

Possessive Verbal Predicate Constructions in Indonesian

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This study deals with verbal predicate constructions used to express ‘possession’ in Indonesian (‘formal Indonesian’ and ‘Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian’). Moeljadi (2010) states that there are eight possessive verbal predicate constructions in Indonesian, i.e. X^1 *memiliki* Y, X *mempunyai* Y, X *punya* Y, X *ada* Y, X *ada* Y=*nya*, X *ber-Y*, X *ber-Y-kan* Z, and X *Y-an*. The analysis of how Indonesian encodes one ‘possession’ concept to more than one constructions is mainly based on intuition. The conclusion is that the ‘register’ and the ‘(in)alienability’ notion play important roles in the encoding process. Unlike Moeljadi (2010) whose analysis is mainly based on intuition, I conducted two interviews in 2010 and 2011 in order to make an objective analysis. The data I got from those interviews were then analyzed using cluster analysis. I conclude that (1) only five constructions, i.e. X *memiliki* Y, X *mempunyai* Y, X *punya* Y, X *ada* Y, X *ber-Y*, can be regarded as having the meaning of ‘possession’, (2) one construction, i.e. X *ber-Y*, has a special characteristic and takes different kind of possessee, (3) First, second, and third personal pronouns of possessor do not affect the acceptability of the constructions.

1. Examples of possessive verbal predicate constructions in Indonesian

(1) a. Eka **me-milik-i**² 5 kemeja batik, ...

AV-MILIK-APP shirt

‘Eka has 5 batik shirts, ...’ (*Busana Batik Bisa Dikemas Tak Terlalu Formal* in KOMPAS.com 2009/10/01, own translation)

b. Adi **mem-punya-i**³ banyak uang.

AV-PUNYA-APP many money

‘Adi has a lot of money.’ (own data)

¹ X represents ‘possessor’, Y represents ‘possessee’ or ‘possessum’, and Z represents a complement.

² The verb *memiliki* is derived from the root *milik*. The word *milik* comes from the Arabic word *m-l-k* (*milk*), has the sense ‘property’ (Jones 1978: 57, xxxi). Wehr (1979: 1082) notes that the word *milk* has the sense ‘property, possessions, goods and chattels, fortune, wealth; estate; landed property, real estate’ and the plural form *amlāk* has the sense ‘possessions (=colonies); lands, landed property, estates’.

³ The verb *mempunyai* is derived from the root *punya*, which originally consists of (*em*)*pu* and =*nya* and is complex morphemically. The origin of *punya* is from an old Javanese word *empu* (*mpu*, *ampu*, *pu*) which has the main meaning ‘distinguished person, “master”, “lord”’; often, but by no means exclusively, of religious persons (brahmans and others) and joined to a proper or categorical noun ““sir”, “lord”, “master”, “the honorable or reverend”” (Zoetmulder 1982: 1149), ‘ancient title for scholars, poets, outstanding artists, master craftsmen’ (Horne 1974: 168).

- c. Gue **punya**⁴ dua orang kakak perempuan.
1SG PUNYA two CL older.sibling female
'I have two elder sisters.' (Sneddon 2006: 199)
- d. Ia **ada**⁵ anak banyak.
3SG EXIST child many
'S/he has many children.' (Hopper 1972: 139)
- e. Rumah ini **ada** beranda=**nya**⁶.
house this EXIST verandah=NYA
'This house has its verandah.' (Alieva 1992: 16)
- f. Pendapat=**nya** tidak **ber-dasar**.
opinion=NYA NEG ber-basis
'His opinion has no basis.' (Sneddon 1996: 11)

2. Previous studies

Hopper (1972: 137-140) states that in formal written Indonesian, *mempunyai* has come into general use which corresponds to most uses of English *have* in the sense of *own* or *possess*. Like *mempunyai*, *punya* serves as a general equivalent of Western *have*-like verbs. *Ada* is said to bear the same resemblance to *punya* as *have* does to *own* in English. In *ada* sentence, the topic is an underlying predicate locative.

Alieva (1992: 15-19) mentions that Malay verbs such as *-punyai* 'to have', *-miliki* 'to have, to possess', and *punya* are secondary in origin. Instead of clause with a lexeme 'to have', the following two synthetic clause models –the one with pronominal clitics, the other with verb-deriving prefixes– can be considered as the primary forms or the basis of possessivity in Malay:

1. real topic clauses with *ada* + possessive noun phrase. In this clause, a possessor noun phrase in the initial position is cross-referenced by a pronominal enclitic and the possessive meaning disappears from *ada*, being expressed in the possessive noun phrase, as in example (1e).

2. clauses with predicates expressed by *ber-* verbs (also *ber-kan* verbs) are a real and original device for rendering the meaning 'to have, to possess'. The relation of possession and the possessed object are both expressed in a sentence by one and the same word.

Concerning clauses with *ada*, Alieva (1992: 15-16) states that in *ada* sentence (as in example 1d), possession is expressed through the idea of existence, and the meaning 'to have' is secondary to the

⁴ Hopper (1972: 138) states that *punya* is losing, or has already lost its original connection with the root (*em*)*pu*, and in all varieties of Malay, including Indonesian, is analyzed as the colloquial equivalent of *mempunyai*.

⁵ The existential verb *ada* derives the copula *adalah* in a nominal predicate construction. An existential predicate construction requires *ada* obligatorily while in a locative predicate construction, *ada* is optional. For the details, see Moeljadi 2010: 22-29.

⁶ The enclitic *=nya* is originally from the third person singular pronoun *ia* and has the original function as the third person singular pronominal enclitic.

meaning 'to be, to exist'.

Moeljadi (2010: 34) found that there are eight possessive verbal predicate constructions in Indonesian which can be classified into three groups based on the form of the main verb.

