

A Statistical Analysis of Indonesian Possessive Verbal Predicates

This study is a synchronic study of the possessive verbal predicates in Indonesian, both the present high variety which is originally based on Riau Malay, and the present low variety, which is called “Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian” in Sneddon (2006). The eight predicates are chosen as the object of discussion: (1) possessive verbs: *memiliki*, *mempunyai*, and *punya*, (2) the existential verb: *ada* and *ada ...=nya*, (3) denominal affixes: *ber-*, *ber...-kan*, and *-an*. This study tries to give a comprehensive analysis of the encoding of the eight predicates and seeks to answer two main questions: which predicates are to be considered typical or central to the domain of possession and what factors play role in the encoding process.

This study consists of two kinds of data from two surveys. The first survey was questionnaires conducted in Tokyo, Malang, and Jakarta in 2010 and 2011 to investigate the acceptability of the eight predicates with various kinds of possessor and possessee. Cluster analysis is employed to calculate the degree of similarity between predicates and to classify the predicates based on the acceptability. The main results are: (1) only five predicates can be considered as typical possessive verbal predicates, i.e. *memiliki*, *mempunyai*, *punya*, *ada*, and *ber-*, (2) possessee plays role in the encoding process.

The second survey was a storytelling survey, conducted in Malang and Tokyo in 2011, in order to determine the speakers' choice of predicates in the high and low varieties. Basic statistical methods, such as the correlation technique, are employed to investigate the statistical relationship between the low variety's tokens and the predicate tokens. The main result is that *memiliki* primarily tends to be used in the high variety, while *punya* tends to be very frequently used in the low variety. The existential verb *ada* also tends to appear in the low variety, while *ber-* and *mempunyai* both in the high and low varieties.