

# Contrastive Analysis of Japanese and Indonesian Inversion Sentences

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## ABSTRACT

The structure of the Indonesian sentence is different from the Japanese sentence where the former is S-P, S-P-O, S-P-O-Adv, while the latter is S-O-P. Both languages have their own rules regarding the sentence structure, but the use of grammar is not that rigid in real practice. A sentence that reverses the order of the word in the structure is called an inverted sentence. In Japanese linguistic, inversion is called *touchikoubun* or scrambled sentence, or reverse order sentence. The knowledge of a person's first language can affect the way they process the foreign language(s) they have learned. However, contrastive analysis can minimize that influence. This study aims to determine the differences and similarities between Indonesian and Japanese inverted sentences. As descriptive research, the data was taken from an Indonesian novel entitled '*Cantik Itu Luka*' by Eka Kurniawan and a Japanese translated novel entitled '*Bi wa Kizu*' chapters 1 and 2 by Ota Ribeka. The identity method was used as the tool for analysing inverted sentences from both works of literature. The results showed that Indonesian inverted declarative sentences and inverted imperative sentences can be paired into Japanese inversion. However, most of the Indonesian inverted interrogative sentences could not be paired into Japanese inversion sentences.

**Keywords:** Contrastive analysis, inversion sentence, touchibun

## 1. INTRODUCTION

People keep making sentences whenever they are speaking or writing. Accordingly, a sentence is considered a good sentence if it has a proper structure and able to deliver the messages to the reader. Indonesian grammar has a sentence structure of S-P, S-P-O, and S-P-O-Adv. For example, *Adik menangis*. 'Sister is crying.', *Ayah membaca koran*. 'Dad is reading a newspaper.', *Kakak bermain bola di lapangan*. 'Brother is playing soccer in the field.'. Word *adik* 'sister', *ayah* 'dad', and *kakak* 'brother' have a function as a subject, words *menangis* 'is crying', *membaca* 'is reading' and *bermain* 'is playing' have a function as a predicate, words *koran* 'a newspaper' and *bola* 'soccer' have a function as an object, and word *di lapangan* 'in the field' as an adverb of place.

Japanese sentences, in general, have an S-O-V structure and it is also the basic transitive sentence structure (Subject-Object-Verb) which differs from English and Indonesian grammar. The sentence *Budi*

*makan nasi* 'Budi is eating rice' in Indonesian will become *Budisan wa gohan wo taberu* 'Budi rice is eating' in Japanese sentence construction. Thus, the predicator, *taberu* 'is eating', comes after the object, *gohan* 'rice'. This inverted structure also occurs in the construction of noun phrase with a 'qualifier-quality' pattern that results in the translation of noun phrase of *langit biru* 'sky blue' in Indonesian being translated as *aoi sora* 'blue sky' in Japanese.

However, there are many cases where people deviate from the proper usage of grammar such as the use of sentence structures that are different from its rules. In the Indonesian context, for example, the sentence *Melompatlah si kucing ke sungai* 'Jump the cat into the river' places the predicator *melompat* 'jump' before the subject *si kucing* 'the cat'. The other example is *Ada tamu yang terlambat* 'There are guest who are late' and *Ada binatang yang bertelur* 'There is an animal that lay eggs'.

The previous two examples include the word *ada* 'there are' as the predicator of both sentences. The

subject in the first sentence is *tamu* 'guest', while in the second sentence, the subject is *binatang yang bertelur* 'animal that lay eggs'. Both sentences have similarities since the predicate is preceding the subject in both sentences. Wagiyati & Zein (2018) argued that the natural order of an Indonesian sentence is subject-predicate, so the appearance of a sentence with the order of predicate-subject means that there is a reverse in order.

Sentences that have a reverse of order are called inversion or inverted sentence. Gunawan (2013) argued that if the order of the word in a sentence usually begins with a subject, inversion's order use predicate at the beginning of the sentence. Kridalaksana (2008) stated that inversion is the change of order in a part of the sentence. Like Kridalaksana, Rastuti (2008) claimed that inversion is a reversal of common order of sentence. Therefore, inverted sentence can be defined as reverse order of the sentence where the predicate preceding the subject.

Similar cases also occurred in Japanese where there are proper grammar rules to form a standard sentence, but many sentences violate the rules. The example can be observed in Japanese oral language such as in the sentences *Tabun ikenai, watashi wa*. 'Maybe can't go, I', and *Wakannai, ore*. 'Don't know, I'. In both examples, the noun that function as the subject is located at the end of the sentence after the verb that acts as the predicator.

