Anak Jakarta
A sketch of Indonesian youth identity

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Abstract
Anak Jakarta refers to the youth of Jakarta, the trend-setters of the Indonesian youth. This paper gives a sketch of the youth in Jakarta as characterized by their appearance, language, and lifestyle. Information is derived from discussions and personal contact with different groups of youth and parents (adults with children) in Jakarta; literature review, observations, as well as from flashbacks given by the adults, providing a portrait of anak Jakarta since late 1980’s. The youth in Jakarta is Western (American) oriented, copying from the mass- and social media, often times conflicting with local norms and parental advices. Anak Jakarta profile includes: youth created slang language, school gang fights (tawuran) and brand minded consumerism. Jakarta youth has become the role model for most youth all over Indonesia, especially Jakarta migrant youth. Family upbringing, social contact, peer group and the media play a crucial role in forming, transforming and disseminating the characteristics anak Jakarta identity.

Keywords
Indonesia, youth, identity, anak Jakarta, lifestyle, slang language, peer group, social media.

“Saya (dia) anak Jakarta” meaning I am or (s)he is from Jakarta. This remark is often made referring to someone with the characteristics or attributes typical of the youth living in Jakarta. Sometimes one also hears the remark: “Dia sudah jadi anak Jakarta” ((s)he has already become a Jakarta youth) describing a young person who has come to live in Jakarta and who looks and behaves like an anak Jakarta.

But what exactly are the characteristics or attributes so typical of the youth in Jakarta? How does one acquire these characteristics that become one’s identity? What factors influence the formation of this identity and how