Tribal Communities in the Malay World
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Tribal Communities in the Malay World

Historical, Cultural and Social Perspectives

Edited by
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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Words in Aslian and related languages are transcribed in this volume according to the orthography currently used in Mon-Khmer linguistic studies. The symbols employed are pronounced approximately as indicated below:

Vowels

- i As in Malay tapi: Kensiw kəlayis “liver”.
- e As in Malay leh: Jahai te: “earth”.
- e As the e in English get: Temiar leh “wife”.
- As the u in Scottish hus (“house”) or the ü in German Hütte: Jah Hut kəbus “dead”.
- œ The “neutral” schwa (pēpēt) vowel, like the e in Malay betul or sumber: Jah Hut bəs “throw away”.
- a As in Malay belah: Semai gərpar “pigeon”.
- u As the first u in Malay pucuk: Temoq luk “dart quiver”.
- o As the o in Malay gol (“goal” in football): Lanoh doo: “father”.
- œ As the au in English taut, but shorter: Jah Hut jəy “foot”.
- u As the Vietnamese vowel u (or somewhat like the Russian vowel usually romanized as y). Pronounced like u but with the lips unrounded.
- x As the Vietnamese vowel o. Pronounced like o, but with the lips unrounded.
- v As the o in (British) English hot.

Nasal vowels are written with a superscript tilde: Chewong bažii “rotten”. The phonemically long vowels of Central Aslian are written doubled: Temiar te: “earth”, tεe: “earlier today”.

Consonants

These are mostly written and pronounced as in the modern romanized spelling used for Bahasa Malaysia, but some of the symbols require further explanation:
c  Pronounced like the c in Malay cuc; unlike Malay, this consonant commonly occurs word-finally, as in Temiar ɓxuuc “sour”.

j  Pronounced like the j in Malay janji; this too can occur in positions unknown in Malay: Batek hāj “rain”, Temiar bejboj “lick”.

ɲ  Pronounced like the ny in Malay nyanyi. The uppercase form is Ʉ.

ŋ  Pronounced like the ng in Malay nganga or English singer (not as in finger). The uppercase form is Ʉ.

ʔ  The glottal stop (hamzah), a consonantal phoneme, sounding like the k in Peninsular Malay pronunciations of duduk or rakyat. The uppercase form is Ʉ.

k  Always pronounced as a velar, like the k in Malay makan, and not as a glottal stop, even word-finally.
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