

# ***Talk***

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### **Minimalist Interfaces: Selected Issues in Indonesian and Javanese**

This talk is a theoretical investigation of the thesis of Minimalist Interfaces, namely, that syntax-external linguistic interfaces that interact with the core syntactic computation and language-independent sound and conceptual systems play a more critical role in manipulating syntactic objects to make them legible to those systems than is currently assumed in recent minimalist inquiry. Evidence is provided that the syntax-external components use whatever domain-specific resources they can to repair certain “imperfections” created by syntax but only within the range of options made available by the universal principles of syntax in tandem with the language-specific parameter values. This talk explores some of the ramifications and empirical consequences of this thesis based on the comprehensive description of a sizable portion of the grammar of Indonesian and Javanese collected by my fieldwork with three native Indonesian and Javanese consultants. Phenomena discussed here include the distribution of active voice morphology, P-stranding under sluicing, the denotation and morphosyntax of bare nominals, *wh*-in-situ questions, and reduplication asymmetries between nominal and verbal derivational affixes. These diverse ranges of phenomena are analyzed in depth to provide converging evidence that the thesis of minimalist interfaces yields a deep understanding of the way the syntax interacts with the language-dependent phonological and semantic interfaces. The investigation conducted necessitates serious reconsideration of the commonly held view of linguistic interfaces as passive, merely ornamental components of natural language grammar ruled by the universal principles of syntax.

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**14:00 - 15:30**

**811 (8F)**

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