

The Use of the Malay Language in Writing Status on the Facebook Page “Aku Anak Iban”

Rollin Smith Ramio¹, Saripah Banseng^{2*}, Ciptro Handrianto³

^{1,2}Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia

³Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia

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Abstract

This study was carried out to identify the use of Malay in writing statuses on the social media Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban”; analyse the factors of using Malay in writing statuses on social media on the Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban”; and describe the steps to overcome the use of Malay in writing statuses on social media on the Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban”. The methodology of this study is a qualitative study. The researcher used the observation method to observe the writing of 15 members of the Facebook page to answer the first objective. Next, the researcher conducted interviews with 15 informants to answer research questions objective two and objective three. The results of the study found that as many as 59 Malay words were used to write posts on the status of the Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban”. The highest frequency is the words “hati”, “maksud”, “manusia”, “tapi” dan “yang” which are three times and followed by the “akan”, “apalagi”, “cuma” and “sebab” with frequency twice. Interviews with research informants revealed three elements and three processes. The study's findings demonstrate that the first element is an effective communication tool, with good use and mastery of the Malay language and poor use and mastery of the Iban language. In conclusion, Malay language phrases are used on Facebook sites by social media users, resulting in code-mixing between Malay and Iban languages.

Keywords: Facebook, Iban community, Iban language, Malay language usage, Social media

(*) Corresponding Author: bsaripah@fbk.upsi.edu.my

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INTRODUCTION

The use of language in life is very important to convey information, feelings and ideas to others (Metom et al., 2021; Oktaviani et al., 2023; Sahudra et al., 2023). Language has been used as a medium to convey concepts, make statements and also act as a communication tool between speakers and listeners. The phenomenon of language change and development in all types of languages is indeed very difficult to avoid.

Malay is the national language of Malaysia. So, it has a lot of influence in its use as a communication tool in everyday life both in writing and in speech. The influence of the Malay language is also seen to have various impacts. Malay is the most influential language in Malaysia which is widely used by Malaysians. Farizah Hashim et al., (2018) showed that there is a significant difference in the influence of social media on grammar mistakes for the writing of fifth-year students. Findings also show that there is a significant difference in how to

overcome the influence of social media on grammatical errors in fifth-year students' essay writing.

Fuzirah Hashiam and Ahmad Aminuddin Soopar (2022) say the Malay language used on social media is that it shows a polite way to communicate, the use of everyday Malay to address groups on social media, act to attract attention and the use of swear words in the opening of conversations this signals light banter, which often occurs especially between the male participants in the group, who are relatively close to each other.

Today's communication network can be said to grow along with the progress achieved by the world in various fields. mass media also play an important role as a vehicle of communication that is very close and has a direct relationship in conveying sentiments, ideologies, and messages to the general public (Uchibori, 2020; Pamungkas et al., 2023; Hazizah et al., 2024). So, with this, it is certain that the rate of use of social media is very high in the community nowadays and cannot be denied anymore. Along with the role of social media as a medium of communication around the world, the use of social media directly or indirectly has had a great impact on the development and change of language. Among the positive effects are the mastery of more than one language, the use of different mediums, strengthening of vocabulary (Matsna et al., 2023; Ting et al., 2023). However, social media also harms language development. Among the negative effects of using social media is the existence of the Rojak language, the use of abusive language, slang and so on.

The existence of these languages means that the standard language cannot be fully practised in the community. Social media can contribute greatly to language development if not misused (Sabuk & Aziz, 2021; Sunarti et al., 2023). This is because, for example, the use of slang only occurs in some of their groups whether from age, social, group or region (Taibi et al., 2022; Sapitri et al., 2023). The use of Malay in the Iban language occurs among native speakers and non-native speakers of this language.

This scenario occurs in social media and daily speech for the Iban people. This happens because Malay is their second language. This study was conducted to show that the influence of the Malay language itself does not escape even though the local community speaks the mother tongue which is the Iban language for this study. Therefore, this study tries to examine and research the extent to which the Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban" which is dominated by the Iban people itself is capable of being a medium for them to communicate in the Iban language. This study tries to observe how the Malay language can influence the Iban people in posting statuses on social media by dissecting what factors they use in the Malay language and the steps to apply them to use the correct Iban language.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research design used by the researcher to unravel this issue is qualitative. Therefore, qualitative research is not focused on collecting a lot of information. Instead, this method seeks to obtain quality information by focusing on a small sample. In this study, the researcher focused on the problem of language use by the community on the Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban" where the influence

