

Muslim majority yet without preference for Arabic: Mapping linguistic landscape studies in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Linguistic Landscape (LL) research has explored signage in various public places in the world, including Indonesia. However, since there has been no comprehensive review of LL studies in Indonesia, the current article seeks to identify trends in LL research in Indonesia. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) method was applied to analyze thirty-one LL articles coming out from the open knowledge maps application. The findings suggest that there is a steady increase in the number of LL studies in Indonesia apparent starting from the year of 2017 based on the obtained data from eleven provinces. More bottom-up signs were found mostly using quantitative approaches. The findings also reveal that the Indonesian language dominates signs in the LL studies followed by English. Interestingly, although Indonesia has the biggest number of Muslim citizens in the world, Arabic is used more often than English only in two locations of LL studies, namely the tomb of Sunan Ampel and the City of Mataram. Issues often discussed in the LL studies are multilingualism, micro-analysis of linguistics, and broader issues, namely power and solidarity, identity, and ideology. Future researchers may focus more on qualitative analysis of LL studies, and relates LL studies with promising topics on geo-linguistics, management of halal food, ecology and culture, inequality and economic mobility, health issues, minority language, media in ELT, and online/virtual LL as well as language contestation related to the abovementioned issues.

Keywords: Indonesia; linguistic landscape; meta-analysis; PRISMA, signs

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INTRODUCTION

Linguistic landscape (LL) has recently been an intriguing area of research within the field of sociolinguistics. LL also tends to focus on the relationships between language policy and language use, between powerfulness and powerlessness, where ideologies related to languages, cultures, politics, and society are contested (Bernardo-Hinesley, 2020). Concerned with public spaces, LL has to do with the linguistic expressions appearing in public areas, namely shops, schools, indoor markets, governmental offices, offices of big corporations, buses, and campuses, among others. Shohamy's (2005, p. 110) research delineating the interrelationship between LL and language policy

has shown that the legitimacy of a certain language that is prioritized is likely to be expressed in LL. LL tends to have interrelationships with the intended goals of language policymakers in managing the linguistics landscape.

The interrelationships between policy-making and LL has to do with the notions of top-down and bottom-up. In Shohamy's (2005, p. 123) observation, the difference in the use of top-down and bottom-up signs in public spaces is a factor attributable to the language policy. The top-down in LL aspect insinuates powerful language preferred by the authorities and bottom-up signs indicate that the preference is accepted and used by the general public. Further, Ben-Rafael (2009, p. 49) opines that

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the significance of distinguishing between top-down and bottom-up signs is that different signs are made by different actors for different audiences. He further observes that top-down signs serve official policies and bottom-up signs are beyond official purposes. Differences between official and non-official multilingual signs were documented in Backhaus's (2006) study where official signs were identified as reinforcement and expression of power. The non-official signs, on the other hand, express foreign languages employed to communicate with non-Japanese.

A previous study on linguistic landscape conducted by Fakhroh and Rohmah (2018) analyzed the proportions of top-down and bottom-up signs in Sidoarjo City. The data collected from signs in public places in Sidoarjo and along the roads of Sidoarjo City showed that the dominant language used was Indonesian, and other accompanying languages: English, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Thai. This study also reported the functions of signs in Sidoarjo LL, that is, to provide information and regulation, symbolize something, conserve the local language, show and introduce identities, show readiness to welcome foreign visitors, and attract more customers to the business.

Another LL study reported by Wafa and Wijayanti (2018) focused on the languages in public signs at places of worship in Surabaya as a multilingual city. The languages found in the ten places were Indonesian, Balinese, Javanese, Madurese, Malay, English, Chinese, Arabic, Pali language, Latin language, German, French, Dutch, and Japanese. Indonesian remained the mostly-used language in mosques, churches, and Buddhist temples. Chinese was the language predominantly used in Chinese temples. Indonesian and Balinese languages were most apparent in the same positions in the Hindu temple.

Furthermore, the literature has shown the wide interests of researchers in LL in educational settings. The university is also considered critical as it has to do with employment (Shohamy and Ghazaleh-Mahajneh 2012, p. 94). A more recent trend in LL research is related to cyberspace, for example, Biró's (2018) and Hiippala et al.'s (2019) studies dealing with the virtual linguistic landscape and cyber ecology drawing implicated by Web 1.0 and Web 2.0 applications and environments.

