

## Indonesian Derivative Verb Affixes: a Study of Typological Linguistics

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**Abstract**—Based on the typology of the morphological point of view, Indonesian is an agglutinative language. Affixation plays an important role in its morphological processes, meaning that prefixes, suffixes and affixes are added to the word stems to form new words. From the syntactical point of view, its basic word order adheres to SVO. The predicate, which is in the form of verb, has the ability to bind arguments to create a clausal structure. Therefore, it is possible that one verb binds one argument, two arguments and three arguments, highly depending on the type of the verb. As a case study of typological linguistics, this present study is an initial one which explores the Indonesian derivative verbs. The theory of typological linguistics is used to analyze the system through which how the Indonesian derivative verbs are morphologically formed is analyzed. In this case, the verb functioning as the predicate, can bind arguments in order to create a clausal structure. The result of the analysis shows that, from the perspective of the typological linguistics, the Indonesian derivative verbs can be derived from the stems under the categories of 1) noun, 2) adjective, 3) precategory, and 4) verb. It also shows that there are six types of derivational affixes which can be used to form derivative verbs from the four stems mentioned above; they are (1) *ber-*, (2) *ber-an*, (3) *ter-*, (4) *meng-*, (5) *-kan*, and (6) *-i*. The ones which can be attached to nouns to form derivative verbs are *ber-*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i*; the ones which can be attached to adjectives to form derivative verbs are *ber-*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan* and *-i*; the ones which can be attached to precategory to form derivative verbs are *ber-*, *ber-an*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i*; and the ones which can be attached to verbs are *-kan* and *-i*. The derivational affixes *ber-*, *ter-*, and *meng-* are used to form intransitive derivative verbs, and the derivational affixes *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i* are used to form transitive derivative verbs.

**Keywords:** *linguistics, typology, derivative*

## 1. Introduction

The study of the Indonesian derivative verb typological linguistics is one of the ways in which the Indonesian morphology and syntax can be analyzed from the typological perspective. It can present the universal conception of a language. It is intended to describe the universality of a language so its findings can be easily understood by both Indonesians and foreigners. In the current globalized era, many foreigners intend to learn Indonesian language; therefore, many universities have created the Indonesian Program Designed for Foreigners ‘Bahasa Indonesia Untuk Penutur Asing (BIPA)’.

The Indonesian derivative verbs can be derived from noun (N), precatatory (P), and verb (V). As an illustration, *batu* ‘tone’ (N) which becomes *membatu* ‘getting petrified’ (V), *darat* ‘shore’ (N) which becomes *mendarat* ‘landing’ (V), *baik* ‘good’ (A) which becomes *perbaiki* ‘repairing/revising’ (V), *alir* (P) which becomes *mengalir* ‘flowing’, *duduk* (V) which becomes *duduki* ‘sitting on/occupying’. From the affixes used to form the Indonesian derivative verbs described above, several unique things can be observed. *First*, the Indonesian derivative verbs can be formed from four word roots; namely, noun, adjective, precatatory and verb. Therefore, it is assumed that the derivative verbs produced highly vary. *Second*, the derivational affixes can produce 1) intransitive derivative verbs, as exemplified by the word root ‘batu’ (stone) which becomes *membatu* after the prefix *mem-* is added to it; 2) transitive derivative verbs, as exemplified by the word root *duduk* (sitting) which becomes *duduki* (sitting on or occupying), *dudukan* (seating); 3) both transitive and intransitive verbs, as illustrated by the word root *alir* which becomes *alirkan* (making something to flow) as a transitive verb and *mengalir* (flowing) as an intransitive verb. *Third*, the arguments needed in a clause differ, as illustrated by the verb root *duduk* (sitting) in the clause *Ibu duduk* (the mother is sitting), there is one argument, namely *ibu*; however, in the clause *Ibu menduduki kursi* (the mother is occupying the chair), there are two arguments, namely *ibu* (mother) and *kursi* (chair). Furthermore, in the clause *Ibu mendudukan adik di kursi* (mother is causing younger sibling to sit on the chair), there are three arguments; they are *ibu* (mother), *adik* (younger sibling), and *kursi* (chair).

