

SCALE AND MODIFICATION IN INDONESIAN

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses degree modification involving scales related to several linguistic categories in Indonesian syntax. This scale of modification is applied to the concepts associated with quantity words, adverbial phrases, adjectival phrases, verb phrases, and noun phrases. The paper identifies that *banyak* 'many' and *sedikit* 'few' are the only quantity words in Bahasa Indonesia that can be modified by almost all of the degree words. Adverbial phrases modify adjective phrases (like *lebih* 'more' and *sangat* 'very') and verb phrases (such as *sering* 'frequently' and *pelan-pelan* 'softly, slowly, gently') using particular degree words. In adjectival structures, monomorphemic and polymorphemic adjectives fit in very nicely with degree words. In the comparative clauses, the three basic constructions have been discussed, i.e., equative, comparative, and superlative constructions. Each construction has its own rule. In addition to this discussion, result clauses and the rule of constructing them are also presented briefly. Finally, the discussions were devoted to identifying and examining degree modification in verb and noun phrases.

Keywords: *scale, degree modification, syntax, Indonesian*

1. Introduction

This paper attempts to examine degree modification in Bahasa Indonesia. This kind of modification, according to Baker (1989: 313), involves the concepts of "scales" related to some linguistic categories, i.e. adverbial phrases like *softly* and *beautifully*, adjectival phrases such as *smart* and *long*, quantity words like *much* and *many*, verb phrases like *love* and *admire* and noun phrases such as *fool* and *players*. In Bahasa Indonesia, this degree modification can also be applied to the concepts associated with

- a. adverbial phrases like in *mati-matian* 'whole-heartedly' --> *begitu mati-matian* '(so) whole-heartedly' and *hati-hati* 'carefully' --> *hati-hati sekali* 'very carefully';
- b. adjective phrases such as *cerdik* 'clever' --> *cukup cerdas* 'clever enough' and *cantik* 'pretty' --> *tidak terlalu cantik* 'not too pretty';
- c. quantity concepts like *sedikit* 'few' --> *cukup sedikit* 'few enough?' and *banyak* 'many' --> *kurang begitu banyak* '(less) so many?';
- d. verb phrases like *menertawakan* 'to laugh at' --> *agak menertawakan* '(rather) to laugh at?' and *mencemaskan* 'to worry about' --> *lumayan mencemaskan* 'to worry about (enough)?'; and
- e. noun phrases such as *kesempatan* 'opportunity' --> *begitu banyak kesempatan* 'so many opportunities' and *orang* 'people' --> *tidak cukup orang* 'not enough (many) people'.

As we can see from the above examples, some of the concepts of degree modification in Bahasa Indonesia are almost as same as those in English. However, some

of Indonesian structures are quite unique. Take for example the degree modification for the word *sedikit* as illustrated in the following sentence:

- (1) [Sedikit] orang yang datang ke pesta itu.
 few people that come to party the
 'Few people were present at the party'

For the word [sedikit] we can use various degree words to show which one is fewer than the other, for instance, in the following sentence:

- (2) [Sangat sedikit sekali]¹
 very few very
 [Sedikit sekali]
 few very
 [Sangat sedikit]
 very few
 [Begitu sedikit]
 so few
 [Lumayan sedikit] orang yang datang ke pesta itu.
 enough few
 [Agak sedikit]
 rather few
 [Cukup sedikit]
 enough few
 [Tidak terlalu sedikit]
 not too few
 [Tidak sedikit]
 not few

If we are expecting that fifty people will be present at the party, the following chart may help to estimate the number of the people:

(3) Scale for <i>sedikit</i>	Number of people
sangat sedikit sekali	5
sedikit sekali	10
sangat sedikit	15
begitu sedikit	20
lumayan sedikit	25
agak sedikit	30
cukup sedikit	35
tidak terlalu sedikit	40

¹Some native speakers will consider it as 'redundant'. However, I will consider *sangat sedikit sekali* is fewer than *sangat sedikit* and *sedikit sekali*. In real life, in the point of fact, some people use it.

This estimation is of course very relative; however, the idea that the word *sedikit* has a "scale" is obvious. Even though the word *sekali* and *sangat* have the same meaning ('very'), there is a subtle difference between the two, especially when they are used in spoken Bahasa Indonesia; and -- as seen from the above chart -- I will consider *sekali* as higher than *sangat*. We will continue this discussion on degree words on the next section.

First of all, the discussion will be focussed on the identification of several groups of degree words in Bahasa Indonesia, i.e., degree words in adverbial phrases, degree words in adjectival phrases, degree words in verb phrases, degree words in noun phrases, and degree words in clauses and then followed by the discussion on the basic structures of degree modification. The next is the the syntax of degree modification in Bahasa Indonesia and the analysis of degree modification associated with adverbial phrases, adjectival phrases, verbal phrases, noun phrases, and degree modification in clauses, i.e., in result clause and comparative clause (equative construction, comparative construction, superlative construction). And, finally, a brief conclusion will be presented.

2. Degree words in Bahasa Indonesia

Quite interestingly, the idea of degree words (and of course degree modification) in Bahasa Indonesia linguistic is something new. Not a single linguist has ever done an analysis on this very important aspect of Bahasa Indonesia grammar. The Tata bahasa baku Bahasa Indonesia 'The Standard grammar of Bahasa Indonesia' edited by Moeliono (1988) does not mention this concept at all. Samsuri (1985: 87-88), on the other hand, categorized the degree words *sekali*, *nian*, and *benar* as "*kata sarana sangatan*" meaning the words for describing the concept of "very" and *sangat*, *lebih*, *kurang*, *terlalu*, and *paling* as "*kata sarana tingkatan*" meaning the words for describing degree, level, or rank without analysing any further.