In addition, another new trend in LL studies has emerged, that is, outlining LL studies using a holistic view by applying bibliometric analysis as a systematic review methodology assisted by computer that can recognize authors, core research and their relationship by covering all the publications correlated to a given topic or field (Han et al., 2020). After almost three decades since its first inception by Landry and Bourhis (1997), LL studies have been mushrooming and it is a good

time now to outline its development. Indeed, there has been an LL study presenting a comprehensive understanding of LL studies globally (Peng et al., 2022) and LL research in the Chinese context (Du & Liu, 2021). Using the scientific network analysis, keyword network analysis, and co-citation analysis, Peng et al.'s (2022) research indicates that global LL studies have expanded its focus from identity and language policy to in-depth explorations of language, multilingualism, and English in the globalization context. This kind of research, however, has not been conducted in Indonesia which leaves a lacking point in the literature concerning a comprehensive views of LL studies in Indonesia. This suggests that our understanding of LL research in Indonesia is still partial. As such, the situation warrants that the present study needs to be conducted to address this void. It is the objective of this writing to cope with this issue by charting the linguistic landscape research in this area. Hence, the current article seeks to identify: 1) trends in LL research in Indonesia, 2) the distribution of LL studies in Indonesia, 3) top-down vs. bottom-up signs, 4) quantitative vs. qualitative approaches of the LL research, 5) positions of Indonesian, English, and Arabic in the LL research in Indonesia, and 6) emerging issues related to LL studies in Indonesia.

METHOD

Research Design

To meet the research objectives which require a sweep through the existing relevant literature on previous studies, Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) is the best choice as the research design as has been shown on a number of studies and advocated by a number of scholars (see, eg., Brennan et al., 2020; Peng et al., 2022) to systematically analyze the articles as the sources of data. To ensure the systematic process, some critical components as criteria were taken into consideration: 1) specific research objectives that present study attempts to meet, 2) specific guidelines for article search, 3) clear-cut methods to minimize possible prejudices in the article selection and review, 4) methodological transparency, and 5) systematic and exhaustive study of the research (Evans & Benefield, 2001). Guided by these points, the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the article selection on LL were set. For the review process, only empirical studies on the linguistic landscape written in English and Indonesian that were published in peer-reviewed journals and proceedings were considered.

Data Collection and Analysis

To collect data in the forms of research articles on LL, the researchers applied data collection techniques displayed in Figure 1.

