Considerations on Typology of Kampung House and Betawi House of KAMPUNG LUAR BATANG (JAKARTA)

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Abstract
Kampung Luar Batang is located in the northern end of Jakarta, which belongs to former Sunda Kelapa, the oldest area of Jakarta, about 100 meters northwest of Kota (Batavia). The oldest mosque, Al-Aydrus Masjid built in 1739 is located within it; attracts pilgrims from Jakarta and suburbs; and is a declared cultural heritage under the Governor’s Decree No. 475/1993. The area became overcrowded after the independence, thus deteriorating the environmental conditions. Although modern buildings dominate Kampung Luar Batang, traditional houses or houses with traditional architectural characteristics still remained there. Improvement of living conditions and preservation of historical features have become important issues. This paper discusses the characteristics of traditional kampung house, which is required to be preserved, identifying the status and condition of Kampung Luar Batang, based on the field survey.

Keywords: Kampung, Batavia, Jakarta, Sunda Kelapa, Betawi, Dutch colonial city, typology of houses

1. Research Objective and Background
This paper is one of outcomes of the research project titled “Field Research on Origin, Transformation, Conversion, and Conservation of Urban Space of Colonial cities”¹, of which major target are Dutch colonial cities. Comparison of urban house types is one of the aspects. Dutch had developed many prototypes in high-dense localities, and, one of the intentions is to identify nature of those house types, introduced at different colonial situations. Others include how to evaluate urban heritages, and, revitalize urban core founded during the colonial period, which is becoming major common concern in urban planning.

This paper² deals with the kampung named Kampung Luar Batang³ in Jakarta and clarifies kampung house types, and, the characteristics of traditional Betawi house for future development program. Traditional Betawi⁴ houses or houses with traditional architectural characteristics still exist in the kampung. Preservation of their historical features has become important issues. The major objective of this paper is to identify the Kampung house type and features to be preserved.

Kampung Luar Batang is located in former Sunda Kelapa area, the oldest area of Jakarta (Fig.1). There is a Maritime Museum built in 1652 about 100 meters southwards. It is a part of Dutch fortified warehouse called ‘Westzijdsche Pakhuizen’ (Warehouse on the west bank) including its two bastions. One of the reasons to select Kampung Luar Batang is that it is one of the oldest kampung depicting multifaceted development issues Jakarta had faced and continues to face. Betawi is said to be the first settlers⁵ in the history of Kampung Luar Batang.

Important references materials on the subject are annexed at the end of the paper.

2. House Types and their Transformation
2.1. House Types
Kampung houses could be classified under different headings, and one of them is the roof-shapes. Kampung Luar Batang generally has three distinctive types, namely gable, hipped and flat roofs. Gable-roofed houses usually face their gable end to the access road, and few examples with their ridges parallel to the road. A larger number of houses have gable-roofs (47.5%), while flat-roofed houses lined up next (Fig. 2). Large houses in the kampung often have hipped-roofs with narrower side facing the access road, and with few exceptions having

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their ridges parallel to the road. Most houses with gable and hipped-roofs use tiles or corrugated asbestos sheets as roof cladding. But, two or three-storied modern houses often have concrete roofs. Roofs of single storey houses are clad either in tiles or in corrugated-asbestos. Another classification for houses could be based on their volume, namely single, double, multi storey, or courtyard house, of which the last is rare in Kampung Luar Batang.

(1) Standard Kampung house

Kampung house could be classified into few distinct groups based on space articulation of their interiors. 20 houses of Kampung Luar Batang have been surveyed and the results indicate their close resemblance with the standard kampung house, highlighted in our previous study.

Standard kampung house is composed by five basic spatial units:

rt: ruang tamu (guest room)
kt: kamar tidur (bedroom)
rm: ruang makan (dining room)
d: dapur (kitchen)
km: kamar mandi (bathroom) or wc (toilet)

A flexible multifunctional space ruang tamu is laid in front part of the house parallel to the access road. It serves as ruang keluarga (family room or living room), ruang makan, or others such as ‘open bedroom’. In a kampung, the bedroom is not necessarily being a spatial unit enclosed by solid walls, doors and windows. Large household with limited spaces often convert ruang tamu into an ‘open bedroom’. Priority of enclosed bedrooms are usually given to elders and adult females, while the ‘open bedroom’ is meant for minors and male adults. Ruang tamu is linked with middle part and rarely separate by doors. Middle part of house is occupied by ruang makan and kamar tidur. Ruang makan is connected with ruang tamu in the front and dapur or kamar mandi at the back, rarely separated by doors. Kamar tidur usually abuts ruang makan, but occasionally lying next to ruang tamu. Backside of the house usually contains service areas such as dapur, kamar mandi or wc, and ruang cuci (washing room).