In Bahasa Indonesia, the words *sangat*, *amat*, *sekali*, *nian*, *benar* 'very', *sejati*, *demikian*, *begitu* 'so', *cukup*, *lumayan* 'enough', *agak* 'rather', and *luar biasa* 'extraordinary' can be categorized as degree words modifying adverbs, adjectives, verbs, nouns, and quantity words. It is possible also to combine *sangat* with *sekali*, *amat* with *sangat* and *agak* with *lumayan* to form other degree concepts, for example in the following:

- (4) a. [sangat penting sekali]
very important very
'very very important'
- b. [amat sangat kaya]
very very rich
'very very rich'
- c. [agak lumayan baik]
rather enough good
'quite good'

Please notice that other combinations are not possible in Bahasa Indonesia, e.g.

- (5) a. *sangat penting nian
b. *amat penting benar
c. *demikian penting sekali

- d. *begitu cukup penting
- e. *luar biasa agak penting
- f. *sungguh lumayan penting

These degree words and the combinations of them then form a relative "scales", like in the following concepts of "length":

- (6) a. luar biasa panjang
- b. sangat panjang sekali
- c. panjang sekali
- d. sangat panjang
- e. panjang
- f. cukup panjang
- g. agak panjang
- h. tidak terlalu panjang
- i. tidak panjang

If we consider that twenty meter-long spaghetti is *panjang*, we might expect that twenty five meter is *sangat panjang*, thirty meter is *panjang sekali*, thirty five meter is *sangat panjang sekali*, and forty meter is *luar biasa panjang*. Fifteen meter can be considered as *cukup panjang*, ten meter as *agak panjang*, five meter as *tidak terlalu panjang*, and one meter as *tidak panjang*. But, again, this measurement is very relative depending upon the notion, opinion, or perception of the observer. The example is done simply to make a clear picture that there is a scale is the above concept.

Even though *sangat* and *sekali* have the same meaning ("very"), I will consider that *sekali* is a slightly higher than *sangat*. It is due to the fact that in spoken Indonesia, if you want to express something that is very very long, you simply lengthen your pronunciation in the second syllable, e.g., in the following sentence :

- (7) Antriannya (panjaaaaaang sekali)
- The line is very very long

In contrast to *sangat panjang*, you can not say for instance.

- (8) * Antriannya (sangat panjaaaang)

or

- (9) * Antriannya (sangaaaaat panjang)

From the above evidence, it is obvious that *sekali* is higher than *sangat* in its scale.

In talking about degree of comparison, Indonesia also recognizes different kinds of degree words like *terlalu* 'too', *lebih* 'more', *sedikit lebih* 'a slightly more', *sama-sama* 'same', *sedikit kurang* 'slighth less', *kurang* 'less', and *tidak terlalu* 'not too' in combination with *daripada* 'than', *dibandingkan dengan* 'compare from', *ketimbang*² 'than', and -- especially in Sundanese dialect -- *tinimbang* 'than'. This kinds of degree words will be discussed in depth in the next section or comparative and result clauses. The next is the discussion on some basic structures of degree modification.

3. Basic Structures

²In certain dialect, especially Betawian



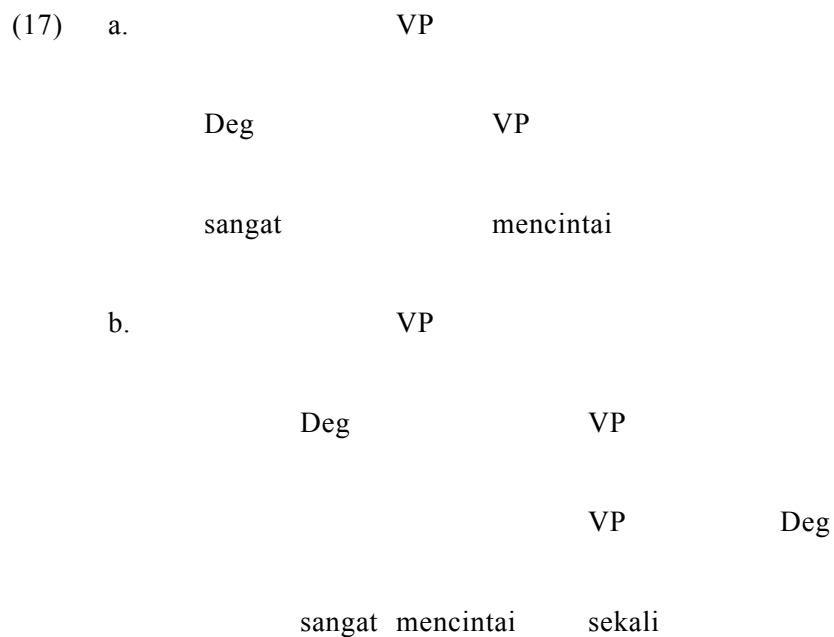
The exactly same structures might also be applied to adjectival constructions such as for the word *cantik* 'beautiful'

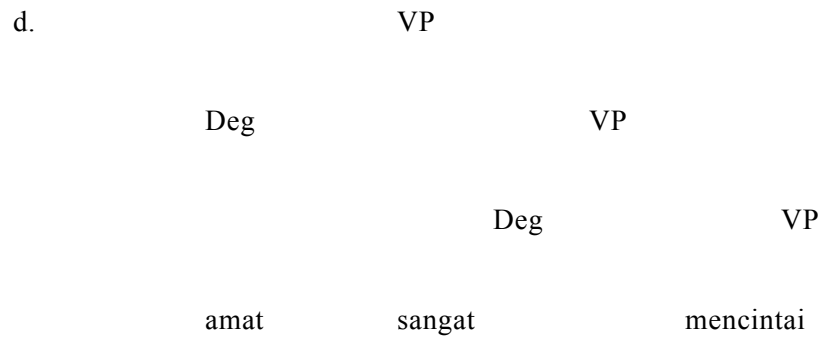
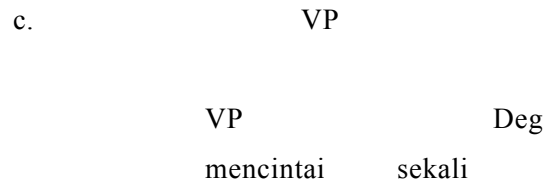
- (15) a. sangat cantik
 b. cantik nian
 c. sangat cantik sekali
 d. Agak lumayan cantik

and adverbial constructions like is the word *hati-hati* 'carefully'

- (16) a. sangat hati-hati
 b. hati-hati sekali
 c. sangat hati-hati sekali
 d. amat sangat hati-hati

For the verb phrase structures, for example for the words *mencintai* 'love' and *membaca* 'read' we can draw structures and even add the quant diagrams i.e.

