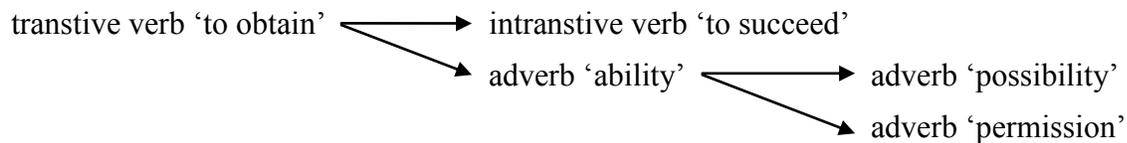


Semantic Extension of Indonesian Verb “*Dapat*”: A Cognitive Perspective

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Abstract

Indonesian has a polyfunctional word called *dapat* that shows overlapping range of lexical and grammatical meanings, namely transitive verb ‘to obtain’; intransitive verb ‘to succeed’; and three adverbs ‘ability’, ‘possibility’, and ‘permission’. Among all of the five meanings stated above, the meaning ‘to obtain’ is arguably the most basic one since it corresponds to the most concrete event, which is readily accessible to intuition and has the highest degree of entrenchment and cognitive salience. With regard to the meaning relatedness of the multiple grammatical and semantic functions associated with *dapat*, this study aims to investigate its semantic extension by focusing on the synchronic relatedness between the lexical source meaning (transitive verb ‘to obtain’) and other extended meanings. Cognitive framework is employed due to the fact that cognitive perspective is appropriate for explicating the underlying motivations causing semantic extension of the intended verb. Besides that, the term ‘semantic extension’ is used here because both old and new meaning coexist without disappearance of the old one, that is to say, the transitive *dapat* is still used as a lexical verb along with another intransitive verb and adverbs. Three alternative paths are proposed to account for the semantic extension of *dapat*. First, the intransitive *dapat* which means ‘to succeed’ is argued to derive from the basic lexical meaning expressed by the transitive *dapat*. Furthermore, the transitive *dapat* extends its meaning into adverb ‘ability’. In the last path, adverb ‘ability’ as an extended meaning of the lexical source *dapat* develops into two other adverbs, ‘possibility’ and ‘permission’. To sum up, the semantic extension path of *dapat* can be schematized as below.



It is argued that the emergence of each of the various meanings extended from transitive *dapat* is primarily motivated by metonymic process and subjectification.

Key words: semantic extension, Indonesian verb *dapat*, metonymy, subjectification