C. Court

Pointing and asking: A note on deixis in Mentu Land Dayak

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7. "Muhammad Hanafia", apparently a manuscript of the Muslim legendary text an edition of which is in preparation by Mr. L. F. Brakel, Monash University, Australia. It has 240 pp., and was copied in Singapore in 1838 or 1839, probably by Abdullah himself.
8. Another manuscript is said to have been copied by a Bugis copyist; it is a direct copy of the original manuscript of the *Hikayat Abdullah*, and may therefore be of some interest for a critical study of the text of the *Hikayat*. In this manuscript there is a four page letter by Mr. Alfred North in which he tells something of his relations with Abdullah and of the role he played in stimulating Abdullah to write his autobiography.

A. TEEUW

POINTING AND ASKING: A NOTE ON DEIXIS IN MĒNTU LAND DAYAK.

In a paper read at the Ninth Pacific Science Congress¹ Slamet Muljana cites the demonstratives of a number of Indonesian languages and some Dravidian and Indo-European languages. He mentions the fact that in the location adverbs Malay/Indonesian shows a three-way contrast — *disini: disitu: disana* (cf. earlier English *here: there: yonder*) — whilst in the adjective-pronouns there is only a two-way contrast — *ini: itu* — and no **ana*. He gives no example of a language with a three-term system of demonstrative adjective-pronouns, and we therefore think it is worthwhile to set out the demonstrative system of Měntu Land Dayak,² rich as it is with three contrasting degrees of

¹ Slamet Muljana, 'An investigation into the origin of the Indonesian people through language', *Proceedings of the Ninth Pacific Science Congress of the Pacific Science Association. Volume 3, Anthropology and social sciences* 94-8 (Bangkok, 1963).

² The Indonesian idiom of the Měntu village complex on the Upper Sadong River, Serian District, First Division, Sarawak; material gathered 1962-4 under the auspices of the University of Sydney and the Sarawak Museum; chief informants Raphael Nyandoh and Robert Na-en, both of the Sarawak Museum; other information to be found in my M.A. dissertation, 'The phonology of the word in Měntu Land Dayak', held at the Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney (to be published), and in 'The phonological structure of the word in Měntu Land Dayak', to appear in *Oceania Linguistic Monographs*.

deictic distance plus interrogativeness appearing not only in adjective-pronouns but in location adverbs, and verbs of locomotion as well.

	<i>this</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>yon</i>	<i>which?</i>
pronoun	iti [?]	si [?] e:tn	sa [?] ah	(si)dəpih
adverb	əti [?]	ə [?] itn	a [?] eh	əpih
verb	gəti [?]	gə [?] itn	ga [?] eh	gəpih

In the illustrative table the words in the columns from left to right have respectively the meanings 'this', 'here', 'come'; 'that', 'there', 'go' (referring in each case to a distance which may be at only a short remove from the speaker); 'that', 'there', 'go' (referring to an area at a considerable distance from the speaker, which may be out of sight but can at least be pointed towards); 'which?', 'where?', 'go where?'.³

The three-way system of deixis is used only when the speaker is relating himself and his speakers spatially to what is being spoken about. In recounting events which have taken place in foreign parts, and in abstract discourse a two-way system, *iti[?]* : *si[?]e:tn*, is used, in which *iti[?]* has meanings such as 'this, the latter, just mentioned, immediately following', while *si[?]e:tn* means 'that, the former, earlier mentioned'.

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³ The interrogative verb *gəpih* occurs, for instance, in the formula of greeting used to a person who is on his way somewhere: *gəpih mu?* 'where are you going?' It is matched by another interrogative verb in the language, *nanih*, 'do what?', based on the word *ənih* 'what?'. The semantic field of 'going' is further occupied by /dʒalətn/ 'to walk, be in motion', and /ədʒi/ 'to go out' (usually to work in the paddy fields).