

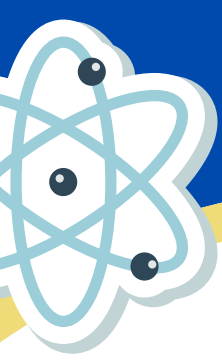

Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang

e-Lingua

2/2024



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2024**

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Jawi Peranakans in Conversation

By Nazima Versay Kudus

Jawi Peranakan is a hybrid of the Indian-Malay community. The community emerged during the British Malaya period, as a result of intermarriage between Indian merchants and traders with local Malay women. In Penang, the Jawi Peranakans have played a significant role in shaping the cultural and historical landscape of the region. Today, the community comprises the descendants of these unions, preserving some of their unique traditions, customs, cuisine and dialect, which vividly reflect the amalgamation resulting from intermarriage. Presented below is a dialogue that employs words that distinctly encapsulate their cultural identity.

Chombi: Assalamualaikum **Aci** (kakak) Jan. Awat yang dok **keliting** (mundar-mandir) tu?

Aci Jan: Waalaikumsalam Combi. **Mai** (mari) la masuk. Semak la rumah sikit. Anak cucu mai. **Depa** (mereka) dok main **acilut** (main sembunyi-sembunyi) tadi. Ni cuba tengok depa **gurmit** (asah guna pengasah pensel) pensel rata-rata. **Ketoq** (bekas untuk ludah) aku pun depa buat main. **Pukui** (pukul) depa dengan **kambey** (kayu) baru tau. Baru **sat** (sekejap) tadi aku **getu** (cubit) depa.

Chombi: Ni **chek** (saya) mai ni ada hajat.

Aci Jan: Ha **awatnya** (kenapa)?

Chombi: **Lagu** (macam) ni, chek mai nak pinjam **barang** (barang kemas).

Aci Jan: **Insat** (Sekejap). Aku **boh** (letak) dalam **gundi** (guni), **tang** (di) mana tak tau. **Hang** (awak) nak pinjam apa?

Chombi: **Mastora** (kalung berlian) Aci la.

Aci Jan: Nak pinjam nak **pi** (pergi) mana?

Chombi: Anak chek nak **khutbah** (akad nikah).

Aci Jan: Oh yang **suap gula** (tunang) dulu ka? Eh hang bukan ada barang **nani** (nenek) hang ka?

Chombi: Dah kena **balaih** (dicuri) hari tu. Sarbanu ni **ketegaq** (degil) sikit Aci. Muka **chom** (masam) saja tak **dak** (ada) barang nak pakai dia kata. Dia takut orang dok **camdek** (perli) masa kenduri. **Ghaplah** (pening kepala) chek. Mana nak siap kenduri. Mana nak kacau **pulut kacau** (wajik). Mana nak pasang **pandey** (khemah kenduri).

Aci Jan: Ooo ya ka. **Mapley** (pengantin lelaki) orang mana?

Chombi: Orang **bagan** (Butterworth). Tapi lani depa **dok** (tinggal) di **Counter Hall** (Jalan P. Ramlee).

Aci Jan: Elok la, **ponu** (pengantin perempuan) orang **tanjung** (George Town). Tak jauh sangat. Ni kata kat Sarbanu jangan dok **cengey** (bengis) sangat bila dah kahwin. Allah! Aku lupa **rasem** (sup pedas asal selatan India) **ataih** (atas) api. **Nana** (abang) Saleem hang hari-hari nak makan yang tu aja. Baru laju dia **podu** (makan). Hang mai **satni** (kemudian) lah aku bagi barang.

Chombi: **Lagu** (macam) tu chek baliklah dulu. Terima kasih Aci.

