

“*Terhadap* and its Collocation with *Perlindungan*”

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The meaning and syntactic distribution of *terhadap*, as it is used in contemporary Indonesian, was not found in older Malay texts. The preposition conveys several meanings: ‘to’, ‘towards’, ‘with respect to’, ‘against’. It has been used abundantly across different lexical categories (*peduli terhadap* ‘care for’, *pengaruh terhadap* ‘influence toward’, *melindungi* [NP] *terhadap* ‘protect from/against’) and outstandingly cooccurs with English loanwords (like *akses*, *kompromi*, *kontribusi*). It is tempting to find out whether or not *terhadap* was used in the Indonesian of 1920s and whether the productive use was triggered by the English influx starting to rapidly permeate into Indonesian since the end of the 1960s. The present paper is an attempt to describe the syntactic distribution of *terhadap* when cooccurring with *perlindungan*, whose verbal base is of three-argument structure: “protect NP₁ from NP₂”, NP₁ being Patient and NP₂ Source, with Agent NP to the left of the verb. *Perlindungan* may have either a single argument or two arguments to follow. The question is why is it that the single argument (marked with *terhadap*) may either be a Patient NP as in *perlindungan terhadap anak* [protect-children] or with a Source NP (as in *perlindungan terhadap sinar matahari* [protect from sun ray]. Parallel to that construction, when two arguments follow, *terhadap* may either mark the Patient NP (as in *perlindungan negara terhadap anak* [country-protect-children]) or the Source NP (as in *perlindungan bangunan terhadap rayap* [protect-building-from ...]), with the unmarked NP of the former construction (*negara* ‘country’) being Agent, while the one of the latter (*bangunan* ‘building’) Patient.