In kampung house, teras is usually placed in front adjoining ruang tamu, but occasionally at the rear serving as ruang cuci or dapur.

(2) The Process of Formation

Houses in Kampung Luar Batang were not built according a predetermined plan, but evolved through additions and alterations during the passage of time. They could be classified under five distinct types based on their space articulation.

A type house (One room house) [rt/kt]

Most of the A type houses are single occupancy rentals, and their room layout differs according to the needs of occupant. A wooden partition divides the room into ruang tamu and kamar tidur; the latter in the rear and the former in the front. Ruang tamu, a multifunctional space serves as a ruang makan too. There is no specific size for the house type, but usually measures 3 x 4 square meters, and does not have a kamar mandi or a wc; thus occupants are compelled to use public baths and toilets available in the kampung. No dapur is available, thus requiring occupants to depend on warungs (small shops) which are abundant within the kampung.
B type house (One room house with kamar mandi or wc) \([rt/kt - km/wc]\)

Majority of type B houses too are rentals but meant for families, and bigger in size than type A, with an additional kamar mandi at the rear corner. Sizes vary too, approximately in the range of 3 x 6 square meters. Layout of the room too varies according to the needs of occupants, which is divided by themselves into a ruang tamu and a kamar tidur, using a wooden partition. The function of dapur is shifted to rear of the house, and usually placed next to kamar mandi or WC.

C type house (Two room house with kamar mandi or wc) \([rt/kt - d - km/wc]\)

Type C house is a derivative of Type B, with an addition of a dapur. It usually consists of a large room at the front, followed by a dapur at the rear. Layout of the large room is determined by needs of the owner, and usually divided into a ruang tamu at the front of the house and kamar tidur at the middle, by a wooden partition or furniture such as cupboard and wardrobes. Kamar mandi or wc is placed at the rearmost of the house adjoining the dapur.

D type house (Three room house with kamar mandi or wc) \([rt/rm/rk - kt - d - km/wc]\)

Type D, a popular house in Kampung Luar Batang, usually have a ruang tamu which also functions as ruang makan or ruang keluarga. It is placed in the front part of the house, connecting with kamar tidur and dapur at the rear. Kamar mandi or wc is situated at rearmost part of the house adjoining dapur. Type D house excluding kamar tidur resembles type C.

E type house (Standard type house) \([rt - kt - rm/rk - d - km/wc]\)

E type, which represents the standard type house consists of four rooms in addition to kamar mandi or wc. Ruang tamu lies in front of the house, followed by kamar tidur and ruang makan in the middle, and dapur and kamar mandi at the rear. Ruang tamu and ruang makan are rarely partitioned and separated by doors, and similarly between ruang makan and dapur.

All house types are often completed with a front or back terrace. In small houses, rear terrace functions as dapur, ruang cucci or even kamar mandi or wc. The latter case is often found in houses lying on canal bank, with their rear terrace projecting over the water.

3.2. Transformation of Houses

Most houses in Kampung Luar Batang were not built at once in the beginning, and were developed later to satisfy user needs. They were gradually rebuilt in permanent materials such concrete and bricks, dismantling original temporary structures of wooden or bamboo.

Twenty houses selected for the sample survey are scattered in the oldest part of the kampung, and they have been enlarged and structurally altered from time to time depending on the necessities of individual households, ideally suiting for the study of focusing on their transformation.

Additions of rooms had been carried out in different manner for various purposes. Based on field observations and analyses of house plans, it is possible to identify three ways of transformation of the Kampung Luar Batang house, namely horizontal expansion (A type), vertical expansion (B type), and combined expansion (C type). Each type could be further divided into three sub-groups according to their purposes such as family growth (A-1, B-1, and C-1), business ventures (A-2, B-2, and C-2) and, combination of them (A-3, B-3, and C-3). Among all of them, the vertical expansion for business ventures (B-2 type) is the most extensive.

