

Indonesia's Gay Men and Transgender Women Through a Semantic Looking-Glass

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The presentation will look at the vocabulary of the so-called *bahasa binan* or *bahasa gay* widely used in gay and transgender communities across Indonesia. We will examine their subculture by examining (a) lexical items that tend to be formally modified in various ways from their Indonesian or local language forms and what they signify; (b) special words only used in the communities; (c) words given a different meaning in the special language; and (d) expressions denoting the gay and transgender experience. A comparison will then be attempted with previous analyses using non-linguistic means.