

Features of Indonesian-English with Special Reference to Gorontalese

Aryati Hamzah¹, Ismail Tahir²
^{1,2} Universitas Bina Mandiri Gorontalo

Article Info

Article history:

Received Jun, 2025
Revised Jun, 2025
Accepted Jun, 2025

Keywords:

English Language Learning;
Gorontalo Dialect;
Indonesian Language;
Language as Communication;
Mother Tongue

ABSTRACT

Language serves as a communication tool. It is made up of signs and symbols. Depending on the nations in which it is utilized, it exhibits different patterns. Language has a critical role in sustaining our social lives in this age of globalization. In Indonesia, English is the foreign language that is typically taught in schools. Because Indonesia is home to many different ethnic groups and languages, the primary language spoken there is a local language known as the mother tongue. As a unifying language, Indonesian is the second language. As an international language, English has also been learned in every region. Furthermore, English is not flawless due to the significant influence of regional or dialectal languages on pronunciation. Students at Gorontalo also study English as a side subject. The author applies the method to finish this article in a way that is scientific. The research's methodology and data analysis technique demonstrate how data is retrieved and examined. Both library research and field research were the methods and techniques the author employed to gather and analyze data for this aim. Following an analysis of the research on Indonesian-English characteristics among Gorontalo people, the author discovers that the Gorontalo people have a habit of saying things like "aaa..," "eee..," and "mmm." Additionally, they typically use English, but they employ Indonesian grammar. The reason for this is that the local dialect or language continues to have an influence.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-SA](#) license.



Corresponding Author:

Name: Aryati Hamzah
Institution: Universitas Bina Mandiri Gorontalo
Email: Aryati.hamzah@ubmg.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Linguistic is the systematic study of language. Language may refer either to the specific human capacity for acquiring and using complex system of communication, or to a specific instance of such as a system of complex communication. It is used in different context and meaning, for example: written language, oral language, speech, utterances, etc.

Language is a tool of communication. It consists of symbols and signs. It has

various patterns based on the countries where it is used. In this era globalization, language is very important to support our social life. If we want to communicate with other people we should use a standard language in order to make it understandable by speaker and hearer. Knowing another foreign language is an addition value in society.

Every language has a system that need to be know and obeyed by the users. English is one of the foreign language and it is becomes an international language. It is used

all over the world. Using English language is not as simply as we think because there is a set of rules that must be followed. In learning English language we need to know the rules in order we can use it correctly. Especially in conversation.

English language in Indonesia is the foreign language that usually learned in the school. The first language in Indonesia is a local language commonly called mother tongue because Indonesia consists of various ethnic group and languages. And the second language is Indonesia language as unifying language. English language also has been learned in each region as an international language. And a lot of influence from dialect or local language to the pronunciation of the English language makes English is less than perfect. In Gorontalo also the student study English language besides Gorontalo language.

Gorontalo language is the language used by people of Gorontalo in their daily life such as in home, in school, in the market, and ceremonies. Gorontalo language serves as a communication tool in family and society, especially people in the village. Different things happen when it is outside from their neighbourhood, they will use Gorontalo language if they know each other.

Beside Gorontalo language, the students also learn English language. Gorontalo language affects the use of English language by the people of Gorontalo.

As we know that the local language is a language that we often use in everyday communication as a liaison in the social environment like Gorontalo people who use Gorontalo language. English language also used in communicating although not always used like local language because young people today prefer to use Indonesian language or English language. Therefore, when a person speaks in English is still affected by dialect or local language. So, make pronunciation or usage be less than perfect.

Based on the problem or reason explanation above the writer want to know What habits are often done by people of Gorontalo in English conversation? and interested in doing the research about “

Features of Indonesian-English with special reference to Gorontaloese”.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 *Variety of Language*

Variety of language in sociolinguistic studies refers to the different forms of language used by speakers in specific social, geographical, or situational contexts. A variety of language is a specific form of a language used by a particular group of people or in a particular situation (Ronald Wardhaugh & Janet Fuller, 2015). This may include languages, dialects, accents, registers, styles or other sociolinguistic variation, as well as the standard variety itself. "Variety" avoids the terms language, which many people associate only with the standard language, and dialect, which is associated with non-standard varieties thought of as less prestigious or "correct" than the standard.

