LEXICAL VARIATION AND DISTRIBUTION IN PERAK MALAY: A GIS APPROACH

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INTRODUCTION

Dialect geography

Mountains, river basins, forest belt - topography

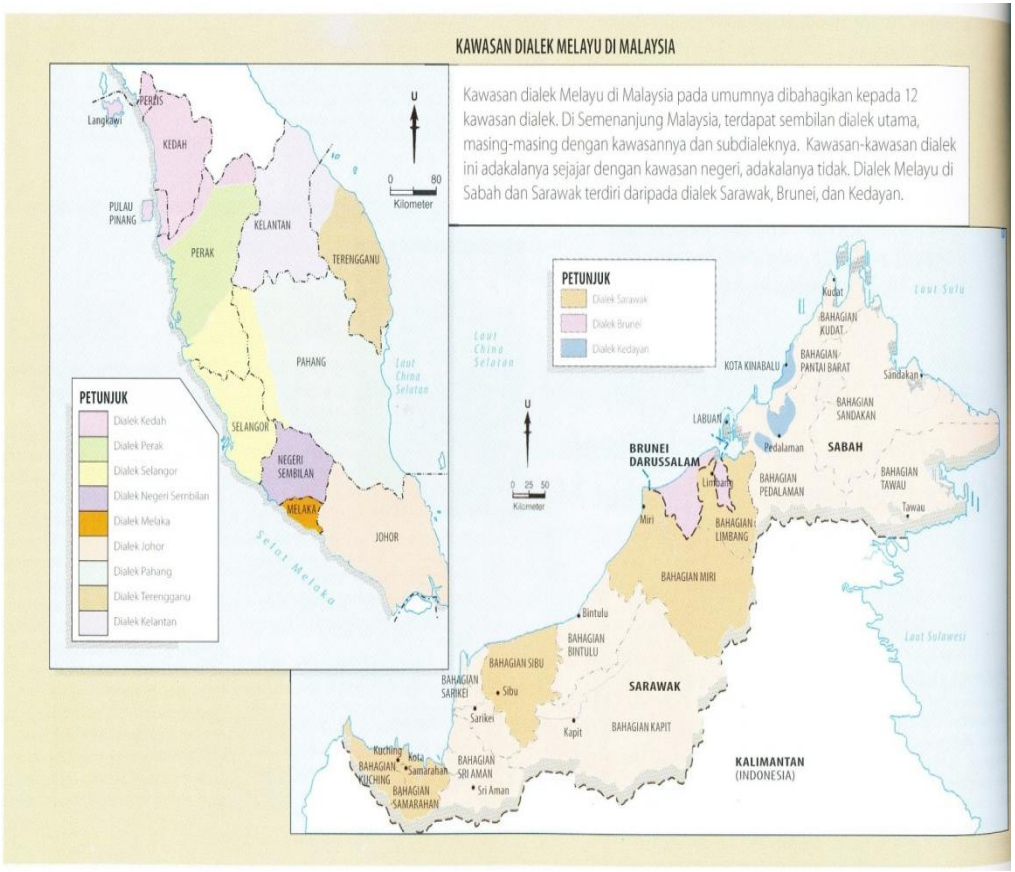
Migration, language contact, population density - demography

Contributing factors in dialect geography

Collins (1983), Ajid Che Kob (1985),

Rohani Yusof (1986)

THE DISTRIBUTION OF MALAY DIALECT



PREVIOUS STUDY

Asmah (1993)	Result	Geo-linguistics
• specifically describes and draws the linguistic boundaries or isoglosses that dissect various Malay dialects based on phonological, lexical and lexico-semantics features	• the linguistic boundaries that demarcated the dialects are drawn based on impressionistic analysis with very limited geographical information, as well as linguistic data.	• Integrating dialect with GIS. • Isogloss drawn is more systematic. • Lee and Kretschmar – LAMSAS (1993) • Luo et.al (2000) • Teerarojanarat and Tingsabadh (2008, 2011)

