

Balazs Huszka: Body Parts as Idioms in *Bahasa Indonesia*: Arbitrary Constructs or Cognitive Concepts?

Idioms are commonly understood as standing expressions consisting of two or more words whose meaning cannot be understood from the sum of meaning of their lexical elements. Although at the first glance their meaning seems arbitrary, interestingly, idiomatic expressions are rather conceptually motivated: Certain “keywords” appear time and again in them, and these elements oftentimes imply the practically same domain of human experience. *Bahasa Indonesia*, even though there are a few dictionaries and booklets of idioms organized around keywords, has not been mapped according to concepts and tendencies yet. This is surprising, all the more so, because beside words, idioms are also an indisputable part of the vocabulary of any given language, hence of the mental lexicon as well. If we accept this latter statement as true, and assume their aforementioned conceptual nature, we find ourselves inclined to believing in the inevitable systematicity, the systematic organization of idioms in the mental lexicon. In my lecture, I will attempt to look into well-known and commonly used Indonesian idioms based on different parts of the body (eye, leg, etc.) and will look for the proofs of their conceptual organization and systematic nature. In the closing part of my lecture, I will argue for the necessity of a new, conceptually motivated approach to the teaching of idioms in advanced BIPA (*Bahasa Indonesia to Foreign Speakers*) classes. This could not only facilitate a more effective acquisition of vocabulary, but provide the language learners from afar with a much-needed insight into ways how native speakers of *Bahasa Indonesia* segment and understand the world around them.