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Language Group: Indonesian
Author: Flerida Ortiz

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)

# Indonesian Language Report

Flerida M. Ortiz

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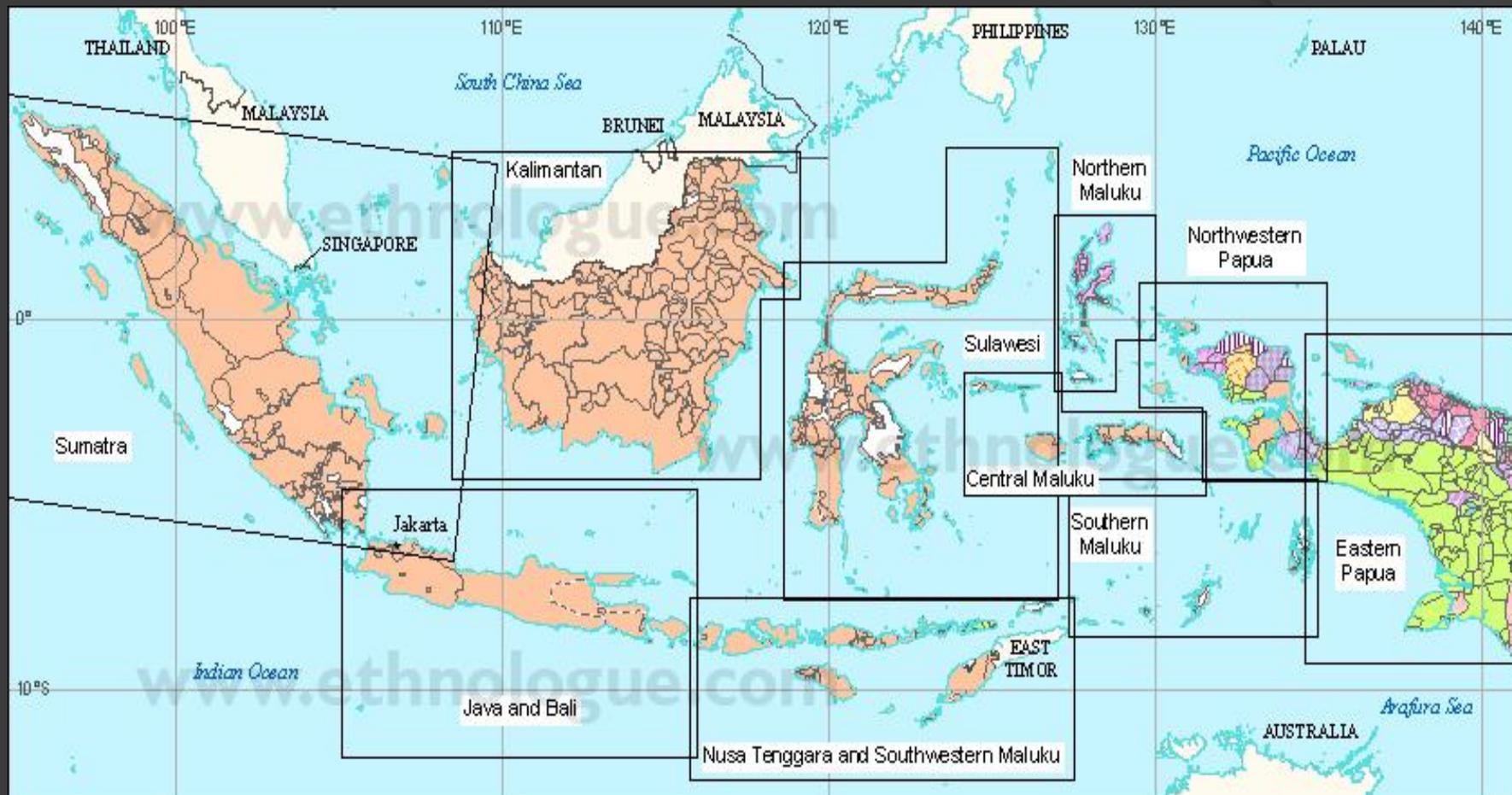
INDONESIA — INDEX TO MAPS

NATIONAL LANGUAGE
Indonesian

Note: White areas are sparsely populated or uninhabited.