House type A-1 was had been a three-room house, measuring about 9 x 8.5 square meters, and consisting of ruang tamu (guest room) that also functioned as ruang makan (dining room), kamar tidur (bedroom) and dapur (kitchen). Kamar mandi (bathroom) and wc (toilet) were added later. It also had front and rear terraces, latter functioning as a washing area too. House was subsequently enlarged to twice its original size to the rear, when family members increased. The present house consists of ruang tamu, ruang keluarga (family room or living room), which formerly was ruang makan, four kamar tidurs (two are additional and one is altered from dapur), ruang makan and dapur. New kamar mandi and wc were added next to the dapur (Fig. 4).

Type A-2 house had been extended about 4 meters to its front to accommodate a toko (grocery store) and a gudang (storeroom) adjoining it, which is to store goods for toko and use as a garage (garasi) for motorcycles. There is no direct access to the house except through the gudang, passing through toko and entering ruang keluarga. Ruang tamu has lost its function after the alteration.

Type A-3 house was very small measuring 5 x 2.5 square meters, and built two-storied at the beginning. First floor had ruang tamu which also functions as ruang makan, dapur and kamar mandi. Kamar tidur and ruang keluarga were on the second floor. The first floor of the house was extended about two meters to the back using a wooden structure enclosed by wooden board and plywood, to use as kamar tidur, ruang makan, and dapur. Ruang tamu remained on its original place, while the previous ruang makan and kamar mandi were altered as rental toilets, a lucrative alternative venture in the Kampung Luar Batang.

Type B-1 house had extended vertically from a single storey to a two-storey house. There was no significant alteration on the first floor except the construction of stairs through kamar tidur which became smaller. The extended second floor consists of kamar tidur and ruang keluarga.

Type B-2 house situated on the canal bank was initially a one-storey with a concrete front part and a wooden rear structure. House consisted of ruang tamu that functioned as ruang keluarga too, followed by ruang makan and two kamar tidurs at its back. WC was placed outside the house abutting dapur at the rearmost, and
built simple, using wooden structure and enclosing wooden boards. It has no septic tank, and sewage was discharged directly into the canal similar to many houses lying along the canal. Subsequently the house was made a two-storey, to accommodate built rental rooms called kamar kontrakan facing each other with a sharing in the centre. Two stairs were erected, one at front terrace and the other at the rear providing access to the wc, and enabling tenants direct entry to their room without disturbing the main house.

Type B-3 is a large house in Kampung Luar Batang, measuring 13.5 x 10 square meters. The house built in 1975 was one-storey, catering a family of six. House had a ruang tamu with a terrace at front, ruang keluarga that incorporated ruang makan, five kamar tidur, and dapur with kamar mandi at the rearmost. When the family increased to 10 with two married daughters staying with their children at the parental house, additional bedrooms were needed. The house was expanded into a two-storey, with new second floor divided into two parts by a brick wall to accommodate family and business spaces. The family space contains three kamar tidur, kamar mandi and a back stair, while business space consist of seven small rental rooms facing a central corridor and kamar mandi or wc at its backside. Kamar tidur on the second floor is accessible from both external front stair and internal dapur. Rental rooms can be accessible only through the front stairs, and thus totally separated from the house. There was no alteration on the first floor except the construction of back stair in the dapur.

Type C-1 house built in 1960s was one of the oldest in Kampung Luar Batang. Unlike typical kampung house, its depth is shorter than its width and measuring 9.5 x 4.6 square meters. At the beginning the occupants were a couple with no children, thus the house was built simple consisting of ruang tamu that also functioned as ruang makan, one kamar tidur, dapur, kamar mandi and wc. Ruang tamu was placed in the middle, flanked by kamar tidur and dapur. House had two accesses, one

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Fig. 4. Transformation of Houses: Horizontal Transformation

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t=teras(terrace) kr=kamar tidur (bedroom) b=balcony
rt=ruang tamu(guest room) d=dapur(kitchen) t=took(grocery store)
rk=ruang keluarga(living room) km=kamar mandi(bathroom)
g=garasi(garage) rm=ruang makan(dining room) wc=toilet

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through ruang tamu and the other through dapur. When the family grew to eight, the house was enlarged horizontally at first, but the lack of ground space, compelled extending vertically into two-storey. At present, the first floor has a ruang tamu (formerly kamar tidur), ruang makan, dapur, kamar mandi and wc, and an additional kamar tidur. Access to the house is from ruang tamu, dapur and kamar tidur. The second floor consists of four kamar tidur. The stair is placed in the dapur thus the access to the dapur now is very narrow.

