

The Syntactic and Pragmatic Roles of Sundanese Particles
teh and *mah* in Spoken Corpus
Syarifuddin, Eri Kurniawan

UPI

This study explores the syntactic and pragmatic roles of *teh* and *mah* in spoken corpus. The objectives of this study are to discover the co-occurrence patterns between *teh* and *mah* and to examine the syntactic and pragmatic status of *teh* and *mah* by observing their co-occurrences. Data come from four audio recordings of four Sundanese native speaking participants in different contexts of situation and theme. Findings reveal that *teh* and *mah* have similar syntactical distributions. They both mark the same phrasal categories, namely noun phrases, prepositional phrases, and adverbial phrases. Moreover, they also mark similar clausal categories, namely adjective clauses, noun clauses, and adverbial clauses. However, these two particles diverge in relation to auxiliary and conjunction. That is, only *mah* can appear in such circumstances. This study is in support of Hermawan's (2012) claim that *mah* and *teh* generally share the same pragmatic function, i.e. marking old information, thus topical markers. *Mah* differs from *teh* in that only the former carries contrastive topical piece of information. The findings of this study contrast with Gotama's (1994) and Kurniawan's (2013) claim that while *teh* is a topic marker, *mah* is a focus marker, the function of which is to mark new information. Moreover, the findings indicate that the distribution of *teh* and *mah* in written or spoken corpus is generally same.

Keywords: *teh*, *mah*, syntactic distribution, pragmatic function