METHODOLOGY

fieldwork

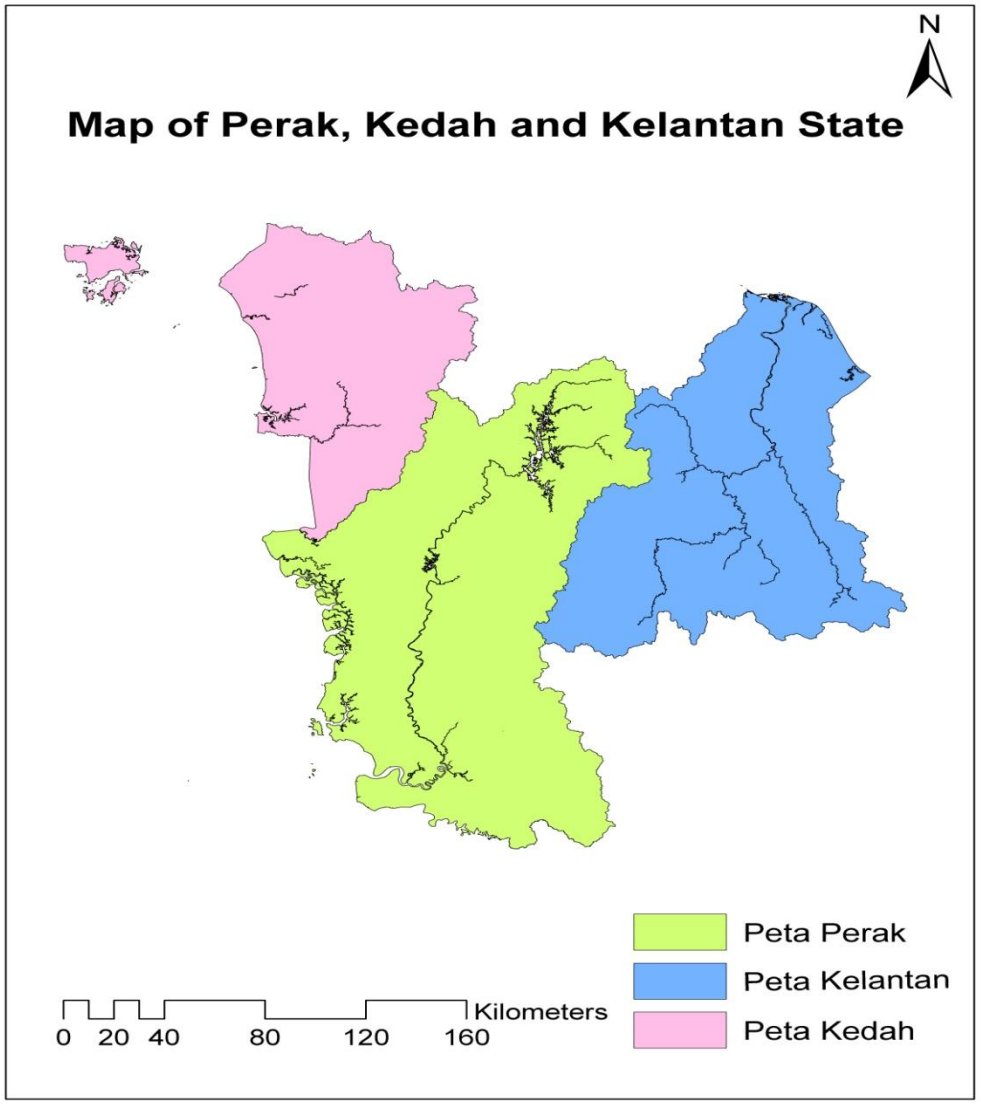
360 respondents

38 villages, North Perak

Interviews, questionnaires, wordlist

Phonetic transcription, Microsoft Office Excel, GIS

NORTH PERAK AND IT'S BORDERS



TOPOGRAPHY

EXIT 140
Kamunting
Taiping
Alor Star
George Town
Bkt. Mertajam

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Pronouns: I, you and they

Variants of pronouns found

Dialect from neighbors influenced the Northern Perak dialects

Kedah (west), Pattani Malay (north), Kelantan (north eastern) and Perak (south)

Topographic factors play an important role

CONT.

Topography of North Perak

An array of highlands that dissects the zone into two. One side facing Kedah and the other facing the southern Thai and Kelantan.

