

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE IN JAVANESE

AN X-BAR ANALYSIS

Dewi Norma Utami

Magister of Linguistics
Diponegoro University
Semarang, Indonesia
dewinorma85@gmail.com

Abstract— This paper aimed to examine prepositional category followed by other elements as objects or modifier to form a prepositional phrase. There are some types of preposition in Javanese, however the writer only focus on manner, spatial and temporal preposition. Besides determining its structure, this paper also determined the syntactical function of prepositional phrase that is as an adjunct or complement. The method used in presenting the data is descriptive qualitative while the analysis used is X-bar theory. The data were taken from various articles in Panjebur Semangat magazine. The result of the analysis showed that structure of prepositional phrase in Javanese consists of: 1) PP = P', Spec. P' = P, Comp. and 2) PP = P', Spec. P' = P', Adjunct; P' = P, Compl.

Keywords— *prepositional phrase, adjunct, complement, X-bar theory*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Recently, Javanese as a local language started to get abandoned by youngsters in its own motherhood. For an instance, we can see that now in Semarang, young-age children up to age of 17-18 do not use Javanese as their language both at school and at home. This has attracted the author's attention to do a research concerning Javanese language. Though it is not focused on Javanese as language in use, but rather an analysis beyond the general use of Javanese in daily life, the author hopes that this research can encourage curiosity on Javanese language to those who read this paper. Javanese is a unique language and due to this uniqueness, there has been several research done by expert from abroad conducted studies on this language. Hence, the author feels challenged to do this research to manifest that native speaker of Javanese still care about this language existence.

The present paper's objective is examining prepositional category followed by other elements as objects or modifier to form a prepositional phrase in Javanese language structure. With regard to their broad uses in daily conversation, the analysis on grammatical relation in this paper focused on prepositions that represent temporal relation, spatial relation and manner relation.

B. Theoretical Review

Prepositional phrase can be defined as a phrase consisting of a preposition – as head of phrase, objects and any modifiers of the object. Preposition phrase belongs to bilateral dependencies in which the presence of a preposition requires the presence of other elements –objects and modifiers –and vice versa (Valin, 2004). Generally, the objects and modifiers of a prepositional phrase can be noun and pronoun, but any other lexical categories can also be its objects or modifiers, like verb, adjective and adverb.

Mulyadi (2010) notes that prepositional phrase has distinct behavior in each language. It is represented in syntactic level and it is highly depends on morphological character of a language. He cited an idea of Brown and Mitter (1991: 259), English' prepositional phrase allows a preposition followed by another preposition, such in 'from behind the door' and 'in under the cupboard'.

In Javanese language, there are three kinds of prepositional phrase based on its form; (1) monomorphemic/simple preposition, i.e: *kanthi* 'with', *kanggo* 'for', *menyang* 'to'; (2) polimorphemic/complex preposition, i.e: *dhumateng* 'to', *ngéngingi* 'about', *tumekaning* 'get to' ; and (3) compound preposition, i.e: *gandhèng karo* 'related to', *awit saking* 'due to' (Wedhawati, 2006). As a constituent structure, prepositional phrase has certain functions in its presence within a sentence. Preposition itself can be an indicator representing relationship in-between constituents that occur before and after preposition. As an example, in phrase *lungo menyang Jakarta* 'go to Jakarta', preposition *menyang* indicates relationship of destination.

Research on prepositional phrase in Javanese language has not much done yet compared to the other types of phrase. Hence, the writer is interested in carrying out a study on this topic to deepen the writer's understanding on prepositional phrase and its grammatical relation in a structure. This research aimed to determine the grammatical relation of prepositional phrase in Javanese language in a syntactic structure. The following are some syntactic-semantic functions of preposition proposed by Wedhawati (2006):

1. Manner Relation, this relations indicated by co-constituent following a preposition that is verb, adjective and noun. Prepositions representing this kind of relation are *nganggo*, *kanthi*, *mawa* 'with'.

Example: *Bocah kuwi ngomong kanthi banter.*

‘The kid speaks loudly.’

Nabil ngoyak bakul roti kanthi mlayu banter.

‘Nabil chased after a baker by run fast.’

2. Intermediary Relation, co-constituent of this relation is noun or pronoun. It is represented by *karana*, *lumantar*, *nganggo*, *liwat* ‘through’.

Example: *Nganggo buku iki, aku iso sinau luwih akeh.*

‘Through this book, I can learn more.’