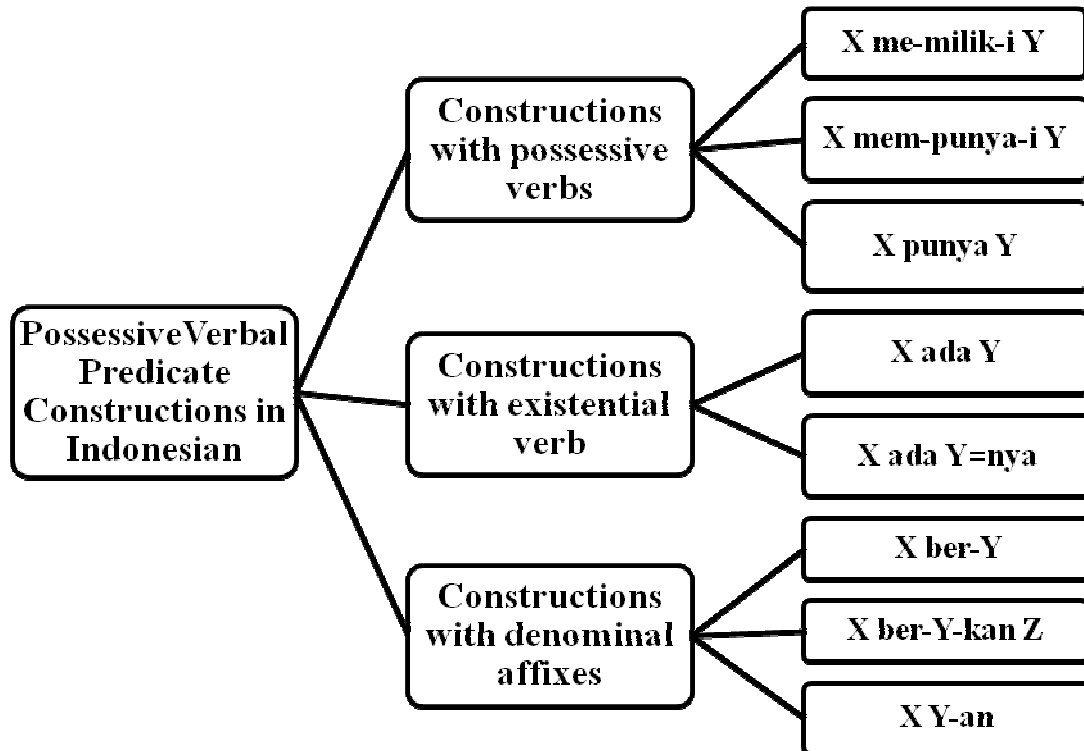


Figure 1. The division of possessive verbal predicate constructions in Indonesian according to Moeljadi 2010 (X=possessor, Y=possessee/possessum, Z=complement)

Table 1. Result of analysis of possessive verbal predicate constructions in Indonesian (Moeljadi 2010: 93)

Parameters		Possessive predicate		Possessee (Y)		
		H/L variety	Passivization and imperative	Pers.Pron Personal Proper Names	Alienable (see Table 2)	Inalienable (see Table 2)
possessive verbs	X memiliki Y	H	+	+	+	+
	X mempunyai Y					
	X punya Y					
existential verb	X ada Y	L	-	-	-	-
	X ada Y=nya					
denominal affixes	X ber-Y	H	-	-	+	+
	X ber-Y-kan Z					
	X Y-an	L				

Table 2. The relation between possessee (Y) and (in)alienability in Indonesian (extracted from Moeljadi 2010: 98-99)

ALIENABLE			INALIENABLE			
X memiliki Y, X mempunyai Y, X punya Y						
			X ber-Y, X ber-Y-kan Z			
X ada Y			X ada Y=nya		X Y-an	Clothes etc. worn on the body
Event, Temporary property	Social relation, Belongings (movables), Nonspecific referents	Acquired attribute, Private property (immovables), Kinship roles	Body-parts, Part-whole relationship, General nature	Substance attached to a narrow area	Substance attached to a wide area	
acara <i>event</i> rapat <i>meeting</i> tes <i>test</i> demam <i>fever</i>	teman <i>friend</i> buku <i>book</i> anjing <i>dog</i> sesuatu <i>something</i>	hak <i>right</i> ibu <i>mother</i> rumah <i>house</i> uang <i>money</i>	mata <i>eye</i> atap <i>roof</i> nama <i>name</i> khasiat <i>efficacy</i>	karat <i>rust</i> uban <i>gray hair</i> jerawat <i>pimples</i> janggut <i>beard</i>		pakaian <i>clothes</i> kacamata <i>glasses</i> senjata <i>weapon</i> selimut <i>blanket</i>

3. Possessive verbal predicate constructions in Indonesian (Moeljadi 2010)

3.1 Constructions with possessive verbs *memiliki*, *mempunyai*, *punya*

- (2) a. Dia ingin **me-milik-i** tas=ku
 3SG want AV-MILIK-APP bag=1SG
 'S/he wants to possess my bag.' (own data)
- b. Aku ingin **me-milik-i**=mu, Indah.
 1SG want AV-MILIK-APP=2SG
 'I want to possess you, Indah.' (own data)
- c. 6 Model Jeans yang Harus **Di-milik-i**
 type jeans REL must UV-MILIK-APP
 '6 Types of Jeans which Must Be Owned' (a title of an article in *KOMPAS.com* 2009/10/29)
- d. **Milik-i**-lah anak yang banyak.
 MILIK-APP-IMP child REL many
 'Have many children.' (*Lagu Kesunyian di Penghujung Hari* in *KOMPAS.com* 2009/08/29)
- e. *Orang gila itu ingin **mem-punya-i**=ku.
 person crazy that want AV-PUNYA-APP=1SG
 'That crazy person wants to possess me.' (own data)
- f. Hak untuk meng-ekspre-si-kan diri **di-punya-i** oleh setiap orang.
 right to AV-expression-APPself UV-PUNYA-APP by every person

‘The right to express oneself is possessed by everyone.’ (own data, based on Sneddon 2006: 208)

- g. **Punya-i-lah** impian!
PUNYA-APP-IMP dream

‘Have a dream!’ (own data)

- h. *Gua pingin **punya** elu.
1SG want PUNYA 2SG

‘I want to possess you.’ (own data)

- i. * **Punya-lah** impian!
PUNYA-IMP dream

‘Have a dream!’ (own data)

3.2 Constructions with existential verb *ada*

- (3) a. Saya **ada** uang untuk mem-beli ini.
1SG EXIST money to AV-buy this

‘I have money to buy this.’ (Alieva 1992: 15)

- b. Lu **ada** kunci=**nya**?
2SG EXIST key=NYA

‘Do you have the key?’ (own data)

- c. (while looking at a photo which has been modified)

Kok gua kagak **ada** mata=**nya** di foto ini?
DP 1SGNEG EXIST eye=NYA LOC photo this

‘Why don’t I have eyes in this photo?’ (own data)

3.3 Constructions with denominal affixes *ber-*, *ber-...-kan*, *-an*

- (4) a. Dia sudah **ber-istri**.
3SG PERF ber-wife

‘He already has a wife.’ (Alwi et al. 2000: 142)

- b. Dia sudah **ber-istri** orang Minang.
3SG PERF ber-wife person

‘He already has a Minang person as his wife.’ (Alwi et al. 2000: 142)

- c. *Dia sudah **ber-istri-kan**.
3SG PERF ber-wife-APP (Alwi et al. 2000: 142)

- d. Dia sudah **ber-istri-kan** orang Minang.
3SG PERF ber-wife-APP person

‘He already has a Minang person as his wife.’ (Alwi et al. 2000: 142)

