

## Nyo and punyo: Nominalization constructions in Melayu Palembang

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### Abstract

This paper examines *nyo*, the most versatile morpheme in Melayu Palembang. Yap (2011) has discussed this in Melayu, claiming that *nyo* along with *yang*, and *punyo* as the foundation of the nominalization construction. Following the work by Diggio et. al (1987) and Aliana et. al (1987) I distinguish the primary use of *nyo* as a the third genitive pronoun [e.g. *ghuma-nyo* [house-3SG.GEN] ‘his/her house’) and a personal pronoun in an object position or an agent in a passive voice (e.g. *lawang lum dikunci-nyo* [door NEG DI-kunci 3SG. AGT] ‘the door was not locked by him’) from the second function as a suffix as a nominalizer that gives rise to the formation of nominalization constructions (e.g. *tinggi-nyo* [tall- NMZ] ‘height’) and many other functions including as an adverbial marker, definiteness marker, emphatic marker, exclamation marker, intensifier, and topic maker in a topic comment sentence.

I further examine *punyo* as a possessive pronoun (e.g. *punyo aku* [POSS. PRON 1SG] ‘mine’) and a verb (e.g. *dio punyo kegheto dan motogh* [3SG have bike and motor] ‘he/she has/owns a bike and a motor cycle’). I further demonstrate that various lexicons, structural patterns, and language in contact, to a certain extent, help to shape the grammaticalization of these two morphemes that reflect their range of the grammatical and pragmatic functions .