Figure 1
PRISMA flow chart of LL studies in Indonesia

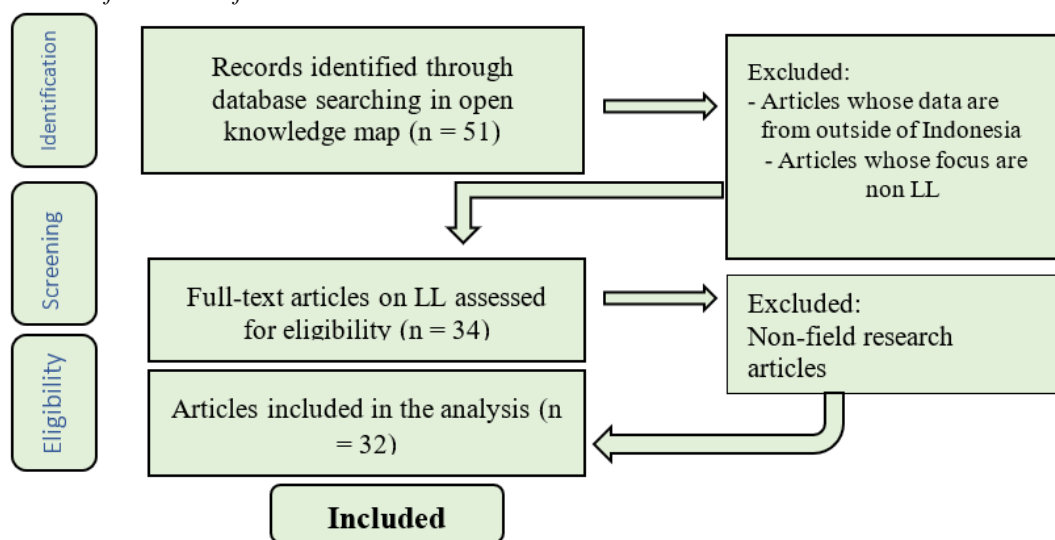


Figure 1 shows data collection procedures conducted in July 2022. First of all, the researchers searched for data in the form of articles stored in the database of the Open Knowledge Maps by opening the link: <https://openknowledgemaps.org/> using 'linguistic landscape in Indonesia' as the keywords. As many as 51 articles came out after the searching process reaching the following link: <https://openknowledgemaps.org/map/f91acf4cb3deb73d5943b9611264ebcb>. However, only 32 articles fulfilled the criteria of Indonesian LL studies, and, thus, were taken as data to analyze, and all articles related to LL studies in Indonesia were included. Thirty articles were from journals and two others were from proceedings. Nineteen articles were not included since they were articles on LL overseas or articles on Indonesian issues other than LL studies. Figure 1 clarifies the steps done in the data collection. The distribution of the articles in different contexts indicates that research employing LL is in increasing trend in Indonesia. Despite the

limited number of articles included for review which narrows the scope of this research, the inclusion of articles from diverse contexts of Indonesia helps LL researchers to understand Indonesian LL studies across the contexts.

The data of the studies extracted from the articles were tabulated for critical analysis. To address the research objectives, the manuscripts of the LL studies were compared, contrasted, and synthesized to identify the patterns in the LL studies in Indonesia.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Trends in LL Research in Indonesia

In searching the Indonesian LL articles in the open knowledge map data, the researchers did not include 'year' to screen the resulted articles. However, the screening results show that the earliest year to display the LL articles is 2017 which only shows one article.

Figure 2
Emerging LL studies in Indonesia

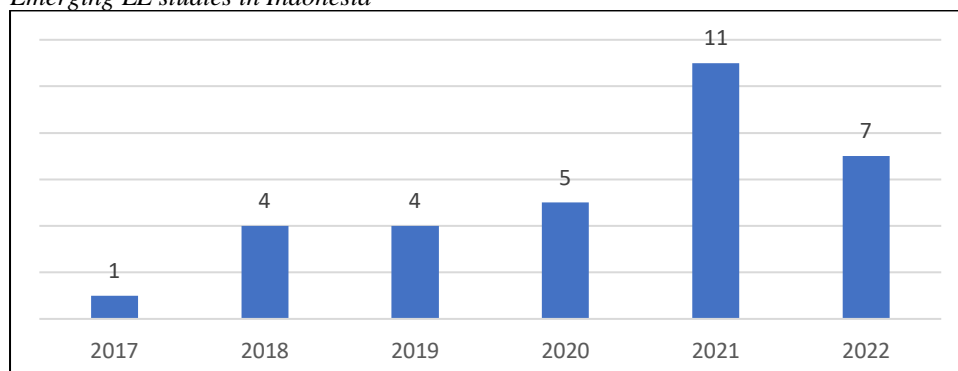


Figure 2 shows that there is a steady increase in the number of LL studies throughout the years. Although the amount of LL research in the year of

2022 is lower than that in 2021, by the end of 2022 it can be expected that a higher number of LL research will emerge. By the time the current

research was conducted, it was still in the mid of 2022 but Indonesian LL studies have reached more than half of the research in 2021. Indeed, LL research is relatively new, combining sociolinguistic studies with some other aspects of micro- and macro-analyses of language. Openknowledge.com also indicates the earliest research on LL in Indonesia was apparent in 2017

by Da Silva. LL research is still developing until recently to cover more scope and to put a more comprehensive way of approaching signs in public.

Distribution of LL Studies in Indonesia

This part presents different locations off LL research in Indonesia.