- e. Orang itu uban-**an**.
 person that grey.hair-an
 ‘That person is grey-haired.’ (lit: ‘That person has lots of grey hair.’) (own data)
- f. Pipi lu jerawat-**an**.
 cheek 2SG pimple-an
 ‘Your cheek is pimples.’ ‘Your cheek is covered with many pimples.’ (own data)

4. Overview of research conducted in summer 2010 and spring 2011

Forty-one nouns as possessives, three personal pronouns (first, second, and third personal pronoun) as possessors were chosen, combined and inserted in eight possessive verbal constructions. Those forty-one nouns are as follows: mata *eye*, jantung *heart*, ekor *tail*, bunga *flower*, dinding *wall*, ibu *mother*, kakek *grandfather*, mertua *father-in-law/mother-in-law*, kakak *elder brother/sister*, adik *younger brother/sister*, suami/istri *husband/wife*, anak *child*, hak *right*, nama *name*, khasiat *efficacy*, karat *rust*, uban *gray hair*, jerawat *pimples*, janggut/jenggot *beard*, keringat *sweat*, pakaian *clothes*, kacamata *glasses*, senjata *weapon*, selimut *blanket*, buku *book*, rumah *house*, uang *money*, anjing *dog*, sesuatu *something*, teman *friend*, pacar *girlfriend/boyfriend*, dokter pribadi *personal doctor*, penyakit *disease*, flu *flu*, demam *fever*, pertanyaan *question*, acara *event*, rapat *meeting*, pesta *party*, tes *test*, and bagian dalam yang kosong *empty space*.

Table 3. Data of consultants in the first interview

	Consultant A	Consultant B	Consultant C	Consultant D
Sex	Male	Male	Female	Male
Age	21	35	23	23
Place of birth	Jakarta	Long Iram, East Kalimantan	Jakarta	Malang, East Java
Mother language	Indonesian, Hokkien	Indonesian, Banjar	Indonesian	Peranakan
Date of interview	June 2010	June 2010	June 2010	September 2010
Place of interview	Tokyo	Tokyo	Tokyo	Malang, East Java
Consultant E	Consultant F	Consultant G	Consultant H	Consultant I
Male	Female	Female	Female	Female
16	17	16	17	16
Balikpapan, East Kalimantan	Pasuruan, East Java	Surabaya, East Java	Kediri, East Java	Bogor, West Java
Indonesian	Javanese	Peranakan	Javanese, Indonesian	Indonesian Banjar
September 2010	September 2010	September 2010	September 2010	September 2010
Malang, East Java	Malang, East Java	Malang, East Java	Malang, East Java	Malang, East Java

Table 4. Data of consultants in the second interview

	Consultant A	Consultant B	Consultant C	Consultant D
Sex	Female	Female	Male	Female
Age	21	21	22	21
Place of birth	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta
Mother language	Indonesian	Indonesian, Hakka	Indonesian	Indonesian, Hakka mixed
Date of interview	March 2011	March 2011	March 2011	March 2011
Place of interview	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta
Consultant E	Consultant F	Consultant G	Consultant H	Consultant I
Female	Female	Female	Female	Female
21	20	21	20	21
Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta
Indonesian	Indonesian, Sundanese mixed	Indonesian, Konghu mixed	Indonesian, English	Indonesian
March 2011	March 2011	March 2011	March 2011	March 2011
Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta	Jakarta

Nine consultants in the first interview and nine consultants in the second interview were asked to choose whether the sentence is (1) usual (acceptable) [1 point], or (2) a little bit unusual but not so strange (uncertain) [0.5 point], or (3) unusual and strange (unacceptable) to say in everyday communication [0 point]. The similarity or the ‘distance’ between each construction and the others was calculated using the Euclidean distance. For example, if, according to one consultant, *saya memiliki buku* is acceptable (1 point), *gua punya buku* is unacceptable (0 point), *saya memiliki teman* is acceptable (1 point), and *gue punya teman* is acceptable (1 point), the Euclidean distance between *memiliki* and *punya* is $\sqrt{(1-0)^2 + (1-1)^2} = 1$ (one).

Table 5. Mean value of Euclidean distance between constructions in the first interview

	X memi- liki Y	X mem- punyai Y	X punya Y	X ada Y	X ada Y=nya	X ber-Y	X ber- Y-kan Z
X mempunyai Y	2.0839...						
X punya Y	2.6401...	2.1652...					
X ada Y	5.4400...	5.3969...	5.1243...				
X ada Y=nya	6.7353...	6.7845...	6.9249...	7.9342...			
X ber-Y	6.3909...	6.3603...	6.5105...	7.7320...	5.2271...		
X ber-Y-kan Z	7.9539...	7.9272...	8.2227...	8.3376...	6.3175...	6.7811...	
X Y-an	9.3467...	9.3238...	9.4192...	9.2439...	6.7128...	6.7375...	6.7132...

Table 6. Mean value of Euclidean distance between constructions in the second interview

	X memi- liki Y	X mem- punyai Y	X punya Y	X ada Y	X ada Y=nya	X ber-Y	X ber- Y-kan Z
X mempunyai Y	2.0812...						
X punya Y	2.4684...	2.4599...					
X ada Y	2.8618...	2.9235...	2.2517...				
X ada Y=nya	7.8418...	7.9056...	7.9498...	7.8430...			
X ber-Y	8.1553...	8.1169...	7.8766...	8.1066...	8.5174...		
X ber-Y-kan Z	8.9817...	8.9225...	8.9613...	9.1692...	9.2829...	8.6483...	
X Y-an	13.5542..	13.5890..	13.4733..	13.5039..	12.2695..	10.7106..	12.2721..

