

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF KOMERING PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

SOFJAN ABDURRAHMAN AND COLIN YALLOP

1. Introduction

Komering (more accurately represented as Kumoring in native speakers' pronunciation) is spoken by upwards of 200,000 speakers in the area of the Komering River south of Palembang in South Sumatra. Voorhoeve (1955, p. 22) makes reference to Komering among the languages of the Lampung districts; Walker (1976, pp. 1 - 2) gives further details, including a rather higher estimate than ours of the number of Komering speakers. According to Walker, Lampung is a language including two major dialect groups, Pesisir and Abung. Both Komering and the Way Lima dialect described by Walker fall under the Pesisir grouping.

Komering itself is not entirely uniform, and a distinction is usually made between Komering Ulu (Upstream) and Komering Ilir (Downstream). The following brief account deals with Komering Ulu, or, more specifically, with the dialect of Adumanis, which is Sofjan Abdurrahman's native tongue. The reader who wishes to compare this account with Walker's will note some differences between Komering and Way Lima, for example in the vowel system and in the forms of some affixes.

2. Phonological outline

2.1 Phonemes

	Consonants				
	Labial	Dental	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>k</i>	
	<i>b</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>g</i>	
Fricatives		<i>s</i>			<i>h</i>
		(<i>z</i>)			
Nasals	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>ny</i>	<i>ng</i>	
Lateral		<i>l</i>			
Trill		<i>r</i>			
Semivowels	<i>w</i>		<i>y</i>		

Vowels

	Front	Back
High	<i>i</i>	<i>u</i>
		<i>o</i>
Low	<i>a</i>	

The above sounds can be regarded as phonemic. Standard orthographic conventions are used (e.g. *ny* for a palatal nasal, *ng* for a velar nasal) but note that the glottal stop is indicated by ' rather by *q* as in some studies.

2.2 Plosives

Voicing is distinctive, as illustrated by

<i>ompay</i>	'new'	<i>ombay</i>	'grandma'
<i>ratu</i>	'queen'	<i>radu</i>	'already'
<i>acar</i>	'pickle'	<i>ajar</i>	'teach'
<i>akas</i>	'grandpa'	<i>agas</i>	'mosquito'

Voiceless plosives occur in word-initial, word-medial and word-final position. Voiced plosives are generally not found in word-final position, except that *b* and *d* are written at the end of words such as *sobab* 'because', *kolub* 'club' and *abad* 'century'. Some speakers, possibly influenced by the spelling, may pronounce such words with *b* and *d* rather than *p* and *t*.

2.3 The glottal stop

The glottal stop is heard word-finally and, less commonly at the end of a syllable word-medially. The glottal stop appears to be in contrast with both *k* and zero, e.g.

<i>pa'</i>	'four'	<i>ma</i>	'tongue'
<i>bala'</i>	'trouble'	<i>balak</i>	'big'
<i>busu'</i>	'rotten'	<i>asu</i>	'dog'
		<i>biluk</i>	'turn'
		<i>bulu</i>	'body hair'
<i>gomu'</i>	'fat'	<i>timbang</i>	'road'
		<i>habu</i>	'ashes'

2.4 Fricatives

s and *h* occur in word-initial, word-medial and word-final position, e.g.

<i>sapa</i>	'who'	<i>hawa</i>	'greedy'
<i>hasin</i>	'salty'	<i>buha</i>	'crocodile'
<i>bias</i>	'rice'	<i>lapah</i>	'walk'

z is of course of foreign origin, as in *zaman* 'age, era' or *azan* 'prayer call'. Nevertheless, as in many Indonesian languages, some 'loanwords' are well-established and hardly thought of as foreign. In common with most voiced obstruents, *z* does not appear word-finally. As in Indonesian/Malay, *z* may be replaced by *j*.

2.5 Nasals

The four nasal consonants may occur word-initially or word-medially; all except *ny* can also stand word-finally, e.g.

