

Greetings, Introductions, Addressing People

Selamat Datang "Welcome"

Selamat is the word that starts most greetings. It's like "good" in Good morning.

Selamat means safe. So literally it means something like:

"Let there be safety in..."

Datang means come.

So **Selamat Datang** means "Let there be safety in your coming" = 'Welcome'

We also looked at another word **tak** which means 'no'.

Examples:

Fred tak datang ke kelas.

'Fred didn't come to class'

Or we could say

Darryl datang ke kelas.

'Darryl came to class'

So we know:

<i>datang</i>	come
<i>ke</i>	to, towards
<i>kelas</i>	class
<i>tak</i>	no

And we can also say:

Datang ke Starbucks.

'Come to Starbucks'

Or we could say

Joshua tak datang

'Joshua didn't come'

Datang ke Wirtz 104

'Come to Wirtz 104'

Selamat pagi 'Good morning'

Selamat tengah hari 'Good day'

Selamat petang 'Good afternoon'

Selamat malam 'Good night'

Once again we see **selamat** interacting with other words, in this case times of the day. **Pagi** is morning, **malam** is night, **petang** is afternoon (maybe 3-7PM), **tengah hari** is middle [of the]day = noontime.

These four greetings are the typical way to start a conversation, in much the same way conversations can begin in the US with *Good morning*.

Apa khabar? 'What [is the] news?' = *How are you?*

Khabar baik 'Good news' = '*I'm fine*'

Remember the final **k is pronounced like a catch, like uh-oh.

Siapa nama? 'What is [your] name?' Literally 'Who [is the] name?'

Nama saya Jim. 'My name is Jim.' Literally 'Name I Jim'

Notice:

1. The word order is **the opposite** of English. In English 'my' goes in front of the noun 'my name' but in Malay we say 'my (I)' after the noun, *nama saya*.

Saya is the word for I or me or my.

2. Usually there is no way to say 'is' or 'are'. It's not necessary.

Examples:

Nama saya Jim. My name Jim,

no is. **Apa khabar** 'What news', **no** is.

Selamat jalan

A group of people are talking and someone decides to leave, he or she says 'Selamat tinggal' to everyone who is staying behind, and those people say 'Selamat jalan' to the person who is leaving.

****Selamat tinggal* 'Goodbye' (said to the persons staying behind, not leaving)

****Selamat jalan* 'Goodbye' (said to the persons leaving, not staying behind)

We already studied *Selamat* with nouns (times of the day) to make greetings, like *Selamat pagi* 'Good morning' and *Selamat* with verbs to make greetings, like *Selamat datang* 'Welcome'. Now we have two more greetings with verbs:

Selamat tinggal and *Selamat jalan*.

Tinggal means 'stay behind, or stay at, live at'

Jalan means 'travel, walk'

Before people say their goodbyes, sometimes there is a discussion about where everyone is going. Someone might ask:

Nak pergi ke mana?

Where are [you] going? Where will [you] go?

Nak marks **intention**, so it can mean 'want to' or 'wanna/will'.

Pergi means 'go'

Ke mana means 'to where'

So, **ke** = 'to, towards' and **mana** = 'where, which'

For example:

Tiffany: Dustin nak pergi ke mana?

Dustin: Saya nak pergi ke Chicago.

Tiffany: Saya nak pergi ke Rockford; Denard nak pergi ke Geneva.

Dustin: Selamat jalan.

Tiffany: Selamat jalan.

[Both say say Selamat jalan because both are going somewhere.]

Please note that you can ask people questions without using a pronoun or name: *Nak pergi ke mana?* 'Wanna go to where' (Literally), but because you are talking to that person he or she understands you asking him/her. It's like in English when you can drop pronouns when you are talking or texting someone: 'Wanna get something to eat?' 'Wanna go to Chicago with me?'

Here are some objects we talked about in class.

