

## **Standard Indonesian and Informal Indonesian: How do they differ?**

Yanti (Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, ILCAA Joint Researcher)

Asako Shiohara (ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

The Indonesian language has been claimed to have two different varieties: ‘high’ and ‘low’ varieties (e.g. Sneddon 2006). The high variety is the formal Indonesian, which is often called as *Bahasa Indonesia Baku* or standard Indonesian and the low variety, as *Bahasa Indonesia Sehari-hari* or colloquial Indonesian. While the standard Indonesian is used in formal contexts (e.g. the government offices, schools, and mass media), the colloquial Indonesian is the language of everyday communication.

In this presentation, we compare the features found in Standard Indonesian and those in Colloquial Indonesian datasets. This preliminary report is based on the data collected using the Jackal and Crow picture set. The participants were 20 Indonesian speakers, 10 females and 10 males, whose ages range from 18 to 27 years old and live in Jakarta. Each participant was asked to tell the story based on the picture set using Standard Indonesian (SI) and Colloquial Indonesian (CI).

When comparing SI and CI datasets, we found that SI and CI are very similar, except for the use of the active nasal prefix, most ‘informal’ lexical items, and discourse particles. The formal nasal prefix *meN-* is found in both SI and CI datasets, but the informal nasal prefix *N-* is never used in SI dataset. Discourse particles are only found in CI dataset. Likewise, most ‘informal’ lexical items are only observed in CI dataset.

Furthermore, when we closely looked at data from 6 participants, we found that participants actually vary and they could be divided into three groups. Group 1 consists of 1 participant who only used SI features in both SI and CI datasets. Group 2 consists of 3 participants, and they used SI features in SI dataset and CI features in CI dataset. Finally, group 3 consists of 2 participants who used some SI features in CI dataset.