

A concise Indonesian/English guide to common terms used in excavation and archaeological research

Panduan singkat bahasa Indonesia/Inggris untuk frasa umum yang digunakan dalam ekskavasi dan penelitian arkeologi

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Abstract

International collaboration has played an important role in archaeological research in Indonesia for well over a century. This article provides a basic list of translations for the most common archaeological terms in the two languages that are currently most frequently used for research, publications, and fieldwork relating to Indonesian research: English and Indonesian.

Kolaborasi internasional telah memainkan peran penting dalam penelitian arkeologi di Indonesia selama lebih dari satu abad. Artikel ini memberikan daftar terjemahan dasar untuk istilah arkeologi yang paling umum dalam dua bahasa yang saat ini paling sering digunakan untuk penelitian, publikasi, dan kerja lapangan yang berkaitan dengan penelitian di Indonesia: bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Indonesia.

Keywords: archaeological terms, translations, English, Indonesian | istilah arkeologi, terjemahan, Bahasa Inggris, Bahasa Indonesia

Background (English)

Archaeological research in Indonesia has a long and rich history of international collaboration, dating back to the period of Dutch-occupation but continuing into the 21st century (e.g. Aubert et al. 2014; Dubois 1894; Morwood et al. 2004; O'Connor et al. 2011; Sarasin and Sarasin, 1905; Soejono 1969, to name but a few). While the bulk of archaeological excavations are usually carried out by Indonesian archaeologists and labourers, they may also collaborate with international researchers and as a result published findings may be presented in Dutch (e.g. van Stein Callenfels 1938), French (e.g. Forestier and Patole-Edoumba 2000), and most often English (e.g. Brumm et al. 2009; Moore et al. 2009; Sutikna et al. 2016; Westaway et al. 2017). A large body of publications are in Indonesian (see Perston et al. 2021 for a short discussion of the issues for distributing

research across the language barrier). As with any international collaboration, language barriers have the potential to disadvantage one group or lead to confusion and miscommunication on site or when disseminating results. Currently translation dictionaries and translation services often fall short, as archaeology-specific terms may not be listed or might not translate satisfactorily – for example, the popular translation program Google Translate provided the following mistranslations when used in late 2022:

Indonesian	Google Translate	Correct English translation
lancipan	taper	point (n)
kulit batu	stone skin	cortex
luka pukul	hit wound	flake scar
penyerut/serut	shredder/drawstring	scraper
serpih buangan	waste shale	waste flakes
kepak perimbas	sweeping axe	chopper

Table 1 Examples of archaeological terms that do not translate directly well.

While many who are already working in this field have a solid grasp of the key terms in both English and Indonesian, the lists of translations of common archaeological terms provided here are offered to assist those who are collaborating for the first time, or who are seeking to expand or clarify their current lexicon.

Some notes on basic Indonesian pronunciation: ‘c’ is pronounced as ‘ch’ in the Indonesian language; ‘r’ should be rolled; the stress is usually placed on the second-to-last syllable.

Latar Belakang (Bahasa Indonesia)

Penelitian arkeologi di Indonesia memiliki sejarah kerjasama internasional yang panjang dan kaya, sejak periode pendudukan Belanda tetapi berlanjut hingga abad ke-21 (misalnya Aubert et al. 2014; Dubois 1894; Morwood et al. 2004; O’Connor et al. 2011; Sarasin dan Sarasin 1905; Soejono 1969 untuk beberapa nama). Sementara sebagian besar ekskavasi arkeologi biasanya dilakukan oleh arkeolog dan tenaga lokal Indonesia, mereka juga dapat bekerja sama dengan peneliti internasional dan hasilnya temuan yang dipublikasikan dapat disajikan dalam Bahasa Belanda (misalnya van Stein Callenfels 1938), Bahasa Prancis (misalnya Forestier dan Patole-Edoumba 2000), dan paling sering bahasa Inggris (misalnya Brumm et al. 2009; Moore et al. 2009; Sutikna et al. 2016; Westaway et al. 2017). Sebagian besar publikasi diterbitkan dalam bahasa Indonesia (lihat Perston et al. 2021 untuk diskusi tentang masalah pendistribusian penelitian melintasi hambatan bahasa). Seperti halnya kolaborasi internasional lainnya, hambatan bahasa berpotensi merugikan satu kelompok atau menyebabkan kebingungan dan miskomunikasi di lokasi atau saat menyebarluaskan hasil. Saat ini kamus terjemahan dan layanan penerjemahan sering gagal, karena istilah khusus arkeologi mungkin tidak dicantumkan atau mungkin tidak diterjemahkan dengan memuaskan – misalnya, program terjemahan populer Google Terjemahan menyediakan kesalahan terjemahan berikut saat digunakan pada akhir 2022:

