

The Elusive Final Glottals of Jakarta Indonesian

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Jakarta Indonesian (JI) is the most widely spoken colloquial variety of Malay-Indonesian. It is the native language of about 10 million, and many more people speak it as a second language. It is therefore surprising that almost no descriptions of it exist. One aspect which has received scant attention is the puzzling status of final glottals.

Standard Indonesian (SI), which willy-nilly is the point of departure for the discussion of colloquial varieties of Indonesian, has only a few words with an underlying final glottal stop, such as *bapak* /bapa?/ ‘father’, *masa* /masa?/ ‘incredible!’, and *tidak* /tida?/ ‘no’. (In several descriptions of SI it is claimed that final *k* is realized as a glottal stop in SI, but this is not the case. Final /k/, like all final voiceless stops, is unreleased, but definitely velar and not glottal.) On the other hand, many SI words end in an underlying final glottal fricative, for example *rumah* /rumah/ ‘house’, *pilih* /pilih/ ‘choose’, and *tujuh* /tujuh/ ‘seven’.

This paper maintains that unlike SI, JI has a very large number of words which end in a phonemic (underlying) glottal stop. These include many of the words that, in SI, end with a vowel, such as *mata* ‘eye’ (SI /mata/, JI /mata?/), *kaki* ‘foot’ (SI /kaki/, JI /kaki?/), and *malu* ‘ashamed’ (SI /malu/, JI /malu?/). On the other hand, and also unlike SI, no words end in /h/ in Jakarta Indonesian. When a final [h] is present, it is easily derivable by a simple insertion rule. This situation leads to the following correspondence between SI and JI words:

<u>Standard Indonesian</u>	<u>Jakarta Indonesian</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
/muda/	/muda?/	‘young’
/mudah/	/muda/	‘easy’
/bawa/	/bawa?/	‘bring’
/bawah/	/bawa/	‘below’

Data to support this analysis are taken from a large corpus of transcribed spontaneous conversations in JI, containing more than 2 million words. This corpus, in the form of a computerized, searchable database, has been produced at the Jakarta Field Station of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, as part of a large research project led by David Gil.