Ada Sentences in Standard Indonesian

David Moeljadi

Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

The 20th International Symposium on Malay/Indonesian Linguistics (ISMIL 20),
University of Melbourne

15 July 2016
Outline

1. Existential, Locative, Possessive

2. Ada sentences in reference grammars

3. Syntactic and semantic analysis

4. Summary

5. Complex existential sentences
Existential, Locative, Possessive

- There is a book on the table (*Ada buku di meja*)
- The book is on the table (*Bukunya ada di meja*)
- Tom has a book (*Tom ada buku*)
- That book is Tom’s (*Buku itu adalah milik Tom*)

- Systematically related within each language in word-order, in the verbs used, and in their locative nature.
- Definiteness and animacy
  (Clark 1978: 85, Payne 2008)
Three functions of *ada* (Tjung 2003)

1. asserting the existence of an entity (either indefinite or definite) [or an event]
   - $ada + NP_{indef/new}, NP_{def/old} + ada$
   - not synonymous to the *there be*-existential construction
   - similar in its meaning and usage to the construction containing the lexical (unaccusative) verb *exist*
   - contains only the Theme argument
   - the Locative constituent is an adverbial adjunct

2. asserting the location of an entity
   - contains the Theme argument and the Locative argument
   - *ada* is the head of the predicative phrase
   - (the optionality of *ada* is not mentioned)

3. asserting the individual’s possession of an entity
   - contains the Possessor argument and the Theme argument
Four functions of *ada* (Sneddon et al. 2010): 1. Existential

\[(\text{LOC }+)\ (\text{NEG }+)\ \text{ada} + \text{NP} (\text{+ LOC})\]

- usually the NP is indefinite (Alwi et al. 2014: 373) or non-specific (Mintz 2002: 29)
- can be substituted with *terdapat* (Alwi et al. 2014: 374)

(1) a. _Ada orang di kantor._
   **EXIST** person in office
   “There is someone (/there are people) in the office.”
   (Sneddon et al. 2010: 272)

b. _Di Indonesia tidak ada kanguru._
   in Indonesia **NEG** **EXIST** kangaroo
   “In Indonesia there are no kangaroos.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 272)
Four functions of *ada*: 1. Existential?

NP (+ *ada*) + *banyak*

- optional with *banyak* ‘much, many’ (Sneddon et al. 2010: 273)

(2) *Tidak* (*ada*) *banyak mobil di jalan hari ini.*

“There aren’t many cars on the road today.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 273)

- ambiguous:
  1. *Tidak* (*ada*) *banyak mobil di jalan hari ini.*
     “Cars are not many”
  2. *Tidak ada banyak mobil di jalan hari ini.*
     “There are not many cars”
Four functions of ada: 2. Locational?

\[ \text{NP} + (\text{NEG} +) \text{ada} \]

- meaning ‘to be present’, ‘to be there’

(3) a. *Koran itu ada.*
   “The newspaper is there/available.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 273)

b. *Tuhan ada.*
   “God is there./God exists.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)
Four functions of *ada*: 2. Locational

\[ \text{NP} \ ( + \ \text{NEG}) \ ( + \ \text{ada}) \ + \ \text{LOC} \]

- optional (Sneddon et al. 2010: 273, Mintz 2002: 31)
- can be substituted with *berada* (Sneddon et al. 2010: 273)
- the predicate is the \text{LOC} prepositional phrase (Mintz 2002: 31)
- usually the \text{NP} is definite (Alwi et al. 2014: 373) or specific (Mintz 2002: 30)

(4) a. Ayah *(ada) di kantor.*
   father \text{EXIST} in office
   “Father is in the office.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 273)

   b. Ayah *tidak (ada) di kantor.*
   father \text{NEG} \text{EXIST} in office
   “Father is not in the office.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)
Four functions of *ada*: 3. Possessive

\[ \text{NP}_{\text{possessor}} + \text{ada} + \text{NP}_{\text{possessee}} \]

- more common in colloquial style (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)

(5)  

(a) *Abang saya ada tiga anak.*  
1SG elder-brother EXIST EXIST three kid  
“My elder brother has three kids.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)

(b) *Saya tidak ada uang kecil.*  
1SG NEG EXIST money small  
“I don’t have any small change.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)
Four functions of *ada*: 4. Intensifier

\[ \text{NP} + \text{ada} + \text{VP} \]

- cannot be regarded as a verb (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)
- *ada* has high or emphatic (focal) intonation (Hopper 1972: 136)

(6) \textit{lą ada menerima surat itu.}
\begin{tabular}{llllll}
3SG & EXIST & receive & letter & that &
\end{tabular}

“He did receive the letter.” (Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)

- durative aspect - *ada* is spoken with normal or low intonation

(7) \textit{Ishak ada menulis buku.}
\begin{tabular}{llllll}
Ishak & EXIST & write & book &
\end{tabular}

“Ishak is (in the process of) writing a book.” (Hopper 1972: 136)
Optionality of *ada*

1. NP (+ ada) + LOC
2. NP (+ ada) + banyak
3. NP + ada + NP
4. ada + NP, NP + ada

http://delph-in.github.io/delphin-viz/demo/
http://chimpanzee.ling.washington.edu/demophin/indra/
(Moeljadi et al. 2015)
Summary

- **ada** as a predicate (semantically not empty)
  - one argument
    - Existential: **ada** + NP, NP + **ada**
  - two arguments
    - Possessive: NP + **ada** + NP
  - (intensifying)
    - (NP + **ada** + VP)

- **ada** not as a predicate (semantically empty)
  - quantifier? predicate
    - NP (+ **ada**) + QUANT/CARD.NUMBER
  - locative predicate
    - Locative: NP (+ **ada**) + PP
Complex existential sentences

Sentences in which the material surrounding the NP contains a second predicate (Chung 1987)

(8) Ada [orang mencuri ayam].

EXIST person steal chicken

“There is someone stealing a chicken.” (Tjung 2003)

Three competing proposals:

1. NP analysis/the relative clause hypothesis (Jenkins (1975) and Williams (1984) in Tjung (2003), Nomoto (2006))
   ▶ The most plausible hypothesis (Nomoto 2006)

   ▶ island constraints (Nomoto 2006)

   ▶ cannot appear in any syntactic role other than subject
   ▶ cannot co-occur with a classifier …
Complex existential sentences and the second predicate

1. VP predicate (*orang mencuri ayam*)

(9) *Ada orang (yang) mencuri ayam.*

"There is someone stealing a chicken." (based on Tjung 2003)

2. NP predicate (*Zardari anggota parlemen*)

(10) *Ada Zardari (yang) anggota parlemen.*

"There is Zardari who is a parliament member." (based on Sneddon et al. 2010: 297)
Complex existential sentences and the second predicate II

3 AP predicate (seorang raja bijaksana)

(11) Ada seorang raja (yang) bijaksana.

1. “There is a king who is wise.”
2. “There is a wise king.”

4 PP predicate (seseorang (ada) di kelompok ini)

(12) Ada seseorang (yang) di kelompok ini (yang) suka sushi.

1. “There is someone who is in this group who likes sushi.”
2. “There is someone in this group who likes sushi”
3. “There is someone who likes sushi in this group”


References II