Figure 3
Distributions of LL studies in different provinces

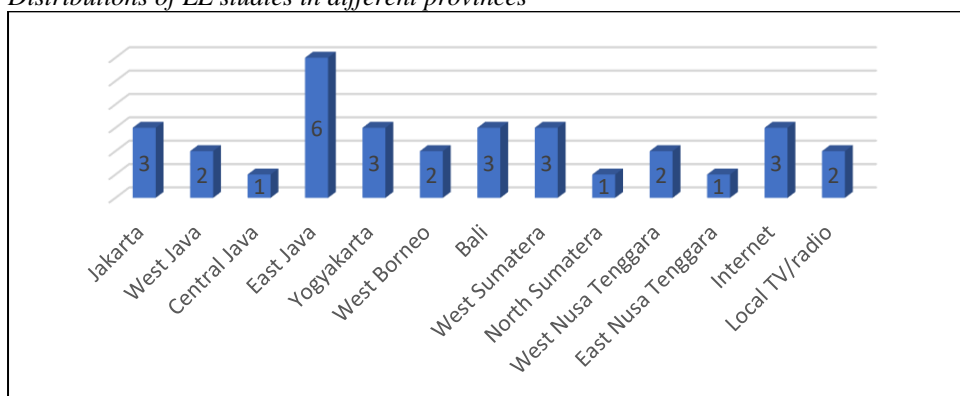


Figure 3 displays Indonesian provinces where LL studies have been conducted: LL studies in East Java (EJ) are the biggest followed by Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Bali, West Sumatera and the internet. The more vibrant research activities of linguists in those provinces compared to those in other provinces seem to partly account for this situation. Then, each of West Java, West Borneo, West Nusa Tenggara, and local TV/radio has two LL studies. Four other provinces, that is, Central Java, North Sumatera, and East Nusa Tenggara have the least number of LL studies. Of the thirty-three provinces in Indonesia, only eleven provinces have been analyzed in terms of the linguistic landscape. Hence, it is still wide open for linguistic landscapers to explore other provinces to identify more about the distributions of languages employed in those areas and link them to other aspects, among others, identity, ideology, culture, values, wisdom, power and economy.

Further scrutiny into the data indicates that signs appear in restaurants were the most often analyzed ones (in Jakarta, Purwokerto, Gresik, Malang, Pontianak, and Taliwang). Commercial signs including broader bottom-up signs were also explored, especially in Yogyakarta, Kayong Utara, and Medan. Advertisements were purposely discovered on the Internet and local TVs/radios. Moreover, educational spaces were surveyed in Depok, Jember, Sumenep, Malang, Yogyakarta, and Mataram. Sacred places in Surabaya and Denpasar were also discovered to portray their linguistic landscape. Linguistic landscapers also investigated tourist areas in Nusa Dua (Bali), Labuhan Bajo, and Yogyakarta.

Top-Down vs. Bottom-up Signs

The government and commercial signs are shown in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4
Top-up & bottom-up signs in Indonesian LL studies

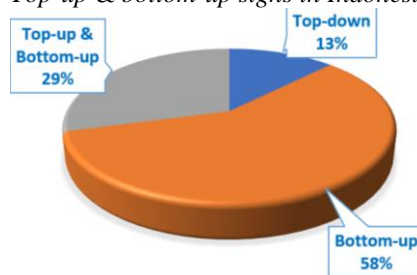


Figure 4 displays commercial signs dominating the data, and only 13 % of the analyzed signs was public signs. The domination of bottom-up LL studies in Indonesia seems to relate to the language policy in Indonesia requiring Indonesian to be used on building names and other inscriptions in public area which is more probably applied by the government institutions (Andriyanti, 2019; da Silva et al., 2021; Fakhroh & Rohmah, 2018; Harbon & Halimi, 2019a; Nuswantara et al., 2021; Riani et al., 2021; Wafa & Wijayanti, 2018). This policy is mentioned in the National Constitution 1945, Decree of the People’s Consultative Assembly Number 11/MPR/1983, Language Law number 24 Year 2009 and the most current regulation, President Regulation No. 63 Year 2019 (Rohmah & Wijayanti, 2023; Sakhiyya & Martin-Anatias, 2023). The uniformity of the government signs as the results of the conformation to the government regulations might attract less interests of the researchers.

