

Javanese Influenced Indonesian

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It is well known that Indonesian has many regional varieties, and that they differ greatly from Standard Indonesian (SI) reflecting geography, socioeconomics, education, etc. Much scholarly work has been dedicated to documenting and describing various varieties of Malay, Malayic, and so-called post-creole Malays (e.g. Manado Malay, Papuan Malay, etc.), but few document regional Indonesians (notable exceptions are listed below). This paper addresses those varieties of Indonesian that have arisen since the codification of Indonesian in 1928 and the standardization and promulgation of a single variety as the national language in 1945.

Standard Indonesian has come into contact with hundreds of other languages through both institutional modes such as education and government, and individual interactions between L1 and, largely, L2 speakers. Unlike European colonial languages, the Standard Indonesian case has in most cases not led to a process of pidginization/creolization. In particular in this talk, we are interested in that variety of Indonesian that has arisen among native speakers of Javanese as the result of recent contact. This variety (JII) represents both a very recent contact situation, and one result of contact not between native speakers in conversation, but rather of Javanese speakers in a public milieu of Indonesian. This contact situation finds an imperfect analogue in comparison to English in India and the Philippines, where some elements of local languages have been adopted into the English variety of the region, without having gone through any simplification process. However, unlike in those varieties, where borrowings come in the common way—from open classes—in this variety, as for other regional Indonesians, it is the closed-class items such as pronouns, particles, modals and auxiliaries, etc. which are salient in being borrowed (see pronouns in the example below). This seems to be borne out across most regional Indonesians. In addition to lexical items, regional Indonesians are influenced by the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the languages with which they come into contact. This paper aims to document salient features that emerge from naturalist speech recordings of native Javanese speakers from Surabaya. Using data from original recordings of spontaneous speech we compare the influence of Javanese on the Indonesian of older speakers who learned Indonesian later, and younger speakers who acquired Indonesian early – possibly as early as their Javanese.

An example is the propositive proclitic TAK in JII. In most varieties of Indonesian and Malay, TAK represents negation, but not in JII. In Javanese, proclitic TAK is used to signal a propositive construction (licensing additional verbal morphosyntax), meaning essentially ‘let me be the one who X’ or ‘let me X’.

1. *aku tak mandi dulu*
1 NEG bath first Indonesian
‘I won’t bathe first’
1 PROPOSITIVE bath first JAI
‘I want to/am going to bathe first’

2. *saya mandi dulu* Standard Indonesian¹
1 bath first
'I [propose to] bathe first'

As shown in the glosses to (1), the string means one thing as a sentence of SI and another as a sentence of JII. In JII, the Javanese morpheme has crowded out the Standard Indonesian negative meaning, such that these sentences can be considered unambiguous in their respective languages, which in turn presupposes a communicative situation in which the interlocutors agree on which language they are using. We hypothesize that in general, JAI speakers are also Javanese speakers, and many are Standard Indonesian speakers, so the psycholinguistic question of how the interlocutors know which language is being spoken is an interesting one, next to the interactional pragmatic question of why and for what purpose they choose that variety. These hypotheses are worth empirical and experimental investigation, but is not part of the current work.

In addition, this talk will explore stress and accent patterns in the Indonesian of a number of native Javanese speakers.

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¹ Example (2), provided for comparison, shows that the illocutionary force conveyed by TAK in JAI goes linguistically unexpressed in Standard Indonesian.