of the Malay language was detected even though almost all the members on the page are Iban who speak their mother tongue which is the Iban language in everyday speech. The first research method is observation. In this study, the researcher tried to examine the use of the Malay language that arose in writing statuses on the Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban” for a total of 15 Facebook users who will be interviewed. Next, the researcher used interviews. The researcher will conduct interviews with 15 informants and interact directly with them. Since the researcher and the informant cannot meet face to face, the interview will be conducted online using a telephone voice call. The instrument used is a checklist form. Next, the data obtained from the interviews will be analyzed using Atlas Ti software. This software will help the researcher to find similarities between informants' answers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section will discuss the results of the study. The first subtopic will discuss the checklist of Malay words used in status writing on the social media Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban". Then, the second subtopic is subtopic will analyze the factors of using the Malay language in writing statuses on Facebook social media. The third subtopic will describe the steps to overcome the use of the Malay language in writing statuses on social media on the Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban”.

Analysis of the Frequency of Malay Terms in writing the status on the Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban".

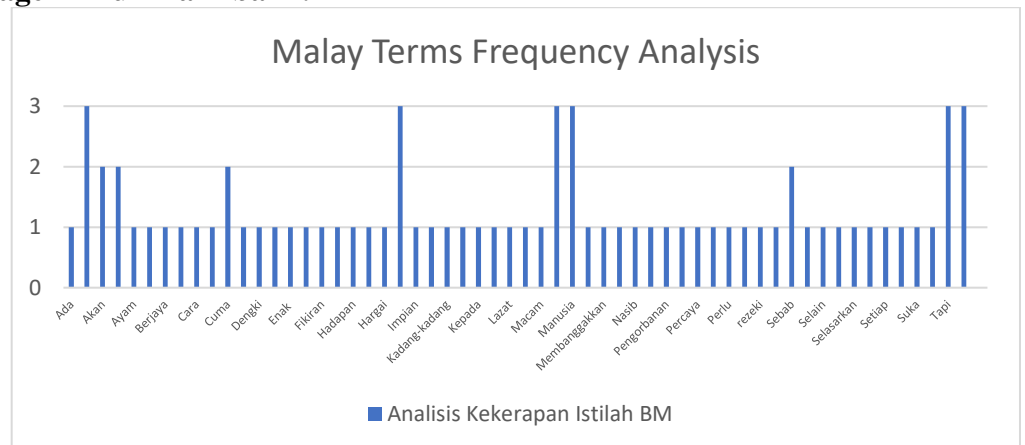


Diagram 1: Malay terms frequency analysis in writing the status on the Facebook page “Aku Anak Iban”

Based on the diagram above, the most frequently used BM terms to post on social media Facebook Page “Aku Anak Iban” are the words “adalah” (is), “hati” (heart), “maksud” (meaning), “manusia” (human), “tapi” (but) and “yang” (that) with the frequency of 3 times of use for all those words. Whereas, for the frequency of 2 times the words used are “akan”, “apalagi”, “cuma” and “sebab”. For other terms, the frequency is only 1 time.

Factors in the Use of Malay Language in the Status of the Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban"

Table 1: Factors in the use of the Malay language

Factor	Frequency of Informant answers
1. As an Effective Communication Tool.	11
2. Good Use and mastery of the Malay language	2
3. Inadequate and poor mastery of the Iban language.	3

Effective communication tools:

Based on interviews, Malay is used because it is said to be an **effective communication tool**. This matter is stated by I1 as below:

"The Malay language is a tool so that the followers understand what is being said. The goal is effective communication". The effectiveness intended by I1 is due to the widespread and easy-to-understand use of the Malay language.

Good use and mastery of the Malay language:

Based on interviews, Malay is used because of the **use and mastery of the Malay language**. This matter is stated by the informant as below:

I13 stated *"Sometimes, I prefer to use the Malay language because there is a lot of exposure to myself. This makes it easier to master the vocabulary of the Malay language, I have no problem compared to the Iban language and the Malay language makes it easier for me to deliver to everyone"*.

Inadequate and poor mastery of the Iban language:

Based on interviews, Malay was used because of the **inadequate and poor mastery of the Iban language**. This matter is stated by the informant as below:

This point was stated by I1 who stated *"The mastery of the Iban language is weak. Perhaps, their background may come from a mixed family. The influencing factor for me is poor mastery due to lack of exposure. Lack of communication in the Iban language. I did not take Iban language during SPM"*.