Type C-2 house, built 10 years ago in concrete and bricks, is occupied by husband, wife and a son; and, is located on the canal bank. Initially it had a ruang tamu, ruang keluarga, two kamar tidur, and ruang makan without kamar mandi or wc along with front and rear terraces. The rear terrace functioned as a dapur too. Later on, a two storey rear portion was built with a wooden structure along with plywood and wooden board walling to accommodate seven rental rooms on first floor and four on the second floor. The additional rooms in the first floor were built on stilts, projecting over the canal with overall size becoming even larger than the original size of the house. Two wcs are placed at the rearmost of the house adjoining ruang cucit (washing place). Similar to other wc in canal bank houses, it has no septic tank and sewage are discharged direct into the canal. The stair is placed on the dapur, thus entry to rental rooms are through the main house.

Type C-3 house is a typical traditional house in kampung measuring 7.5 x 10.5 square meters. The house was built in 1978, consisted of ruang tamu, ruang keluarga, ruang makan that incorporated dapur, and three kamar tidur adjoining. Kamar mandi or wc was placed at the rearmost. The house was later extended to its front yard adjoining the first kamar tidur. The two-storey addition measuring 3.5 x 7.5 square meters have changed the appearance of the house. The first floor consists of ruang tamu which also functions as ruang keluarga, kamar tidur, and ruang makan that incorporates dapur. Kamar mandi and wc are placed next to the ruang makan. Access to the house is from ruang tamu and ruang makan. The second floor consists of three rental rooms with direct external access. Additional ‘house’ in the second floor is now occupied by the married son from original occupants.

From the above samples, the tendencies of transformation of kampung houses can be identified as follows,

If the house expansion is necessitated by the family growth, it will be either horizontal or vertical, or with alterations in rooms functions. If sufficient ground space is available, the horizontal expansion precedes either to back or to the front yards (A-1 type). If the ground space is insufficient, possible alternatives such as vertical expansions or modifications of room functions are ventured (B-1 type). Smaller houses with large households tend to enlarge both horizontally and vertically depending on ground space available (C-1 type).

If the need is a business venture, its nature determined the expansion. If it is trading and service selling, such as toko, warung, wartel, hairdressing salon, rental toilet, etc., then horizontal expansion towards front or alter the room function is preferred (A-2 type). If it is rental room, house is enlarged either horizontally or vertically. However, rental rooms in the kampung tend to build on the second floor, which are accessible direct from outside (B-2 type). The C-2 type comes up as combination of A-2 and B-2 types.

Cases of A-3, B-3 and C-3 types often appear when large households face financial difficulties, and attempt to search for additional incomes.

3. Traditional Kampung Houses

Despite modern houses dominate Kampung Luar Batang, traditional house or houses built with traditional architectural characteristics too, exist side by side, and their distribution is indicated in. There are three popular varieties namely Betawi, Joglo and Kebaya.

3.1. Betawi Traditional House

Traditional Betawi house differs according to their locations in hinterlands, coast or in between; as well as occupants affordability rich, poor, or moderate. Betawi houses built on the ground in the hinterland are called Depok house. In the coastal areas as in Kampung Luar Batang, there is a Betawi house built on stilts more appropriate to environmental conditions. Traditional Betawi house could be categorized into three distinct types, namely Guidang, Joglo or Limas, Bapang or Kebaya (Fig. 5) depending on their form, structure, and plans.

(1) Guidang house

Betawi house called Guidang is named after its shape resembling a gudang (storehouse), a simple rectangular building with little decorations. It has either a hipped or a gable roof, and usually consists of two rooms. Generally, it has a complex roof structure with a king post called Ander. Since other traditional houses in Indonesia do not have this type of structure, it could be guessed as an introduction by Dutch. There is a sloping overhanging roof in the front side of the house, which is called topi meaning a hat, and serving as a sunscreen or rain protection for the open terrace. This roof is also supported by wooden or iron suspenders.

