

Argument Structure in Indonesian Passive Voice: Universal Grammar Analyses

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ABSTRACT

In linguistic research, Indonesian language is claimed as a language that is marginalized in its study. Also, from universal grammar study, Indonesian, particularly Indonesian passive voice does not seem to have been discussed properly. Therefore, this paper aims at explaining that Indonesian passive voice has argument structures which are tied up by thematic relations so, from the perspective of universal grammar (UG), the number and types of elements categorized as principles and parameters can be determined. Data taken from the Kompas newspaper and the results of the research show that there are only two elements in the formation of Indonesian passive voice. The first and the main element is the predicate argument which consists of passive verbs, and the second one is the subject element with five semantic roles, namely (1) objective subject, (2) patient subject, (3) benefactive subject, (4) receptive subject, and (5) locative subject. Numbers (1) and (2) can be further divided into thirteen and nine thematic relations, respectively. These results indicate that Indonesian passive voices are very abstract, complex, and varied. However, all of them can be mastered by children in a short time without the need to take grammar courses. The only learning effort undertaken by children is by listening and getting stimulation in the form of the language exposed by the people around them. It also proves that there is a universal grammar principle (UG) which is innate to everyone's nature and that principle then underlies all language structures in this universe. This also validates that in every native speaker there is a sub-component of the lexicon in the form of vocabulary richness capital along with information on how to pronounce, form, and mean. Behind this, it is believed that there is also an embedded competence in the form of sub-component of a computational system, which is in the form of the ability to combine and arrange words in a certain order and manner, so based on native speakers' intuition they can distinguish grammatical and non-grammatical structure.

Keywords: *argument structure, passive voice, thematic relation, principles and parameters*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesian passive voice is used as a topic of this study for the following reasons: (1) Chomsky, the founder of universal grammar since his first book, *Syntactic* in 1957 [1] up to his most recent work, *On Nature, Use, and Acquisition of Language* in 1999 [2] has always take the example of discussions in English, though in his latest works he has discussed French, Italian, and Japanese. but, has not yet reached Indonesian, which means that the discussion of Indonesian linguistics, particularly Indonesian passive voice is still neglected. (2) Indonesian passive voice according to Chung [3] have syntactic characteristics that cannot be easily handled by the passive definition of universal grammar, so that Indonesian passive voice are still a problem faced by universal grammar. (3) The use of this sentence has unique rules and it seems that the theory has

not yet reached the level of maximum stability, among others, finding the types are dynamic and there is no agreement among Indonesian linguistic experts, whether two, four, or five types, Darwis [4]. (4) It is complained that there is a tendency among Indonesian linguistic experts to research or study regional languages more than Indonesian, Chaer [5]. (5) Indonesian passive voice have represented the state of the Malaysian language or the Malay language in several ASEAN member countries, Mahmood [6].

The latest generative grammar theory that is used as the theory applied in this research is due to its unique principles, namely this theory has advantages such as: self-consistency, simplicity or economy (economy), and completeness (economy). exhaustiveness), as well as purity/natural (natural), and even in this recent generative period, it is labeled as perfect syntax which is

characterized as a theory with the principles of simplicity, naturalness, symmetry, elegance, and economy, Smith [7]. In addition, this theory is recognized as a theory that still has quite a number of enthusiasts and reviewers.

The problems described above indicates that Indonesian passive voice still have many problems. Among the problems that are very prominent are the structure of the argument which is different from the active sentence, the type and number of roles that are carried out by the subject of the passive voice which is not owned by the subject of the active sentence. What is even more interesting is that with the Principles and Parameters approach, principles (universe) and parameters (diversity) will be revealed in the formation of Indonesian passive voice.

2. ARGUMENT STRUCTURE

The structure of the argument, which is nothing but the linkage between arguments in the passive voice, is actually the most important thing to pay attention to in order to understand the logical form of Indonesian passive voice. What is meant by logical form is the semantic component or meaning obtained from the results of the meaning of the utterances conveyed and listened to. The intended meaning here is of course the grammatical meaning that is formed after the lexical elements join (experience a spell-out) with each other to produce a syntactic construction, Grimsha [8] which in this case is the construction of Indonesian passive voice.

3. PRINCIPLE ANALYSES

From the principle analysis of Indonesian passive voice, it can be emphasized that there are 25 thematic relations (logical forms) that reflect native speakers' mastery of the structure of the argument as well as the nature of the roles and forms of verbs that correspond to the arguments. After extracting this, it was found that the grammatical subject of Indonesian passive voices has five semantic roles, namely (1) objective subject, (2) patient subject, (3) benefactive subject, (4) receptive subject, and (5) locative subject. An example of the five semantic roles is given in succession below.

Objective subject

(1) *Sebagian pekerjaan Ibu* dialihkan kepada pembantu.

