

ESSENTIALS OF

# INDONESIAN GRAMMAR



By

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INDONESIAN GRAMMAR**

BY  
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Front Cover Photograph:

Professor Muhammad Yamin (1903 – 1962), the Maha Putra of the Republic of Indonesia. It was he who chaired the **1928 Youth Congress** in Jakarta at which a historic resolution was unanimously accepted, proclaiming the threefold ideal of one country (*bertumpah darah yang satu, Tanah Indonesia*), one nation (*berbangsa yang satu, Bangsa Indonesia*) and one language (*menjunjung bahasa persatuan, Bahasa Indonesia*).

To the memory of my friend:

**Hedwich W. Emanuels (1916 – 1966), Mag. Iur (Leiden)**

Former Acting Head (1964) and Senior Lecturer (1966)

Department of Indonesian and Malayan Studies

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## WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

1. **A History of Overseas Chinese Education in Indonesia, 1729 – 1951** (written in Chinese), published in the *Journal of the South Seas Society*, Vol. XV, Part I (pp. 1 – 14), Singapore, June, 1959, and Part II (pp. 19 – 44), Singapore, December, 1959.  
The first two chapters of this thesis have been translated into Indonesian and published in the *Pantjawarda* monthly in Jakarta from No. 60 to 64 (from September, 1953 to January, 1954).
2. **Kitab Batjaan dan Tatabahasa Bahasa Indonesia** (Indonesian Reader and Grammar), textbooks for Chinese Junior High School students in Indonesia, published by the World Publishing Company in Jakarta:  
**Book 1**, 1953, 153 pp.; **Book 2**, 1953, 146 pp.; **Book 3**, 1954, 221 pp.
3. **A Short History of the Chinese in Indonesia** (written in Chinese), published in the *Nanyang Wenchih*, Vol. I, No. 12 (pp. 42 – 57), Hong Kong, December, 1960.
4. **Tatabahasa Melayu** (Malay Grammar), written in Chinese, published by the Youth Book Company, Singapore, 1960, 344 pp.
5. **Ceritera-Ceritera Tiongkok** (Chinese Stories), bilingual (Malay and Chinese), published by the Shanghai Book Company, Singapore:  
**Part I**, March 1960, 77 pp.; **Part II**, October 1960, 73 pp.
6. **Ceritera-Ceritera Indonesia** (Indonesian Stories), bilingual (Malay and Chinese), published by the Shanghai Book Company, Singapore, November, 1960, 125 pp.
7. **Belajar Bercakap Melayu** (Learn To Speak Malay), bilingual (Malay and Chinese), published by the World Book Company, Singapore, 1961, 170 pp.

