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The Growth and Characteristics of Published Malay Dictionaries and Glossaries

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Abstract: *This paper describes quantitatively the pattern of growth and characteristics of Malay dictionaries and glossaries published between 1631 and 1993. Dictionaries in the form of manuscripts and Indonesian dictionaries have been excluded. The total number of Malay dictionaries published is shown to be on the rise. A large proportion of those published are bilingual, trilingual, polyglotal and subject dictionaries. A detailed breakdown of each type of dictionary is shown. The total number and names of compilers and publishers who are actively involved in the publication of Malay dictionaries are also given. This paper also describes quantitatively the growth pattern of Malay lexicographical studies. The pattern is identified by examining the number of writings by the various authors and the core journals which actively cover this subject.*

Abstrak: *Kertas ini menghuraikan secara kuantitatif corak dan ciri-ciri perkembangan perkamusan dan peristilahan Melayu yang diterbitkan dari 1631 hingga 1993. Kamus-kamus dalam bentuk manuskrip dan kamus Indonesia tidak diambil kira. Jumlah kamus Melayu yang diterbitkan semakin bertambah dan sebahagian besar darinya merupakan kamus-kamus berbentuk dwibahasa, tribahasa dan poliglot serta kamus mengenai bidang-bidang tertentu. Pecahan terperinci secara kuantitatif diberikan untuk setiap jenis kamus. Jumlah dan nama-nama penyusun dan penerbit kamus juga diberikan. Perkembangan penulisan-penulisan mengenai leksikografi Melayu juga dihuraikan secara kuantitatif. Huraian ini menunjukkan jumlah penulisan yang dihasilkan dan nama-nama mereka yang aktif menulis dalam bidang ini serta jurnal-jurnal utama yang meliputi bidang kajian ini.*

Introduction

Documentation on the history of Malay/Indonesian dictionaries and glossaries is quite considerable. The classic survey by Teeuw (1961) listed works, ranging from the wordlists of the 16th century to the dictionaries of the 1950s. The survey is thorough and it is an important source of reference for those interested in Malay/Indonesian lexicographical development. Linehan (1949) also provides a chronological list of Malay dictionaries and wordlists compiled between 1511 and 1708. There are local attempts such as those by Yusof Hitam (1961) and Asmah Haji Omar (1987). Both provide chronological listings covering the period between 1511 and the 1960s. The above

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mentioned sources are useful to both lexicographers and librarians alike since they provide the initial sources from which older titles of known dictionaries and wordlists can be identified. A more recent attempt by Idroes and Raja Masittah (1984) provides an annotated list of Malay dictionaries and glossaries published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka together with a list which covers lexicographical studies published in the journal *Dewan Bahasa* between 1957 and 1983. Another extremely useful source is a paper by Yang and Goh (1985) which lists all known Malay-Chinese, Chinese-Malay dictionaries published between 1926 and 1985. The writer has used these sources to compile a bibliography of Malay/Indonesian dictionaries. The bibliography was published in 1990. Emphasis was given to known Malay dictionaries found in local collections together with those held in major libraries abroad. Indonesian lexicographical works which have been included in the bibliography consist of those found in Malaysian libraries only. About 1,148 titles of dictionaries and glossaries and 700 titles of articles obtained from journals, conference proceedings and local newspapers covering Malay lexicographical works are listed in this bibliography. The bibliography covers dictionaries and studies up to April 1990. The present study is based upon this bibliography. A further 200 titles of Malay dictionaries and glossaries published between 1990 and 1993 are also analysed in this study. All these additional titles are available at the Za'ba Memorial Library, University of Malaya Library.

This paper is not an attempt to study the growth and characteristics of Malay dictionaries and glossaries in their lexicographical context. Rather, it is a study of lexicographical publications from their bibliographical perspective, focusing on their publication pattern and distribution. The purpose of this paper is therefore threefold. The first part attempts to describe the publication pattern of Malay dictionaries and glossaries between 1631 and 1993. The second part will describe the authors and publishers involved. This is followed by a description of the coverage of Malay lexicographical studies in journals and conference proceedings and the authors involved in critical writings on Malay lexicography up to April 1990.

