

Contrasting Indonesian and English: A Linguistic Overview

This presentation explores key differences and similarities between Indonesian and English.

Targeted at language learners, linguists, and educators to improve understanding and teaching strategies.

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Phonology: Sounds and Pronunciation



Indonesian Phonology

Consistent phoneme-grapheme match; generally easier for English speakers.



English Phonology

Complex with 44 phonemes and inconsistent spelling-sound relationships.



Example

"baca" (Indonesian, read) vs. "read" (English, different pronunciations).



Phonological Differences

Indonesian Characteristics

- Lacks consonant clusters common in English
- Words often end with vowels
- Phonetic adaptation of loanwords

English Characteristics

- Relies on stress and intonation
- Contains sounds like "th" absent in Indonesian
- Fluctuating pitch for meaning

Sentence bety streatesrs

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- Lronk laker Corgan: Bainsian
- Frangi Indonesian

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Grammar: Word Order

Indonesian

Flexible SVO order allowing topicalization for emphasis.

Example: "Nasi saya makan" (Rice, I eat).

English

Strict SVO structure where word order directly affects meaning.

Example: "I eat rice" follows precise syntax.

Grammar: Morphology

Indonesian Morphology

Agglutinative language using prefixes, suffixes, and reduplication.

Example: "memasak" = "me-" + "masak" (to cook).

English Morphology

More analytic with separate words; uses inflections like "-ed" "-ed" for tense.

Reduplication is uncommon.



Testringalan



Testroga/ Now



Grammar: Tense and Aspect

1

Indonesian

No verb conjugation; tense shown by adverbs like "kemarin" (yesterday).

2

English

Verb conjugation changes to show past, present, and future tense.

3

Aspect

Indonesian uses adverbs "sedang" (ongoing) and "sudah" (completed) to express aspect.

Vocabulary: Loanwords

Indonesian Loanwords

Influenced by Dutch, Sanskrit, Arabic, English e.g., "kantor" from Dutch Dutch "kantoor".

Cognates

Words often modified phonetically and semantically.

English Loanwords

Borrowed from Latin, French, Greek like "rendezvous" and "tsunami" from Japanese.



Vocabulary: Cultural Influence

Indonesian

Reflects maritime culture and Islamic
Islamic heritage.

Elaborate kinship terms and culturally
rooted words.

1

2

English

Globally influenced vocabulary rich in
rich in technology and science.

Extensive scientific lexicon used
worldwide.

Cultural Context: Politeness



Indonesian

High-context culture; indirect communication with honorifics.



English

Lower-context culture; direct communication with emphasis on clarity.





Cultural Context: Nonverbal Communication

Indonesian Nonverbal

Varies by region; values harmony and avoids confrontation.

English Nonverbal

More standardized gestures; can be direct or confrontational.