<i>ma</i>	'tongue'	<i>lamon</i>	'a lot'	<i>halom</i>	'black'
<i>niku</i>	'you (sing.)'	<i>inum</i>	'drink'	<i>tian</i>	'they'
<i>nya</i>	'I'	<i>nyanyi</i>	'sing'		
<i>ngaru</i>	'tie'	<i>bunga</i>	'flower'	<i>kuning</i>	'yellow'

2.6 Lateral, trill and semivowels

l, *r*, *w*, and *y* all occur word-initially, word-medially and word-finally. (But word-final *w* and *y* may be considered part of a diphthong; see 2.9 below.)

<i>lima</i>	'five'	<i>golar</i>	'name'	<i>kawil</i>	'hook'
<i>rawang</i>	'door'	<i>turuy</i>	'sleep'	<i>way</i>	'water'
<i>rulus</i>	'straight'	<i>ya</i>	'he, she'	<i>kayu</i>	'tree'
<i>pulaw</i>	'island'				

2.7 Vowels

All four vowels can occur word-initially and word-finally, as well as medially between two consonants, e.g.

<i>iwa</i>	'fish'	<i>poti</i>	'box'	<i>lobih</i>	'more'
<i>amon</i>	'if'	<i>dija</i>	'here'	<i>aman</i>	'safe'
<i>onju</i>	'like'	<i>dudo</i>	'there'	<i>boru</i>	'monkey (variety of)'
<i>umur</i>	'age'	<i>asu</i>	'dog'	<i>bura</i>	'old'

2.8. Consonant sequences

Within a morpheme, consonant clusters consist principally of homorganic nasal-plosive sequences, i.e. *mp*, *nt*, *nc*, *ngk*, *mb*, *nd*, *nj* and *ngg* (where *nc* and *nj* are assumed to be homorganic). Other clusters usually have *l* or *r* as the first element (e.g. *rn* in *pornah* 'ever', *rny* in *kornyin* 'all', *lm* in *jolma* 'man, person'); but the range of possibility is considerably extended by

- words of non-Malay origin, such as *polsu* 'forged', *asrama* 'hostel', etc.
- reduplication, e.g. *holholan* 'muscle disease', *sibangbangan* 'elope', etc.
- affixation, e.g. *tasku* 'my bag' *nasibna* 'his fate', etc.

Note also *hl* in e.g. *tohluy* 'egg' and *tuhlan* 'bone'.

2.9 Diphthongs and vowel sequences

Vowels may stand next to each other, except where *o* is the first vowel, but they belong to separate syllables. Thus the following are all two-syllable words:

<i>piil</i>	'character'	<i>bia</i>	'heavy'	<i>miot</i>	'join'
<i>kuah</i>	'sauce'	<i>mait</i>	'corpse'	<i>lao</i>	'sea'
<i>tuot</i>	'knee'	<i>suun</i>	'food (variety of)'		

The occurrence of such sequences has been reinforced and extended by loanwords (including e.g. *soal* 'problem', with non-native *oa*) and by affixed forms in which suffixes such as *-i* and *-an* follow a root-final vowel (hence *gula-i* 'to sugar something', *kilu-i* 'to keep asking for', etc.).

These vowel sequences must, however, be distinguished from the three sequences written in this paper as *aw*, *ay* and *uy*. These three are limited to word-final position, except in loans such as *awrat* 'genitalia' or in morphologically complex words such as *saysay* 'wall' or *limawna* 'his orange'. They may be interpreted either as diphthongs or as a vowel followed by a non-syllabic semivowel; but, whichever interpretation is valid, they are clearly in contrast with a sequence of two syllabic vowels.

