

NARRATIVE DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF A FOREIGNER'S STORY DURING HIS WORK IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This article is concerned with the study of appraisal of a foreigner who worked in Indonesia. The aim is to find out some personal feeling of working in Indonesia. An Australian who worked in Indonesia during some period of time was the main respondent. There are three episodes of conversation through the internet chat, namely Yahoo Messenger between the writer and the respondent. The conversation transcript was used as the data. Narrative story and discourse analysis were used as a perspective approach to analyze the story. The important themes discussed in the study are affect, appreciation, personal and moral judgment, and social judgment.

Keywords: *appraisal, a foreigner working in Indonesia, narrative story, discourse analysis*

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini mengkaji tentang penilaian seorang warga asing yang bekerja di Indonesia. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengetahui apa yang dirasakannya selama bekerja di Indonesia. Seorang dari Australia yang bekerja di Indonesia selama periode tertentu menjadi responden penelitian ini. Ada tiga episode cerita yang dilakukan melalui obrolan via internet, dengan menggunakan program Yahoo Messenger. Cerita narrative dan analisa wacana digunakan sebagai pendekatan perspektif untuk menganalisa cerita ini. Tema utama yang akan diangkat dalam pembahasan adalah pengaruh, penghargaan, penilaian personal dan moral, serta penilaian masyarakat.

Kata kunci: *penilaian, pekerja asing di Indonesia, cerita narrative, analisa discourse*

INTRODUCTION

As global business spread out the world, many people try to get a job out of their countries. Indonesian people try to get a job abroad, and on the contrary, many foreigners come to Indonesia for working. No wonder there are many foreigners, who work in Indonesia recently. They come from many countries, such as the United States of America, Australia, India, Belgium and many others. Many of them do some businesses while others do some mission, as the volunteers of international organization. They work either in local, national or international company in Indonesia.

The reasons why they chose to work abroad vary from one to another. Lesley Ducheyne, one of the unpaid workers from Romulus organization from Belgium, said that she thought communication with pupils from abroad was very important. She learned a lot about other countries and their people as well as got to know their culture. The other person from the same institution, Ben Jassin said that he was much interested in international contact between different cultures, languages, ways of life and customs. He thought it was worthwhile to look for interesting experiences and practiced the English language more often. Both answers showed their character, feelings and evaluations when they face some new experiences. It can be said that people who work in another country will have many new experiences, so they will show their attitude concerning with the matter.

Since there are many reasons of their purpose of coming to Indonesia, it is very interesting to analyze a conversation with a foreigner who worked in Indonesia, especially the appraisal which will be divided into some dimensions including affect, appreciation, personal and moral judgment, as well as social judgment. The objective of this study is to give a clear understanding on what this study employs. The writer makes the specification on the purpose of the study. The purpose is to show the evaluative meaning or attitude of a foreign worker during his work in Indonesia from the point of view of affect, appreciation, personal and moral judgment, and social judgment.

Theoretical Framework

People usually show their attitude by saying something. It means that they need to show their feeling in words. Some people also show their feeling by showing it on their face either in sadness or happiness. But other people understand more when they use words to show their feeling or attitude.

In daily life, people use casual conversation mostly to communicate with others. When they feel happy they will say it cheerfully. On the contrary when they feel sad they will say it in softly. The tone they use will show their feeling.

The most important in conversation is the using of the words which indicate the emotional or attitude of the speaker. The words used can be analyzed by using appraisal theory. As Martin and Rose (2001) have mentioned about the definition of appraisal above it can be concluded that appraisal pays attention on the attitudes in aliasing casual conversation. Moreover, Eggins and Slade (1997) stated that appraisal refers to the attitudinal coloring of talk during a range of dimension, including; certainty, emotional, response, social evaluation and intensity.

There are four main categories in appraisal; attitude, affect judgment, appreciation, and amplification. According to Eggins and Slade (1997), appreciation is the speaker reaction to and evaluation of reality. While affect refers to speaker's expression of emotional state, both positive and negative. Judgment refers to speakers' judgment about the ethics, morality, or social values of other people. The last is amplification, which refers to the way speakers magnify or minimize the intensity and degree of reality they are negotiating.

