Javanese language

Javanese (/dʒɑːvəˈniːz/,[3] ꦧꦱꦗꦮ or باساجاوا; Javanese pronunciation: [bɔsɔ d͡ʒɔwɔ], colloquially known as ꦗꦮꦕꦫ or جاوا چارا; Javanese pronunciation: [t͡ʃɔrɔ d͡ʒɔwɔ]) is the language of the Javanese people from the central and eastern parts of the island of Java, in Indonesia. There are also pockets of Javanese speakers on the northern coast of western Java. It is the native language of more than 98 million people[4] (more than 42% of the total population of Indonesia).

Javanese is the largest of the Austronesian languages in number of native speakers. It has several regional dialects and a number of clearly distinct status styles.[5] Its closest relatives are the neighboring languages such as Sundanese, Madurese, and Balinese. Most speakers of Javanese also speak Indonesian for the official and commercial purposes as well as a means to communicate with non-Javanese-speaking Indonesians.

There are speakers of Javanese in Malaysia (concentrated in the West Coast part of the states of Selangor and Johor) and Singapore. Javanese is also spoken by traditional immigrant communities of Javanese descent in Suriname, Sri Lanka and New Caledonia.[6]

Along with Indonesian, Javanese is an official language in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia.[2]

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Basa Jawa ꦧꦱꦗꦮ باسا جاوا	
Basa (language) written in the Javanese script	
Pronunciation	[bɔsɔ d͡ʒɔwɔ]
Native to	Java (Indonesia)
Ethnicity	Javanese • Banyumasan • Cirebonese • Osing • Tenggerese
Native speakers	82 million (2007)[1]
Language family	Austronesian ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ **Javanese**
Early forms	Old Javanese ▪ Middle Javanese
Standard forms	Kawi (Early standard form) Surakartan Javanese (Modern standard form)
Dialects	Javanese dialects
Writing system	Latin script Javanese script Pegon alphabet
Official status	
Official language in	Special Region of Yogyakarta[2]
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	jv (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=jv)

Sources
Further reading
External links

ISO 639-2	jav (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=214)
ISO 639-3	Variously: jav – Javanese jvn – Caribbean Javanese jas – New Caledonian Javanese osi – Osing tes – Tenggerese kaw – Kawi
Glottolog	java1253 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/java1253)
Linguasphere	31-MFM-a

Dark green: areas where Javanese is the majority language. Light green: where it is a minority language.

Classification

Javanese is part of the Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian language family, although its precise relationship to other Malayo-Polynesian languages is hard to determine. Using lexicostatistical method, Isidore Dyen classified Javanese as part of the "Javo-Sumatra Hesion", which also includes the Sundanese and "Malayic" languages.[a][7][8] This grouping is also called "Malayo-Javanic" by linguist Berndt Nothofer, who was the first to attempt a reconstruction of it based on only four languages with best attestation at the time (Javanese, Sundanese, Madurese, and Malay).[9]

Malayo-Javanic has been criticized and rejected by various linguists.[10][11] Alexander Adelaar does not include Javanese in his proposed Malayo-Sumbawan grouping (which also covers Malayic, Sundanese, and Madurese languages).[11][12] Robert Blust also does not include Javanese in the Greater North Borneo subgroup, which he proposes as an alternative to Malayo-Sumbawan grouping. However, Blust also expresses the possibility that Greater North Borneo languages are closely related to many other western Indonesian languages, including Javanese.[13] Blust's suggestion has been further elaborated by Alexander Smith, who includes Javanese in the Western Indonesian grouping (which also includes GNB and several other subgroups), which Smith considers as one of Malayo-Polynesian's primary branches.[14]

History

In general, the history of the Javanese language can be divided into two distinct phases: 1) Old Javanese and 2) New Javanese.[12][15]

Old Javanese

The earliest attested form of Old Javanese can be found in the Sukabumi inscription, which dates from 804 CE.[16] Between the 9th and the 15th century, this form of Javanese flourished in the island of Java. Old Javanese is commonly written in the form of verses. This language variety is also called *kawi* or 'of poets, poetical', although this term could also be used to refer to the archaic elements of New Javanese literature.[12] The writing system used to write Old Javanese is a descendant of the Pallava script from India.[17] Almost half of the entire vocabularies found in Old Javanese literature are Sanskrit loanwords, although Old Javanese also borrowed terms from other languages in the Maritime Southeast Asia.[12][17]

Play media

Two Javanese speakers, recorded in Indonesia.

