



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BOZEN

LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO

FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN - BOLZANO

## “Bahasa Indonesia” and Languages of Indonesia

- - EKA MERDEKAWATY -
- Introduction to Linguistics

# Contents

---

- Introduction
- 1. History
- 2. Role & Communicative context
- 3. Alphabet in Indonesian
- 4. Pronunciation & Grammar
- 5. Foreign & Regional Terms
- 6. Plural Form
- 7. Affixation
- 8. Active & Passive Forms
- 9. No? Not so simple..
- 10. Onomatopoeia
- 11. Slang – Prokem
- 12. Some Daily Used Examples
- Conclusion

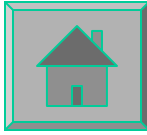


---

# LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE IN INDONESIA



# Introduction



- **Indonesian (*Bahasa Indonesia*)** is the official language of Indonesia. Indonesian is a standardized dialect of the Malay language that was officially defined with the declaration of Indonesian independence in 1945, and the two languages remain quite similar.
- The Indonesian name for the language is *Bahasa Indonesia* (literally *language of Indonesia*); this name is sometimes used in English as well. The language is sometimes called "Bahasa" by English-speakers, though this simply means "language" in Indonesian.



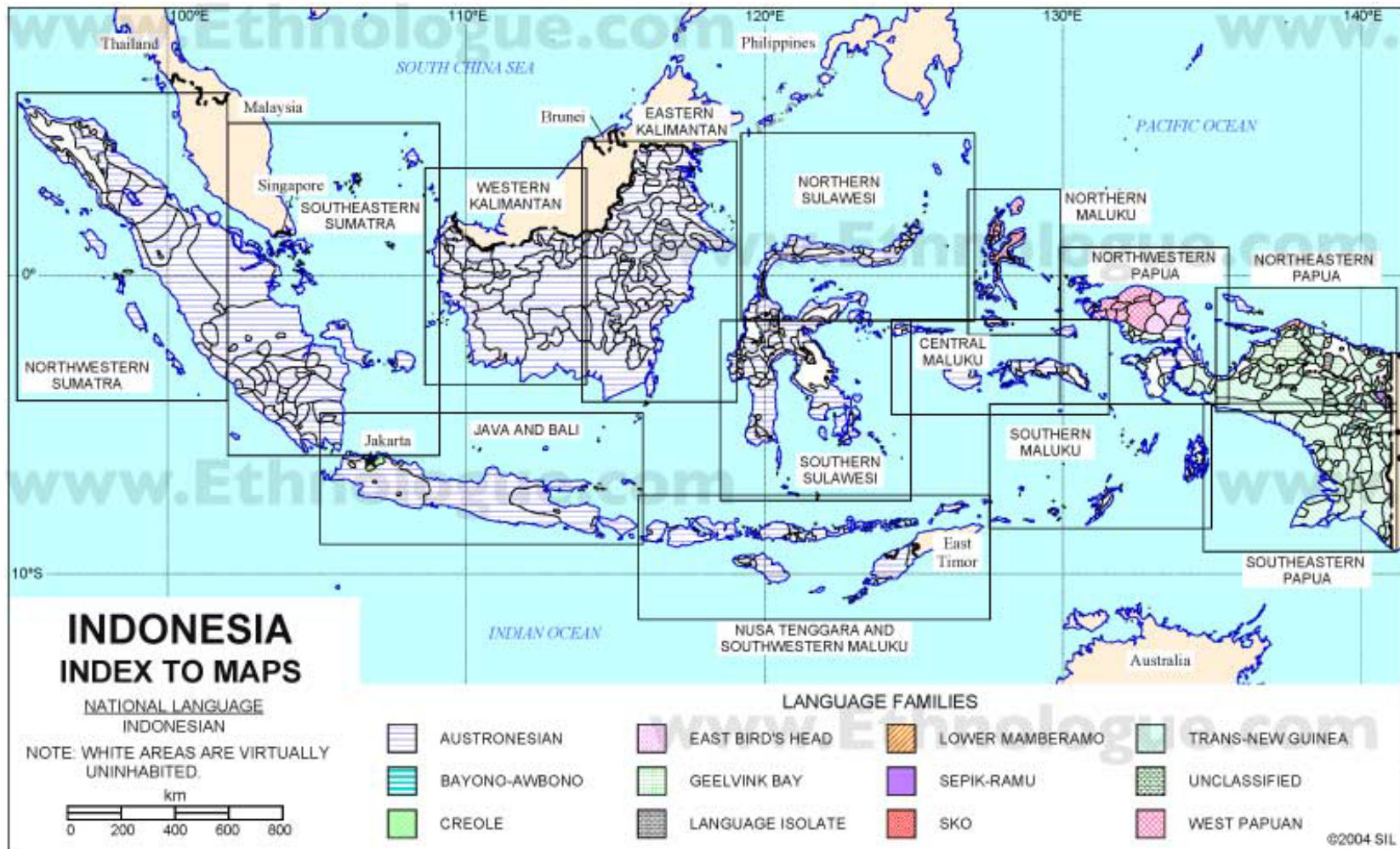
# Introduction (con't)