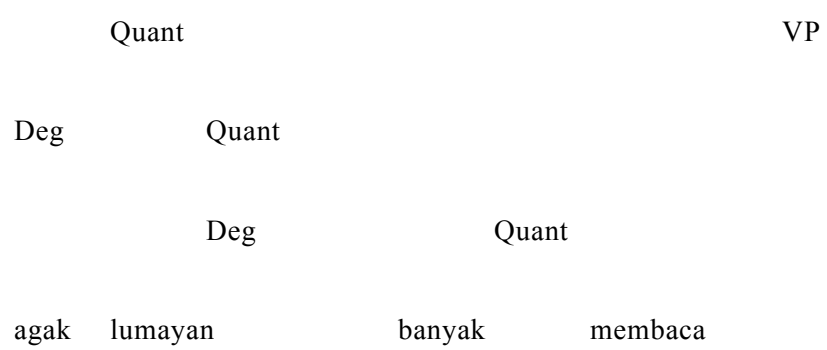




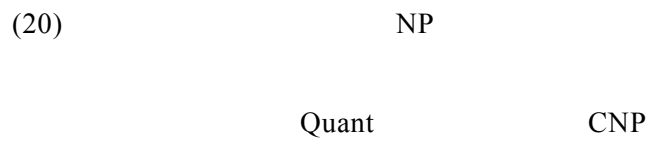
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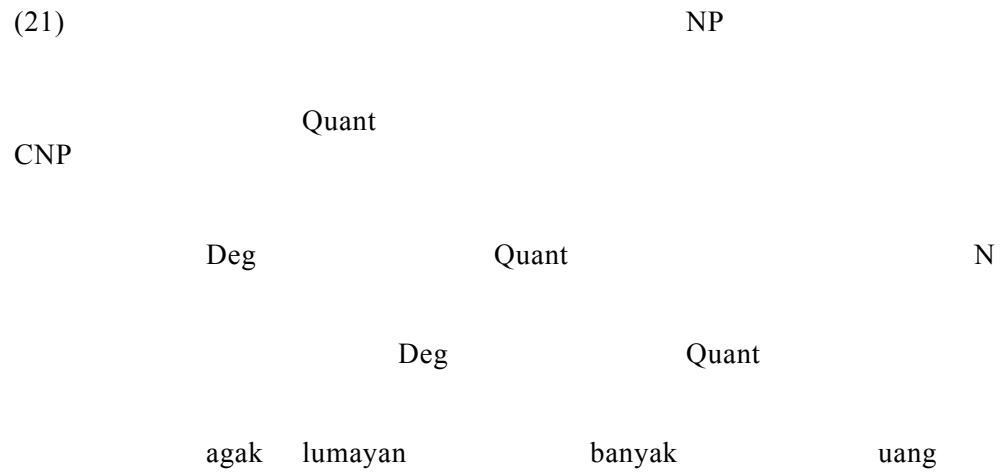
for example in



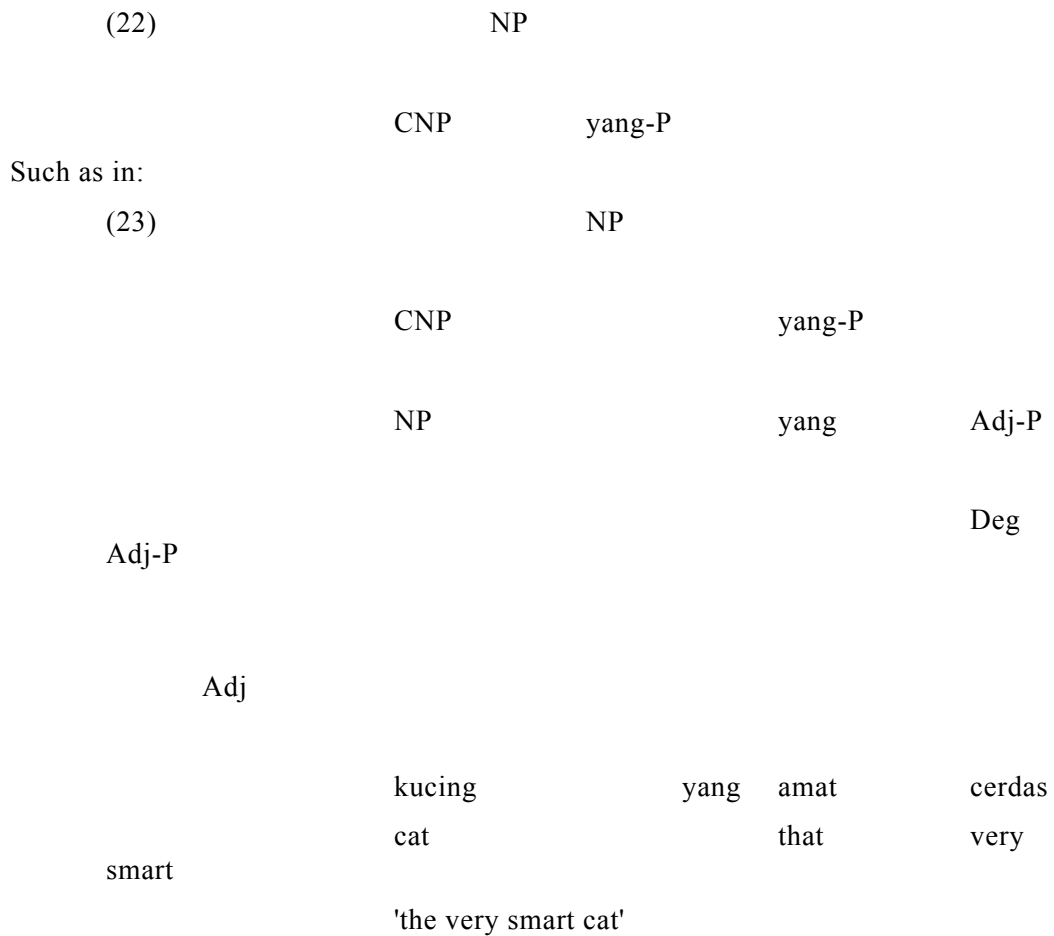
And finally for constructing the noun phrase structures, we can either make this diagram:



Such as for the word *uang* 'money'



or add the *yang*-Phrase which contains the adjective phrase to form:



And then by combining (20) and (22) we can construct the following structure



			Quant			CNP	
						CNP	Yang-P
for example in							
(25)					NP		
			Quant			CNP	
	Deg		quant	CNP		Yang-P	
	Deg	quant		NP		yang	adj-P
deg	Adj						
	agak	lumayan	banyak	kucing	yang	amat	cerdas

4. Degree modification of quantity words

Banyak 'many' and *sedikit* 'few' are the only quantity words in Bahasa Indonesia that can be modified by almost all the degree words, such as in :

- (26) a. John membeli [banyak sekali apel yang busuk]
 John to buy many very apples that rotten
 'John bought very many rotten apples'
- b. Jill mempunyai [agak lumayan sedikit uang tembaga]
 Jill have rather enough few money copper
 'Jill has (rather) few (enough) copper coins'
- c. Jean harus [banyak sekali membaca] koran
 Jean have to many very read newspaper
 'Jean has to read the newspaper so many times'
- d. Jim [agak sedikit memberikan] perhatian kepada masalah-masalah kemiskinan
 Jim rather few give attention to problems poverty
 'Jim didn't pay too much attention on the problems of poverty'

As we can see from the above example, the quantity phrases *banyak sekali* and *agak lumayan banyak* in the first two sentences modify noun phrases [apel yang busuk] and [uang tembaga] respectively; while in the last two sentences, the quantity phrases *banyak sekali* and *agak sedikit* modify verb phrases [membaca] and [memberikan] respectively.

Interestingly, while we can move the quantity phrase in the first two sentences to the end of the sentences without changing the meaning, we can not do the same thing to the last two quantity phrases. So, (26.a) and (26.b) will have the same meaning as the following.

- (27) a. John membeli [apel yang busuk banyak sekali]
 b. Jill mempunyai [uang tembaga agak lumayan sedikit]

If we put the quantity phrases in (26.c) and (26.d) at the end of the sentences, these quantity phrases will not anymore modify phrases [membaca] and [memberikan] respectively but rather they will modify noun phrases [koran] and [perhatian], and of course, the meaning of the two sentences will change. The following sentences have the same structures as those in (27):

- (28) c. ?Jean harus [membaca koran banyak sekali]
 d. ?Jim [memberikan perhatian agak sedikit]

These sentences, in fact, can be changed into:

- (29) c. ?Jean harus [membaca banyak sekali koran]
 d. ?Jim [memberikan agak sedikit perhatian]

As we see from the above structures, we can summarize that quantity words *banyak* and *sedikit* can be modified by almost all of the degree words which then form quantity phrases. These quantity phrases can modify either verbs phrases or noun phrases but they never occur in the same sentence; e.g.:

- (30) a. *Jean harus [agak banyak membaca] [banyak sekali koran]
 b. *Jim [cukup sedikit memberikan] [agak banyak perhatian]

5. Degree modification in adverbial structures

Adverbial phrases in Bahasa Indonesia can modify :

- sentences e.g. *sebenarnya* 'in fact' and *sesungguhnya* 'actually'
- predicate noun phrases such as *hanya* 'only' and *bukan* 'not';
- adjective phrases like *lebih* 'more' and *sangat* 'very', and
- verb phrases like *sering* 'frequently' and *pelan-pelan* 'softly'

In relation to degree words in adverbial structure, only the last two types of adverbs can be modified by degree words, for example:

- (31) a. [agak lebih tua]
 rather more old
 'rather older'
 b. [amat sangat padat]
 very very condensed
 'very very condensed'
 c. [agak lumayan cantik]
 rather enough beautiful

'(rather) beautiful enough'

It is clear from the above adjective phrases that only degree words *agak* dan *amat* can modify adverbs *lebih*, *sangat* and *lumayan*, and that the combinations of those adverbs are fixed. We can not change the order or find another one; e.g.

- (32) a. *amat lebih tua
b. *agak sangat padat
c. *amat lumayan cantik

A very limited number of adverbs which modify verb phrases can also be modified by degree words. These adverbs include words like *hati-hati* 'carefully', *pelan-pelan* 'gently', 'softly', *mati-matian* 'whole-heartedly', *sering* 'frequently', *jarang* 'rare', *besar-besaran* 'largish', 'on a large scale', *kecil-kecilan* 'on a small scale', and the like. The following are the examples of this type of degree modification:

- (33) a. [sangat hati-hati] ia membuka pintu
very carefully he open door
'He opened the door very carefully'
- b. [pelan-pelan sekali] Jean berbicara
softly very Jean speak
'Jean spoke very softly'
- c. Kendaraan ini [agak sering] mogok
Car this rather frequently broken
'This car is broken very (rather) frequently'
- d. Jane [sangat jarang] mengunjungi kebun binatang
Jane very rare visit zoo
'Jane (very) rarely visited the zoo'
- e. Perkawinan itu dirayakan secara [agak besar-besaran]
Mariage the celebrated by rather largish
'The mariage was celebrated in a rather larger scale'

Other adverb phrases from the same type can be modified by degree words, e.g. for the words *hampir* 'nearly', *hampir tidak* 'hardly', *selalu* 'always', *pernah* 'ever', and *secepat mungkin* 'as fast as possible'

- (34) a. *Ia membuka pintu [sangat secepat mungkin]
b. *Jane [agak selalu] berbicara
c. *Kendaraan ini [lumayan pernah] mogok
d. *Jane [sangat hampir tidak] mengunjungi kebun binatang
e. *Perkawinan itu [cukup hampir] dirayakan

Some of the degree words i.e. *lumayan*, *nian*, and sometimes *benar* can not be used to modify certain adverbial phrases e.g.

