

This paper presents an interactional analysis of demonstrative use in casual conversation among speakers of Colloquial Indonesian. Wouk (2005) first mentioned the use of the two nominal demonstratives, *ini* and *itu*, as “placeholders,” similar to placeholder demonstratives in Japanese, Korean and Chinese (Hayashi and Yoon 2006). Through careful micro-analysis of video-recorded talk-in-interaction, I examine the use of the two Indonesian demonstratives as placeholders to maintain progressivity of the turn-so-far, especially when the speaker encounters difficulty producing the intended referent (Fox 2010). I show that choice of which demonstrative to use as a placeholder has important consequences for the nature of the following interaction, in particular with reference to the type of involvement pursued by other participants. The use of placeholder demonstratives to index different types of participant access to knowledge of the searched-for referent or distinct types of stance toward the referent are explored.

Much previous work on Indonesian demonstratives has focused on data from standard and written varieties of the language (Kaswanti Purwo 1984, Sneddon 1996, Alwi et al. 2000). These studies concentrate their analysis on situational and occasionally discourse deictic anaphoric uses. While some more recent studies have begun to examine demonstrative use in informal, colloquial varieties using narrative and conversational discourse data (Himmelmann 1996, Sneddon 2006, Ewing 2005), detailed analysis of the functions of the various demonstrative forms is still lacking. Sneddon’s (2006) otherwise enlightening discussion of the forms of demonstratives in Jakartan Indonesian leaves the functions of the various forms largely unexplored. Clearly more work must be done to develop a sophisticated understanding of the functions of these demonstratives, particularly in situated talk-in-interaction.

As a first step in this direction, this paper examines the interactional profiles of *ini* and *itu* as resources for “organizing different forms of participation,” especially in the course of a word search. In the excerpt below, A uses *ini* as a placeholder to initiate a word search in line 3. This leads to V’s involvement, suggesting a possible completion (*booth*) in line 5.

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|---|----|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | A: | ya udah ini aja, tari-saman
yeah already this just k.o. dance
"yeah ok, ((let's)) just ((do)) this, <i>tari saman</i> , we((ll)) practice," | kita
IP.PL.INCL | latih <u>a</u> n. [.hh
practice |
| 2 | L: | | | [m'm=
mhm
"mhm," |
| 3 | A: | =sama buka in- ini:: >apa nama-nya(°)?<
also open thi- this what name-GEN
"and open <i>in-</i> , <i>ini::</i> , what's it called?" | | |
| 4 | | (.) | | |
| 5 | V: | booth=
booth
"booth," | | |
| 6 | A: | =booth .hh ntar makanannya:: (.24) kita
booth later food-NYA IP.PL.INCL
bisa ama [yokke
can with Y(name)
"booth, then, the food, we can also cook together, with Y." | masak ra- rame-ra↑me ju↓ga
cook ra- crowded-RED also | |

Here *ini* seems to invite hearer (V) participation, similar to the shared access forms in Korean. However, if *ini* invokes shared access, its frequent occurrence in word searches completed by the speaker, with no involvement (including eye-gaze) from other participants, becomes inexplicable. On the other hand, if *ini* invokes speaker-only or remote access, then V’s suggestion in line 5 would be surprising.

Participant access can not fully account for the uses of *ini* and *itu* in word searches. This paper explores other factors to account for their distribution, including indication of the speaker’s stance toward the searched-for referent. This study enriches our understanding of Indonesian demonstratives and their role in conversational interaction, thus contributing to studies of Indonesian as well as grammar in interaction.

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