

Yang in the Question and Answer Sentences of Indonesian Language

F.X. Sawardi

Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Universitas Sebelas Maret
Surakarta, Indonesia
fxsawardi@staff.uns.ac.id

Chattri Sigit Widyastuti

Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Universitas Sebelas Maret
Surakarta, Indonesia
chattri_sw@staff.uns.ac.id

Abstract—In Indonesian grammar, *yang* used only with question words *siapa* ‘who’ and *apa* ‘what’, in specific position, like in *Siapa yang menulis surat?* ‘Who wrote the letter?’, and *Surat apa yang ditulis oleh Ali?* ‘What kinds of letter did Ali wrote?’. *Yang* did not used in the sentences *Kamu mencari siapa (*yang)?* ‘You look for whom?/ Whom did you look for?’, *Ali menulis apa (*yang)?* ‘Ali write what? / what did Ali write?’ From the contrast of two kinds of sentences, we ruled out that *yang* used only with *apa* and *siapa* which asked grammatical subject. In the sentences such as *Siapa yang bajunya sobek?* ‘Whose shirt is torn?’ and *Ali apanya yang sobek?* ‘What Ali’s thing is torn?’. Do the two last sentences ask the grammatical subject? The answer of *Siapa yang menulis surat?* is *Ali yang menulis surat* ‘Ali wrote the letter’. The answer of *Siapa yang bajunya sobek?* is *Ali yang bajunya sobek*. The answer sentences used *yang*. This article will rule out the usage of *yang* in question and answer sentences.

Keywords— *yang*; question sentence; answer sentence

I. INTRODUCTION

The word “*yang*” in the Indonesian language does not have a lexical meaning. When people are asked about what is the meaning of “*yang*” is, people will find it difficult to explain since there are no designated referrals. The word “*yang*” is a grammatical tool used for various syntactic purposes. The word is very productive/widely used in syntactic purposes. One of the functions often referred to in grammar is the relative referrer word (Kridalaksana, 2008; Anggita, (2014); Alwi, (2003); Sawardi, Yustanto and Widyastuti (2015)). Such a word functions to connect nouns and clauses that explain the noun. The word “*yang*” is very close to relative clauses, thus as if the word “*yang*” consistently served as a relative clause marker. Apparently the word “*yang*” serves other function in addition to relative marker. The function is related to the question and answer sentences. This function has not been much discussed in deeper investigation.

That the function of “*yang*” is related to question sentence form is illustrated in the following sentences.

(1) a. *Siapa gadis itu?*
who girl the
‘Who is the girl?’

b. *Kepada siapa kamu memberi pisang?*
to whom you give banana
‘To whom do you give the banana?’

c. *Siapa yang melakukan tindakan itu?*
who did action this
‘Who do this action?’

d. *Berapa orang (yang) kena tembak?*
How many men get shot?

‘How many men get shot?’

The sentences (1a) and (1b) do not use the word “yang”, sentence (1c) uses the word “yang” and sentence (1d) optionally uses the word “yang”. The word “yang” in sentence (1c) is used compulsorily after the question word “siapa” ‘who’, in sentence (1d) the word is used optionally after the question word and the word “orang”. The problems which remain are (i) what question words should be followed by words yang? (ii) if the word “yang” is used in question sentences?

In addition to being used in question sentence; the word “yang” is used in answer sentence. The question sentence (1c) can be answered by using the sentence “Ali yang melakukan tindakan itu”, or “Yang melakukan tindakan itu Ali” ‘Ali (who) did the action’. Is there any similarity in the use of “yang” in both sentences? This paper will discuss these issues.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The word “yang” is closely considered a relative clause marker. The concept of clauses has relatively long existed in syntactic studies, since the Keenan & Comrie’s (1977) article. In relation to relative clauses with “yang” as the marker, there are three articles that have so far discussed relative clauses. Cole, Hemon and Tjung (2003) discuss relative clause with observations on children in Jakarta. The finding reveals that there are more relative clauses that relativize the subject instead of the object. In the discussion all that is observed is considered a relative clause. Agustina (2007) discusses the relative clauses of Indonesian compared to the relative clauses of Korean, Mandarin Chinese, and Old Hebrew.

Downing ‘s (1978) opinion is used in this study. The conclusion is that the Indonesian language relative clause has three universes, among others; (i) the noun phrase of relative clause with antecedent noun phrase, (ii) the relative clause with additional is an assertion about the antecedent noun phrase, and (iii) the relative clause modification refers to adjectival. Such universal characteristics can also be read in Song (2001). Agustina hints that there was a need to research Indonesian language relative strategies, accessibility hierarchy, and relativity patterns. Anggita (2014) discusses relativity marked by “yang”, from relativity and accessibility strategies. As emphasized, relativity strategy is marked with “yang” only relativize the subject. Nouns which are not subjects can be explained by having transformed into subjects with syntax. The authors consider this as follows: the word “yang” becomes a relative clause marker, such as *ini yang aku cari*. Apparently, it needs to be distinguished as a relative clause “yang” or other markers as in the question and answer sentence.

