

CultureTalk Indonesia Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Differences in Greeting People

Indonesian transcript:

Pewawancara: mbak Wati assalamualaikum...

Wati:waalaikum salam

Pewawancara: ketemu lagi nih. hmhh...saya tahu mbak Wati dari Jakarta kan ya?

Wati: iya, betul

Pewawancara: sudah lama di Jakarta?

Wati: sudah 5 tahun

Pewawancara: 5 tahun...

Wati: iya

Pewawancara : asalnya dari mana ?

Wati: dari Yogya

Pewawancara: Oh...bisa bicara sedikit tentang...apa...kesulitan ketika pertama kali datang ke Jakarta misalnya masalah sapa menyapa di Jakarta?

Wati: Eee...karena di Yogya kebanyakan orang pakai bahasa Jawa, jadi ketika pertama kali di... Jakarta ada penyesuaian. Karena kalau di Yogya kan orang-orangnya lebih ramah dibandingkan di Jakarta ya. Jadi kalau kita ketemu kan kita akan bilang dalam bahasa Jawa, misalnya nyusun sewu...atau ya selamat pagi tapi dalam bahasa Jawa. Kalau di Jakarta kalau di tempat umum dengan orang yang kita tidak kenal, kita tidak perlu menyapa. Kalau di Yogya, misalnya kita naik bus umum, kemudian kita lihat ada orang tua senyum pada kita, maka seperti ada kewajiban kita menyapa, misalnya selamat pagi tapi dalam bahasa Jawa. Kalau di Jakarta kalau orang yang kita kenal, tidak usah menyapa. Di tempat umum tidak perlu menyapa. Kecuali kalau kita bertemu dengan teman kita, misalnya di kantor, baru kita menyapa. Dan itupun...ee.. lebih ke arah satu kata seperti hai dan seperti kata-kata permisi itu tidak terlalu sering diucapkan ya...Kalau di Yogya kan kita bilang 'nderek langkung' numpang lewat maksudnya. Terus kalau sudah selesai terus kita bilang 'matur nuwun' terima kasih. Kesopanan seperti itu kalau di Jakarta sudah berkurang ..ya

Pewawancara: kalau ketemu dengan teman di kantor, sapaan apa yang paling umum; Assalamulalaikum, halo, selamat pagi, atau apa?

Wati: eee...kalau saya tahu dia muslim; kan Assalamualaikum itu cara menyapa orang muslim; maka saya akan menyapanya assalamualaikum. Tapi kalau misalnya yang sudah akrab dan saya tahu tidak muslim, pasti Cuma hai gitu

Pewawancara: kalau ketemu di mall atau di jalan, sapaan apa yang paling umum di Jakarta?

Wati:hai halo ya...tapi pada orang yang kita kenal. Ee..beda dengan di Yogya, banyak kemungkinan kita tidak kenal orang, tapi kita saling melempar senyum, mengangguk, kemudian bilang...ya itu common untuk tersenyum dan mengangguk kepada orang asing. Tapi kalau di Jakarta, lebih baik aware jangan terlalu banyak melempar senyum.

Pewawancara: Ada bahayanya kalau kita melempar senyum atau menyapa orang yang tidak kita kenal?

Wati: kalau di Jakarta iya. Terutama karena perempuan, kalau di tempat umum misal di mall, tersenyum itu seperti ada kesan mengundang. Mengundang dalam konotasi yang negative, eee...seperti agresif.

Pewawancara: misalnya di tempat umum itu misalnya apa saja, di tempat?

Wati: misalnya di mall, atau misalnya di lift. Karena biasa kalau di Jakarta, gedung...gedung yang besar itu tidak hanya satu kantor tapi beberapa kantor, jadi disewakan.Jadi umum kita kalau masuk ke lift, kita bersama dengan orang lain yang bukan teman kantor kita, dari kantor lain dan kita tidak kenal. Ya sewajarnya kalau kita diam saja, enggak ..tidak perlu menunjukkan gesture menyapa atau mengeluarkan kata-kata menyapa..ya

English translation:

Interviewer: *mbak Wati Assalamualaikum*¹...

Wati: *Walaikum salaam..*

Interviewer: It's good to see you again. Umm ... you live in Jakarta, don't you?

Wati: Yes, I do.

Interviewer: How long have you been in Jakarta?

¹ *Assalamualaikum* is a greeting for Moslems. The words are Arabic language. The means of *Assalamualikum* is 'I wish that God bless you'. It is strongly suggested to greet other Muslims whom you meet with *Assalamualikum*. And then for the person whom you greet it is compulsory to reply the greeting with '*Wa'alaikum salaam*' which means 'I also wish that God bless you'. There are manners how to greet *Assalamualaikum*; younger greet older, male greet female, person to group, guest to host. And if you are in a group, it is not necessary all peoples in the group reply greeting. Once a member of a group replies the greeting, then it is sufficient.

Wati: I've been there for five years.

Interviewer: Five years ...

Wati: Yes ...

Interviewer: Where did you come from?

Wati: I come from Yogya.

Interviewer: Oh ... could please describe more about ... some of the difficulties you encountered adjusting to life in Jakarta; for example, in the different ways people greet one another?

Wati: Eee ... since in Yogya most people speak Javanese, I had to adjust myself the first few years I lived in ... Jakarta. People in Yogya are generally friendlier than people in Jakarta, so we would greet people that we meet in Javanese, for example *nyusun sewu*¹ or another version of "good morning" in Javanese. In Jakarta, we don't greet strangers in public areas, but Yogya is different. For example, on a public bus, if we see an elderly [person] smile at us, it feels as if there is an obligation to greet, e.g. [say] "good morning" in Javanese. In Jakarta, we don't greet strangers. It is unnecessary to greet people in public places, except our friends. For example in an office, we would greet one another, and it's more like one word like "Hi." The words "excuse me" are not frequently used anymore ... But in Yogya it's common to say *nderek langkung* which means "excuse me" and say *matur nuwun* which means "thank you" after we receive something. Well ... that kind of politeness is not common in Jakarta.

Interviewer: When you meet your colleagues, what is the most common greeting, *Assalamualaikum*, Hello, good morning, or something else?

Wati: Uh ... if I know that he/she is a Muslim, since *Assalamualaikum* is a greeting for Muslims, I will greet him/her using *Assalamualaikum*. But when it is a friend whom I'm familiar with and is not a Muslim, I will say "hi."

Interviewer: If you meet people at a mall or on the street, what is the most common greeting in Jakarta?

Wati: Hi, Hello ... yeah ... but only to people we know. Uh ... it is different in Yogya when there are many possibilities of smiling, nodding, saying something to strangers. Well, it is not uncommon to smile and to nod to strangers, but in Jakarta, it is better to be careful who you smile to.

Interviewer: Is it dangerous to smile or to greet strangers in Jakarta?

¹ *Nyuwun sewu* is Javanese language which means "excuse me."

Wati: In Jakarta, yes it is. Especially for women, in a public area, like malls, smiling can be interpreted as inviting. Inviting here has a negative meaning, uh ... [it can be interpreted as] an aggressive approach.

Interviewer: What are examples of public areas?

Wati: For example, malls or elevators. It is common in Jakarta that ... that not only one company occupies a building, but several companies; the building space is rented. It's not uncommon that we will meet people from other companies whom we don't know, when we are in the elevator. Then it is right to be silent, not ... gesturing or saying any greetings.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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