

Stance in Bandung: Youth Style and Indonesian and in urban West Java

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Youth are an important demographic in Indonesia, and recently much has been made of the language of young people in contemporary Indonesia. Smith-Hefner (2007) examined the use of *bahasa gaul* ‘language of sociability’ among university students in Yogyakarta, identifying key ideologies of informality, self-confidence and cosmopolitanism. Manns (2011) looked at language use and ideology of youth in Malang, East Java and identified complex tensions and patterns of usage between Javanese and Jakartan forms in the local *gaul* community of practice. Rostika (2009) surveyed language attitudes and usage among Sundanese speaking youth in Bandung. She found frequent use of Sundanese particles and grammatical forms, along with Jakartan Indonesian forms, when these young people were speaking Indonesian and she attributed this mixing to the production of relaxed informality. Bandung is of particular interest in the study of youth language in Indonesia because it is a dynamic urban environment that is both strongly influenced by Jakarta, due to its close proximity, and at the same time maintains a very distinct cultural independence grounded in a sense of Sundanese identity. This presentation will expand on the findings in Rostika (2009) by more critically analysing the mixed repertoires deployed by young people in Bandung when they are speaking (primarily) Indonesian. This will be a report from the field – I am currently collecting data in Bandung and will have preliminary results to discuss at ISMIL. I will be asking specifically how grammatical resources are deployed in stance-taking during informal interaction. I will look particularly at elements that may be considered to have differing provenances, such as Jakartan Indonesian, *gaul* slang and Sundanese. My approach assumes that all language use is essentially argumentative in the sense of Verhagen (2008), that is, that the primary role of grammar is to assess and pursued, rather than simply to inform. The analysis of the data will also be informed by an understanding of ‘hybridity’ or mixed language as a means of constructing intersubjective selves through the local deployment of multifarious language resources (e.g. Canagarajah 2005, Pennycook 2010).

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