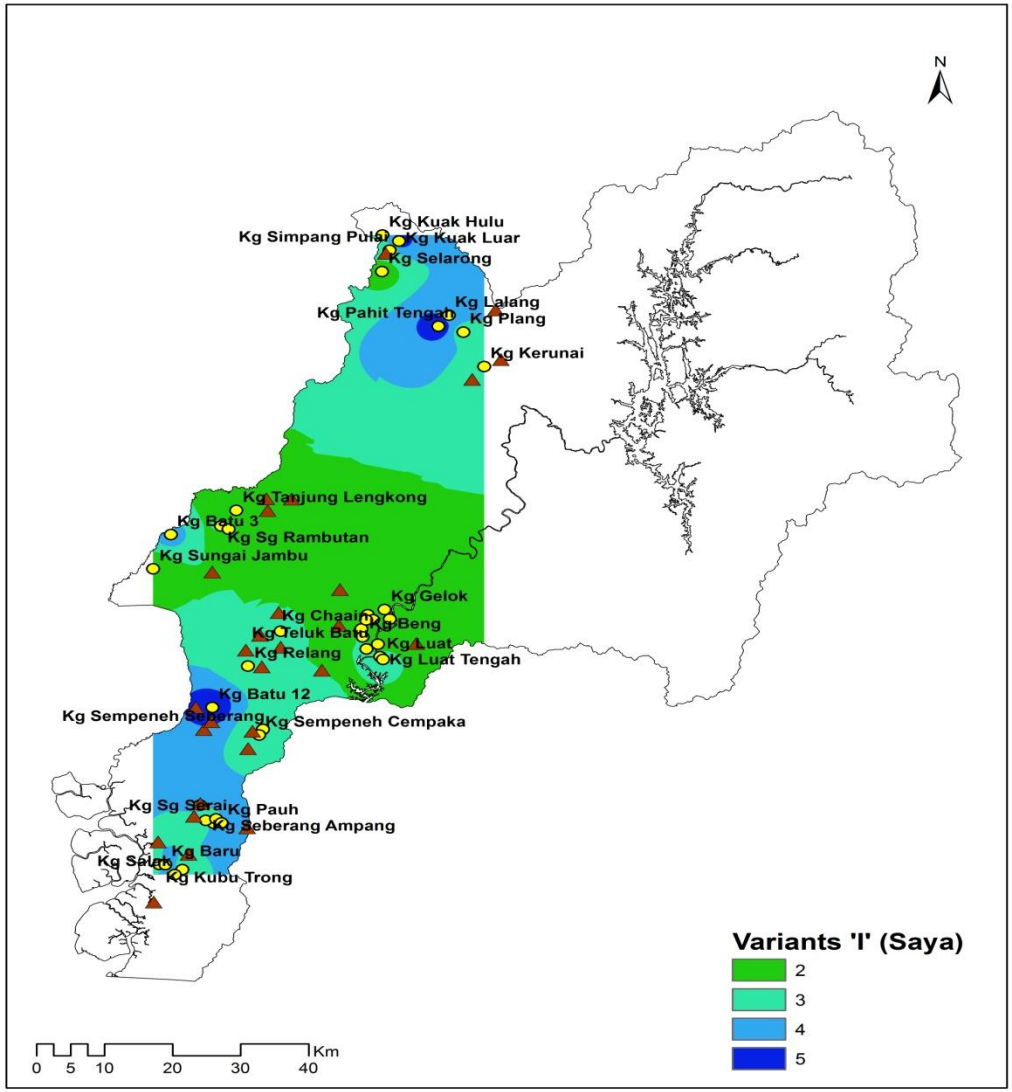
A big river known as Sungai Perak originated from Hulu Perak and ends at southern zone (Lenggong and Kuala Kangsar). In this area lies the lowlands.

A large lake to the east of Hulu Perak formed a large area of wetlands and very lightly populated. Most of the population in this area are Aslian people.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF VARIANTS 'I' (*SAYA*)

Lexical (L)	Larut Matang & Selama		Hulu Perak		Total	
L1- saya	2	(50%)	0	(0%)	2	(25%)
L2- sayə	3	(75%)	4	(100%)	7	(87.5%)
L3- sayɔ	1	(25%)	2	(50%)	3	(37.5%)
L4 – aku	4	(100%)	4	(100%)	8	(100%)
L9 – kami	2	(50%)	1	(25%)	3	(37.5%)

