

## **The Entries of Brunei Malay Dialect into Bajau Language: A Preliminary Notes**

### **ABSTRACT**

Bajau language is one of the languages spoken in Sabah. It is the medium of interaction among Bajau speakers throughout Sabah. There are variations between the Bajau language spoken in the west coast and east coast of Sabah. However, both still belong to the Sama-Bajaw language family group of the Austronesian Language Phylum. One thing that clearly distinguishes between the west coast and east coast Bajau languages are the lexical entries from Brunei Malay dialect. Brunei Malay entries became part of the west coast Bajau lexical. This qualitative study shows a comparison between the 100 Bajaus entries and the Brunei Malay Dictionary (1991). All of the entries represent similar meanings which are still used in the interaction process among the west coast Sabah Bajau speakers. However, the entries also discovered several lexical and semantic innovation in the Bajau language. Therefore, the lexical list shows that the Malay Brunei entries are widely accepted by the Bajaus speakers despite some modification made in accordance to the lexical use context. The study concludes that such entries nevertheless enriched the Bajau lexical and indirectly has becoming the dissemination agents of the lexical use of Brunei Malay throughout the Borneo Island.