Martin and Rose (2001) divided appraisal in two big categories; kinds of attitudes and amplifying attitudes. Kinds of attitudes are divided into three kinds of attitudes which identified in affect (people feelings), judgment (people character) and appreciation (value of things).

Affect (expressing one's feelings)

People usually have good or bad feeling. They have good feeling when they feel happy, proud or satisfied. On the contrary they feel bad when they are sad, annoyed or unsatisfied. Parkinson and Colman (1995) defined the feeling by using the term of 'emotion'. According to them emotion is defined as "the evaluative aspect of the relationship on how the situation makes the person feel" (p xi). The expression people show normally caused by the situation they face in life. Moreover he said, "Emotion implies a certain relationship between some objects, persons (including the self), or events". Based on the relationship above, people share their feeling of goodness or badness, happiness or sadness. Martin and Rose (2001) explained that there are two expressions of feeling; direct and implicit. Direct feeling is the emotion which shows or says the emotion directly while implicit is the expression indirectly since it uses metaphors. Moreover, Eggins and Slade (1997) divided affect into three subtypes; first is happiness/unhappiness. Speakers encode feelings to do with happiness, sadness, anger or love. Second is in/security which means Speakers encode with anxiety and confidence. The last satisfaction and dissatisfaction speakers encode with interest and exasperation, Examples of affect are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Example of affect

Category	Meaning	Positive Example	Negative Example
Un/happiness	How happy did you feel?	<i>Happy, cheerful, joyous, buoyant, jubilant</i>	<i>Down, sad, miserable, distraught</i>
In/security	How secure did you feel?	<i>Together, confident, assured, composed</i>	<i>Uneasy, anxious, freaked out, worried</i>
Dis/satisfaction	How satisfied did you feel	<i>Interested, absorbed, caught up in, engrossed, like</i>	<i>Tired, fed up, hate, exasperated</i>

Source: Eggins and Slade (1997:130)

Judgment (judging people's character)

According to Martin and Rose (2001), judgment of people's characters can be positive or negative. Here, Martin and Rose said that there are two kinds of judgment; personal judgment of admiration and criticism and moral judgment of praise and condemnation. Table 2 shows examples of personal and moral judgment

Table 2 Examples of Personal and Moral Judgment

		Direct	Implied
personal	admire	<i>Bubbly, vivacious intelligent, popular</i>	<i>He was working in top security structure</i>
	criticize	<i>What's wrong with him? I can't handle the man anymore</i>	<i>I can't explain the pain and bitterness in me.....</i>
moral	praise	<i>Their leaders have the guts to stand...</i>	<i>I envy and respect the people of the struggle...</i>
	condemn	<i>Our leaders are too holy and innocent.</i>	<i>..'those at the top' were again.....</i>

Source: Martin and Rose (2001:26)

Moreover, Eggins and Slade (1997: 133) divided judgment into two subcategories; social sanction and social esteem as it is given in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Examples of Sanction and Social Esteem

category	meaning	positive	negative
Social sanction	How moral?	<i>Moral, upright, ethical</i>	<i>Immoral, wrong, cruel</i>
	How believable?	<i>Credible, believable</i>	<i>Deceitful, dishonest</i>
Social esteem	How strongly committed?	<i>Brave, strong, self reliant</i>	<i>Cowardly, weak</i>
	How usual/ destined?	<i>Fortunate, extraordinary, normal, remarkable</i>	<i>Unfortunate, unlucky, odd, peculiar</i>
	How able?	<i>Skilful, competent</i>	<i>Incompetent</i>

Source: Eggins and Slade (1997: 133)

Appreciation (value things)

Appreciation refers to how speakers evaluate a text or a process. (Eggins & Slade, 1997: 126). They divided appreciation into three subcategories; reaction, composition and valuation. Reaction expresses whether someone likes something/someone or finds something/someone appealing. Composition is concerned with the texture of the text or process. Valuation concerns with evaluation of the content or the message being put across. (see Eggins & Slade 1997 pp 126 – 129). Table 5 below shows the category of appreciation

Table 5 Examples of Appreciation

category		Positive example	Negative example
reaction	What did you think of it?	<i>Arresting, pleasing, wonderful, fascinating, stunning, lovely, beautiful, great</i>	<i>Uninviting, repulsive, horrible, boring, dull</i>
composition	How did it go together?	<i>Harmonious, simple, elegant, spacious, restrained</i>	<i>Discordant, complex, extravagant, cramped</i>
valuation	How did you judge it?	<i>Deep, meaningful, challenging, daring, relevant, profound, touching.</i>	<i>Shallow, meaningless, insignificant, irrelevant, reductive</i>