0   200   400   600   800 km

Language Families

- Austronesian
- Bayono-Awbono
- Border
- Creole
- East Bird's Head-Sentani
- East Geelvink Bay
- Kaure
- Lakes Plain
- Language Isolate
- Lower Mamberamo
- Mairasi
- Maybrat
- Nimboran
- Pauwasi
- Senagi
- Sepik
- Sko
- Somahai
- South-Central Papuan
- Tor-Kwerba
- Trans-New Guinea
- Unclassified
- West Papuan

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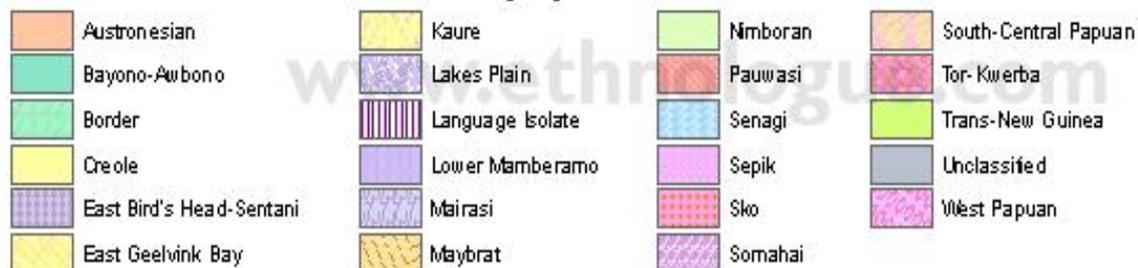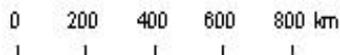
Indonesian Language Origin

Indonesian or Bahasa Indonesia is the official language of Indonesia, the biggest archipelago in the world located between the Indian Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Despite been the national language, Indonesian is not the first language for most people in Indonesia, as one would be inclined to believe. The reality is that *only* 35 million people speak Indonesian as a first language (L1), compared to the 150 million who speak Indonesian as a second language (L2). Indonesia's numerous islands (thousands of them) are characterized by their rich linguistic diversity. There are approximately 735 languages spoken in Indonesia.

Language Transformations

 Indonesian emerged from the Riau dialect of the Malay language. Its differences with the Riau dialect are mainly the result of Dutch (former colonists) and Javanese (the central and eastern parts of the island of Java in Indonesia) influences. For instance, Dutch colonists were the ones who introduced the Latin alphabet to write Indonesian.

Indonesian: written form

Vowels & Diphthongs

a	e	i	o	u	ai	au	oi
[a]	[ɛ,ə,e]	[i]	[o, ɔ]	[u]	[ai]	[au]	[ɔɪ]

Consonants

b	c	d	f	g	h	j	k	kh	l	m	n	ny
[b]	[c]	[d]	[p]	[g]	[h]	[dʒ]	[k]	[x]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[ɲ]

ng	p	q	r	s	sy	t	v	w	x	y	z
[ŋ]	[p]	[k]	[r]	[s]	[ʃ]	[t]	[f]	[w]	[ks]	[j]	[z]

Notes
There are four digraphs: ng (eng), ny (nye), kh (kha) and sy (sya).
The final two only appear in words of Arabic origin.
The letters q, v, x, and z are used in loanwords from Europe and India.

Sample text
Semua orang dilahirkan merdeka dan mempunyai martabat dan hak-hak yang sama. Mereka dikaruniai akal dan hati nurani dan hendaknya bergaul satu sama lain dalam semangat persaudaraan.

Translation
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
(Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

All information on this slide was adopted from : Omniglot - writing systems and languages of the world. 03-25-2011. www.omniglot.com

Writing System Implications to Indonesian English Second Language Learners (SLLs)

❖ **Phonics:** Indonesian use the Latin alphabet.

❖ Since English uses the same alphabet, the transfer of written language skill should be considerably easy for Indonesian SLLs compare to SLLs who come from countries with different alphabets. However, the learner does need to learn a new way of using the same alphabet, however this should be considerably easier than learning a new one.

Indonesian Writing Features

Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

Indonesian Writing System & Its Implications for English Second Language Learners

❖ **Phonology:**

▪ **Similarities:** for the most parts, Indonesian has the same phonemes as English (e.g. [b], [c], [d], [g], [h], [k],[t],[r],[s],[p] [ng]).

❖ **Phonology:**

▪ **Similarities:** when the Indonesian phonemes are represented by the same letters as in English, as indicated on the left column, it could be expected that the rate for positive transfer would be high. However, the position where the phonemes appear in words affect the degree of transferability. For instance, Indonesian does no have final b, d, k, and g. For this reason Indonesian SLLs tend to omit the final d in English words such as in the regular past tenses (Mathew, 2005).

Indonesian Language Features

Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

Indonesian Writing System & Its Implications for English Second Language Learners

❖ **Phonology:**

   ❖ **Differences:**

- Three out of the four Indonesian digraphs do not appear in English: ny (nye), kh (kha) and sy (sya).

