

Voice in eventive coordinate clauses in standard Indonesian

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Introduction (1)

- It is widely known that the discourse function of passive in Malay deviates from what is typically observed cross-linguistically.
- In many languages, such as English and Japanese, a passive clause tends to be avoided when the agent is topical.

Introduction (1)

- In contrast, in standard Indonesian, the passive voice may be used when the agent can be considered topical.
- This deviation is most typically observed in “eventive” coordinate clauses, that is, clauses encoding successive actions conducted by the same agent.

Example

(1)

a. *Di-matikan=nya lampu-lampu dalam kamar tidur itu,*
PASS-turn.out=3 lamp.RED inside room sleep that

b. *lalu dengan meraba-raba di-dekati=nya*
then with grope PASS-approach=3

tempat tidur.
place sleep

‘He turned off the lights in the bedroom; then, groping his way, he approached the bed.’ (Sneddon et al. 2010: 264)

Introduction (2)

- The peculiar status of this type of passive clause can be seen as the result of a historical change that Malay underwent.

Introduction (2)

- Cumming (1994), in her discussion on the functional change that Malay underwent, suggests the differences in the constituent order and distribution of voice that are observed between classical Malay and modern (standard written) Indonesian.

In classical Malay, the unmarked, eventive, transitive narrative clause with continuous (given) participants was V>T (roughly corresponding to VS order) and PT (passive voice).... In modern Indonesian novels, the “basic” narrative clause type is now T>V (roughly corresponding to SV order) and AT (active voice). V>T PT clauses are still found in eventive clauses, but this seems to be stylistically marked: not all authors use this order, and those that do use it do so only at climactic points in the history. Moreover, this use of V > T order in two-argument clauses is now restricted to clauses with highly continuous (pronominal) agents... (Cumming 1994: 203)

Cummings (1994: 203)

Changes observed in a basic narrative clause type:

- Constituent order: $V S \rightarrow S V$
- Voice: passive voice \rightarrow active voice

The old clause type is “still found in eventive clauses, but this seems to be stylistically marked.”

Aim of this study (1)

- This study attempts to clarify the realities of voice selection in contemporary standard Indonesian.
- We try to explain the distribution of voice from a view of information status of the agent and the patient.
- Written language elicited in an experiment using short movies as stimuli will be used as the data.

Aim of this study (2)

- As claimed in Cumming (1994), voice selection is used to create a stylistic effect, especially in some types of literary work.
- This research will focus on narrative discourse in a style as basic as possible, from which any stylistic effects would be excluded.

Structure of this study

1. The three voices in Malay and previous studies on the use of each type
2. Experimental method
3. Experiment results
4. Summary

The three voices in Malay

Active voice

(2) *Mereka sudah menjumpit Tomo.*

3PL already AV.meet Tomo

‘They have met Tomo.’

(Sneddon et al. 2010: 255)

Passive voice:

(3) *Tomo sudah di-jemput oleh Tini.*

Tomo already PASS-meet by Tini

‘Tomo has been met by Tini.’

Object voice:

(4) *Tomo sudah dia jemput.*

Tomo already 3 meet

‘He has met Tomo.’

The peculiarity of passive voice

Passive voice:

Many scholars have suggested the peculiarity of the distribution of passive voice in discourse.

Typical distribution of voice observed cross-linguistically

- In many languages that have active and passive voice distinction, the voice selection is basically determined by the topicality of the participants, mainly the agent and the patient.

Typical distribution of voice observed cross-linguistically

- Most languages prioritize the agent rather than the patient, and therefore the distribution of the two voices is not symmetrical:
 - Active: unmarked choice
 - Passive: marked choice
 - used only when
 - “the patient is more topical than the agent, and the agent is extremely non-topical” (Givon 1994: 8)
 - the agent is defocused (Shibatani 1985)

Typical use of the passive in Indonesian

3) Cara Pembuatan Isi

- a) Daging ayam direbus hingga matang, kemudian diiris kecil-kecil. Kaldu disisihkan.
- b) Wortel dikupas dan diiris dalam ukuran dadu kecil.
- c) Bumbu yang terdiri atas lada bubuk, bawang putih, dan garam, dihaluskan dan ditumis hingga

Deviation observed in Malay

In standard Indonesian:

- A passive clause may be used when the agent is topical enough and cannot be considered defocused.

