

Corpus Methodology to Discover Meanings
A Case Study of *mbok* in Banyumas Javanese

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Abstract

Mbok is used productively in conversational domain. However, some non-formal texts are also written in conversational style. In this paper, I built a corpus from around 300 articles in *mblaketaket*, a column in Radar Banyumas (RB), which is dedicated for Banyumas Javanese (BJ). Concordance lines with *mbok* as Keyword in Context (KWIC) are carefully observed. In the data, *mbok* has at least three functions. The first one is as a subordinate conjunction indicating a future conditional. Interestingly, adversary meanings are found in a quite large proportion. Next, *mbok* may function as a Face Threatening Act (FTA) mitigator in mostly imperative sentence. I believe that these two functions are also common in standard Javanese. The last function might be particular to BJ, where *mbok* functions as an emphasisizer. A large proportion of the findings shows that *mbok* is usually located by clause-end, not necessarily, but similar to question tag in English. Darminto, Supangat, & Subari (2008) which claimed their work to be *Bausastra* Dictionary does not list *mbok* as an entry. I found the entry *ambok* in another *Bausastra* (Widada, et al., 2011), where one of those three functions is listed as the first sense. The use of *ambok* as a headword might not help users when consulting the dictionary. In the corpus, the concordance of *ambok* is zero. Interestingly, the second sense of *mbok* (defined as *senadyan* 'although') in Widada (2008) is absent in the corpus. Exploration on standard Javanese is expected in further research. Findings in this paper might be appended to the entry, as any dictionary claiming to be *Bausastra* ideally conceives all possible senses including dialectal variations.

Keywords: *mbok*, subordinate conjunction, FTA mitigator, emphasis, question tag

Sample Concordance Data

isine. “Lho? pak... kiye banjur tutup cangkem bayane hahaha”	mbok	cincin kawine inyong sing ilang
bingung. ” Ha ha ha” mau	mbok	mau esih ana ayam nang
bingung. “Ya iyalah... kawit mau	mbok	ceceke nang njero cangkem baya
Daplun semaur. “Lho, kenangapa, ora kepenak karo bapak ibu, printah kon mbukak bagasi. “Ya	mbok	baya cecek karo ayam dolanan
	mbok	film Indonesia siki apik apik
	mbok	durung padha turu,” Daplun ngomongi
	mbok	langka mayide,” Daplun semaur bar ?”(*) Priwe Menurute Rika? * Wow
karo nerobos lampu bangjo iya	mbok	Apik
inyong nulise banteran melasi bojoku tahun,” kaki Dawir semaur. “Iya	mbok	ketinggalan gole macane,” prajurt Daplun
maning. “Deneng bapakke malah bingung, takon njeleih pisan, lah wingi	mbok	diagnosane inyong bener,” dokter Daplun
metro mini kuwe kaya angkot	mbok	kebonne wis depaculi kabeh ya
mini ya rok pendek, bener	mbok	wis tek wehna ko kabeh
kuwe dudu cawete inyong. Inyong	mbok	?, nek rok mini ya rok
	mbok	jawabane inyong? Darwen semaur yakin
	mbok	ora tau cawetan bu...! Nek

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