The other reason why it is necessary to explore the Indonesian derivative verbs is the fact that no research has been conducted to analyze the Indonesian derivative verbs as stated above. Moreover, only a few Indonesian grammar books discuss the morphological formation of the Indonesian derivative verbs from the derivational perspective. Apart from that, on the one hand, none has analyzed the Indonesian derivative verbs using the theory of typology; on the other hand, the formation of the Indonesian derivative verbs from the typological perspective is worth exploring. It is expected the findings of the present study may contribute to the typology of the Indonesian verbs. As well, it is expected that the findings of the present study can give a new paradigm of the conception of the affixation used to form the Indonesian derivative verb as the core predicate which binds the arguments needed to construct a clausal structure.

This current study is an initial study conducted to investigate the Indonesian derivative verbs. As a study of typological linguistics, it only focuses on the formation of the derivative verb and the structure of its arguments. Based on what is described above, the writer feels interested and finds it necessary to further investigate the Indonesian derivative verbs from the typological perspective. The problems of the study can be formulated in three questions. They are 1) how the Indonesian derivative verbs are formed, 2) what affixes can be used to form the Indonesian derivative verbs; 3) what affixes can be used to form the Indonesian transitive and intransitive verbs.

## **2. Research Method**

The method used to analyze the formation of the Indonesian derivative verbs is the descriptive qualitative method. This method can systematically, factually, and accurately give the data needed and the nature of and relationship among the phenomena investigated so that the scientific picture of the data can be obtained. The theory used to analyze the formation of the Indonesian derivative verbs is the Theory of Typology, which is basically intended to answer the question of what language X is like. As far as this current study is concerned, the steps taken from collecting to analyzing the data are as follows. First, the novel “Sang Pemimpi”, as the data source, was scanned using the *pdf* format. After that, it



was converted into the word format. The data were identified from the converted file using the *software antcount*. The data were processed first by opening the *software antcount* from which the file of the data source (the converted file) was opened. After the file was opened, the data were collected by typing the derivational affixes. Before pressing *start* the column *search* was pressed, then the affix *meng-*, for example, was typed. The corpus program as the data provider showed all the verbs with the prefix {*meng-*} on the computer screen, which were then saved on a separate file. Similar steps were taken to find the other derivational affixes such as {-*i*}, {*ter-*}, {*ber-*}, {*ber-an*}, and {-*kan*}. The derived verbs saved on the separate file were then processed based on the problems of the study, namely the formation of derivative verbs. They were classified based on the classes of the word roots, namely noun, adjective, precategory, and verb. Then what affixes could be attached to noun, what affixes could be added to adjective, what affixes could be attached to precategory and which ones could be attached to verb were classified. Finally, what affixes could be used to form intransitive derivative verbs and which ones could be used to form transitive derivative verbs were grouped as well.

### 3. Theoretical Framework

The main theory used to analyze the Indonesian derivative verbs is the Theory of Typological Linguistics. It is commonly used to describe the universality of a language. The basic principle in the typological linguistic study includes scientific-descriptive and cross languages. It is basically intended to answer the question of what language X is like. It can explain that (1) the structure of one language can be compared with that of another, and (2) one language is different from another (Mallinson and Blake, 1991; Dixon, 2010; Comrie, 1988, and Artawa, 1988).

### 4. Results and Discussion

#### 4.1 Formation of the Indonesian Derivative Verbs

Based on the data obtained, the Indonesian derivative verbs can be derived from 1) noun, 2) adjective, 3) precatatory, and 4) verb.



**1) The Derivative Verb Derived from the Word Root *Noun***

**Data:**

*berjiwa* (having the spirit of), *berkilat* (shining, glistening), *berminat* (having an interest in)

**2) The Derivative Verb Derived from the Word Root *Adjective***

**Data:**

*memerah* (getting red), *berdusta* (telling a lie), *membenci* (hating)

**3) The Derivative Verb Derived from the Word Root *Precategory***

**Data:**

*berbisik* (whispering), *bergetar* (shaking, trembling), *mengerti* (understanding)

**4) The Derivative Verb Derived from the Word Root *Verb***

**Data:**

*menuliskan* (writing something down), *menampilkan* (showing, presenting),  
*memasuki* (entering)