The form of Old Javanese found in several texts from 14th century onward (mostly written in Bali) is sometimes referred to as "Middle Javanese". Both Old and Middle Javanese written forms are no longer widely used in Java since early 16th century. However, Old Javanese works and poetic tradition continue to be preserved in the Javanese-influenced Bali, and the variety is also used for religious purpose.[12][18]

New Javanese

New Javanese emerged as the main literary form of Javanese in the 16th century. The change in the literary system happened as Islam started to gain influence in Java.[15] In its early form, New Javanese literary form was based on the variety spoken in the north coast of Java, where Islam had already gained foothold among the local people. Many of the written works in this variety were Islamic in nature, and several of them were translation from works in Malay.[19] The Arabic abjad was also adopted (as Pegon) to write Javanese.[15][19]

The rise of Mataram in the 17th century shifted the main literary form of Javanese to be based on the inland variety. This written tradition of Javanese was preserved by writers of Surakarta and Yogyakarta, and later became the basis of the modern written standard of Javanese.[19] Another linguistic development associated with the rise of Mataram is the stratification of Javanese into speech levels such as *ngoko* and *krama*.[20] Speech levels were unknown in Old Javanese.[19][20]

Books in Javanese were printed since 1830s, at first using the Javanese script, although the Latin alphabet started to be used later. Since mid-19th century, Javanese started to be used in newspapers and travelogue, and later on, also novels, short stories, as well as free verses. Today, Javanese is used in many media, ranging from books to TV programs, and the language is also taught at schools in primarily Javanese areas. The variety of New Javanese used since the 20th century is sometimes referred to as "Modern Javanese".[19]

Speakers

The word *Jawa* (Java) written in Javanese script.

The language is spoken in Yogyakarta, Central and East Java, as well as on the north coast of West Java and Banten. It is also spoken elsewhere by the Javanese people in other provinces of Indonesia, which are numerous due to the government-sanctioned transmigration program in the late 20th century, including Lampung, Jambi, and North Sumatra provinces. In Suriname, Javanese is spoken among descendants of plantation migrants brought by the Dutch during the 19th century. In Madura, Bali, Lombok, and the Sunda region of West Java, it is also used as a literary language. It was the court language in Palembang, South Sumatra, until the palace was sacked by the Dutch in the late 18th century.

Javanese is written with the Latin script, Javanese script, and Arabic script.[21] In the present day, the Latin script dominates writings, although the Javanese script is still taught as part of the compulsory Javanese language subject in elementary up to high school levels in Yogyakarta, Central and East Java.

Javanese is the tenth largest language by native speakers and the largest language without official status at the national level. It is spoken or understood by approximately 100 million people. At least 45% of the total population of Indonesia are of Javanese descent or live in an area where Javanese is the dominant language. All seven Indonesian presidents since 1945 have been of Javanese descent.[b] It is therefore not surprising that Javanese has had a deep influence on the development of Indonesian, the national language of Indonesia.

There are three main dialects of the modern language: Central Javanese, Eastern Javanese, and Western Javanese. These three dialects form a dialect continuum from northern Banten in the extreme west of Java to Banyuwangi Regency in the eastern corner of the island. All Javanese dialects are more or less mutually intelligible.

Official recognition

Javanese is designated as the official language of the Special Region of Yogyakarta under Yogyakarta Special Region Regulation Number 2 of 2021.[2] Previously, Central Java promulgated a similar regulation—Regional Regulation 9/2012[22]—but this did not imply an official status for the language.

Phonology

The phonemes of Modern Standard Javanese as shown below.[23][24]

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-mid	e	ə	o
Open-mid	(ɛ)		(ɔ)
Open		a	

In closed syllables the vowels /i u e o/ are pronounced [ɪ ʊ ɛ ɔ] respectively.[23][25] In open syllables, /e o/ are also [ɛ ɔ] when the following vowel is /i u/ in an open syllable; otherwise they are /ə/, or identical (/e...e/, /o...o/). In the standard dialect of Surakarta, /a/ is pronounced [ɔ] in word-final open syllables, and in any open penultimate syllable before such an [ɔ].

Consonants

	Labial		Dental/ Alveolar		Retroflex		Palatal		Velar		Glottal
Nasal		m		n				ɲ		ŋ	
Stop/Affricate	p	b̪	t̪	d̪	ʈ	ɖ	tʃ	dʒ̊	k	g̊	ʔ
Fricative			s								h
Approximant (Lateral)								j		w	
				l							
Rhotic				r							

The Javanese "voiced" phonemes are not in fact voiced but voiceless, with breathy voice on the following vowel.[23] The relevant distinction in phonation of the plosives is described as stiff voice versus slack voice.[26][24]

A Javanese syllable can have the following form: CSVC, where C = consonant, S = sonorant (/j/, /r/, /l/, /w/, or any nasal consonant), and V = vowel. As with other Austronesian languages, native Javanese roots consist of two syllables; words consisting of more than three syllables are broken up into groups of disyllabic words for pronunciation. In Modern Javanese, a disyllabic root is of the following type: nCsvVnCsvVC.

Apart from Madurese, Javanese is the only language of Western Indonesia to possess a distinction between dental and retroflex phonemes.[23] The latter sounds are transcribed as "th" and "dh" in the modern Roman script, but previously by the use of an underdot: "ṭ" and "ḍ".

Morphology

Javanese, like many other Austronesian languages, is an agglutinative language, where base words are modified through extensive use of affixes.

Syntax

Modern Javanese usually employs SVO word order. However, Old Javanese sometimes had VSO and sometimes VOS word order. Even in Modern Javanese, archaic sentences using VSO structure can still be made.