---

- The language is spoken fluently as a second language by most Indonesians, who use a regional language (examples are Minangkabau, Acehnese and Javanese) at home and in their local community. Most formal education, as well as nearly all national media and other communication, are in Indonesian. Indonesian is also spoken by some people in East Timor.
- The number of languages listed for Indonesia is **742** or even more.

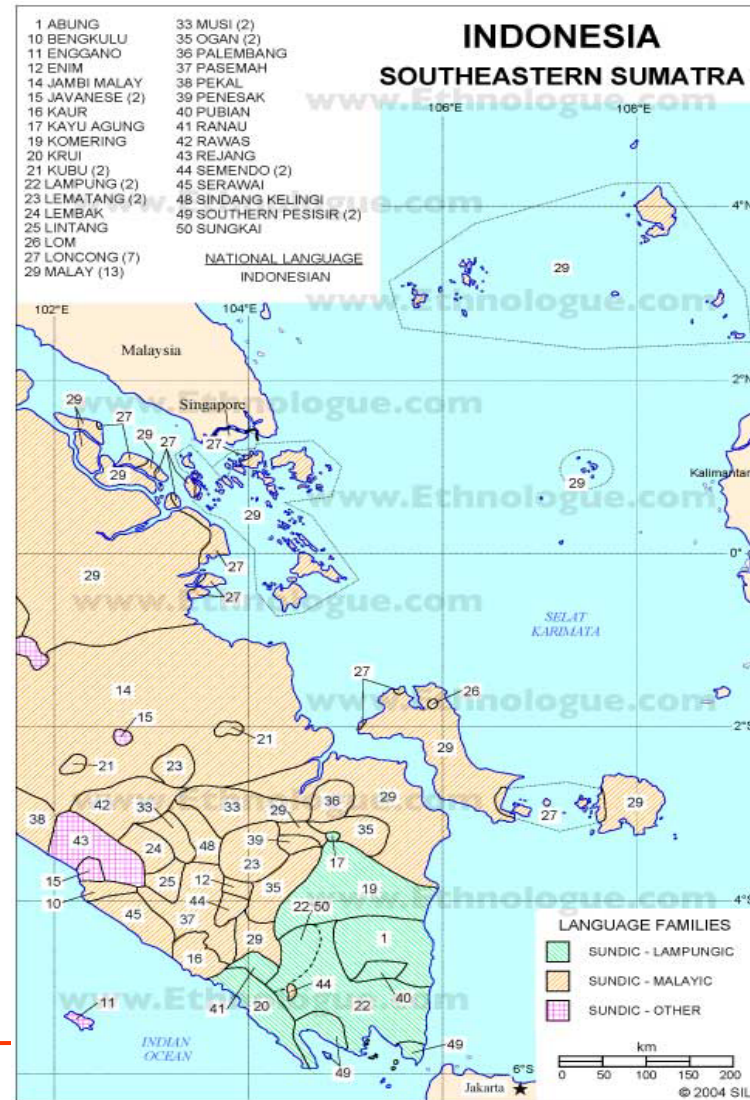


# Language Families in Indonesia



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BOZEN  
 LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO  
 FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN - BOLZANO

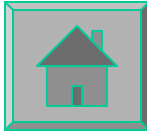
# Sumatera



# Jawa & Bali







- Indonesian is a normative form of the **Malay language**, an Austronesian (or **Malayo-Polynesian**) language which had been used as a *lingua franca* in the Indonesian archipelago for centuries, and was elevated to the status of official language with the Indonesian declaration of independence in 1945, drawing inspiration from the *Sumpah Pemuda* (Youth's Oath) event in 1928.
- It is very similar to the official Malaysian form of the language. However it does differ from the Malaysian form in some ways, with differences in pronunciation and also in vocabulary, due in large part to the many Dutch words in the Indonesian vocabulary.



