

Relative Clauses in Indonesian and Pondok Tinggi

The aim of this paper is to compare relative clause data in Standard Indonesian (hence, SI) and Pondok Tinggi (hence, PT). The relativization data from both languages display similarities and differences. The similarities are *first*, subject, object and genitive relativization are all possible; *second*, the general strategy employed by both languages for relativization is also similar, namely: (i) by marking the relative clause with an equivalent of the English *that*, and (ii) without employing any kind of resumptive pronoun.

There are, however, also a few differences that can be observed; one of them is the different strategies employed in these languages to differentiate between object relativization through passivization and direct object relativization. Object relativization through passivization is similar in both languages as seen in (1). The subject patient is followed by the relative marker, the verb appears in the bare form, and the perfective marker precedes the agent subject.

(1)	SI	baju	itu	yang	telah	Budi	beli	(passive)
	PT	baju.OBL	itoh	nge	lah	Budi	beloi.ABS	
		clothes	that	REL	already-PERF	PN	buy	
		‘Those clothes that were bought by Budi’						

Differences are observed in direct object relativization as seen in (2) (3) and (5). SI data (1) and (2) show that direct object relativization differentiates itself from the passivization strategy by having the perfective marker coming after the agent subject. PT data in (3) shows that the placement of the perfective marker precedes the subject, similar to how it is in the passive strategy seen in (1). The direct object relativization strategy in PT adopts instead, another strategy to differentiate itself from the passivization strategy, namely through the nasalization of the *oblique* root.

(2)	SI	baju	itu	yang	Budi	sudah	beli	(object rel.)
		clothes	that	REL	PN	already-PERF	buy	
		‘Those clothes that Budi bought’						
(3)	PT	baju	itoh	nge	suduah	Budi	melei	(object rel.)
		clothes.OBL	that	REL	already.PERF	PN	ACT.buy.OBL	
		‘Those clothes that Budi has bought.’						
(4)	PT	*baju	itoh	nge	Budi	suduah	melei	
		clothes.OBL	that	REL	PN	already.PERF	ACT.buy.OBL	

Another interesting difference between the relativization data in SI and PT can be seen in the case of Genitive or Possessor relativization. In SI (5), it can be seen that whenever a possessor is relativized, the possessive marker *-nya* must be present whereas in PT the *oblique* form is used to mark the possessor.

(5)	SI	wanita	yang	anak nya	suka	membaca	buku	
	PT	batino.OBL	nge	anok nyo	mbaoh	maco.OBL	buku	
	SI	*wanita	yang	anak	suka	membaca	buku	
	PT	batino.OBL	nge	anok.OBL	mbaoh	maco.OBL	buku	
		woman	REL	child.POSS	like	ACT.read	book	
		‘The woman whose child likes to read books’						

This kind of side-by-side close comparison of the relative clause data in different Malay dialects have never been done before, thus, making this body of work a particularly important addition to the existing body of work on relative clauses.

Selected References: Steinhauer, H. & Usman, A. H. 1978. *Notes on the Morphemics of Kerinci (Sumatra)*, Mckinnon, T. A. 2011. *The Morphophonology and Morphosyntax of Kerinci Word-Shape Alternations*.