Maling kuwi mlebu seko lawang mburi.

‘The robber entered the house through back door.’

Liwat kancamu, polisi olèh katerangan.

‘Through your friend, the police got some information.’

3. Resemblance Relation, preposition followed by noun, pronoun or verb. Some prepositions indicating this relation are *kaya*, *kados*, *kayadéné* (like, similar to)

Example: *Murid anyar kuwi ayune kaya artis Korea.*

‘The new student is as beautiful as Korean actress.’

Awake lara kabeh kaya diantemi wong sak kampung.

‘He felt weary as if he’s been beaten by all villagers.’

Bocah kuwi sregep sinau koyo mbakyune.

‘The girl study diligently like her sister.’

4. Goal Relation. This relation involved noun and adjective as co-constituents; *tumrap*, *kanggo*, *supaya*.

Example: *Ayo menyang dokter supaya laramu iku ora tambah mrèmèn.*

‘Let’s go see a doctor so that your sick won’t get worse.’

Wong iku kudu ndonga dan usaha supaya sukses.

‘One should pray and work hard to be success.’

Aturan iki digawe kanggo beciké masyarakat.

‘This rule has been issued for the people’s good.’

5. Instrumental Relation, a preposition followed by noun and indicated by preposition *nganggo*, *nganggé* ‘use/with’

Example: *Bapak ndandani TV nganggo drei.*

‘Father repaired the television with a screwdriver.’

Polisi nembak penjahat kuwi nganggo bedhil.

‘The policeman shot the fugitive with a gun.’

6. Spatial Relation. Noun, pronoun, proper name are used in this relation. Representing temporal relation: *menyang*, *dhateng* ‘to’.

Example: *Bulik tindak menyang Solo.*

‘Aunty went to Solo.’

Bapak mapag adik dhateng stasiun.

‘Father picked up my brother at the station.’

7. Temporal Relation. It is indicated by the presence of adverb of time. Preposition used in this relation: *ing*, *wiwit*, *dhèk*, *nalika*, *ngancik*.

Example: *Bakul-bakul ing pasar padha bubar ngancik wayah surup.*

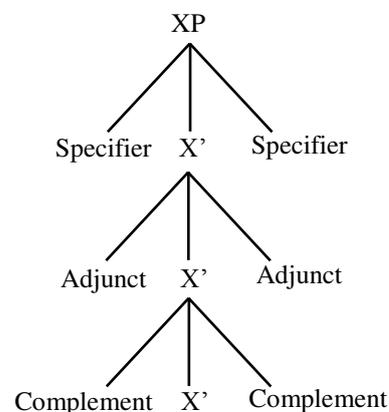
‘The street vendors start to disperse when the sun goes down.’

Dhèwèké wis manggon ning omah kuwi wiwit setahun kepungkur.

He has been lived in that house since last year.

The analysis on grammatical relation in this paper focused on prepositions that represent temporal relation, spatial relation and manner relation.

The writer used X-bar theory in this analysis. X-bar theory is an idea that firstly brought up by Zellig Harris and then developed by Chomsky (Sulaiman, 1993 in Mulyadi, 2010). One concept of this theory is every phrase has a head lexicon that is inflectional elements. Further, Farrel (2005) explains three basic kinds of non-head constituent in X-bar: specifier, complement and adjunct. Specifiers occur in immediate position dominated by maximal projection (XP), while complements occur in the lowest position (minimal projection). The last constituent is adjunct which occurs between intermediate projection and minimal projection (between X’-s). The structure of X-bar theory as shown below:



One thing to note, that the realization of the scheme above depends on the constituent structure within the language which is being observed. For example, in English, preposition

precedes complement thus in X-bar the complement occurs on right position. On contrary, Japanese language has its complement occurs before preposition. Hence, complement will be on the left in X-bar analysis. Then it is obvious that the distinction on constituent structure in languages all over the world can be explained with X-bar theory.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The data used in this paper are taken from an article in a Javanese magazine, *Panjebar Semangat* 46th Edition, November 18th, 2017. Since Javanese has various kind of language level, the writer will focus on 'ngoko' register. This data is in form of sentences taken from various article within the magazine. The providing data then are sorted based on the type of prepositional phrase which will be the focus on the analysis that is spatial, temporal and manner prepositional phrase. These sorted data then consulted with informant who is considered expert in Javanese language by the writer to check the grammatical aspect. The method used in presented the analysis result is descriptive-qualitative.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Prepositional phrase in Javanese has various semantic and syntactic functions. Thus, as said before, the writer will focus on three semantic functions of preposition, that is temporal, spatial and manner. In this analysis, the writer tries to determine which constituent in X-bar scheme that can be filled by prepositional phrase, is it adjunct or complement or both. Based on Farrel's Grammatical Relation (2005: 36), prepositional phrase seems to correlate with the possibility of adjunct fronting. In order to prove this statement, the writer analyzes some sentences and determines the syntactic function of their prepositional phrase.