Indonesian	Google Translate	Bahasa English yang betul
lancipan	taper	point (n)
kulit batu	stone skin	cortex
luka pukul	hit wound	flake scar
penyerut/serut	shredder/drawstring	scraper
serpih buangan	waste shale	waste flakes
kepak perimbas	sweeping axe	chopper

Tabel 2 Contoh istilah arkeologi yang tidak diterjemahkan secara langsung dengan baik.

Sementara banyak orang yang sudah bekerja di bidang ini memiliki pemahaman yang kuat tentang istilah-istilah kunci dalam bahasa Inggris dan Indonesia, daftar terjemahan istilah-istilah arkeologi umum yang disediakan di sini ditawarkan untuk membantu mereka yang bekerja sama untuk pertama kalinya, atau yang ingin memperluas atau mengklarifikasi leksikon mereka saat ini.

Indonesian	English
Adaptasi	Adaptation
Air	Water
Alami	Natural
Alat	Tool
Alat batu	Stone tool
Alat tulang	Bone tool
Amplop	Envelope
Analisis	Analysis
Api	Fire
Arkeolog	Archaeologist
Arkeologi	Archaeology
Artefak batu	Stone artefact
Artefak bipolar	Bipolar artefact
Ayakan	Sieve
Babi	Pig
Bagian punggung/dorsal	Dorsal
Balai	Office
Barat	West
Batu	Stone/rock
Batu alami	Natural stone
Batu inti/inti	Stone core/core
Berbahaya	Dangerous
Bergerigi	Serrated/serration
Bergores	Scratched/engraved
Berlawanan	Bidirectional
Berpasir	Sandy
Berpunggung	Backed
Bifasial (occasionally <i>dua muka</i>)	Bifacial
Bilah	Blade
Bilah berpunggung	Backed blade
Binatang	Animal (wild)
Buatan manusia	Manmade

Indonesian	English
Budaya	Culture
Bulbus	Bulb (of percussion)
Burung	Bird
Cap	Stencil/stamp
Cap tangan	Hand stencil
Cat (pronounced 'chat')	Paint
Ceruk	Rockshelter
Coklat	Brown
Coklat gelap	Dark brown
Dataran pukul	Platform
Dataran pukul	Striking platform
Di bawah datum	Below datum
Diekskavasi	Excavated (<i>passive</i>)
Diretus	Retouched
Diserpih	To be flaked (<i>passive</i>)
Dorsal/bagian punggung	Dorsal
Dua arah	Bidirectional
Ekskavasi	Excavation
Ember	Bucket
Fosil	Fossil
Fragmen serpih	Flake fragment
Gambar	Figure/drawing/image
Gambar cadas/seni cadas	Rock art
Gamping	Limestone
Gergaji kecil	Sawlette
Gigi	Tooth/teeth
Gua	Cave
Hangus	Burnt/scorched
Hewan	Animal (domesticated)
Ilmu Pengetahuan	Science
Jari	Finger/toe
Jejak pakai	Usewear
Jumlah	Total/sum/count
Kapak genggam	Hand axe
Kapak penetak	Chopping tool
Kapak perimbis	Chopper
Kedalaman	Depth
Kerang	Shell (mollusc)
Kering	Dry
Kilapan	Gloss
Kotak	Box/square (excavation unit)
Kuarsa	Quartz
Korteks (occasionally <i>sulit batu</i>)	Cortex
Kuning	Yellow