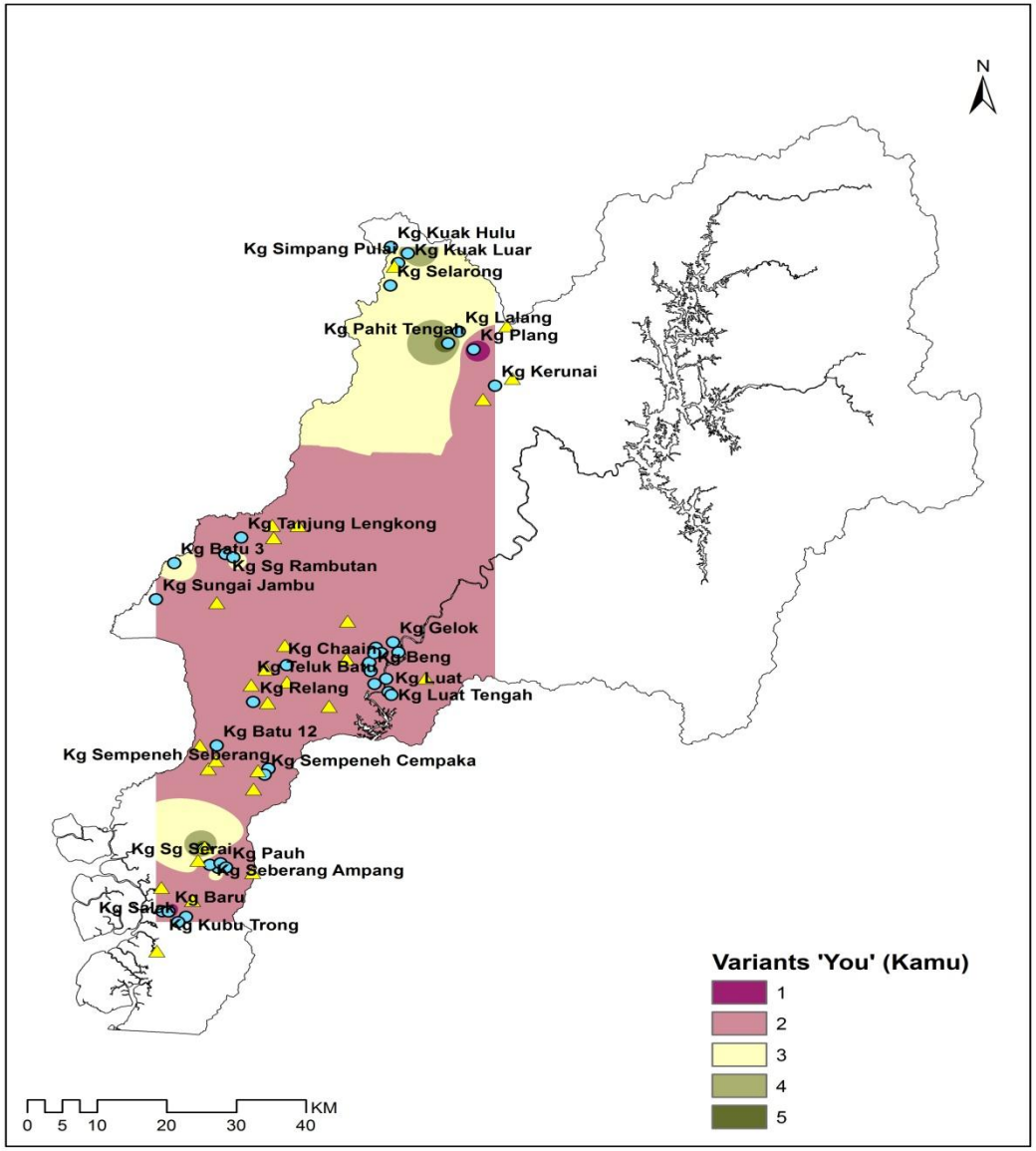
THE DISTRIBUTION OF 'I' -GIS



THE DISTRIBUTION OF VARIANTS 'YOU' (*KAMU*)

Lexical (L)	Larut Matang & Selama		Hulu Perak		Total	
L1 - kɑmu	3	(75%)	3	(75%)	6	(75%)
L2 - mu	2	(50%)	2	(50%)	4	(50%)
L3 – mung	0	(0%)	1	(25%)	1	(12.5%)
L5 - hangpa	1	(25%)	0	(0%)	1	(12.5%)
L6 – hang	3	(75%)	3	(75%)	6	(75%)
L9 – awak	1	(25%)	0	(0%)	1	(12.5%)
L11 - dɛmɔ	0	(0%)	1	(25%)	1	(12.5%)