(2) Joglo or Limas

Joglo or Limas (an) refer to Javanese roof styles, and suggest that house styles are influenced by Javanese architecture or culture. Except for the roof structure, the Betawi Joglo house has no difference to Javanese Joglo house. The former has a framed roof structure (kuda-kuda structure), while the later is composed with an ‘umbrella’ type of roof structure.

Betawi Joglo house usually has a square plan with three rooms in front, middle and the rear, and majority of them covered by a Joglo style roof.

(3) Kebaya or Bapang house
The name ‘Kebaya is presumably taken from the folded roof shape, resembling kain kebaya, an Indonesian traditional dress. Bapang house does not significantly differ from the Kebaya house, but does not have as much decorations as the latter. Front and rear slopes of the hipped-roof of Bapang house are extended to get the characteristic roof form.

In general all types of the Betawi houses have a standard, simple and functional structure with a wooden or bamboo frame structure.

3.2. Physical Characteristics of Betawi Traditional House

Betawi house has a frontal terrace encompassed by ‘langkan’ railings, about a meter high, which separates terrace from the frontal garden. A narrow gateway in the centre of railing provides access to the main door through the veranda (Fig. 6).

The front terrace of the Betawi house is freely accessible, and generally, there is a wooden or bamboo bale-bale with plaited panda sheet serving as a couch for guest, a temporary divan, and also a place to do sholat. The bale-bale is one of the characteristics of the traditional Betawi house.

In some of the Betawi houses a portion of front space is enclosed by a wooden partition with a curved opening, which is known as ‘melompong’ window, literally ‘empty’ or ‘see through’ window, among Betawians. The access to the interior of enclosed house in the middle space, is provided through the main door, which is placed in the centre of the front wall, and in between a ‘bujang’ window and a blind window (krepyak), one each on either sides of the door.

In the Betawian architectural tradition, the center of front wall possesses high symbolic importance, and usually an element such as a roof, a door, a window, or wall is introduced to emphasize the same. In the Betawian house it is the main door, thus other elements on the wall are arranged to strengthen its importance.

Two equidistant windows on either side of the door enhanced the sense of focus by intensifying the symmetry around the axis. Carved ventilation grilles above the door (Fig. 7), along with an additional small ventilation ornament above the bigger ventilation grille, strengthen the focus on the door. Occasionally a picture of a family-ancestor is hung above the door. In this case the elevation gains its unity from the way the door is placed and visually intensified by other elements.

Nowadays, building techniques are more advanced and developed with the increasing housing demand. As a result, people tend to use cheaper building materials, which are more durable and practical, or easy to use. Traditionally decorated structural elements are no longer in use due to high cost and lack of skilled craftsmen. The modern Betawian seldom have the form of traditional Betawi house. According to the survey, the primary reason is financial than a deliberate abandonment of the tradition. People are keen to possess traditional houses, yet forbidden by high costs of construction and maintenance. They could not afford it, unless there is a subsidy from government or from any other source.

3.3. Plan - Interior Arrangement

The interior of a Betawi house is simple, usually with an open front space terrace; the main middle space containing bedrooms, a dining room, and a storage place; and a rear part comprising of the kitchen, and a storage room (Fig. 8).

Betawian house has three distinct plan forms depending on their form and interior arrangement. Spaces of Joglo and Bapang houses can be divided into three areas, namely front, middle and the rear. Gudang house also has three different main interior spaces; but due to the over flow of middle space into rear space, physically, only two separate spaces can be seen.
In Betawi house terrace is an important element, accommodating gathering of family members or their friends. Usually, there is a bale-bale or a plain wooden bed, a set of seating furniture consisting four wooden chairs and a circular granite table. This space is one the ‘elements’ of the house that gives it a unique characteristic of the traditional Betawi house.

Middle part, the enclosed space is the main area of the Betawi house, and contains bedrooms, dining room and a storeroom called ‘pendaringan’. Rear part of the house has service areas such as kitchen and store for the farming or fishing tools, and, firewood. If the house is built on the ground, there is a well behind the kitchen, a washing and drying area, a bathroom and further down, a toilet in backyard. If house is abutting a river or a canal; the washing and drying area, the bathroom, and the toilet are built on stilts above water. The middle and rear areas are separated by a curved opening called ‘garde’ symbolizing the border between them.

