

Evidential *Lihat* ‘See’ as Stance Marker in Conversational Indonesian: A Socio-interactional Analysis

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We often use evidential and epistemic markers as we negotiate and co-construct talk to achieve our communicative goals (Fox 2001). Building on Englebretson’s (2003, 2007) analysis on evaluative stance markers in colloquial Indonesian, this study will examine how perception verb *lihat* ‘see’ is used to indicate the degree of speakers’ evidential and epistemic claims.

Using conversational data we will first show how evidential *lihat* is used as the speaker engages in inferential thinking and escalate the strength of his epistemic claim. As seen in (1), the speaker initially uses nominalized form *kelihatannya* ‘from the look of it’ and middle voice *terlihat* to implicitly establish common ground with the addressee, inviting him to participate in identifying an unknown object. Subsequently, as the speaker develops and strengthens his argument, he deploys a modalized evidential strategy *kita bisa lihat* ‘(as) we can see’. In so doing, the speaker now positions himself to explicitly seek agreement from the addressee. We therefore can see the interaction between morpho-syntactic form and evidential function as speakers move to strengthen their epistemic claim. As seen in (2), the speaker can also deploy the passivized form *dilihat* ‘as can be seen (by us)’ as an indirect and polite strategy that helps establish a sense of shared understanding with the addressee.

- (1) AK : Di situ bangunannya juga tua, **kelihatannya** bata merah. ...
AGM: He ehm.
AK : **Terlihat** dari struktur bangunannya, yang tadi saya sampaikan, jendelanya besar, pintunya juga besar dan cenderung tinggi.
...
AK : Yang pertama, dari struktur bangunannya. Seperti yang sudah saya sampaikan tadi, **kita bisa lihat** bentuk jendelanya. **Kalau kita lihat** bangunan tua. ...
AGM : He ehm.
AK : Dan panjang. Nah ini memiliki kesamaan. **Ini kita lihat** jendelanya juga besar, panjang. Bangunannya pun itu rata-rata tinggi.
- (2) AGM: Oke, menurut Anda sendiri, **dilihat** dari bangunan-bangunan yang mengelilinginya, bangunan ini sangat menonjol.

Ini this study we will also examine how evidential expressions are frequently accompanied by various epistemic markers including cognition verbs such as *tahu* ‘know’ and *yakin* ‘believe’ and modals such as *pasti* ‘must’ and *mungkin* ‘may’ to upgrade or downgrade the degree of speaker commitment.

References:

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Presenters' Information

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