

Pragmatic meanings of Pair-Verb Constructions in Kupang Malay

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In this abstract, I would explain the pragmatic meanings of Pair-Verb Constructions (PVC) that appear in Kupang Malay. There are two kinds of PVCs, the first construction consists of **verb+deng+verb**, and the second one is **verb+pung+verb**. The verbs in these constructions MUST be in pair, and both constructions act as adverbial clause in the sentence. The first construction of PVC is inserted with *deng* 'with' which makes the meaning of the sentence as an immediate action done by the same subject in this adverbial clause (omitted) and in the subordinate clause, as in:

Bapatua pulang ruma. Datang deng datang, ju dia mandi memang.
Father come home Come with come then father take.shower straight

“Father came home. As soon as he arrived, he immediately took shower.”

The second construction of PVC is inserted with *pung* 'belong' and the whole sentence means that the subject who experiences it has to do something more intensive than before. The finding is not as one expected before or not as one imagined before, such as in this example below:

Beta kira ke itu kucing dari jao. Lia pung lia, te itu harimau.
1SG think like that cat from far Look belong look but that tiger

“I thought it was a cat. However, after I looked at it intensively, it was a tiger.”

In conclusion, PVC in Kupang Malay with *deng* expresses the same subject for both clauses., while PVC with *pung* expresses different experiencee or object.

Key words: pair-verb, construction, pragmatic meanings