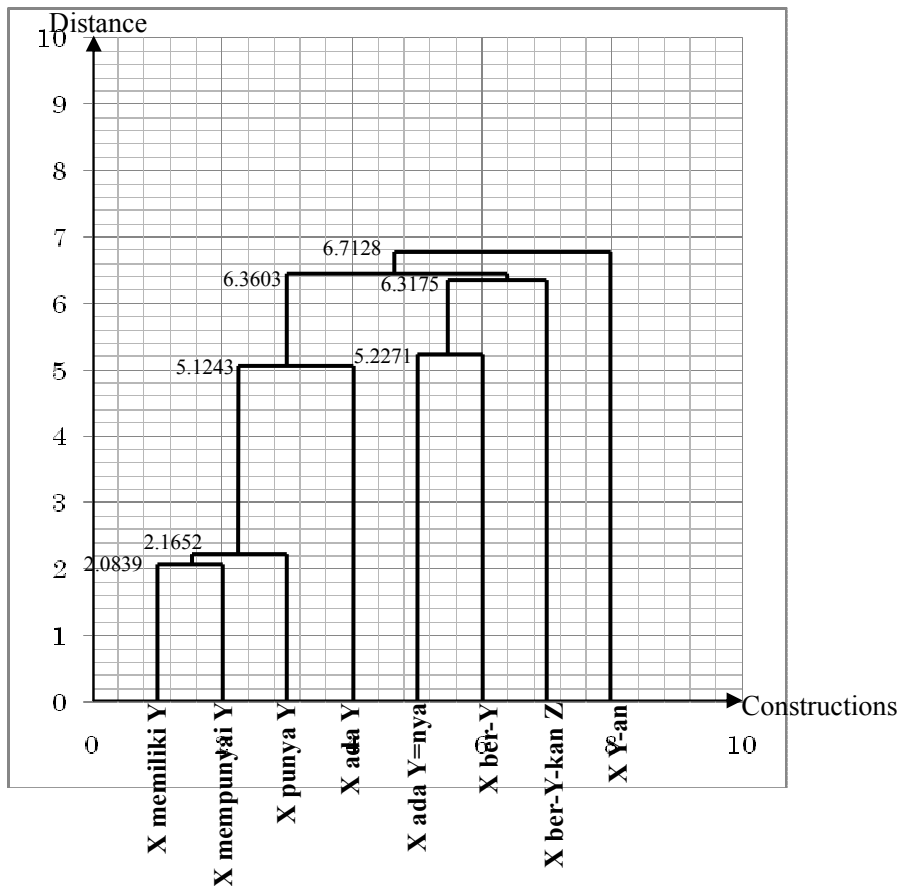


Figure 2. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions in the first interview (see Table 5)

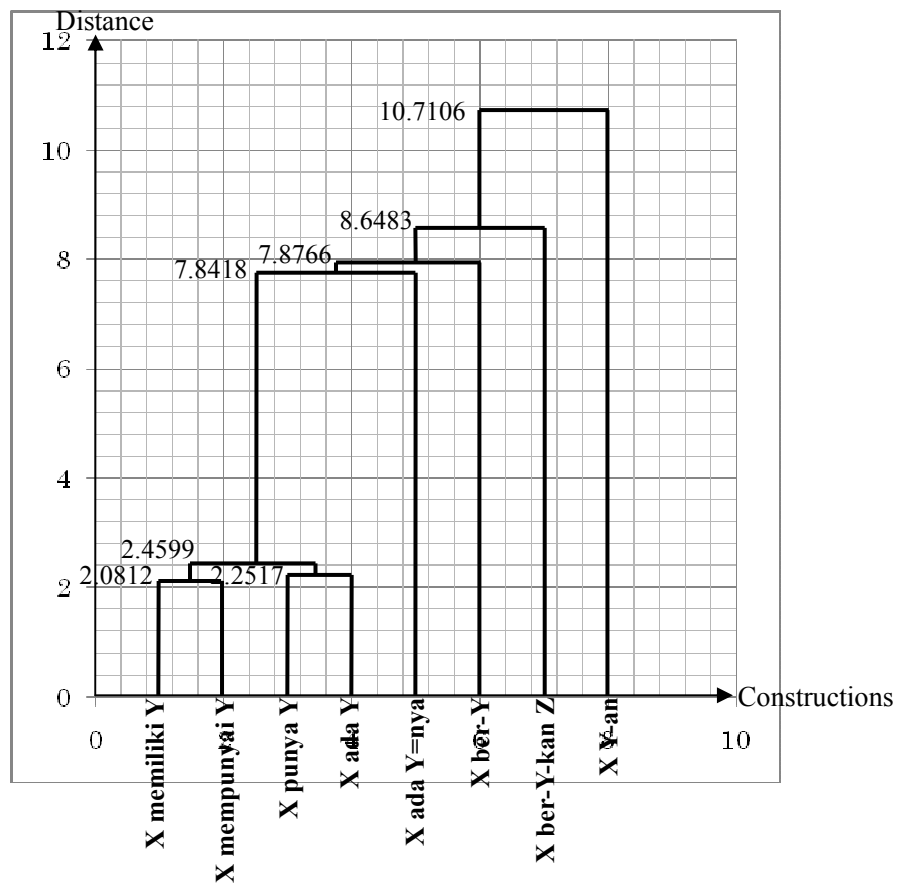


Figure 3. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions in the second interview (see Table 6)

5. Result and discussion

X ada Y=nya and *X ada Y*.

Group 1: =*nya* functions as a definite marker and it should appear within a context.

(7) a. Dia **ada** buku. 'S/he has a book.' (own data)

3SG EXIST book

b. Dia **ada** buku=**nya**. 'S/he has the book.' (own data)

3SG EXIST book=NYA

Included in this group are possessees (Y) such as: *teman*, *buku*, *anjing*, *rumah*, *uang*, *pakaian*, *kacamata*, *senjata*, and *selimut*.

Group 2: =*nya* may appear without a context. For example,

(7) c. Gue udah **ada** istri. 'I already have a wife.' (own data)

1SG already EXIST wife

d. Gue udah **ada** istri=**nya**. 'I already have a wife.' (own data)

1SG already EXIST wife=NYA

Included in this group are possessees (Y) such as: *mata*, *dinding*, *nama*, *khasiat*, *karat*, *uban*, *jerawat*,

janggut/jenggot, penyakit, jantung, ekor, bunga, ibu, kakek, mertua, kakak, adik, suami/istri, pacar, anak, dokter pribadi, and bagian dalam yang kosong.

Group 3: =*nya* is not acceptable.

- (7) e. Mereka **ada** rapat. 'They have a meeting.' (own data)
3PL EXIST meeting
f. * Mereka **ada** rapat=**nya**.
3PL EXIST meeting=NYA

Included in this group are possessives (Y) such as: *acara, rapat, pesta, tes, demam, sesuatu, and flu.*

X ber-Y-kan Z is acceptable with possessives (Y) as follows: *anak, pacar, suami/istri, ibu, adik, kakak, mertua, kakek, ekor, mata, dinding.* Comparing with *X ber-Y*, nouns which are considered to be acceptable to fill Y position in *X ber-Y-kan Z* is very few. The sense of 'possessives' in *X ber-Y-kan Z* is expressed in *ber-Y-kan* but it requires an argument (Z) which is a hyponym or attribute of Y. On the other hand, in *X ber-Y* construction, Z is an adjunct, see example 4. Thus, while *uban* 'grey hair' is acceptable in *saya* (1SG) *beruban*, it is not acceptable in *saya berubankan ...* because it is difficult to regard something as the hyponym or the attribute of *uban*. *X ber-Y-kan Z* is also considered as not a typical possessive predicate construction because it requires an argument, which is not a possessee.