According to Valin (2004:93) adjuncts are always optional. Whenever we omitted them, the sentences are still acceptable both semantically and syntactically. Complement, on the other side, needs to occur when there are transitive verbs in a sentence. In non-functional grammatical relation realm, complement can be defined as object. Thus, based on the explanation above, we can determine the function of adjunct and complement in a sentence a bit easier.

1. Prepositional phrase that indicates spatial relation

Data 1

Penjajagan iku ngeteraké penyidik Dertipideksus Bareskrim Polri menyang Surabaya.

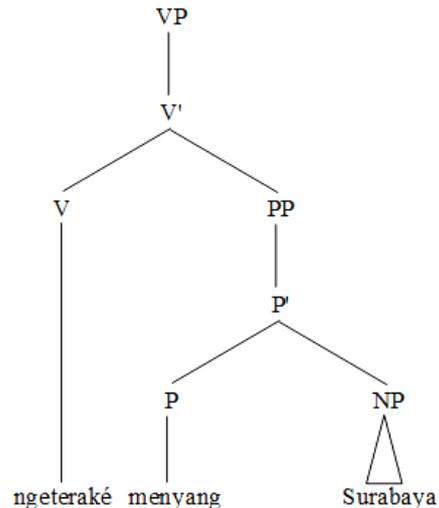
**Penjajagan iku ngeteraké penyidik Dertipideksus Bareskrim Polri.*

The investigation **brought** the Bareskrim POLRI's officers **to** Surabaya.

*The investigation **brought** the Bareskrim POLRI's officers.

In this sentence, *menyang Surabaya* functions as **complement** because its presence is obligatory due to the word *ngeteraké* which needs a prepositional phrase to make that sentence acceptable. We can shorten this

structure into *ngeteraké menyang Surabaya* to show the complement function as shown in the scheme below:



Data 2

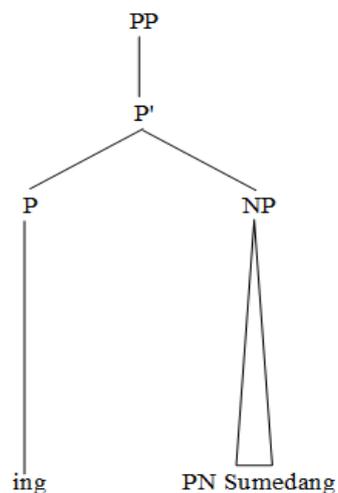
Dheweke diponis setaun sesasi ing Pengadilan Negeri (PN) Sumedang.

Dheweke diponis setaun sesasi.

He has been sentenced to jail for one year and a month **in District Court of Sumedang.**

He has been sentenced to jail for one year and a month.

Prepositional phrase *ing Pengadilan Negeri (PN) Sumedang* in this sentence acts as an **adjunct**. When this phrase is omitted, the sentence is still semantically and syntactically correct and acceptable. Traditionally, the function of this prepositional phrase is called adverb of place which its presence is optional in a sentence.



Data 3

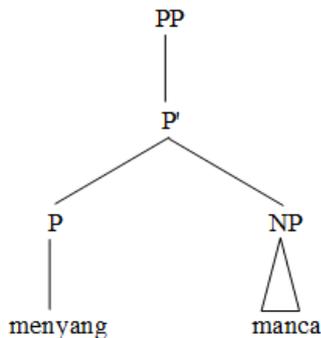
Klawan mangkono, Setnov ora bisa bebas kluwaran menyang manca.

Klawan mangkono, Setnov ora bisa bebas kluwaran.

Because of that, Setnov cannot **travel abroad** freely.

Because of that, Setnov cannot **travel** freely.

Different from data set (1), *menyang manca* in this sentence occupies the function as **adjunct**. *Kluwaran* is an intransitive verb, thus it does not need any complement. In addition, when the phrase *menyang manca* is omitted, it does not break any rules. The following scheme is X-bar form of this adjunct:



The head of this phrase is preposition *menyang* 'to'. Regarding analysis examples in this paper, the structure of prepositional phrase showing spatial relation in Javanese is left-headed structure. It is in line with Indonesian and English structure as well.

