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BUILDING COMMUNITY: IDENTITY, INTERDISCURSIVITY AND LANGUAGE

CHOICE IN EVERYDAY NARRATIVE

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Biography: Zane Goebel is an Associate Professor of Sociolinguistics in the Graduate School of Letters at Nagoya University, Japan. Prior to this he lived in Australia where he was a researcher at Griffith University and a lecturer in Indonesian and Linguistics at La Trobe University. He has conducted three years of linguistic anthropological fieldwork on codeswitching in diverse neighbourhood, work and school settings in Semarang. He has publications (some forthcoming) in *Language in Society*, *Multilingua*, *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, *Renai: Jurnal Politik Lokal dan Sosial Humaniora*, *Kajian Sastra: Jurnal Bidang Kebahasaan, Kesusastraan dan Kebudayaan*, and the *Australian Journal of Linguistics*.

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In this paper I am concerned with exploring some of the ways in which ‘ethno-linguistically’ different newcomers to a Semarang *Rukun Tetangga* (RT) ‘neighbourhood’ are socialized through narrative accounts of problematic neighbours. In particular, I focus on monthly RT meetings as a setting where newcomers have opportunities to become competent members of this neighbourhood and ultimately to a particular community of practice. In doing so, I draw upon research in the area of “crossing” (e.g. Bucholtz 2003; Rampton 1995; Sweetland 2002), communities of practice (Eckert and Wenger 2005; Moore 2006; Wenger 1998), language socialization and accompanying work on indexicality (e.g. Ochs 1988, 1996), along with related work on enregisterment (Agha 2003) and interdiscursivity (e.g. the 2005 collection of papers in *Linguistic Anthropology* 15/1). I argue that while co-constructed narrative provides explicit accounts (e.g. Ochs and Capps 2001) of neighbourhood norms, the language choice in which problematic events are narrated – in this case *ngoko* Javanese and Indonesian - also provides newcomers with inexplicit lessons that index language variety with community identity (e.g. Johnstone 2006). In such narratives this meaning making process also relies upon participants’ experience as bilinguals and on publicly circulating ideologies about language and social identity in Indonesia (Author in press, under review).

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