Indonesian	English
Kuning muda	Light yellow
Lancipan	Point
Lancipan Maros	Maros point
Lancipan tulang	Bone point
Lapisan	Layer
Laporan	Report
Lateral	Lateral margin
Lempung	Clay
Limbah	Waste
Luka pukul	Flake scar
Manusia	Humankind
Mata panah	Arrowhead
Mata tombak	Spearhead
Mengukur	Measure
Menyerpih	To flake (v)
Meretus	To retouch (v)
Mikrolit asimetris	Asymmetrical microlith
Mikrolit geometrik	Geometric microlith
Oker	Ochre
Pahat genggam	Hand adze
Palu batu/perkutor	Hammerstone/percussor
Pasir	Sand
Pelandas	Anvil
Pelepasan patah	Step termination
Pemakaman	Burial (of corpse)
Peneliti	Researcher
Penelitian	Research
Penyerut/serut	Scraper
Peretusan	Retouch (v)
Perilaku manusia	Human behaviour
Persentase	Percentage
Prasejarah	Prehistory
Proksimal	Proximal
Pukul langsung	Freehand (flintknapping)
Rangka	Skeleton
Rangka manusia	Human skeleton
Reduksi	Reduction
Retus	Retouch
Retus	Retouch (n)
Rijang	Chert
Rusak	Broken
Sangat halus	Very fine (e.g. sand)
Searah	Unidirectional
Sejarah	History
Selatan	South
Seni	Art

Indonesian	English
Serpih bilah	Blade flake
Serpih buangan/puing serpih	Debris (lit. discarded flakes)/debris flakes
Serpih dialihkan	Redirecting flake
Serpih digunakan	Utilised flake
Serpih diretus	Retouched flake
Serpih tidak diretus	Unretouched flake
Serpih utuh	Complete flake
Serpihan/serpih	A flake (<i>n</i>)
Serut	Scrape
Support [after the French]	Blank (for modification)
Tanah	Soil/earth
Tangan	Hand
Tas sampel	Sample bag
Tas/kantong	Bag
Tatal	Debitage
Temuan	Finds
Tengkorak manusia	Human skull
Tidak teridentifikasi	Unidentified
Timur	East
Titik pukul	Point of force application (PFA)
Toala/Toalean	Toalean
Tua/lama	Old
Tulang	Bone
Utara	North
Vulkanik	Volcanic

Table 3 Indonesian to English list of archaeological terms | Daftar istilah arkeologi Bahasa Indonesia ke Bahasa Inggris.

English	Indonesian
Adaptation	Adaptasi
Analysis	Analisis
Animal (domesticated)	Hewan
Animal (wild)	Binatang
Anvil	Pelandas
Archaeologist	Arkeolog
Archaeology	Arkeologi
Arrowhead	Mata panah
Art	Seni
Asymmetrical microlith	Mikrolit asimetris
Backed	Berpunggung
Backed blade	Bilah berpunggung
Bag	Tas/kantong
Below datum	Di bawah datum
Bidirectional	Berlawanan

English	Indonesian
Bidirectional	Dua arah
Bifacial	Bifasial (<i>occasionally</i> dua muka)
Bipolar artefact	Artefak bipolar
Bird	Burung
Blade	Bilah
Blade flake	Serpil bilah
Blank (for modification)	Support (after the French)
Bone	Tulang
Bone point	Lancipan tulang
Bone tool	Alat tulang
Box/square (excavation unit)	Kotak
Broken	Rusak
Brown	Coklat
Bucket	Ember
Bulb (of percussion)	Bulbus
Burial (of corpse)	Pemakaman
Burnt/scorched	Hangus
Cave	Gua
Chert	Rijang
Chopper	Kapak perimbas
Chopping tool	Kapak penetak
Clay	Lempung
Complete flake	Serpil utuh
Cortex	Korteks (<i>occasionally</i> kulit batu)
Culture	Budaya
Dangerous	Berbahaya
Dark brown	Coklat gelap
Debitage	Tatal
Debris (lit. discarded flakes)/debris flakes	Serpil buangan/puing serpil
Depth	Kedalaman
Dorsal	Bagian punggung/dorsal
Dry	Kering
East	Timur
Envelope	Amplop
Excavated (<i>passive</i>)	Diekskavasi
Excavation	Ekskavasi
Figure/drawing/image	Gambar
Finds	Temuan
Finger/toe	Jari
Fire	Api
A flake (<i>n</i>)	Serpilhan/serpil
To flake (<i>v</i>)	Menyerpil
To be flaked (<i>passive</i>)	Diserpil
Flake fragment	Fragmen serpil
Flake scar	Luka pukul