**4.2 The Derivational Affix Forming the Indonesian Derivative Verb**

**1) The derivational affixes attached to noun to form the derivative verbs are *ber-*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i*.**

**Data:**

1. *ber-* : *berjas* (wearing coat)
2. *ter-* : *terpesona* (being hypnotized)
3. *meng-* : *memihak* (siding with)
4. *-kan* : *mengancingkan* (being buttoned)
5. *-i* : *menghantui* (frightening)

**2) The derivational affixes attached to adjective to form the derivative verbs are *ber-*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i***

**Data:**

1. *ber-* : *berkeras* (being persistent)
2. *ter-* : *terbaik* (the best)
3. *meng-* : *mendekat* (approaching)



4. *-kan* : *membersihkan* (cleaning)
5. *-i* : *menggunduli* (shaving someone bald)

3) The derivational affixes attached to precategory to form the derivative verbs are: *ber-*, *ber-an*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i*.

**Data:**

1. *ber-* : *bersandar* (leaning on)
2. *ber-an* : *berlinangan* (trackling with tears etc)
3. *ter-* : *terharu* (being affected)
4. *meng-* : *merengut* (making something come off)
5. *-kan* : *memalingkan* (swinging around, altering the course of)
6. *-i* : *mengamati* (observing)

4) The derivational affixes attached to verbs to form the derivative verbs are *-kan* and *-i*.

**Data :**

1. *-kan* : *menumpahkan* (causing something to spill)
2. *-i* : *memasuki* (entering)

**4.3. The derivational affixes used to form both Intransitive and Derivative Verbs**

1) The derivational affixes used to form the intransitive verbs are: *ber-*, *ter-*, and *meng-*

**Data:**

1. *ber-* : *bersandar* (leaning on)
2. *ter-* : *terharu* (being affected)
3. *meng-* : *mempesona* (being hypnotizing), *memerah* (getting red)

2) The derivational affixes used to form the transitive verbs are: *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i*.

**Data:**

1. *meng-* : *merengut* (causing something to come off), *memihak* (siding with)
2. *-kan* : *menumpahkan* (causing something to spill)
3. *-i* : *memasuki* (entering)



## 5. Novelties

The current study the most prolific words in forming derivative verb is pre-category, and then the second place in the basic form of verbs. In addition, the productive derivative affixes are based on the order is suffix *-kan*, and the second most is the suffix *-i*.

## 6. Conclusions

The result of analysis shows that the Indonesian derivative verbs (a Case Study in which the novel “Sang Pemimpi” is used as the data source) can be derived from noun, adjective, precatetroy, and verb. The derivational suffixes used to form the derived verbs are: *ber-*, *ber-an*, *ter-*, *meng-*, *-kan*, and *-i*, as can be seen from the following table.

Number	Affixes	Noun	Adjective	Precategory	Verb	Total
1.	<i>ber-</i>	28	3	31	-	62 (4)
2.	<i>ber-an</i>	-	-	5	-	5 (6)
3.	<i>ter-</i>	3	2	24	-	29 (5)
4.	<i>meng-</i>	4	7	64	-	75 (3)
5.	<i>-kan</i>	10	16	36	68	130 (1)
6.	<i>-i</i>	8	11	22	36	77 (2)
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>378</b>

Based on what is presented in the above table, it can be seen that most derivative verbs used in the data source are derived from the word root *precatetory*; therefore, it can be concluded that precategory can be so productively used to form the Indonesian derivative verbs. They were used in 182 clauses. The second derivative verbs mostly used in the data source are derived from the word root *verb*; it was found that they were used in 104 clauses. The third derivative verbs mostly used in the data source are derived from the word root *noun*; it was found that they were used in 53 clauses, and the derivative verbs derived from the word root *adjective* were the least of all. It was found that they were used in 39 clauses. The affixes which productively formed the derivative verbs were the affix *-kan*. It was found that it was used in 130 clauses, followed by the affix *-i* used in 77 clauses, the affix *-meng*



used in 75 clauses, the affix *ber-* used in 62 clauses, the affix *ter-* used in 29 clauses, and the last was the affix *ber-an* used in 5 clauses.

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