Examples:

- Modern Javanese: "*Dhèwèké* (S) *teka* (V) *ing* (pp.) *karaton* (O)".[27]
- Old Javanese: "*Teka* (V) *ta* (part.) *sira* (S) *ri* (pp.) *-ng* (def. art.) *kadhatwan* (O)".[c]

Both sentences mean: "He (S) comes (V) into (pp.) the (def. art.) palace (O)". In the Old Javanese sentence, the verb is placed at the beginning and is separated by the particle *ta* from the rest of the sentence. In Modern Javanese the definite article is lost, and definiteness is expressed by other means if necessary.

Verbs are not inflected for person or number. There is no grammatical tense; time is expressed by auxiliary words meaning "yesterday", "already", etc. There is a complex system of verb affixes to express differences of status in subject and object. However, in general the structure of Javanese sentences both Old and Modern can be described using the topic–comment model, without having to refer to conventional grammatical categories. The topic is the head of the sentence; the comment is the modifier. So the example sentence has a simpler description: *Dhèwèké* = *topic*; *teka* = comment; *ing karaton* = setting.

Vocabulary

Javanese has a rich and varied vocabulary, with many loanwords supplementing those from the native Austronesian base. Sanskrit has had a deep and lasting impact. The *Old Javanese–English Dictionary* contains approximately 25,500 entries, over 12,600 of which are borrowings from Sanskrit.[28] Such a high number is no measure of usage, but it does suggest the extent to which the language adopted Sanskrit words for formal purposes. In a typical Old Javanese literary work about 25% of the vocabulary is from Sanskrit. Many Javanese personal names also have clearly recognisable Sanskrit roots.

Sanskrit words are still very much in use. Modern speakers may describe Old Javanese and Sanskrit words as *kawi* (roughly meaning "literary"); but *kawi* words may also be from Arabic. Dutch and Malay are influential as well; but none of these rivals the position of Sanskrit.

There are far fewer Arabic loanwords in Javanese than in Malay, and they are usually concerned with Islamic religion. Nevertheless, some words have entered the basic vocabulary, such as *pikir* ("to think", from the Arabic *fikr*), *badan* ("body"), *mripat* ("eye", thought to be derived from the Arabic *ma'rifah*, meaning "knowledge" or "vision"). However, these Arabic words typically have native

Austronesian or Sanskrit alternatives: *pikir* = *galih*, *idhep* (Austronesian) and *manah*, *cipta*, or *cita* (from Sanskrit); *badan* = *awak* (Austronesian) and *slira*, *sarira*, or *angga* (from Sanskrit); and *mripat* = *mata* (Austronesian) and *soca* or *nétra* (from Sanskrit).

Dutch loanwords usually have the same form and meaning as in Indonesian, with a few exceptions such as:

Javanese	Indonesian	Dutch	English
pit	*sepeda*	*fiets*	bicycle
pit montor	*sepeda motor*	*motorfiets*	motorcycle
sepur	*kereta api*	*spoor*, i.e. (rail) track	train

The word *sepur* also exists in Indonesian, but there it has preserved the *literal* Dutch meaning of "railway tracks", while the Javanese word follows Dutch *figurative* use, and "spoor" (lit. "rail") is used as metonymy for "trein" (lit. "train"). (Compare a similar metonymic use in English: "to travel by rail" may be used for "to travel by train".)

Malay was the lingua franca of the Indonesian archipelago before the proclamation of Indonesian independence in 1945; and Indonesian, which was based on Malay, is now the official language of Indonesia. As a consequence, there has been an influx of Malay and Indonesian vocabulary into Javanese. Many of these words are concerned with bureaucracy or politics.

Registers

In common with other Austronesian languages, Javanese is spoken differently depending on the social context. In Austronesian there are often three distinct styles or registers.[29] Each employs its own vocabulary, grammatical rules, and even prosody. In Javanese these styles are called:

1. *Ngoko* (ꦔꦺꦴꦏꦺꦴ). Informal speech, used between friends and close relatives. It is also used by persons of higher status (such as elders, or bosses) addressing those of lower status (young people, or subordinates in the workplace).
2. *Madya* (ꦩꦢྱ). Intermediate between *ngoko* and *krama*. Strangers on the street would use it, where status differences may be unknown and one wants to be neither too formal nor too informal. The term is from Sanskrit *madhya* ("middle").[30]
3. *Krama* (ꦏꦿꦩ). The polite and formal style. It is used between those of the same status when they do not wish to be informal. It is used by persons of lower status to persons of higher status, such as young people to their elders, or subordinates to bosses; and it is the official style for public speeches, announcements, etc. The term is from Sanskrit *krama* ("in order").[30]

A Javanese noble lady (left) would address her servant with one vocabulary, and be answered with another. (Studio portrait of painter Raden Saleh's wife and a servant, colonial Batavia, 1860–1872.)

There are also "meta-style" honorific words, and their converse "humilifics". Speakers use "humble" words concerning themselves, but honorific words concerning anyone of greater age of higher social status. The humilific words are called *krama andhap*, while the honorifics are called *krama inggil*. Children typically use the *ngoko* style, but in talking to the parents they must be competent with both *krama inggil* and *krama andhap*.

