

On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies Report in 2011

----Indonesian Language, Hasanuddin University, Indonesia, (9 Sept 2011--20 Jan 2012)----

Year of Enrollment: 2011

Graduate School of Asia and African Area Studies

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On My Language Training

Indonesian Language (Bahasa Indonesia)

Bahasa Indonesia, the national language of the Republic of Indonesia, was derived from one of the Malay dialects. About 30 million people speak Bahasa Indonesia as their first language and a further 140 million speak it as a second language.

Indonesian is written with the Latin alphabet. Each character has a certain pronunciation as <c> is always /tʃ/ (like English <ch>), and <j> represents /dʒ/ as it does in English.

With the globalization of Indonesian society, many words from foreign language especially English are introduced into Bahasa Indonesia and frequently used in daily conversation, for example `information` in Bahasa Indonesia is *keterangan*, but most of the time, Indonesian people use *informasi*.

My language learning

As Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) does not have language courses for foreign students, I studied Bahasa Indonesia by having personal language exchange with a staff who works in the fieldwork station office of UNHAS. Simply what I did is following her to go everywhere and take any chances to talk with her in Bahasa Indonesia. We joined an International seminar on Coral for 3 days and a seminar on Environment for 10 days together. Because of that, I had a lot of opportunities to know and also communicate with more native people.

Because my research location is Jakarta, I spent 3 months there. While staying in Jakarta, fortunately I met with a professional language teacher who has the experience of teaching Bahasa Indonesia in Australia. He made a language training schedule according to my Indonesian level and we had 4 classes a week. Besides that, I did language exchange with 3 students of Atma Jaya University who want to learn Chinese.

My impressions of language learning

Although Bahasa Indonesia is much more easier than Chinese, Japanese or English, but for a beginner, in my opinion, it is better to have a professional language teacher. Commonly, some native speakers could tell you how to use it but they can not explain why.

After mastering the basic rules of Indonesian language, the next and most important step is

vocabulary. It takes time and effort. For myself, vocabulary is the most boring part in learning a language. When I realized how important and urgent vocabulary is, I ask my teacher to give me homework every day to force me to overcome my weakness.

My introspection in this 4 months

Firstly, I have to put more effort to overcome my weakness about learning vocabulary.

Secondly, many people live in Jakarta, to some extent, can speak English. In daily life, sometimes I gave up the effort to speak Bahasa Indonesia and unintentionally used English to express my opinion.