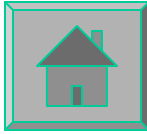
# History (con't)

---

- The **Dutch** colonization left an imprint on the language that can be seen in words such as *polisi* (police), *kualitas* (quality), *kopi* (coffee), *rokok* (cigarette), *kantor* (office), and *resleting* (zipper).
- There are also some words derived from **Portuguese** (*sabun*, soap; *meja*, table; *jendela*, window; and *gereja*, church), **Chinese** (*pisau*, knife or dagger; *loteng*, [upper] floor), **Hindi** (*kaca*, mirror) and from **Arabic** (*khusus*, special; *maaf*, sorry; *selamat ...*, a greeting; *kursi*, chair).  
There are also words derived from Javanese (*aku*, I (*informal*), and its derivative form *mengaku*, confess).



# Role & Communicative Context



- It is spoken as a mother tongue by only 7% of the population of Indonesia (mainly in the vicinity of Jakarta), but altogether more than 200 million people speak it, with varying degrees of proficiency. It is an essential means of communication in a region with native languages, **used for business and administrative purposes, at all levels of education and in all mass media.**

Note: CIA Factbook → 245,452,739 people (July 2006 est.)

- The degree of "**correctness**" of spoken Indonesian (in terms of grammar and vocabulary) by comparison to its written form is noticeably **low**. This *phenomenon* is exacerbated by the use of **slang** and due to the fact that most Indonesians tend to mix aspects of dialects.

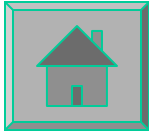


---

**HOW BAHASA INDONESIA  
LOOKS LIKE ???**



# The alphabet in Indonesian

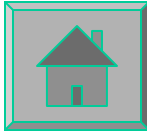


<b>a</b> = ah	<b>b</b> = bay	<b>c</b> = chay	<b>d</b> = day	<b>e</b> = ay
<b>f</b> = ef	<b>g</b> = gay	<b>h</b> = ha	<b>i</b> = ee	<b>j</b> = jay
<b>k</b> = kah	<b>l</b> = el	<b>m</b> = em	<b>n</b> = en	<b>o</b> = oh
<b>p</b> = pay	<b>q</b> = key	<b>r</b> = air	<b>s</b> = es	<b>t</b> = tay
<b>u</b> = oo	<b>v</b> = fay	<b>w</b> = way	<b>x</b> = eks	
	<b>y</b> = yay	<b>z</b> = zet		

- The letters *q*, *v*, *x*, *z* are very rare in Indonesian, and are mostly found in words borrowed from English, Dutch or Arabic.
- *q* similar to English *k* as *Qur'an*
- *v* similar to English *v* or *f* as *veto*
- *x* like English *x* as *xerox*
- *z* like English *z* or *j* as *zebra*, *zaman*



# Pronunciation



- Indonesian sounds as it looks. Essentially Indonesian spelling is **phonetic**. Naturally there are exceptions, as after all it is a natural (as opposed to an artificial) language. Also, there are two ways to pronounce the letter "e", while "kh" might have a few people clearing their throats. "R"s need to be rolled and "ny"s need to be practiced.
- **k**, **p**, and **t** are unaspirated, ie they are not followed by a noticeable puff of air as they often are in English words.
- **t** and **d** are dental, **k** is at the end of a syllable it becomes a glottal stop, which sounds like it is cut off sharply e.g. "baik", "bapak". This is similar to a number of English dialects where the final t is glottalized ("got", "what"). Only a few Indonesian words have this sound in the middle, e.g. "bakso" (meatballs), and it may be represented by an apostrophe in Arabic derived words such as "Al Qur'an".
- Stress is placed on the penultimate (second-last) syllable of each base word. But if this syllable contains a schwa then the accent moves to the last syllable.



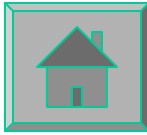
# Grammar

---

- The basic word order is **SVO** (subject – verb – object)
- *Example:*            Saya makan nasi = I eat rice
  
- No gender rules. No singular or plural rules. No future or past tenses of verbs, either! Little wonder that Indonesian gives the impression of having a **relatively simple grammar**. There are rules, but they are not formalized into a rigid "standard" grammar. In practice, the structure of written and spoken Indonesian can be quite **flexible**. This flexibility, on the other hand, can result in complexity, where the meanings of words are highly dependant on the context of its utterance.