The most polite word meaning "eat" is *dhahar*. But it is forbidden to use these most polite words for oneself, except when talking with someone of lower status; and in this case, *ngoko* style is used. Such most polite words are reserved for addressing people of higher status:

- Mixed usages
  - (honorific – addressing someone of high status) *Bapak kersa dhahar?* ("Do you want to eat?"; literally "Does father want to eat?")
  - (reply to a person of lower status, expressing speaker's superiority) *Iya, aku kersa dhahar.* ("Yes, I want to eat.")
  - (reply to a person of lower status, but without expressing superiority) *Iya, aku arep mangan.*
  - (reply to a person of equal status) *Inggih, kula badhé nedha.*

The use of these different styles is complicated and requires thorough knowledge of Javanese culture, which adds to the difficulty of Javanese for foreigners. The full system is not usually mastered by most Javanese themselves, who might use only the *ngoko* and a rudimentary form of the *krama*. People who can correctly use the different styles are held in high esteem.

Dialects of modern Javanese

There are three main groups of Javanese dialects, based on sub-regions: Western Javanese, Central Javanese, and Eastern Javanese. The differences are primarily in pronunciation, but with vocabulary differences also. Javanese dialects are all mutually intelligible.

Susuhunan Pakubuwono X of Surakarta. Surakarta has been a center of Javanese culture, and its dialect is regarded as the most "refined".

Central Javanese (*Jawa Tengahan*) is founded on the speech of Surakarta[d] and to a lesser extent of Yogyakarta. It is considered the most "refined" of the regional variants, and serves as a model for the standard language. Those two cities are the seats of four Javanese principalities (heirs to the Mataram Sultanate) that once dominated the whole of Java and beyond. This variant is used throughout Central Java and the Special Region of Yogyakarta, and there are many lower-level dialects such as *Muria* and *Semarangan*, as well as *Surakarta* and *Yogyakarta* themselves. The variations in Central Java are said to be so plentiful that almost every administrative region (or *kabupatèn*) has its own local slang; but those minor dialects are not seen as distinct by most Javanese speakers.

Central Javanese is also used in the western part of East Java province. For example, Javanese spoken in the Madiun region (along with Javanese spoken in Blitar, Ponorogo, Pacitan, and Tulungagung, and central parts of Kediri) bears a strong influence of Surakarta Javanese.

1. **Mataraman dialect / Standard dialect** is spoken commonly in Yogyakarta, Surakarta, Klaten, Karanganyar, Wonogiri, Sukoharjo, Sragen, and Boyolali.
2. **Pekalongan dialect** is spoken in Pekalongan and Pekalongan regency, and also in Pemalang.
3. **Kedu dialect** is spoken in the former Kedu residency, including: Temanggung, Kebumen, Magelang, and Wonosobo.
4. **Bagelen dialect** is spoken in Purworejo.
5. **Semarang dialect** is spoken in Semarang, Semarang regency, and also Salatiga, Demak and Kendal.
6. **Eastern North-Coast dialect**, or *dhialèk Muria*, is spoken in Jepara, Rembang, Kudus, Pati, and also in Tuban and Bojonegoro.
7. **Blora dialect** is spoken in Blora, the eastern part of Grobogan, and the western part of Ngawi.
8. **Madiunan dialect** is spoken mainly in western part of East Java province, including Madiun, Blitar, Ngawi, Pacitan, Ponorogo, and Magetan.

Western Javanese (*Jawa Kulonan*), spoken in the western part of the Central Java province and throughout the West Java province (particularly on the north coast), includes dialects that are distinct for their Sundanese influences. It retains many archaic words.

1. **North Banten dialect** (*Jawa Sérang*) is spoken in Serang, Cilegon, and the western part of Tangerang regency.
2. **Cirebon dialect** (*Cirebonan* or *Basa Cerbon*) is spoken in Cirebon, Indramayu and Losari.
3. **Tegal dialect**, known as *Tegalan* or *Dhialèk Pantura* (North-Coast dialect), is spoken in Tegal, Brebes, and the western part of Pemalang regency.
4. **Banyumas dialect**, known as *Banyumasan*, is spoken in Banyumas, Cilacap, Purbalingga, Banjarnegara, and Bumiayu.

Some Western Javanese dialects such as Banyumasan dialects and Tegal dialect are sometimes referred to as *basa ngapak* by other Javanese.

Eastern Javanese (*Jawa Wétanan*) speakers range from the eastern banks of Brantas River in Kertosono, and from Nganjuk to Banyuwangi, comprising the majority of the East Java province excluding Madura island. However, the variant has been influenced by Madurese.

The most outlying Eastern Javanese dialect is spoken in Balambangan (or Banyuwangi). It is generally known as *Basa Using*. *Using*, a local negation word, is a cognate of *tusing* in Balinese.

1. **Arekan dialect** is commonly spoken in Surabaya, Malang, Gresik, Mojokerto, Pasuruan, Lumajang, Lamongan and Sidoarjo. Many Madurese people also use this dialect as their second language.
2. **Jombang dialect**
3. **Tengger dialect** used by Tengger people, which is centered in thirty villages in the isolated Tengger mountains (Mount Bromo) within the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in East-Central Java.
4. **Osing dialect** spoken in Banyuwangi.