Those sentences that have violated the order of the proper sentence should be called scrambled sentence or disordered sentences. In Japanese linguistic, inverted sentence is addressed as *touchikoubun* (scrambled sentence) while it was called as inversion in Indonesian (Rastuti, 2008).

Inverted sentence is a type of sentence whose structure is based on the order of its function. Rastuti (2009) argued that based on its functions, Indonesian sentences can be divided into two types, that is a normative sentence and an inverted sentence. In Indonesian inverted sentences, there is a syntax pattern with the order of P-S, P-O-S, P-C-S, P-O-C-S, P-S with Adv., P-O-S with Adv., P-C-S with Adv., and P-O-C-S with Adv. (Puspitasari, 2015).

Cahyono (2016) argued that in Indonesian language, there is 4 type of inversion: inverted declarative, inverted interrogative, inverted imperative and inverted exclamatory. While in Japanese language, Tada (1993) argued that inversion or scrambling sentence is divided into three subclasses: S-scrambling, M-scrambling and L-scrambling.

Based on the previous examples of Indonesian and Japanese inverted sentences, there are some similarities and differences between Indonesian inverted sentences and Japanese inverted sentences. Sutedi (2018) assumed that if the level of differences between the mother language and foreign language is big, then the difficulty of the learning process is high.

The difficulty in learning a new language is caused by interference from the first language. However, this problem can be solved by contrastive analysis (Richards as cited in Tarigan, 2009). Kridalaksana (2008) argued that contrastive analysis is a method used to find out the differences and similarities between languages or dialects to uncover the main principal of a language that can be applied in practice, such as language teaching and translation. In Japanese, Sutedi (2018) stated that contrastive analysis is called contrastive linguistics or *taishou gengogaku*, *taishou bunseki*, or *taishou kenkyuu*, that is a branch of linguistics that investigates and explains similarities and differences of structures or aspects between two or more languages.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze the commonalities and differences between two languages, Indonesian and Japanese, including the syntactic objects of the inverted sentence structure to find out their own characteristics. Sutedi (2018) stated that by knowing the differences and similarities of language I and language II, foreign language teachers have a better understanding of the characteristics of the two languages so that they can be more careful in choosing the types of teaching materials that can be taught, especially teaching materials that have no equivalent in one of the languages. Therefore, this research was conducted to determine the similarities and differences between Indonesian and Japanese inversion sentences.

## 2. METHOD

This research used a qualitative method because the data in this research are words and sentences. Moleong (2006) argued that a qualitative method is a type of research procedure where the data are words, written or spoken form. In other words, a qualitative method is suitable when analyzing data in the form of number, but it is more compatible for analyzing words or sentences, in written or spoken form.

This research focused on comparing and contrasting Indonesian and Japanese inverted sentences by using contrastive analysis. This study also employed descriptive method to describe a phenomenon by a scientific procedure in order to answer the problem (Sutedi, 2018).

Descriptive method was used because the data were obtained directly without modification and manipulation.

**Table 1.** Types of inverted sentences in Indonesian and Japanese

No.	TP	Inversion Indonesian (II)	TP	Inversion Japanese (IJ)
1.	A1	<i>Melangkah pergi ke tempat Dewi Ayu.</i>	S	<i>Aruite Dewi Ayu no ie e mukatta.</i>
2.	A1	<i>Menyerah sepenuhnya, keempat perampok bertopeng itu meng-hentikan pencarian mereka dan menemui Makojah yang masih berdiri di pintu kamarnya.</i>	L	<i>Akiramete, fukumen o shita yonnin no nusubito ha sagasu no o yame, mada heya no doguchi ni tatte ita Makojah no tokoro e itta.</i>
3.	A2	<i>Ada biji kedondong di tenggorokanku, Papa.</i>	M	<i>Nodo ni kudondon no tane ga hikkatteru no, papa.</i>
4.	B	<i>Bersiaplah, Nona.</i>	S	<i>Dekakeru junbi o shite kudasai, ojousan.</i>
5.	B	<i>Berdoalah, Amerika memenangkan perang.</i>	L	<i>Oinori shinasai, Amerika ga sensou ni katsu youni tte.</i>
6.	B	<i>Pergilah dan mainkan gitar di bawah jendela kamarnya sebagaimana biasa.</i>	L	<i>Itte, itsumo no youni sono hito no mado no shita de gitaa o hiki nasai na.</i>
7.	C1	<i>Mencintai seorang perempuan buruk rupa?</i>	*	<i>Minikui onna o suki ni natta no?</i>
8.	C2	<i>Katakan padaku, se-berapa jauh lagi aku sampai di Halimunda?</i>	L	<i>Oshiete kure, ato dore gurai de Halimunda ni tsuku ka.</i>