Compare:

monosyllabic	disyllabic
<i>bay</i> 'woman'	<i>rui</i> 'thorn'
<i>way</i> 'water'	<i>sia</i> 'salt'
disyllabic	trisyllabic
<i>kiay</i> 'brother'	<i>kiai</i> 'religious title'
	<i>siai</i> 'to salt something'
<i>apuy</i> 'fire'	<i>kilui</i> 'to keep asking for'
<i>babuy</i> 'pig'	

2.10 Nasalisation

The process known of Indonesianists as nasalisation operates in Komering in a way that is, in general outline, comparable to Malay and other related languages. Thus the Komering prefix *ngaN-* is similar in both its functions and its allomorphs to standard Indonesian *meN-*. In Komering, *N* stands for a homorganic nasal preceding a voiced stop and a homorganic nasal replacing a voiceless stop, e.g.

<i>boli</i>	<i>ngamboli</i>	'to buy'
<i>dongi</i>	<i>ngandongi</i>	'to hear'
<i>jual</i>	<i>nganjual</i>	'to sell'
<i>guay</i>	<i>nganguay</i>	'to make'
<i>pukul</i>	<i>ngamukul</i>	'to hit'
<i>tulis</i>	<i>nganulis</i>	'to write'
<i>cawako</i>	<i>nganyawako</i>	'to tell'
<i>kurung</i>	<i>ngurung</i>	'to keep'

It can be seen that when *k* is replaced by *N*, the *nga-* is also dropped; in informal speech, the initial *ng* is often elided in other forms as well, e.g. *amboli* for *ngamboli*, *anjual* for *nganjual*.

Otherwise, the form of the prefix is *nga-* before a consonant and *ng-* before a vowel, except that a root beginning with *s* is treated in the same way as one beginning with *c*, e.g.

<i>saroko</i>	<i>nganyaroko</i>	'to trouble'
---------------	-------------------	--------------

Some other prefixes, notably *paN-*, are parallel with respect to the realisations of *N*. For reference, the forms of *ngaN-* are tabulated below.

Allomorph

When preceding:

<i>ngam-</i>	<i>p, b</i>	} <i>p, t, c, k</i> and <i>s</i> are dropped when the prefix is added
<i>ngan-</i>	<i>t, d</i>	
<i>ngany-</i>	<i>c, j, s</i>	
(but written		
<i>ngan-</i> before <i>j</i>)		
<i>ngang-</i>	<i>g</i>	
<i>ng-</i>	<i>k</i> or any vowel	
<i>nga-</i>	any other consonant	

3. List of common affixes

3.1 Passive prefixes

di- Compare Indonesian/Malay *di-*; the term "passive" is debatable and the prefix must be contrasted with the "active" or "subject-focus" *ngaN-* (3.2 below).

<i>dilia'</i>	'be(ing) seen'
<i>didongi</i>	'be(ing) heard'
<i>diaku'</i>	'be(ing) taken'
<i>dikaru'</i>	'be(ing) tied'

ku- Compare Indonesian/Malay *ku-*; the prefix replaces *di-* when a first person agent is expressed. (For third person agent see *-na*, 3.3 below and also 3.5.)

<i>kulia'</i>	'be(ing) seen by me'
<i>kudongi</i>	'be(ing) heard by me'
<i>kuaku'</i>	'be(ing) taken by me'
<i>kukaru'</i>	'be(ing) tied by me'

ti- Compare Indonesian/Malay *ter-*; the prefix forms what may be termed a passive participial or adjectival form. Note that in Komering an agent cannot be expressed after a *ti-* form.

<i>tidongi</i>	'heard, audible'
<i>tipaksa</i>	'forced, compelled'
<i>tipariksa</i>	'investigated'

Jolma sina tipariksa 'the man is investigated, is under investigation'

**Jolma sina tipariksa pulisi* (not grammatical)

Jolma sina dipariksa pulisi 'the man is being investigated by the police'

ka- may also be used in a passive adjectival sense, e.g. *kakani* 'edible, able to be eaten' (see also *ka-+---+--an* under *-an*).

