

- (1) Title: A Cross-linguistic Dimension of Pragmatic Particles
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Abstract

A Cross-linguistic Dimension of Pragmatic Particles

The study investigated one commonly used pragmatic particle in Indonesian (*ya*) and the comparable English particle *yeah*. Videotaped data of naturally occurring conversations by native speakers of Indonesian and of English were collected. A cross-linguistic pragmatic model (Östman, 1981, 2006) and previous studies on Indonesian particles (Wouk, 1998, 2001) and the English *yeah* (Jucker & Smith, 1998) were used to examine the data. Results indicated a number of discursive functions that converge to two focal functional indicators of the particle pair *ya-yeah*, which is to receive and present a discourse. First, as a reception particle, *ya* is comparable to *yeah* because *yeah* functions as an echo or affirmative response to an inquiry. Second, unlike *yeah*, *ya* can function to extend common ground so that the listener can respond effectively. *Ya* shares *yeah*'s function as a reception particle, with an additional function as 'presentation particle' serving to extend common ground. The proposed cross-linguistic dimension has extended functional description of *yeah*, clarified that the functions of *ya*, and illustrated the commonalities within the functional descriptions that both particles share. Both Indonesian and English data indicate that the speakers and hearers are involved in building solidarity in interaction by using pragmatic particles. The cross-linguistic dimension analysis forms a natural link between grammatical and interactional competence and bears an important pedagogical consequence for the Indonesian language teaching in terms of both improving teaching materials based on improved studies in Indonesian pragmatic particles and bringing the culture closer to the learner by understanding the functional spectrum of the particles.

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