# The Effect of Language on Moral Judgement and Moral Emotions: From the Perspective of Moral Foundations

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## Abstract

The effect of language on moral judgment is still under-researched, especially in Indonesia. The aim of this study is to compare moral judgment and moral emotion when evaluating moral transgressions presented in native language and foreign language. Data was collected from 200 Indonesian university students, aged 18 to 25, who has not lived in an English-speaking environment previously and has learned English as a foreign language. A randomized experiment with a between-subjects design was used. Participants completed the Moral Foundations Vignettes (MFV) Abbreviated 6 Item Form and the Moral Emotions Scale which was adapted from the PANAS scale. For the native language condition, both scales were translated and adapted from English to Bahasa Indonesia. Data analysis using t-test, Mann-Whitney U and Pearson correlation was conducted. Results of analysis showed significant difference in moral judgment between the two conditions in moral scenarios pertaining the sanctity foundation only, where moral judgment in native language was harsher. No significant difference was found between conditions in terms of negative moral emotions. A significant correlation between moral judgment and negative moral emotion was found in both conditions, where harsher moral judgment was linked to more negative moral emotions.

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