Coding of "active" entities in standard Indonesian

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Shiohara (2014) describes the strategy that standard Indonesian employs to code information status in NPs and demonstrates that a referent that is "active" in discourse tends to be marked by a pronominal suffix or free pronoun, or left unexpressed, while an "inactive" referent tends to be expressed by a lexical NP. The present research focuses on the conditions in which each possible device to code active referents is employed.

The preliminary research based on a limited amount of written text shows the following tendencies.

(I) When two successive clauses are tightly connected and share a referent as the subject, the presence/absence of the conjunction and the type of conjunction, if any, determine whether the subject in the second clause is overtly expressed or not.

(a) When two clauses form a unit without a conjunction, which is connected with a comma in the orthography, the subject is normally overtly expressed.

(1) *Kakek merasa kasihan melihat-nya,* **ia** *mengeluarkan bangau itu dari perangkap.*

'The grandfather felt sorry to see it (the crane), and he pulled out the crane from the trap.'

(b) The subject is normally not expressed in clauses with *untuk* 'for,' *tanpa* 'without,' or *karena* 'because.'

(2) *Ia segera menyiapkan tentara untuk* ϕ *mengusir kurir.*

'He immediately made the army ready in order to fight off the messengers.'

(c) In the clause of other conjunctions, the subject may or may not be expressed and the condition determining its presence or absence is not clear.

(II) When two successive clauses are connected by a conjunction and the subject of the first clause is co-referent to the active patient of the second clause, it is normally expressed by the pronominal clitic *=nya*.

(III) When two successive clauses are connected by a conjunction and the subject of the first clause is co-referent to the passive agent of the second clause, it may or may not be expressed by the pronominal clitic *=nya* and the condition determining its presence or absence is not clear.

On the basis of more written data of various genres, an attempt will be made to elucidate more details of these conditions.

Reference

Asako Shiohara 2014 Information status in standard Indonesian, paper presented at ISMIL 18, Procida, Naples, Italy. July 13–15, 2014.