

Brief CV

Asmah Haji Omar

Asmah Haji Omar who obtained a Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 1969, in General Linguistics, held the academic Chair of Malay Linguistics at the University of Malaya from 1976 until she retired in 2000. From then on, she went to set up the Institute of Malay Civilisation at the Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Tanjung Malim, Perak, and was the first holder of the prestigious Za'ba Chair of Malay Civilisation. She also holds a D. Litt. from the University of Malaya (1998), and an Honorary D.Litt. from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (2006). She was conferred the Emeritus Professor status by the University of Malaya in 2000.

While at the University of Malaya she was responsible in the establishment of the University's Language Centre in 1972, which was later upgraded to the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics. In the process of changing over the language medium of the University of Malaya from English to Malay in the 1970's, she was given the task of planning and overseeing the implementation of the policy, in her capacity as Academic Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, and then as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Establishment). Currently she is Senior Research Fellow at the Academy of Malay Studies, University of Malaya.

She has been a member of the Language Council of Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia (MABBIM) from the time of its inception in December 1972 until today. This Council is the supreme body in Malay-Indonesian language standardisation, specifically that of the spelling system, as well as in the formulation of rules in the coining and transferring of scientific terminology from the international corpus to Malay.

She has done extensive fieldwork on indigenous languages of Malaysia and "diasporic Malay". Her works on these and those on language policy and planning, child language development, sociolinguistics, Malay grammar and history of the Malay language development have been appeared in the form of journal articles, chapters in books, books and encyclopedias produced by local and international publishers. She is currently a member of the Governing Board of the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