Source: Eggins & Slade (1997: 129)

RESEARCH METHOD

The Respondent

The writer chose Rob Andrew Patterson, 34 years old, a married man with two sons, an Australian who worked as veterinarian at *PT Indotirta Suaka* as the respondent to find some data to be analyzed. The company where he worked with was specialized in pig health and production work, located in *Tiban Kencana, Batam, Riau Province, Indonesia*. He worked there for 2 years in Indonesia.

Rob and the writer know each other well. Rob has been learning Bahasa Indonesia and the writer helped him with his Bahasa. Mostly the conversations were taken in the Internet, since the distance of the writer and the respondent was too far. It was more effective to chat by using the Internet as the media. The conversation was done when he was still working in Batam, before he left Indonesia for Australia.

The Data

The data is the transcript of the conversation between the writer and the respondent. The writer and the respondent used two languages, English and Bahasa Indonesia. When the data used was in Bahasa Indonesia, the writer translated it into English.

The media used in the conversation was the chat-room in the Internet. She used *Yahoo messenger* chat room. The chat-room was one of the media to communicate as stated by one researcher in his thesis “A unique feature, which made chat-room talk as a new genre of writing”. Moreover he said, “These features include the use of emoticons and abbreviation” (2002: 1).

The emoticons in yahoo messenger which were used by the writer and the respondent shown in Table 6:

Table 6 Emoticons used in the Chat

Symbol	Mean	Abbreviation	Mean
☺ / :)	Smile / happy	dc	Disconnected
☹ / : (Sad / disappointed	u	You
:>	laugh	yw	Your welcome
;))	Blink the eye	ty	Thank you
:”>	Laugh out loud (lol)	brb	Be right back
(\	sad		

The emoticons used in the chat were used to determine the feeling of the respondent.

Three episodes of conversation were analyzed. The first conversation was taken on Friday, 11 April 2003 at 7 p.m. The second was on Friday, 9 May 2003 at 7.30 p.m. The third was on Wednesday, 21 May 2003 at 6.30 p.m. All the three episodes were done while he was still working in Indonesia. He left Indonesia for Australia on 23 May 2003. It can be seen from Episode 2 line 242 and 243 “Next Friday night I should be.....*saya duduk di pesawat*” (I am sitting on the plane)

The writer made some inevitable influence in the conversation being analyzed here. The influence was used only in the conditions that the writer felt it was appropriate.

The Transcript

The transcript of the three brief episodes can be seen on appendix A

The Method of Data Analysis

The writer employed two methodologies. Two of them were used to make clear understanding and perspective of the story telling. First, she used discourse analysis, which was used as the main method of inquiry. The conceptual definition of the analysis as cited by Pecci (2003:2) in her paper, “Discourse analysis is the close study of talk (or text) in context... situated within an interpretive social science meta-theory that conceives of meaning as socially constructed” The second approach was appraisal which according to Martin (2001) was concerned with evaluation that led of attitudes that was negotiated in a text, the strength of the feelings involves and the ways in which the values are sourced and readers aligned.

DISCUSSION

Having the transcript of the conversation, the content of the conversation was analyzed. Based on the data taken then, it was analyzed from the point of view of the four points of analysis; affect, judgment, and appreciation.

Affect

As it was mentioned in the theoretical framework that affect is the expressing feeling and emotion, and divided into three subcategories; un/happiness, in/ security and dis/ satisfaction, the analysis is as follows:

- **Happiness**

During his work in Indonesia, he faced many things that made him feel happy, sad, satisfied, angry, surprised or disappointed. Parkinson said that “the cases of emotions are: how the situation makes the person feel how the individual act with respect to the situation” (p. xi). From the three episodes, it can be seen that he had some positive emotions. At the first time of his coming to Indonesia he had to adjust the situation in Batam especially his language. In Episode 1 line 99 “*Oh ok but I think I am gradually getting to know them anyway just by listening to people talk*” This line was supported by his respond in Episode 2 line 161 and 162. When the writer asked him about the food, language and weather, he answered, “*Yeah all those had to adjust to. So I guess felt pretty challenging as well*”.