Surinamese-Javanese is mainly based on Central Javanese, especially from Kedu residency. The number of speakers of Suriname-Javanese in Suriname was estimated at 60,000 as of 2012.[31] Most Surinamese-Javanese are bi- or trilingual. According to the 2004 census, Surinamese-Javanese was the first or second language in 11 percent of households. In a 2012 study of multilingualism in Surinamese education by the Dutch Language Union,[31] 3,497 out of 22,643 pupils (15 percent) in primary education indicated Surinamese-Javanese as a language spoken at home. Most of them were living in Wanica and Paramaribo districts.

Not all immigrants from Indonesia to Suriname were speakers of Javanese. Immigration records show that 90 percent of immigrants were Javanese, with 5 percent Sundanese, 0.5 percent Madurese and 2.5 percent from Batavia. The ethnic composition of this last group was not determinable. Probably Sundanese, Madurese or Malay speaking immigrants were forced to learn Javanese during their stay in Suriname to adapt. In view of the language policies in Netherlands Indies at the time of immigration, it is unlikely the immigrants had knowledge of the Dutch language prior to immigration to Suriname. Dutch today is the official language of Suriname.

Surinamese Javanese is somewhat different from Indonesian Javanese.[32][33] In Surinamese-Javanese there is a difference between formal and informal speech. Surinamese-Javanese took many loanwords from languages like Dutch, Sranantongo, Sarnami and Indonesian. The influence of the latter language, which is not spoken in Suriname, can be attributed to the Indonesian embassy and Islamic teachers from Indonesia. Indonesian movies are popular, and usually shown without subtitles on Surinamese-Javanese television channels.

Surinamese-Javanese[32]	Sranantongo	Dutch	English
ngabrah	abra	over	across
bakrah	bakra	blanke	white man
blangkeman	blakaman	neger	black man
pernangsi	pernasi	plantage	plantation
sekaut	skowtu	schout (politieagent)	policeman

In 1986, the Surinamese government adopted an official spelling for Surinamese-Javanese. It is seldom used as a written language, however.

In the 2012 survey, pupils who indicated Surinamese-Javanese as a language spoken at home, reported Dutch (97.9 percent) and Sranantongo (76.9 percent) also being spoken in the household.

Surinamese-Javanese speaking pupils report high proficiency in speaking and understanding, but very low literacy in the language. They report a low preference for the language in interaction with family members, including their parents, with the exception of their grandparents. Pupils where Surinamese-Javanese is spoken at tend at home to speak Dutch (77 percent) rather than Surinamese-Javanese (12 percent).

Phonetic differences

Phoneme /i/ at closed ultima is pronounced as [ɪ] in Central Javanese (Surakarta–Yogyakarta dialect), as [i] in Western Javanese (Banyumasan dialect), and as [ɛ] in Eastern Javanese.

Phoneme /u/ at closed ultima is pronounced as [ʊ] in Central Javanese, as [u] in Western Javanese, and as [ɔ] in Eastern Javanese.

Phoneme /a/ at closed ultima in Central Javanese is pronounced as [a] and at open ultima as [ɔ]. Regardless of position, it tends toward [a] in Western Javanese and as [ɔ] in Eastern Javanese.

Western Javanese tends to add a glottal stop at the end of word-final vowels, e.g.: *Ana apa?* [anaʔ apaʔ] "What happened?", *Aja kaya kuwè!* [adʒaʔ kajaʔ kuwɛʔ] "Don't be like that!".

Dialectal Phonetics

Phoneme	Orthography	Central Javanese (standard)	Western Javanese	Eastern Javanese	English
/i/	getih	[ɡə̥ʈ̪ɪh]	[ɡə̥ʈ̪ih]	[ɡə̥ʈ̪ɛh]	*blood*
/u/	abuh	[ab̥ʊh]	[ab̥uh]	[ab̥ɔh]	*swollen*
/a/	lenga	[ləŋɔ]	[ləŋa]	[ləŋɔ]	*oil*
/a/	kancamu/kancané kowé	[kaɲʧamu]	[kaɲʧanɛ kowɛ]	[kɔɲʧɔmu]	*your friend*

Final consonant devoicing occurs in the standard Central Javanese dialect, but not in Banyumasan. For example, *endhog* (egg) is pronounced [əɳɖ̥ɔk] in standard Central Javanese, but [əɳɖ̥ɔg] in Banyumasan. The latter is closer to Old Javanese.[34]

Vocabulary differences

The vocabulary of standard Javanese is enriched by dialectal words. For example, to get the meaning of "you", Western Javanese speakers say *rika* /rikaʔ/, Eastern Javanese use *kon* /kɔn/ or *koen* /kɔən/, and Central Javanese speakers say *kowé* /kowe/. Another example is the expression of "how": the Tegal dialect of Western Javanese uses *kepribèn* /kəpriben/, the Banyumasan dialect of

Western Javanese employs *kepriwé* /kəpriwe/ or *kepriwèn* /kəpriwen/, Eastern Javanese speakers say *ya' apa* /jɔʔ ɔpɔ/ – originally meaning "like what" (*kaya apa* in standard Javanese) or *kepiyé* /kəpije/ – and Central Javanese speakers say *piye* /pije/ or *kepriyé* /kəprije/.