# Foreign & Regional Terms



- More recently, many terms from English and regional languages have been assimilated into "standard" Indonesian. Many more have found their way into the informal, but often regular, use of both written and spoken Indonesian.
- Here are examples from a national magazine:

- "Pembeli **commercial paper** yang dikeluarkan perusahaan-perusahaan di Indonesia bukan hanya dari dalam negeri, tapi juga lembaga-lembaga keuangan asing atau investor internasional yang mempunyai jaringan **on-line** pada **bank-bank** tradisional."
- "Untuk sebagian, ketakmampuan DPR berfungsi maksimal tak lain karena tumbuh dan dominannya mentalitas **pangreh** (pegawai) di kalangan anggota dewan. Budaya politik **ewuh pakewuh**, minta "restu" and "petunjuk" lebih menonjol ketimbang inisiatif dan prakarsa."





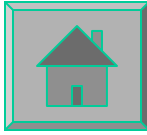
# Plural Form



- Plurals are expressed by means of **reduplication**, but only when the plural is not implied by the context.
- Ex: *person* is *orang*, and *people* is ***orang-orang***, but *one thousand people* is *seribu orang*, as the numeral makes it unnecessary to mark the plural form. A short-cut notation using the number "2" was widely accepted (eg "**orang2**").
- In practice, however, you will find that Indonesian writing avoid a lot of this repeated form of plurals, relying instead on the use of constructs which either do not require the repeated form or where the singular/plural nature of a term can be determined from its context.



# Affixation



- The addition of prefixes and suffixes, is often find difficult. Examples:
- **Beruang** (ber+uang)

**Uang** (noun) = *money*; **beruang** (verb) = *to have money* or *to be rich*.

Sekolah itu hanya untuk orang yang **beruang**  
= That school is only for the *rich*.

- As in this case, the suffix **ber-** added to a noun often means "to have" the thing represented by the noun.
- *ber+rumah* = *to have a house*; *ber+mobil* = *to have a car*.
- **Beruang**, is also a term in its own right which has nothing to do with the apparent root, eg **uang**. **Beruang** = *bear* (the animal).
- Fortunately, the context would, in most cases, make clear which meaning is intended.

**Beruang** kutub berwarna putih = Polar **bears** are white.



# Affixation (con't)

- '**pe-**' is a prefix, which produces nouns when added to a base word. The resulting noun often means someone who carries out an action associated with the word. The verb **renang**, meaning *to swim*. The word **perenang**, which is derived from the root word **renang** by adding the suffix **pe-**, means *swimmer*.
- What makes the affixation process often difficult is **the complex sound assimilation rules that need to be applied**. The rules are intended to produce words which are supposed to be pronounced easier, but can be hard to learn. An example of this rule says that when **pe-** is added to a word starting with the letter '**t**', then it is changed into '**n**'.



# Affixation (con't)

- **Example:**

Base Word	English	Add Prefix	Resultant Word	Meaning (nouns)
tulis	to write	pe+tulis	penulis	writer
tuntut	to take to court	pe+tuntut	penuntut	prosecutor
tarik	to pull	pe+tarik	penarik	someone who pulls

To make things more confusing, there are exceptions to this rule. In particular, it is possible in some instances, to have words where the 't' is **not** changed to 'n'. An example is the base word *tinju*, meaning *fist*. The words *petinju* and *peninju* are both valid, both of the form *pe+tinju*. However, these words, although related to the concept *fist*, have different meanings:

Word	Meaning
petinju	boxer
peninju	someone who hits



# Affixation (con't)

- It is possible to combine suffixes and prefixes to form interesting Indonesian words. The longest sequence in the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) is 4. Examples:

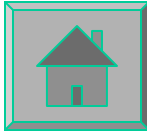
**keterpelajaran** (ke + ter + pel + [**ajar**] + an),

roughly meaning *being educated or about being educated*, i.e. *educated-ness*.

**berseketiduran** (ber + se + ke + [**tidur**] + an), one meaning of which is *to sleep together in one bed*.

- Of course, you could also make up your own words which may not necessarily be in the KBBI. For example, **canda** means *joke* or *teasing*, while **bercanda** means *to joke* or *to tease*. We could come up with the word **mempercanda**, which is not in the KBBI. What does it mean? It would be reasonable to interpret it as meaning *to tease someone*.





# Active & Passive Forms

- The use of the prefix **"di-"** and the preposition **"di "** is one aspect of Bahasa Indonesia that even regular users often get wrong.
- The prefix **"di-"** to make the passive form of an active **"me-"** verb.

