
**Expanding opportunities for documenting
endangered languages in Indonesia**

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Expanding opportunities for documenting endangered languages in Indonesia

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Indonesia is a nation of great linguistic diversity, representing almost 11% of the world's linguistic resources. Despite high levels of endangerment, very few of Indonesia's languages have been adequately documented using modern methods, technologies and archiving practices. In recent years, there has been growing recognition that the greatest progress towards documenting and supporting endangered languages will be made through the activities of well-trained local linguists and the frontline involvement of community language activists. In response to the limited opportunities in Indonesian universities for training in modern language documentation methods, a small-scale program has been developed and piloted to help build a new generation of Indonesian linguists and language activists (Florey and Himmelmann, forthcoming).

This paper examines the outcomes of the first two workshops within this training program. Drawing on observational and questionnaire data, I compare the aspirations, skills and achievements of the participants both prior and subsequent to the workshops. I then describe the range of language documentation projects which the participants are beginning to undertake across the country. The issue of sustainability is approached through investigating the ways in which the participants are beginning to transfer their language documentation and maintenance skills to their colleagues, students, and community members. I look at the challenges they are facing and the methods which they are employing to begin to address those challenges.

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