

TRANSITIVITY IN
CONTEMPORARY BAHASA INDONESIA:
A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL PERSPECTIVE
USING THE VERBAL AFFIX -I AS A TEST CASE.

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CERTIFICATE

I declare that this thesis has not been
submitted for a higher degree to any other
university or institution.

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(.....)

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SUMMARY

Transitivity and the meanings of the verbal affix -i in Bahasa Indonesia have been analysed using various linguistic approaches. The present study uses the systemic functional approach postulated by Halliday (1967, 1968, 1976, 1981, 1985) which demands the description of a language in its own terms: considering linguistic form in terms of what it achieves in its cultural context and delaying any assumptions about grammatical categories.

The systemic functional approach perceives **transitivity** in terms of paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations in the clause, and not the classification of verbs as 'transitive' and 'intransitive'.

Through a transitional stage using English as reference point, the study reveals that there are five types of processes in contemporary Bahasa Indonesia: 'doing', 'sensing', 'being', 'verbalizing' and 'existing'.

From the internal language evidence available, this study reveals that the functional characteristics of the verbal affix -i in the language depend on the type of

- 1) base the affix is attached to
- 2) process the affix occurs in.

Based on the influence of the two factors above, the functions of the affix can be distinguished into **unifying** and **specific** functions, the first of which is **not** influenced whereas the latter is. The unifying functions are as a 'dispositive marker' and an 'internal causative marker' whereas the specific functions are as a

- Process former,
- intensified Process marker,
- Goal is location of action indicator,
- repetitive Process marker,
- addition of base to Goal indicator,
- deletion of base to Goal indicator, and
- temporal/spatial relationship between Actor and Goal indicator.

Using the description of the functions of the verbal affix -i to revisit the proposed model of transitivity system of contemporary Bahasa Indonesia this study argues that the understanding of the functions of the verbal affix -i cannot be excluded from the interpretation of the system of transitivity of contemporary Bahasa Indonesia.

TERMINOLOGY AND SYMBOLS USED

The symbols and abbreviations used throughout this study are:

V	=	verbal
N	=	nominal
Adj	=	adjectival
Adv	=	adverbial
part.	=	participant
dir.	=	direction
↘	=	realized by
v	=	applicable
-	=	not applicable
CBI = Contemporary Bahasa Indonesia		

The standard Bahasa Indonesia orthography is used (Kep. Menteri P&K RI No. 0196/U/1975) in this thesis. Conventions include c and j for palatal stops/affricates. Furthermore, e has two values: /ə/ and /e/.

Some morphophonological changes worth mentioning in this study are those involving the affixations me- and ber-. Throughout the study, the first is referred to as me- with the understanding that its allomorphs are:

{men-} if the base starts with /t/, /d/;
{meɲ-} if the base starts with /s/;
{mem-} if the base starts with /p/, /b/ or /f/;
{meŋ-} if the base starts with /k/ or /g/;
otherwise it is {me-}.

The second affixation, ber-, has the following allomorphs:

{be-} if the base is a closed syllable of which the vowel is /ə/;
{bel} if the base is a verb starting with a vowel;
otherwise it is {ber-}.

The morphophonological changes to the affix me- usually involve some changes to the base initial consonant as well.

base initial consonant	form of prefix	example
t	{men-} with loss of t	tarik -> menarik
d	{men-} without loss of d	dorong -> mendorong
s	{men-} with loss of s	siram -> menyiram
p	{mem-} with loss of p	pahat -> memahat
b	{mem-} without loss of b	buka -> membuka
f	{mem-} without loss of f	fitnah -> memfitnah
k	{meng-} with loss of k	karang -> mengarang
g	{meng-} without loss of g	goreng -> menggoreng

In this study there is a distinction between 'process' and 'Process' in that the second is a functional label of an internal element of a clause. The clause can be of any process type. Take the following material process, for example:

Ali	makan	pisang.
Actor	Process	Goal
Ali	eat	banana
'Ali ate banana.'		

of which makan is the Process of the material process Ali
makan pisang.