Publication Pattern of Malay Dictionaries and Glossaries

Only published Malay dictionaries and glossaries are considered in this context. Like other dictionaries, Malay lexicographical works fall into three categories. The first category is those dictionaries which are monolingual in nature. This type of dictionary has words in Bahasa Malaysia with their meanings in the same language. The bilingual, trilingual and polyglotal dictionaries fall into the second category. These dictionaries have words in Bahasa Malaysia with meanings in another language. In some cases meanings of words in more than one language are provided, such as Malay-Arabic-English or Malay-Chinese-English. The third category comprises dictionaries which cover a particular discipline or subject area. This type of dictionary may or may not provide meanings in another language.

Table 1 shows the number of Malay dictionaries and glossaries published between 1631 and 1993. It indicates that a total of 747 known titles have been published up to December 1993. The number published over the years shows an increase of over 200% since 1631. The total for 1990-1993 alone is 103 which is considerably high for a three-year period.

Table 1

Number of Malay Dictionaries/Glossaries By Years of Publication

Years	Total N=747	% 100
1631-1899	57	7
1900-1939	50	7
1940-50s	60	8
1960s	74	10
1970s	125	17
1980s	278	37
1990s (up to 1993)	103	14

Table 2 shows a breakdown of published dictionaries by the three categories, that is, 78 titles (10%) are monolingual dictionaries, 367 titles (49%) are bilingual, trilingual and polyglotal dictionaries and 302 titles (41%) are categorized as subject dictionaries. Dictionaries in the last category are expected to be on the rise since more recent titles are subject-oriented to cater for current needs in Malaysia. Another important feature of current lexicographical works is the trend towards dictionaries which provide more detailed explanations of terms rather than glossaries.

Table 2

**Types of Published Malay
Dictionaries/Glossaries
(1631-1993)**

Type of Dictionaries/ Glossaries	Total N=747	% 100
Monolingual	78	10
Bi/Tri/Polyglotal	367	49
Subject	302	41

Table 3 provides a breakdown of bilingual, trilingual and polyglotal dictionaries published between 1631 and 1993. The total number of titles in this table is higher than that indicated in Table 2 since some titles have been repeated in one or more categories because of their trilingual or polyglotal nature. The compilers of Malay polyglotal dictionaries have endeavoured to cover more than ten languages reflecting world-wide interest in the Malay language. It must be noted here that dictionaries in this category cover Malay dictionaries published abroad but exclude Indonesian bilingual titles. Malaysia's historical ties with England may be the reason for the large number of English-Malay or Malay-English dictionaries which form about 47% (179) of the output in this category. This is followed by Chinese-Malay dictionaries which total 68 (18%), Arabic-Malay titles which account for 31 (8%) and the Dutch-Malay dictionaries which number 23 (6%).

Table 3

**A Breakdown of Published Bi/Tri/Polyglotal
Dictionaries/Glossaries (1631-1993)**

Languages	Total N=376
Arabic/Malay	31
Regional Languages/Malay	19
Dutch/Malay	23
Chinese/Malay	68
Latin/Portuguese/Spanish/Malay	6
English/Malay	179
German/Malay	4
Japanese/Malay	11
French/Malay	11
Russian/Malay	3
Tamil/Urdu/Malay	13
Thai/Malay	8

The number of bilingual dictionaries which cover regional languages, such as Burmese and local dialects is also on the rise.

Table 4 provides a breakdown of published Malay dictionaries by broad disciplines. About 50% (152) of the subject dictionaries are those in the science and technology category. Dictionaries in the social sciences cover about 36% (108) of the total and those in the language and literature category contribute about 14% (42). A great proportion of dictionaries in the language and literature category cover subjects such as idioms, synonyms, proverbs, acronyms and abbreviations, quotations, literature and linguistics. Dictionaries and glossaries in the humanities and social sciences cover a range of subjects such as geography, politics, economics, law, commerce, music, accountancy, psychology, Islam, sociology, management, anthropology, public administration, education, mass communication, publishing and printing, history, etc. A high percentage of subject lexicographical works are glossaries rather than dictionaries. This trend is expected to change in the future as after the initial stage of identifying terms and their equivalents, the next stage would be to provide in-depth explanations for the terms.