Data 4

Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lunga menyang Mekah nganggo kapal.

**Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lunga.*

**Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lunga menyang Mekah.*

Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lelungan nganggo kapal.

In ancient times, usually people went **to** Mecca **by** ship.

There are two prepositional phrases in the sentence above. That is *menyang Mekah* and *nganggo kapal*. Both of them **complement** each other in semantic relation. As shown in data (4) above, when both prepositional phrases are omitted, the sentence is unacceptable. However, we need to look closer into the last two sentences.

Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lunga menyang Mekah.

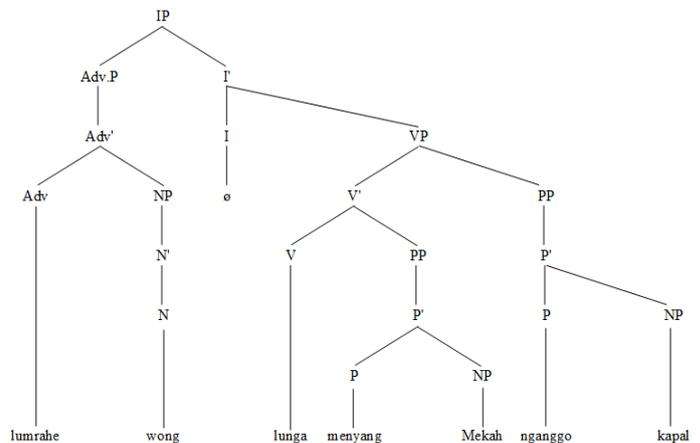
**Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lunga nganggo kapal.*

Jaman biyèn, lumrahé wong lelungan nganggo kapal.

In those sentences, one of the prepositional phrases is omitted. The first one omitted *nganggo kapal* and the second one omitted *menyang Mekah*. The fact that the

second sentence is unacceptable is due to the word *lunga* 'go' which belongs to complex preposition requiring preposition *menyang* 'to'. While, as shown in third sentence, the verb *lunga* needs to be **nominalized** so that the structure of the sentence acceptable. Here, there is an affixation process to form a noun from verb *lunga*. The affixation can be described as such: **le + lunga + an 'lelungan'**; here, a phonological process named assimilation of vowels follows the affixation process.

Then it can be sum up that *menyang Mekah* occupies **complement** position, whereas *nganggo kapal* here acts as an **adjunct**. Here is the X-bar scheme to describe the relationship between them:



2. Prepositional phrase with temporal relation

Data 5

Nalika semana, penyidik ora nemokake IR.

Penyidik ora nemokake IR.

At that time, the investigators could not find IR.

Data 6

Wiwit Sabtu (30/9) wartawan mbudidaya golek weruh kahanane Setnov.

Wartawan mbudidaya golek weruh kahanane Setnov.

Since Saturday (Sept 30th), the reporters tried to find out about Setnov's condition.

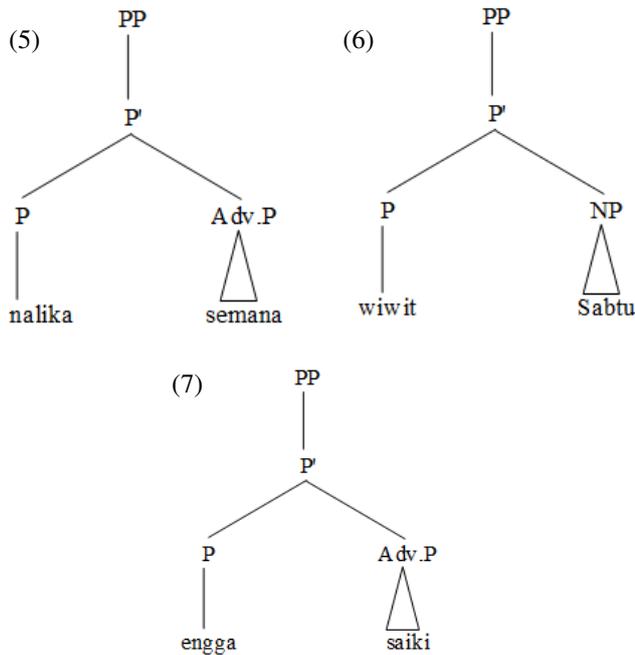
Data 7

Engga saiki, pihak RS durung gelem menehi katrangan bab kahanane Setnov sing samesthine.

