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THE POINT-LINE DIMENSION:

A Way of Looking at Some Aspects of the Referential System in Indonesian

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0. Introduction
1. Some pairs of forms which contrast with respect to the point-line distinction
 - 1.1 The determiners *itu* and *-nya*
 - 1.2 The prepositions *di* and *ke*
 - 1.3 The verbal affixes *meN-+--+i* and *meN-+--+kan*
 - 1.4 The negatives *tidak* and *belum*
 - 1.5 *hanya* and *baru*
 - 1.6 *kemudian* and *lagi*
2. Conclusion

0. There exist, in Indonesian, certain pairs of forms where, although each member of the pair can be given the same gloss in a language such as English, there is a contrast in meaning between the members of the pairs not easily captured in simple glosses. These distinctions turn out to be difficult to grasp for a person who is not an Indonesian.¹

For convenience, we will talk about pairs of forms. A pair is made up of two forms with the same general sense. The first members of the various pairs differ from their respective partners in an analogous manner. The dimension along which they may be said to range is that of point/line. Pike (1977) refers to particle and wave for, I believe, similar purposes, which others refer to as static/dynamic, incident/process, momentary/continuous, punctual/durative. These varying terms arise from differing data. For practical purposes, the point/line distinction has been chosen here as one easy to visualize.

1. The following chart gives the pairs of forms in their contrastive opposition. Examples of each are given in the sections that follow.

POINT

LINE

itu: 'the', has explicit previous referent	-nya: 'the', does not have explicit previous referent
di: 'at, in, on' relates the proposition to a static matrix	ke: 'to' relates the proposition to a direction of movement with respect to a matrix
meN-+--+i: action with focus on a fixed matrix	meN-+--+kan: action with focus on patient to whom/which motion has been imparted with respect to a fixed matrix
tidak: negative, with the implication that the negative state is permanent	belum: negative, with the implication that the negative state is only temporary
hanya: 'only', implying that that is all	baru: 'only', implying that there may/will be more
kemudian: [a moment] after a specific point of time	lagi: [a moment], as a continuation of an unspecific point of time

One can see that the specific application of this point-line distinction will vary somewhat in each of the following pairs. What is salient in one pair may not be clearly apparent in another. The concept of explicit/implicit is salient in distinguishing the determiners *itu*/*-nya* (1.1); static/dynamic is salient for *di*/*ke* (1.2) and *meN-+--+i*/*meN-+--+kan* (1.3); absolute/open-endedness for *tidak*/*belum* (1.4) and *hanya*/*baru* (1.5); specific/unspecific for *kemudian*/*lagi* (1.6).

1.1 The determiners *itu* and *-nya*

- (1) Saya membeli buku kemarin, tetapi saya tidak tahu di
I buy book yesterday but I not know at

mana buku itu sekarang.
where book the now

I bought a book yesterday, but I don't know where the book is now.

- (2) Saya masuk ke sebuah restoran, Pelayannya cantik-
I enter to a restaurant waitress-the pretty

cantik.

I went to a restaurant. The waitresses were pretty.

In the English translation of (1) and (2) above we see that although both *itu* and *-nya* are glossed as *the*,² they contrast as to the explicitness/implicitness of the referent. In (1) *buku itu* is anchored to *buku*, which was previously mentioned. In (2) *pelayannya* is related to *sebuah restoran*, which, although also previously mentioned, was only the setting for a number of items that could have been singled out. One could have said, "The food was good.", or "The menu was short.", singling out any specific item from the setting implied by the word *restoran*. One might even consider that *restoran* is a kind of "script"³ with characteristic *dramatis personae*, setting and plot, the plot being the types of activities associated with *restoran*. In that framework *-nya* refers to prior "script". *Itu*, on the other hand, refers to prior specific mention of a single object.

Another example of a script would be of waiting for a bus. If someone is standing at a bus stop I might ask him:

- (3) *Pukul berapa datang bisnya?*
time how come bus-the

What time does the bus come?

Here the script is understood, since we are both in the middle of it and therefore do not need to mention it. *-nya* singles out a part of the understood script for special attention.

If someone borrows my book and keeps it too long, I might ask him:

- (4) *Mana bukunya?*
where book-the

Where is the book?

Here the script is the shared prior knowledge and experience of the speaker and hearer. If the borrower answers me:

- (5) *Buku itu hilang.*
book the lost

The book is lost.

the article *itu* is used because of my specific use of *buku* in the question.

1.2 The prepositions *di* and *ke*

- (6) *Tinggal di mana?*
stay at where

Where do you stay?

- (8) *Ia duduk di sini tadi.*
he sit at here before

He was sitting here before.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (7) Mau pergi <u>ke</u> mana?
<i>will go to where</i> | (9) Datanglah <u>ke</u> sini.
<i>come-particle to here</i> |
| <i>Where are you going?</i> | <i>Come here.</i> |

In examples (6) and (8) we see that *di* relates the proposition to a static position, while *ke* in (7) and (9) implies movement.

1.3 The verbal affixes *meN+---+i* and *meN+---+kan*⁴

- (10) John Dul melempari rumah Mary Yem dengan batu.
throw house with stone
- John Dul stoned Mary Yem's house (with stones).*
- (11) John Dul melemparkan batu ke rumah Mary Yem.
throw stone to house
- John Dul threw a stone at Mary Yem's house.*

If we compare *rumah* in (10) and *batu* in (11), both of which immediately follow the verb, we see that the former is unmoved while the latter is moved by the action. The *meN+---+i*, then puts the focus on the static position of *rumah*, while *meN+---+kan* indicates the dynamic aspect of *batu*, focusing on action imparted to a patient with respect to a matrix.