In sociolinguistics, a general term for any distinctive form of a language or linguistic expression. Linguists commonly use language variety (or simply variety) as a cover term for any of the overlapping subcategories of a language, including dialect, idiolect, register, and social dialect [1].

Variety a neutral term: any linguistic system with cohesive distribution in social space [2]. According to [3] the term language varieties refers to any form of a language, whether a regional or social dialect, a pidgin, creole, or some other language code. Most of us use a range of language forms that differ in some ways from the standard English that has been codified in grammar books and upheld by efforts to prescribe the way that people use English. For example, consider the forms that you might use in conversing with friends at a soccer match versus the language you might use when speaking with your boss in a work context or with one of your adult students.

2.2 Interview

According to [4] a formal meeting in person, especially one arranged for the assessment of the qualifications of an applicant.

A conversation in which one person (the interviewer) elicits information from another person (the subject or interviewee). A transcript or account of such a conversation is also called an interview [5]. According to [6] an interview is a conversation between two or more people where questions are asked by the interviewer to elicit facts or statements from the interviewee.

According to [7] interview is a somewhat formal discussion between a hirer and an applicant or candidate, typically in person, in which information is exchanged, with the intention of establishing the applicant's suitability for a position.

2.3 Register

According to [8] "a register is a conventional way of using language that is appropriate in a specific context, which may be identified as situational (e.g. in church), occupational (e.g. among lawyers), or topical (e.g. talking about language".

According to [6], a register is a variety of language used for particular purpose or in a particular in a particular social setting. For example: when speaking in a formal setting, an English speaker may be more likely to adhere more closely to prescribed grammar, pronounce words ending in -ing with velar nasal instead of an alveolar nasal (e.g. 'walkin', not 'walkin'), choose more formal words (e.g. father vs dad, child vs kid, etc), and refrain from using *as ain't*, than when speaking in an informal setting.

Register used here as a cover term for any language variety defined by its situational characteristics, including the speaker purpose, the relationship between speaker and hearer, and the production circumstances [9].

According to [10] in [6] "interpret 'register' as the linguistic features which are typically associated with a configuration of situation features- with particular values of the field, mode and tenor". The three values (field, mode and tenor) are thus the determining factors for the linguistic features of the text. The Register is the set of meanings, the configuration of semantic patterns, that are typically drawn upon under the specified conditions, along with the words and structures that are used in the realization of these meanings.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In completing this writing to be a scientific work, the writer uses the method. The methodology and technique of analyzing data which would be used in this research shows how data is retrieved and analyzed. For this purpose the writer used the method and the technique of collecting data and analyzing data with two ways:

1. Library research

This is the part in where the writer reads several books to find some facts and information that are relevant to the research. The writer also tries to find any references or writing that can support her analysis.

2. Field research

The writer do the interview method to collect the data. This research data in the form of a conversation. the writer conducted the interviews with several people of Gorontalo using English language. the interview like a short questions and answered by respondents. The interview is done in two ways: direct interviews and telephone interviews with different durations. respondents who selected are the people of Gorontalo who can speak English. The writer done this research in order to know the effect of the dialect and regional language to the English language. The first, the writer

contacted the respondent to seek approval for the interview. For respondents who distant place the writer do the interview by phone, while the respondent near with the writer the interviews were carried out directly. After the interviews were conducted and the data were collected the writer performed the analysis of data.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Conversation I

A: Miss Mbayu...can you tell me what your unforgettable moment in your life?

B: what? What? Pardon me?

A: your unforgettable moment in your life, please tell me!