Steps to Overcome the Use of Malay in "Aku Anak Iban".

Table 2: Steps to overcome the use of the Malay language

Factor	Frequency of Informant answers
1. Make references.	6

2. Empowering Iban language education.	7
3. Use speech regularly and correctly.	5

Make references:

Based on interviews, the steps to overcome the use of the Malay language are to **make references**. This matter is stated by the informant as below:

I1 also gave his view on the topic of making references by saying "The step is to ask more experts before publishing".

Empowering Iban language education:

Based on interviews, the steps to overcome the use of the Malay language are to **empower Iban language education**. This matter is stated by the informant as below:

This matter is in line with the statement given by I5 who said "Okay, in my own opinion it is to introduce or make it mandatory for the children of the Iban nation to learn the Iban language at the school level, Whereas I said when we study this matter at the school level we will be more exposed to this language and it will be easier for us to communicate more smoothly".

Uses speech regularly and correctly:

Based on interviews, the steps to overcome the use of Malay language is to **use speech regularly and correctly**. This matter is stated by the informant as below:

I5 also agrees with the idea of using correct and frequent speech. I5 admitted that "Talking to family in the Iban language is the biggest step. In my own family, those who are educated use English and in school, Malay is used, so there is less time to speak Iban. It helps increase the knowledge of the child and the family itself".

Analysis of the frequency of use of Malay terms

The results of the analysis found that the words "adalah", "hati", "maksud", "manusia", "tapi" dan "yang" with a frequency of 3 times were recorded with the highest frequency. This is said to be so because the use of this word is influenced by the informants themselves who have low knowledge of Iban language vocabulary. This is supported by Dayang Sufilkawany Ujai's study (2017) saying that the dominant social factors that influence language learning are motivational factors, attitudes and environment. Therefore, the correct vocabulary exists in the Iban language, but some individuals do not master it well, which causes the Malay language to be chosen as an alternative for the vocabulary.

In addition, the frequency that occupies the second highest rank for this analysis is the words "akan", "apalagi", "cuma" dan "sebab" with a frequency of 2 times. This is said to be so because the informant himself said that he grew up in an environment of Malay-speaking people which caused his Iban language to be poor. The informant also said that they use the Malay language because the users on the Facebook page are not only made up of Iban people but there are people of

Malay, Kayan, Bidayuh and so on. A study conducted by Mohammad Shahrul Nizam Abd Wahid and Muhammad Zaid Daud (2018) says that conversations that only use one's dialect will result in an awkward atmosphere and disrespect for each other.

Factors in the use of the Malay language in writing the status of "Aku Anak Iban"

The results of the study found that the factor of using the Malay language in writing the status "Aku Anak Iban" is an effective communication tool with a frequency of 11 times said by the informant, the use and weak mastery of the Iban language was said 3 times by the informant followed by the lowest frequency of 2 times by the informant is the use and mastery of the Malay language.

The study found that 11 informants said that the Malay language as an effective communication tool was the highest factor. This is said because the Malay language is the national language of Malaysia and everyone can understand it well. Concerning that, the use of the term Malay is more dominant in Malaysia compared to other languages such as English. According to Nora'Azian Nahar and Fadzilah Abd. Rahman (2018) said that non-Malay students should practice the use of the Malay language widely to produce Malaysian citizens who are skilled in the language.

In addition, 3 informants said the use and weak mastery of the Iban language was a factor in their use of the term Malay. The lack of communication in the Iban language will affect an individual's mastery of the language's vocabulary. The lack of communication using the correct Iban language at home causes them to lack language skills. Nurul Akma Jamil et al., (2022) opined that there is less possibility of good communication between parents and children due to time constraints that result in their children's language development being affected.

Finally, 2 informants say that the reason they use the Malay language in writing the status of the Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban" is due to the use and mastery of the Malay language. Informants said their Malay language is good because they use it in daily speech which makes them more comfortable using the Malay language. They also said that the Malay subject was given focus when in school. This is in line with the study conducted by Muhammad Norhazim Izman and Zamri Mahamood (2023) saying that the main language in the national education system has grown in use in line with its role in the daily life of Malaysians to minimize the use of the mother tongue.

Steps to Overcome the Use of Malay in Writing the Status "Aku Anak Iban"

The results of the study found that the steps to overcome the use of the Malay language in writing the status of "Aku Anak Iban" based on interviews with informants are making references with 6 times the frequency, empowering Iban language education with 7 times the frequency and using speech regularly and correctly reaching a frequency of 5 times.