English	Indonesian
Fossil	Fosil
Freehand (flintknapping)	Pukul langsung
Geometric microlith	Mikrolit geometrik
Gloss	Kilapan
Hammerstone/percussor	Palu batu/perkutor
Hand	Tangan
Hand adze	Pahat genggam
Hand axe	Kapak genggam
Hand stencil	Cap tangan
History	Sejarah
Human behaviour	Perilaku manusia
Human skeleton	Rangka manusia
Human skull	Tengkorak manusia
Humankind	Manusia
Lateral margin	Lateral
Layer	Lapisan
Light yellow	Kuning muda
Limestone	Gamping
Manmade	Buatan manusia
Maros point	Lancipan Maros
Measure	Mengukur
Natural	Alami
Natural stone	Batu alami
North	Utara
Ochre	Oker
Office	Balai
Old	Tua/lama
Paint	Cat (pronounced 'chat')
Percentage	Persentase
Pig	Babi
Platform	Dataran pukul
Point	Lancipan
Point of force application (PFA)	Titik pukul
Prehistory	Prasejarah
Proximal	Proksimal
Quartz	Kuarsa
Redirecting flake	Serpih dialihkan
Reduction	Reduksi
Report	Laporan
Research	Penelitian
Researcher	Peneliti
Retouch	Retus
Retouch (n)	Retus
Retouch (v)	Peretusan

English	Indonesian
To retouch (v)	Meretus
Retouched	Diretus
Retouched flake	Serpih diretus
Rock art	Gambar cadas/seni cadas
Rockshelter	Ceruk
Sample bag	Tas sampel
Sand	Pasir
Sandy	Berpasir
Sawlette	Gergaji kecil
Science	Ilmu Pengetahuan
Scrape	Serut
Scraper	Penyerut/serut
Scratched/engraved	Bergores
Serrated/serration	Bergerigi
Shell (mollusc)	Kerang
Sieve	Ayakan
Skeleton	Rangka
Soil/earth	Tanah
South	Selatan
Spearhead	Mata tombak
Stencil/stamp	Cap
Step termination	Pelepasan patah
Stone artefact	Artefak batu
Stone core/core	Batu inti/inti
Stone tool	Alat batu
Stone/rock	Batu
Striking platform	Dataran pukul
Toalean	Toala/Toalean
Tool	Alat
Tooth/teeth	Gigi
Total/sum/count	Jumlah
Unidentified	Tidak teridentifikasi
Unidirectional	Searah
Unretouched flake	Serpih tidak diretus
Usewear	Jejak pakai
Utilised flake	Serpih digunakan
Very fine (e.g. sand)	Sangan halus
Volcanic	Vulkanik
Waste	Limbah
Water	Air
West	Barat
Yellow	Kuning

Table 4 English to Indonesian list of archaeological terms | Daftar istilah arkeologi Bahasa Inggris ke Bahasa Indonesia.