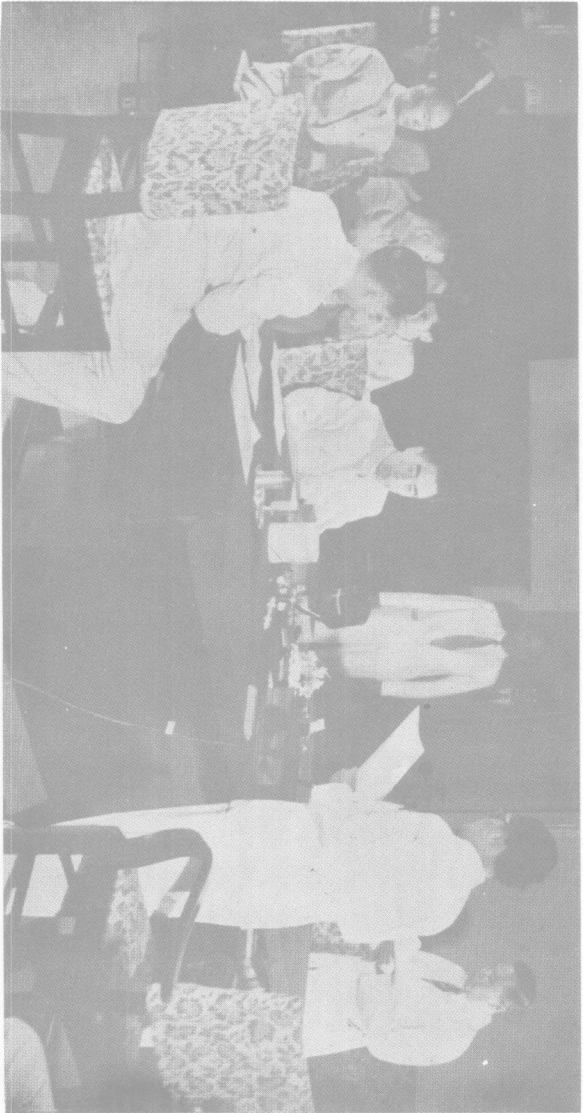
8. **Hidup Bagaikan Mimpi** (translation into Malay of Shen Fu's *Chapters from A Floating Life*), published by Oxford University Press, Kuala Lumpur, 1961, 179 pp.
9. **Bahasa Melayu Hari Ini** (Malay Today), Malay language textbooks for Junior High School students in Malaysia, written in collaboration with Karim Shariff and Daud Baharum, published by Oxford University Press, Kuala Lumpur:  
**Book 1**, 1961, 173 pp.; **Book 2**, 1962, 197 pp.; **Book 3**, 1963, 226 pp.
10. **Tiongkok** (China), translation into Malay of Ping-Chia Kuo's book on history of China, published by Oxford University Press, Kuala Lumpur, 1965, 121 pp.
11. **Introducing Indonesian** (textbook on Indonesian language), published by Angus & Robertson, Sydney:  
**Book 1**, 1965, 115 pp. (Third Edition, 1967, 120 pp.);  
**Book 2**, 1966, 184 pp. (Second Edition, 1967, 184 pp).
12. **Bahasa Melayu Baharu** (A New Malay Reader and Syntax for Forms IV and V students in Malaysia), written in collaboration with Daud Baharum, published by Oxford University Press, Kuala Lumpur:  
**Book 1**, 1966, 226 pp.; **Book 2**, 1968, 259 pp.
13. **Ikhtisar Sejarah Kesusasteraan Melayu Baru, 1830 – 1945** (An Outline of the History of New Malay Literature, 1830 – 1945), published by Pustaka Antara, Kuala Lumpur, 1966, 246 pp. (Second Edition, 1972, 195 pp).
14. **Ikhtisar Sejarah Pergerakan dan Kesusasteraan Melayu Modern, 1945 – 1965** (An Outline of the History of Malay Nationalistic Movement and Modern Literature, 1945 – 1965), Published by Pustaka Antara, Kuala Lumpur, 1967, 552 pp.
15. **Ah-so Hsiang-lin dan Cerpen-Cerpen Lain** (The Wife of Hsiang-lin and Other Short Stories), critical introduction and translation into Malay of four of Lu Hsun's short stories, published by the Institute for National Language and Culture, Singapore, 1968, XXVI + 88 pp.

16. **A Bird's-Eye View of the Development of Modern Malay Literature, 1921 – 1941**, published by Pustaka Antara, Kuala Lumpur, 1970, 58 pp.
17. **Bekal Ujian** (Malay language textbooks for Junior High School students in Malaysia), written in collaboration with Daud Baharum, published by Fajar Bakti, Kuala Lumpur:  
**Book 1**, 1970, 126 pp.; **Book 2**, 1970. 131 pp.; **Book 3**, 1971, 133pp.
18. **An Introduction to the Promotion and Development of Modern Malay Literature, 1942 – 1962**, published by Penerbitan Yayasan Kanisius, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 1975, 269 pp. + 26 photographs.





