

## 6. Notes on Malay-Indonesian Studies in Italy

The Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples is a university, not an institute within a university, as its traditional name could suggest. This "Istituto" was founded more than two and half centuries ago as a religious institution aiming to train the Catholic missionaries to be sent to China. Its original name was "Collegio dei Cinesi". About a century ago it became a State-owned institution, afterwards a University.

The Istituto Universitario Orientale is the major centre in Italy for Oriental studies, nowadays, the second and third greater one being respectively the University of Venice, Ca' Foscari, and the "La Sapienza", University in Rome.

Only at the Istituto of Naples Malay-Indonesian as such is being taught, while at the University of Catania, Sicily, our colleague Giulio Soravia, professor in General Linguistics, pays particular attention to the languages of Indonesia, especially of North Sumatra (he is working presently on the Gayo Language) but also to those of Eastern Indonesia.

Recently, Mr. Pietro Scarduelli, a researcher at the institute of Anthropology, University of Turin, published a book on Nias, as a result of his research in that island. In my opinion this is a very serious work from both historical and anthropological points of view. I hope that Mr. Scarduelli and, of course, Giulio Soravia will participate in our next Colloquium.

While the oriental studies in Italy have an old tradition in a number of fields, as for instance Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, our field is rather young. This section at the Istituto Orientale was founded by the well-known scholar, Prof. Alessandro Bausani, in 1964. This section achieved within a relatively short period of 23 years a rather satisfying score with its 24 students, among which there are many who can be considered quite proficient. Most of them follow the Indonesian studies only for a two years course, their main interests being in other Asiatic fields, but there are also some ones who have chosen Indonesian for a complete four years course.

Another point is the "isolation" of the teaching of Malay-Indonesian in our Institute. The Oriental studies with a longer tradition in Italy can rely on a fairly good number of teachings in their respective areas, I mean not only "language and literature", but also archaeology, history, religion, sometimes philology and so on. It is so with Indology, Sinology etc. On the contrary, our teaching of "Lingua e letteratura indonesiana" is quite alone. Consequently the teachers feel that it is necessary to give the students, especially the beginners, a wider knowledge of the Malay-Indonesian world including such topics as geography, history, ethnology, religions. The teachers are three presently: Ibu Faizah Soenoto and I, as permanent professors, and Dr. Zainal Muttaqien, as assistant-lecturer with the specific task of language practice.

A very important and successful event in the last years was the association of our colleague Prof. Zeus Salazar of the University of Manila with our Istituto as a "visiting professor" during the academic years 1984/85 and 1986/87. The lectures delivered by Prof. Salazar on the history and ethnology of the Philippines were a great success and I am only happy for having introduced for the first time a teaching on the Philippines in an Italian university. This teaching of course was only temporarily not permanent for the time being, but for the future one can never say.

Research.- A significant research is that initiated by our colleague Prof. Faizah Soenoto in Madura some years ago, in order to gather the oral traditional tales: *Cerita Rakyat Madura*. She submitted a paper on this subject to the 4th Colloquium in Leiden, four years ago. In the meanwhile the research has been going on well, with an increasing number of tales directly registered in the island of Madura.

Another worth mentioning event is my participation in the Asiatic Lexicography Project of the ISMEO (Istituto di Studi per il Medio e l'Estremo Oriente), Rome, an important institution in the field of oriental studies and research in Italy outside the universities. This lexicographic project is being supported by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, that is the National Board for Scientific Research of Italy. From my association with this project I obtained annual funds for my research on the Chinese loan-words in Malay-Indonesian within the Indonesian Etymological Project, and also the possibility of publishing the list of the abovesaid loans.

Research in other fields on different subject (such as Standard Indonesian phonology and morphology, political history of Indonesia, literary criticism) is being discussed by us in Naples, and I do not know whether and when the works will be actually carried out. I think therefore that it is better to report on them during our next Colloquium.

L. Santa Maria, Naples

## 7. The State of Indonesian and Malayan Studies in Scandinavia

Indonesian studies have been carried out in the Scandinavian countries for more than two centuries. (1) Still, more comprehensive academic research has been established only during the past two decades. (2) After World War II, scholarly interest on Southeast Asia focused at first almost entirely on the mainland, and especially on Thailand where it could be built up on old Danish contacts. It was only at the end of the 1960's that conditions were created for work on the Southeast Asian countries on a larger scale.

Academic research on Indonesia and Malaysia started to grow during the 1970's, foremost in the field of social anthropology but also in other