B: tell me what? Sorry I can't hear your voice clearly.

A: okey. Can you tell me what is your unforgettable moment?

B: unforgettable moment..aduh, this answer is always everybody ask to me then in the aaa..apa..meeting meeting begitu.

A: okey...next question.

B: Gorontalo is very hot. Eeee... when you eee... go out from your house you can feel the hot of eee....the sun in the ee...afternoon. oh my God..you know!! You have to wear jacket, you have to wear scraft, you have to wear sock to close your body eee.. if you don't want eee..change your skin you know Gorontalo is very hot.

A: are you happy live in gorontalo?

B: what?

A: are you happy live in Gorontalo?

B: I'm happy because the people in here very kind, and the food is very delicious like ilabulo, milu siram, tinutuan. Ooo..I'm very like it, and you have to try it if you come to Gorontalo ya..!!

A: okey. What is differences between ee.. you feel what is differences between Gorontalo and Makassar?

B: oh.. the differences..you can not apa..you can not membedakan between Gorontalo and Makassar. You know, Makassar is a big city and Gorontalo just ten years ya...eleven years. So,

development in Gorontalo is still low then Makassar like that. In makassar have many mall..much mall,ehh many mall. In Gorontalo just one and yaa like that very differenf. If you want to spend holiday must you will choose Makassar to go.

A: but in Gorontalo I see there is XXI?

B: tinutuan yaa...

A: twenty one

B: ohh twenty one

A: yes, twenty one

B: (laugh) twenty one yaa just apa..belakangan ini..apa..twenty one itu dibangun. Like that

Analysis:

1. She say 'aduh' and 'apa' it is the Indonesia language and then she use word 'meeting' and repeat it become 'meeting meeting' and the she add the word 'begitu'. She mix the sentence with Indonesia language.
2. There is a word 'eee...' between the sentence or in the middle of sentence. It is happen if she try to remember what will she say.
3. She say 'the answer' but substantively that is 'the question'. And she improve the article 'The' before adjective 'hot'.
4. The sentence 'you know!!' she use for pressing that is really hot. It is not the question. It is also we can say the lexical composite.
5. She put word 'ya' in the last sentence. It is happen because the people in Gorontalo usually use that word, may be not only in Gorontalo but most of people in Indonesia use that word.
6. The word 'apa' and 'membedakan' are the indonesia language. She mix her sentence and she use word 'ya' again.
7. She use 'many' and then she change 'much'. And 'development' as a noun she didn't put the article.
8. 'Ya..like that very different' this sentence happen because effect from the local language or dialect.

9. Between word 'spend' and holiday' she didn't put the possessive pronoun 'your'. And then she change the position 'you' as a subject become object after the modal 'must be'.
10. And the last she mix English language with Indonesia langauge.

4.2 Conversation II

A: okey. First of all..can you introduce your self?

B: okey. Aaa...my name is Mohammad Djafar bu' you can called me Oden. I'm 25 years old and.. mmmm.. just it I think.

A: where do you come from?

B: i'm come from Leato, Gorontalo

A: can you describe your city to me?

B: okey, eee..actually Gorontalo city is beautifull city bu' I don't know eee..what the other people think about Gorontalo just bu' my opinion is Gorontalo is so beautiful, the people is what is that aaa...hospitality and then they are many aaa...many types of people lives in here. And of course there are many jobs and most op people jobs in Gorontalo I think a fisherman.

A: okey. What do you like the area where you live?

B: what do you mean are?

A : like in you...you live in Leato. What you like in Leato or in Gorontalo, about the people or the place like that.

B: yaa..I prefer choose may be the people yaa.. so the people I mean.. I think the people..the Gorontalo people is realy humble and the important think is they always care to each other. I think like that. They wanna help if someone ge' the trouble or problem. They always help each other.

A: okey, and what things in your city or town you don't like? Like may be in Jakarta traffic jam like that, but in Gorontalo may be nothing traffic jam. Okey.