*The Second Batch of graduates of Bahasa Indonesia Course of the Institute of Modern Languages in Jakarta on 8th November, 1953. The Chairman of the Examination Committee, Mr. Noehadi (wearing glasses), is sitting in the centre (front row) with Drs. Li Chuan Siu, Principal of the Institute, on his left.*



*The Signing Ceremony of the Dual-Citizenship Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the People's Republic of China on 22nd April, 1955 (during the Asian-African Conference) in the Official Residence of the Governor of West Java in Bandung. The late Mr. Chou En-Lai is sitting opposite Mr. Sunario, who is standing and making a speech in Indonesian, with Drs. Li Chuan Siu standing on his right, interpreting his speech into Chinese.*



On 5th June, 1964, Drs. Li Chuan Siu left Singapore for Australia to take up a lectureship at the University of Sydney. This picture shows some Nanyang University teachers (with their families) and students seeing him and his family off on board the Centaur at Singapore harbour. Drs. Li is standing in the centre (front row) with his wife on his left.

## PREFACE

After the publication of my books, *Introducing Indonesian, Books I & II*, in 1965 and 1966, several textbooks on Bahasa Indonesia have been published in Australia by various scholars and teachers. However no Indonesian grammar book has been published as yet which is written in the new spelling and designed for classroom use at secondary and initial tertiary levels as well as being suitable for individual study.

I have been teaching Indonesian at the University of Sydney since 1964 and the evening courses organized by the Workers' Educational Association of New South Wales since 1968. It has become increasingly apparent to me that to master a foreign language, the study of its grammar is a matter of implicit importance and I believe that there is a great need for a concise but comprehensive and practical book on Indonesian grammar especially designed for Australian high school students in general and university and adult students in particular. I therefore publish this book with the aim of fulfilling this need.

In my experience in teaching Indonesian, the first few months' lessons are invariably easy for the teacher to present and for the students to master. The real struggle begins after a year or so of study, when the students are required to master the changes of words by affixation, especially those of the action words and to understand the complexity of longer sentence construction.

The present book is designed to be used as a textbook for high school and initial tertiary students and as a reference book for individual study. If used as a textbook, it should enable the teacher to largely avoid the exhausting and often ineffectual repetition of routine changes in sentence structure and modification of words by affixation, much of which can best be accomplished by leaving the exercises of each lesson as assignments and discussing mistakes after the assigned works have been corrected.

There are 23 lessons in this book. Each lesson contains one or more aspects of the grammar, illustrated by many examples, then followed by exercises. At the end of each lesson I have included useful notes as an additional supplement. My overall aim has been to provide a rapid mastery of the most basic elements of Indonesian grammar, sufficient to give students a working knowledge of the structure of the language in the shortest possible time.

Writing such a book is always something of a *gotong-royong* in the sense that it represents the distillation of many years of experience in teaching the subject, not only my own but also the experience of numerous scholars and teachers whose works have influenced my thinking. It is with pleasure that I acknowledge this debt by listing in the **Bibliography** some of the titles which have had a particular influence on the present work.

To ensue the success of their study, students should be given supplementary reading material and should be taught to use a good Indonesian-English and English-Indonesian dictionary. The following readers and dictionaries are available in Australia:

- (a) *A Modern Reader in Bahasa Indonesia*, Books 1 & 2, by J. P. Sarumpaet and H. Hendrata (obtainable by writing to them through P. O. Box 282, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128).
- (b) *Dari Barat Sampai Ketimur* (A Modern Indonesian Reader) by Soewito Santoso and Soemarjono (obtainable from Ian Novak Publishing Co., 4 Euthella Avenue, Hunters Hill, N. S. W., 2110).
- (c) *An Indonesian-English Dictionary* by John M. Echols and Hassan Shadily, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York (obtainable from the University Co-operative Bookshop Ltd., 76-84 Bay Street, Ultimo, N. S. W., 2007).
- (d) *An English-Indonesian Dictionary* by John M. Echols and Hassan Shadily, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York (obtainable from the above University Co-operative Bookshop Ltd.).

Finally, I wish to express my deep appreciation to Mrs. Denice Melville, B.A. Honours (Sydney), for having read the entire manuscript and for her patience and energy in removing much stylistic awkwardness, but I alone am responsible for any mistakes. In this respect I would be grateful for any constructive comments and suggestions on the nature of this book.

Sydney, 12th June, 1976  
(the twelfth anniversary  
of my arrival in Australia).

Li Chuan Siu

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