III. METHOD

The object of this research is question sentence and answer that use the word “yang” in the Indonesian language. The sentences were collected from a novel themed *Rindu* (a work by Tere Liye), author’s and student’s work. The sentences were analyzed in terms of the predicate as its center and argument. The use of “yang” is formulated from the type of question word used, the position question sentence. Additionally, the word yang is also used for answer sentence formulated from functional position of the explained, reversed, and emphasized meanings of noun.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the 5 question words in Indonesian (what, who, when, where, why), the words “apa”, “siapa”, “berapa” ‘what, who, how many/much’ are commonly followed by the word “yang”. The question word “mengapa” ‘why’ can be optionally followed by the word “yang”. The question word “di mana” ‘where’ does not use the word “yang”, as illustrated in the following sentences.

(2) *Siapa yang menyiksa anak itu?*
Who yang torture child this?
‘Who toroture the child?’

(3) *Apa yang kau lakukan di sana?*
What yang you do there
‘What are you doing there?’

(4) *Berapa (uang) yang kau inginkan?*
How much (money) you want
‘How much money do you want?’

(5) *Mengapa Ali yang memukul anjing?*
Why Ali yang hit dog
‘Why is Ali (the one) who hit the dog?’

(6) *Di mana (*yang) Ali (*yang) memukul anjing?*
Where (*yang) Ali (*yang) hit dog

‘Where did Ali hit the dog?’

- (7) *Kapan (*yang) Ali memukul ajing?*
When Ali hit dog

‘When did Ali hit the dog?’

The use of “yang” in question sentence occurs only at the beginning of the sentence. The question that falls is not at the beginning of the sentence, so it is not followed by the word “yang”. The following sentences do not need to use the word “yang”.

- (7) *Kamu mencari siapa (*yang)?*
You look for whom
‘Whom do you look for?’
(8) *Kepada siapa (*yang) kamu memberi pisang?*
To whom you give banana
‘To whom do you give the banana?’

The question sentence (7) and (8) do not use the word “yang”. The question word “siapa” is located at the beginning of the sentence. Syntactically the questioned question does not occupy the subject of the sentence. Compare sentences (7) with the following sentence (9). In sentence (9) the word “yang” should be attached to.

- (9) *Siapa yang kamu cari?*
Who look for
‘Who do look for?’

From the contrasting sentences (7) and (9), the word “yang” is used in the question sentence questioning about the subject. The conclusion also explains why question sentence marked with the word *di mana* has never used the word “yang”. The word “*di mana*” can never ask the subject of a sentence. Although the syntactic process allows the role of the location to change into subject as in the sentence *Ia duduk di kursi 9* ‘He sat on seat no 9’ into “*Ia menduduki kursi 9.*”, in which the construction is changed into passive “*Kursi 9 diduduki oleh dia*”, the question changes into “*Di kursi berapa ia duduk?*”. It can never become “*Di mana yang diduduki oleh dia?*” In addition, the subject questions in terms of quality / quantity, the word *yang* is applicable. Thus, in (4) and (5), the use of the word “yang” is also identified.

In addition to being used in question sentence, the word “yang” is also applicable to answer sentence, as shown in the sentence below.

- (10) a. *Siapa yang menyiksa anak itu?*
Who yang torture child this?
‘Who torture the child?’
b. *Penjahat*
c. *Penjahat yang menyiksa anak itu.*
d. *Yang menyiksa anak itu penjahat*
e. *Semua anak (*yang) menyiksa anak itu.*

The use of “yang” in sentences (10c) and (10d) does not indicate function as a relative clause marker. Even though the sentences on (10c) and (10d) share similar information, they give different emphases. The intonations of the two sentences remain different. The sentence (10c) has a stress on the word *penjahat*. The sentence (10d) does not emphasize on the word “*penjahat*” ‘the criminal’ although in fact “*penjahat*” constitutes new information. The word “yang” emphasizes the word “*penjahat*”. In answering with the word “*semua*”, on the word “yang” there is no emphasis on someone or a group, the use of the word “yang” is not needed, as shown in the sentence (10e).

V. CONCLUSION

In Indonesian language, the word “yang” not only functions as a relativizer, but it also serves another function, namely marking a question sentence that asks a grammatical subject. Such word can join with the question word such as “*apa*”, “*siapa*”, “*berapa*”, which ask the subject. These question words are not followed by the word “yang” only if they do not ask the subject. A question word “yang” never asks the subject, thus it is never followed by the word “yang”, as the words “*kapan*” and “*di mana*”. Additionally, the word “yang” is also used to emphasize answer sentence.

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