## The Acquisition of WH Forms in Jakarta Indonesian

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## Part I: WH Forms in Adult Jakarta Indonesian

## 1. What is Jakarta Indonesian?

- ★ Jakarta Indonesian is the general colloquial language of Jakarta, used in most everyday contexts for inter-ethnic and ethnically-neutral communication, and increasingly also for intra-ethnic communication; acquired naturally and completely at a young age by most children growing up in Jakarta; described by Wouk (1989,1999).
- ★ Jakarta Indonesian is not:
  - Standard Indonesian, used in more formal contexts in Jakarta and throughout Indonesia; acquired by children at a later age, often 'imperfectly', largely from the media and via conscious schooling.
  - Betawi Malay, the native dialect of the indigenous ethnic community of Jakarta, now a small minority of the total the population of Jakarta described by Kähler (1966), Abdul Chaer (1976), Ikranagara (1980), Muhadjir (1981), Grijns (1991) and others.
- \* However, there exists a continuum of language varieties between Jakarta Indonesian and Standard Indonesian, and between Jakarta Indonesian and Betawi Malay.

### 2. Lexicon of WH Forms

(1)	(a)	ара	'what', 'do what'	
	(b)	diapa	'do what'	di- PATIENT ORIENTED
	(c)	diapain	'do what'	di- PATIENT ORIENTED, $-in$ APPLICATIVE
	(d)	? ngapa	'do what'	N- AGENT ORIENTED
	(e)	ngapain	'do what'	N- AGENT ORIENTED, $-in$ APPLICATIVE
	(f)	apaan	'what'	-an AUGMENTATIVE
	(g)	apanya	'what of'	-nya ASSOCIATIVE
	(h)	apaannya	'what of'	-an AUGMENTATIVE, -nya ASSOCIATIVE
	(i)	siapa	'who'	si- Personal
	(j)	berapa	'how much'	<i>ber</i> - MEDIAL
	(k)	kenapa	'undergo what', 'why', 'how'	<i>kena</i> 'undergo'
(2)	(a)	mana	'which', 'where'	
, ,	(b)	gimana	'what circumstance','how'	< bagai 'like'
(3)		kapan	'when'	
(4)		kok	'how come'	

## 3. Polyfunctionality: Non-WH Usages of WH Forms

- (5) (a) all indefinite
  - (b) all (?) dummy
  - (c) apa disjunction
  - (d) apa disjunction with negation forming YN question
  - (e) apa YN question
  - (f) apaan protest exclamation
  - (g) mana negation
  - (h) *kok* contrastive, surprise

## 4. WH Questions: Distribution of WH Forms

★ Does the distribution of WH forms expressing WH questions differ from that of other, non-interrogative forms?

Mostly: **no** In some restricted cases: **yes** 

## 4.1. objects to the left of the verb

(same)

- (6) (a) Rambutnya potong di mana? [object before verb]

  hair-ASSOC cut LOC where

  [adult asking child] [imited distribution

  'Where do you have your hair cut?'
  - (b) Di sekolahan *buku gambarnya* <u>beli</u> di mana? LOC school-AUG book picture-ASSOC buy LOC where [adult asking child] 'At school where do you buy drawing books?'
  - (c) Orangnya suruh masuk, Dek
    person-ASSOC order enter TRU-younger.brother
    [adult and child playing with toy car; adult opens the door of the car and asks child to tell the make-believe people to go in to the car]

    'Tell the people to go in!'
- (7) (a) Dia <u>bilang</u> apa? [ object apa after <u>verb</u> ]
  3 say what

[adult and child playing with puppets; adult encouraging child to make his puppet say something]
'What's it going to say?'

- (b) Apa tadi dek Ido bilang? [object apa before verb] what PST:PROX TRU-younger.brother Ido say [adult asking child to repeat what he had just said] 'What did you say?'
- (8) (a) <u>Liat siapa?</u> [ object siapa after <u>verb</u> ] see PERS-what [adult playing with child; child beckons adult into back yard; adult asks] 'Who do you want to see?'
  - (b) —— [ object siapa before verb ]

unattested

#### \* Riau Indonesian:

(9) (a)  $Apa \quad \underline{tarok}$ ?

