

Dear F [REDACTED]

I was relieved and delighted to get your letter as I had begun to think that my questions about Indonesia had been too pushy and and therefore, perhaps, off-putting to you.

Your letter is full of useful and , to me, new information about Indonesia. Inevitably you have the problem of the expert talking to the layman: you can't tell him everything and yet how can you properly measure what he needs to know and can understand? Also, how serious a student is he? You have a real teacher's problem as, in the area of Indonesian affairs I am a virtual beginner.....

May I ask one or two clarification questions: What were the other two pledges the Sumpah Pemuda?

Was the language arrived at by one man? By a committee? How? When did it begin to be spoken widely around the archipelago?

You say it springs from Melayu, Javanese and Arabic. Is one of these language its base? Where do its basic syntax and grammar come from? Is the Arabic and, I suppose, Dutch influence mainly in the area of lexis? Please give me a fuller linguistic picture.

Did the Dutch run a kind of Apartheid state during their centuries in Indonesia? What does your own family history (I mean the stories told from generation to generation in the family) have to say about the Dutch times?

Do you plan on visiting Holland while you are in Europe?

I am sorry but I have not before come across the term Pancasila. Was this the ideology put forward at the Bandung Pact meeting some time like 1953 by your first President, Sukarno? Can you explain a bit more about this ideology and its roots in political thought and maybe in religion?

I have a sense that to understand the concept of Pancasila will help me understand how your country is today.

Did the Indonesian CP have strong links to China because, as in the old Malaya, many of its members were ethnic Chinese?

If so, can you give me some idea of how the Chinese came to the archipelago, who brought them, when did they come and what sort of economic activity did they get involved in?

From Malaysia and Thailand (that I have visited in the last seven years) I have the strong impression of the Chinese full of dynamism and

entrepreneurial drive trying to get ahead in environments that are wary of their Chineseness. I know the main EFL bookshop person in Bangkok who tries hard not to be seen to be Chinese- he has even Thai-ified his family name.

I visited about 10 Kuala Lumpur universities and noticed a striking pattern: Heads of Dept were Malay and deputies were Chinese. The people with drive often seemed to be deputies. Malaysia has an interesting policy that they call Malaysiansation. In the Universities this means not having the most dynamic folk as heads of dept. It is very dangerous for the country a) because sleepy heads are no good and b) because you cannot suppress the energy of the the 35% of Malaysians who are Chinese- if you do there there will one day be an explosion ,as there was during their Civil War and during the British repression of the Chinese.

To understand the role (political, cultural, economic and ethnic) of the Chinese seems to me to be central in understanding the politics of South East Asia. While the Europeans and Japanese have tried to dominate South East Asian from above the Chinese seems to try to do this from within.

How will things change for the Chinese minority in your country with the stupendous growth of China's power in the world? (China and Japan currently both produce 100 million tons of steel per year. Germany produces a mere 36 million tons.)

One of the most informative parts of your letter is the suggestion that we discuss Timor face to face and not on paper. I fully appreciate your caution, and the need for this caution is an important political comment.

NLP.... I strongly suggest that you go to Judy's classes on Wednesday afternoons- I am sure both Simon and Katie would be happy with this. I will happily lend you our 37 units so far written (these apply NLP to EFL). Ask Simon to get out some books on NLP for you from the Pilgrs library.

I would happily spend an evening with you around this topic, maybe you could both come over to my place in Faversham for supper sometime over the next two weeks. Talk to Hiroshi (Japanese compressed air bloke) about NLP.... I taught him a bit in connection with his sales and marketing work.

You need to learn about it for three reasons:

- a) to improve your teaching
- b) to teach to some of your own students who may find it useful in their work.
- c) to branch out from language teaching into communication teaching at some later stage in your career. In UK you are paid 5 times more teaching communications in industry than teaching language. How about in Djakarta?

Looking forward to your reply,

Mario

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