The data was obtained from Indonesian novel ‘*Cantik Itu Luka*’ by Eka Kurniawan and Japanese translated novel ‘*Bi wa Kizu*’ chapter 1 and 2 by Ota Ribeka because both sources contained Indonesian and Japanese inverted sentences in both literatures. Both novels, ‘*Cantik Itu Luka*’ and ‘*Bi wa Kizu*’, were selected as the data because both novels employ appropriate grammar rules in their writing. Furthermore, both novels are also compatible with one another because both were originated from the same translation so the sentences from both works of literature have similar meanings. As a result, both novels were chosen as the data for the analysis both fulfilled all the requirements.

The identity method was used for the data analysis. Sudaryanto (1993) argued that the identity method aims to classify linguistic identity by using a decider tool outside of language, other than language, and is not a part of the mentioned language. Moreover, this study employed a pairing method because the data was Indonesian novel and Japanese translated novel.

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher found a couple of data that had a variety of inverted sentences in both Indonesian and Japanese novels. Both Indonesian inverted sentence and the Japanese inverted sentence were compared by identifying the possible match of the Indonesian

inversion to the Japanese inversion, and vice versa. In Indonesian language, the inverted sentence is divided into four types: inverted declarative that have two sub-types (A1-A2), inverted imperative (B), inverted interrogative that divided into two types (C1-C2) and inverted exclamatory (D). Meanwhile, in Japanese language, the inverted sentence is divided into three categories: S-scrambling (S), M-scrambling (M) and L-scrambling (L).

The results also showed that the use of inverted sentence in both languages was found in both written and spoken contexts, especially in the informal situation. Sumadi (2010) argued that the use of inverted sentence in spoken language need to be attached with intonation and interlude to explain the means so the interlocutor can receive the speaker’s message or being communicative. Table I illustrates the type of inverted sentences in Indonesian and Japanese language. Types of inverted sentences in Indonesian and Japanese

#### 3.1. Inverted Declarative

Data (1)

*Melangkah pergi ke tempat Dewi Ayu. (II: A1)*

*melangkah pergi (P) ke tempat Dewi Ayu (Adv.)*

“Stepping away to the place of Dewi Ayu.”

*Aruite Dewi Ayu no ie e mukatta.* (IJ: S)

*aruite* (P) *Dewi Ayu no ie e* (Adv.) *mukatta* (P)

From Data (1), the Indonesian sentence is classified as a declarative active inverted sentence with the pattern of Predicate-Adverb. In this sentence, the subject is not written explicitly. However, the novel mentions that the person who is going to Dewi Ayu's place is someone named Kliwon. In its complete structure, this sentence will become 'Kliwon *melangkah pergi ke tempat Dewi Ayu.*' The Japanese sentence is the pair for the Indonesian. The Japanese inverted sentence in this example is categorized as S-scrambling type. The verb *aruite* scrambled to the left before the adverb *Dewi Ayu no ie e*. Therefore, the Indonesian inversion type A1 can be paired with the Japanese inversion type S-scrambling because both sentences are similar in the syntax level.

Data (2)

*Menyerah sepenuhnya, keempat perampok bertopeng itu menghentikan pencarian mereka dan menemui Makojah yang masih berdiri di pintu kamarnya.* (II: A1)

*menyerah sepenuhnya* (P), *keempat perampok bertopeng itu* (S) *menghentikan* (P) *pencarian mereka* (O) *dan menemui* (P) *Makojah yang masih berdiri* (S) *di pintu kamarnya* (Adv.).

"Giving up completely, the four masked robbers stopped their search and found Makojah who was still standing at the door of her room."

*Akiramete, fukumen o shita yonnin no nusubito ha sagasu no o yame, mada heya no doguchi ni tatte ita Makojah no tokoro e itta.* (IJ: L)

*akiramete* (P), *fukumen o shita yonnin no nusubito ha* (S) *sagasu no o* (O) *yame* (P), *mada heya no doguchi ni* (Adv.) *tatte ita Makojah no tokoro e itta* (P).