[ object apa before verb ]

what put [playing cards]

'What did you put down?'

(b) Kau apa li-lihat?

2 what DISTR-see
[to a nosy onlooker]
'What are you looking at?'

(c) Apa kalian <u>li-li-lihat</u>?

what 2:PL DISTR-see
[crowd of curious children gathered around foreigner, woman addresses them]

'What are you all looking at?'

## ★ Singapore Malay:

Norhaida (1999)

(10) (a) *Apa* dia <u>cari</u>?

[ object apa before verb ]

what 3 seek

[adult playing with child, talking about an animal in a story, who is looking for something in a box]

'What's he looking for'

(b) Apa kau nak <u>buat</u>?

what 2 want do

[adult playfully threatening child she will eat her up,
asking her what she will do then]

'What will you do?'

#### A straw man:

#### WHQ apa cannot occur initially because that function is usurped by YNQ apa

(11) (a) <u>Dipasang</u> semua *apa*?

[ YNQ apa after verb ]

PAT-attach all what

[talking about a pair of earrings, child is going to put them away, adult asks] 'Are you going to put them both on?'

(b) Apa ini nggak bisa? what DEM:PROX NEG can

[ YNQ apa before verb ]

[about a recalcitrant remote control apparatus]

'Doesn't this work?'

## 4.2. an ordering tendency for NP and PP predicates (different)

(12) (a) jerapah [ NP after subject ] Itu DEM:DIST giraffe [looking at pictures in a book] 'That's a giraffe' Buntut [ *NP* before subject ] (b) itu DEM:DIST [looking at pictures in a book, limited distribution child points to mouse's tail and says it's a snake. adult says it isn't, and then explains] 'That's a tail' (13) (a) [ apa after subject ] Itu apa? garage-ASSOC LOC [looking at pictures in a book] 'What's that' Apa itu? [ apa before subject ] (b) LOC where wash-ASSOC room [looking at pictures in a book] 'What's that?' (14) (a) dalem [ PP after subject ] teleponnya ditelephone-ASSOC LOC inside [looking at photo album, picture of house, child asks where the phone is, adult answers] 'The phone is inside' (b) Didalam tanah akarnya [ PP before subject ] inside LOC soil root-ASSOC [reading book with child, talking about tree] limited distribution 'Its roots are in the soil' (15) (a) Bengkelnya [ di mana after subject ] di mana? garage-ASSOC LOC where [to child, playing with toy car, which has make-believedly caught fire] 'Where's its garage?' (b) Dimana kamar mandinya? [ di mana before subject ] where room LOC wash-ASSOC

[to child, about his toy house] 'Where's the bathroom?'

## 4.3. a negative intervention-effect tendency for kenapa (different)

★ French: Mathieu (1999) (16)(a) Jean mange quoi? John eat-PRES:3:SG what Qu'est-ce Jean mange? (b) que what-be:PRES:3:SG-DEM:SG COMP John eat-PRES:3:SG 'What is John eating?' (a) \*Jean ne mange (17)pas quoi? John NEG eat-PRES:3:SG NEG what Qu'est-ce que Jean ne mange pas? what-be:PRES:3:SG-DEM:SG COMP John NEG eat-PRES:3:SG 'What isn't John eating?' (18) (a) tangannya kenapa? [ kenapa after verb ] Dimut PAT-suck hand-ASSOC whv [adult scolding child] 9 examples 'Why are you sucking your finger?' Kenapa dibongkar? [ kenapa before verb ] (b) why PAT-take.apart [adult and child talking; child says that his room is all messed up; **B** exemples adult asksl 'How did it get messed up?' (19) (a) Oo **nggak** <u>percaya</u> *kenapa* sih? [ kenapa after **negated** verb ] aunt NEG believe why [child begins to tell adult secret story, O ekamples but then says that adult won't believe her, (but attested in larger sample) adult then reassures herl 'Why don't I believe it?' Kenapa **nggak** mau makan? [ kenapa before **negated** verb ] (b) why NEG want eat [to child who doesn't want to eat] II examples 'Why don't you want to eat?' \* Riau Indonesian: [ kenapa after **negated** verb ] (20)Jadi David **tak** mau mobil *kenapa*? become David NEG want car [asking David about his reluctance to own a car] 'So why don't you want a car?' **★** Singapore Malay: Norhaida (1999) (21)**Tak** boleh *kenapa*? [ kenapa after **negated** verb ] NEG want why [adult playing with child; child wants storybook character to eat all the cookies; adult says he can't; child asks why; adult repeats the question rhetorically ... ... and then goes on to explain that food must always be shared] 'Why can't he?'

