

PREDICATE COMPLEMENTS AS DIRECT OBJECTS IN MALAY

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Based on a detailed study of predicate complements in Malay, the claim is made here that there are only two types of complements in the language, functioning as direct objects of their matrix sentences. These two types of complements differ from each other only in the presence or absence of the subject of the complement in surface structure. Where the subject of the complement is absent in surface structure, it has been deleted transformationally under the condition of its identity with another NP in the matrix sentence.

1.0 Scope of Study

This paper sets out to study the structures of those sentences which have sentences embedded in the predicate in a non-modifier function. These embedded sentences are called predicate complements, and it will be shown that they all function as direct object NP's of their matrix sentences. There are two main types of such predicate complements in Malay, and they function as direct object NP's in two main types of matrix sentences. This can be seen in the four representative sentences given below where sentences A and C show one main type of matrix sentence and sentences B and D show another main type of matrix sentence, and where sentences A and B show one main type of predicate complement and sentences C and D show another main type of predicate complement.

A. *Hanoi menuntut bahawa Amerika Syarikat*
(Hanoi demand COMP. United States)

*menghentikan serangan-serangan udara itu.*¹
(stop attacks air the)

= Hanoi demanded that the United States stop the air attacks.

B. *Mereka memberitahu saya bahawa John*
(they tell me COMP. John)

sudah mengirimkan surat itu.
(already send letter that)

= They told me that John had already sent that letter.

C. *Dia bercita-cita untuk melanjutkan pelajarannya.*
 (he aspire COMP. further studies his)

= He aspires to further his studies.

D. *Saya membenarkan dia pergi.*
 (I allow him go)

= I allow him to go

Two main claims are made in this paper concerning the structures of these sentences:

1. that each sentence has an embedded sentence in the predicate. While this embedded sentence may be quite obvious in surface structure, as in sentences A and B above, it is sometimes not quite so obvious, as in sentences C and D above. For sentences C and D, therefore, it will have to be shown just what this embedded sentence is in deep structure.
2. that these embedded sentences all function as direct object NP's of their matrix sentences. In the phrase-structure rules of the grammar, these predicate complements are therefore dominated by NP.

Each of the four sentence types given above will be studied with respect to these two main claims. Applied to each of the four sentence types, these two main claims can be subdivided thus:

- i. the claim that sentence A has the structure NP V [S]_{NP};
- ii. the claim that sentence B has the structure NP V NP [S]_{NP};
- iii. the claim that sentence C has the same structure as sentence A, the only difference being that the subject of the embedded sentence has been deleted in sentence C. It will have to be shown just what this deleted subject is in the deep structure of the sentence.
- iv. the claim that sentence D has the same structure as sentence B, the only difference being that the subject of the embedded sentence has been deleted in sentence D. It will have to be shown just what this deleted subject is in the deep structure of the sentence. Since the surface structure of sentence D is identical to the surface structure of sentence A, i.e. NP V NP VP, it will also have to be shown just why it is claimed that the deep structures of the two types of sentences are different.

2.0 Phrase-Structure Rules

The following phrase-structure rules will generate the deep structure trees for the

four types of sentences under study. These rules are not ad hoc, but are related very closely to the main patterns of the language.

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 S & \rightarrow & NP \ VP \\
 VP & \rightarrow & V \ ((NP) \ NP) \\
 NP & \rightarrow & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (NP) \ S \\ N \ (S) \end{array} \right\}
 \end{array}$$

These phrase-structure rules state that a sentence in Malay consists of an NP and a VP. The verb phrase may consist of an intransitive verb, or it may consist of a transitive verb followed by one or two object NP's. If there is only one NP selected, then that is the direct object of the sentence; if there are two NP's selected, then the one immediately after the verb is the indirect object, followed by the direct object of the sentence. The parentheses show that if only one NP is chosen, then it has to be the direct object of the sentence, for the indirect object NP can only be selected if the direct object has first been chosen. In deep structure, therefore, no sentence can have an indirect object without having a direct object. The indirect object is therefore the marked case, and the direct object the unmarked.

The third phrase-structure rule given above, expanding the NP, claims that all complements, or embedded sentences, function as NP's and are thus said to derive from an NP node. This is seen from the fact that complements can undergo the passive transformation, like any other NP. This rule thus claims that sentences containing embeddings have the same basic structure as their counterparts without embeddings, since all embeddings are contained within the NP of the rule. In this way, the object complements are said to function like the other direct object NP's in the language. This third rule expands the NP in several possible ways, as just $[S]_{NP}$, giving us complements, as $[NP \ S]_{NP}$ giving us noun phrases containing relative clauses, as just $[N]_{NP}$, a simple noun without embeddings, or as $[N \ S]_{NP}$, giving us factive noun phrases with the embedded sentence functioning as the modifier of the noun.

Since this study is of embedded sentences dominated by a predicate NP, it follows that the NP within the first pair of brackets is always selected and that this NP is always rewritten as S. This means that the only optional element, as far as the study undertaken here is concerned, is the predicate NP within the second pair of brackets, i.e. the indirect object NP. There is one major restriction on the indirect object which is not reflected in the phrase-structure rules here but which has been left to be dealt with by deep structure constraints of the type mentioned by Perlmutter (1968), and this is the fact that the indirect object NP can never be rewritten as S. In other words, the indirect object NP can never be a complement. However, this is not an ad hoc restriction, but is closely related to the fact that indirect object NP's must always be [+animate] where complements are automatically [-animate]. Therefore the restriction is not that indirect object NP's can never be complements, but rather that indirect objects NP's must always be [+animate].² Complements are therefore automatically excluded from functioning as indirect objects of sentences. The term 'predicate complement', therefore, always refers to its position as the direct object of the sentence.

