

Title: Nya in Indonesian

My paper discusses the clitic *-nya* in Indonesian, both formal and informal. Based on an analysis of grammaticality judgment test results and corpus, this paper shows that *-nya* is not just a pronominal clitic.

Specificity marking (or what Englebretson calls identifiability marking) is one of its other roles. I discuss whether *-nya* is interpreted as marking a specific or possessive meaning more frequently when it is found in the noun phrases of different clause-types in different voices; for instance, 'Anak(-nya) makan kue(-nya)' as compared to 'Kue(-nya) dimakan anak(-nya)'. My data suggests that the meaning of *-nya* varies according to whether it occurs in the topic or the focus. My data shows that 'Kuenya, anak makan' and 'Kue itu, anak makan' are interchangeable, and have the same meaning.

I examine the occurrence of a genitive clitic with a coreferential possessor NP of different structural types of possessors like 'harganya meja' and 'kepalanya dia'. Sneddon, on *-nya* + possessor in the same NP says, "*-nya* carries no meaning other than to identify the 2nd noun as possessor". I discuss if there is any other meaning to what Sneddon calls "ligature *-nya*".

There are slots in the NP where 1st and 2nd person pronominal clitics cannot occur; examples of this would be 'Mejaku Tomo_{1st person}' and 'Pendapatmu Dewi_{2nd person}'. Meanwhile, *-nya* can be followed by a 3rd person possessor. I will be describing the different functions of *-nya* in such different syntactic behaviour.

The main purpose of this paper is to provide an appreciation for the complex nature of *-nya*, by means of analysing some of its less commonly defined functions.

Reference

Englebretson, Robert. 2003. Searching for Structure: The Problem of Complementation in Colloquial Indonesian Conversation, 161, John Benjamins, Studies in Discourse and Grammar 13.

Sneddon, James Neil. 1996. Indonesian: A Comprehensive Grammar, 145-146, Australia: Routledge Grammars