circles such as groups of highly educated and Malaysians living in big cities. This language is at once a means of communication between tribes. This linguistic state is a political legacy of colonial language (Asraf, 1993) that still prevails today. It is therefore understandable for the entry of English lexicons into the Minangkabau language in the rantau area. In daily life, people in this region use 'mix' language. That is, the lexicon used by the community exists which is a local Malay lexicon, Minangkabau language and English.

#### *Modernization of transportation, communication and information facilities and infrastructure*

The advance of communication and information have the potential to influence the language including the influence on the lexicon. As is known, these facilities and infrastructure in Malaysia have many options and modern. This situation allows people to do mobility, connect (communication), and get information easily and smoothly. Easy and modern access to information also has the potential to influence the dialect of people in the suburbs. They hear, read, and see the use of Malay and English both directly and indirectly. Observation points of research in rantau area including Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, and Pahang. Although a bit far from Kuala Lumpur, the complete and modern facilities and infrastructure facilitate the entry of elements of local Malay and English. The local English and English Malay lexicon data that have been described in the lexical change section are evident that these two languages have influenced the Minangkabau language in the overseas area.



### *The history of Malaysia*

Like Indonesia, Malaysia before the independent was also colonized by a foreign country, i.e. England. Although colonialism was over, British influence was still remain during Malaysia's independence. The English nation has not yet fully released Malaysia alone to take care of its country in the early days of independence. England helps Malaysians take care of their country. As is well known, Malaysia belongs to an association of countries with historical links to Britain, the Commonwealth.

Before the British entered Malaysia, Malaysia experienced a period of arrival of the influence of Islam. This period leaves a trail also in Malay Malaysian. Until now, Arabic is still one of the sources of lexicons of Malay.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the discussion that has been done there are several things that can be concluded. The trace of Minangkabau language used in overseas and local languages of origin can be traced through lexical comparisons. In general, there is no single point of observation that shows variations of language at the level of language or dialect. The level of language variation between all observed points of comparison is at the subdialect and speech level. A low percentage is found between TPs located in the same area. Meanwhile, a high percentage tends to exist between different TPs. The differences that occur in all *rantau* TPs indicate the occurrence of language changes in the area. These factors are grouped into linguistics and nonlinguistics factors.

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