When the writer asked him about his feeling at the first time of his coming to Indonesia he responded. “I didn’t have a lot time to feel – I had to learn about the farm and just surviving day to day in the Indonesian culture but it felt interesting ” episode 2 line 157, 158 and 159. It showed that he had very positive emotion with the situation he faced. The other positive emotion he showed was in Episode 2 line 217 “But I have to learn a lot and really like those country and Indonesian people” It showed how he liked the situation where he worked and the people were around him. The other side as a new comer in Indonesia, he had to learn the language in which he could communicate with some people in work. He had learn Bahasa Indonesia since he was in his university, but it was not enough. He had to learn the language more by being in Indonesia.

During his time in Indonesia, he showed his happiness of his Bahasa Indonesia achievement in communication. It can be seen in Episode 3 line 124 “I enjoyed sitting in meetings, where BI was spoken “ It was continued in line 143 and 147” I feel being able to talk with supervisors technicians foremen and workers are being advantages”. “Can talk directly to them and get better feeling

- **Unhappiness (negative emotion)**

Unhappiness is one part of negative emotions as Parkinson and Colman said that negative emotions are shown in anger, fear and sadness (Parkinson and Colman, 1995:6). From the conversation between the writer and the respondent, it could be found that there were two main things that made him feel unhappy. One was the family. When his family was with him in it was not a problem but when the family came back to Australia, he felt unhappy, especially when he could not communicate with them. It can be seen from Episode 1 line 73 “... *tapi saya tidak bilang di telepon sama mereka selama tiga hari (I couldn’t talk with them for three days)*”’Second was the time in Indonesia. When the second chat was taken, it was his last week in Indonesia, he felt sad. Implicitly he said “... *it will be my last Friday with friends from work, I think they will want to stay later for drink after work*”

- **Security**

Security is one dominant need for a person wherever s/he stays. Security becomes the most important thing before s/he decides to move to other place or even to other country. From the conversation with the respondent it can be seen that he felt secure in some cases and insecure in some other cases. As it can be seen in *Episode 1 line 99* “*Oh ok but I think I am gradually getting to know them anyway just by listening to people talk*”. In this case, he felt secure because he could understand the conversation and understood what people discussed about. It is also supported an expression in episode 2 line 158, “*And just surviving day to day in the Indonesian culture*”.

Language was one factor for him to feel secure besides, it was very important for his job. He used English, especially with managers’ level and Bahasa Indonesia with some lower employees. It means that for some level of conversation in his job, he was confident to use Bahasa Indonesia and he believed that there was no misunderstanding among them (Episode 3 line 118 -121). It also supported by his statement in episode 3 line 147 “*can talk directly to them and get better feeling for what works and what is happening on the farm*”.

- **Insecurity**

As it has been mentioned previously that after a person came to a new place, the feeling of worried started. It also happened to the respondent. Many things happened, made him feel worried. He had sent a package to the writer by post a week before the second episode took place, but the writer did not get it. He felt worried about it, since he had an experience himself, when his family sent packages twice and none he got. It can be seen from episode 2 line 18 “*..... – two times packages from our family to us never got here*”.

He also felt worried with people surrounding at the first time he came to Indonesia. Episode 3 line 73 and 75 “*sometimes felt unsure / a bit embarrassed etc going to shops looking for stuff*” and “*but got over that quite quickly – (but sometimes still feels strange – like people are staring just a bit*”. He also felt shocked when he was caught by a police when he was driving a car and he got the wrong way. Episode 3 line 83 shows it “*.....-(I was a bit scared) paid 30.000 and then let me go.*”

Another problem for him was about his family. 4 weeks after he arrived in Indonesia his family came. He felt worried when people pinched his second son’s cheeks. It made his son felt annoyed. It influenced the father to feel worried when he had to bring the children out Episode 3 line 94 “*the people down the street used to pinch Toby’s cheeks and that made him scared and annoyed*”. And when the writer asked whether they would live in Indonesia, he said implicitly that he did not want it. It could be seen in Episode 3 line “*maybe – but only for a short periods I think as I don’t think my family will settle here*” and Episode 3 line 220 “*stresses, I think – never really settled in to Indonesia*”[Ⓢ]. Misunderstanding among workers also made him feel worried. It can be seen in episode 3 lines 98 and 105, “*With a few misunderstanding-....*” and “*It was a bit hard to come into the farm and say we need to change this and this when many of them have been there for 10 years*”

- **Satisfaction**

At this section, the question was how satisfied he felt. He felt satisfied in some cases, especially his achievement of his language when he gradually got to know what the workers said. He also felt satisfied because he could learn Indonesian culture although in one place only. As he mentioned before that one of his motivations to work in Indonesia was that he liked other county’s culture.(Episode 2 line 141).