Surakarta-Yogyakarta (standard)	Northern Banten	Cirebon-Indramayu	Tegal-Brebes	Banyumas	Surabaya	English
aku	kite	kita, isun	enyong	inyong	aku, awakku	I, me
kowé	sire	sira	koen	rika, kowè	koen, awakmu	you
tenan	pisan	pisan	temen	temen	temenan, temen	truly
kepiyé, piyé	keprimèn	kepribèn, kepriwè	kepribèn	kepriwè	ya'apa	how
ora	ore	ora, beli	ora, belih	ora	gak, ora	not
mlebu	manjing	manjing	manjing, mlebu	mlebu	melbu, menjero	to enter
arep	arep	arep, pan	pan	arep	apé, até, katé	will
saka	sake	sing	sing	sekang	teka	from

The Madiun–Kediri dialect has some idiosyncratic vocabulary, such as *panggah* 'still' (standard Javanese: *pancet*), *lagèk* 'progressive modal' (standard Javanese: *lagi*), and emphatic particles *nda*, *pèh*, and *lé*.[35]

Classification

A preliminary general classification of Javanese dialects given by the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology's Department of Linguistics is as follows.[36] Pesisir (Pemalang) and Tengger are considered to be among the most conservative dialects.[37][38] The Banten, Pesisir Lor, Banyumas, Tengger, and Osing dialects do not have the vowel raising and vowel harmony features that are innovations of the "standard" Solo and Yogyakarta dialects.

- **West Javanese**:
  - Banten
  - Cirebon
- **Central Javanese**:
  - Pesisir Lor dialects[37]
    - Tegal
    - Pemalang
    - Pekalongan
  - Yogyakarta
  - Surakarta/Solo
  - Semarang
  - Banyumas[34]
    - Cilacap
    - Purwokerto
    - Kebumen
- **East Javanese**:
  - Surabaya
  - Malang
  - Madiun-Kediri-Nganjuk[35]
  - Lumajang
  - Osing[39]
  - Banyuwangi
  - Tengger

    - Ngadas
    - Ranu Pane
- **Outer Javanese**
    - Papuan Javanese

Standard Javanese

Standard Javanese is the variety of the Javanese language that was developed at the Yogyakarta and Surakarta courts, based on the Central Javanese dialect, and becomes the basis for the Javanese modern writings. It is marked with the strict usage of two speech levels for politeness, i.e. low speech level called *ngoko* and high speech level called *krama*. Other dialects do not contrast the usage of the speech levels.[40]

Javanese script

A modern bilingual text in Portuguese and Javanese in Yogyakarta.

Javanese has been traditionally written with Javanese script. Javanese and the related Balinese script are modern variants of the old Kawi script, a Brahmic script introduced to Java along with Hinduism and Buddhism. Kawi is first attested in a legal document from 804 AD. It was widely used in literature and translations from Sanskrit from the 10th century; by the 17th, the script is identified as *carakan*.

The Javanese script is an abugida. Each of the twenty letter represents a syllable with a consonant (or a "zero consonant") and the inherent vowel 'a' that is pronounced as /ɔ/ in open position. Various diacritics placed around the letter indicate a different vowel than [ɔ], a final consonant, or a foreign pronunciation.

Letters have subscript forms used to transcribe consonant clusters, though the shape are relatively straightforward, and not as distinct as conjunct forms of Devanagari. Some letters are only present in old Javanese and became obsolete in modern Javanese. Some of these letters became "capital" forms used in proper names. Punctuation includes a comma; period; a mark that covers the colon, quotations, and indicates numerals; and marks to introduce a chapter, poem, song, or letter.

However, Javanese can also be written with the Arabic script (known as the Pegon script) and today generally uses Latin script instead of Javanese script for practical purposes. A Latin orthography based on Dutch was introduced in 1926, revised in 1972–1973; it has largely supplanted the carakan. The current Latin-based forms:

Majuscule forms (**uppercase**)																														
A	B	C	D	Dh	E	É	È	*F*	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	Ng	Ny	O	P	*Q*	R	S	T	Th	U	*V*	W	*X*	Y	*Z*
Minuscule forms (**lowercase**)																														
a	b	c	d	dh	e	é	è	*f*	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	ng	ny	o	p	*q*	r	s	t	th	u	*v*	w	*x*	y	*z*

The italic letters are used in loanwords from European languages and Arabic.