- (35) a. *[Lumayan hati-hati] ia membuka pintu

- b. *[Pelan-pelan nian] Jane berbicara
- c. *Perkawinan itu dirayakan secara [besar-besaran benar]

6. Degree modification in adjectival structures

In Bahasa Indonesia there are at least four types of adjective, i.e.:

- a. monomorphemic adjectives such as *cerah* 'bright' and *murah* 'cheap';
- b. polymorphemic adjectives like *kekanak-kanakan* 'childish', and *pemarah* 'hot-headed', and *alamiah* 'natural';
- c. reduplication (plural) such as *besar-besar* 'big', and *pintar* 'smart'
- d. double adjectives like *cantik jelita* 'very pretty', and *gelap gulita* 'pitch dark'.

Only the first two types of adjectives can be modified by degree words. So, we can not say for example:

- (36) a. *Anaknya sudah [besar-besar benar]
 child-his already big very
 'His children have already grown up'
- b. *Murid-murid sekolah itu [sangat pintar-pintar]
 students school that very smart
 'The students of that school are all very smart'
- c. *Jean [cantik jelita sekali]
 Jean pretty pretty very
 'Jean is very very pretty'
- d. *Ruangan ini [amat sangat gelap gulita]
 room this very very dark
 'This room is very very dark'

This is due to the fact that those reduplications always have plural meanings and it is very difficult to make a scale of those plural things. In the double adjectives, the second ones, e.g., *jelita* in *cantik jelita* function more as intensifiers, in addition to the fact that semantically the two words are almost the same. An Indonesian-English dictionary (Echols and Shadilly, 1985) defines *cantik* as 'pretty', 'charming' and *jelita* as 'graceful', 'charming', 'beautiful', or 'sweet'. So, they do not need degree words anymore.

In the examples below, we can find that the first two types of adjectives are possible to modified by degree words:

- (37) a. Langit tampak [amat cerah]
 sky look very bright
 'The sky looks very bright'
- b. Barang-barang di sini [cukup murah]
 goods at here enough cheap
 'Things are cheaper here'

- c. George tampak [agak kekanak-kanakan]
George seem rather childish
'George seems rather childish'
- d. Ayahnya [pemarah sekali]
father-his hot-headed very
'His father is very hot-headed'
- e. Zat ini [cukup alamiah]
substance this enough natural
'This substance is natural enough'

These adjective phrases can also be modified by comparative degree words. The following section will be devoted to the identification of comparative and result clauses in Bahasa Indonesia.

6.1 Degree modification in comparative clauses

One important characteristic of an adjective is that this word class can be used to express degree comparison : whether some thing is less, same, more, or the most compared to the other. This comparative clause in Bahasa Indonesia can be divided into three basic construction: equative, comparative, and superlative constructions.

6.1.1 Equative constructions

The equative constructions are used to express similarity or equality between two things being compared. These constructions can be manifested into three general rules:

(38)

a.	se	+	adjective Phrase				
b.	sama			+	nya	+	dengan
c.	sama-sama						

(a) *se + adjective P.*

This rule can be applied particularly to monomorphemic type and some polymorphemic type of adjectives. The following are examples of monomorphemic type of adjectives.

- (39) a. Jean secantik ibunya
Jean se + pretty mother-her
'Jean is as pretty as her mom'
- b. John tidak setinggi adiknya
John not se + high little brother-his
'John is not as tall as his little brother'
- c. Jim mempunyai kucing sebesar anjing
Jim have cat se+big dog
'Jim has a cat as big as a dog'

- d. Anak itu bicara seberani ayahnya
Child that speak se+brave father-her
'That child spoke as brave as her father'

And, below are polymorphemic types:

- (40) a. Jill berpikir seilmiah ibunya
Jill think se+scientific mother-her
'Jill thinks as scientific as her mother'
- b. Orang itu tidak semanusawi temannya
People that not se+human friend-his
'That guy is not as human as his friend'
- c. John tidak sepemarah kakeknya
John not se+hot-headed grandpa-his
'John is not as hot-headed as his grandpa'
- d. James se pemberani buyutnya
James se+courageous grandson-his
'James is courageous as his grand-grand son'

Some of those polymorphemic type are not acceptable in Indonesia:

- (41) a. *Jane sekeibuan ibunya
Jane se+motherly mother-her
'Jane is as motherly (?) as her mom'
- b. *Jack tidak sekekanak-kanakan kakeknya
Jack not se+childish grandpa-his
'Jack is not as childish as his grandpa'

Reduplication type and double type of adjectives are also unacceptable:

- (42) a. *Jim punya kucing sebesar-besar anjing
Jim have cat se+big (pl) dog
'Jim has cats as big as dogs'
- b. *Anak paman saya sepintar-pintar ayahnya
Child uncle I-gen se+smart(pl) father-they-gen
'My uncle's children are as smart as their father'
- c. *Jean tidak secantik jelita neneknya
Jean not se+pretty grandma-her
'Jean is not as pretty as her grandma'
- d. *Jill sekeras kepala kawannya
Jil se+stubborn friend-her
'Jil is as stubborn as her friend'

