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.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINT</th>
<th>LINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>itu: 'the', has explicit previous referent</td>
<td>-nya: 'the', does not have explicit previous referent</td>
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<tr>
<td>di: 'at, in, on' relates the proposition to a static matrix</td>
<td>ke: 'to' relates the proposition to a direction of movement with respect to a matrix</td>
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<tr>
<td>meN-+--+-i: action with focus on a fixed matrix</td>
<td>meN-+--+-kan: action with focus on patient to whom/which motion has been imparted with respect to a fixed matrix</td>
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<tr>
<td>tidak: negative, with the implication that the negative state is permanent</td>
<td>belum: negative, with the implication that the negative state is only temporary</td>
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<tr>
<td>hanya: 'only', implying that that is all</td>
<td>baru: 'only', implying that there may/will be more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kemudian: [a moment] after a specific point of time</td>
<td>lagi: [a moment], as a continuation of an unspecific point of time</td>
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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 mana buku itu sekarang.  
I bought a book yesterday, but I don't know where the book is now.

2. Saya masuk ke sebuah restoran, Pelayannya 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, they contrast as to the explicitness/implicitness of the referent. In (1) buku itu is anchored to buku, which was previously mentioned. In (2) pelayamnya 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" 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.
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

(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?  
    will eat now

    Do you want to eat now?
B: Tidak. No.
Belum. Not yet.

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?
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:

(16) A: Apa saudara tinggal lama di Indonesia? 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? Have you already stayed long in Indonesia?
B: Belum, baru satu tahun.

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 process.

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 kemudian 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 lagi 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 sequence.

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

1 The 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.

2 itu 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).

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

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

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

6 In 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.

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