The huge number of the bottom-up signs were used as data sources in LL research on various places. First, restaurant names in Gresik Kota Baru (GKB), Purwokerto, and Pontianak; food/nutrition signs/texts in school-spaces in Jakarta and Depok; Batak Toba restaurants in Jakarta; as well as names of halal food stalls and restaurants in Malang and Taliwang. In addition, environmental posters in Malang schools; posters, signs, and billboards in Bandung; Graffiti in Padang; pictures of store names, street names, T-shirts, advertisements, posters, and billboards in Pulau Maya, Kayong Utara-West Borneo; signs in Malioboro, commercial signs in Gunung Kidul, Gunung Api Purba Nglanggeran, Malioboro, Sleman, Beringharjo, Monumen Tugu Jogja, Upside Down World Jogja and Gembira Loka; and signs in malls, office buildings (private companies), and streets in Medan are also bottom-up signs discovered in the Indonesian LL research. Finally, advertisements on TV and social media; signs in home screen, settings, *keranjang*, feed, and personal main menu of Tokopedia and Shopee marketplaces; and tourist accommodation signage in Labuan Bajo are also non-government signs analyzed in the Indonesian LL research. Meanwhile, among the small number of the top-down signs include regulatory and infrastructural signs in five main streets in Jakarta, and street signs in Singaraja Town, Bali.

Quantitative vs. Qualitative Approaches to Linguistic Landscape Research

Distribution of the quantitative and qualitative LL research appears in Figure 5.

Figure 5

Approaches to LL research in Indonesia

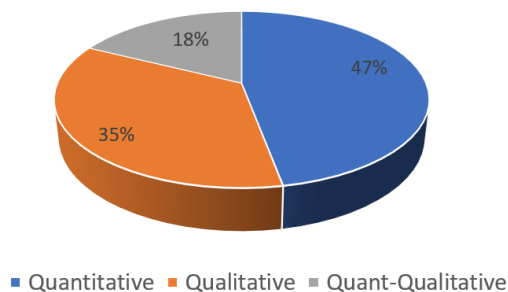


Figure 5 shows that the biggest amount of LL research in Indonesia (47%) was conducted quantitatively, followed by qualitative analysis of the signs (35%). This is in line with what has been stated by Said and Rohmah (2018, p. 1868) observing that earlier research on LL tends to be conducted quantitatively, while later trends prefer qualitative analysis of the signs. As LL research in Indonesia has just begun, it follows more on the quantitative analysis of the signs to chart which language is mostly used in certain locations. Once the mapping is done, the researchers might move to

a more qualitative analysis of data covering descriptions, reasons, and functions of the use of specific languages, character types, font types, font sizes, colors, arrangement of texts and pictures.

Positions of Indonesian, English, and Arabic in the LL Research in Indonesia

Indonesian dominates the use of language in the Indonesian LL research. When a quantitative analysis is conducted, Indonesian is almost always apparent as the most dominant language (88%) apparent in the LL studies by da Silva (2017), Fakhroh and Rohmah (2018), Ramadhani (2018), Pamuji and Khristianto (2018), Harbon and Halimi (2019), Purwanto and Filia (2020), Riani et al. (2021), da Silva et al. (2021), Sianipar (2021), Paramarta (2022), Yusuf et al. (2022), and Zahara and Wijana (2022). This seems to translate the National Language Regulation Number 24 of 2009 and the Presidential Regulation Number 63 of 2019 that Indonesian is the official language. The place where Indonesian language does not dominate the linguistic landscape is tourist accommodations in Labuan Bajo, street signs in Nusa Dua, Bali, and Toba restaurants in Jakarta.