## 4.4. a constraint against post-verbal position for kok (different)

(22) (a) —— [ *kok* after <u>verb</u> ]

unattested

(b) Kok tanyanya ke Tante?

[ kok before verb ]

how.come ask-ASSOC to aunt

[adult and child playing game in which adult points to pictures and asks child to name the objects; child's older brother, who is watching, points to a picture and asks the adult what it is; adult, surprised the he is asking her rather than his younger brother, responds]

'How come you're asking me?'

- (c) Kok bonekanya dibuang-buang?
  how.come doll-ASSOC PAT-RED-throw
  [child has thrown his dolls all over the floor; adult asks]
  'How come you've thrown them all over the place?'
- (d) Kamu *kok* <u>tidur</u> terus?

  2 how.come sleep continue
  [adult teasing child]

  'How come you keep on sleeping?'

\* A tentative conclusion:

Jakarta Indonesian has no movement of WH words to scopal position

## 5. The Odd Guy: kok

#### 5.1. kok as Contrastive Marker

(23) (a) Baek kok! [ kok after verb ]

good how.come

adult and child playing game in which adult points to pictures and asks child to name the objects; child sees picture of crocodiles and backs away; adult asks why; child says he's afraid; adult responds]

'But they're good'

(b) Jangan diludahin, pake aja, <u>kedengeran</u> kok

NEG:IMP PAT-spit-APPL use just AFF-hear how.come [during recording session, child puts the microphone in his mouth; adult scolds

'Don't get spit all over it, just wear it, we'll hear you'

(c) Pinter kok anak ini

> smart how.come child DEM:PROX

[adult praising child for eating up her food]

'You're really good'

## 5.2. kok as Surprise Marker

(24) (a) Kok pinter nggak keluar garis [ kok before verb ]

NEG how.come smart go.out line

[child colouring picture, praised by adult onlooker]

'You really know how not to go out of the line'

Lho kok banyak! (b)

EXCL how.come much

[child, looking at pictures of different kinds of telephones in the newspaper, points to one after another saying she wants each one; adult exclaims] 'So many!'

## 5.3. kok with Other WH Forms

- [ kok after reduplicated indefinite ] (25) (a) Nggak kenapa-kenapa kok kak RED-why how.come TRU-elder.sibling sisters teasing each other; elder sister laughs; younger sister teases her for laughing; elder sister says 'so what if I'm laughing'; younger sister says] 'So nothing'
  - (b) Nggak, Mama nggak ke mana-mana kok NEG NEG mother to RED-where how.come [mother reassuring worrying son] 'I'm not going anywhere'
  - (c) Orang nggak apa-apa kok, ini gambar RED-what how.come DEM:PROX picture adult and child playing game in which adult points to pictures and asks child to name the objects; child sees picture of a crocodile and says he's afraid; adult responds

'It can't do anything to people, it's just a picture'

- (26) (a) Kenapa kok gatel? [kok after kenapa]
  why how.come itch
  [to child scratching his foot]
  'Why is it itching?'
  - (b) Kenapa kok nggak pernah dipake?
    why how.come NEG EXP PAT-use
    [about a wine glass]
    'Why haven't you ever used it?'
- (27) (a) <u>Apaan</u> *kok*!

[ kok after other WH words ]

what-AUG how.come

[child looks at adult, wanting something, but adult does not know what] 'What?'