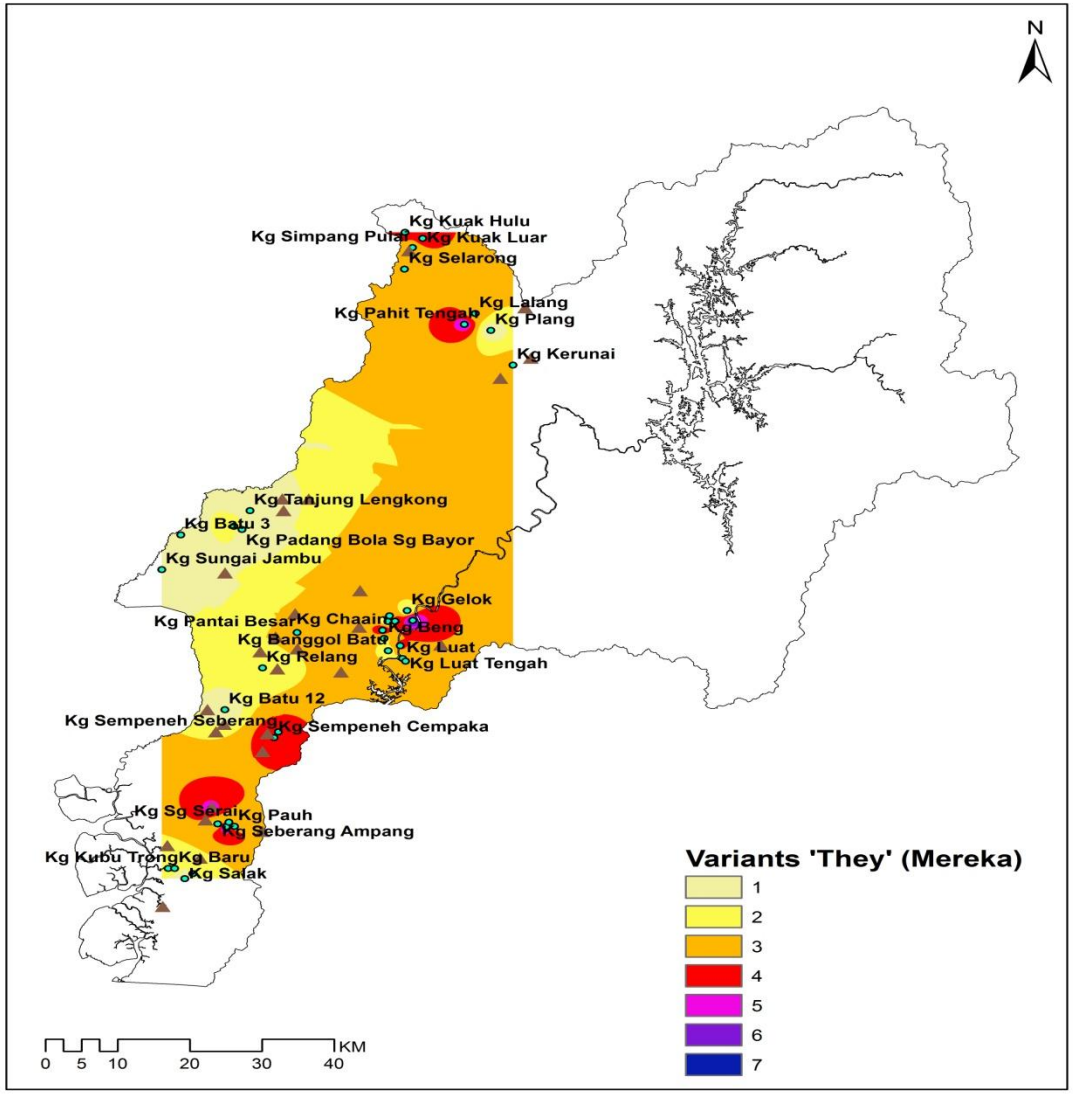
THE DISTRIBUTION OF 'YOU' - GIS



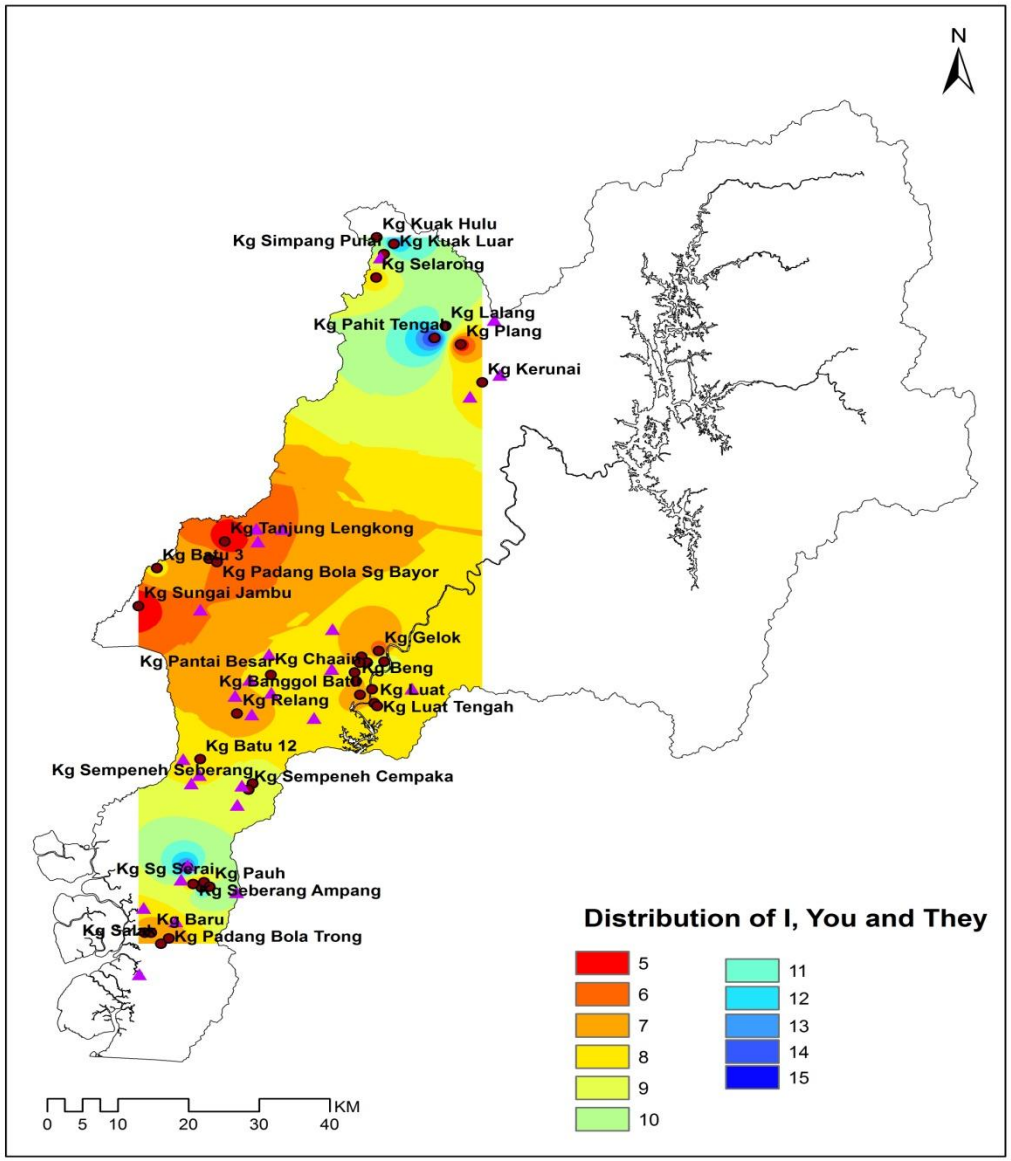
THE DISTRIBUTION OF VARIANTS 'THEY' (*MEREKA*)

Lexical (L)	Larut Matang & Selama		Hulu Perak		Total	
L1- dema	1	(25%)	0	(0%)	1	(12.5%)
L2 - demə	2	(50%)	2	(50%)	4	(50%)
L3- demɔ	1	(25%)	4	(100%)	5	(62.5%)
L4 – depa	4	(100%)	2	(50%)	6	(75%)
L6- dɛpɔ	2	(50%)	1	(25%)	3	(37.5%)
L7 – hangpa	2	(50%)	0	(0%)	2	(25%)
L10 - mikə	0	(0%)	1	(25%)	1	(12.5%)
L13 -məɣɛkɔ	0	(0%)	1	(25%)	1	(12.5%)
L14 – moha	0	(0%)	1	(25%)	1	(12.5%)