B: so, especially I don't like in Gorontalo city?

A: yes..yes

B: may be..what ya..

A: the weather or what?

B: ohh yaa...weather is hot ya..especially in yaa in downtown city is really hot.

A: okey, then what is your hobby?

B: oohh..actually I don't have a special hobby but aaa.. I only like reading book and then yaa..I think only reading...reading a book because I want to know more aaa.. many information from reading books, reading articles or reading some information from internet, browsing just it. I don't have a special hobby, just reading. My life for reading.

A: and what you do in your free time?

B: oh..in my free time sometimes aaa.. if I have a free time I only yaa... help my mother for example to clean my room, to clean my bathroom, and then eee.. if my friends come to me and ask me to go to anywhere to place to take a vocation yaa.. for example like will go to mall or something yaa this it (just it).

A: and the last question...what is your unforgettable moment?

B: oh ya. Unforgettable moment in my life and you know it is really a bad moment since every in my life aaa... the moment is when I was in junior high school aaa.. actualy I ever get fail in nasional examination test yaa I'm fail and you know I'm really strees. I'm really depress with that because some students say I'm a smart student may be but what happen with you. You didn't success to finish the nasional examination test. So, I'm really depress with that. And until now when the nasional examintaion test result it come I always remember that moment and I can't forget that moment until now. So, that may my really bad moment. Ohh my Godness.

Analysis:

1. He always use 'aaa..', 'mmm..', and 'eee' between his sentence. 'hmm' to express that he understand.
2. He say " bu' " without 't'. He omitted 't' in word 'but' and "ge' " in the word 'get'. It is happen because basicly the people of Gorontalo speak quickly. So,

usually they omitted the last letter in the word.

3. In his sentence, he always use 'to be' although it is incorrect. And he always say 'what is that' when he confused.
4. The addition in the word 'in here' actually 'in' he can omitted that.
5. She say 'op' in the sentence 'most of people in Gorontalo i think a f' or 'fisherman'. He say 'op' because the people of Gorontalo usually not aware and they didnt know to say ' f ' or ' v ' like 'of : op', 'facebook : pesbuk', etc.
6. He use 'ya' in the last sentence basicly the people of Gorontalo always say that, and he always repeat his sentence.
7. He use to in every word like 'to go toanywhere to place to take' because it is the habit the people in Gorontalo and may be the people in Indonesia also.
8. The word 'just it' become that is' because he say that word quickly. So, when we listen that, we just listen that he say 'that is'.

4.3 Conversation III

A: halo

B: halo

A: how are you

B: I'm fine

A: okey. Can you introduce your self?

B: okey. Introduce my self. Well, my name is sabrina but my friends usually called me Ina and I was born in Gorontalo on June, 2nd 1988 and now I'm aaa.. take my what is..the my second year in Epidemiology in Hasanuddin University.

A: you from gorontalo. Can you describe your city to me?

B: pardon me. I'm so sorry. What? Describe about what?

A: can you descirbe about your city to me?

B: my city?

A: yes

B: okey. Actually I do' know much about my city but may be I explain to you a little. Gorontalo is one of province in Indonesia. Aaa..what is how we say kotamadya in

north Sulawesi. So, and then 2001 if I don't wrong, Gorontalo became the province and actually Gorontalo has a lot of culture and aaaa.. what it say, some place..where you can visit and enjoy your trip if you want to traveling because Gorontalo has aaa...how to say, the culture such as dance, the traditional food called milu siram. It is consists of corn and fish and like a soup and then in Gorontalo usually people speak Gorontalo langauge and there similar language with Manado and I think now Gorontalo still grow up.stil ee.. govermant still grow up this city because it need yaa it need very much..what is in a ..oh my..I mean pembangunan yaa..infrastructure. so, may be just that is know about my city. I don't know much.

A: but makassar city, how about makassar city?