- (b) Mana kok nggak terbang, di bawah?

  where how.come NEG fly LOC under

  [to child playing with toy car as if it were an airplane]

  'Where doesn't it fly, down below?'
- (28) (a) Kok nggak sama kenapa? [initial kok plus final kenapa] how.come NEG same why [child comparing his toy car to one in a picture says they're not the same; adult asks why] 'Why aren't they the same?'
  - (b) Lho *kok* rusak <u>kenapa</u>?

    EXCL how.come break.down why
    [child talking about one of her toys, says it got broken]
    'How did it break?'
  - (c) Kok bisa ditinggal kenapa?

    how.come can PAT-leave why
    [child begins telling story about how she was left at home alone; adult asks]
    'How could you have been left behind?'

## 6. Verbal WH Words

- (29) (a) Terus ini, orangnya *apa*?

  continue DEM:PROX person-ASSOC what
  [looking at picture book, adult points to picture of people boarding boat and asks child]

  'And here, what are the people doing?'
  - (b) Aku gimana?

1:SG how

[adult getting ready to play game with child, isn't sure of her role, and asks] 'What about me?'

- (c) Mas tadi kakinya *kenapa*?

  elder.brother PST:PROX foot-ASSOC why
  [adult sees child has wound]

  'What happened to your foot?'
- (d) Temen-temen lagi *ngapain*?

  RED-friend PROG AG-what-APPL

  [adult and child viewing video, adult prompting child to talk]

  'What are they doing?'
- (e) Si Endut *diapain* sama ayam?

  PERS fat PAT-what-APPL with chicken
  [looking at picture book, adult prompting child to talk]

  'What is the chicken doing to fatso?'

## Part II: WH Forms in Child Jakarta Indonesian

## 7. The Naturalistic Data Collection Project

- ★ Four children (two boys, two girls); two under age 2;2, two over age 3;4.
- ★ weekly or bi-weekly one-hour video-recording sessions.
- \* 42,967 records, containing 4494 WH questions

# 8. The Distribution of WH Forms with WHQ Interpretations in Adults and Children

WH word	meaning	а	dults	childre	n > 3;4	childre	n < 2;2
ара	'what', 'do what'	45%	1580	40%	313	29%	71
mana	'which', 'where'	17%	592	23%	177	40%	98
siapa	'who'	14%	488	14%	109	15%	38
gimana	'what circumstance'	7%	247	1%	7	0%	1
kenapa	'undergo what'	4%	136	3%	20		0
berapa	'how many'	3%	119	1%	4		0
kok	'how come'	3%	103	13%	99	0%	1
ngapain	'do what'	2%	84	1%	11	1%	2
apanya	'what', 'do what'	2%	54	1%	11		0
apaan	'what', 'do what'	1%	30	2%	19	14%	34
kapan	'when'	1%	22	0%	3		0
diapain	'do what'	1%	20	0%	1	0%	1
bagaimana	'what circumstance'	0%	3	0%	1		0
diapa	'do what'	0%	1		0		0
total			3479		775		246

Table 1: WH Forms with WHQ Interpretations in Jakarta Indonesian

### **★★ Summary:**

• Order of acquisition: 'what', 'which', 'where', 'who' > all others

(30) (a) *Apa* ini? (Hiz 1;9) what DEM:PROX [about some chocolate] 'What's this?' (b) Dek (Ido 3;8) Ido mo maen apa sih? FAM-younger.sibling Ido want play what EXCL [wondering what to do] 'What game should I play?' (31) (a) baju (Ris 2;0) Ini siapa? DEM:PROX garment who [holding some clothes] 'Whose clothes are these?' Ido? (b) Siapa yang bikin di rumah dek (Ido 3;9) REL make LOC house fam-younger.sibling Ido [looking at pictures in a drawing book] 'Who drew it in my house?' (32) (a) Ayah mau mana? (Ris 2;1) father want where [asking her father, who is passing by] 'Where are you going?' Dibeli (b) di mana ya, kecil (Ido 3;4) PAT-buy LOC where yes small [wondering about his toy car] 'Where did I buy it? It's small' (33) (a) Ini lagi ngapain? (Ris 2;1) DEM:PROX PROG AG-what-APPL [about a doll the experimenter is holding] 'What is it doing?' (Ido 3;4) (b) Ngapain mobilnya itu? AG-what-APPL car-ASSOC DEM:DIST [playing with toy car] 'What's that car doing?'