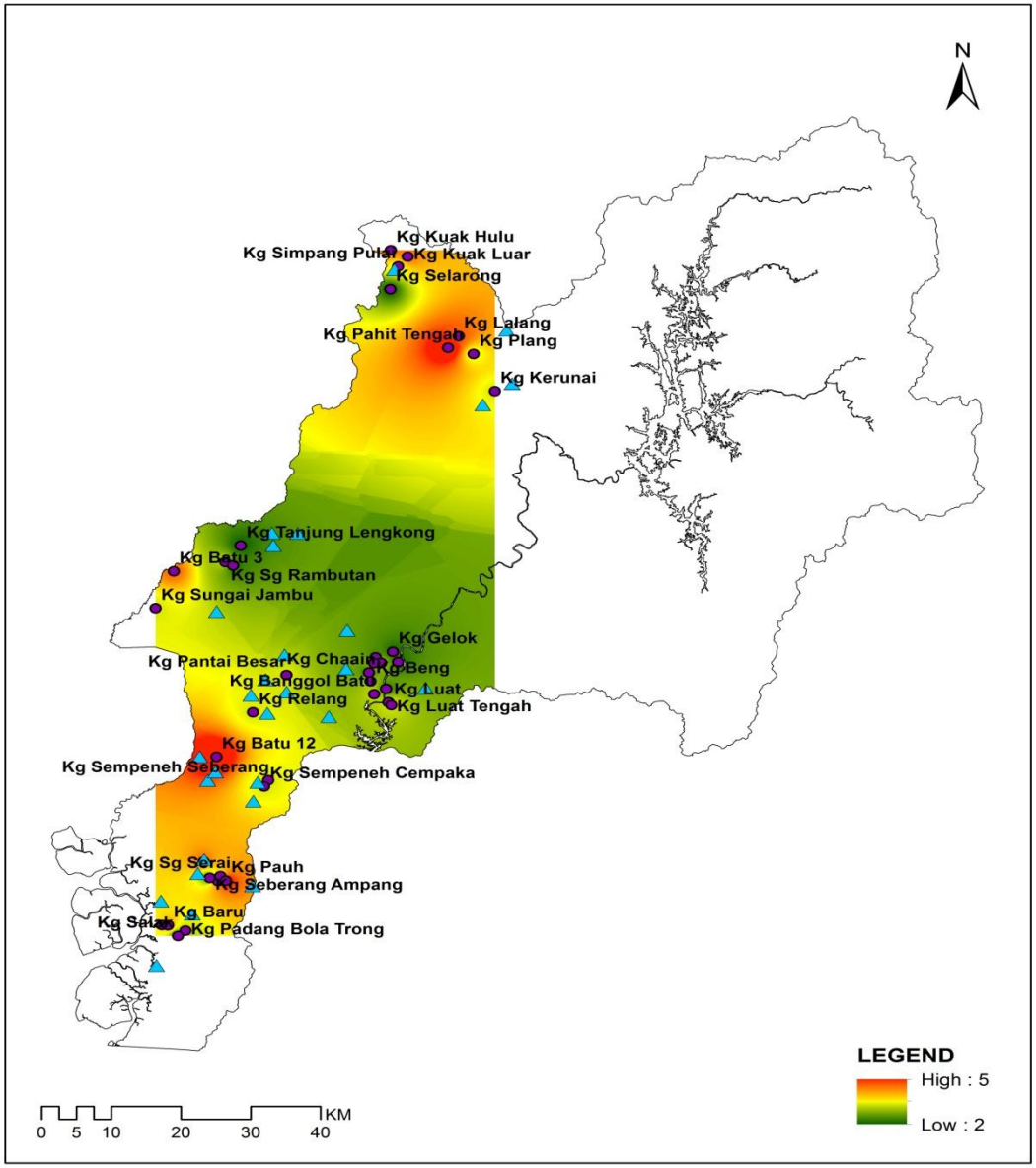
THE DISTRIBUTION OF 'THEY' - GIS



THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRONOUNS



THE OVERLAY OF 'I'



CONCLUSION

1

- The multiple variants appear in the lowlands, near a river, a densely populated area with many transportations access to the area.

2

- While interior area surrounded by highlands with no major access road will have the least variants of pronouns.

3

- GIS is considered as a reliable tool in mapping the distribution of the Malay dialect.