The closest equivalent in Indonesian for the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)'

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Abstract: Several Japanese verbs mean 'to wear (clothes)' and, when translated into Indonesian, usually can be translated into the same word *memakai* 'to wear/to put on'. This phenomenon deserves further investigation to gain a better understanding, particularly in terms of determining the best closest equivalent for these verbs in Indonesian. In this paper, the data was collected using the linguistic corpus method, and the theory used was the NSM semantic theory. The result demonstrates that each of these synonymous verbs has distinct meaning components that can be used to distinguish one from another. On the other hand, the Indonesian language lacks the richness of Japanese verbs that mean 'to wear (clothes).' As a result, when translating into Indonesian, general words are being used.

Keywords: synonymous verbs, meaning components, natural semantic metalanguage

INTRODUCTION

According to the survey report on Japanese language education abroad (Djafri, 2019), Indonesia is the second-largest country in the number of Japanese learners globally. However, since the typology of the two languages is different, learning Japanese for Indonesian people is not an easy thing to do. The difficulties can be found in many aspects, such as phonologically, morphologically, syntactically, and semantically. This paper observes semantic difficulty finding the closest equivalent in Indonesian for the Japanese verbs' to wear (clothes)'. The theoretical framework being used in this paper was Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) semantic theory. The NSM linguists believe that a shared lexical and grammatical core in all languages provides a "natural semantic metalanguage" for explaining meanings and ideas across languages and cultures (Goddard, 2017). This NSM has as many different versions as there are human languages. Therefore, there is Indonesian NSM, Japanese NSM, and so on. There are two methods for analyzing using the NSM theory. The first one is using component meaning mapping. The second one is explication using semantic primes. In this paper, the first method is applied.

METHOD

The procedure applied in this paper combines the linguistic corpus method for collecting the data with the component meaning mapping method for analyzing the data. Firstly, the Japanese verbs which have the meaning of 'to wear (clothes)' are identified. Secondly, the usage of these synonymous verbs was looked up in the corpus of BCCWJ (Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese) (https://chunagon.ninjal.ac.jp). The BCCWJ contains over one hundred million words and has been launched to the public since December 2011 (Maekawa et al., 2014). On the other hand, the corpus for the Indonesian language used in this paper is the Indonesian Corpus (KOIN) from the Indonesian ministry of education (https://korpusindonesia.kemdikbud.go.id). Finally, the meaning component mapping for Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)' and their equivalents in Indonesian is compared using the NSM.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

10 verbs in Japanese mean 'to wear (clothes)' (Backhouse, 2016). Those 10 verbs are *chakuyou suru, tsukeru, omeshi ni naru, kiru, haku, kaburu, suru, kakeru, shimeru,* and *hameru.* Due to the page limitation, only *haku, kaburu*, and *hameru* are analyzed in this paper.

The Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)'

1. *Haku*

The verb *haku* is used especially when wearing clothes on lower body or footwear. The usage examples of this *haku* verb are with five top examples of direct objects: *nagagutsu* 'boots', *sukaato* 'skirt', *kutsu* 'shoes', *taitsu* 'tights', and *waraji'* straw shoes'. Figure 1 below shows the concordance of verb *haku* 'to wear (clothes)' found in the corpus data BCCWJ.

Figure 1: The concordance of verb *haku* 'to wear (clothes)'

2. *Kaburu*

The verb *kaburu* is used especially when wearing clothes on the head or covering one's face. The usage examples of this *kaburu* verb are with five top examples of direct objects: *masuku'* mask', *hakata niwaka no men'* hakata niwaka mask', *herumetto* 'helmet', *kamen* 'mask', and *boushi'* hat'. Figure 2 below shows the concordance of the verb *kaburu* 'to wear (clothes)' found in the corpus data BCCWJ.

Figure 2: The concordance of verb *kaburu* 'to wear (clothes)'

3. *Hameru*

The verb *hameru* is used especially when wearing clothes that have the characteristics of close-fitting accessories. The usage examples of this *hameru* verb are with five top examples of direct objects: (*fuku no*) *botan* '(clothes) button', *ginba* 'silver teeth', *gunte* '(working) gloves', *yubiwa'* ring', and *ireba'* dentures'. Figure 3 below shows the concordance of the verb *kaburu* 'to wear (clothes)' found in the corpus data BCCWJ.

Figure 3: The concordance of verb *hameru* 'to wear (clothes)'

The closest Indonesian equivalent for the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)'

1. The equivalent for *haku*

Based on the KWIC (Key Word in Context) analysis in the Indonesian Corpus (KOIN) on five top examples of direct objects of the verb *haku*, the closest Indonesian equivalent is the verb *memakai* (*pakai*), as can be observed in the examples below.

(1) … rata-rata memakai sepatu boots hak tinggi, rok supermini, tank top, ….
'… usually wears boots, supermini skirts, tank tops, ….'

(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR015.txt)

(2) … kebiasaan memakai pakaian berlapis-lapis, yakni celana dalam, celana pendek, celana panjang dan sarung.
'… the habit of wearing clothes in layers, namely panties, shorts, trousers and sarongs.'