Example:

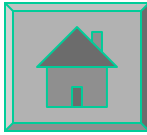
Active:	Saya <b>menulis</b> buku itu.	<i>I wrote that book.</i>
Passive:	Buku itu <b>ditulis</b> oleh saya.	<i>That book was written by me.</i>

- The preposition **"di "**, on the other hand, indicates location, often meaning "at". Examples are "di rumah" meaning *at home*, and "di sekolah" meaning *at school*.
- This means that **"dirumah"** is wrong because "merumah" is not a verb. The correct form is **"di rumah"**. However, "dirumahkan" is valid because it is the passive form of the verb "merumahkan".

Use prefix **"di-"** + verbs, otherwise there is space after **"di "** in front of locations.



# No? Not so simple..



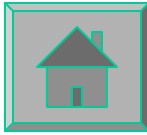
- Saying 'no' or 'not' in Indonesian may not be so simple. Bahasa Indonesia has two words 'bukan' and 'tidak' to state the negative.
- When should we use them? The rule is quite straightforward:  
**Use 'bukan' to negate nouns, otherwise use 'tidak'.**

## **Example:**

Pakaian dia tidak bersih.	His clothes are not clean.
Saya tidak akan datang.	I will not be coming.
Saya tidak suka durian.	I do not like durian.
Itu bukan mobil saya.	That is not my car.
Adam bukan guru.	Adam is not a teacher.



# Onomatopoeia



"Onomatopoeia", or sound word, is a word whose sound imitates the actual sound to which it refers. You will be familiar with English examples such as 'bang', 'thud' and 'splash'.

Here are some Indonesian examples:

Indonesian	English
kukuruyuk	cock-a-doodle-doo
aum	roar (of a lion)
kerisik	rustle (of leaves)





# Slang - Prokem



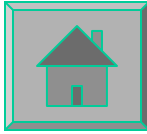
Among Indonesian slang or "bahasa gaul", the Jakarta dialect is the most well known. It is often loosely referred to as "bahasa Prokem", although strictly speaking not all Jakarta slang is "Prokem". This slang language is used primarily among youth, although these days the not so young use it widely as well (especially those who regularly used it in their youth). Prokem has been traced back at least to the early 1960's, while the origins of Prokem probably date back much further. The word "Prokem" is itself a Prokem word, derived from the Indonesian "preman", meaning street youth, originally from the Dutch, "prejman."

Here are some common examples:

Jakarta slang	Standard Indonesian	English
banget	sangat, sekali	very
cakep	cantik, ganteng	good looking
doyan	suka	like
gue	saya	I
Si Ani cakep banget.	Si Ani cantik sekali.	Ani is very pretty.
Gue doyan makan sate.	Saya suka makan sate.	I like to eat satay.



# Some Daily Used Examples



## • Greetings:

- Good morning = Selamat pagi
- Mid-day = Selamat siang
- Evening = Selamat malam
- Good-bye = Selamat tinggal (if you're leaving)
- = Selamat jalan (to someone who is leaving you)
- Thank you = Terima kasih
- You're welcome = Kembali or sama-sama
- How are you? = Apa kabar?
- Excuse me = Permisi / maaf

## • Communicating:

- Do you speak English? = Bisa bicara Bahasa Inggris?
- I don't speak Indonesian = Saya tidak bisa bicara bahasa Indonesia.
- I don't understand = Saya tidak mengerti.



# Some Daily Used Examples (con't)

## • Requesting basic assistance:

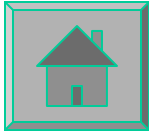
- Can you help me? = Bisa bantu saya?
- Where is the bathroom? = Di mana kamar kecil?
- Where is . . . = Di mana. . .
- How much is this? = Berapa harganya ini?
- I want this = Saya mau ini
- I want to eat = Saya mau makan.

## • Getting home:

- My address is ... = Alamat saya...
- Please take me to ... = Tolong, antar saya ke ...



# Conclusion



- Indonesian archipelago has hundreds of regional languages but the national language is Bahasa Indonesia (*Indonesian*). At first, Indonesian might appear extremely simple. It seems to be a language with no tense suffixes or prefixes, no case genders or definite articles, no declensions, no conjugations, not even a verb "to be."
- In actuality, however, the very lack of obvious rules makes it difficult to speak the language correctly or express yourself in a natural way.
- Speaking enough Indonesian to get by is easy-easier than English. But to speak and write Indonesian well is another matter; it's as difficult and sophisticated as any of the other languages.



---

**THANK YOU**  
**TERIMA KASIH**



FREE UNIVERSITÄT BOZEN  
LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO  
FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN - BOLZANO