- **Sissatisfaction**

On the contrary, he also felt dissatisfied with some cases. Once was when he did not get the package from the family and when he sent the package to the writer. Second was about his family. He was not satisfied with schooling system in Indonesia (episode 2 line 197, 199 and 203).

Appreciation

- **Reaction**

Reaction is answering the question of what you thought of it. Here, he gave some expression either in positive respond to negative ones. His reaction when the writer asked about his background in doing his job, he said that he had good background. Episode 2 line 84 “*Oh – it’s been good to me I have done it since I graduated over 10 years ago -*” He felt that his experiences were very useful for his job now (episode 2 line 122) “*.... That is how I got his job. It is very large pig farm providing 1000s*” And line 123 “*So they need a full time veterinary manager*”.

On the other hand, he felt that his experience is not enough to do in this job. He needed to learn more. Episode 2 line 86 “*.... you need to keep learning – there are many more pig diseases up here than in Australia*”. His reaction when the writer asked him about this time in Indonesia was he felt very interested in learning everything new in Indonesia (Episode 2 line 158 – 161) although he never fully adjusted it.

- **Valuation**

This part was answer of the question on how he judged it. It means that he had to judge in everything happened during his time in Indonesia. First, he gave his judgment of how Indonesian women exist in society as he said in episode 1 line 164 “*I notice that many Indonesian women are in quite important position in society*”. Second, he gave his judgment of the country of Indonesia in line 227 *I think Indonesia has much beautiful scenery*” But on the contrary he judged his own country that Australia was better than Indonesia as it can be seen in line 243 – 250.

Personal and Moral Judgment

- **Personal (admire)**

Personally, he respected the writer in giving him lessons in using Bahasa Indonesia. One other respect went to his servant. He said clearly that he respected her because she was very honest. It means that he trusted her very much. It can be seen in episode 3 line 156 and 166.

- **Personal (criticize)**

Beside he gave positive respond to the writer, he also criticized the people where he worked, especially when there was a disagreement between him and the people in the job. Episode 3 line 103 shows “*Misunderstanding can also be a code word when people disagree with your decision*”[©]. In the statement he criticized people not to try to understand the idea but they directly disagreed with the new idea.

- **Moral (praise)**

He gave his moral value by giving praise to some Indonesian women who have important positions in society. It can be seen in episode 1 line 164 “*I notice that many Indonesian Women are in quite important position in society*”

Social Judgment

- **How usual/destined? (Positive)**

He gave his opinion about the common problem faced by managers, especially when the job performance was not running well. Managers would have much problem in handling the situation. Episode 3 line 107 – 116 shows his way to overcome the common problem. He felt it was not easy but by taking it very slowly and encouraging people to look at and trying it another way.

- **How able? (Positive)**

Since his background of education supported him to work in pig farm, he showed his ability in doing his job well. His experiences also showed that he has a good ability in doing his job. It can be seen in episode 2 line 113 – 115. “ *After I left Uni I worked with a man who consulted to a pig farms all over South Australia and Victoria*” and line 115 “ *so I gained a lot of experience in pig health- and not too many vets have that*”