#### **★** English:

WHQ words	average age	number of children
'what'	2; 2	7
'where'	2; 2	7
'who'	2; 4	7
'how'	2; 9	7
'why'	2; 11	7

Table 2: Average age of emergence of WH questions (adapted from Bloom 1993, Table 4)

(based on 7,877 WH Questions, ages 1;10 - 3;0)

\* Cantonese: Cheung and Lee (1994), similar results

## 9. Adult and Children WH Questions: **Differences Due to General Development**

## ★ English:

Klima and Bellugi (1966) (34) (a) Who that? What cowboy doing? (C., 2;0) cited as "early WH questions" (b)

Where horse going? (c)

Where doggie go? (d) Bowerman (1973)

Where pillow go? (e)

(Kendall 1;11)

**★** Cantonese:

Cheung and Lee (1994)

Transitive actional verbs used with very first WH questions (but no careful comparison with verbless sentences presented)

Clause Type*	adı	ults	children	
WH word in isolation	22%	768	23%	233
WH word with demonstrative anchor	26%	909	31%	312
WH word with thing phrase (NP) anchor	18%	632	21%	218
WH word with activity phrase (V) anchor	23%	788	13%	135

## **Table 3: WH Questions in Various Clause Types**

(35) Siapa, sih Bu? [ WH word in isolation ] (Ris 1;11) EXCL FAM-mother [about a picture she is being shown] 'Who is she, Mum?'

(36) (a) Siapa tuh? [ WH word with **demonstrative** anchor ] (Ido 3;4) who DEM:DIST [about a man who just came into the house] 'Who's that?'

(b) Ini (Ido 3;5) apa, tapi DEM:PROX what but [about the experimenter's drink] 'But what is it?'

<sup>\*</sup> other clause types not included in above table: property phrase (adjective, PP), quantifier.

(37) (a) Namanya apa? [WH word with thing phrase (NP) anchor]
name-ASSOC what
[about some food]
'What it called?'

(b) Mana ayah
where father
[wondering where her father is]
'Where's father?'

(Ris 2;0)

(38) (a) Makan apa? [WH word with activity phrase (V) anchor]
eat what
[about a mouse in a picture book]
'What's it eating?'

(b) Ini **naik** apa? (Ido 3;5)

DEM:PROX go.up what [about a picture of Mickey Mouse riding a pig]

'What is he riding?'

Clause Type: Environment of WH word	adi	ults	childre	n > 3;4	children < 2;2	
in <b>isolation</b>	22%	768	19%	145	35%	88
with demonstrative anchor	26%	909	29%	227	36%	85
with thing phrase (NP) anchor	18%	632	22%	169	20%	49
with activity phrase (V) anchor	*23%	788	15%	118	7%	17

Table 4: WH Questions in Various Clause Types: Older vs. Younger Children

- Younger kids have fewer verbal WH questions; at least 7 different verbs:
   makan 'eat'; mimik 'drink'; masak 'cook'; maem 'eat'; ndengerin 'listen';
   pake 'use/wear'; setel 'turn on';
   (Bloom et al's "descriptive verbs")
- Older kids add about 10 new verbs:

  naik 'ride'; nonton 'watch'; liat 'see'; cari 'look for'; bikin 'make';
  jadi 'become'...
- As the usage of verbs increases over time, the use of WH questions with verbs also increases. There is no development in the syntax of WH questions, just development in the lexicon. Thus, children do not differ from adults as far as their grammar of WH questions is concerned.

<sup>\*</sup> comprises 26% as input to children > 3;4, 18% as input to children < 2;2.

