Mapping hedges and tags in colloquial Indonesian

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Colloquial Indonesian has a variety of particles such as deh, dong, kan, kek, kok, lho, sih, tha, ya, yah, yuk, etc. This paper will clarify the meanings and categorize five most frequently used particles, i.e. kok, lho, sih, kan, and dong as hedges, tags, exclamatories, and final sentence particles.

Previous studies such as Atmosumarto 1994, Errington 1985, Sneddon 2006 claim that these particles have no significant referential semantic functions. Instead, they express speaker mood or are used for emphasis. However, subtle differences between similar articles (e.g. kok and loh) have not been discussed. Furthermore, according to my study, very frequently observed particles have various and significant functions depending on their positions. For example, a particle kok is not only a mood / emphasis particle but also it behaves as an interrogative adverb as in (1). Kok1 denotes 'why', while kok2 emphasizes a negative adverb nggak. On the other hand, kok3 emphasizes aja 'only', and kok4 denotes 'also', the same meaning as juga 'also', yielding redundancy

- (1) A: Kemarin. kok1 kamu datang? ga kokyesterday you not come 'Why didn't you come?' Kamu sakit. ya? you sick, yes 'You were sick, yeah?'
 - B: Nggak kok2

no

'No.

- (2)A: Uang aku segini aja kok3 money I like.this only kok 'My money is only like this.'
- (3)A: Dia anggota Club Motor ya? member club motor yes 'He is a Motor Club member, yeah?'
 - B: Iya, aku juga kok4. kok.'^ yes also me 'Yeah, me, too,'

The data for this research comes from film dialogues as well as social network messages that I have observed. Along with examining the functions of each of these five particles, I will discuss the gender and age of their users.

Sneddon, James Neil 2006 Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian. Pacific Linguistics 581. Canberra: Australian National University