Table 4

**Published Malay Dictionaries/Glossaries
By Broad Disciplines (1631-1993)**

Disciplines	Total N=302	% 100
Language & Literature	42	14
Social Sciences	108	36
Science & Technology	152	50

**The Major "Players" in Malay
Lexicographical Works**

The term "players" in this context simply refers to the compilers and publishers involved in the production of Malay lexicographical works. Indonesian dictionaries and glossaries are not considered here. A great proportion of the 747 Malay dictionaries do not have information on their compilers. Only 381 names of compilers have been identified. Table 5 shows the names of the compilers responsible for three or more dictionaries. The listing is arranged in order of the number of dictionaries compiled to highlight the prolific compilers. Lee Yu Kai emerges as the most prolific compiler. He was involved in the compilation of Chinese-Malay bilingual dictionaries between 1959 and 1970. He was particularly active in the 1960's when he compiled six bilingual dictionaries. Sulaiman Masri was also active in the compilation and edition of Malay monolingual dictionaries. R.O. Winstedt needs no introduction because he had contributed a great deal to the compilation of Malay-English bilingual dictionaries since 1913 and some of these titles have been reprinted over the years, which goes to show his authority in this field. Compilers such as Parnwell, Marsden, Hornby, Shellabear, Swettenham, Wilkinson have been active in the compilation of bilingual dictionaries. About 101 compilers have been active in the compilation of Malay lexicographical works. These compilers have been responsible for compiling between 1 to 11 titles each. It must be stressed at this juncture that the standard of the dictionaries compiled is beyond the scope of this study and it is best left to the lexicographical experts.

Table 5

**Authors Involved in the Compilation/Edition
of More than Two Malay Dictionaries/
Glossaries By Number of Compilations**

Authors N=381	Number of Compilations
Lee Yu Kai	11
Sulaiman Masri	10
Winstedt, Richard Olof	10
Parnwell, E.C.	9
Mohd. Salleh Daud	8
Muhammad Said Hj. Sulaiman	8
Daud Baharum	7
Mohamed Abdul Kadir	6
Abdul Aziz Rahman	5
Asraf Haji Wahab	5
Chan, Meow Wah	5
Hornby, Albert Sydney	5
Lutfi Abas	5
Marsden, William	5
Saad Shukri bin Haji Muda	5
Shellabear, W.G.	5
Swettenham, Frank Athelstane	5
Wilkinson, Richard James	5
Yang, Kui Yee	5
Mohd Shah bin Yusof	4
Munir Ali	4
Roorda van Eysinga, P.P.	4
Santoso, S.	4
Yip, Siew Cheng	4
Yohannes, Herman C.	4
A. Karim	3
Abdullah Hussain	3
Al-Marbawy, Muhammad Idris A.R.	3
Asmah Haji Omar	3
Awang Sariyan	3
Beg, Muhammad Abdul Jabbar	3
Bowrey, Thomas	3
Cheng, Song Huat	3
Coope, A.E.	3
Elout, C.P.J.	3
Kahlo, Gerhard	3
Labrousse, Pierre	3
Lim, Chin Kiat	3
Maimon binti Abdullah	3
Nik Safiah Karim	3
Nor Shafinaz Malek	3
Pogadev, V.A.	3
Rott, N.V.	3
58 other authors	2
280 other authors	1

Table 6
Publishers Involved in the Publication of
Local Malay Dictionaries/Glossaries