Pihak RS durung gelem menehi katrangan bab kahanane Setnov sing samesthine.

Until now, the hospital has not clarified Setnov's actual condition.

As we can see in data 5,6, and 7 above, prepositional phrase indicating temporal relation in Javanese language functions as an adjunct. In traditional grammar, they occupy the function of adverb of time. Similar to prepositional phrase with spatial relation, they are left-headed.



3. Prepositional phrase indicating manner relation

Data 8

Senajan durung kabèh program kerjané rampung kagarap, kita rasa akèh fondhasi kebijakan wis nyangga **kanthi kukuh** visi lan misiné presiden.

Senajan durung kabèh program kerjané rampung kagarap, kita rasa akèh fondhasi kebijakan wis nyangga visi lan misiné presiden.

Although not all program has been done, it seems there are many policies that have been supported the government's vision and mission **firmly**.

Phrase *kanthi kukuh* 'firmly' consists of prepositional *kanthi* as the head and adjective *kukuh* as the modifier which in this case acts as the **complement** of *kanthi*. When *kanthi* is not modified by any other elements, then it will not have a meaning and cannot occupy any function in the sentence structure. This is what is called **bilateral-dependency** in a phrase by Valin (2006) as stated in previous chapter in this paper.

kanthi kukuh } *kukuh* 'firm' acts as a complement of *kanthi* 'with' because it is required by the preposition in which functions as head in this phrase structure. When the complement is omitted, then the structure will be ungrammatical (Mulyadi, 2010).
 **kanthi*
kukuh
 **kukuh kanthi*

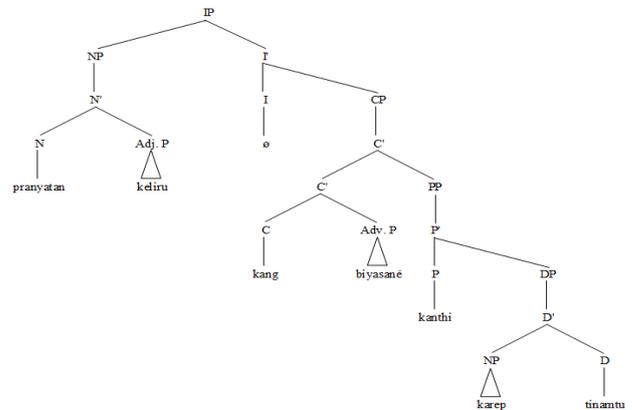
Data 9

Hoax iku pranyatan keliru kang biyasané kanthi karep tinamtu, sing lumrahé mbathèni utawa nguntungaké sumberé apus-apus.

**Hoax iku pranyatan keliru kang biyasané, sing lumrahé mbathèni utawa nguntungaké sumberé apus-apus.*

Hoax is a false statement which is usually issued **due to** certain reason that beneficiaries the party who stated it.

Look at the scheme below:



The X-bar scheme above shows that prepositional phrase *kanthi karep tinamtu* is the **complement** of complement phrase *kang biyasané*. Whereas the complement phrase of *kang biyasané kanthi karep tinamtu* is an **adjunct** of the whole sentence structure. This is the sentence will be if the adjunct we discussed about is omitted:

Hoax iku pranyatan keliru kang biyasané kanthi karep tinamtu, sing lumrahé mbathèni utawa nguntungaké sumberé apus-apus.

Hoax iku pranyatan keliru sing lumrahé mbathèni utawa nguntungaké sumberé apus-apus.

Hoax iku pranyatan keliru.

In this case, those three sentences describe that the prepositional phrase within the complement phrase is obligatory not optional. Whereas, the presence of complement phrases in a sentence is optional because it is used to explain further about the preceding clause or proposition. The latest statement is general in any sentence structure in all languages.