Some job mother transferPas to maid
'Some of the mother's works are tranfered to the maid.'

(2) *Bantuan beasiswa* diserahkan kepada lima mahasiswa berprestasi.

Donation scholarship givePas to 5 student PI outstanding.
'Scholarship fee is given to five outstanding students.'

(3) *Sebagian gajinya* disumbangkan kepada panitia pembangunan masjid.

Some salary donatePas
to committee construction mosque.
'Some of his salary is donated to the mosque construction committee.'

Patientive subject

(4) *Rumah Osama* kini disegel.

House Osama now seal
'Osama's house is now sealed.'

(5) *Semua rumah ibadah* ditutup.

All house worship close
'All houses of worship are closed.'

(6) Terbelah empat *bambu ini*.

Split four bamboo Dem
'This bamboo is split into four.'

Benefactive subject

(7) *Adik* dibelikan boneka.

Sister buy Pas doll.
'A doll is bought for the younger sister.'

(8) *Ayah* dibukakan pintu.

Father open Pas door.
'The door is opened for father.'

(9) *Anak ini* dicarikan pekerjaan.

Child Dem look for Pas job.
Job is looked for this child.'

Reseptive subject

(10) *Kita* disuguhi teh susu oleh tuan rumah.

We serve Pas milk tea by host.
'We are served milk tea by the host.'

(11) *Ia* ditawari pekerjaan oleh tetangganya.

He offer Pas job by neighbour 3Pos.
'He was offered a job by his neighbour'

(12) *Ali* dipinjami uang oleh orang itu.

Ali lent Pas money by person Dem
'Ali was lent money by that person.'

Locative subject

(13) *Mobil itu* dimuati barang-barang rongsokan.

Car Dem load Pas junk.
'The car was loaded with junk.'

(14) *Sawah itu* ditanami padi unggulan.

Rice field plant Pas rice superior.
'The rice fields are planted with superior rice.'

(15) *Paku itu* digantungi foto.

Nail Dem hung Pas photo.
The nail is hung with a photo.'

All passive verbs in the examples above have two arguments, except for: sealed passive verbs (4), closed (5), and split (6) which have one argument. When they were still categorized as active sentences, all of these had two arguments, while all the others had three arguments. This is because the agentive argument (actor) is mandatory in the active form, while in the passive form it is not mandatory. That is why the agentive arguments by the host (10), by the neighbor (11), and by the person (12) are bracketed, which means that the agentive arguments can be omitted without causing ungrammatical sentences, as shown in example (10a), (11a), and (12a) below.

(10a) *Kita* disuguhi teh susu.
We serve Pas milk tea
'We are served with milk tea'

(11a) *Dia* ditawari pekerjaan.
He offer Pas job
'He was offered a job'

(12a) *Ali* dipinjami uang.
Ali lent Pas money.
'Ali was lent some money'

4. PARAMETER ANALYSES

From parameter analysis of Indonesian passive voice, it can also be emphasized that the passive sentences of this language have different phonetic manifestations in the form of types of passive sentences that other languages may not have. In this case, the parameter (diversity) in Indonesian passivization is in terms of the morphological form of passive verbs, there are seven types of passive sentences in Indonesian, namely (1) di-passive, (2) ter- passive (3) ke-an passive, (4) ber-passive, (5) person passive, (6) kena passive, and (7) Zero passive. Examples for each successively are given below.

(16) Orang itu harusnya langsung *dipecat*.
Person Dem Mod Adv fired.
'That person should be fired immediately.'

(17) Osama bin Laden telah *terbunuh*.
Osama bin laden Asp kill Pas.
'Osama bin Laden has been killed.'

(18) Kami semua *kehujan*.
We all rain Pas.
'We all got rained on.'

(19) Kain itu belum *berjahit*.
Cloth Dem Asp Sew Pas.
'The cloth has not been sewn.'

(20) Buku seperti itu *mereka cari*.
Book like Dem they look for Pas.
'Such a book they are looking for.'

(21) Mereka *kena efek* domino.
They get effect Pas domino.
'They were hit by a domino effect.'

(22) *Ambil* hikmahnya!
Take blessing 3.Pos.
'Take the blessing'

Examples of passive voices (16) - (20) and (22), all of them, are classified as one argument. The passive sentence (21) is classified as having two arguments, so that if the complement of the sentence is omitted, the sentence becomes ungrammatical as shown in the following example

(21a)*Mereka kena.
*They get.
**They are hit.'

Actually there is a passive verb ke-an that has two arguments, for example examples (23) and (24) below. This is determined by the idiosyncratic character of the words that are the basic form. Example.