- Some letters stand for different phonemes than English. For instance, f -[p], q-[k], and y-[j].

❖ **Phonology:**

   ▪ **Differences:**

- None of the phonemes represented by the diagraphs on the left column are in the English Language.   So, they are not likely to generate neither positive nor negative transfer. However, it has been found that Indonesians struggle with diagraphs in English due to the fact that the use of them is a lot less common in Indonesian. Also, the use of the letter *h* in English diagraphs is a cause of confusion for Indonesian SLLs .They fail to see that in such cases *h* stands for a different phoneme (Mathew, 2005).

- The letters that stand for different phonemes as stated on the left column have a significant chances for negative transfer, For instance, Indonesian SLL could read the word *food* like *pood, yack* as *jack,* and *queen* as *kueen*

Indonesian Language Features

Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

Indonesian Language Features & Their Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

❖ **Grammatical Gender** : except for a few exceptions (usually words borrowed from other languages such as Javanese or Sanskrit), Indonesian does not have grammatical gender. For instance, the Indonesian word *pacar is* equivalent to both English words *boyfriend* and *girlfriend* . To express natural gender an adjective is added to the noun. For instance, *adik* means younger sibling of either sex, and *adik laki-laki* means *younger male sibling.*

❖ Because of the lack of grammatical gender in their L1, it could be presumed that some Indonesian Second Language Learners (SLL) could use a particular English word such as *man* to refer to both *man* and woman. Such type of error in English would represent a negative transfer from the native language.

Indonesian Language Features

Possible Implications for Second Language

Indonesian Language Features & Their Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

- ❖ **Age:** Indonesian has different words to refer to younger and older persons. For instance, *adik* means *younger sibling* while *kakak* means older sibling. This language feature is rooted in the Indonesian cultural. Indonesians have great respect for older people. To address them differently than younger people is one of the ways they demonstrate such respect.

Indonesian Language Features

- ❖ The only implication this feature could pose for Indonesian English SLL is the need for the student get familiarize with the new culture and get use to the idea that in English everyone is address in the same manner regardless of age. On the other hand this feature could result in a negative transfer for English SLL who are learning Indonesian.

Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

Indonesian Language Features & Their Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

❖ **Sentence Structure:** basic Indonesian sentence structure is similar to English. Is formed with *subject+verb+object.*

❖ This would indicate that, once some basic vocabulary is acquired, Indonesians should be able to formulate basic sentences in English with relative ease.

Indonesian Language Features

Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

Indonesian Language Features & Their Possible Implications for Second Language Learning

❖ **Verb Tense:** in the Indonesian language verbs stay the same regardless of tense. When they need to clarify the time, Indonesians add other words that indicate the time.

❖ These language feature could have a significant implication for negative language transfer. Not being use to making changes to the verb, Indonesian SLLs would provably have a tendency to ignore making changes to verbs in English to indicate tense.

Indonesian Language Features

Possible Implications for Second Language

Indonesia Culture and Communicative Style

❖ Most Indonesians practice are Muslims (%85) , and their religion influences their communication style.

❖ Women are expected to have very limited contact with men (traditional Muslim and Hindu women do not shake hands with men).

❖ Indonesian communication style does not admit touches during communication

❖ Nonverbal communication such as eye contact, posture, and gestures are important in transmitting and receiving the intended message.

❖ Men are talk first.

❖ Strong emotions and rapid or abrupt movements of face, arms, or body are avoided before guests or strangers.

Indonesia Culture and Communicative Style

❖ Greetings are not to be rushed. They carry importance and formality.

❖ Address each person using his/her title plus full name. A title may be an honorific title or an academic title. Rank and status is very important in this culture.

❖ People are normally called by their first name, as in Mr. Robert or Miss Susan, rather than using their last name.

❖ Expressing anger in public through tone of voice, loudness, or body language is always inappropriate.

❖ Events do not usually start on time.

❖ People occupying lower positions or having lower social status cannot start talking to a person who has a higher rank or social position.

Indonesian Communication Style Possible Implications for English SLLs

❖ The male Indonesian learner may need to adjust to a new culture where the teacher, or boss in his job could be someone younger or a woman. In which case he would have to receive instructions and/or orders from someone considered to be of a lower rank in his country.

❖ Since US's culture admits touches during communication , such as hand shake, it would require mutual understanding of this aspect of communication style from both arts in order to avoid miscommunication.

❖ The fact that in the US punctuality is expected could cause friction between member of the two cultures. In the case of a second language learner, it could interfere with the time for class arrival.

❖ It should be expected that new immigrants from Indonesia would provably try to address their teacher by their firs name as this is a the norm in their country (e.g. Ms. Mary).

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M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

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