Editorial

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In Indonesia, the lexicographic tradition began with bilingual dictionaries. The first known “dictionaries” were wordlists compiled by a group of explorers, namely, Antonio Pigafetta (*Primer viaje en torno del globo*, 1522), Frederick de Houtman (*Spraeck ende woordboek, Inde Malaysche ende Madagaskarsche Talen met vele Arabische ende Turcsche Woorden*, 1603), and Casper Wiltens-Sebastian Danckaerts (*Vocabularium ofte Woortboek naer order vanden Alphabet in’t Duytsch-Maleysch ende Maleysche-Duytsch*, 1623). In the 1940s, several Indonesian scholars compiled their works in monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, ushering in the modern lexicography era. Three works became the forerunners of the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI; Comprehensive dictionary of Indonesian). They were by Harahap (1942), Zain (1951), and Poerwadarminta (1954). The KBBI then went on to become Indonesia’s most comprehensive and authoritative general monolingual dictionary. It was first published in 1988 by the language agency, Pusat Bahasa (now Badan Bahasa). Since 2016, Badan Bahasa has held an annual seminar and formed an association of Indonesian lexicographers. Lexicography studies, practices, and training programs have also been held regularly since then. Indonesia has also hosted the ASIALEX International Conference twice – the 8th in Bali (2013) and the 14th in Jakarta (2021) – demonstrating the country’s active participation in Asian lexicography.

Due to the growth of lexicography studies and practices in Indonesia, we believe that this special issue will provide a broader picture of the Indonesian lexicographic landscape, especially given the fact that this
field is still relatively new in Indonesia. The four articles in this journal issue cover a wide range of lexicographical topics requiring discussion. They include phraseology (lexical bundles); presentation of lexicographical information; entry design of learners’ dictionaries; and database planning.

The first two articles, written by Budiwiyanto, and Puspita and Yusuf, discuss the development of the KBBI. First, Budiwiyanto suggests a corpus-based method for studying lexical bundles found in KBBI entries. He employs the extended collocation principle, which is recurring sequences of three or more words developed by Biber et al. (1999) in entry-making. Based on Atkins and Rundell’s (2008) argument that a reliable dictionary is one whose generalization about word usage closely approximates how people naturally use words, an option for achieving this is using highly frequently and widely used vocabulary. This method is used to find potential lexical bundles used as patterns to improve dictionary users’ comprehension.

Second, Puspita and Yusuf discuss the necessity for more precise labeling in the KBBI, particularly in distinguishing between obsolete, archaic, and classic words. They compare the various dictionaries to see their diachronic labeling and employ corpora-checking. A variety of Indonesian language corpora used includes Malay Concordance Project (Proudfoot, 2022), SEAlang Library Indonesian Corpus, and the Web-as-Corpus. In the conclusion, they propose parameters for categorizing the labels.

Further, Amalia examines the difficulties that Indonesian language learners have in acquiring verbs and their affixes in Indonesian. She proposes a frame semantics approach for the creation of verb valency patterns using morphological and grammatical information, in order to make it easier for language learners to use Indonesian verbs. She proposes a frame semantics approach as introduced by Fillmore (1982) and elaborated by Atkins et al. (2003) for creating verb valency patterns using morphological and grammatical information to make it easier for language learners to use Indonesian verbs.

Finally, Yanita and Luthfita’s article describes the difficulties experienced by Badan Bahasa in digitizing print dictionaries for the creation of large databases. Most of the hundreds of dictionaries published by Badan Bahasa several decades ago are still in print and must be digitized soon. This creates a difficulty when print dictionaries emerge in numerous formats that must be standardized into a uniform format in a single dictionary application as applied in KBBI (Moeljadi et al., 2017). In this case, they refer to dictionary management (Bergenholtz, 2017) and use online KBBI that have been transformed into applications with many significant features (Kamajaya et al., 2017) as a model.
We hope that these four articles in this special issue on Indonesian lexicography will provide a wider audience for the most recent knowledge on the field of lexicography in Indonesia, both in terms of research and study as well as in practice.

References


