



# **TYPE IN MOTION**

## Indonesian proverbs

# Indonesian proverbs and their equivalent in English

And as an option the German  
equivalent.

**Proverbs are very rich in illustrating the cultural background they come from.**

- \_ Daily life
- \_ The language
- \_ Myths, fables and legends of the region or country

The focus is on Bahasa Indonesia and Javanese language.

The proverbs can be divided into 2 types:

A) First type of proverbs has a commonly used equivalent e.g.

»Lain ladang lain belalang,  
lain lubuk lain ikannya.«

Literal meaning: Different ponds have different fish.  
German: Andere Länder andere Sitten

The appropriate translation in English:  
When in Rome, do as the Romans  
When in Rome ...

So, this type of proverb has an equivalent proverb in English and German.

B) Second type of proverbs  
have NO equivalent  
proverb, neither in German  
nor in English

»Banyak anak banyak rejeki«

That means literally: Many children - much income or  
the more children you have the richer you are.

There is no equivalent proverb neither in English nor in  
German.

## Cultural background

Western countries:  
the more children you  
have, the poorer you are.

Our social security system  
pays for pensions.

- \_ No need for the children to pay for their parents when they are old

Indonesian background

- \_ Many children = wealthy and rich

Western countries and  
industrialized countries

- \_ Many children = loss of money
- \_ No return on investment!

So, there is no equivalent for this proverb:

»Banyak anak banyak rejeki«

But you could illustrate the true meaning of the proverb by using

- \_ Illustrations
- \_ Pictograms
- \_ Metaphors

This makes the deeper meaning understandable for Non-Indonesians.

**Conclusion:  
Some beliefs are shared  
across cultures**

»Lain ladang lain belalang,  
lain lubuk lain ikannya.«

Different ponds have different fish. / When in Rome ...

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**But often the mindscapes  
and cultural worlds are  
very different:**

»Banyak anak banyak rejeki«

Literal meaning:  
The more children you have the richer you are.



**First, each team should choose a proverb.**

What type of proverb would you like to use?

- 1) an easily understandable example (for everybody)
- 2) a proverb whose meaning is specific to Indonesian culture

## If you choose the

1) easily understandable proverb

You can go right into your storyboarding process

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2) but if you choose a more difficult one – specific to Indonesian culture

You have to brainstorm good translations into English or you can work with images.

If something is not translatable it makes more sense to find metaphors.

## Sequence of steps

- 1 Discuss the deeper meaning of the proverb.  
Identify the keywords of the proverb.  
Consider the cultural background from which the proverb comes.  
Research and define the problem.
- 2 List synonyms and antonyms of the keywords of the proverb.
- 3 Think about images and sketch them.
- 4 Think about how the typography should look.  
Relate physical attributes such as heavy, light, static and loud to your keywords.
- 5 Develop at least 2 storyboards that express the meaning of the proverb.  
Be aware of the given proportion (Full HD) and make that part of the communication.
- 6 Work either with the English equivalent or your visual equivalent and relate it to the Indonesian proverb.
- 7 Before starting the final animation you should have a complete and detailed storyboard.
- 8 Add your audio recording to the animation.
- 9 Work on the presentation of your team project.  
Think about who is going to present different aspects of the animation including the development.