Publishers N= 180	Number of Publications
Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka	185
Penerbit Fajar Bakti (P.J.)	31
Federal Publications (K.L.)	23
Univ. Sains Mal. Unit Perkhid. Istilah	14
Univ. Malaya. Language Centre	12
Kelly & Walsh (Sing)	10
Pustaka Zaman (P.J.)	9
Pustaka Umum (P.J. & K.L.)	9
Al-Ahmadiyah (Sing)	8
Golden Books Centre (K.L.)	8
McGraw-Hill Far Eastern Pub.	8
Shanghai Book Co. (Sing)	8
Cathay Press (Sing)	7
Methodist Pub. House (Sing)	7
Mission Press (Sing)	7
Pelanduk Pub. (P.J.)	7
Longman Malaysia (K.L.)	6
Marican & Sons (K.L.)	6
Syarikat S. Abdul Majeed (K.L.)	6
Arena Buku (K.L.)	5
Kompas (P.J.)	5
Pustaka Delta (P.J.)	5
Sinaran Bros (P.Pinang)	5
Abdullah bin Muhd. Nordin Arrawi (P.Pinang)	4
AMK Interaksi (K.L.)	4
FEP International (P.J.)	4
Penerbit Titiwangsa (K.L.)	4
Penerbit Adabi (K.L.)	4
Pustaka Delta Pelajaran (P.J.)	4
Pustaka San Ming (Tang. Malim)	4
Darulfikir (K.L.)	3
Kader Bros (Sing)	3
Kumpulan Rusa (P.J.)	3
Mahir Publications (K.L.)	3
Malay-Chinese-English Pub. Hse (Sing)	3
Malaya Publishing Hse (Sing)	3
Marican & Sons (Sing)	3
Penerbitan Fargoes (K.L.)	3
Penerbitan Jeya Bakti (K.L.)	3
Penerbitan Tat (K.L.)	3
Pustaka Aman Press (K.B.)	3
Pustaka Sistem Pel. (K.L.)	3
Thinker's Library (Batu Caves)	3
United Press (P. Pinang)	3
World Book Co. (Sing)	3
24 other publishers	2
110 other publishers	1

Publishers have played an important role in the production of Malay dictionaries. Table 6 provides a listing of publishers involved in the publication of local Malay dictionaries and glossaries. Malay lexicographical works published abroad have not been included in this list. A total of 180 publishers have been identified. Of these, 79 publishers have been responsible for publishing between 2 and 185 titles of Malay dictionaries. As expected Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka emerges as the most prolific publisher with 185 titles. The other significant publishers include Penerbit Fajar Bakti, Federal Publications, Unit Perkhidmatan Istilah, Universiti Sains Malaysia, the Language Centre, University of Malaya and Kelly & Walsh (Singapore).

Kelly & Walsh was responsible for publishing 10 Malay dictionaries between 1901 and 1953 and concentrated on Malay-English bilingual dictionaries. The list also indicates that most local publishers have been involved at some point or other in the production of Malay dictionaries.

Malay Lexicographical Studies in Local Journals and Conference Proceedings

Journal articles and conference papers covering Malay lexicographical studies can also be used to ascertain the trend and growth of the literature covering this subject. For this study, articles and papers published up to April 1990 have been used.

Table 7a shows the growth of studies on Malay lexicography by broad year bands. A total of 422 articles have been identified. Over the years under study a growth of about 200% has been noted since the 1950s. A considerable proportion of writings were published between 1800 and 1950s. This year band accounts for about 21% of the total studies published on this subject. The *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (JSBRAS) and the *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (JMBRAS) emerge as the major journals covering studies on Malay dictionaries, wordlists and expositions on single or multiple Malay terms. Most of the articles were written by English authors. In the 1970s local authors became more involved and their contributions increased in the 1980s. At this juncture, the local journal *Dewan Bahasa*

now entitled *Jurnal Bahasa* emerged as the major journal in this field. As indicated in Table 7a, the period between 1980 and 1989 saw a contribution of about 209 articles and papers, that is 50% of the total contributions on this subject over the year bands under study. Table 7b provides a list of journals and the number of articles they have published on Malay lexicography. As indicated earlier, *Dewan Bahasa*, *JSBRAS*, *JMBRAS*, *Dewan Masyarakat*, *Archipel*, *Bijdragen tot de Taal,-Land en Volkenkunde* are major contributors on this subject.

