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On the Indonesian Negatives: *Belum, Tidak, Bukan, Jangan, Dilarang*

Bambang Kaswanti Purwo
Atma Jaya Catholic University

A common attempt to explain the difference between *bukan* and *tidak* is to use the syntactic category of nominals vs nonnominals, as exemplified in the following quotations:

“If we wish to negate a predicate whose main part is a NOMINAL (that is, a noun, pronoun, or phrase beginning with *yang*), we use the word *bukan*.”

“*Tidak* is used to negate all other types of predicates (i.e., predicate consisting of phrases with verbs, adjectives, prepositional phrases) [...]” (Wolff, John U. et al. 1986:49)

“Nomina tidak dapat diingkarkan dengan kata *tidak*. Kata pengingkarnya ialah *bukan*.” (Alwi, Hasan et al. 1998:213)

“The negative for nouns and nominal constructs is the premodifier *bukan*.” (Macdonald, R. Ross and Soenjono Dardjowidjojo 1967:160-161).

While such an explanation may be applicable to many instances of the use of *bukan* and *tidak*, one may find not only that the use of *bukan* with the noun like in (1a) is out but either *bukan* or *tidak* may go with a noun such as in (1b).

- (1) a. *Tidak* seorang pun yang dapat menjawab pertanyaan itu.
b. Bagi saya itu *bukan/tidak* masalah.

Predicates consisting of phrases with prepositions, which Wolff et al. (1986) claim to require the use of *tidak*, may also go with *bukan*, as in (2a). Either *tidak* or *bukan* may go with preposition phrases that do not function as a predicate (as in (2b-c)).

- (2) a. Dia *bukan/tidak* di perpustakaan.
b. mereka berangkat dari rumah *tidak* dengan kepala kosong.
c. partainya terikat koalisi *dengan* SBY, bukan dengan partainya.

It is not only *bukan* that may negate a phrase beginning with *yang*, as Wolff et al. (1986) attempted to explain, but the use of *tidak* is also acceptable in constructions like (3c-d).

- (3) a. “Logo London 2012 hanya mewakili angka 2012, *bukan* yang lain.” (NH)
b. [...] hanyalah aturan di dalam Statuta PSSI itu sendiri, *bukan* yang lain (NH)
c. mereka membiarkan beberapa tapi *tidak* yang lain (google)
d. Orang tanya, kenapa *tidak* Misbakhun, kenapa *tidak* yang lain.” (NH)

Rather than using syntactic category, which may arrive at the partial story of the difference between *bukan* and *tidak*, the present paper is an attempt to employ the following semantic notion of utterances in context of use: be it fact or opinion, factual (realis) or nonfactual (irrealis), specific or generic audience. These notions may serve to spell out the difference between each of the five forms of negatives into a single package.

REFERENCE

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