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978-0-521-51991-5 - Language, Migration, and Identity: Neighborhood Talk in Indonesia

Zane Goebel

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Language, Migration, and Identity

While much scholarship has been devoted to the interplay between language, identity, and social relationships, we know less about how this plays out interactionally in diverse transient settings. Based on research in Indonesia, this book examines how talk plays an important role in mediating social relations in two urban spaces where linguistic and cultural diversity is the norm and where distinctions between newcomers and old-timers change regularly. How do people who do not share expectations about how they should behave build new expectations through participating in conversation? Starting from a view of language–society dynamics as enregisterment, Zane Goebel synthesizes a wide range of humanities scholarship with contemporary linguistic anthropology to explore how language is used in this contact setting to build and present identities, expectations, and social relations. It will be welcomed by researchers and students working in the fields of linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, the anthropology of migration, and Asian studies.

ZANE GOEBEL is Senior Lecturer in Indonesian Studies at La Trobe University, Australia.

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Preface

During the twelve or so years that I have been working on this research I have built up many debts that I will probably never be able to repay. In this brief acknowledgment to the many people who have helped and supported me through the pleasure and pain of research, I offer my sincere thanks. There are many people who I would like to thank by name here and in particular the members of Wards 5 and 8 whose permission, patience, help, and friendship made this research possible. Of course, for reasons of anonymity, I cannot name them here and hence can only offer my sincere gratitude and thanks to these two wards as a whole. I also offer my deepest thanks to my research assistants, who were also members of these wards. Similarly, this research and this book would not have been possible without the support, patience and good humor offered by Eni and our two sons Jerry and Marcel, and my mother, father, two brothers and in-laws, all of whom have regularly reminded me that there are other things to life than just sitting in front of a computer.

I am indebted to Peter Burns – my teacher, friend, and colleague – who first introduced me to Indonesia and Indonesian in 1989. I am also indebted to Andrew Lian, who first made me think about the nature of language. An even larger debt of gratitude is owed to Paul Black – also my teacher, friend and colleague – who provided early guidance in my research and writing efforts. Whilst in Indonesia I was also very fortunate to have colleagues who were interested in similar issues, and I am indebted to Pak Anhari, Pak Herujati, Pak Retmono, and Pak Sudaryanto for their many comments, suggestions, and support. More recently, I have been fortunate to have had the moral support needed for the ups and downs of academic life in general and writing in particular. Of particular importance are Joe Errington, Nancy Smith-Hefner, John Wolff, Pauline Savy, Margaret Florey, Evan Willis, Harry Aveling, Stuart Robson, George Quinn, and the late Masachiyo Amano.

My first three-and-a-half years of research were made possible by an APA PhD scholarship from the Australian government and from grants from the Faculty of Education at the Northern Territory University. In Indonesia, this research was supported by a number of institutions, and special thanks go to Bapak Anhari Basuki, the former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Diponegoro

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University, who made it possible for me to research in Semarang. I am also indebted to the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (LIPI), who provided the official permission to carry out this research. I would like especially to thank Ibu Krisbiwati, who apart from efficiently administering my project also offered her friendship and help to my family and to me throughout our stay.

The writing of this book would not have been possible were it not for the great research environment offered by the Graduate School of Letters at Nagoya University, Japan from 2007 until 2010, and by The Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology at James Cook University, where I was a visiting scholar on a number of occasions during my tenure in Japan. Much of this book builds on and refines my early work. Chapter 2 builds upon an early lecture and its development into a number of publications (Goebel, 2008a, 2008c). Chapter 2 has benefited greatly from the comments of Asif Agha, Hans-Michael Schlarb, Paul Manning and two anonymous reviewers. Ideas presented in Chapter 2 have also been shaped through correspondence with Barbara Johnstone about my use of the idea of enregisterment in another earlier paper based upon a different data set (Goebel, 2007). Similarly, the section on Indonesian-Chinese has benefited greatly from comments by Charles Coppel.