CONCLUSION

From the story telling of Rob Paterson in the three related episodes or a narrative, it can be gained some understanding on his appraisal on working in Indonesia. First, most of his happiness was in his ability to use his Bahasa Indonesia, although it was not well, but at least he understood it and he could use it in his work area. Rob had to make some efforts to solve some problems, especially in his office, where almost of the workers there were Indonesian who spoke Indonesian. He had to face some challenges of using Bahasa Indonesia during his work here. On the contrary, he felt unhappy when he had to go home town since his contract was over. Second, as a new person in the new environment he was struggling to survive. Security was the most important thing for him. The feeling of insecure was on him since his coming to Indonesia. Although he could adjust it step by step, his negative feeling of satisfaction came to him many times, especially about the system of sending package post and schooling in Indonesia. Third, appreciation was expressed by him. He thought that he had a lot of experiences working in Indonesia which was suitable with his educational background. Since he liked to learn culture, he thought that Indonesia was one country he could learn it. Fourth, valuation is one important aspect in appraisal. In this part he showed his positive judgment about the country of Indonesia and his willingness to learn another language used by people in some area of Indonesia. Fifth, he gave some personal judgment in the story. He admired personally to the writer in giving him Bahasa Indonesia lesson and his servant who was very honest. He also criticized on people in his environment in which misunderstanding happened many times. His praises went to some Indonesian women who had good position in society. The last appraisal point is social judgment. In this part he showed the general problem faced by a new leader in a new area. He also showed his ability how to overcome it.

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Appedix A

The transcript of the writer and the respondent on Yahoo Messenger Chat.

In the transcript, the writer used 'thitania2000' as her nickname, while the responden used 'robapaterson' as his nickname.

Episode 1

[83] robapaterson: maaf d/c mungkin satu tahun depan saya balik ke indonesia dengan keluarga cuti ke sana.

[84] robapaterson: berkunjung? (not next year; one year in the future)

[85] robapaterson: kamu sana?

[86] thitania2000: berkunjung = to visit

[87] robapaterson: oh ty - bisa bicara bertamu ?

[88] thitania2000: hmm dua tahun ke depan = the year after next year

[89] thitania2000: robapaterson: oh ty - bisa bicara bertamu ? >> maksudnya?

[90] robapaterson: no - what I mean is some year soon :)

[91] thitania2000: bertamu = berkunjung = to visit

[92] robapaterson: \oh ty - maksudnya ?

[93] thitania2000: some year soon = tahun depan

[94] robapaterson: kamu suka tinggal di Semarang? Tidak sepi?

[95] thitania2000: it's not really easy to tell about suffix.. coz it's inconsistent here

[96] thitania2000: semarang itu kota pelabuhan.. jadi hidup selama 24 jam

[97] thitania2000: tidak pernah sepi

[98] thitania2000: tetapi tidak sebisng jakarta

[99] robapaterson: Oh ok but I think I am gradually getting to know them anyway just by listening to people talk.

Episode 2

[157] robapaterson: I didn't have a lot of time to feel - I had a lot to learn about the farm

[158] robapaterson: and just surviving day to day in the Indoesian culture

[159] robapaterson: but it felt interesting

[160] thitania2000: about the food, the language.. the weather?

[161] robapaterson: yeah all those had to adjust to

[162] robapaterson: so I guess felt pretty challenging as well

[163] robapaterson: :)

[164] thitania2000: hmm :)

[165] thitania2000: great..

[166] thitania2000: u have worked in other country before...

[167] thitania2000: do u think there was any different system .. in ur job now from ur previous job?

[168] robapaterson: Not really worked - but sort of work it was a research project in PNG

[169] thitania2000: ooh ok..

[170] robapaterson: collecting samples from village and farm pigs and analysing them for a bacteria

[171] robapaterson: (Streptococcus suis)
 [172] thitania2000: wow.. it's a complicated job.. that i can't do that :)
 [173] thitania2000: and u know.. i hated biology when i was in high school :(
 [174] robapaterson: yeah but you are a linguist ;) I can't do that either
 [175] robapaterson: yeah biology some don't like it
 [176] thitania2000: hehehehheh yeah we have our own talent to do and to serve the work, don't we
 [177] robapaterson: your right lannie :)
 [178] thitania2000: my problem is ,.. i can't remember the latin words easily
 [179] robapaterson: oh like gluteus maximus - that is bum
 [180] thitania2000: heii u said that u can adjust to stay in Indonesia..
 [181] robapaterson: muscle name lol
 [182] thitania2000: do u plan to 'live' here in indonesia?
 [183] robapaterson: yeah - but never really fully adjusted
 [184] robapaterson: you mean in the future :)
 [185] thitania2000: yeah
 [186] thitania2000: in the future
 [187] robapaterson: probably not - I would love to live in countryside of Indonesia
 [188] robapaterson: but my place is in Aussie
 [189] thitania2000: hmm..
 [190] robapaterson: and so are family
 [191] thitania2000: no idea if one day you bring ur family to live in indonesia?
 [192] robapaterson: But I will be changing my career a bit so I think I will have contact with Indonesia and other non western countries in the future
 [193] robapaterson: yeah - they already lived in batam for 1.5 years and liked it
 [194] robapaterson: but there were difficult things like no real schooling available for the boys
 [195] thitania2000: ic..

