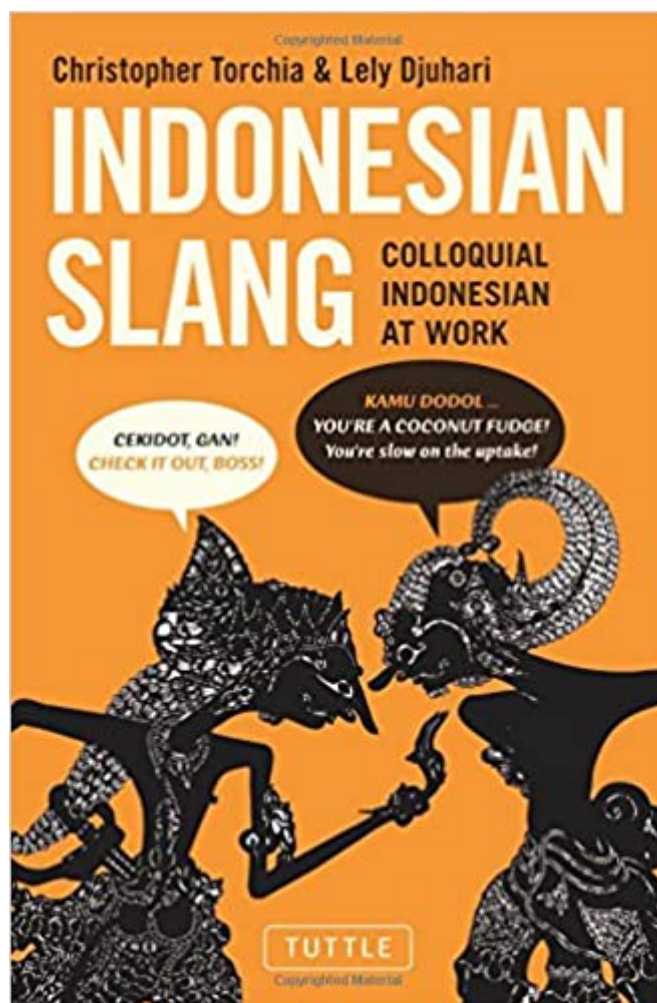


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# Indonesian Slang: Colloquial Indonesian At Work



## Synopsis

Cekidot, gan! – "Check it out Boss!" Kamu Dodol – "You're a coconut fudge!" (You're slow on the uptake) This book is an informal compendium of Indonesian expressions, including proverbs, slang, quotations and acronyms. The unique aspects of the Indonesian language offer one of the best windows into Indonesian culture. Slang, titles, proverbs, nicknames, acronyms, quotations and other expressions reveal its character, in the words of its people and are a great way to learn Indonesian culture. This book of expressions looks at Indonesia with the help of its national language, bahasa Indonesia. It describes Indonesians and their fears, beliefs, history and politics, as well as how they live, fight, grieve and laugh. Indonesian is a variant of Malay, the national language of Malaysia, and many of its expressions come from the Malay heartland of Sumatra island. Indonesian has also incorporated terms from Javanese, the language of the dominant ethnic group in a huge nation of more than 17,000 islands. Although Indonesian is officially a young language, it contains words from Sanskrit, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, Portuguese and English, a legacy of the merchants, warriors, laborers and holy men who traveled to the archipelago over the centuries. The Indonesian language was a nationalist symbol during the campaign against Dutch rule in the 20th century. Indonesians who fought against colonialism made it the national language in their constitution when they declared independence in 1945. Two generations later, modern Indonesians love word play. The tongue slips and skids, chopping words, piling on syllables and flipping them. Indonesians turn phrases into acronyms, and construct double meanings. Their inventions reflect social trends, mock authority, or get a point across in a hurry. This book divides Indonesian expressions into categories such as food and wisdom, politics and personalities. The format is the same in each chapter. An expression in Indonesian, or sometimes a regional language in Indonesia, is followed by a translation, an interpretation of the meaning, and usually a summary of the idiom's origin or background. Some translations are more literal than others, reflecting an effort to balance clarity of meaning with the flavor of the original words.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For each colloquial expression, the authors also provide some background information to add some context. Some of these insights are quite illuminating. [Alterity Blog](#) it takes these slang words or expressions and gives you the background to how these expressions came about into daily use. It places these expressions in historical context too so as well as learning some of the language you are also getting a history and geography lesson about Indonesia too. Perfect!" [Sinead Lawson, Juice on Jakarta blog](#) "This is an absolutely wonderful book less Indonesian learning tool than a whirlwind tour through the culture, history and politics of an insanely complex archipelago, and it really is Indonesia in a nutshell." [Escape Artists blog](#)