I have been thinking and writing about language use, social class, space and social organization for some time (Goebel, 2005, 2008d). I hope that the ideas I present in Chapter 3 make my argument much clearer. Chapters 5 and 6 build upon a number of conference papers and some written papers (Goebel, 2008c, In press, Under review). The first conference paper was presented as “Building community: Identity, interdiscursivity and language choice in everyday narrative” at the first International Symposium on the Languages of Java, held at Hotel Graha Santika, Semarang, Indonesia, on August 15 and 16 2007. The second conference paper was presented as “Constructing the stranger: Ideology, alternation, and difference in an Indonesian neighborhood” at the American Anthropological Association’s 106th Annual Meeting at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC between November 28 and December 2, 2007. The third paper, “Enregisterment, alternation, and difference: Insiders and outsiders in an Indonesian neighbourhood”, was presented at the Global COE International Conference held on February 9 2008 at Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan. Chapters 5 and 6 have benefited from the generous questions, comments, and encouragement offered by the audiences and panel members in all of these forums, including (but not limited to) Stuart Robson, Yacinta Kurniasih, Michael Ewing, Antonia Soriente, Shlomy Kattan, Jim Stanford, Lawrence Michael O’Toole, Michael Silverstein, Salikoko Mufwene, Kay O’Halloran, Cyndi Dunn, Debra Occhi, Tetyana Sayenko, Kuniyoshi Kataoka, Masachiyo Amano, Barbara Johnstone and two anonymous reviewers.

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Some of the ideas on Indonesian-Chinese found in Chapters 2, 7 and 8 were originally presented as “A semiotics of race in urban Indonesia” at the 33rd Annual Congress of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia held at the University of Sydney on July 4–6 2008. With the insights offered by the audience – especially Alan Jones – and then later by two reviewers, Lionel Wee and Monica Heller, this paper then developed into “Semiosis, interaction and ethnicity in urban Java” (Goebel, 2009). The major developments in Chapters 7 and 8 relate to how I have taken into account how language alternation figures in the processes of social identification discussed in these earlier works. Chapter 9 develops my earliest thinking on inter-ethnic talk in Indonesia (Goebel, 2002). In its rewritten form, this book has benefited greatly from the feedback and guidance offered by the two anonymous reviewers and by Helen Barton, Jill Lake, Jodie Barnes, and Sarah Green at the press, who have expertly guided me through the whole process. As always, all errors and omissions remain my sole responsibility.

Last but not least, I should note that one reviewer of this manuscript suggested a user’s warning that this is not an easy book because of its use of complex terminology, data, and transcription formats. I can only hope that some good caffeine will ease the reader’s burden.

Zane Goebel

Conventions

Orthographic conventions are as similar as possible to the standard Indonesian spelling system (Departemen Pendidikan Dan Kebudayaan, 1993). In the text I use bold for technical terms and to highlight that their subsequent use follows this technical sense. I use the following transcription conventions, unless specified otherwise in the text.

plain font	Indonesian (I)
bold	<i>ngoko</i> Javanese (NJ)
<i>bold italics</i>	forms that can be classified as NJ or I
BOLD CAPS	<i>krámá</i> Javanese (KJ)
OUTLINED BOLD CAPS	<i>krámá inggil</i> Javanese
SMALL CAPS	English forms
<u>double underline</u>	indicates the repetition of words or utterances between adjacency pairs
<u>wavy underline</u>	indicates that the word or utterance was repeated in prior talk, although it may not always be in the immediately preceding turn
. between words	indicates a perceivable silence
brackets with a number (.4)	length of silence in tenths of a second
=	no perceivable pause between speaker turns
[]	words not expressed in the original but “understood” in the translation
{	start of overlapping talk
' after a word	final falling intonation
? after a word	final rising intonation
+ surrounding an utterance/word	raising of volume
# surrounding an utterance/word	lowering of volume
> at the start and end of an utterance	utterance spoken faster than previous one

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< at the start and end of an utterance	utterance spoken slower than previous one
% signs around talk	stylized nasal-type pronunciation
@ signs around talk	major rise in the volume of an utterance
: within a word, or a series of :: within a word	represents a sound stretch; the more colons, the longer the sound stretch
Brackets with three ?, i.e. (???)	word that could not be transcribed
Double quotes in the English gloss	reported talk