Episode 3

[71] robapaterson: well settling in to life on Batam was a challenge (note our farm is on P bulan) so Ill say Batam and Bulan (not the moon lol)
 [72] thitania2000: heheheh yeha i know
 [73] robapaterson: sometimes felt unsure / a bit embarrassed etc going to shops looking for stuff
 [74] thitania2000: why do u think you have to be embarrassed?
 [75] robapaterson: but got over that quite quickly - (but sometimes still feels strange - like people are staring just a bit)
 [76] thitania2000: ok..
 [77] robapaterson: also got lost driving on a first night - and turned wrong way at an intersection and got [78] stopped by police :">
 [79] thitania2000: did u communicate with them by using bahasa indonesia or english?
 [80] thitania2000: oohh :(
 [81] thitania2000: then whatdid the police say?
 [82] robapaterson: yeah didn't know much B I then
 [83] robapaterson: oh he said I was wrong - which I was - so eventually after going to police post - (I was a bit scared) payed 30 000 and then he let me go :">
 [84] thitania2000: oooohhh :(i think u r not wrong.. but the police needs money
 [85] robapaterson: :)
 [86] robapaterson: but looking at the intersetion later I say that you are not allowed to go that way
 [87] thitania2000: :)
 [88] robapaterson: so for once he was right
 [89] thitania2000: yeah.. for once.. but then he will try to get something wrong on you .. heheheh
 [90] robapaterson: anyway after that a few more problems - my family came 4 weeks after I got here
 [91] thitania2000: hmmm then?
 [92] robapaterson: and they had some difficulties
 [93] robapaterson: (But we also had good times but I'm telling you the bad ones now right ?)
 [94] robapaterson: the people down the street used to pinch Toby's cheeks and that made him scared and annoyed (\

- [95] robapaterson: just that sort of thing
- [96] robapaterson: At work on P Bulan
- [97] robapaterson: well the first month went quite well
- [98] robapaterson: with maybe a few misunderstandings - nothing serious
- [99] thitania2000: misunderstanding with whom?
- [100] thitania2000: friends, people, or workmate?
- [101] robapaterson: oh the indonesians at work -
- [102] robapaterson: but everything was OK
- [103] robapaterson: misunderstandings can also be a code word when people disagree with your decision :)
- [104] thitania2000: code word? like what?
- [105] robapaterson: and it was a bit hard to come into the farm and say we need to change this and this
when many of them have been there for 10 years
- [106] robapaterson: I guess a bit of an excuse
- [107] robapaterson: but I guess they are problems for managers the whole world over :D
- [108] thitania2000: yeha i agree with u..
- [109] robapaterson: so in general we have got on well
- [110] thitania2000: then what effort you do to make them 'agree' with this and that from ur perspective?
- [111] robapaterson: Myself giving health advice about the pigs to the Indonesian Staff
- [112] robapaterson: it is particularly hard when farm performance is not going well
- [113] robapaterson: (that is the same anywhere in the world - things are easier in the successful times
- [114] thitania2000: yeah it is...
- [115] thitania2000: ok.. when u meet some person in indonesia.. do u speak indonesia or still using some
english?
- [116] robapaterson: so in some cases I just had to take it very slowly and encourage people to look at trying
it another way
- [117] thitania2000: ok..
- [118] robapaterson: With the other Managers Indonesian we always used english (now sometimes a bit of
BI thrown in to clarify)
- [119] robapaterson: and with Supervisors and down I tried to learn as much BI as I could
- [120] robapaterson: So I could directly speak Indoesian to them
- [121] robapaterson: My head vet would translate for me in those early days
- [122] thitania2000: good..:)
- [123] thitania2000: but why didn't u call me at that time? :) so i could be ur interpreter
- [124] robapaterson: I enjoyed sitting in meetings where only BI was spoken as I could write down new
words and look them up. But if important meetings and we needed to know the
meaning they had to be translated