While Indonesian is the most dominant language in most of the LL studies, English is the biggest foreign language used. Nusa Dua and Labuan Bajo are the places where the uses of English outnumber the uses of Indonesian. English-only signs appear in Nusa Dua, Bali as many as 41,37 %, bilingual Indonesian+English (12,06 %), bilingual English+Indonesian (18,10%), bilingual Balinese+English (12,93 %), multilingual Balinese+Indonesian+English (0,86), multilingual Japanese+English+Chinese+ Korean (0,86%), multilingual Balinese, Indonesian, English, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Korea, Hindi, Dutch and French (0,86%). Overall, English is observable as many as 87%. Monolingual English signs in Nusa Dua are observable in name plates of shops, "Sogo" and "Bali Collection", hospital's signs as well as traffic signs (Rastitiati & Suprastayasa, 2022). English is used in Nusa Dua as a translation and non-translation of the Indonesian language as the official language in Indonesia. English is used to provide information, especially, to the international visitors. English is also found accompanying Balinese characters on the building names. One trilingual sign also puts English along with Balinese and Indonesian language. English is also present in multilingual signs consisting of various languages providing information to visitors. Hence, English is the most frequently employed language in Nusa Dua, beating the official language of Indonesian and other foreign languages.

English also dominates the tourist accommodation signboards in Labuan Bajo City (Datang et al., 2022). English phrases also appear mostly in travel agents, restaurants, cafes, restaurants, shops, kiosks, supermarkets, bulletin

boards, road signs, names of business locations, advertisements for business locations, bus stops, and private properties. English is apparent more than Indonesian and other foreign languages in the public signs since, as a global language, English is at present a world lingua franca. This is just similar to LL studies conducted outside of Indonesia showing that English is the most dominant language, and more prestigious in status compared to others, see, for example, Bylieva and Lobatyuk (2021), Lawrence (2012), and Profile (2022). Nowadays, English is used as a means of communication by people in various places in the world (Mohamadsaid & Rasheed, 2019).

In addition to the domination of English in Nusa Dua and Labuhan Bajo LL, English is in the second place after Indonesian and the most frequently used foreign language apparent in the Indonesia LL research. Ramadhani (2018), Pamuji and Khristianto (2018), Harbon and Halimi (2019), Riani et al. (2021), da Silva et al. (2021), Khazanah et al. (2021), and Zahara and Wijana (2022) reported the phenomenon. English is present in technology-related signs and has a prestigious status in da Silva's (2017) research. English+other languages are observable in the second place in Fakhroh and Rohmah (2018) after Indonesian. English dominates signs in malls or shopping centres in Sianipar's (2021) research.

The domination of English in technology related signs is in line with Rohmah (2005) and Patel, Barot and Patel (2021) that English has obtained its prestige in science and technology, including the Internet. The domination of English in economy and power that makes it as one of the languages of education, civilization, power, and access to social goods (Edu-Buandoh, 2016) is in line with Lawrence's (2012) study reporting that English is used in association with products that reflect modernity, luxury, and youth. In the Indonesian LL research, English is a marker of modernity since it is apparent mostly in signs related to technology and malls/shopping centers.

Regarding the appearance of Arabic in the Indonesian LL studies, its existence seems to be less than its significance in Indonesia as the biggest Muslim country in the world. Arabic is the language of the Qur'an. Muslims are, therefore, logically expected to know Arabic. However, the existence of Arabic in LL research in Indonesia does not reflect this point. The appearance of Arabic that is lower than English is observable in the studies of Fakhroh and Rohmah (2018), Harbon and Halimi (2019), Riani et al. (2021), and Zahara and Wijana (2022). Arabic is even non-existent in da Silva's (2017), Ramadhani's (2018), Pamuji and Khristianto's (2018), Munawarah and Datang's (2019), Saragi's (2018), da Silva et al.'s (2021), Paramarta's (2022), Rastitiati and Suprastayasa's (2022), and (Datang et al., 2022) studies. Arabic was found more than

English only in Nuswantara et al.'s (2021), and Yusuf et al.'s (2022) research collecting data from specific places for Muslims, that is, the tomb of Sunan Ampel who was a prominent Muslim figure and the Islamic boarding school. Arabic was also more often found than English in educational places in Mataram (Yoniatini, 2021) signifying the vision of its inhabitants to have Mataram as a religious (Islamic) town.

An interesting phenomenon related to the use of Arabic is its limited use in public signage. Those familiar with life in Indonesia probably have noticed that the use of loudspeakers in mosques conveying the chanting of the Qur'anic verses and some other stanzas in Arabic is common among Indonesian people. This significant oral use of Arabic, however, is not congruent with the number of LL studies showing limited uses of Arabic in public spaces whereas as a country populated densely with Muslim citizens, it can be logically expected that public spaces are dominated by extensive uses of Arabic. This situation seems to coincide with the fact that Indonesian people tend to be stronger with orality than literacy. This fact then calls for more LL studies focusing on the use of Arabic in signage in public places to see how public signage may or may not represent the language ideology of its inhabitants. The contestation of Arabic and English in the area needs further research.