3.2 Other prefixes

bu- Compare Indonesian/Malay *ber-*; verbs with this prefix are intransitive.

bucukur 'have a haircut'
bugumul 'fight (each other)'
butanom 'plant, be planting'

ngaN- Compare Indonesian/Malay *meN-*; for allomorphs see 2.10 above.

ngarajaraja 'act the king, act tyrannically'
nganggargaji 'use a saw'
ngalia' 'see' active or subject-focus forms
in contrast with *di-* forms (3.1 above)
ngandongi 'hear'

paN- Compare Indonesian/Malay *peN-*; for allomorphs compare 2.10 above.

pandongi 'a hearer, one who hears'
pangaru' 'a means of tying'
paruku' 'a (heavy) smoker'
pamalas 'a lazybones'

The forms *pa-* and *par-* exist alongside *paN-* (and may be combined with *-an*, for which see below). It is difficult to determine how far this area of morphology, like other aspects of Komerling, has been influenced by Malay/Indonesian. (See section 6 below.)

tiN- Forms 'resultative' nouns from verbs; for allomorphs compare 2.10 above.

tindongi 'result of hearing, what was heard'
tingaku 'result of getting, what was taken'
timboli 'result of buying, what was bought'

Other Komerling prefixes include *sa-* (cf. Indonesian/Malay *se-*) as in *satongah* 'a half', *sakaluarga* '(with one's) family' and *ma-* in some intransitive verbs such as *mahaloto* 'spit'.

3.3 Personal suffixes

-ku Compare Indonesian/Malay *-ku* 'my'.

mubilku 'my car'
tasku 'my bag'

-mu Compare Indonesian/Malay *-mu* 'your'.

mubilmu 'your car'
tasmu 'your bag'

-na Compare Indonesian/Malay *-nya* 'his, her, its'. Used also to indicate agent of passive.

mubilna 'his car'
dilia'na 'be(ing) seen by him/her/it'
didongina 'be(ing) heard by him/her/it'

3.4 Other suffixes

-an Compare Indonesian/Malay *-an*.

inuman 'a drink'
tulisan 'writing'
timbangan 'weighing scales'

Used also in conjunction with prefixes such as *ka-* and *pa-* or *par-* (as in Indonesian/Malay *ke-+---+--an*, *per-+---+--an*).

kaparcayaan 'belief, faith'
karatongan 'arrival, coming, possession by a spirit'
karoni'an 'too small'
pakuburan 'cemetery'
parbuatan 'action, deed'
parburuan 'hunting area/place'

-da Either with adjectives indicating "rather" or with verbs indicating (emphatic) imperative. (Compare Indonesian/Malay *-lah?*).

holawda 'pretty good, rather good'
balakda 'rather big'
aku'da 'get it!'
bolida 'buy it!'

-i Compare Indonesian/Malay *-i*.

bolii 'keep buying, buy in great quantity'
hojongi 'sit on (something)'
torangi 'make bright'
kawani 'befriend'

-ko Compare Indonesian/Malay -kan.

aku'ko 'get for someone'
 lijungko 'remove, cause to go away'
 siwoko 'rent out, let'
 roni'ko 'make smaller, reduce'

3.5 Summary of passive markers

The basic marker of "passive" or "object-focus" is *di-* (3.1). If the agent is first person, *ku-* replaces *di-*; otherwise the agent follows the *di-* form, either as the third person affix *-na* (3.3) or as a separate word. Hence, for example:

dilia' 'seen (by someone)'
 kulia' 'seen by me'
 dilia'na 'seen by him/her/it'

 dilia' niku 'seen by you (singular)'
 dilia' kuti 'seen by you (plural)'
 dilia' pulisi 'seen by the police'

3.6 Reduplication

Reduplication serves a range of functions which are comparable to Indonesian/Malay and which may be roughly characterised by such notions as iteration, plurality, diversity and diffuseness, e.g.

