

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC VIEW  
ON INFORMAL INDONESIAN IN METRO CENTRAL LAMPUNG

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ABSTRACT

Metro, one of residences in Central Lampung, has been long acknowledged for its multilingual community. It has been the destination of migration for decades due to, among other, the closest area to the capital city, Jakarta. This close geographical position has extensively influenced the nature of informal language used in Metro because this informal language has existed long before the information technologies mediated this influence.

Basically, the informal language in Metro (ILM) is similar to Jakarta dialect but some differences are glaringly found. The differences are mostly generated by some sociolinguistic aspects which eventually infiltrate ILM in some ways. For instance, the first and second personal pronouns, *gue* and *lu* in Jakartan dialect become *gua* and *lo* in ILM. Similarly, the function word of *tah* is always in raising intonation which it is falling in its original use in East Java areas, such as Surabaya and Malang, even though it is still positioned at the final position of a question. Its pragmatic function is also kept original. These differences do not end on its sociolinguistics demeanors because the use of ILM simultaneously depicts its users' identity. The hybrid sense of identity and showing acceptance of sameness are contingently attached. The intimate relation between language, culture and identity seems self explanatory in locating the functions of this ILM.