

Pragmatic Uses of Evidential and Epistemic Markers in Conversational Indonesian

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Abstract

This paper examines how evidential and epistemic markers are used in conversational Indonesian. Special attention is given to their pragmatic uses in conversation, in particular how each evidential or epistemic marker is used to express speaker's subjective and intersubjective stance. Using conversational data from the Indonesian sub-corpus of the PolyU Corpus of Languages Spoken in Asia, we analyze four types of evidential markers (*nampaknya*, *kelihatannya*, *katanya* and *rupanya*) and two types of epistemic markers (*agaknyanya* and *rasanya*). Previous studies by Englebretson (2003, 2007) have identified evidential, epistemic, evaluative and attitudinal functions for some of these markers. In the present study, we will adopt an interactionist linguistic framework (see Fox 2001; Kim 2005, 2011; Ahn & Yap, in press) and we will focus on how speakers use these evidential and epistemic markers to establish, maintain and negotiate their epistemic claims in discourse. We will analyze how speakers upgrade or downgrade their epistemic claims in response to the contributions of other interlocutors in the discourse, and we will also discuss the implications of these dynamic modulations in epistemic claims in relation to politeness strategies in colloquial Indonesian.

(185 words)

References

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