

On Syntactical Paradigm of Causative Constructions in Melayu Papua

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Abstract

Melayu Papua is a term used here to designate a variety of Melayu spoken by people in the western part of New Guinea Island, occupied by Indonesia. It is a Melayu variety, which has a less attention than other nonstandard varieties throughout Indonesia. As most Melayu varieties, Melayu Papua typologically takes subject-verb-object word order with, more or less, isolating construction in its structure as in *sa mo makan nasi* 'I want to eat some rice'; whereas Melayu Papua also applies model of simple declarative clauses as in *de makan nasi* 'he/she eats some rice' or *dong pukul sa* 'they hit me'.

One common phenomenon in the Melayu Papua grammar is to construct causatives. The causative constructions generally represent a linguistic expression which denotes a complex macro-situation consisting of two micro-situations or component events (Song 2001). Such an idea indicates two components which are 1) the causing event in which the causer does or initiates something in order to bring about a different event (i.e. the caused event), and 2) the caused event in which the causee carries out an action or undergoes a change of condition or state as a result of the causer's action. To strategize causatives in Melayu Papua, two verbs play their roles structurally and semantically as the causing event: *kasi* 'to give' and *bikin* 'to make'. Semantically, the word *kasi* 'to give' is a bitransitive verb with a benefactive action as in *sa kasi ko buku* 'I give you (a/some) book(s)'; while the word *bikin* 'to make' is also a transitive/bitransitive verb, which needs a direct object/two objects such as in *tong bikin kue* 'we make a cake' or *dong bikin kue untuk kam* 'they make you a cake'.

Configuring causative constructions, serial verbs constructions with the causing verb *kasi* 'to give' and *bikin* 'to make' function to describe a causer's action and the causee's action by the predicate of effect (Song, 2001) are used. These two verbs – the causer's action and the causee's action happen to be separate lexical verbs.

- 1) *sa kasi ko jatu*
I give(CAUS) you fall
'I cause you to fall'
- 2) *sa kasi jatu ko*
I give(CAUS) fall you
'I cause you to fall'
- 3) *kam bikin sa me-nangis*
2p make(CAUS) 1s ACT-cry
'you(pl) make me cry'

Syntactically, the causative verb *kasi* 'to give' takes two possible structures as in 1 and 2; while the causative verb *bikin* 'to make' takes only one structure as in 3.

To sum up our talk, causative constructions in Melayu Papua is basically a syntactical strategy in which serial verb constructions are used when two verbs *kasi* 'to give' and *bikin* 'to make' act as the causer's action and the second verb indicates the causee's action. Both causative verbs have the same semantic/pragmatic use but they have a variation in syntactic structures.

References:

Kroeger, P. R. 2004. *Analyzing Syntax: A lexical-functional Approach*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.

Song, J. J. 2001. *Linguistic Typology. Morphology and Syntax*. Pearson Education Limited. Essex.