

Dialogue

A Journal for English Learners

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REAL TALK

Some of my happiest moments in 2015 were spent exploring cities I'd never visited before to shed some light on education. Sometimes these cities were in lands far away like Sumatera (believe me when I say that Sumatera is a whole different world from Java). But sometimes, when I'm walking in Jogja, where I currently live, I get lost and make a wrong turn. Then I turn my head and watch the sun shower the street and I remember what it feels like to fall in love with Jogja all over again. In 2016, I promise to keep exploring places that make my heart beat, whether they are close to home or miles away.

So, I'd like to invite you – Dialoguers – to step out of your bubble. Obviously, it doesn't have to be as far as Sumatera. It could be just as close as starting a club at school or learning to cook with your mother at home. And in the process, I promise that you will learn something about yourself that you never knew existed within you.



New Year means 'new you'. No matter how hard making (or keeping) a resolution might be, you should consider the process as something that will make you proud throughout 2016. These two PBI lecturers have set their resolutions and talk about the power of change.



Mega

Anyone who speaks a language that is not their first is going to make mistakes. It's a universal phenomenon. But if we look at particular cultural and linguistic groups, we can notice certain specific kinds of mistakes common to that group.

6

Common Mistakes Done by Indonesian Netizens

By Mega Wulandari

These sorts of culturally-specific mistakes are not just in pronunciation. They may be in grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, or even in concepts that differ from culture to culture.

So here's the list of the common typos of English terms Indonesians make. It might seem trivial, but if it's heard by other people who are already fluent in English and they know what is right, it can be a bit annoying. We as language users should not be ignorant of this phenomenon. It has been observed for many years, in either spoken or written language use in social media or the Internet.

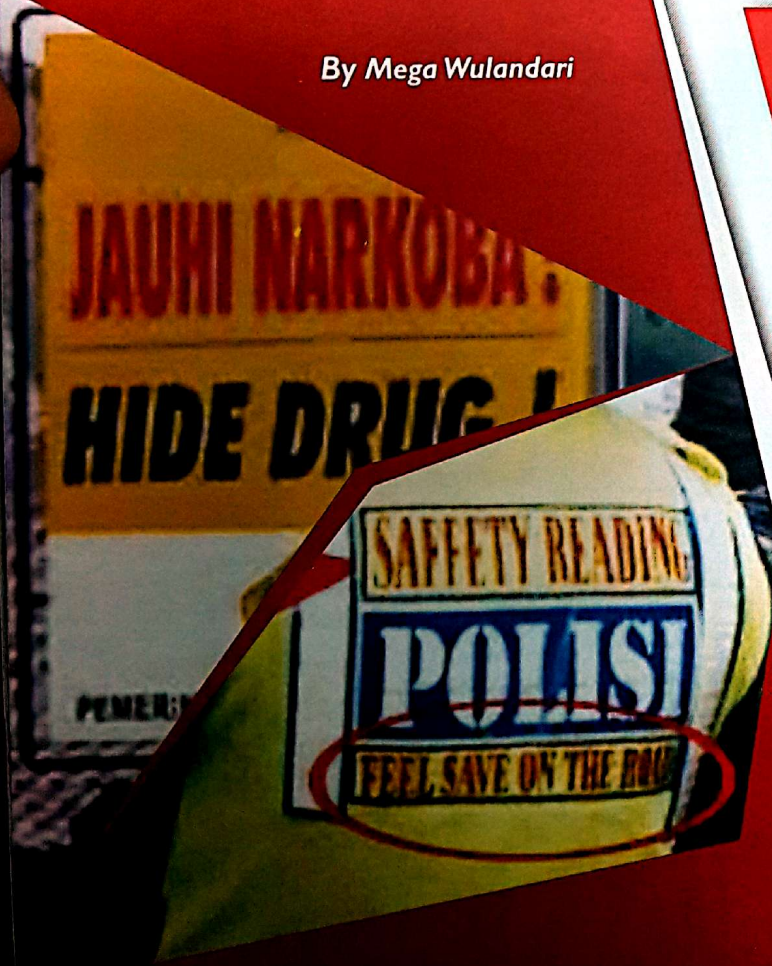
1. Deadline vs Dateline

Indonesian people often misrepresent and misunderstand these two words. If it refers to the limit of time of collecting something then the appropriate term is "deadline" and not "dateline"!

Based on the online Oxford Learner's Dictionary, the noun "deadline" /'dɛdlaɪn/ means: the latest time or date by which something should be completed.

2. Thanks God or Thank God?

This term may be considered equivalent to *Puji Tuhan* or *Alhamdulillah* but unfortunately some people are misguided. Which one is correct? It's "Thank God".



"Thank God" is actually a shortened version of "Thanks be to God" which means that you are telling the others (your friends or whoever) that you are thankful to God. "Thank God" is in the same way as "Praise God". "Thank God" is also correct because you use "Thank" as a verb I (we) thank God.

When to use "Thanks, God", you are praying or directly conversing with God, then you would say "Thanks, God". "Thanks, God" should actually mean "Thank You, God" as if he were in front of you. "Thanks" is an informal way of saying "Thank You" so it is highly unlikely to use "Thanks, God" to an almighty being. (<http://goo.gl/rdaRvo>)

3. I'm bored or I'm boring?

"Boring" is used when you are describing a person's character: 1) "He is so boring", and 2) "What a boring presentation." "Bored" refers to a feeling that you have when you are not interested in something "I'm so bored! Let's go out and do something fun."

If you used "I'm so boring" in this case then instead you would be calling yourself not interesting; therefore it would sound self-conscious!

4. Join with us or Join us?

One of my friends inadvertently used the phrase 'join with us' and the teacher showed an expression of wonder. After the presentation was finished, the teacher said, "Next time do not use the phrase 'join with us' but 'join us' instead". I didn't know anything back then,



and I immediately asked her, "why can't we?" Then she explained. "In other countries, the phrase 'join with us' tends to be used as an invitation of doing sexual activity. So, if someone said 'hey join with us' in order to promote a community project or an event, native speakers of English will be certainly frowning or smiling!

5. Keep Smiling or Keep Smile?

Have you ever read or heard or used phrases like this: "Keep smile", "Keep fight", "Keep struggle". Do you think the phrases are correct or not?

The correct structure should be: "keep Verb + -ing". So "keep" followed by a form of "Verb-ing". So those phrases should be: "Keep smiling", "Keep fighting", "Keep struggling". For a similar phrase, remember: "keep Verb + -ing".

6. Tetap semangat = Keep spirit??

We all get sick or feel down sometimes, but what always helps us feel better right away is when we hear words of encouragement. Whether you're meeting a friend who is frustrated or writing a get-well-soon card, it always helps to know what to write or say!

Notice two important phrases that are used quite often, the phrasal verb "cheer up" which means to be happier and less worried. Another one is the idiom, "hang in there" which means be patient, don't give up, keep going! You may also say "keep your spirit high" and not "keep spirit".

So, just as you should do with learning English, "hang in there!" and "keep reading" Dialogue Magazine to elevate your English skill! We make sure that this is not boring stuff.