

## Category as Person Reference in Flirtatious Indonesian Conversation

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The current paper reports a fine-grained examination on the use of categories as person reference within the context of flirtatious conversation. The methodological approaches in use are Conversation Analysis (CA) and Membership Categorization Analysis (MCA). The data consist of nine flirtatious sequences, taken from  $\pm$  2 hours and 20 minutes of conversation between two friends: a male and a female. The female is married (to someone else).

It has been very well understood that speakers of Indonesian have a range options of address terms (eg. Mintz, 1994; Sneddon, 2006; Sneddon, Adelaar, Djenar, & Ewing, 2012, etc), which each can be employed as person reference in conversation. The more traditional account of the selection of person references revolves around social norms associated with each of the address terms. The more recent development offers a more comprehensive account on the selection person reference. Selection of person reference is a dynamic process, which may reflect different constraints. It may be influenced by differing factors such as participants' relationship (Djenar, 2006), self-categorization considerations (Djenar, 2007), stance-taking (Englebretson, 2007), and perhaps other considerations.

The current paper contributes to our understanding on the different constraints at work in the process of person reference selection, in conversation. The work by Stivers (2007) on English Danish, Dutch, Italian and Spanish "alternative recognitional" such as 'your other son' suggests that the choice of person reference in conversation is highly constrained by the pragmatic action of its respective turns. The current paper further our knowledge of the relationship between person reference's selection and pragmatic action. Not only does a person reference have to match the pragmatic action of its respective turn; categories as person reference may even act as a means of constructing the pragmatic action itself. Categories are "inference-rich" (Sacks, 1992). For example, non-flirtatious category such as *istri orang* 'someone else's wife' juxtaposed with an equally neutral verb of *nyerep* 'being (a) spare' or 'being (a) replacement', may allude extramarital kind of (unspecified) courting related activities. When this juxtaposition is produced in the context of flirting sequence, it can be understood as an indirect way to gauge whether one of the participant agrees to do such activities.

The current paper contributes to our understanding of the different constraints at work in the process of person reference selection in conversation. It adds to our understanding that there is a (two-way) interaction between person reference selection and pragmatic action construction in conversation.

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