Javanese script:

Base consonant letters																			
ꦲ	ꦤ	ꦕ	ꦫ	ꦏ	ꦢ	ꦠ	ꦱ	ꦮ	ꦭ	ꦥ	ꦝ	ꦗ	ꦪ	ꦚ	ꦩ	ꦒ	ꦧ	ꦛ	ꦔ
ha	na	ca	ra	ka	da	ta	sa	wa	la	pa	dha	ja	ya	nya	ma	ga	ba	tha	nga

Demographic distribution of Javanese speakers

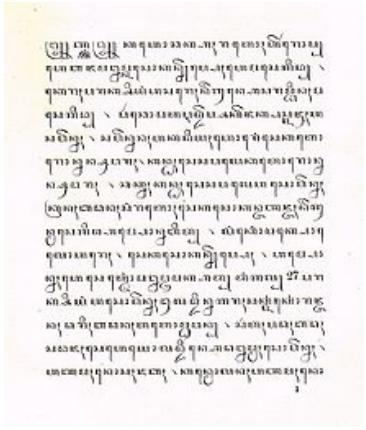
Javanese is spoken throughout Indonesia, neighboring Southeast Asian countries, the Netherlands, Suriname, New Caledonia, and other countries. The largest populations of speakers are found in the six provinces of Java itself, and in the neighboring Sumatran province of Lampung.

A table showing the number of native speakers in 1980, for the 22 Indonesian provinces (from the total of 27) in which more than 1% of the population spoke Javanese:[e]

	Indonesian province	% of provincial population	Javanese speakers (1980)
1.	Aceh province	6.7%	175,000
2.	North Sumatra	21.0%	1,757,000
3.	West Sumatra	1.0%	56,000
4.	Jambi	17.0%	245,000
5.	South Sumatra	12.4%	573,000
6.	Bengkulu	15.4%	118,000
7.	Lampung	62.4%	2,886,000
8.	Riau	8.5%	184,000
9.	Jakarta	3.6%	236,000
10.	West Java[41]	13.3%	3,652,000
11.	Central Java	96.9%	24,579,000
12.	Yogyakarta	97.6%	2,683,000
13.	East Java	74.5%	21,720,000
14.	Bali	1.1%	28,000
15.	West Kalimantan	1.7%	41,000
16.	Central Kalimantan	4.0%	38,000
17.	South Kalimantan	4.7%	97,000
18.	East Kalimantan	10.1%	123,000
19.	North Sulawesi	1.0%	20,000
20.	Central Sulawesi	2.9%	37,000
21.	Southeast Sulawesi	3.6%	34,000
22.	Maluku	1.1%	16,000

According to the 1980 census, Javanese was used daily in approximately 43% of Indonesian households. By this reckoning there were well over 60 million Javanese speakers,[42] from a national population of 147,490,298.[43][f]

In Banten, the descendants of the Central Javanese conquerors who founded the Islamic Sultanate there in the 16th century still speak an archaic form of Javanese.[44] The rest of the population mainly speaks Sundanese and Indonesian, since this province borders directly on Jakarta.[g]



Madurese in Javanese script.

At least one third of the population of Jakarta are of Javanese descent, so they speak Javanese or have knowledge of it. In the province of West Java, many people speak Javanese, especially those living in the areas bordering Central Java, the cultural homeland of the Javanese.

Almost a quarter of the population of East Java province are Madurese (mostly on the Isle of Madura); many Madurese have some knowledge of colloquial Javanese. Since the 19th century, Madurese was also written in the Javanese script.[h]

The original inhabitants of Lampung, the Lampungese, make up only 15% of the provincial population. The rest are the so-called "transmigrants", settlers from other parts of Indonesia, many as a result of past government transmigration programs. Most of these transmigrants are Javanese who have settled there since the 19th century.

In Suriname (the former Dutch colony of Surinam), South America, approximately 15% of the population of some 500,000 are of Javanese descent, among whom 75,000 speak Javanese. A local variant evolved: the *Tyoro Jowo-Suriname* or *Suriname Javanese*.[45]

Modern Javanese

Although Javanese is not a national language, it has recognized status as a regional language in the three Indonesian provinces with the biggest concentrations of Javanese people: Central Java, Yogyakarta, and East Java. Javanese is taught at schools and is used in some mass media, both electronically and in print. There is, however, no longer a daily newspaper in Javanese. Javanese-language magazines include *Panjebar Semangat*, *Jaka Lodhang*, *Jaya Baya*, *Damar Jati*, and *Mekar Sari*.

Since 2003, an East Java local television station (JTV) has broadcast some of its programmes in the Surabayan dialect, including *Pojok kampung* (news), *Kuis RT/RW*, and *Pojok Perkoro* (a crime programme). In later broadcasts, JTV offers programmes in the Central Javanese dialect (called by them *basa kulonan*, "the western language") and Madurese.

In 2005 a new Javanese language magazine, *Damar Jati*, appeared. It is not published in the Javanese heartlands, but in Jakarta.

Distribution map of languages spoken in Java, Madura, and Bali.

Basic vocabulary

English	*Ngoko*	*Krama*
yes	iya	inggih *or* nggih[46]
no	ora	boten
what	apa	punapa
who	sapa	sinten
how	kapriyé *or* kepiyé	kados pundi *or* pripun
why	nangapa *or* ngapa	kènging punapa
eat	mangan	nedha
sleep	turu	saré
here	ing kéné	ing riki *or* mriki
there	ing kana	ing rika *or* mrika
there is (there are)	ana	wonten
there is no (there are no)	ora ana	boten wonten
no! *or* I don't want it!	emoh	wegah
make a visit for pleasure	dolan	amèng-amèng

Numbers

[Javanese Ngoko is on the left, and Javanese Krama is on the right.]