Focal Issues Associated with LL Studies

The use of language in public areas is often connected to aspects of multilingualism. Studies on multilingualism aspects of Indonesian LL studies conducted by Pidada, 2021, Mulyawan et al. (2022), and Benu et al. (2023) display multilingualism as an important aspect despite the national language policy advocating the use of *Bahasa Indonesia* as the national language. In the case of Benu et al.'s (2023) study, the multilingualism is practiced to promote mutual understanding in the multi-ethnic city and avoid hurting other ethnic groups. LL studies conducted abroad are also connected to multilingualism in different ways, but the most notable feature in the multilingualism aspect is the visibility of foreign languages, English as the most densely used, that offers linguistic diversity in the cityscapes (Husin et al., 2019; Munishi, 2018; Zhang & Ou, 2021).

In addition to multilingualism aspects, the Indonesian LL studies were also associated with other micro- and macro-analysis of linguistics. The micro-analysis includes Yannuar's (2018) study focusing on the morphological dimension of *Walikan*, Kweldju's (2021) analysis of signs collected by students as examples of materials for a morphology class assignment, and Syahrawati et al.'s (2022) research on signs in restaurants in Taliwang which focuses on morphological analysis of words observable in the signs.

Linguistic landscape studies do not only cover micro-analysis of linguistics of the signs in public areas. The analysis might also relate with broader issues, like, power & solidarity, geolinguistics, identity, ideology, management of halal food, ecology and culture, inequality and economic mobility, health issues, minority language, and media in ELT. Power and solidarity issues are discussed in the LL research conducted, for example, by Pamuji and Khristianto (2018). The LL research collected data from a street in Purwokerto where the brands of culinary industry may include a person's name, an origin area, and English term. The names of the restaurants were put forth as the strategy of marketing, hence, they have power and authority that may invite customers to come and buy their products. The naming process is the proof of how power and solidarity have fused into the brands for selling purposes.

Indonesian LL studies were also associated with geolinguistics, that is, a combination of sociolinguistics, linguistic landscape, and dialectology. Munawarah and Datang's (2019) research collecting data from Depok LL indicates that Sundanese and Betawi were used in the signs where Betawi appears in billboards, restaurant signboards, and local government posters. The identity of Depok inhabitants could be identified by knowing the presence of Sundanese and Betawi in signage.

In addition, identity issues have also been discussed in an LL study in tourist accommodation signage in Labuan Bajo. Datang et al. (2022) conclude that the foreign domination in Labuan Bajo's signboards has decreased the national and local identity of the area. In Sukarno-Hatta Street, Indonesian is only apparent in a few signboards, such as *Warung Mama* and *Dapur Rafael*. Local identity, which is not dominant, is represented only by the use of the words 'Bajo', 'Komodo', 'Flores', and the Manggarai words on several tourist accommodation signages to signify Labuan Bajo's tourist location.

Ideology has also been examined in an LL study in Indonesia by Yendra et al. (2020). By applying Critical Discourse Analysis in the LL research in Padang, the researchers identified two symbolic functions in the signage, that is, graffiti as a means of demonstration and graffiti as social critique. The linguistic signs in the graffiti bring awareness to the collective traditions and ideological alignment of the community. Another issue emerging in the Indonesian LL studies has to do with the management of halal food in five districts in Malang. Sumarlam et al. (2020) have identified that monolingual patterns, such as Indonesian, English, and Javanese, dominate the naming of food stalls or restaurants in Malang.

Ecology and culture were connected to the LL research in Indonesia. Setiawati et al. (2020),

obtaining data from the announcement boards in schools in Malang and in-depth interviews, have reported the eco-critical posters presenting the natural environment as an existence that determines humans' survival. The posters present the symbolism of the earth with a roasted human face and the symbolism of polluting industrial activities occupying the space. The eco-critical posters also send a message that preserving our planet is a part of our responsibility to the environment. Hence, research on LL may be used to bring the message projected by the posters containing language in the form of texts as well as pictures and symbols.

