

Bricolage of English in Indonesian Workplaces

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Abstract

Bricolage can be seen as an inquiry approach as mentioned by Steinberg (2012). Literally, on the other hand, it can be seen as it's own concept of the original use of bricolage as a French word meaning 'bits and pieces' or 'something that is made or put together with whatever materials happen to be available' (Encarta Dictionary, 2013).

The bricolage in Indonesian language is used for a number of reasons, one of which is its solution to complexity to translate English words into Indonesian. It takes a number of words to transfer the concepts or to explain the meanings of certain pieces of bricolage into Indonesian. They are found in any situation when communication takes place although their existence is not recognized in the Indonesian official dictionary called Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (Bahasa 2012)

A bricolage of English is an emerging concept that encourages the use of a mixed English with the mother tongue in order to communicate. It is called as such as it espouses bits and pieces of English in a form of words, phrases or sentences inserted into a complete utterance of Indonesian in any event.

The use of bricolage may not be as abundant as hybridization exemplified by McArthur (1998) but it is considerably noticeable in many speech events. It comprises the ideas of loan words, interferences and code switching which are used in workplaces when workers communicate in their local language in both written and spoken forms.

The existence of bricolage will have to impact on language learning materials. The paper will discuss what the bricolage of English is about and how it is used in Indonesian workplaces. It will also discuss how to put it in its appropriate place so that it does not interfere with the standard form of the language taught. The data for this article are taken from the language of interviews which I have made recently incorporated with other resources such as online and printed documents used in workplaces as well as discussions with alumni workers which were contacted through e-mails and social network.

References

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