Deviation observed in Malay

- This distribution of the passive is often observed in eventive clauses, that is, coordinate clauses expressing a series of successive events conducted by one agent (Kaswanti 1985, Sneddon 2010, Kroeger 2014).
- There are two types of deviation that should be both formally and pragmatically distinguished.

Type 1

- (6) *a. Dia datang membawa susu dua gelas.*
b. Segelas diletakkan=nya di atas meja.
c. Yang lain dibawa=nya padaku.

‘She came carrying two glasses of milk. She put one glass on the table. The other she brought to me.’

(Sneddon et al. 2010: 264)

Type 2

(7)

a. *Di-matikan=nya lampu-lampu dalam kamar tidur itu,*
PASS-turn.out=3 lamp.RED inside room sleep that

b. *lalu dengan meraba-raba di-dekati=nya*
then with grope PASS-approach=3

tempat tidur.
place sleep

‘He turned off the lights in the bedroom; then, groping his way, he approached the bed.’ (Sneddon et al. 2010: 264)

Two types of passive

	Type 1	Type 2
Constituent order	SV	VS
Topicality of P	As high as that of A	Low (often new in the discourse)

Type 2 passive was the unmarked eventive narrative clause in classical Malay but not in modern standard Indonesian. (Cumming (1994: 203))

What about Type 1 passive?

Object voice

- Unlike that of passive voice, the pragmatic function of object voice has scarcely been studied.
- We could tentatively expect high topicality for both agent and patient in this voice form:
 - Object voice requires the agent to be encoded by a pronoun, which in turn requires high topicality of the referent.
 - At the same time, it requires the patient to be the subject, the position that is associable to the high topicality of the referent.

This study

Assuming all the discussion so far, this study will attempt to clarify the realities of voice selection in contemporary standard Indonesian.

Research question:

How is voice selection in made in narrative discourse, when the agent and the patient have similar topicality?

Experimental method

- To obtain the goal, we conducted an experiment in which short videos were used as stimuli.
- Two short videos showing successive actions performed by the same agent were used in order to elicit coordinate clauses.

Participants

- Fifteen participants were requested to watch the videos and describe briefly what happened in each video in standard Indonesian.
- All the participants held at least a bachelor's degree and wrote and read standard written Indonesian on a daily basis.
- They were requested to write descriptions in standard Indonesian, and the descriptions were collected through email.
- To reveal the variation between different languages, one English and one Japanese speaker participated in the experiment and gave descriptions in their own respective languages.

- Egg (25 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeQ6DxpjK-Q>

- Banana (19 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8xNzZ7vbcs>

Egg



Banana



Events shown in the videos

Each video shows a series of successive transitive actions performed by the same agent. (8) and (9) are descriptions of the two videos, respectively, written by an English speaker as an outline of the events that were depicted.

(8) There's a girl with a bowl in front of her, and an egg, and a whisk. She takes the egg and breaks it into the bowl, then beats it with the whisk, not for very long. Then she adds some milk and beats it again.

(9) There's a girl and a bunch of bananas. The girl breaks off a banana and peels it, then takes a bite. (The banana doesn't look ripe.)

- In both movies, the agent and patient(s) of the action are seen from the beginning, and therefore, the topicality of the agent and patient(s) can be considered similar, if we do not consider the factors attributable to the inherent nature, such as animacy, of the participant.

Experiment results

- In the experiment, 76 sentences consisting of 150 clauses were obtained.

Table 1: Distribution of voice in transitive constructions

Transitive construction	136
Active voice (with a verb with meN-prefix)	118 (87.0%)
Passive voice (with a verb with di- or ter- prefixed)	17 (12.5%)
Object voice	1 (0.7%)

Coordinate sentences

- The descriptions contain 38 coordinate sentences with a total of 99 clauses, including the initial clause in coordination. Non-initial clauses are connected to the preceding clause either with or without a conjunction such as *dan* 'and,' *lalu* 'then,' or *namun* 'however.'