Numeral	Javanese script	Ngoko	Krama	Notes
0	꧐	nul	nul	derived from Dutch
1	꧑	siji	satunggal	
2	꧒	loro	kalih	
3	꧓	telu	tiga	
4	꧔	papat	sakawan	
5	꧕	lima	gangsal	
6	꧖	enem	enem	
7	꧗	pitu	pitu	
8	꧘	wolu	wolu	
9	꧙	sanga	sanga	
10	꧑꧐	sapuluh	sadasa	
11	꧑꧑	sewelas	satunggal welas	
20	꧒꧐	rong puluh	kalih dasa	
21	꧒꧑	se likur	satunggal likur	
22	꧒꧒	ro likur	kalih likur	
23	꧒꧓	telu likur	tigang likur	
24	꧒꧔	pat likur	sakawan likur	
25	꧒꧕	se lawé	salangkung	
26	꧒꧖	nem likur	enem likur	
27	꧒꧗	pitu likur	pitung likur	
28	꧒꧘	wolu likur	wolung likur	
29	꧒꧙	songo likur	sangang likur	
30	꧓꧐	telung puluh	tigang dasa	
31	꧓꧑	telung puluh siji	tigang dasa satunggal	
40	꧔꧐	patang puluh	sakawan dasa	
41	꧔꧑	patang puluh siji	sakawan dasa satunggal	
50	꧕꧐	sèket	sèket	
51	꧕꧑	sèket siji	sèket satunggal	
60	꧖꧐	sewidak	sawidak	
61	꧖꧑	sewidak siji	sawidak satunggal	
70	꧗꧐	pitung puluh	pitung dasa	
80	꧘꧐	wolung puluh	wolung dasa	
90	꧙꧐	sangang puluh	sangang dasa	

100	ꦱꦠꦸꦱ꧀	*satus*	satunggal atus	
hundreds		atusan	atusan	
1000	ꦱꦍꦸ	sèwu	satunggal èwu	
thousands		éwon	éwon	

See also

- Java
- Javanese script
- Javanese alphabet
- Javanese literature
- Banyumasan language
- List of languages without official status
- Hans Ras
- Johan Hendrik Caspar Kern

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Notes

a. Dyen's "Malayic" differ from the latter, narrower conception of "Malayic" by Alexander Adelaar. Dyen's Malayic includes Madurese, Acehnese, and Malayan (=Adelaar's Malayic).

b. Sukarno has a Javanese father and a Balinese mother, Habibie has a father of Gorontalo descent and a Javanese mother, while Megawati is Sukarno's daughter through his wife, who is from Bengkulu.

c. The Old Javanese spelling is modified to suit Modern Javanese spelling.

d. For example Pigeaud's dictionary in 1939 is almost exclusively based on Surakarta speech (1939:viii–xiii).

e. The data are taken from the census of 1980 as provided by James J. Fox and Peter Gardiner and published by S. A. Wurm and Shiro Hattori, eds. 1983. *Language Atlas of the Pacific Area, Part II: (Insular South-East Asia)*, Canberra.

f. The distribution of persons living in Javanese-speaking households in East Java and Lampung requires clarification. For East Java, daily-language percentages are as follows: 74.5 Javanese, 23.0 Madurese, and 2.2 Indonesian. For Lampung, the official percentages are 62.4 Javanese, 16.4 Lampungese and other languages, 10.5 Sundanese, and 9.4 Indonesian. The figures are somewhat outdated for some regions, especially Jakarta; but they remain more or less stable for the rest of Java. In Jakarta the number of Javanese has increased tenfold in the last 25 years. On the other hand, because of the conflict the number of Javanese in Aceh might have decreased. It is also relevant that Banten has separated from West Java province in 2000.

g. Many commuters to Jakarta live in the suburbs in Banten, among them also Javanese speakers. Their exact number is unknown.

h. Unfortunately, the aspirated phonemes of Madurese are not reproduced in writing. The 19th-century scribes apparently overlooked the fact that Javanese script does possess the required characters.

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7. Dyen 1965, p. 26.

8. Nothofer 2009, p. 560.
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10. Blust 1981.
11. Adelaar 2005, pp. 357, 385.
12. Ogloblin 2005, p. 590.
13. Blust 2010, p. 97.
14. Smith 2017, pp. 443, 453–454.
15. Wedhawati et al. 2006, p. 1.
16. Wedhawati et al., p. 2.
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19. Ogloblin 2005, p. 591.
20. Wedhawati et al. 2006, p. 11.
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- Javanese in Suriname strive to preserve origins *Jakarta Post* article (https://web.archive.org/web/20050209094141/http://home.planet.nl/~koeso002/articles/Javanese%2BSuriname.htm)
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- The Javanese alphabet (Unicode A980—A9DF) (http://unicode-table.com/en/sections/javanese-alphabet/)
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