Table 7a
Growth of Studies on Malay Lexicography Found in Periodicals and Conference Proceedings By Broad Year Bands

Year Bands	Total N=422	% 100
Up to 1950s	90	21
1960s	23	5
1970s	100	24
1980-89	209	50

Table 7b
Titles of Journals and their Coverage of Malay Lexicographical Studies

Journal Titles	Number of Studies
Dewan Bahasa	201
JMBRAS	39
JSBRAS	22
Dewan Masyarakat	9
Archipel	8
Bahasa & Sastra	7
Bahasa	6
Bijdragen TLV	6
J. Roy. Asia. Soc. Grt. Brit.	4
Bahasa	3
J. Persatuan Linguistik	3
Bull. of Raff. Museum	2
Dewan Sastra	2
Majalah Dian	2
Nusantara	2
Pendidik & Pendidikan	2
New Straits Times Ann	2
Tijdschrift v. Ind. Taal-Land en Volkenkunde	2
Bull. Sch. Orient. & Afr. Stud	1
Brunei Museums J	1
J. Ind. Archipel	1
J. Budaya	1
Mastika	1
Malaysian Conference Papers	95

Table 8
Authors Active In Writings About Malay Lexicography Up to 1990

Authors	Number of Writings
Asmah Haji Omar	22
Sulaiman Masri	19
Hassan Bin Ahmad	17
Zubaidi Abas	16
Ainon Muhammad	15
Nasir Sulaiman	14
Hamilton, A.W.	10
Khalid M. Hussain	10
Rusli Abdul Ghani	10
Abdullah Hassan	9
Junus, Umar	9
Winstedt, Richard Olof	8
Wan Abu Bakar Wan Abas	7
Ismail bin Dahaman	6
Lutfi Abas	6
Blagden, C.O.	5
Chuah, Chong Cheng	5
Metzger, Laurent	5
Mohammad Ali Haji Hassan	5
RudiahHaji Arshad	5
Shaharir bin Mohamad Zain	5
Asraf Haji Wahab	4
Awang Sariyan	4
Muhammad Yahaya	4
Nik Safiah Karim	4
Rabiey Besah	4
Ronkel, Phil. Sam. van	4
Amat Juhari Moain	3
Collins, James T.	3
Khalid bin Mohamed Nor	3
Masood bin Abdul Rahman	3
Noresah Baharom	3
Othman Ismail	3
Puziah Mohd. Dom	3
Raja Masittah Raja Ariffin	3
Shahimi bin Haj. Shafiee	3
Zahrah Abd. Ghafur	3
Zainal Abidin Abu Bakar	3
32 other authors	2
222 other authors	1

The authors involved in the writing of these articles have also been surveyed. Articles published in local newspapers up to April 1990 are also considered for this purpose. Table 8 indicates that 70 writers were actively involved in Malay lexicographical writings. The 70 writers have contributed between 2 to 22 articles each. The majority of writers numbering 222 have contributed only 1 article each. The most prolific writer is Asmah Haji Omar who alone has written 22 articles on the subject of Malay

lexicography in journals and conference proceedings. The other main contributors are Sulaiman Masri (19), Hassan bin Ahmad (17), Zubaidi Abas (16), Ainon Muhammad (15), Nasir Sulaimar (14), A.W. Hamilton (10), Khalid M. Hussain (10) and Rusli Abdul Ghani (10). Again it must be emphasized here that the purpose of this study is merely to quantify and hence no attempt is made at a qualitative analysis of the writings. It must be emphasized that the figures are based on published sources. Unpublished articles have not been taken into account.

Conclusion

This study reveals that the publication of Malay dictionaries and glossaries has increased by 200 percent since 1631. The number published rose sharply in the 1970s and 1980s. It is expected to increase steadily in the 1990s. The majority of those published recently are glossaries but there is an increasing trend towards the publication of dictionaries. Dictionaries published currently tend to be subject and bilingual in orientation.

Most publishers in Malaysia have involved themselves in the publication of dictionaries. Some are more active than others. The number of local compilers involved has also increased. However, most of them (73%) are one-time compilers.

Malay lexicographical studies in journals, conference proceedings and newspapers have risen sharply since the 1970s. Studies written between 1980 and 1989 constitute about 50 percent of total studies written since the 1950s. The majority of these studies (76%) are one-time efforts.

This quantitative study attempts to reveal the state-of-the-art of Malay lexicographical publishing. Knowledge on the publication trends of Malay dictionaries and glossaries and

an insight into the extent of lexicographical studies may provide the information personnel and librarians with an understanding of the quantity needed to be acquired currently or retrospectively to support lexicographical research. From such a study, the lexicographers may also identify lacunae in areas which need future research.

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