nginum-nginum 'drink repeatedly, drink several times'
 halaw-halaw 'run'
 buku-buku 'books, various books'
 balak-balak 'big (of various items collectively)'
 kadang-kadang 'sometimes'
 kira-kira 'roughly, approximately'
 ngumung-ngumung 'by the way, incidentally' (as a sentence-opener, from *ngumung* 'say, speak')

4. Selected basic vocabulary

ENGLISH	INDONESIAN	KOMERING
all	semua	<i>kornyin</i>
and	dan	<i>ri'</i>
animal	binatang	<i>binatang</i>
ashes	abu	<i>habu</i>
at	di	<i>di</i>

back	belakang	<i>buri</i>
bad	jahat	<i>jahat</i>
because	sebab	<i>sobab</i>
belly	perut	<i>tanihi</i>
big	besar	<i>balak</i>
bird	burung	<i>manu'</i>
bite	gigit	<i>gigi'</i>
black	hitam	<i>halom</i>
blood	darah	<i>rah</i>
blow	tiup	<i>nyobu</i>
bone	tulang	<i>tuhlan</i>
breathe	napas	<i>hongas</i>
burn	bakar	<i>nyuah</i>
child	anak	<i>sana'</i>
cloud	awan	<i>awan</i>
cold	dingin	<i>ngison</i>
come	datang	<i>ratong</i>
count	hitung	<i>hitung</i>
cut	potong	<i>putung</i>
day	hari	<i>harani</i>
die	mati	<i>mati</i>
dig	gali	<i>gali</i>
dirty	kotor	<i>kutur</i>
dog	anjing	<i>asu</i>
drink	minum	<i>inum</i>
dry	kering	<i>ngoluh</i>
dull, blunt	tumpul	<i>majal</i>
dust	debu	<i>hambua'</i>
ear	telinga	<i>cuping</i>
eat	makan	<i>kani'</i>
egg	telur	<i>tohluy</i>
eye	mata	<i>mata</i>
fall	jatuh	<i>tia'</i>
far	jauh	<i>jaoh</i>
fat	gemuk	<i>gomu'</i>
father	bapak	<i>uba'</i>
fear	takut	<i>rabay</i>
feather	bulu	<i>bulu</i>
few	sedikit	<i>cuti'</i>
fight	tempur	<i>tompur</i>
fire	api	<i>apuy</i>
fish	ikan	<i>iwa'</i>
five	lima	<i>lima</i>
float	apung	<i>ngambang</i>
flow	alir	<i>alir</i>
flower	bunga	<i>bunga</i>
fly	terbang	<i>torbang</i>
fog	kabut	<i>kabut</i>
foot, leg	kaki	<i>kukut</i>

