

The *-kan* and *-i* split in Malaysian Malay and in Indonesian Malay
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Despite the case that there is no difference in the use of *-kan* and *-i* in Malaysian Malay (MM) and in Indonesian Malay (IM), as displayed by the verbs like *menyelesaikan* ‘to finish’, *menyebabkan* ‘to cause’ and *menghadapi* ‘to face’, *melayani* ‘to serve’, there are a number of verbs suffixed with *-kan* in MM, but with *-i* in IM, or vice versa.

- (1) ‘to lessen, decrease’ MM *-kan* vs. IM *-i*
MM: [...] dapat *mengurangkan* perasaan bosan (T264)
MI: *mengurangi*
- (2) ‘to find, come across’ MM *-i* vs. IM *-kan*
MM: [...] kita *mendapati* adanya sempadan morfem (DBJan92:199)
IM: *mendapatkan*

The *-kan/-i* split is also found in the use of suffixed and suffixless verbs, as exemplified below.

- (3) ‘to contain’ MM *-kan* vs. IM *-O*
MM: Surat-menyurat *dimuatkan* pada Bahagian Keenam (DBJan92:93)
IM: *dimuat*
- (4) ‘to create’ MM *-O* vs. IM *-kan*
MM: [...] seorang sarjana Korea [...] telah *mencipta* satu sistem skrip silabik (DBJan92:209)
MI: *menciptakan*
- (5) ‘to recall’ MM *-i* vs. IM *-O*
MM: [...] cuba *mengingati* kembali apa yang telah dipelajari sebelum ini (T244)
IM: *mengingat*
- (6) ‘to investigate’ MM *-O* vs. IM *-i*
MM: [...] mencuba *menyelidik* bagaimana wujudnya (DBJan92:32)
IM: *menyelidiki*

The present paper is an attempt to find out if there is a pattern in the *-kan* and *-i* split in MM and IM. Should there be one, could there be some underlying reasons or an explanation for such a split? The verbs under investigation are gathered from academic texts in MM (Suhaida Abdul Kadir’s PhD dissertation, Universiti Putra Malaysia, and articles in *Jurnal Dewan Bahasa* 1992).