The highest frequency is for the step of empowering Iban language education which is 7 times. This is said to be so because education is the backbone and backbone for a language to develop. The informant thought that education would bring the Iban language to a stronger level and be widely mastered by the

Iban people correctly. The study conducted by Mohd Rashid Hj. Md Idris (2013) stated that Malay language education is a plan to form a national education system that can foster the unity of people of various races with the Malay race being one of its foundations. Malay is the national language, the official language, and the medium of education. The role of language in nation building is also helped by the education sector which directly realizes the National Language Policy. The progress of Malay education took place rapidly when the government established Malay-medium secondary schools and the implementation of the National Education Policy which made Malay the main language of instruction in institutions of higher learning (IPT).

In addition, the informant also said that the steps to overcome the use of the Malay language in the status "Aku Anak Iban" is to refer to 6 people saying the same thing. Making references that is finding people who are proficient in the language before posting is a way to reduce mistakes. In addition, referring to dictionaries and even scientific books can help us from writing in a language that contains errors. Habibah Mohammad@Basiron et al., stated (2023) that students who do not refer to books such as textbooks cause students to drop out of lessons. They also cannot do the exercises given by the teacher. This shows how important it is to refer to scientific materials to gain knowledge.

Finally, using speech regularly and correctly is another step given by 5 informants. Speaking regularly and correctly ensures that a person can master the language well because it has become a habit. Speaking using the correct language with friends and family in everyday life is a significant thing for one's language learning. A study conducted by Nurul Akma Jamil et al., (2022) states that family communication is very important to do with children because it not only affects the development of children's personalities but also affects their behaviour and belief system. Furthermore, communication skills by listening and responding, receiving and understanding new information, and expressing ideas and opinions are characteristics that show children's communication skills can be improved through interaction and two-way conversation with others.

IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

Implications for the state government of Sarawak

This study can provide exposure and implications for the Sarawak state government in carrying out various initiatives to ensure that the correct and correct use of the Iban language is contagious among the community. Among the things that can be implemented by the Sarawak state government is to hold an awareness campaign about the type of pollution of the Iban language nowadays. This is so because awareness is very important to ensure the dignity of the Iban language can be maintained. Therefore, the Sarawak state government should participate in overcoming this issue so that the Iban community that was born does not get caught up in the phenomenon of pollution of the Iban language.

Implications for society

Next, the research carried out also has implications for the community, especially the target group of the study, namely the Iban people themselves. The community should be aware that the widespread use of mixed languages, especially

Malay and Iban, will have various implications. For example, the implications of using mixed languages in formal situations will scratch the image of the Iban language and the Malay language. The community should take the initiative to improve the habit of mixing languages in writing and speaking. The use of the Iban language in everyday conversation is indeed one of the steps that should be practised to ensure that the Iban language is not swallowed up by the times.

Implications for Other Researchers

In addition, this study is also seen to be able to give implications to other researchers who will study the Iban language in the future. This study can indirectly open up space for Iban language researchers to study the extent of the influence of the Malay language used in Iban language writing in essays or messages on other social media such as Whatsapp. In addition to being a reference material for researchers, this study also allows researchers to expand the scope of this field of study such as seeing how to overcome the problem of using mixing in writing status posts on other social media. Therefore, it is hoped that this study can benefit other researchers as soon as it can empower the community's professionalism in speaking using the right language in relevant situations.

CONCLUSION

In general, the studies to the mixing of the Iban language with the Malay language need to be increased especially in social media and can lead to studies that are directed towards educational issues. This current study proposal is a further study that can be done by other parties to further develop new ideas by adding other aspects to the study. The first research proposal involves the study sample size. The sample size for further studies should be larger than this study. The design proposal for future studies is that the researcher would like to suggest that the next study involves two methods such as quantitative and qualitative methods. In conclusion, the mastery of the Iban language for native speakers can be linked to effective communication factors, good use and mastery of the Malay language and also weak use and mastery of the Iban language. The community's level of mastery of Iban language vocabulary is at a good level even though it requires the addition of Malay vocabulary as a sentence complement. A person's mastery of Iban language grammar cannot be applied equally to all Iban communities because the speaker's level of mastery is sometimes better towards standard Malay due to the environment that requires them to use standard Malay fully in their daily lives. Therefore, a study on the level of use of the Malay language in writing the social media status of the Facebook page "Aku Anak Iban" can provide benefits to the community in improving their mastery of the Iban language itself.

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