four	empat	<i>pa'</i>	play	main	<i>guraw</i>
fruit	buah	<i>buah</i>	pull	tarik	<i>tari'</i>
give	beri	<i>ju', ngonju'</i>	push	dorong	<i>jujung</i>
good	baik	<i>holaw</i>	rain	hujan	<i>hujan</i>
grass	rumput	<i>juku'</i>	red	merah	<i>siaw</i>
green	hijau	<i>hujaw</i>	right (true)	benar	<i>bonor</i>
guts	usus	<i>usus</i>	right (versus left)	kanan	<i>kanan</i>
hair	rambut	<i>buo'</i>	river	sungai	<i>batangari</i>
hand	tangan	<i>pungu</i>	road	jalan	<i>timbang</i>
he, she	dia, ia	<i>ya</i>	root	akar	<i>baka'</i>
head	kepala	<i>hulu</i>	rope	tali	<i>tali</i>
hear	dengar	<i>dongi</i>	rotten	busuk	<i>busu'</i>
heart	jantung	<i>jantung</i>	rub	gosok	<i>gusu'</i>
heavy	berat	<i>bia'</i>	salt	garam	<i>sia</i>
here	di sini	<i>dija</i>	say	kata	<i>ngumung</i>
hit	pukul	<i>pukul</i>	scratch	garuk	<i>kuykuy</i>
hold	pegang	<i>ngating</i>	sea	laut	<i>lao'</i>
how	bagaimana	<i>sipopa</i>	see	lihat	<i>lia'</i>
hunt	buru	<i>buru</i>	seed	benih	<i>bonih</i>
husband	suami	<i>laki</i>	sew	jahit	<i>nyoru'</i>
I	saya	<i>nya'</i>	sharp	tajam	<i>tajom</i>
if	kalau	<i>amon</i>	short	pendek	<i>bunta'</i>
in, inside	dalam	<i>dilom</i>	sing	nyanyi	<i>nyanyi</i>
know	tahu	<i>paca'</i>	sit	duduk	<i>hojong</i>
lake	danau	<i>danaw</i>	skin	kulit	<i>bawa'</i>
laugh	tertawa	<i>maha</i>	sky	langit	<i>langi'</i>
leaf	daun	<i>bulung</i>	sleep	tidur	<i>turuy</i>
left	kiri	<i>kiri</i>	small	kecil	<i>roni'</i>
lie	baring	<i>gulik</i>	smell	bau	<i>ombaw</i>
liver	hati	<i>hati</i>	smoke	asap	<i>haso'</i>
long	panjang	<i>tojang</i>	smooth	halus	<i>hini'</i>
louse	kutu	<i>kutu</i>	snake	ular	<i>ulay</i>
man	laki-laki	<i>bakas</i>	some	beberapa	<i>ruatolu</i> (cf. two, three)
many, much	banyak	<i>lamon</i>	spit	ludah	<i>(ma)holoto'</i>
meat	daging	<i>daging</i>	split	belah	<i>bolah</i>
mother	ibu	<i>indo'</i>	squeeze	peras	<i>poros</i>
mountain	gunung	<i>gunung</i>	stab	tikam	<i>magas</i>
mouth	mulut	<i>bangu'</i>	stand	diri (berdiri)	<i>toga'</i>
name	nama	<i>golar</i>	star	bintang	<i>bintang</i>
narrow	sempit	<i>sompi'</i>	stick	tongkat	<i>tungko'</i>
near	dekat	<i>podok</i>	stone	batu	<i>batu</i>
neck	leher	<i>galah</i>	straight	lurus	<i>rulus</i>
new	baru	<i>ompay</i>	suck	hisap	<i>hisop</i>
nose	hidung	<i>irung</i>	sun	matahari	<i>matahari</i>
not	tidak	<i>ma'wat</i>	swim	berenang	<i>kalanguy</i>
old	tua	<i>tuha</i>	tail	ekor	<i>gundang</i>
one	satu	<i>say</i>	that (the)	itu	<i>sina</i>
other	lain	<i>barih</i>	there	di sana	<i>dudo</i>
person, human - being	orang	<i>jolma</i>			

they	mereka	tian
thick	tebal	kodol
thin	kurus	rasah
think	pikir	pikir
this	ini	sija
thou (you sing.)	engkau	niku
three	tiga	tolu
tie	ikat	karu'
tongue	lidah	ma
tooth	gigi	ipon
tree	pohon	kayu
turn	belok	biluk
two	dua	rua
vomit	muntah	muntah
walk	jalan	lapah
warm	panas	handop
wash	cuci	ngambasoh (cf. wet)
water	air	way
we (incl.)	kita	kita
we (excl.)	kami	sikam
wet	basah	basoh
what	apa	api
when	kapan	idan
where	di mana	dipa
white	putih	handa'
who	siapa	sapa
wide	lebar	bora'
wife	isteri	anggomanku
wind	angin	angin
wing	sayap	kopi
wipe	hapus	hapus
with	dengan	ri'
woman	perempuan	bay
woods, forest	hutan	pulan
worm	cacing	golong
year	tahun	tahun
yellow	kuning	kuning
you (plural)	kamu	kuti