(b) *Sama + adjective Phrase + nya + dengan*

This rule can be applied almost to all types of adjective, even though for reduplication type double adjectives, they sound weird, such as in (42)

- (43) a. Jean sama cantiknya dengan ibunya
Jean same pretty-her with mother-her
'Jean is as pretty as her mother'
- b. Jill berpikir sama ilmiahnya dengan ibunya
Jill think same scientific-her with mother-her
'Jill thinks as scientific as her her mother'
- c. James sama pemberaninya dengan buyutnya
his James same courageous-his with grand-grandson-
his
'James is as courageous as his grand-grandson'
- d. Jane sama keibuannya dengan ibunya
Jane same motherly with mother-her
'Jane is as motherly as her mom'
- e. James sama kekanak-kanakannya dengan kakeknya
James same childish with grandpa-his
'James is as childish as his grandpa'
- f. (?)Jim punya kucing sama besar-besarnya dengan
anjing Jim have cat same big (pl) with dog
'Jim has cats as big as dogs'
- g. (?)Anak paman saya sama pintar-pintarnya dengan
bapaknya Child uncle I-gen same smart-their with father-their
'My uncle's children are as smart as their father'
- h. (?)Jean sama cantik jelitanya dengan ibunya
Jean same pretty charming with mother-her
'Jean is as pretty as her mom'
- i. (?)Jill sama keras kepalanya dengan kawannya
Jill same stubborn-her with friend-her
'Jill is as stubborn as her friend'

Sentences (43f-i) sound weird in standard Bahasa Indonesia, instead of "pluraling" the adjective phrase, it is better to make its noun phrase plural e.g. in

- (44) Anak-anak paman saya sama pintarnya dengan bapaknya
Children uncle I-gen same smart-their with father-their
'My uncle's children are as smart as their father'

However, sentence (43-f) can not be paraphrased into

(45) *James punya kucing-kucing sama besarnya dengan anjing

because Bahasa Indonesia does not recognize plurality for object of the sentence, instead, we have to specify the amount of the object or use quantity word, e.g.

(46) a. James punya dua ekor kucing yang sama besarnya dengan anjing

James have two classifier cats that same big with dog

'James has two cats that are as big as dogs'

b. James punya banyak kucing yang sama besarnya dengan anjing

James have many cats that same big with dog

'James has many cats that are as big as dogs'

Meanwhile sentences, (42 h-i) are better paraphrased into the third rule for equative construction below.

(c) *sama-sama + adjective-P*

This rule can be applied into all types of adjective except the reduplication one. Look at the following examples:

(47) a. Jean dan neneknya sama-sama cantik

Jean and grandma-her same pretty

'Jean and her grandma are all pretty'

b. John dan adiknya sama-sama tinggi

John and brother-his same high

'John and his brother are tall'

c. Anak dan bapaknya sama-sama ilmiah

Son and father-his same scientific

'Father and son are all scientific'

d. Jill dan buyutnya sama-sama cantik jelita

Jill and grand-grandma same pretty

'Jill and her grand-grandma are pretty'

e. John dan temannya sama-sama pemarah

John and friend-his same hotheaded

'John and his friend are all hot-headed'

f. Jade dan ibunya sama-sama keibuan

Jade and mom-her same motherly

'Jade and her mom are motherly'(?)

g. Jim dan temannya sama-sama keras kepala

Jim and friend-his same stubborn

'Jim and his friend are stubborn'

Reduplication type is unacceptable, e.g.:

- (48) a. *Gadis Bandung dan gadis Ohio [sama-sama anggun-
anggun]
girl Bandung and girl Ohio same pretty
'Girls from Bandung and Ohio are all pretty'
- b. *Suhamid punya kucing dan anjing [sama-sama
besar-besar]
Suhamid have cat and dog saame big
'Suhamid has cats that are as big as dogs'

Instead we simply construct the following:

- (49) Gadis Bandung dan gadis Ohio [sama-sama anggun]

However, sentence (47b) is rather different. Comparing the object of a sentence is always difficult in Bahasa Indonesia. To say, for example, 'Suhamid has cats that are as big as dogs' we cannot construct the structure like the above sentence (49), e.g.

- (50) *Suhamid punya kucing dan anjing [sama-sama besar]

because the meaning has changed, i.e., 'Suhamid has cats and dogs that are in the same size (big)'. We cannot also construct the following sentence:

- (51) *Suhamid punya kucing [sama-sama besar] anjing.

The only way of saying it in Bahasa Indonesia is the sentence structure (45) above.

6.1.2 Comparative construction

Comparative constructions are used to express the differences between two things being compared. The Bahasa Indonesia uses this construction by applying the following rule(s):

- (52)

kurang	adjective phrase	daripada
		dibanding
dibandingkan dengan		
ketimbang		
tinimbang		
lebih		

Below are some examples:

- (53) a. Suharta [lebih kaya daripada] gurunya
Suharta more rich than teacher-his
'Suharta is richer than his teacher is'
- b. Mobil Jade [lebih bagus dibanding] mobil Jane
car Jade more good compared car Jane
'Jade's car is better than Jane's is'
- c. Gina [kurang keibuan dibandingkan dengan] ibunya

- Gina less motherly compared with mother-her
'Gina is less motherly(?) than her mother is'
- d. Kabayan [lebih pemberani ketimbang] kawan-kawannya
Kabayan more courageous than friends-his
'Kabayan is more courageous than his friends are'
- e. Gadis Bandung [lebih cantik-cantik tinimbang] gadis L.A.
girl Bandung more pretty than girl L.A.
'The girls from Bandung are prettier than those from L.A.'
- f. Jenny [lebih cantik jelita daripada] temannya
Jenny more pretty pretty than friend-her
'Jenny is prettier than her friend is'

As seen from the above examples, we can say that all the four types of adjective are acceptable in this structure. In addition, we can also use the word *jauh* 'far' and *sedikit* 'a few', 'a little' as a separation expression to the words *lebih* and *kurang*, e.g.