## 9.1. WH Questions with demonstrative and thing phrase (NP) anchors

	WH	before a	lemonstrat	ive	WH after demonstrative			
WH word	adults		children		adults		children	
apa 'what'	42%	303	13%	26	34%	242	67%	134
siapa 'who'	44%	56	20%	10	36%	46	55%	27
mana 'where'	46%	46% 6		2	38%	5	63%	5

**Table 5: Word Order with Demonstrative Anchor** 

- Adults exhibit preference for WH before demonstrative;
- Children exhibit strong preference for WH after demonstrative;
- Adults and children thus make use of the same constructions, but children tend to use the canonical non-interrogative order more than adults. This is true for younger and older children, and for different WH words.
- Apa ini? [ WH word before **demonstrative** anchor ] (39) (a) what DEM:PROX (Ris 2;0) [about some crackers] 'What's this?' (b) Mana ini mana masukinnya (Pit 4;8) where DEM:PROX where go.in-APPL-ASSOC [looking for the coin box in a telephone] 'Where is it, where is the place for it to go in?' [ WH word after demonstrative anchor ] (40) (a) Ini apa? DEM:PROX what (Ris 1;9) [pointing to a bag of nuts] 'What's this?' (b)
  - ) Ini dari mana sih? (Ido 3;9)

    DEM:PROX from where EXCL
    [about some pictures]

    'Where is this from?'

	WH be	efore thi	ng phrase	(NP)	WH after thing phrase (NP)				
WH word	adults		child	children		adults		children	
apa 'what'	55%	90	1%	2	46%	73	94%	*32	
siapa 'who'	36%	21	0%	0	65%	38	100%	*13	
mana 'where'	41%	41% 71		34	53%	93	60%	75	

## Table 6: Word Order with Thing Phrase (NP) Anchor

\* 20/32 and 10/13 are fixed expressions: namanya apa, namanya siapa "what is its/your/his/her name?".

#### **★★** Summary:

- Adults allow WH before and after NP; relative preference depends on WH word;
- Children exhibit strict ordering of *apa* and *siapa* after NP, and strong preference for *mana* after NP;
- Children use the canonical non-interrogative order.

# (41) (a) Apa lu? [WH word before thing phrase (NP) anchor] what you (Ris 1;9) [speaker angry at her friends who were staring at her] 'What's with you?' (b) Mana rodanya? (Ris 1;8)

where wheel-ASSOC [speaker looking for her pram] 'Where are the wheels?'

(42) (a) Namanya apa? [WH word after thing phrase (NP) anchor]
name-ASSOC what
[about a picture of an insect]
'What's its name?'

(Ido 3;6)

Tante mana?

aunt where
[looking at the experimenter through the camcorder]

'Where are you?'

## 9.2. WH Questions with activity phrase (V) anchors

	WH bej	ivity phrase	e (V)	WH after activity phrase (V)				
WH word	adults		childi	ren	adults		children	
apa 'what'	1%	3	2%	1	99%	339	98%	48
siapa 'who'	0% 0		0%	0	100%	39	100%	11

Table 7: Word Order with Activity Phrase (VP) Anchor for Object WH Words

## **★★** Summary:

- The 48 children's WH questions after V involve 15 different verbs, suggesting that this is a productive construction type;
- Both adults and children exhibit near absolute preference for WH word after V.

	WH before activity phrase (V)			WH after activity phrase (V)				
WH word	adults		children		adults		children	
mana 'where'	5% 6		11%	3	95%	105	89%	24

Table 8: Word Order with Activity Phrase (VP) Anchor for *Mana* 'Where"

### **★★** Summary:

• Both adults and children exhibit strong preference for *mana* after V. (Though children's figures are small.)

	WH be	fore act	ivity phrase	? (V)	WH after activity phrase (V)			
WH word	adults		childr	children		adults		ren
gimana 'how'	38%	41	0	0	62%	67		2
kenapa 'why'	56%	28	0%	0	44%	22	100%	2

Table 9: Word Order with Activity Phrase (VP) Anchor for Gimana 'How' and Kenapa 'Why'

- Adults exhibit split between two orders, with *gimana* more frequently after V and *kenapa* somewhat more frequently before;
- Children's figures are too small to warrant conclusions.

