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Paper title: Changing Linguistic Repertoires of Indonesian

In this paper I describe the increasingly numerous domains in which non-standard varieties of Indonesian are used. Specifically, I examine a variety of print media (newspapers and literature) and electronic media (television, movies, and internet) in order to provide an overview of some of the informal varieties of Indonesian that exhibit strong linguistic influences from English, Javanese, and Betawi.¹ The dominance of the centrifugal forces of language change has created an opportunity for creative hybridization, emanating from speakers from a variety of social strata. This trend toward increased use of non-standard Indonesian in the media is linked to socio-political changes of decentralization and globalization during the post-Suharto era which have allowed speakers to take a more agentive role in their language communities².

I briefly examine the long-standing, contravening top-down forces that encourage prescriptive and purist agendas of national language planning. These forces shaping Indonesian language arise from government officials, educational policies, and editorial boards. One particularly important development that is affecting Indonesian language usage is the decision to allow for the growth of English-medium schools. The resulting cohort of well-educated students from these English medium schools has a significantly different linguistic repertoire from the educated elites of the pre-Reform Era. The new linguistic hierarchy is sure to be radically different; and power will accrue to the English language speakers, not the national language speakers.

Having considered the linguistic changes in print and electronic media on Indonesian from Javanese, Betawi and English, I speculate on the future of 'standard' Indonesian. The popular non-standard language varieties are aimed at urban youth, especially the educated youth. With growing urbanization and increasing access to media, it can be expected that the power of the non-standard language varieties will increase. As Steinberg notes, questions about language reflect shifting cultural hegemony. Two broad themes can be taken from the data: 1) cultural power is currently found in local (ethnic, regional, social class) languages³ and international languages (English, Arabic, and Mandarin) and 2) there is increasing bottom-up pressure for local communities to create their languages. In this post-national era throughout the world, there has been a paradigm shift away from top-down language planning toward a policy that allows for more local autonomy⁴. One can see how this is playing out in Indonesia today.

¹ Among others sources included are from literature: Djenar Maesa Ayu, *Nyala*, Iip Wijayanto, *Sex in the Kost*, Ayu Utami, *Saman*, & Muhammad Najib, *Conspiracy*; from film, *Ada Apa Dengan Cinta*, *Quickie Express*, *Long Road to Heaven*, *Ungu Violet*, *Badai Pasti Berlalu*, *Ayat, Ayat Cinta*, *Ruang*.

² Steinberg, J., 1987, The Historian and the Question of the Lingua, In: *The Social History of Language*.

³ Goebel, Zane, Goebel, Zane, 2002, Code Choice in Interethnic interactions in two urban neighborhoods of Central Java Indonesia, In: *International J. Soc. Language* 158, pp. 69-87.

⁴ Susan Wright, 2004, *Language Policy and Language Planning*, pp. 96-97.