X Y-an is acceptable with the following nouns: *pacar, teman, jantung, penyakit, keringat, selimut, kacamata, jenggot, jerawat, uban, and karat.* According to the consultants I interviewed, *pacaran* and *teman-an* have the meaning 'reciprocal, indicating that two people stand in the same relationship to each other'. Thus, it is acceptable to say *kita* (1PL) *teman-an*, or *gue* (1SG) *teman-an sama* (with) *dia* (3SG) but *gue teman-an* (without *sama ...*) is unacceptable. *Jantungan* has a special meaning 'suffer from heart disease'. *Penyakitan* means 'often get sick'. *Keringatan* means 'sweating so much'. *Selimutan* and *kacamataan* have the meaning 'to wear...'. Thus, only *jenggotan, jerawat-an, uban-an, and karatan* have the meaning 'having many ...'. I regard *X Y-an* is peripheral to the domain of possessives in Indonesian.

X memiliki Y, X mempunyai Y, X punya Y, X ada Y, and X ber-Y can be roughly clustered into two groups: *X memiliki Y, X mempunyai Y, X punya Y, X ada Y* in one group and *X ber-Y* in one group. Each group has its own category of possessee and we can see that *X ber-Y*, has a special characteristic and takes different kind of possessee (see Figure 4 and Figure 5). However, there is a slight difference between the clustering of the data in the first interview and the second interview (see Figure 6 and Figure 7). The problem why there is a slight difference in clustering between the first interview and the second interview is one of the next problems that have to be solved.

Lastly, in addition, I tried to cluster the eight constructions for each personal pronoun. I found that first, second, and third personal pronouns of possessor do not affect the acceptability of the constructions (see Figure 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13).

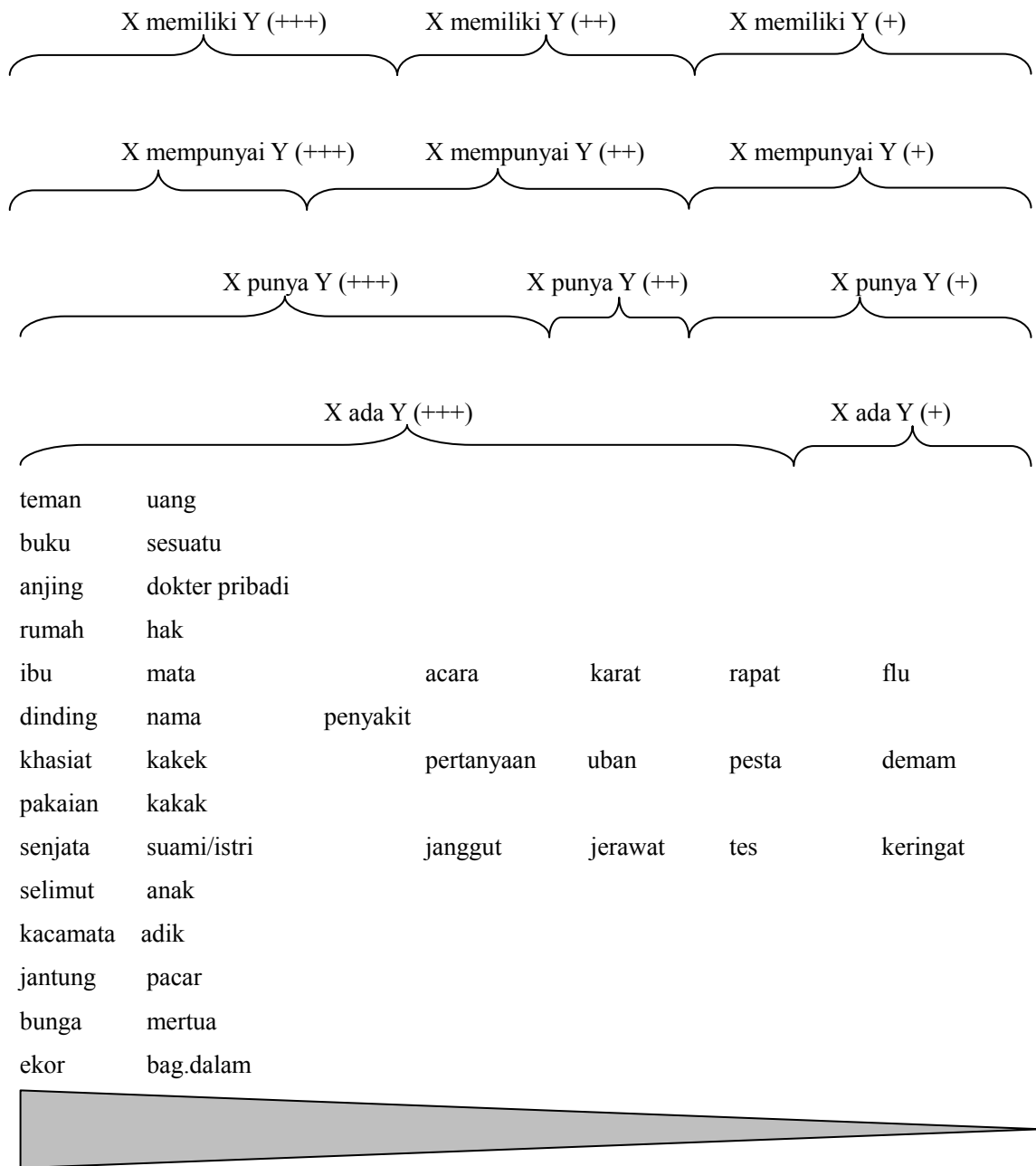


Figure 4. Continuum of possessives in group one (*X memiliki Y*, *X mempunyai Y*, *X punya Y*, *X ada Y*) (+++: very acceptable, ++: acceptable, +: less acceptable)

(not having possessive)

					meaning)
hak				pertanyaan	(pesta)
mata				acara	(teman)
dinding				rapat	(pakaian)
khasiat	nama	ibu	mertua	tes	(kacamata)
karat	penyakit	uang	pacar	demam	(senjata)
uban	jantung	kakek	bag.dalam	flu	(selimut)
jerawat		kakak		buku	(keringat)
janggut		adik		anjing	
ekor		anak		rumah	
bunga				sesuatu	
suami/istri				dokter pribadi	

Figure 5. Continuum of possessives in group two (*X ber- Y*)