The Indonesian inverted sentence from Data (4) is an inverted declarative active sentence with the pattern Predicate-Object-Subject with Adverb. The sentence describes the activity first by using the phrase '*menyerah sepenuhnya*', then it describes the actor of the process '*keempat perampok*'. The Japanese sentence is the pair for the Indonesian inverted sentence. The Japanese inverted sentence is classified as L-scrambling type. The verb *akiramete* are scrambled into the left before the embedded clause. Therefore, the Indonesian inversion type A1 can be paired with the Japanese inversion of L-

scrambling type because the share similar syntax functions.

Data (3)

*Ada biji kedondong di tenggorokanku, Papa.* (II: A2)  
*ada* (P) *biji kedondong* (S) *di tenggorokanku* (Adv.)  
*papa*

"There was an Ambarella seed in my throat, Papa."

*Nodo ni kudondon no tane ga hikkakatteru no, papa.*

(IJ: M)

*nodo ni* (Adv.) *kudondon no tane* (S) *ga hikkakatteru no* (P) *papa*

In Data (3), the Indonesian inverted sentence is a declarative inversion with predicate *ada* 'there' and it is categorized as Predicate-Subject pattern with Adverb. With the appearance of predicate *ada* 'there', the sentence cannot be converted to S-P pattern. The Japanese sentence is proportional the Indonesian inverted sentence. The Japanese inversion data (3) is M-scrambling type. The adverb *nodo ni* scrambled to the left before the subject *kudondon no tane*. Therefore, the Indonesian inversion type A2 can be paired with the Japanese inversion of M-scrambling type because of the similarity in the syntax function.

### 3.2. Inverted Imperative

Data (4)

*Bersiaplah, Nona.* (II: B)

*bersiaplah* (P) *nona* (S)

"Get ready, Miss."

*Dekakeru junbi o shite kudasai, ojousan.* (IJ: S)

*dekakeru junbi* (O) *o shite kudasai* (P) *ojousan* (S)

The Indonesian sentence of Data (4) is categorized as an inverted imperative sentence with the pattern Predicate-Subject. In this inversion, there is the particle -lah which functions to highlight the predicate. In the complete sentence, this sentence will be 'Nona bersiaplah.' The Japanese sentence is the pair of the Indonesian inverted sentence. The word 'bersiaplah' is expanded in the Japanese translation to *dekakeru junbi o shite kudasai*. The Japanese inverted sentence of the Data (4) is classified as S-scrambling type. The subject *ojousan* scrambled to the right at the end of the sentence. Therefore, the Indonesia inverted sentence type B can be paired with the Japanese S-scrambling because the similarity of both sentences in the syntax level.

Data (5)

*Berdoalah, Amerika memenangkan perang.* (II: B)

*berdoalah* (P), *Amerika* (S) *memenangkan* (P) *perang* (O)

“Pray, America will win the war.”

*Oinori shinasai, Amerika ga sensou ni katsu youni tte.* (IJ: L)

*oinori shinasai* (P), *Amerika* (S) *ga sensou* (O) *ni katsu youni tte* (P)

Data (5) shows an Indonesian inverted imperative sentence with the pattern Predicate-Subject-Object. In the sentence, there is a particle *-lah* which has a function to emphasize the predicate. The Japanese sentence is comparable to the Indonesian inverted sentence. The Japanese sentence in Data (5) is classified as L-Scrambling type. The predicate *oinori shinasai* scrambled to the left before the subject *Amerika*. Therefore, the Indonesian inversion type B is compatible with the Japanese inversion of L-Scrambling type since they are similar in the syntax level.

Data (6)

*Pergilah dan mainkan gitar di bawah jendela kamarnya sebagaimana biasa.* (II: B)

*pergilah dan mainkan* (P) *gitar* (O) *di bawah jendela kamarnya sebagaimana biasa* (Adv.)

“Go and play the guitar under her bedroom window as usual.”

*Itte, itsumo no youni sono hito no mado no shita de gitaa o hiki nasai na.* (IJ: L)

*itte* (P), *itsumo no youni sono hito no mado no shita de* (Adv.) *gitaa* (O) *o hiki nasai na* (P)

Regarding Data (6), the Indonesian inverted sentence is imperative with the pattern Predicate-Object-Adverb. In this example, there is a particle *-lah* that has a function to emphasize the predicate. The Japanese sentence is the pair for the Indonesian inverted sentence. The Japanese inversion in this data is categorized as L-Scrambling type. The predicate *itte* scrambled to the left before the embedded clause. Thus, the Indonesian inversion type B can be paired with Japanese inversion type L-Scrambling because they have similarity in the level of functions.