B: I know Makassar city little bit more than Gorontalo..oh my God. I so shame about this because I do' know much about Gorontalo except the road. It is just only in city I don't know about in other place in Gorontalo. So, I just know from Tv or some article but in Makassar I know where you can visit pantai Losari, benteng rotterdam, and then makassar have Somba opu where you can buy the gift for your friend and Makassar also has a lot of mall and but Makassar very crowded. It more crowder from Gorontalo because it a big city in indonesia.

A: so, what you do in your free time?

B: what?

A: what you do in your free time?

B: my free time?

A: yes, what you do?

B: actually I have alot of activity because I love traveling. So, usually in my free time I really really have a free time I just stay in my bad because it is difficult to get a free time because from Monday to Friday now I'm doing my my research. My research for my thesis and then Saturday sometimes I go hangout with my friends or just travel to some place or just doing my activity such as in my organization because I went to three organization,

different organization. So, such as community in community, education community, and then teenagers community, and the volunteer. All of them usually is the voluntary community. So, may be in a Saturday I'm yaa..if I still go with my friend, so I just doing my..what is.. go with my friend community or sometimes I just go to some place where i want to eat or watching a movie or singing like that. Sunday is the truly free time. So, I stay in my bad and washing my clouth.

A: okey. The last question. What is your unforgettable moment?

B: what is..what?

A: What is your unforgettable moment?

B: unforgettable moment?

A: yes

B: oh my. Is just one? Can I mention more than one?

A: never mind.

B: I have alot of unforgettable moment. Especially aaa..lately this years from last years. The first ubfirgetable moment, when I get my graduation in 2010, that is very unforgettable moment. And the second one, when I get my chance to get the special i mean master degree. I get the scholarship and i can go visit Makassar again. And the unforgettable moment when I join with a great community such as Ari Makassar, Penyala makassar, Kelas Inspirasi. And I meet new people, great people. They are so WOW me. When we help kelas Inspirasi Makassar for the first time that was the unforgettable moment for me. I think that.

A: okay. Than for your time.

Analysis:

1. She add the article 'the' before 'my'. It is happen spontaneous

because she confused. It is signed with the sentence 'what is' or 'what it say'.

2. She omitted the letter in the word "don't " become "do' ". It is because the people of gorontalo usually disguised the word.
3. After the word 'so' she continue with ' and then'. This is the influenced by the local language or Indonesia language and in Indonesia. And she always use 'and'.
4. She say 'oh my' when she forget something to say. It is the influenced by modern language in Indonesia and in Gorontalo also. So, many people use that when they confused or forget something, etc.
5. She use 'just' and then 'only'. She make a double marking, and the sentence ' it is just only in city, I don't know about in other place in Gorontalo' it is influenced by Indonesia language.
6. She say 'so WOW me' that is effect from the modern language or modern style because the people especially in gorontalo always say 'WOW'.

5. CONCLUSION

After the writer analyze the research of the features Indonesia-English in Gorontalo people, the witer find that the Gorontalo people habit in conversation: they always say 'aaa..' or 'eee..' or 'mmm', etc. And they are also usually use the English language but they use the Indonesia's grammar. It is because still influenced by the local language or dialect.

REFERENCES

- [1] Grammar.about.Com., "Language Variety," 2014.
- [2] P. L. Patrick, "Standard language & Prescription," 2014.
- [3] Elearning.la.psu.edu., "Copy of Lesson," 2014.
- [4] Thefreedictionary.Com., "Interview," 2014.
- [5] Grammar.about.Com., "Interview," 2014.
- [6] Wikipedia.Com., "Variety (Linguistic)," 2014.
- [7] Bussinessdictionary.Com., "Interview," 2014.
- [8] G. Yule, *The Study of Language*. 1998.

- [9] L. J. Mey, *Concise Encyclopedia of Pragmatics*. United Kingdom: Elsevier Ltd, 1998.
- [10] M. A. K. Halliday and R. Hasan, *Cohesion in english*. Routledge, 2014.