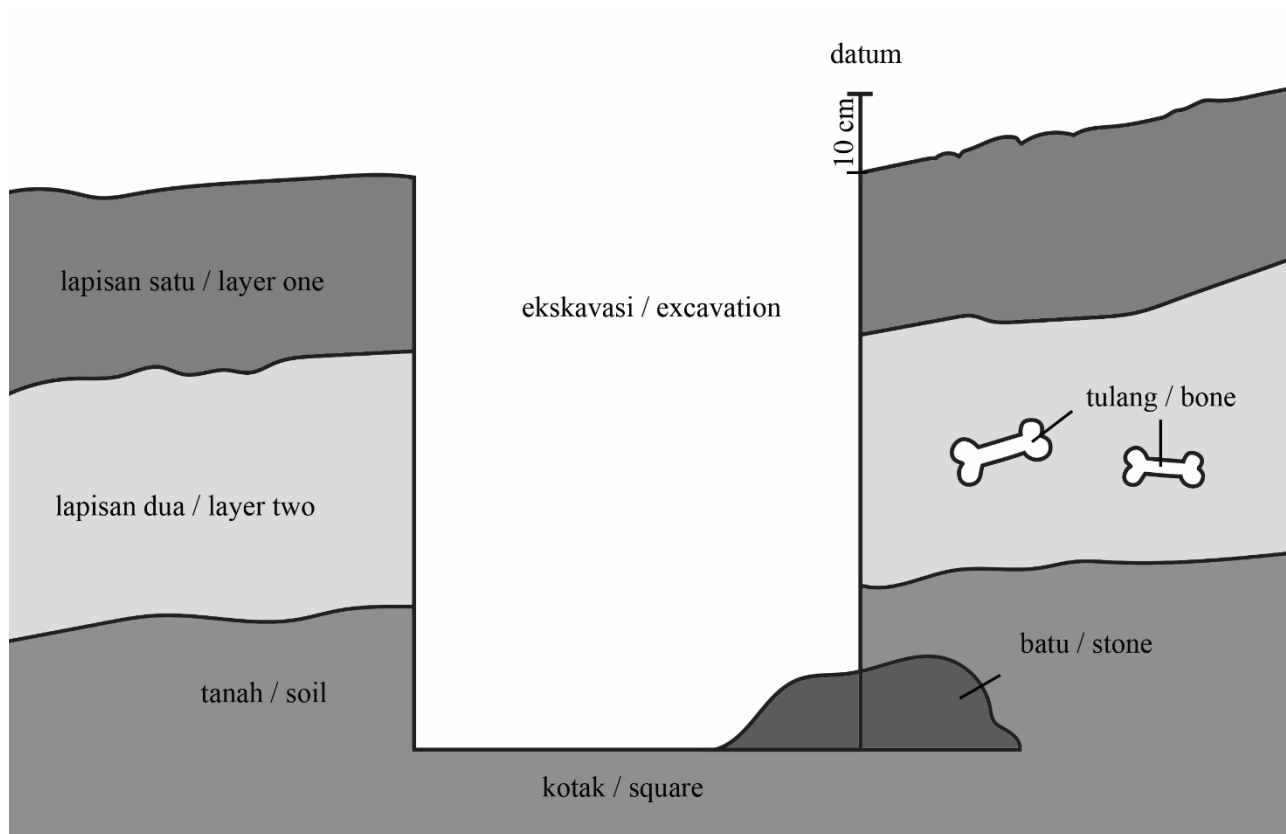


Fig. 1 Illustrated translations of common excavation terms | Terjemahan ilustrasi istilah ekskavasi umum. Source/sumber: Yinika L. Perston.

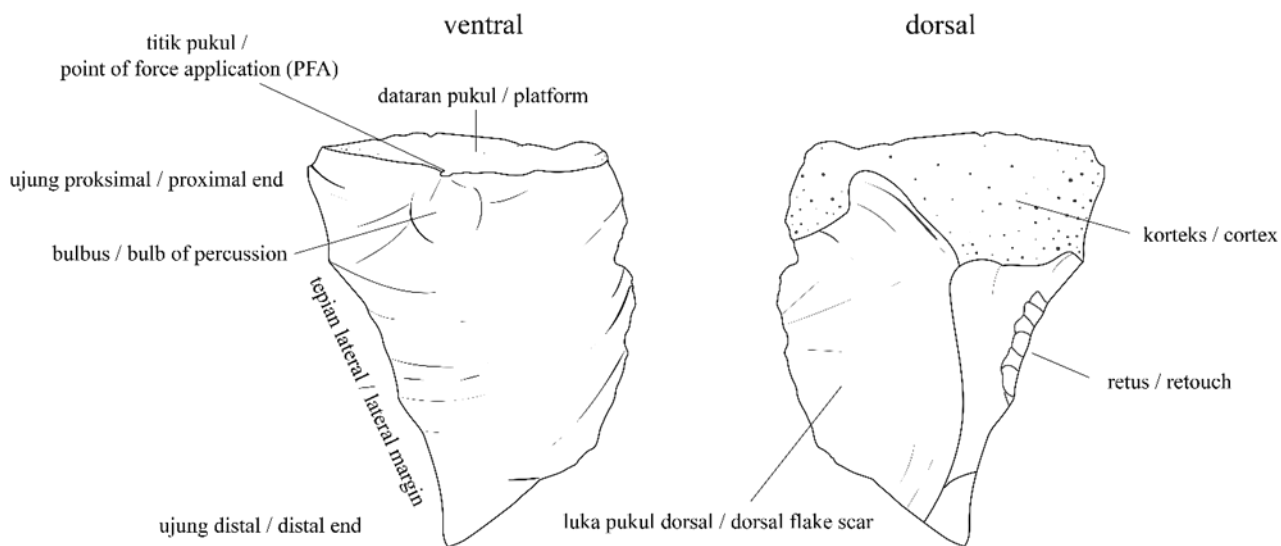


Fig. 2 Illustrated translations of common flake terms | Terjemahan ilustrasi istilah umum serpih. Source/sumber: Yinika L. Perston.

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