## 9.3. WH Questions with yang phrase anchors

WH word with yang phrase*	аа	lults	children > 3;4		
siapa 'who'	19%	94	5-20%	**30	
apa 'what'	1%	21	1%	7	
mana 'where', 'which'	9%	42	3%	8	
total	7%	157	3-6%	45	

## Table 10: WH Questions with Yang Phrase Anchor

- (43) Siapa yang jalannya jadi kebalik [ siapa before yang phrase anchor ] who REL go-ASSOC become PASS-return [playing with a toy car] 'who's going to be knocked over?' [ siapa before yang phrase anchor ] (Ido 3;7)
- (44) Satu **yang bikin** siapa? [ siapa after **yang phrase** anchor ] one REL make who [about some pictures] 'Who did this one?'

	adults		childre	n > 3;4	children < 2;2	
yang phrase*	5%	841	5%	487	0.6%	39

Table 11: Yang Phrases in General

- Younger children have only partial mastery of the *yang* construction.
- As soon as children master the *yang* construction, they use it in WH questions.
- There is no dedicated WH-question-with-yang construction in Jakarta Indonesian. A WH question whose anchor is a yang phrase is a mere accidental cooccurrence of a WH question and an NP with the internal structure of a yang phrase.

<sup>\*</sup> percentages are out of total number of WH questions for each WH question word.

<sup>\*\*23</sup> out of 30 are variations on *Siapa yang bikin?* "Who made it?" by Ido, 3;9; 22 in a single recording session. Hence, 20% constitutes an overestimation of Ido's grammar at this stage.

<sup>\*</sup> percentage of all non-WH uttrerances.

## ★★ Grand summary, Tables 1, 3-11:

- The grammar of WH questions seems to be very adult-like even in younger children.
- Differences between adults and children can be explained in terms of the interaction of an adult-like WH question syntax with other aspects of the grammar which are subject to development:
  - Certain WH words are acquired before others, following universal tendencies probably having to do with general cognition;
  - WH questions in verbal clauses exhibit development, but this is due to the independent development of verbal clauses in general;
  - Children may have less word-order freedom than adults in WH questions;
  - WH questions with *yang* phrases exhibit development, but this merely reflects the development of the *yang* construction itself.

# 10. Adult and Children Indefinite Interpretations of WH Words: Differences Due to Specific Development

	older children: ages 3;0-5;0		younger children: ages 1;6-2;6	
question interpretation	774 examples	(89%)	245 examples	(100%)
indefinite interpretation	44 examples	(5%)	0 examples	(0%)

Table 12: WH Forms with Question and Indefinite Interpretations

forms	meaning	adult	child	age of first appearance
NEG(a)pa-(a)pa(kok)*	'nothing', 'anything'	56	28	3;7
ара аја	'anything'	4	6	4;6
NEG ke mana-mana	'to nowhere', 'to anywhere'	3	3	3;4
NEG siapa-siapa	'nobody', 'anybody'	2	1	4;7
siapa (plus attributive)	'whoever'	2	0	
siapa aja	'anybody'	1	2	4;7
NEG kenapa-kenapa	'for no reason'	0	2	4;6
NEG ngapa-ngapain	'not do anything'	0	1	4;5
ngapain aja	'do anything'	0	1	4;6

Table 13: WH Forms with Indefinite Interpretations:
Age of First Appearance

## **★★** Summary:

• Children acquire the question interpretations of WH words before they acquire their indefinite interpretations.

(45) Mobilnya **nggak** pa-pa, we [indefinite WH word with **negative**] car-ASSOC NEG RED-what EXCL [playing with a toy car] 'The car's alright'

(46) Dek Ido **nggak** jadi *apa-apa* deh (Ido 3;6)

FAM-younger.sibling Ido NEG become RED-what EXCL

[playing with toy boat; experimenter asks who's going to be captain; child's older brother volunteers; then experimenter asks child what he wants to be, and he answers]

'I'm not going to be anything'

(47) Main *apa* **aja** [ *indefinite WH word* with **conjunctive operator** ]
play what just (Pit 4;6)
[Child's older sister asked her what she was doing just before; child answers]
'Nothing much'

(48) Siapa aja
who just
[Experimenter asks child whose houses she went visiting to earlier in the day; child answer]
'Nobody much'

(Pit 4;7)

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