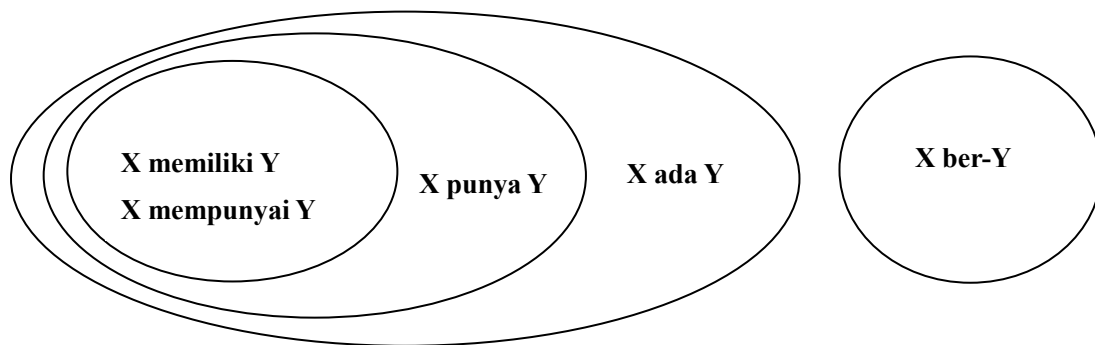


Figure 6. Clustering of *X memiliki Y*, *X mempunyai Y*, *X punya Y*, *X ada Y*, and *X ber-Y* in the first interview

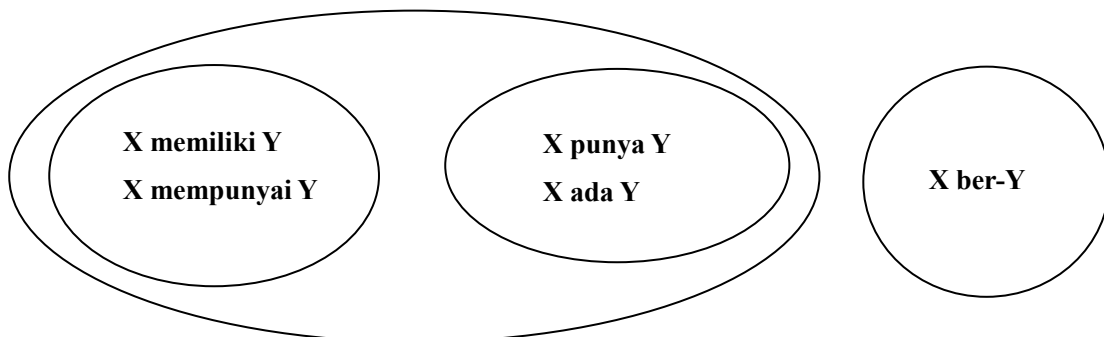


Figure 7. Clustering of *X memiliki Y*, *X mempunyai Y*, *X punya Y*, *X ada Y*, and *X ber-Y* in the second interview

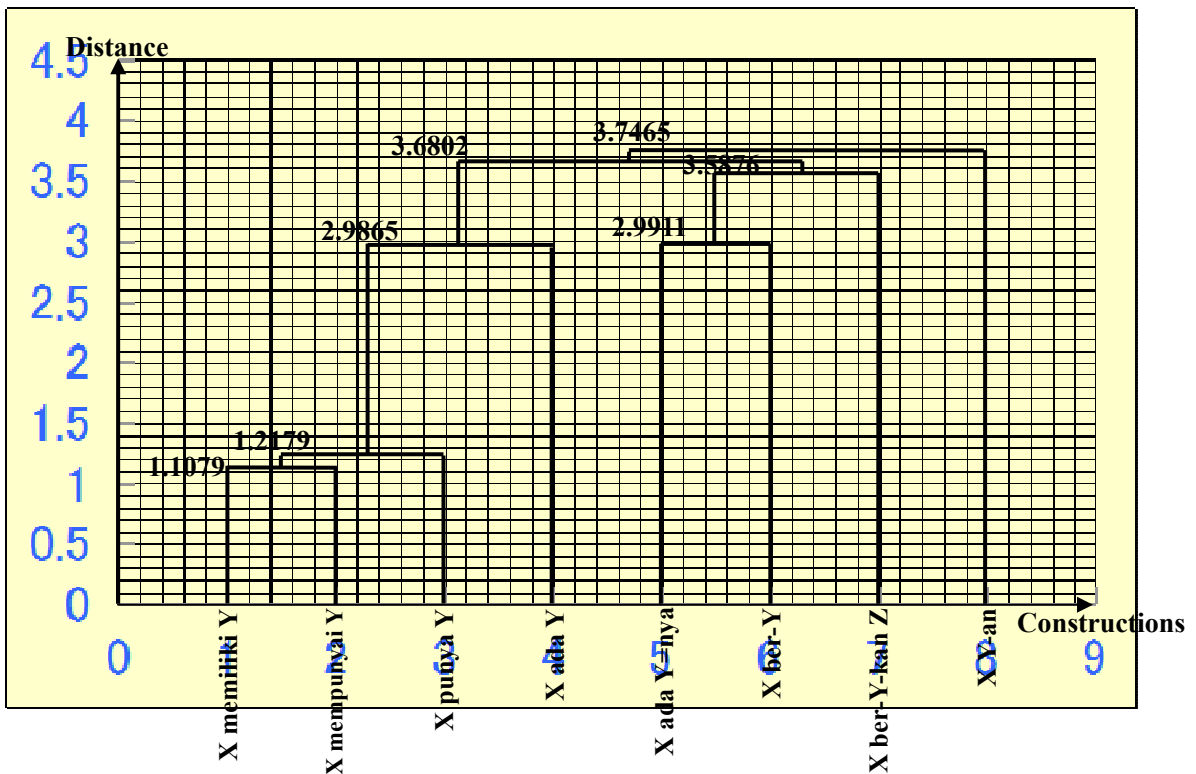


Figure 8. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions for first personal pronoun in the first interview