Table 1: Frequency of conjunctions

Conjunctions	Number of occurrences
<i>dan</i>	29
<i>lalu</i>	16
No conjunctions	16
<i>namun</i>	1

Coordinate clauses

- Among the 97 coordinate clauses, 93 clauses (95.9%) are transitive constructions. The high frequency of transitive clauses reflects the nature of the actions shown in the video.
- The distribution of voice construction in coordinate clauses is shown in Table 4.

Table 2: Distribution of voice in transitive constructions in coordinate

Transitive construction	93
Active voice (with a verb with meN-prefix)	85 (91.4%)
Passive voice (with a verb with di- or ter- prefixed)	8 (8.6%)
Bare verb (with a verb without affixation)	0 (0%)

Table 2: Distribution of voice in transitive constructions in coordinate clauses

Transitive Construction	93
Active voice	85 (91.4%)
Passive voice	8 (8.6%)
Objective voice	0 (0%)

- From the descriptions in the previous studies mentioned in Section 1, passive voice was expected to have high frequency in coordinate clauses expressing successive actions, but this was not attested in the experiment; the active voice is similarly dominant in both whole descriptions and coordinate clauses.

- Passive constructions, however, account for a considerable percentage of the total.
- The distinct feature of the usage of passive in standard Indonesian is clear, as the descriptions in English and Japanese elicited using the same video stimuli do not include any passive clauses.

The position of the passive clause in coordination

(5)

- a. *Anak perempuan itu mengambil sebutir telur dari atas meja.*
- b. *Kemudian telur itu **dipecahkan***
- c. ***di-kocok** di dalam sebuah mangkok kaca yang besar.*

‘The girl took an egg from the table. Then she broke the egg and stirred it in a big bowl of glass. After that, she poured milk into the bowl and stirred the egg and milk.’

The position of the passive clause in coordination

- When the speaker starts the description with a transitive clause, it is always the agent who is chosen as the referent of the subject, and an active clause is employed accordingly.

The position of the passive clause in coordination

- Once the patient is introduced in the discourse, some speakers choose the patient as the subject in the following clause, and the passive voice is employed accordingly.

Colloquial variety

- A small amount of data of colloquial Indonesian were also collected in order to reveal the variation between formal Indonesian and colloquial varieties of Indonesian.

Colloquial variety

- Three of the participants in the experiment provided descriptions in colloquial Indonesian as well as standard Indonesian. The data suggested the distribution of voice is quite different between them.

Experiment results

Type of Clause	Count
Active clause	7
Passive clause	11
Object clause	6
Sum of the transitive clauses	24

Passive voice

- (11) *Ani cabut pisang*
Ani pull.off banana
trus di-kupas, trus di-makan.
then PASS-peel then PASS-eat

‘Ani pulled off the banana and then peeled it
and then ate it.’

Passive voice

(12) *Anak cewe itu motong satu pisang*
child girl that AV.cut one banana

lalu pisang=nya di-kupas di-makan.
then banana=3 PASS-peel PASS-eat

‘That girl cut a banana and then peeled and ate it.’

Object voice

(13) *Anak perempuan itu tuh ngambil pisang*
child girl that visible AV.take banana

dia kupas terus dia makan pisang=nya.
3 peel then 3 eat banana=3

‘The girl took a banana, then peeled it and ate it.’

(lit. ‘The girl took a banana, and she peeled it, and she ate the banana.’)

Summary

- In this study, we have seen how voice selection is used in the description of a series of successive actions by the same agent, in which the agent and the patient are similarly topical, and in which the peculiar feature of passive in standard Indonesian is most typically observed.
- The experiment results show the dominance of active voice; 93 percent of the clauses were in active voice, and 9 of the 15 participants used only active voice throughout their descriptions.

Summary

- However, passive clauses are also observed, though at a lower rate (approximately 9% of all clauses), when the patient is already introduced in the previous clause.
- This fact shows a deviation from the typical function of passive voice observed cross-linguistically, in that a passive clause can be used when the agent is not fully defocused.

Summary

- The data of colloquial Indonesian exhibit differences from the data of standard Indonesian.
- Colloquial Indonesian shows the dominance of non-active voices.

Terima kasih!