

MALAY

COUNTRY: Malaysia

POST: Kuala Lumpur

Malaya owes her historical importance to her geographical location, halfway on the sea route between India and China. Large numbers of the peoples from these two countries have become part of the permanent population which accounts for its pluralistic society. With the recognition of Malay as the official national language, a modern educated class is emerging as the basis for the development of a Malaysian nationality and culture.

Malay is a flexible eel-like language. It cannot be brought into alignment with English or European languages because its idiom is essentially different.

With the exception of a small number of Arabic sounds, which the Malays themselves seldom trouble to pronounce correctly, the Roman alphabet renders adequately the sounds of the Malay language.