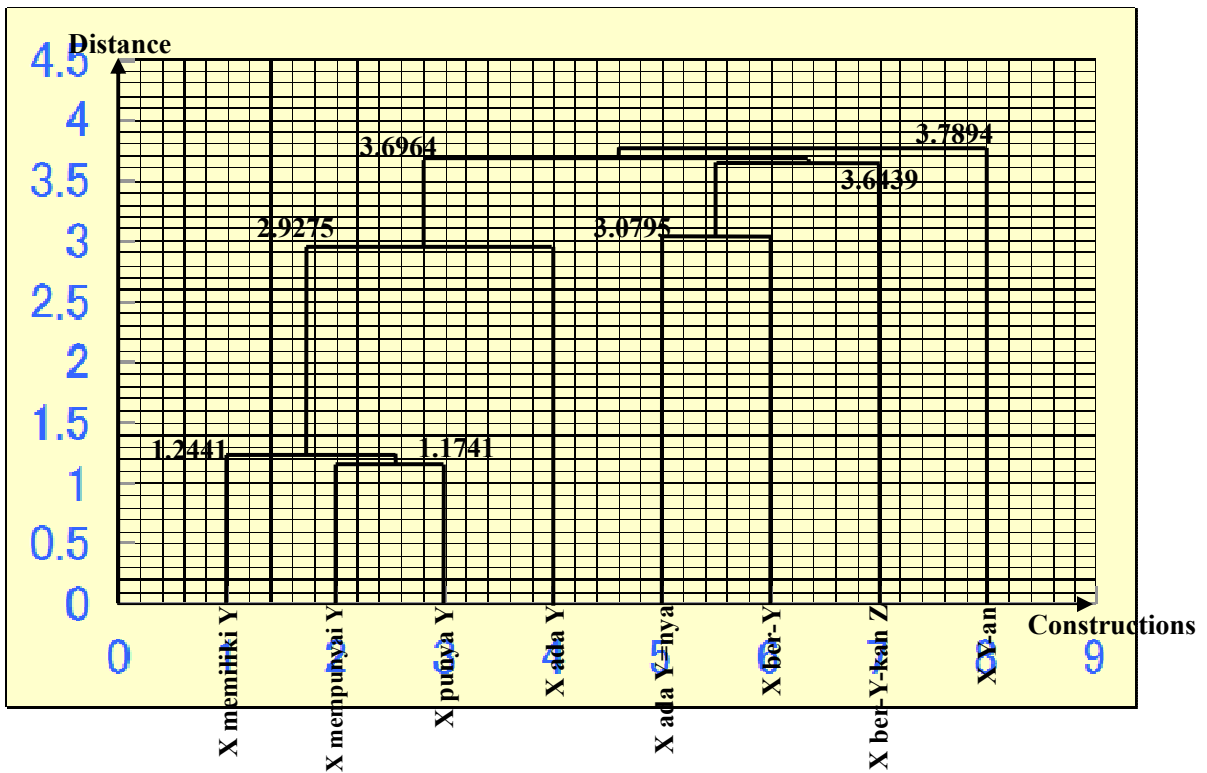


Figure 9. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions for second personal pronoun in the first interview

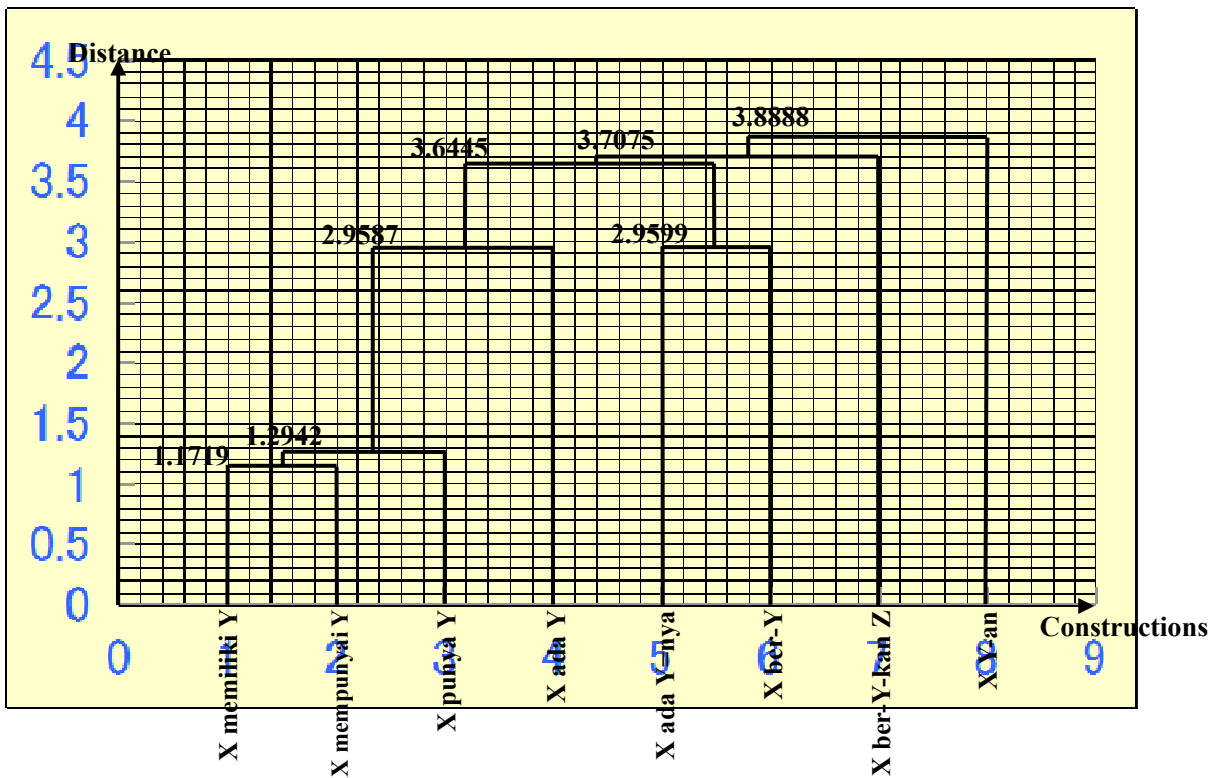


Figure 10. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions for third person pronoun in the first interview

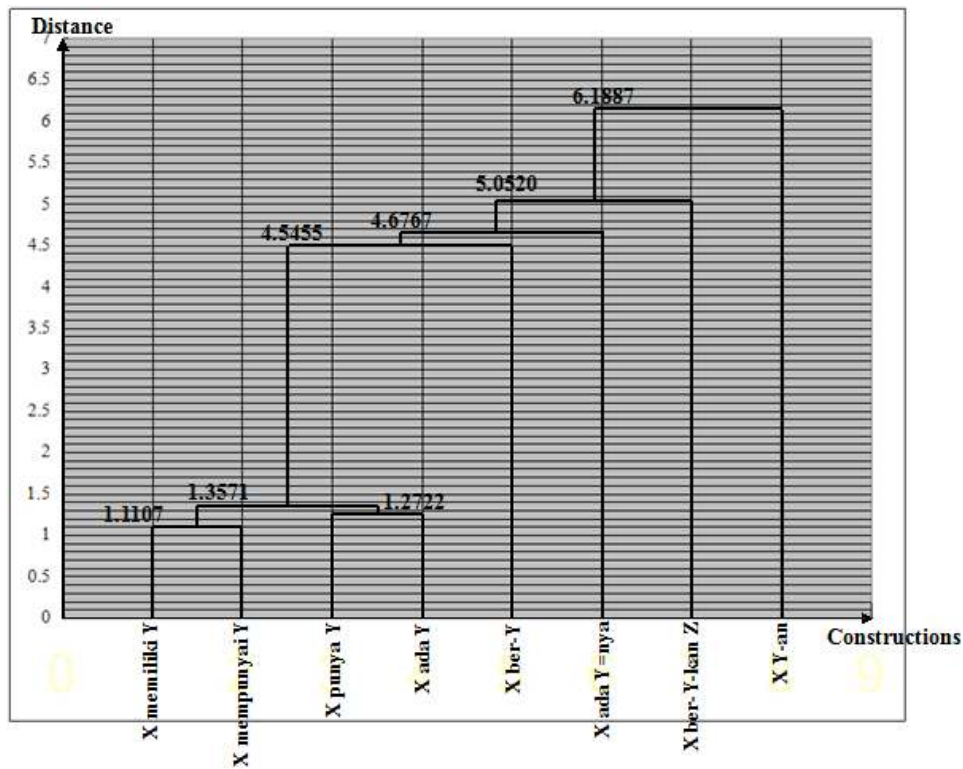


Figure 11. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions for first person pronoun in the second interview

