

ABSTRACT for ISMIL 12, 26–27 June 2008

Contemporary Indonesian Syntax: Some Evidence of Innovations and Language Change

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The present paper is a sequel of Kaswanti Purwo (2008), “Contemporary Indonesian Phonology and Morphology: Some Evidence of Language Change and Innovations”, presented for The Roundtable Meeting, Leiden University, 26–28 March 2008. For almost half a century Indonesian cannot refrain from having to bear with the mass and rapid influx of English, preceded with the Dutch influence for a few decades around the time of Indonesian independence. The influx has not only enriched and shaken the Indonesian phonology and morphology, but also the syntax. Two constructions will be under scrutiny for a case of innovations: (1) equational constructions and (2) “participial” constructions. Seven constructions will be under discussion for a case of language change: (3) attributive constructions, (4) *yang* constructions, (5) topic-comment vs. subject-predicate constructions, (6) non-“*di*-passive” constructions, and finally the frequency counting of (7) subject-verb inversion, (8) passive vs. active constructions, (9) agentive vs. agentless passive constructions.