

## Negative irrealis clauses in Malay/Indonesian and Sri Lankan Malay infinitives

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### Abstrak

This article concerns establishing a plausible connection between the word *jang(an)* in colloquial Malay varieties and *jang-*, a form which negates infinitives, in the diasporic contact variety Sri Lankan Malay. The principal claim is that *jang(an)* marks irrealis modality in Southeast Asian Malay varieties, in which it is frequently (optionally) deployed in negative subjunctive-like embedded clauses. A related claim, dependent on the first of the two, is that the irrealis interpretation conveyed by *jang(an)* makes it a semantically plausible bridge from a Malay grammar with clausal symmetry to the grammar of Sri Lankan Malay. In Sri Lankan Malay, embedded clauses are frequently non-finite, with infinitives similarly conveying irrealis meaning. Sri Lankan Malay *jang-* is in complementary distribution with the affirmative infinitival prefix *me-*, which is also derived from a marker of irrealis modality (*mau*) in colloquial Southeast Asian Malay varieties.