

Deny Arnos Kwary 1 January 1975 – 4 June 2019

A speech made at the opening of the Asialex 2019 conference in Istanbul on June 19, 2019, by Dora Amalia, of Badan Bahasa, Jakarta.

Good morning participants, colleagues, and distinguished guests.

I am standing here today with a grieving heart, for I am going to give a eulogy for a man who was very dear to many of us: Dr. Deny Arnos Kwary. Barely a fortnight ago, at the end of Ramadan, the holy month for Moslems, one day before Eid al-Fitr, we were shocked by the sad news that Deny Arnos Kwary has just passed away due to a sudden heart attack. It was with great sadness that we received this news of Deny's passing. He was, but now is no more, with us. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rojiun (Surely we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return).*

I have known Deny personally since 2009, when he was still a PhD student at Aarhus University in Denmark. We originally met through Facebook thanks to our mutual interest in lexicography, which is quite uncommon, when he took the initiative to greet me virtually. It took only a short while before we became friends, partly because of his friendly and gentle approach.

Since then, Deny has been an unusually good and helpful friend of mine. He was bright and humble, a dedicated young scholar in his prime, and has personally helped me on innumerable occasions.

Once I was struggling to finish my studies in lexicography at the University of Indonesia. I called Deny for help, and he was willing to spend his precious time to help me in the matter I found difficulties in, enabling me to graduate successfully. Knowing his capacity, I asked him to be my co-promotor right after he obtained his PhD. At first he declined, saying it would be too challenging for him, but after I persisted, being certain that he was the right person for the position, he finally accepted my request. I will always remember how Deny has helped and guided me by generously sharing his time, expertise and experience in lexicography. He also encouraged me to write journal papers and to join many



regional and international workshops and seminars on lexicography, including this AsiaLex conference.

These are but a few recollections that I can share in this limited time, where he helped me personally as a friend. His sudden death has left me with a grief which is too difficult to describe with words, although I am a lexicographer with experience in dictionary writing – his contributions were simply too great.

Having shared my personal experience with Deny, I am also sure that many of you knew him personally through his work in lexicography, both internationally and locally. He was the Treasurer and an Executive Board member of AsiaLex, as well as the Review Editor of *Lexicography – Journal of AsiaLex*. Besides, he was an associate professor and head of the English Department in the Faculty of Humanities at Airlangga University in Surabaya.

Deny finished his undergraduate studies at Airlangga University in 1996. In 2002 he completed his masters program at University of Indonesia, and in 2010 he earned a doctor of philosophy (PhD) from Aarhus University. It was during his doctoral study that he began to have an interest in the “dictionary” as he often found his thesis advisor reading dictionaries. Deny finally decided to dive deep into lexicography.

He was a very productive researcher and had conducted many studies since 2006, with at least 39 of his studies being published in national and international journals. He was also a frequent speaker in international conferences, an active member in a number of associations such as

Directory of Linguists, TEFLIN (Teachers of English as a Foreign Language in Indonesia), Global Electronic Member, TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages), LSA (Linguistic Society of America), and Global CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning). During his career Deny had received two prestigious awards: as an outstanding lecturer in 2013 and as a brand ambassador of Casio Electronic Dictionaries in 2014.

There are only a handful of persons like Deny in Indonesia, especially with such remarkable expertise. Lexicography began to develop locally only recently, and this was inseparable from Deny's major role. Badan Bahasa began to hold the Indonesian Lexicography Seminar annually since 2016, and in September this year we will be holding the fourth seminar. At some point in our journey, more people became interested in lexicography and in 2017 we established Perkamusi (Association for Indonesian Lexicographers) with Deny as Chairman. This is the first official association in Indonesia specialized in lexicography. All these local advances in lexicography are, to a great extent, driven by none other than Deny, as without him it would have been impossible for us to reach this state. Surely, Deny's passing is a great loss for the lexicography community, not only in Indonesia but also worldwide.

In the midst of all his activities, Deny had also conducted community services, such as 'The right corpus design for Indonesia', a self-funded service, in 2015. Based on his studies, Badan Bahasa began building Korpus Indonesia (Indonesian Corpus) in 2016, with Deny as the developer as well as consultant. Korpus Indonesia was released last year, and this was the last project we shared with him.

There is a saying by Goethe that "a useless life is an early death." This is not true of Deny's early death, on the contrary, I would say: For a useful life such as Deny's, his works will outlast his death, and will be remembered by the generations after him.

To conclude, there are numerous things Deny has done for the lexicography community in Indonesia and for Badan Bahasa. May his works and dedication to advance people's knowledge earn him the reward promised by Allah. May Allah record all his goodness and give him the most beautiful place in heaven. Let us

In-Memoriam

It came as a shock to all of us to hear about the sudden and untimely death of our friend and fellow lexicographer Deny Arnos Kwary.

I first met Deny in 2007 when he started as a PhD fellow working in the field of lexicography at the Aarhus School of Business, Denmark. I was Deny's supervisor from 2007 to 2011, when he submitted his thesis with the title *Theoretical Considerations in Creating an Internet English Dictionary of Finance for Indonesian Students*, for which he was awarded his PhD. His project focused on the lexicographic function of reception by Indonesian university students reading English business texts and the needs for help provided by dictionaries.

As a researcher, Deny was a conscientious and dedicated person who was always eager to learn and to try new things in order to constantly improve his knowledge of lexicography and other matters. During discussions, he displayed an ability to make thoughtful and perceptive analyses of both concepts and practices in practical and theoretical lexicography.

Deny had an engaging personality and an outgoing manner, which enabled him to interact well with students, faculty and researchers in various contexts, such as Denmark and Danish culture, which were new to him. For instance, Deny was very disappointed to find that the streets were not covered in snow when he first arrived in Aarhus one day in late November 2007. His work was consistently of good quality and he soon published in international peer-reviewed journals as well as presented papers at international conferences on lexicography. Through his dedication and winning personality, Deny developed a large network within the lexicographic community, which led to, among other things, a three-month stay at the University of Birmingham, as well as becoming editor of the dictionary *Password. English Learner's Dictionary for Speakers of Bahasa Indonesia*. Furthermore, Deny quickly became a household name in lexicography both as a presenter at and an organizer of international conferences. It was a pleasure and privilege to know, supervise and work with Deny Arnos Kwary; he will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace.

Sandro Nielsen
Centre for Lexicography
Aarhus University

also pray that Deny's family will be given strength and fortitude to face this sadness and continue their lives.

There is no word to describe how deep is the loss we experience over Deny's passing. But I am confident that what Deny has done will always be remembered as precious legacy to our nation, and will always live in our hearts as long as we draw breath. The Greek quote by Menander says, ὃν οἱ θεοὶ φιλοῦσιν ἀποθνήσκει νέος (*hon hoi theoi pilusin apothniskai neos*), meaning 'He whom the gods love, dies young'. God loves you, Deny. Goodbye. Your toil is over now. May you rest in peace.

Dora Amalia
Badan Pengembangan Bahasa dan Perbukuan