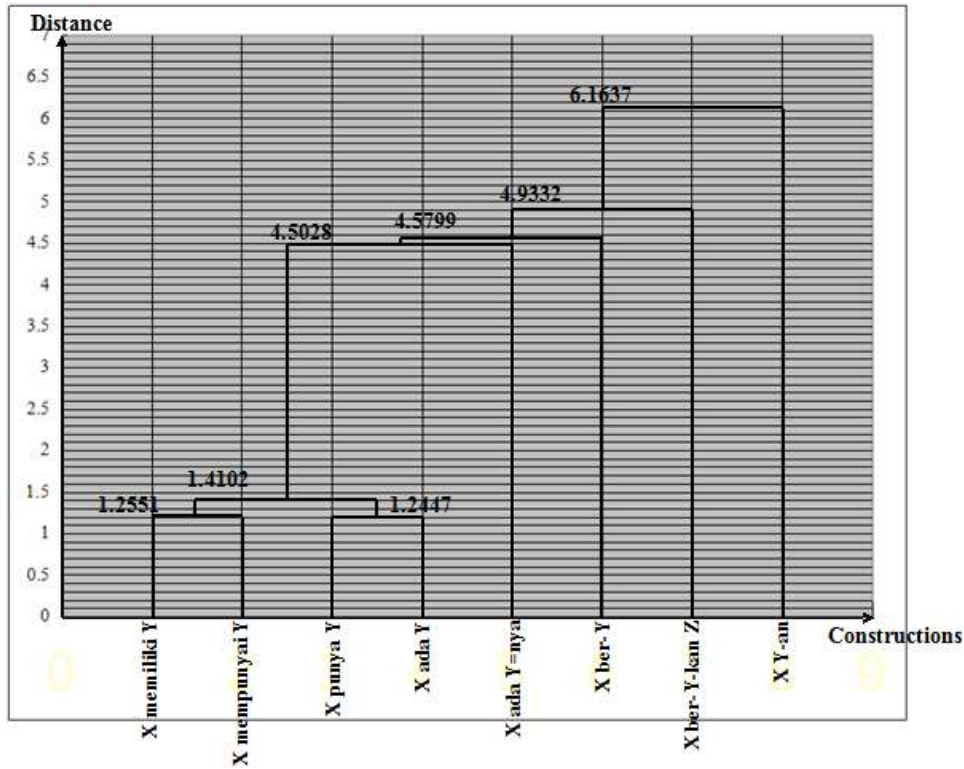


Figure 12. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions for second personal pronoun in the second interview

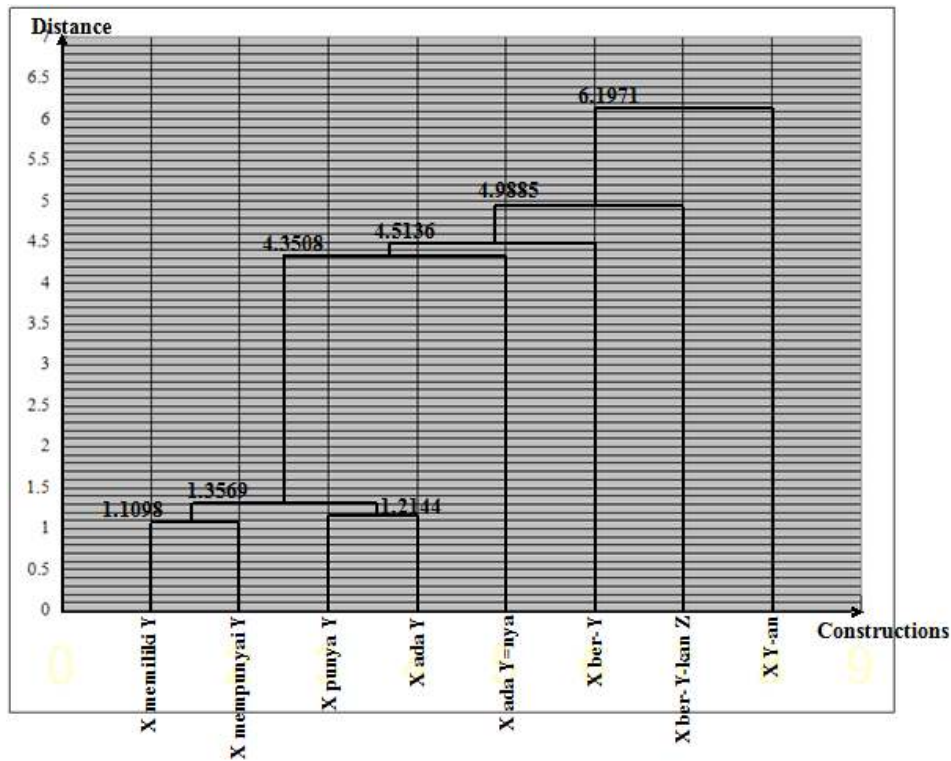


Figure 13. A dendrogram illustrating the clustering of possessive verbal predicate constructions for third person pronoun in the second interview

6. Conclusion

1. *X ada Y=nya*, *X ber-Y-kan Z*, and *X Y-an* cannot be regarded as typical possessive verbal predicate constructions. Thus, only five constructions, i.e. *X memiliki Y*, *X mempunyai Y*, *X punya Y*, *X ada Y*, *X ber-Y*, can be regarded as 'possessives' in Indonesian.
2. One construction, i.e. *X ber-Y*, has a special characteristic and takes different kind of possessee.
3. First, second, and third personal pronouns of possessor do not affect the acceptability of the constructions.

Abbreviations

1, 2, 3 : First, second, and third person	NEG : Negative
APP : Applicative suffix	PERF : Perfective aspect
AV : Actor voice prefix	PL : Plural number
CL : Classifier	REL : Relativizer
COP : Copula	SG : Singular number
DP : Discourse particle	UV : Undergoer voice prefix
EXIST : Existential verb	'=' indicates a clitic boundary
IMP : Imperative	'-' indicates a bound morpheme boundary
LOC : Locative preposition	

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