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Abstract

The Oral Javanese Indonesian of Primary School Children of Semarang, Central Java

The means of instruction in primary schools in Central Java is Indonesian. The first language spoken by the Central Javanese is Javanese but most people in Central Java are bilingual in Javanese and Indonesian. Since the first year of primary school, children in Semarang, the capital of Central Java Province, appear to be bilingual in Javanese and Indonesian. The official language and the books used at school are in Indonesian, the children, however, speak Javanese at home and with their friends. Their oral Indonesian from the first to the sixth year was taped and transcribed. The result of the analysis is that the same with that of the oral Indonesian as a first language spoken by the primary school children in Jakarta. From the first gradually to the sixth year their language consist of increasing number of complex construction of compound, complex and compound complex sentences from 27% to 80%. Since their language is a form of their personal story-telling or narratives the cohesion marker which occurs the most frequently is the ellipsis of subject which gradually decreases from the first to the sixth year. The difference of their Indonesian as a second language is in the lower years of the first and the second year, younger children tend to use Javanese words in Indonesian construction. They also use Javanese pronunciation and intonation with heavily marked Javanese accent. They pronounce the voice stops [bh-] [dh-] [gh] and voice affricate [jh-] with aspiration typical of the Javanese language. Older children in the fifth and sixth year use Indonesian words completely. Though they speak Indonesian fluently, their Javanese accent is still discernable. They also use more polite and persuasive ways when asking and ordering to both the older person and their peer compared to the primary school children in Jakarta speaking in Indonesian as a first language.

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