

Ngejob egen : The Recent Influx of English Loanwords in Contemporary Jakarta Indonesian

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This paper looks at the use of English loanwords in contemporary Jakartan Indonesian. Facebook status updates as well as other written media provide a convenient source for studying such borrowings. In this paper I will address the problem of whether instances of English use constitute borrowing or code-switching.

Classic studies of codeswitching and loanwords use phonological evidence as one of the tools for determining whether a particular use of a word or expressions is codeswitching or borrowing. The use of morphology is another commonly used tool. Written sources do not allow us to use phonological integration as evidence, but the degree of orthographical integration is a tool that can be used, as is morphology.

By using English loanwords, the Jakartan speakers want to send signals to their audience that they are educated and modern and Facebook is one of the preferred media to show such a stance. The following are some examples of English loanwords integrated into written informal Jakarta Indonesian:

1. ngejob egen
N- job again
I got a job again
2. ntar whatsapp an ya
later whatsapp AN yes
let's whatsapp later on, okay.
3. kemon
come.on
let's
4. tengkyu yaaa
thank.you yes
thank you.
5. feel gorjes
feel gorgeous
I feel gorgeous.

This paper aims to show that there is a continuum between less integrated codeswitching and more fully integrated borrowing that can be seen in relatively informal written media.