(KOIN, Kesehatan_B20IV090.txt)

2. The equivalent for *kaburu*

Based on the KWIC (Key Word in Context) analysis in the Indonesian Corpus (KOIN) on five top examples of direct objects of the verb *kaburu*, the closest Indonesian equivalents are the verb *menggunakan* (*guna*), *memasang* (*pasang*), and *mengenakan* (*kena*) as can be observed in the examples below.

(3) … dedaunan di sekujur tubuh muka mereka menggunakan topeng menakutkan.
'… the leaves all over their faces wear scary masks.'

(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR119.txt)

(4) Dengan takzim kupasang topeng di wajahku.
'With reverence, I put a mask on my face.'

(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR098.txt)

(5) Pengemudinya adalah pria muda yang mengenakan helm butut, tampangnya sederhana, dengan kumis tebal dan.....
'The driver is a young man wearing a shabby helmet, simple in appearance, with a thick moustache and....'

(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR015.txt)

(6) Bintang mengambil helm yang disodorkan Noval dan memakainya.
  'Bintang took the helmet that Noval had proffered and put it on.'

<div align="right">(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR112.txt)</div>

(7) … karena bentuknya seperti topi yang biasa dikenakan orang Meksiko.
  '…because it looks like a hat that Mexicans usually wear.'

<div align="right">(KOIN, Fisika_B20DE173.txt)</div>

(8) … seorang lelaki berbaju aneh, berpola kotak-kotak, memakai topi yang lucu.
  '… a man in a strange dress, plaid pattern, wearing a funny hat.'

<div align="right">(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR122.txt)</div>

(9) … langsung melalui benda-benda seperti sisir, bantal dan topi yang digunakan besama-sama.
  … directly through objects such as combs, pillows and shared hats.'

<div align="right">(KOIN, Kesehatan_B20IV075.txt)</div>

3. The equivalent for *hameru*

Based on the KWIC (Key Word in Context) analysis in the Indonesian Corpus (KOIN) on five top examples of direct objects of the verb *hameru*, the closest Indonesian equivalent is the verb *menggunakan* (guna) and *memasang* (*pasang*) as can be observed in the examples below.

(10) Penanganan udem dapat menggunakan sarung tangan khusus, pakaian berlengan khusus dan pemijatan ….
  'Handling edema can use special gloves, special sleeves and massage….'

<div align="right">(KOIN, Kesehatan_B20IV215.txt)</div>

(11) … dan tanpa menyadari tahu-tahu telah terpasang sebentuk cincin pada jari manis gadis pantai dan sepasang ….
  '… and without realizing it had attached a ring on the ring finger of a beach girl and a pair of ….'

<div align="right">(KOIN, Sastra_B20SR008.txt)</div>

Relation between the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)' and their equivalent in Indonesian

Based on the investigation in the corpus data, the relation between the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)' and their closest Indonesian equivalent can be seen in Figure 4 below.
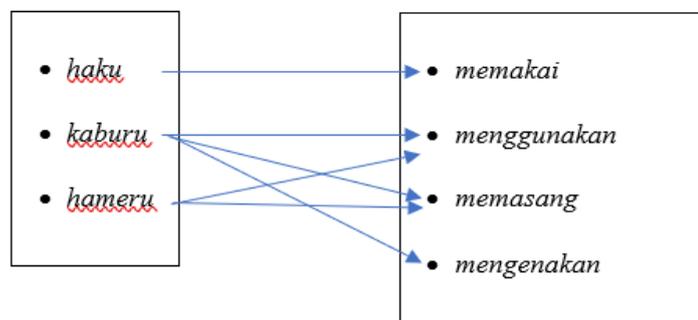
Figure 4: The relation between the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)' and their equivalent in Indonesian

Mapping the meaning components using NSM theory

Based on the usage, the meaning components of three Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)' can be mapped as follows.

Table 1 The meaning component mapping for the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)'

	Actor	Object	Position
haku	Person	Boots, skirts, shoes, tights, etc.	Waist, feet
kaburu	Person	Mask, helmet, hat, etc.	Head
hameru	Person	Buttons, gloves, ring, denture, etc.	Hands, teeth, clothes

On the other hand, based on the usage, the meaning components of the Indonesian equivalents for the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)' can be mapped as follows.

Table 2 The meaning component mapping for the Indonesian equivalent
for the Japanese verbs 'to wear (clothes)'

	Actor	Object	Position
memakai	Person	Boots, skirts, shoes, tights, etc.	Waist, feet
menggunakan	Person	Mask, helmet, hat, buttons, gloves, ring, denture, etc.	Head, hands, teeth, clothes
memasang	Person	Mask, helmet, hat, buttons, gloves, ring, denture, etc.	Head, hands, teeth, clothes
mengenakan	Person	Mask, helmet, hat,	Head

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In Japanese, the verb 'to wear (clothes)' has many options depending on the worn objects. On the other hand, Indonesian has more than one equivalent for the Japanese verb 'to wear (clothes)'. However, those Indonesian equivalents are too general in meaning. Therefore, their meaning components are not as specific as the Japanese verb 'to wear (clothes)'.

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