- (54) a. James [jauh lebih kaya daripada] gurunya
b. Jade [sedikit lebih ilmiah dibanding] Jane
c. Jill [sedikit kurang keibuan dibandingkan dengan] ibunya
d. Jack [jauh lebih pemberani ketimbang] kawan-kawannya.
e. Gadis Bandung [jauh lebih cantik tinimbang] gadis L.A.
f. Gwen [jauh lebih cantik jelita daripada] Jade

Interestingly enough, if a particular adjective has an antonym e.g. *kaya* 'rich', *miskin* 'poor', and *cantik* 'pretty', *jelek* 'ugly', it is better to use *lebih* rather than *kurang*; on the other hand, if there is no antonym we can either use *lebih* or *kurang* like in *lebih alamiah-kurang alamiah* 'more or less natural'. So in the following sentences, it is better to say (a) rather than (b) or (c):

- (55) a. James [lebih kaya daripada] gurunya
b. James [kurang kaya daripada] gurunya
c. James [kurang miskin daripada] gurunya
- (56) a. Gadis Bandung [lebih cantik tinimbang] gadis Ohio
b. Gadis Bandung [kurang cantik tinimbang] gadis Ohio
c. Gadis Bandung [kurang jelek tinimbang] gadis Ohio

6.1.3 Superlative construction

Bahasa Indonesia forms superlative construction by applying the following rule(s):

(57)

paling	adjective phrase
ter-	

While we can use almost all the four types of adjective for a superlative marker *paling*, we cannot use them for morpheme *ter-*. Below are some examples of the usage of *paling*:

- (58) a. Di antara teman-temannya, Johnnylah yang [paling nakal]
among friends-his Johnny-part that most
naughty
'Among all of his friends Johnny is the most
naughty'
- b. James [paling pemberani]
James most courageous
'James is the most courageous'
- c. Bob [paling ilmiah]
Bob most scientific
'Bob is the most scientific(?)'
- d. Joan yang [paling keras kepala]
Joan that most stubborn
'Joan is the most stubborn'
- e. Mereka itu adalah orang-orang yang [paling
berbahagia]
they that be people that most happy
'They are the happiest people'
- f. Gambar itulah yang [paling menakutkan]
picture that that most scary
'That picture is the most scareful(?)'

It seems that the reduplication type does not fit with *paling*, e.g.

- (59) *Mereka adalah yang [paling cantik-cantik]
they be that most pretty
'They are the prettiest'

Morpheme *ter-* on the other hand has a very limited usage. While we can construct:

- (60) a. Johnny yang [ternakal]
Johnny that ter-naughty
'Johnny is the most naughty'
- b. Jack yang [terpandai]
Jack that ter-smart

- 'Jack is the smartest'
- c. Ally yang [terkaya]
 Ally that ter-rich
 'Ally is the richest'

we cannot say the following:

- (61) a. *James yang [terpemberani]
 James that ter-courageous
 'James is the most courageous'
- b. *Gore [terilmiah]
 Gore ter-scientific
 'Gore is the most scientific'
- c. *Joan yang [terkeras kepala]
 Joan that ter-stubborn
 'Joan is the most stubborn'
- d. *Mereka yang [terberbahagia]
 they that ter-happy
 'They are the happiest'
- e. *Gambar itu yang [termenakutkan]
 picture that that ter-scary
 'The picture is the most scary'

So only the monomorphemic adjectives fit in nicely with *ter-*; the other three types do not. However, it is also not common to say for instance:

- (62) a. *?Jean yang [terberbahagia]
 Jean that ter-happy
 'Jean is the happiest'
- b. *?Lilin ini yang [terbenderang]
 candle this that ter-bright
 'This candle is the brightest'

For those polysyllable adjectives, it is better to use *paling* rather than *ter-*.

6.2 Result clauses

There are two ways of constructing a result clause in Bahasa Indonesia:

- (63) the degree words *terlalu* 'too', *demikian* 'so', *cukup* 'enough', and *begitu* 'so' are combined with adjective phrase and word like *sehingga* 'that' and *untuk* 'for'; as can be seen on the following rule(s):

terlalu		sehingga
demikian		

cukup	adjective phrase	untuk
begitu		

(64) those degree words are combined with quantity words *banyak* 'many' or *kurang* 'less', noun phrases, and *sehingga* or *untuk*, i.e.,

terlalu	quantity words	noun phrase	sehingga clause
demikian			
cukup			
begitu			

By applying rule (62) the following sentences can be constructed:

(65) a. Soal itu [terlalu sulit] [sehingga] kami tidak dapat mengerjakannya

it problem that too difficult that we not can do

'The problem is too difficult so that we cannot do it'

b. Clinton [demikian pemberani] [sehingga] ia terpilih menjadi kepala regu

Clinton so courageous that he appointed be head group

'Clinton is so courageous that he is appointed to be a chairman of the group'

c. Nancy [cukup keibuan] [sehingga] ia terpilih menjadi ratu kebaya

Nancy enough motherly that she chosed become queen kebaya

'Nancy is motherly enough so that she is chosen to be a 'Queen of Kebaya'

d. Gadis Bandung [begitu cantik-cantik] [sehingga] banyak orang yang jatuh cinta kepada mereka

girl Bandung so pretty that many people that fall in love to them

'Girls from Bandung are so pretty that many people fall in love with them(?)'