Apparently, there are two spatial concepts deployed in articulation of interior spaces in traditional Betawi house, one is rigid and the other an abstract, which is displayed in the middle area. The term “bedroom” in a house does not mean always an enclosed space defined by solid walls. There could also be another variety called “open bedroom” (without a solid wall), sharing with other functions such as dining room in the middle area of the house. This concept is displayed in the conjoining of middle and rear areas of Gudang house.

The front bedroom located in middle part of the house and directly abutting the frontal guest’s space, is usually given to the adult daughter. The ‘bujang’ window (bachelor window) separating daughter’s room from the visitor’s space enables her to communicate with visitor, even in secrecy but with restricted visual and physical contacts. The adult son usually sleeps in mosque in the neighborhood.

At the rear part of the Middle area, there is a space of an abstract nature and called ‘pendaringan’, which is functionally linked with kitchen activities, and is located in the back area of the house. The ‘pendaringan’ serves as a storeroom for family possessions, paddy seeds, and rice.

Comparatively, space order and activities of traditional Betawi house is relatively simple than other traditional houses of Indonesia. The spatial functions are not specific and are not defined gender-based, as in other Indonesian houses where certain spaces are forbidden for one sex. Another feature is that there is no restriction on space articulation; defining specific location for certain spaces within the interior. In Javanese or Sundanese traditional house, the interior spaces are divided into three main areas namely; the front, middle and back, attributing them respectively as men’s area, neutral area, and women’s area. Despite there are some influences from Javanese and Sundanese architecture in articulation of interior spaces, they are suppressed by the practical needs. Therefore, in general there is no binary system in the architecture of the traditional Betawi house.

Conclusion

There are a few traditional Betawi houses or houses with traditional architectural characteristics in Kampung Luar Batang. What are available at present are the typical Kampung Houses which can be seen in any other kampung in Jakarta or other major cities in Indonesia. The present paper clarifies process of their transformation along with discussion on characteristics of Betawi traditional house, which is required to be preserved for future generations.

Kampung Luar Batang is the oldest kampung adjoining historical core of Jakarta, thus it is utmost important to preserve its traditional character to continue. Therefore, the conventional KIP (Kampung Improvement Program) is not appropriate for this area.
Not only improving the living environment, but also embodying renewal or conservation of Betawi traditional houses is needed. Authors can launch afresh program linked with the rehabilitation program of historical core of Batavia in place of conventional KIP.

Endnotes
2 The previous paper titled ‘Considerations on Space Formation and Transformation of Kampung Luar Batang (Jakarta)’ (Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering, Vol.1, No.2, pp193-200, Nov. 2002). This paper clarifies its formation and transformation process in history as basic analysis to get knowledge.
3 Administratively, Kampung Luar Batang belongs to Kelurahan (sub-district) Penjaringan and Kecamatan (district) Penjaringan. The area is bordered by marshland to the north, the Pasar Ikan and Kota area to the south, Ciliwung River and Sunda Kelapa Harbor to the east, and Gedong Panjang and Muara Baru Streets to the west. Presently, Kampung Luar Batang occupies the area of about 15.75 hectares.
4 The name of Betawi is not derived from Batavia, but from the term of Fatani, referring to the noble families of the rulers of Jayakarta kingdom. Beside fatani there were also immigrants in Jayakarta. The Betawi nobilities claim that descendants of the fatani and of their followers constitute the aristocratic stratum of Betawi society, while the descendants of the immigrants are the common people - Nas, Peter. 2000. p.201
5 Ridwan Saidi, an expert of Betawi culture, emphasizes that the natives who first settled in Sunda Kelapa were originally from the island of Java. They spoke Sanskrit language and in the period of Pajajaran Kingdom they spoke ancient Sunda language. These people then intermarried with the natives from West Kalimantan who came to this area in 10th century, and formed a new community, known as Melayu Jawa or Javanese Malay. In 1865 this ethnic group called themselves ‘Betawi’.
7 Depok is a name of one suburb in Jakarta, Indonesia. Presumably houses in this area since the beginning were built on the ground and that is why the Betawi people called a house that is built on the ground a Depok house.
8 Harun, Ismet. 1991. p.29-31

References