

Bahasa Indonesia Language Course: Travel

Directions and locations / Plan a simple trip

Introduction

This topic covers the language for directions and getting around town.

Key vocabulary and phrases

Naik	- 'Travel by/climb'	Jauh	- 'Far'
Naik mobil	- 'Travel by car'	Dekat	- 'Nearby'
Naik kereta	- 'Travel by train'	Seberang	- 'Across'
Tujuan	- 'Destination'	Menyebrang	- 'To cross over'
Belok	- 'Turn'	Nyebrang (l)	- 'To cross over'
Belok kanan	- 'Turn right'	Kira-kira	- 'Approximately'
Belok kiri	- 'Turn left'	Kalau	- 'If'
Lewat	- 'Going through'	Baiklah	- 'Okay, very well'
Lewat jalan tol	- 'Taking the toll road'	Ayo	- 'Let's'
Jalan	- 'Going/traveling/street/walk'	Ayo kita jalan	- 'Let's get going'
Jalan terus	- 'Going straight'	Siap	- 'Ready/at your command'
Ada	- 'Have, there is'	Resto (l)	- 'Restaurant'
Rumah makan	- 'Restaurant'	Rapat	- 'Meeting'
Permisi, di mana ada...?	- 'Excuse me, where is a...'		

Text

Semantic translation

Speaker A:	Selamat pagi Pak Yono.	'Good morning Pak Yono'
Speaker B:	Pagi Mr John. Tujuan ke mana Mr?	'Morning Mr John. Where is our destination today?'
Speaker A:	Saya ada meeting di resto Bon Ami. Jauh dari sini?	'I have a meeting in Bon Ami restaurant. Is it far from here?'
Speaker B:	Oh tidak Mr. Nanti nyebrang sungai lewat Jalan Kertajaya sudah dekat.	'No Mr. After crossing the river we'll go through Kertajaya Road and it's near there.'
Speaker A:	Berapa lama kira-kira?	'How long will it take more less?'
Speaker B:	Kalau tidak macet kira-kira dua puluh menit Mr.	'It'll take about 20 minutes if there is no traffic jam Mr.'
Speaker A:	Baiklah. Ayo kita jalan.	'Okay. Let's get going'
Speaker B:	Siap Mr.	'At your command Mr.'

Literal/gloss translation

Speaker A: 'Good morning Pak Yono'
Speaker B: 'Morning Mr John. Destination to where Mr?'
Speaker A: 'I have meeting in restaurant Bon Ami. Far from here?'
Speaker B: 'Oh no Mr. Later cross river through Road *Kertajaya* already near.'
Speaker A: 'How much long approximately?'
Speaker B: 'If not traffic jam approximately twenty minutes Mr.'
Speaker A: 'Very well. Let us go.'
Speaker B: 'Ready Mr.'

Intercultural and linguistic information

Many of Indonesian sayings, expressions and speech acts are not easily translatable into English because the cultural psychology is very different. So while the translation of *siap* - 'at your command' might be very hierarchical sounding in English, it is more lighthearted and commonly used in Indonesian.

English loan words are everywhere. Often Indonesians prefer to use the English loan word rather than the Indonesian word, hence 'meeting' instead of *rapat*; 'download' instead of '*unduh*'; '*efisien*' instead of '*sangkil*' - to mention only a few examples.

To be or not to be: Translating the English verb 'to be' into Indonesian

Consider these two English sentences:

I am at the office : I am an artist

What is the usage difference between the verb *to be* ('*am*') in these two examples?

In the former, accompanied by the preposition 'at', the verb *to be* refers to the location (locative) of the subject. The first noun phrase (NP) 'I' is not the same subject argument as the second NP 'the office':

INP1 am_{Loc} at_{Prep} the office_{NP2} -> NP1 ≠ NP2 ; I ≠ office

In the second example, '*am*' is a copula verb in a nominative sentence, linking the two NP arguments that represent the same subject:

INP1 am_{cop} an artist_{NP2} -> NP1 = NP2 ; I = artist

Let's translate these sentences into Indonesian:

<i>Saya ada di kantor</i>	<i>Saya adalah seorang seniman</i>
I am at (the)office	I am an artist

As you can see, the locative verb is *ada* and the copula verb is *adalah*.

Adalah is used in formal language but is not in everyday informal conversation. The determiner *seorang* is often also omitted. So this sentence is standard in informal speech:

Saya seniman
I artist

The *adalah* copula is also not used (∅) to link a NP with an adjective (ADJ):

Saya senang
INP am∅ happy_{ADJ}