(23) Terus berbagi walau kita kekurangan (uang).
Keep share even though we lack. (money)
'Keep going on sharing even though we lack of money'

(24) Partai itu *kemasukan* orang-orang yang haus kekuasaan.
'The party is possessed by greedy people.'

The complement argument in example (23) is optional, which means it can be omitted (23a), while in example (24) the complement argument is mandatory, so it cannot be omitted (24a).

(23a) Terus berbagi walau kita kekurangan.
'Keep going on sharing even though we lack.'

(24a)*Partai itu *kemasukan*.
*Party Dem conceded Pas'
*The party conceded.'

Based on parameter analysis, Indonesian passive voices di- and ter- can be further divided due to the possibility of the two prefixes being combined with the suffixes -i and -kan as well as the prefixes per-. Such is the situation that the idiosyncratic character of the word determines whether the di- and ter- prefixes may be combined with other suffixes, apart from being a demand for developing a verb's semantic specification. Of course, the structure of the sentence argument is affected. The following is a sub-categorization of the passive form di- in relation to the morphological valence of the verb or the basic form it affixes, Kamsinah [13].

Bentuk di-(-kan/-i)	Bentuk diper-(-kan/-i)	Bentuk ter-(-kan/-i)
di-+D	diper-+ D	ter-+ D
di-+ D + -kan	diper-+ D + -kan	ter-+ D + -kan
di-+ D + -i	diper-+ D+ -i	ter-+ D + -i
di-+ D ± -kan	diper-+ D ± -kan	ter- + D ± -kan
di-+ D ± -i	diper-+ D ± -i	ter- + D ± -i
di-+ D + [-kan -i]	diper-+ D + [-kan -i]	
di-+ D ± [-kan -i]	diper-+ D ± [-kan -i]	

In that connection, in terms of the structure of the argument, it is known that there are only two elements that are principle or universal for the formation of Indonesian passive voice. The first and the main element is the predicate argument which consists of passive verbs and the second is the subject element with certain semantic roles. The agentive role which is the principle matter for active sentences can be omitted in passive sentences because the principle or universe does not apply, both in the form of noun phrases accompanied by and not accompanied by prepositions by or in the form of personal pronouns and clitics of personal markers. The facts above show that from a universal grammatical perspective, Indonesian passive voice are abstract, complex, and very varied. However, all of them can be mastered by children quickly and in a short time without having to attend formal language training or learning designed for it. The only learning effort undertaken by children is listening and obtaining stimuli in the form of the speech of the people around them. From this fact, it can be understood why Chomsky has the logic that there is a universal grammar principle that is innate to everyone's nature and that principle then underlies all language structures in this universe, Adger [9], Buring [10] That is, this explanation certifies that in every native speaker there is a sub-component of the lexicon that provides humans with a wealth of vocabulary along with information about how to pronounce, form, and interpret. At the same time, competence is also embedded in the form of a subcomponent of a computational system that gives him the ability to combine and arrange words in a certain way and order so that they can intuitively distinguish between grammatical and non-grammatical word arrangements (sentences), Cook [11]. Kadarisman [12]

Finally, in connection with the behaviorism doctrine which affirms that humans are tabularasa, it is necessary to give additional explanations. The doctrine of

behaviorism teaches that all human behavior is the result of learning. That is, everyone can be educated and directed to have certain traits and abilities. This is a form of oversimplification of the problem that is unacceptable and does not correspond to reality. Chomsky believes that in humans there are creative and productive abilities that nature (environment) cannot possibly provide. What can be provided by the environment (behaviorism) is a learning model in the form of responses to stimuli regarding how learning occurs. The result is just a habitual system in the form of a network of associations. Such a model will certainly not accurately explain the relationship of form (speech) and meaning, which in fact is controlled by a person intuitively when he is able to speak. That is, there are no facts that can be shown that children are able to analyze such a complicated grammatical system that allows them to learn quickly with the help of a simple environment without violating grammatical principles; even sensitive to every symptom of violation of these grammatical principles. However, it is still believed that humans need environmental stimuli (learning efforts), not for language acquisition, but only for the application of parameters with proper settings, Kamsinah [13]

5. CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that there are only two elements that are principle or universal for the formation of passive sentences in Indonesian. The first and the main element is the predicate argument which consists of passive verbs and the second is the subject element with five semantic roles, namely (1) objective subject, (2) patient subject, (3) benefactive subject, (4) receptive subject, and (5) subject locative. Numbers (1) and (2) can be further divided into thirteen and nine thematic relations, respectively. The addition of complementary arguments is highly dependent on the influence of the idiosyncratic character of the word and this is controlled by the native speaker intuitively.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

The first and the second authors conceived and designed the analysis, whereas the third and the fourth collected and contributed the data which is followed by performing the analysis. The last mentioned activity is also carried out by the first and the second authors. Finally, the first author wrote the paper.

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