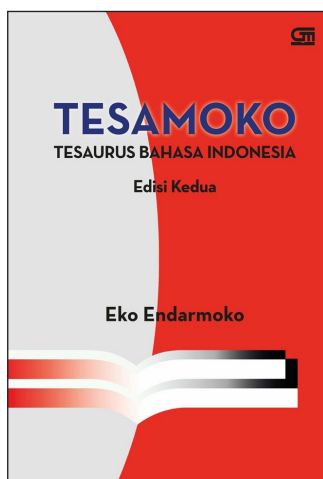


Eko Endarmoko, *Tesamoko; Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia*. Second edition. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2016, xxx + 802 pp. ISBN: 978-602-032-577-4. Price: IDR 225,000 (hard cover).



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This is the revised edition of the pioneering *Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia* of 2007. The acronym *Tesamoko* (Tesaurus Endarmoko) was coined in the course of a cooperation with the team of 18 Indonesian language observers, who assisted in the completion of this new edition and whose names are mentioned in the appendix. The *Tesamoko* differs from its predecessor in its volume: it has a larger type face and nearly a hundred extra pages. The structure of the entries in terms of senses and collocational restrictions is much more transparent.

As its predecessor, the *Tesamoko* is based on the major current monolingual dictionaries, foremost the latest edition of *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2008). Besides this work, the introduction (p. xi) mentions a number of corpuses of journalistic Indonesian used for checking: *jawapos.com*, *kompas.com*, *pikiran-rakyat.com*, *tempo.co*, *waspada.co.id*, *sealang.net*, *mcp.anu.edu.au*, and *goenawanmohamad.com*.

Vocabularies of a language spoken by a sizeable number of speakers and covering a diverse array of domains and used in more than a few locations are constructs by lexicographers. They never coincide completely with the vocabulary of individual speakers. This is all the more the case for a language such as Indonesian, with its documented history spanning five or more centuries and its function as a second language for speakers of some 700 so called regional languages.

The monolingual dictionaries of Indonesian are therefore always receptive: they help the user to understand words they do not have in their “passive” vocabulary. A thesaurus such as *Tesamoko* is a productive lexicographical aid: it helps the user to enlarge his “active” vocabulary.

The *Tesamoko* and the major dictionaries with Indonesian as their source language also complement each other in the fact that the thesaurus presents only limited and indirect semantic information: word-class labels, marking for homonyms and different senses, and indication of collocational restrictions. For the semantic nuances of the listed “synonyms” the reader is referred to the major dictionaries. Synonyms, or should one say “synonyms”? By including “antonyms”, the *Tesamoko* marks all other lexical items in contrast as synonyms (labelled **sin**). This is somewhat superfluous. Moreover: it is contrary to the essence of language, namely that different forms have different meanings, and

it is precisely the function of a thesaurus to remind the user to find words which fit better in a given context because of their slightly different meaning.

There are no objective criteria how far a compiler of a thesaurus should go in this respect. It is a matter of taste and accident. Critique of inconsistencies and particular choices will therefore always be possible. A n^{th} edition of a thesaurus will therefore always be possible as well. Suggestions should be made by native speakers of Indonesian. I confine myself to two minor remarks:

1. On page xv the author warns us that “synonyms” like *pendokumentasian* and *pendistribusian* are no longer included since they are considered unjustified derivations since their bases, *dokumentasi* and *distribusi* would have the same meaning. In my understanding this is only partly true: the forms with the circumfix *peN-an* refer to a process, whereas the stems, being borrowings from Dutch, have as in Dutch the meaning of a process or of the result thereof.
2. Many words in the thesaurus have a label for what is called “*kata serapan*” (‘borrowings’, page xx). Labels for source language varieties within Indonesia are *Bl* (Bali), *Jt* (Jakarta), *Sd* (Sunda), *Mk* (Minangkabau), *Jw* (Java). The latter two are especially frequent. Are these etymological markers reflecting the historical development of current standard Indonesian, or do they refer to regional varieties of Indonesian? If the latter is the case, the database for the third edition of the thesaurus can be infinitely extended to cover the Indonesian of all 700 odd regional language communities in Indonesia. A similar question regards the difference between the forms labelled as *kl* (classic) and *ark* (archaic). Are the classic forms still usable, but only with an archaic flavour, whereas the “archaic” forms are post-classic and no longer current, for instance, because their referents are no longer around?

But these are perhaps questions of mere theoretical interest. I am impressed by the result we now have before us. It will function as it was intended: to enable users of Indonesian to play with their language and to produce more nuanced and aesthetically interesting texts.

In circles of expats one sometimes hears Indonesian being qualified as a kind of “baby language” with a very limited vocabulary. Of course, that judgement reflects their ethnic prejudice and lack of interest. The *Tesamoko* is proof for everyone that Indonesian is a very rich language. It is – to conclude – an indispensable companion to the major mono- and bilingual dictionaries.