Malay	English
pen	pen
pensil	pencil
botol	bottle
beg	bag, hand bag
meja	table
kerusi	chair
Air	water
buku	book

Since these are not so different from English, you should be able to guess the items below:

komputer, resit, drebar, teksi

So we have questions like:

Itu apa? 'What is that?' (Pointing at something a little far away, in someone else's hand)

Ini pensil 'This is a pencil' (Holding up a pencil in his/her hand).

Itu	<i>that</i>
Ini	<i>this</i>

HP siapa? 'Whose cellphone [is it]?'

HP Guide. '[It is] Guide's cellphone.'

Botol siapa? 'Whose bottle [is it]?'

Botol Joseph. '[It is] Joseph's botol.'

Beg siapa? 'Whose bag [is it]?'

Beg dia 'His bag.'

We learned some pronouns:

saya 'I' Also 'me', 'mine'

dia 'he, she, it' Also 'him, her, it, his, her, its.'

kita 'our' E.g. Website kita. 'Our website'

We'll talk more about the pronouns later in the semester.

Terima kasih

We have learned some pronouns in Malay. **Saya** is the most neutral way to say I (me, my, mine). **Dia** is the usual way to say he or she or it (him her, his her).

The second person pronoun, you, is more complicated in Malay. There are several and other ways to address people. First, you have to choose a way to address a person based on his or her **age**. Then you have to consider his or her **job**. Usually in Malaysia you must know or must guess about someone's ethnic background. Is the person you want to talk to a Malay, Chinese, Southern Indian, Northern Indian or a Eurasian? And you try to guess the person's education too.

So it is very complicated. However, in our class, students will address each other by each other's first name. Students will address our teaching assistants as **Cik** or **Cik Jocelyn** and **Cik Afni**, and the teacher will be addressed as **Prof. Jim** or **Prof.** Later on we can learn other ways to say 'you'.

In Malay there are two different pronouns for we (us, our). If we say we and what is meant is all the people in the room, the word is **kita**. This is the inclusive we. We include in the meaning of we (**kita**) everyone who can hear or read what we say or write. There is another 'we' in Malay. If 'we' only refers to some of the people in the room, the word is **kami**. We might say 'Us teachers will write a test.' Us (we) is exclusive because it doesn't include the students in the room so it needs to be **kami**, not **kita**. This is the exclusive we.

We will see more examples and become accustomed to these two kinds of 'we'. There are more pronouns to learn, but these are good for now. About thanks. In most languages, we say thanks many times every day. It is a formula, a way of being polite. We say thanks to the cashier in Walmart, to someone who holds a door open for us, to the student at the check out desk in the library. We don't think twice about it, usually we just say thanks automatically. In Malay too, the phrase for thanks is a formula; people just say it. In Malay, we say **Terima kasih** 'Thanks'. Usually the person we say **Terima kasih** to, says **Sama-sama** in reply. **Sama-sama** is used like 'You're welcome' in English. These are formulas. In fact **terima** means 'accept' or 'receive' and **kasih** means 'affection'. So literally it means 'Receive affection'. But no one thinks of that when they pick up an order of fries at McDonalds in Kuala Lumpur. They say **Terima kasih**, and it's just away of being polite, like Thanks at a McDonalds in Chicago. The reply is **sama-sama**, literally 'Same [to you]', but no one thinks of that. It's just a formula like *You're welcome*.

We have to remember that the place where Malay is spoken is located between India and China. Today India and China are economic powerhouses, but until about 1850 India and China had always been economic powerhouses. Until European colonialism gained control of large parts of the world, China and India were the largest countries with the largest economies and the largest production of commercial products. That means that for 2000 years or more the Malay language has been the language spoken in the narrow straits where the traders of India and China passed.

That is why there are so many borrowed words from Indian languages (especially Sanskrit and Hindi) and from Chinese languages (especially Hokkien and Cantonese); there are also words from Farsi (Persian) and Arabic, as speakers of those two regions became involved in this trade too. Later many words were borrowed from Dutch and English. So even today many very old borrowed words are still widely used. So far in class we have used a lot of these borrowed words: **pen**, **pencil**, **hp**, **beg** (all from English), **saya** (from Sanskrit), **selamat** (from Arabic) but there are many more words and most of them are not borrowed words.