Data 10

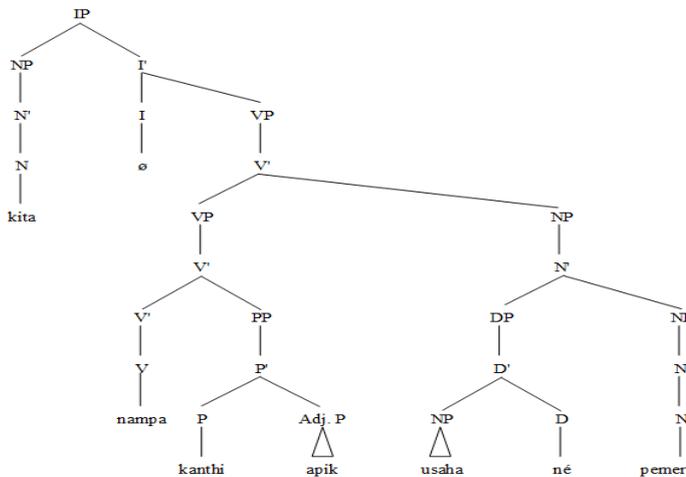
Senajan sabeneré isih kurang marem, kita nampa kanthi apik usaha pemerintah anggone ndandani sistem pendidikan ing Indonesia.

Senajan sabeneré isih kurang marem, kita nampa usaha pemerintah.

Though actually it is still unsatisfactory, we are **well-**appreciated the government's effort to improve educational system in Indonesia.

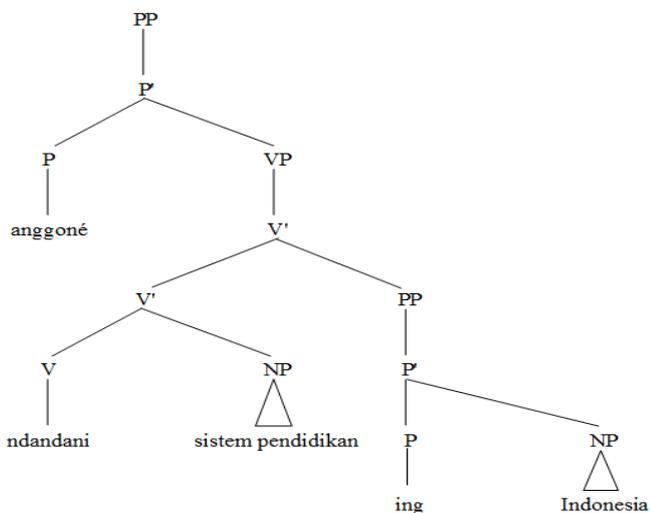
Though actually it is still unsatisfactory, we appreciate the government's effort.

There are three kinds of prepositional phrases in the sentence above: *kanthi apik*; *anggone ndandani sistem pendidikan*; and *ing Indonesia*. Here is the position of those PPs in X-bar scheme:



In the c-structure above, PP *kanthi apik* functions as **adjunct**, where its position in the structure is between X' and in line with X'. This phrase consists of preposition *kanthi* as its head and AP *apik* as its object. Related to its adjunct function, the clause will be acceptable whenever PP in this phrase is omitted.

While in the c-structure below, we can find that the whole phrases in the structure also act as adjunct. This phrase is presented to explain what kind of effort the government has done. Thus it has semantic function in this structure rather than syntactic function.



IV. CONCLUSION

In Javanese, structure of prepositional phrase can occur as adjunct or complement, based on the surrounding elements. It functions as a complement whenever a sentence involves a prepositional verb, for example *lungo menyang*, *ngomong karo*, etc. The occurrence of this PP complement highly depends on the verb. Whilst as adjunct, PP occurs as an adverb of a sentence and it does not depend on another constituent. The structure of PP in Javanese can be described as follows:

- 1) PP = P', Spec. P' = P, Comp.
- 2) PP = P', Spec. P' = P', Adjunct; P' = P, Compl.

Since the data in this paper is still limited and the writer only focus on manner, spatial and temporal preposition, it is considerable to conduct a deeper research on this topic. There are still many aspects of prepositional phrase in Javanese that have not been explored yet.

V. REFERENCES

Farrel, P. (2005). *Grammatical Relations*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Givón, T. (2001). *Syntax: An Introduction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamin Publishing Company.

Mulyadi. (2010). *Frase Preposisi Bahasa Indonesia: Analisis X-Bar*. Universitas Sumatera Utara: ResearchGate.

Resticka, G. a. (2012). *Frasa Preposisional dalam Bahasa Jawa Dialek Banyumas (Analisis Sintaksis dan Semantik)*. Yogyakarta: Universitas Gadjah Mada.

Subiyanto, A. (2013). *Analytic Causative in Javanese: A Lexical-Functional Approach*. *Parole Vol. 3 No. 2*.

Valin, V. (2004). *An Introduction to Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wedhawati. (2006). *Tata Bahasa Jawa Mutakhir*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Kanisius.