As seen from the above examples, all types of adjectives fit in nicely with the combinations of degree words and *sehingga* clauses. How about degree words and the word *untuk*? Below are some examples:

- (66) a. Soal itu [terlalu sulit] [untuk] dipecahkan
 Problem that too difficult for solve-passive
 'The problem is too difficult to solve'
- b. James [cukup pemberani] [untuk] dijadikan ketua
 chairman
 James enough courageous for become
 chairman'
 'James is courageous enough to be elected as the
 chairman'
- c. Gadis itu [terlalu cantik] untuk dijadikan istri
 girl that too pretty for become wife
 'That girl is too pretty to be chosen as a wife'
- d. Wacana itu [cukup ilmiah] untuk kita bahas
 text that enough scientific for us discuss
 'The text is scientific enough for us to discuss'

Degree words *demikian* and *begitu* are not common to be combined with *untuk*, e.g.

- (67) a. ?*Soal itu [demikian sulit] untuk dipecahkan
 b. ?* James [begitu pemberani] untuk dijadikan ketua
 c. ?*Gadis itu [demikian cantik] untuk dijadikan istri
 d. ?*Wacana itu [begitu ilmiah] untuk kita bahas

The best way to express (67) is by using *sehingga*-clause.

Rule (64) can be seen from the following examples:

- (68) a. [Terlalu sedikit] orang yang datang ke pesta itu sehingga
 acaranya menjadi tidak menarik
 too few people that come to party that so
 program become not interesting
 'Too few people were present at the party so that it
 became uninteresting(?)'
- b. Kami punya [terlalu banyak masalah] sehingga
 soal yang sekecil itu pun tak terpecahkan
 we have too many problem so matter
 that small that also not solve
 'We have too many problems that we cannot solve
 that little matter'

7. Degree modification in verb phrase structures

As discussed in section (3) certain kinds of verb phrases can be modified by degree words. These kinds of verbs are categorized by Baker (1989:332) as "those denoting mental dispositions." Accordingly, in English, these degree modifications are expressed indirectly through the use of quantity words, e.g., *William loves Brenda (very much)*. In Bahasa Indonesia, this modification can be expressed either indirectly through quantity words or directly by using degree words. Below are some examples:

- (69) a. John [sangat mencintai] Jean
 John very love Jean
 'John loves Jean very much'
- b. James [sangat menyukai sekali] barang-barang antik
 James very like very stuff antique
 'James likes antique stuff very very much'
- c. Jack [agak menertawakan] tingkah Jill
 Jack rather laugh at behavior Jill
 'Jack (rather) laughed at Jill's behavior'
- d. Mereka [amat sangat bermusuhan]
 They very very compete against
 'They competed against each other very very much'
- e. Joan harus [banyak sekali membaca] koran
 Joan must many very read newspaper
 'Joan has to read newspaper (many times)'
- f. Jim [cukup banyak membantu] Joan
 Jim enough many help Joan
 'Jim helps Joan (enough)'
- g. Ayah Joan [agak sedikit membatasi] pergaulan anaknya
 Father Joan rather few limit socialization child-his
 'Joan's father (rather) limited her daughter's socialization'

It is clear from the above examples that verb phrases in Bahasa Indonesia can be modified directly by degree words (examples 68.a-d) and indirectly by using quantity words *banyak* or *sedikit* (examples 68.e-h).

8. Degree modification in noun phrase structures

As we have seen in section (3), noun phrases in Bahasa Indonesia can be modified by degree words either indirectly through the use of quantity words or directly by using the *yang*-phrase. It is also possible to combine those two structures.

The following are some examples:

- (70) a. Jacques punya [agak lumayan banyak] uang
 Jacques have rather enough many money
 'Jacques has enough money'
- b. [sangat banyak sekali] dokter yang nakal
 very many very doctor that naughty
 'There are so many naughty doctors'
- c. [Cukup sedikit] guru [yang amat bijak]

	enough few teacher that very wise
wise'	'There are very very few teachers that are very
	d. Jane punya kucing [yang amat cerdas]
	Jane have cat that very smart
	'Jane has a very smart cat'
besar	e. Jim kemarin melihat semut [yang amat sangat]
	Jim yesterday see ant that very very big
	'Yesterday Jim saw a very big ant'
	f. Bush mempunyai istana [yang sangat indah sekali]
	Bush have palace that very beautiful very
	'Bush has a very very beautiful palace'
cerdas]	g. Jane punya [banyak sekali] kucing [yang amat
	Jane has many very cat that very smart
	'Jane has very many cats that are very smart'
	h. Jim kemarin melihat [agak lumayan sedikit] semut
	yang amat sangat besar]
	Jim yesterday see rather enough few ant that very
very big	
	'Yesterday Jim saw a few enough ants that are very
very big'	
	i. Bush mempunyai [cukup banyak] istana [yang
sangat indah]	
	Bush have enough many palace that very beautiful
	'Bush has many palaces that are very beautiful'

It is obvious from above examples that noun phrases in sentences (70.a-c) are modified by quantity phrases; in sentences (70.d-f) by *yang*-phrases, and sentences (70.g-i) combination of quantity phrases and *yang*-phrases.

9. Conclusion

In this paper, degree modification in Bahasa Indonesia has been identified and examined. This modification is applied to the concepts associated with quantity words, adverbial phrases, adjectival phrases, verb phrases, and noun phrases. *Banyak* 'many' and *sedikit* 'few' are the only quantity words in Bahasa Indonesia that can be modified by almost all of the degree words. Only adverbial phrases that modify adjective phrases (like *lebih* 'more' and *sangat* 'very') and verb phrases (such as *sering* 'frequently' and *pelan-pelan* 'softly, slowly, gently') can be modified by a particular degree word. In adjectival structures, monomorphemic adjectives (like *cerah* 'bright' and *pandai* 'smart') and polymorphemic adjectives (like *kekanak-kanakan* 'childish', *pemarah* 'hot-headed', and *alamiah* 'natural') fit in very nicely with degree words. In the comparative clauses, the three basic constructions have been discussed, i.e., equative, comparative, and superlative constructions. Each construction has its own rule. In addition to this discussion, result

clauses and the rule of constructing them are also presented briefly. Finally, the discussions were devoted to identifying and examining degree modification in verb and noun phrases.

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