5. Sample of spoken Komering (Adumanis dialect)

Sija carita soal nya' posay ri' ana'
this story about me self with child

anggomanku di Austarali. Umurku pa'ngapuluh
wife-my in Australia Age-my forty

tahun. Nya' lahir tanggal ruangapuluh walu
year I born date twenty eight

bulan Pibruari tahun tolungapuluh walu.
month February year thirty eight

Nya' ja' Kumoring, tiuhku golarna Aduma-
I from Komering village-my name-its Aduma-

nis. Adumanis kira-kira saratus tolungapu-
nis Adumanis about a hundred thirty

luh kilomitir ja' Pulimbang. Nya' ko'
kilometre from Palembang I already

buana' anggomanku. Ana'ku limangabungkal:
have-child wife child-my five

say tuha umurna rua bolas tahun, numur
which old age-her two teen year number

rua, puluh tahun, numur tolu, walu tahun,
two ten year number three eight year

numur pa', pitu tahun, say paling ngura,
number four seven year which most young

nom tahun. Nya' ratong di Austarali samonja'
six year I come in Australia since

bulan Pibruari tahun pitungapuluh nom. Tolu
month February year seventy six three

bulan nya' tinggal di Austarali waktu sina
month I stay in Australia time that

bulan April anggomanku nyusul nya' ti Austara-
month April wife-my follow me to Austara-

li ri' sana' tolungabungkal. Anggomanku
lia with child three wife-my

ma' ngusung ana'ana'ku kornyinna waktu sina,
not bring children-my all time that

sobab nya' ma'kung mongsa lombahan say
because I not-yet get house which

gono' untu' ana' limangabungkal. Samantara
enough for child five temporary

sina ana'ku say ruangbungkal lagi tinggal
that child-my which two still stay

ri' uma'ku di Jakarta. Radu tolu
with mother-my in Jakarta already three

bulan anggomanku ratong, waktu sina bulan
month wife-my come time that month

Agustus ana'ana'ku say loko' tinggal di Ja-
Agust children-my which still stay in Ja-

karta nyusul, sobab nya' ko' mongsa
karta follow because I already get

lombahan say lobih balak gono' untu' sikam
house which more big enough for us

kornyin ana'miana'.
all family

'This is a story about myself with my wife and children in Australia. I am forty. I was born on February 28th '38. I am from Komering and my village is called Adumanis. Adumanis

is about 130 kilometres from Palembang. I am married and have children. I have five children: the oldest is twelve, the second ten, the third eight, the fourth seven and the youngest six. I have been in Australia since February, '76. I stayed in Australia for three months and then in April my wife followed me to Australia with three children. My wife did not bring all our children at that time, because I had not yet found a house adequate for five children. Meanwhile, the other two children still stayed with my mother in Jakarta. When my wife had been here for three months, in August, my children who had stayed in Jakarta followed us, because by then I had found a bigger house which was adequate for our whole family.

6. Influence of Indonesian/Malay

Indonesian/Malay (including the Palembang dialect) exerts considerable influence on Komerling, and this is particularly noticeable in the speech of educated or well-travelled speak-

ers. The influence extends to morphology (e.g. *par-*, *pa-*, 3.2 above) as well as to vocabulary (evidenced in 4 above).

Lexical influence is obviously strong in areas of 'official' discourse (e.g. *sikolah menengah* 'secondary school', *unipersitas* 'university', *terlarang* 'prohibited') but educated speakers frequently incorporate everyday items of vocabulary as well, both from Palembang (e.g. *bahaso* 'language') as well as from the national language (e.g. *makan* for *kani* 'eat', *lebih* for *lobih* 'more').

Macquarie University

References:

- Voorhoeve, P., 1955, *Critical Survey of Studies on the Languages of Sumatra*, Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague
- Walker, D.F., 1976, *A Grammar of the Lampung language: the Pesisir Dialect of Way Lima*, Badan Penyelenggara Seri NUSA, Jakarta.

* * *