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Language attitudes in Indonesia: Application of the matched-guise technique

This paper will introduce the problematic of the Indonesian people's attitudes towards their national language and mother tongues and assess the results of the linguistic field study that was carried out in Indonesia in 2013. This research was trying to deal with the complicated linguistic situation in using and functions of national language and mother tongues (Bahasa daerah) from the point of view of people's attitudes. There was examined five groups of bilingual young people (speakers – university students) in Bandung with bilingual combination Sundanese–Indonesian, in Palembang with language combination Palembangnese–Indonesian, in Makassar with language combination Makassarese–Indonesian, in Semarang with language combination Javanese–Indonesian and in Denpasar with language combination Balinese–Indonesian. The used method – matched-guise technique – was invented by Wallace Lambert in 70' and can help us to find out how the people subconsciously feel about using the national or native language, what role the native language plays in the awareness of identity and if this role is the same for all studied groups.