

## Single-Argument Clause in Bahasa Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

A previous study was conducted on types of clauses or sentences in Bahasa Indonesia. This study attempted to focus more on the clauses constructed by a single argument in BI. The data were collected from BI speakers, literature, and the researchers' intuition as BI speakers. Data analysis was implemented using a descriptive method. The results found that BI has several clauses, such as intransitive, antipassive, stative, and passive. However, BI owns no non-stative and split transitive clauses. It can be shown that affixes in BI play a significant role in determining types of construction, particularly in the passive. As one of the agglutinative languages, BI shows its property, in which affixed occurred.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to identify types of single-argument clauses that exist in Bahasa Indonesia (BI) (an Austronesian language (a standardized variety of Malay language), Republic of Indonesia; 43 million native speakers & 156 million L2 speakers. To our knowledge, such identification has yet to occur in exhausted and detailed exploration. The study follows the approach established by [1]-[3]. [2] states that single-argument clauses include intransitive, anti-passive, stative, and passive clauses. [3] established subtypes of intransitive clauses consisting of stative (and non-stative), split transitive, and zero-intransitive clauses. However, BI owns no non-stative and split transitive clauses. As for

zero-intransitive clause, it refers to the zero-argument clause like "it is raining" in English, *il pleut* 'it is raining' in French, *es regnet* 'it is raining' in German, *pluit* 'it is raining' in Latin, *piove* 'it is raining' in Italian, *ilueve* 'it is raining' in Spanish. As BI is an agglutinative language, affixes play a significant role [4]-[7].

This study was conducted to examine the types of clauses in BI. This study focused more on the clauses constructed by a single argument in BI. The study is presented based on its types.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A clause is a combination of two or more words consisting of a subject and a predicate [1]-[3]. Generally, the clause can be added with objects, complements, and

adjuncts. At first glance, the clause is similar to a sentence, but what differentiates clauses from sentences is that clauses are not punctuated and also do not have final intonations. The intonations are question marks, exclamation marks, or even full stops.

### 3. METHODS

The researchers collected the data from the informants of BI speakers. This research was implemented through three stages and their respective methods, namely data collection, data analysis, and data display. The data were collected from BI speakers, literature, and the intuition of the researchers as BI speakers. Data analysis was implemented using a descriptive method. Data display was carried out formally using descriptions of ordinary words.

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After careful identification, all types are found in BI. BI adopted verb-medial (V2) word order for information, specifically subject-verb-object (SVO). The following examples illustrate the basic word order of BI in the simple clause we chose.

- (1) Saya makan nasi.  
1SG eat rice  
'I eat rice.'
- (2) Ibume-masak telur.  
Mother ACT-cook egg  
'Mother cooks an egg.'

A single argument at least consists of a subject function, whether any elements are overt coding properties.

#### 4.1 Intransitive Clause

This construction mainly serves as the fundamental realization of the single-argument clause. It minimally consists of one verb, an intransitive verb [8], [9].

In the context of subject-agent-object (SAO) notions, the term 'subject' plays a pivotal role in the argument for the single-argument construction. This argument is typically followed by several single-valence

verbs, often of the 'bath', 'run', and 'sleep' types.

- (3) Ayah mandi di kamar mandi.  
Father bath in room bath  
'Father takes a bath in the bathroom.'
- (4) Kucing ber-lari ke atap rumah.  
Cat ACT-run to roof house  
'The cat is running to the house roof.'

The arguments of both sentences above are *ayah* and *kucing*. A further distinction has to be made between obligatory and optional arguments. We refer to the obligatory argument as the "true" argument in the study, while the optional argument is oblique. It is an element that completes all the information in the clause.

- (5) Ibu sedang men-[t]unggu anak itu.  
Mother PROG ACT-wait child DEF  
'A mother is waiting for the child.'

#### 4.2 Antipassive Clause

This clause forbids the formation of passive sentences. The construction occurs due to relations between NP and verb. The NP takes the role of the agent. Thus, the occurrence of an argument is suitable for grammatical subjects only. The following examples illustrate the clause.

- (6) Dia haus kekuasaan.  
3SG thirst power  
'(S)he thirsts for power.'
  - (7) Penduduk desa ber-tanam jagung di kebun.  
Resident village ACT-plant  
corn in garden  
'The villagers plant corns in the field.'
- Anak itu ber-nama Didik.

Since the clause forbids passive construction, the relation-changing process to be a passive clause will not be acceptable. In BI, passive construction is marked by the prefix *di-* attached to a verb and the

preposition *oleh* to mark the NP-oblique agent. A test to confirm sentences (5) and (6) cannot be changed into passive construction is illustrated in the following constructions.

- (8) \*Kekuasaan *di-haus oleh*  
dia.  
Power PAS-thirst by 3SG
- (9) \*Jagung *di-tanam oleh* penduduk  
desa di kebun.  
Corn PAS-plant by people  
village in garden

#### 4.3 Stative Clause

A predicate filled by an adjective mark the occurrence of a stative verb. [3] noted that in a language with no distinct adjective word class, the adjective label would be changed by eventitive, process, active, and activity verbs.

In BI, the NP and adjective of the stative clause are connected by a “special verb” [10]. The verb is not a “pure” verb; however, it is connected by copula to connect NP and predicate. We use the term subject complement to refer to the adjective predicate in this study because the elements complete the explanation of the subject. In BI, the copula element does not exist. Instead, it is replaced by the linking verb *adalah*. There are two types of stative clauses in BI, those with linking verb *adalah* and those without it.

- (10) Jawaban mereka (adalah) benar  
Answer POSS.3PL LV correct  
‘Their answer is correct.’
- (11) Hukum karma (adalah) nyata.  
Law karma is real  
‘Karma law is real.’
- (12) Orang-nya baik.  
Person-DEF kind  
‘((S)he) the person is kind.’
- (13) Masa depan mereka cerah.  
Future 3PL bright  
‘Their future is bright.’

In sentences (10) and (11), [1] refers to them as copular clauses. However, he argues that the element followed by the verb is an argument or complement, but not an object. However, since the complements are not part of SVO notions, they are non-argument. Thus, both sentences are considered as single-argument clauses.

#### 4.4 Passive Clause

Universally, passive exists when a grammatical subject is an undergoer, while the previous subject (in active clause) is an agent that acted as oblique. Passive in BI occurs when a verb marked by the prefix *di-* and preposition *oleh* precede the oblique. Since, the oblique is an external element, it is optional in the clause.

- (14) Buku itu *di-ambil (oleh* pemilik-nya).  
Book DEF PAS-take (by owner-POSS.DEF)  
‘The book was taken by its owner.’
- (15) Dewi *di-cari (oleh* saudara-nya).  
Dewi PAS-search (by relative-POSS.DEF)  
‘Dewi was searched by her relative.’

## 5. CONCLUSION

BI is known for types of single-argument clauses. The results found that BI has several clauses, such as intransitive, antipassive, stative, and passive. However, BI owns no non-stative and split transitive clauses. It shows that affixed plays a vital role in determining types of construction, particularly in the passive. As an agglutinative language, BI shows its property, in which affixed occurred. Several types of verbs remark on the existence of single-argument construction. It is also essential to carry out this study to document the language that will impact the availability of materials for language teaching purposes.

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