

The Acquisition of Non-standard Indonesian Prefix

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Introduction

Today, instead of the regional languages, many Indonesian speak Indonesian as their first language. As the national language, it has two varieties, the standard and nonstandard. Indonesian children, as today's second generation who use Indonesian as the first language acquire the nonstandard before they attend the formal schooling. There is a growing use of the non-standard Indonesia which is related to the language used in Jakarta, or the Jakarta Indonesian.

Besides derivational morphology as a major part of both variations, there are certain aspects such as phonological, lexical, and structural aspects which make standard and non-standard Indonesian to be different (Purwo, 1997; Ewing, 2005; Sneddon, 2006; Kridalaksana, 2007). Many of word formations depend on affixation. This proceeding will only discuss the morphological aspects, especially the *N-*, *ŋə-* and \emptyset which are acquired by a Jakarta child, Ido, from the data of Gil and Tadmor (2007).

The Morphological Differences between Standard and Non-standard Indonesian

Morpheme deletion and replacements distinguish the Jakarta Indonesian from the standard Indonesian. In the standard Indonesian transitive and intransitive verb formations, there are several polysemic morphemes which are used to form different sentence meanings. In the nonstandard Indonesian, verbal affix *meN-* is commonly replaced by *N-* and \emptyset -. The rules can be applied to all initial sounds of the words which attach to the prefix. The nasal form *N-* will assimilate with the unvoiced initial sound. The *ŋə-*, as well as *N-* replaces *məN-* in words which have initial voiced sound. The morphophonemic rules of the standard prefix *məN-* and the nonstandard prefix *N-* apply in both variations as in the following table:

Standard Indonesian			Jakarta Indonesian		
prefix <i>məN-</i>	initial phoneme of root		prefix <i>N-</i>	initial phoneme of root	
	delete	doesn't delete		delete	doesn't delete
<i>məm-</i>	p	b,f	m-	p	b
<i>mən-</i>	t	d	n-	t	d
<i>məŋ-</i>	k	g, h, all vowels	ŋ-	k	g, all vowels
<i>məŋ-</i>	s	c,j	ŋ-	s,c	
<i>mə-</i>		r,l,w,y,m,n,ŋ, ŋ	ŋə-		b,d,g,j r,l,w, one syllabic root
			\emptyset -		m,n, ŋ, ŋ

(Adapted from Wouk, 1989)

The Non-standard Indonesian as the Indonesian Child Learn

In Gil and Tadmor's database on Jakarta children (2007), it is found that the targeted child, Ido, utters various verbs using the *N-*, such as

<i>nangis</i>	'to N-cry'
<i>nembak</i>	'to N-shoot'
<i>nonton</i>	'to N-watch'
<i>nulis</i>	'to N-write'

It is also found that he has already learnt the morphophonemic rules of *N-*. He uses limited *ηə-* when he utters words which has initial sound [l] and [r], such as

<i>ngeliat</i>	‘to <i>ηə</i> -see’
<i>ngerekam</i>	‘to <i>ηə</i> -record’
<i>ngerusak</i>	‘to <i>ηə</i> -destroy’

But, it is also found that he also uses the *Ø-* in some words, such as

<i>ganti</i>	‘to change’
<i>tumbuh</i>	‘to grow’
<i>liat</i>	‘to see’
<i>loncat</i>	‘to jump’

Inputs from the adults are also play important role. For example, he avoids the use of *N-* when he receive passive voice input from the adult:

Exp: <i>Coba diitung dulu</i>	
try <i>di-count</i> before	‘Please count it’

Ido: <i>Adek nggak mo itung</i>	
little brother not want <i>Ø-count</i>	‘I don’t want to count it’

He also avoid the *N-* when the sentences consist of the auxiliaries or adverbs, such as

<i>Adek mo liat setan</i>	
little brother want see ghost	‘I want to see the ghost’

<i>Nggak loncat mobilnya</i>	
not jump car-nya	‘the car doesn’t jump’

It is argued that the various use of the replacement standard Indonesian *meN-* by *N-*, *ηə-*, and *Ø* by the child shows the child’s awareness on the morphophonemic and syntactic rules.