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LEXICAL ITEMS ABOUT WOMEN IN THE  
ENGLISH - MALAY BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

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CLOSED STACKS

This thesis is dedicated  
to the memory of  
my beloved father,  
Kantilal

and

To my mother  
Iccha

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## ABSTRACT

A bilingual dictionary records the relationships between the lexical items of two linguistic systems. Centuries of bilingual lexicography have shown that the relationships are normally expressed in terms of equivalence. Preferably the equivalence should be insertable in actual texts, monolexemic and as close as possible to the meaning of the entry word. However, the fact remains that one-to-one lexical correspondences across languages are rare.

This study examines the presentation of meaning in two English-Malay bilingual dictionaries, the *Kamus Dwi-Bahasa* and *Kamus Inggeris Melayu Dewan*. A corpus of two hundred and ten lexical items referring to women (or womanwords) are analysed. Componential analysis and selective feature analysis are the primary tools of analysis used to establish the relationships that the Malay meanings contract with the English entry words.

The analysis shows that the use of equivalence predominates to express meanings of the entry words. Glosses are used to discriminate the different senses of entry words. This is especially the case in the *Kamus Inggeris Melayu Dewan*. However, one-to-one correspondence between the lexical items of the two languages is rare. Often several Malay lexical items are needed to represent the various senses of one English entry. Translation from English to Malay results in a loss of meaning for some aspects of the English entries, but a gain in meaning about the specific contexts of use of the numerous Malay equivalents provided for the individual English entries. The inequalities and biases inherent in the English entries are not completely reflected in the Malay equivalents indicating that gender differences are not similarly created in both languages. A lack of absolute correspondence between the lexical items results in incongruencies which produce lexical gaps that are basically derivational, matrix type or attitudinal.



## ABSTRAK

Sesuatu kamus dwibahasa merekodkan hubungan antara item leksikal dua sistem linguistik. Berabad-abad leksikografi dwibahasa telah menunjukkan bahawa hubungan biasanya dinyatakan secara padanan makna. Sebaik-baiknya, padanan makna itu boleh diselitkan dalam teks itu sendiri, berciri monoleksimik dan sehampir mungkin dengan makna kata masukan. Bagaimanapun, hakikatnya ialah koresponden leksikal satu-dengan-satu antara bahasa jarang sekali ditemui.

Penyelidikan ini mengkaji penyampaian makna dalam dua kamus dwibahasa Inggeris-Melayu, iaitu *Kamus Dwi-Bahasa* dan *Kamus Inggeris Melayu Dewan*. Sebilangan dua ratus sepuluh item leksikal yang merujuk kepada wanita (atau perkataan-wanita) telah dianalisis. Analisis komponen dan analisis fitur (feature) pilihan adalah alat-alat utama analisis yang digunakan untuk mendapatkan perhubungan makna Melayu dengan yang Inggerisnya bagi kata masukan.

Analisis menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan padanan makna adalah dominan untuk menyampaikan makna perkataan masukan. 'Gloss' digunakan untuk membezakan erti yang berlainan bagi kata masukan. Ini dilakukan terutamanya oleh *Kamus Inggeris Melayu Dewan*. Bagaimanapun, koresponden satu-dengan-satu antara item leksikal kedua-dua bahasa jarang sekali ditemui. Sering kali beberapa item leksikal Melayu diperlukan untuk mewakili beberapa erti bagi satu kata masukan Inggeris. Terjemahan dari Inggeris ke Melayu menyebabkan kehilangan sebahagian makna bagi beberapa aspek kata masukan Inggeris, tetapi penambahan makna tentang penggunaan beberapa konteks khusus dari padanan bahasa Melayu yang diberikan untuk sesuatu masukan Inggeris. Ketidaksamaan dan pincang yang sedia ada dalam Inggeris tidak sepenuhnya digambarkan dalam Melayunya. Ini menunjukkan bahawa perbezaan gender tidak dibentuk dengan cara yang sama dalam kedua-dua bahasa. Terdapatnya perbezaan koresponden antara item leksikal menyebabkan ketidakserbasamaan yang menghasilkan jurang leksikal yang pada asalnya ialah derivatif, berjenis matriks atau sikap.

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