



JURNAL ILMU PENGETAHUAN BUDAYA

Vol. 19 No. 1 (2018)

Preface

The island of Java is home to several major languages. Javanese—spoken mainly in Central and East Java—is the world’s 11th or 12th largest language with well over 80 million native speakers. It has the oldest and fullest recorded history of any Austronesian language. It also has been of considerable interest to scholars because of the system of speech levels or styles found in many Javanese varieties. Sundanese—spoken in West Java—has over 27 million speakers, and Madurese—spoken on the neighbouring island of Madura and throughout parts of East Java—is the third largest local language, with counts ranging from 7 to 13 million speakers. Varieties of Sundanese and Madurese as well as Balinese and Sasak—the geographically, historically, and linguistically related languages on the neighbouring islands of Bali and Lombok—also have speech level systems. Each of these languages displays a range of dialects, isolects, continua, and contact varieties and yet they have received relatively little attention from linguists.

The biennial International Symposium on the Languages of Java (ISLOJ), inaugurated in 2007, offers the opportunity for scholars working on any aspect of Javanese, Sundanese, Madurese, Balinese, Sasak, as well as sign languages of the area, to gather together and share their findings. Papers presented at ISLOJ can be on any subfield of linguistics and using any approach or theoretical background. Studies of non-standard(ized) versions, dialects, and isolects, including contact varieties, are particularly welcome. ISLOJ has always been held in Indonesia to especially encourage local Indonesian researchers and early career researchers. Since 2007, ISLOJ has grown in numbers and quality: meetings generally have over thirty attendees, both local and international.

The ISLOJ steering committee of 2017—Thomas J. Conners, the late William Davies, and Jozina Vander Klok—wanted to highlight this growth through the first publication of papers from attendees of previous ISLOJ meetings. Accordingly, *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia*, having supported research on understudied and underrepresented languages such as those included at ISLOJ, was a clear venue choice.

The broad theme for this edition of *Wacana* Vol. 19 No. 1 is “Language and culture in Java and its environs”, echoing the themes of ISLOJ: we are equally concerned with any linguistic aspect from any of the languages or dialects spoken in and around the island of Java. This edition comprises ten articles, including studies on Balinese, Sundanese, and Old Javanese, as well as varieties of (modern) Javanese spoken in Surabaya, Semarang, Malang, Yogyakarta, and among the diaspora community of Suriname. The articles include topics on theoretical linguistics, including studies on the passive construction, complementation, and L2 acquisition of phonology as well as on language in context, with studies on the effects of language contact, language shift, politeness features, the *basa walikan* ludling, and youth-directed discourse. Joining the nine articles from preceding ISLOJ meetings, one article discusses the production of eco-friendly batik in Klaten.

This is the first publication dedicated to the scholarly work arising from the ISLOJ meetings. We would like to thank the authors for their contribution to this edition of *Wacana*. We are very excited that *Wacana* is the first to celebrate part of ISLOJ’s success as well as support the understudied languages and dialects included in ISLOJ.

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