

Verb + -e and Verb + -□o Constructions in Jambi Malay:
What are they?

In Jambi Malay, phrases that contain verb + -e or verb + -□o followed by an argument are found in positions typically occupied by noun phrases, as exemplified below.

- (1) a. dataŋ-e budi m^buat kami mara
come- -3 Budi ACT-make 1 angry
'The coming of Budi made us angry.'
- b. dijual-e motor-tu la aku dŋar
PASS-sell-3 motorcycle-DEM.DIST PFCT 1 hear
'The selling of the motorcycle has been heard by me.'
- c. kami la dŋar kabar tntaŋ jatu-□o presiden-tu
1 PFCT hear news about fall-3 president-DEM.DIST
'We have heard the news about the falling of the president.'

In (1a) and (1b), the constructions *dataŋ-e budi* 'the coming of Budi' and *dijual-e motor-tu* 'the selling of the motorcycle', respectively, fill the subject position and in (1c), the construction *jatu-□o presiden-tu* 'the falling of the president' serves as the complement of the preposition *tntaŋ* 'about'.

Although the phrases containing verb + -e or verb + -□o followed by an argument in (1) occupy the same positions as typical noun phrases, they also exhibit a pattern quite different from typical noun phrases. For example, they cannot be modified by numerals and classifiers (see Yanti, 2010).

- (2) Typical noun phrase modified by numeral (+ classifier)

- a. duo eko□ ayam
two CLF chicken
'two chickens'
- b. duo motor
two motorcycle
'two motorcycles'

- (3) Verb + -e

- *duo (eko□) dataŋ-e budi m^buat kami mara
2 CLF come-3 Budi ACT-make 1 angry
'Two comings of Budi made us angry.'

This paper describes the properties of verb + -e and verb + -□o phrases, and proposes an analysis to explain these facts.