### 3.3. Inverted Interrogative

Data (7)

*Mencintai seorang perempuan buruk rupa?* (II: C1) *mencintai* (P) *seorang perempuan buruk rupa* (O)

“Love an ugly woman?”

*Minikui onna o suki ni natta no?* (IJ: \*)

*minikui onna* (O) *o suki ni natta no* (P)

From the example of Data (7), the Indonesian inverted sentence is categorized as an interrogative informative with the pattern Predicate-Object. Interrogative informative sentence is a type of questioning that needs a definite answer, yes or no. In this type, there are not any question words, but it uses a question mark. Therefore, it is an interrogative sentence even though the subject is not written explicitly. The name of the interlocutor is Krisan. In a complete structure, this sentence will be ‘Krisan *mencintai seorang perempuan buruk rupa?*’. The Japanese sentence is the pair of the Indonesian sentence, but it is not inverted sentences, it is just a normal sentence. Meanwhile, the structure of the function word in the sentence is similar to the Japanese sentence where the predicate located at the end of the sentence. Therefore, Indonesian inversion C1 type cannot be paired with the Japanese translated sentence because the sentence is not in the form of inversion and the order of the syntax function is not the same.

Data (8)

*Katakan padaku, seberapa jauh lagi aku sampai di Halimunda?* (II: C2)

*katakan* (P) *padaku* (S) *seberapa jauh lagi aku* (S) *sampai* (P) *di Halimunda* (Adv.)

“Tell me, how far will I get to Halimunda?”

*Oshiete kure, ato dore gurai de Halimunda ni tsuku ka.* (IJ: L)

*oshite* (P) *kure* (S) *ato dore gurai de Halimunda ni* (Adv.) *tsuku ka* (P)

Indonesian inverted sentence in this data is classified as interrogative confirmative inversion with the pattern Predicate-Subject with Adverb. Interrogative confirmative sentence needs an explanatory answer. From the example, the sentence intent to ask for information by using ‘*seberapa jauh?*’, which indicates it as an interrogative sentence. The sentence is proportional to the Indonesian inverted sentence from the Japanese language. The type of Japanese inversion is L-Scrambling. The clause *oshiete kure* scrambled to the left before the embedded clause. Therefore, Indonesian inversion type C2 can be paired with Japanese language inversion sentence type L-Scrambling, because they have similarity in the syntax functions.

Some recent studies about inverted sentence in Indonesian and Japanese also strengthen the results of this study. The findings of this research are in line with the results of previous research where it finds that the structure of Indonesian inversion always begins with predicate followed by subjects, although other functions can be inserted before the subject or after the predicate (Puspitasari, 2015; Cahyono, 2016; Lestari, 2017). Meanwhile, the structure of the Japanese inverted sentence always ended by predicate, even though the predicate can come after any words function such as the subject, object, and adverb (Kuno, 1973; Gayatrina, 2007). Regarding the contrastive analysis, there is a similarity between Indonesian sentences and Japanese sentences because both languages have a shift in their syntactic function (Hamdi, 2016). Meanwhile, the differences between both languages occur on the types of the sentences (Sutedi, 2016).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This research presents the results of a contrastive analysis of Indonesian and Japanese inverted sentence structures. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that there are commonalities and differences in Indonesian and Japanese inverted sentences. First, Indonesian inverted sentences in the form of an active declarative and the predicate *ada* 'there' is proportional to Japanese inversion with either the S-Scrambling, M-Scrambling, or L-Scrambling types, and vice versa. Second, the Indonesian inverted sentence with imperative type is comparable to Japanese inverted sentence of S-Scrambling and L-Scrambling type, and vice versa. Lastly, the Indonesian inverted sentence with interrogative confirmative type is corresponding to Japanese inverted sentence of L-Scrambling type, and vice versa. Regarding the Indonesian inverted sentence of interrogative informative type, it cannot be paired with any Japanese inversion sentence because the translated sentence is not inverted sentence and the order of the syntax function is not similar to the original. The inverted sentences that do not have any paired can cause difficulty toward the Japanese language learners in Indonesia since it would be difficult to use these sentences type without any comparison in their first language. Therefore, there is a need to develop more comprehensive learning materials for Japanese inversion topic in Indonesian teaching materials.

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