Christopher Torchia is the Turkey bureau chief for The Associated Press, based in Istanbul. He was previously posted with the AP in Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia and Colombia, as well as several U.S. cities. He is the co-author of *How Koreans Talk*. Lely Djuhari is a communication specialist based in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to that, she reported on social and political issues in Indonesia, East Timor and on Indian Ocean tsunamis for Kyodo News and the AP.

Good

Somewhat dated with examples of slang that are either no longer commonly used or obscure. Disappointing formatting. Some of the cultural notes are useful but too lengthy and replace opportunities to really provide good examples of slang in use today.

This is a great book for anyone who is interested in Indonesia(n). Language is a reflection of the people and society and this book gradually introduces many facets of Indonesian culture by presenting colourful and entertaining expressions from around the archipelago (most expressions are in Bahasa Indonesia but there are some others, mainly Javanese and Acehnese). Great book for

learners of Bahasa Indonesia and those with any interest in Indonesia!

Very helpful

This book not only educates you on the various expressions used in Modern Indonesian as it is spoken, but also educates you about the way of life in Indonesia, its history, people, etc. All of the history lessons and way of life descriptions etc all have phrases and words in them to learn. This book is excellent, super simple to understand, and VERY informative.

as expected

This book teaches far more than just slang term. Idioms and cultural references make a language hard to use. Indonesian history and culture--the street and TV kind is explained very well. Sayings and references are explained fully with a good dose of political history. Imagine trying to explain who Captain Kangaroo was or why we Knock on Wood to someone from China who knows nothing of American TV or history... Well, this book does that for many idioms and references from Indonesian TV characters to politics and much much more. You can just READ this book with no attempt to memorize. As a Bahasa Indonesia as a second language speaker, I gained a much better understanding of what is in the heads of my Indonesian friends. Not a list of Jakarta slang, but an exploration of MODERN Indonesian influences on the language. If you are studying Bahasa Indonesia, read this book.

I picked this up second-hand in a bookstore in Toronto, with the intention of improving my Indonesian. Well, this book is a fascinating all-round read and highly recommended even if you have no interest at all in learning the language, and is full of subtle jokes that will teach you a lot about Indonesian culture. I cracked up many times (random example: "Andung's assemblage of apparently English words left the executives visibly perplexed and the audience silent for a long, uncomfortable moment, as everyone attempted to decipher the verbiage.") and was also pretty amazed at the political history - e.g. that Sukarno married Inggit, the landlady who would serve them food during his radical student days, and then divorced her for a younger woman Fatimawati (he wanted two wives but Inggit wouldn't) who then sewed the new Indonesian flag a la Betsy Ross - Sukarno going on to have "at least" four more wives! It's unfortunate that the other review here, which I believe was intended to say "very good", filled out 1 star for the result. 100% recommended if

you are at all interested in Indonesia. I really couldn't live without learning such terms as "tikus berdasi" (rat in a suit, which needs no interpretation) or "TOPP" (Tua, Ompong, Peot, Pikun - old, toothless, wrinkled, senile, and also a complex interlanguage pun).

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