

Linguistic features of narratives on tragic experiences in Indonesia

In this paper I will examine the grammatical features of Indonesian narratives of tragic incident victims, focusing on the use of proper nouns, pronouns, and *di*-forms. The data comes from my recordings of narratives by the victims of the 1965 purges. When Indonesian speakers describe their traumatic experiences, they start their narratives with *di*-forms as in (1).

(1) *Saya diambil, dan saya dipukul.*

I di·take and I di·hit
'I was taken and I was hit.'

On the other hand, when continuing to talk about an individual's violent acts which were performed upon the narrator himself/herself, the narrator shifts to *me*-form as seen in (2).

(2) Apa mau menanya, tidak tahu juga.
what want ask does not know either
'What (he) wants to ask, he does not know, either.'

Mau pukul, mau menang....
want hit, want win
He wants to hit, he wants win.

I will analyze the frequency of *di*-forms and *me*-forms in my corpus of narrations of tales of violence penetrated against alleged communists during the events of 1965. I will also discuss the different forms of reference used for people who were involved in the incidents. A few individual variations, gender variations, and local variations should also be considered.