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Singapore Baba Malay versus Malacca Baba Malay

Baba Malay is a contact language with a Hokkien substrate language and a Malay lexifier language, which was formed via intermarriage between Hokkien-speaking Chinese traders and Malay-speaking indigenous women in the Malay archipelago. Initially spoken in Malacca, the language spread to Singapore when a significant part of the Baba Malay-speaking population moved south. Usually applied as a cover term for one language, researchers have not distinguished between 'Baba Malay' as is spoken in Malacca, and 'Baba Malay' as is spoken in Singapore. Data collected in a language documentation project shows that these two varieties can be differentiated structurally and lexically. In effect, Malacca Baba Malay is more similar to Malay than Singapore Baba Malay, Malay being a much more dominant language in Malacca than in Singapore. Consequently, researchers engaged in work on Baba Malay should be aware of both varieties and their ecologies in order to fully represent that language.

Carolina Aragon

The expression of grammatical relations in Akuntsú and some grammatical aspects involving this language.

The present work addresses some main aspects of Akuntsú grammar, including the alignment system and animacy hierarchy of a Tupían language spoken by five monolingual people who have lived in the Southeast region of Rondônia state, Brazil. This discussion takes a functional approach to describing the alignment system and the relationship among alignment, animacy hierarchy and word order in this language. In addition, some other interesting typological traits are briefly described, showing some linguistic characteristics of a language located in a region which is claimed to be the main area of the Tupían homeland.