Compare the follow examples:

- (12) John Dul mengirim Mary Yem buku.
send book
- John Dul sent Mary Yem a book.*
- (13) John Dul mengirimkan Mary Yem ke Amerika.
send to
- John Dul sent Mary Yem to the United States.*

In (12) the *meN+---+i* form is followed immediately by *Mary Yem*, focusing on the unmoving matrix. In (13), however, the *meN+---+kan* form is followed by *Mary Yem*, which has been made to move with respect to *Amerika*.

1.4 The negatives *tidak* and *belum*

To say 'no' correctly in Indonesian can be a problem for someone who is foreign to the distinctions between these forms.

- (14) A: Mau makan sekarang? *Do you want to eat now?*
will eat now

B: Tidak.	<i>No.</i>
Belum.	<i>Not yet.</i>

To say *tidak* means that the speaker does not want to eat at all, but to say *belum* implies that the speaker does not want to eat now, but may later on. With *belum* he does not say an "absolute" no; he still anticipates a reversal to a positive condition at some future time. To say *tidak* as an answer to the question "Are you married?" implies that the speaker will not marry at any point in his life, while *belum* would imply a hope or possibility for marriage at a later date. *Tidak*, then, is an absolute negative, while *belum* is open-ended.

1.5 Hanya and baru

The contrast between *hanya* and *baru* is similar to the *tidak/belum* distinction. Both *hanya* and *baru* mean *only* in (15) below, but they have a different perspective:

- (15) A: Berapa anaknya? *How many children do you have?*
how many children-the
- B: Hanya lima. *Only five.*
- Baru lima. *Only five so far [but I may have more later].*

With *hanya* the speaker does not anticipate having any more children, but with *baru* he does.

This same distinction can be seen when they are used in response to a question concerning the length of time of a certain activity:⁵

- (16) A: Apa saudara tinggal lama di Indonesia?
you stay long in
- Did you stay in Indonesia a long time?*
- B: Tidak, hanya satu tahun.
no only one year
- No, just a year.*

In (16) the context involves someone who has already left Indonesia and is then questioned about his stay there. Since this stay has already terminated, *hanya* is used. Compare this to example (17) below.

- (17) A: Apa saudara sudah lama tinggal di Indonesia?
you already long stay in
- Have you already stayed long in Indonesia?*

B: Belum, baru satu tahun.
no only one year

Not yet, only one year.

In (17) the conversation takes place in Indonesia and the answer, using *baru*, implies that the person may stay longer than the one year he has already completed. He is referring to his stay as a continuing process⁶.

Note also how *tidak* in (16) contrasts with *belum* in (17), thus further indicating that the activity of (16) is considered a completed thing, while the activity of (17) is an ongoing process.

1.6 *kemudian* and *lagi*

(18) [We had an appointment with John to meet at X at 9.00, and from there we planned to go together to Y. John did not come at 9.00, so we left without him. The following day I asked him and he answered:]

Lima menit kemudian [setelah kalian berangkat] saya datang
five minute after you leave I come

Five minutes later [after you left] I came.

(19) [We had an appointment with John to meet at X at 9.00 and from there we planned to go together to Y. John did not come up at 9.00, and I phoned his house. His wife answered that John left fifteen minutes before, and]

lima menit lagi John akan sampai.
five minute will arrive

In five minutes John will arrive.

kemudian and *lagi* may be regarded as being different in that the former is in past tense while the latter is in future tense. With reference to point-line distinction, however, we can see that *kemudian* is concerned with a specific point of time; it is anchored to a specific point of the time *setelah kalian berangkat* (*after you left*). The referent of *lagi*, however, is unspecific, unclear. *kemudian* indicates that one point of time occurs after the other point. Whereas *lagi*, in a sense, shows a continuance in time sequence⁷.

2. While there are also other pairs of forms which contrast as to point-line distinctions in the referential system of Indonesia, these have been presented as typical of the whole field. This methodological tool of point-line is then helpful in distinguishing these closely related pairs of forms in Indonesian and suggest a way of distinguishing the semantic differences of such pairs in other languages too.

FOOTNOTES

¹The ideas presented in this paper can be traced back to my attempts to solve the problems encountered by my students as I taught them Indonesian under the auspices of the South East Asian Studies program at the University of Michigan and at the Indonesian Language Learning Course taught under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of North Dakota. I appreciate their efforts and struggles to learn Indonesian because it is also a second language for me since I spoke only Javanese until the age of seven.

²itu can also mean *that* in contrast to *ini this*, but itu often has the sense of *the* in English. *-nya* can also mean *his, her, its* but it can also be glossed as *the* in English. For a discussion of the anaphoric aspect of *-nya* see Harimurti Kridalaksana (1976).

³I owe the term "script" to Alton L. Becker (1977). He also led me to my understanding of this *itu/-nya* distinction.

⁴For further discussion of *meN-+-+i* and *meN-+-+kan* see Bambang K. Purwo (1978a).

⁵I am indebted to Pete Silzer for reminding me of these two examples below which help to further clarify the problem.

⁶In contrast with *sudah (already) baru* may have a different perspective. Thus, in

(i) Saya sudah satu tahun di Indonesia.

I've already been a year in Indonesia.

(ii) Saya baru satu tahun di Indonesia.

I've only been a year in Indonesia.

sudah implies that the period of one year is a long time, while *baru* shows that it is considered a short time.

⁷For a discussion of *lagi* in contrast to *juga, pula, jua (also)* see Bambang K. Purwo (1978b).

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