Health issues have also been touched on by Oktavianus (2021) when researching signs emerging during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the use of language in public space is always dynamic, he found out that during the pandemic, billboards and banners containing interesting designs of warnings, invitations, and appeals have the function of educating people to avoid the transmission of coronavirus. Creativity and productivity are two key words for creating effective advertisements beneficial for people in combating the coronavirus pandemic.

Moreover, the issues of inequality and economic mobility were brought by Goebel (2020) when researching signs in the main streets in Bandung and some of the nearby neighborhoods. In his attempt to portray the signs of Chineseness, he found little signage containing Chinese characters out of the six hundred or so pictures taken in the central district of Bandung. The Chinese alphabet was either commercial or religious, including two global banks, two mosques, and two food and drink stores. His further analysis shows how the use of the variety of languages and their arrangement as blended or separate offer new visions of how these languages can be put into the economic situations of their corresponding targeted audience as well as the different pictures related to the mobility of the audience.

Another interesting analysis of LL studies relates to the presence of the dominant language threatening the local language. This is observable in Paramarta's (2022) research where Balinese appears only as many as 8.6% while Indonesian occupies 88.7% of street signs in Singaraja. The marginalization of the Balinese in the street signs was due to the enactment of the National Language Regulation Number 24 of 2009 and the Presidential Regulation Number 63 of 2019 which clearly emphasize the use of Indonesian as the official language. Hence, the two regulations have strengthened the position of Indonesian in all formal undertakings of Indonesian citizens, which at the same time, have also discouraged the use of the local languages. Further research on ethnolinguistic vitality, theorized by Landry and Bourhis (1997)

and discussed by Said and Rohmah (2018) needs to be explored in future Indonesian LL studies.

Last but not least, signs may also be used as media in an EFL class. Riadi and Warti (2021) revealed that the abundant LL signs could help stimulate the students' learning of English and develop their vocabulary, multimodal literacy, grammatical mastery, pragmatic competence as well as better understanding of social aspects. In spite of the skeptical perceptions of some, most teachers were reported to recognize the benefits of using LL signs in their future teaching.

Topics that have not been discussed in the Indonesian LL are, for example, COVID-19 as the ones conducted by Chesnut et al. (2023), Ferenčík & Bariová (2023), Im (2023), Kalocsányiová et al. (2022), Lou et al. (2022), Phyak (2022) and online linguistic landscape exemplified by Biró (2018), Hiippala et al. (2019), and Ivkovic and Lotherington (2009). Hence, these two areas are open widely for researchers to explore regarding the Indonesian LL studies.

CONCLUSION

The current meta-analysis of the existing studies of LL in Indonesia by applying the PRISMA approach has resulted in information on a steady increase of LL studies in Indonesia since 2017. Bottom-up signs were analyzed more in the Indonesian LL studies dominated by quantitative analysis of signs. Indonesian was the most often used language followed by English as the most often salient foreign language in the LL studies. Arabic was applied more often compared to English only in three studies of LL in Indonesia. Focal issues connected to the analysis of LL in Indonesia are multilingualism aspects, micro-analysis on morphological aspects of signs, power and solidarity, geolinguistics, identity, ideology, management of halal food, ecology and culture, inequality and economic mobility, health issues, minority language, and teaching media in ELT.

Having identified LL research trends in Indonesia, we have also noticed what is lacking in the Indonesian LL studies that may help future researchers to spot the gaps more easily. Future researchers may focus more on qualitative analysis of LL studies, as these are lower in number. The qualitative LL research may focus more on why English is more salient in most Indonesian LL studies compared to Arabic, why some specific places prefer having Arabic in their vicinity, and how the language attitudes toward Arabic, English and Indonesian language as well as local languages. While a number of crucial issues have been identified, some of them are still limited in number, for example, geo-linguistics, management of halal food, ecology and culture, inequality and economic mobility, health issues, minority language, teaching

media in ELT, and online LL, are promising topics to elaborate in future LL research.

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