The two types of deep structure P-markers which these phrase-structure rules generate for the study of the object complements of the language differ only in the presence or absence of the indirect object node. These two types of deep structure P-marker are given below.

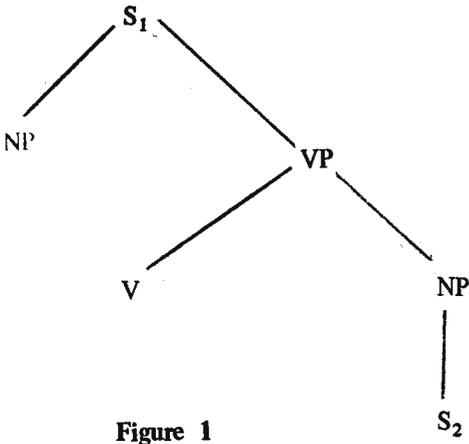


Figure 1

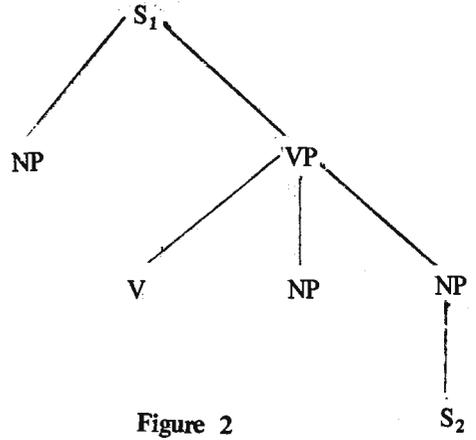


Figure 2

It is claimed that these two deep structure P-markers underlie the matrix sentences which contain predicate complements, that sentences A and C have the deep structure shown in Figure 1 and that sentences B and D have the deep structure shown in Figure 2.

2.1 Two different matrix sentences

Sentences A and B can now be studied in some detail. It is claimed that sentence A has the structure NP V [S]_{NP}, i.e. the deep structure represented by the P-marker given in Figure 1, and that sentence B has the structure NP V NP [S]_{NP}, i.e. the deep structure represented by the P-marker given in Figure 2. It is thus claimed that sentence A has no indirect object while sentence B has an indirect object, this being the only structural difference between them. The deep structure P-marker for sentence A is given below.

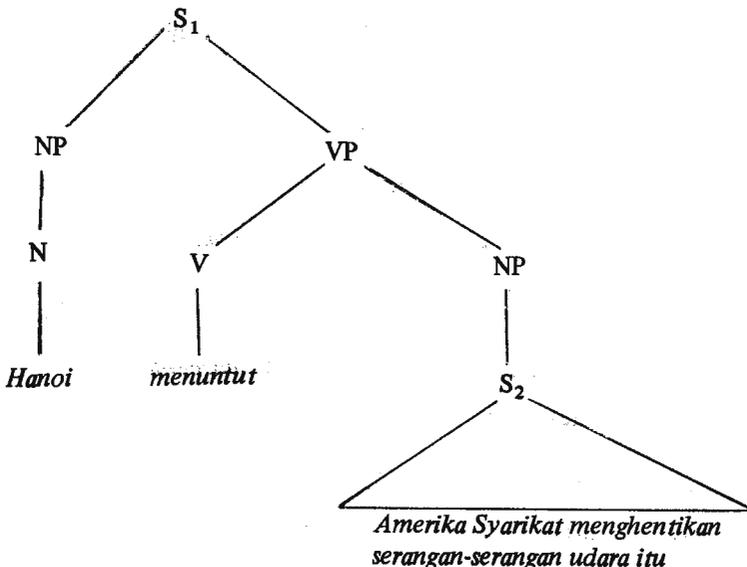


Figure 3

The deep structure P-marker for sentence B is given below.

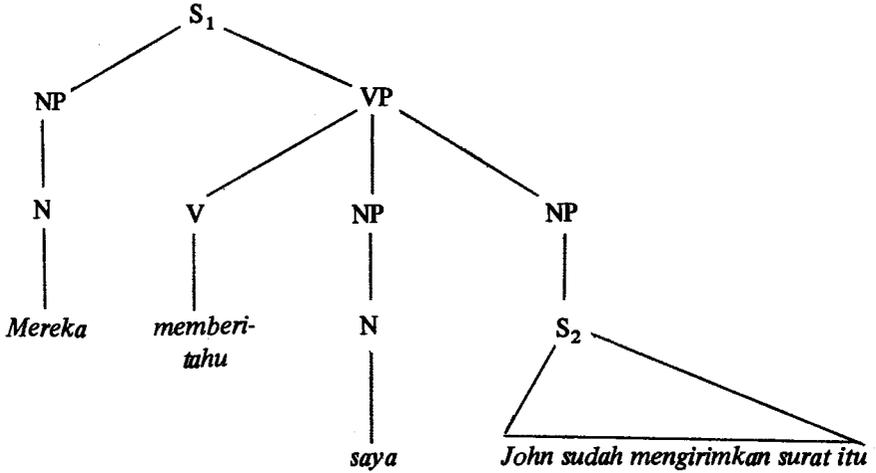


Figure 4

That *Amerika Syarikat menghentikan serangan-serangan udara itu* in sentence A and *John sudah mengirimkan surat itu* in sentence B are embedded sentences is obvious from the surface structures of the sentences. What needs some defence, however, is the claim that these embedded sentences function like direct object NP's. Several transformational tests are used to show that this is indeed the case.

The pseudo-cleft transformation is a very useful test for helping to determine whether a group of constituents functions as an NP or not. A rough formulation of the pseudo-cleft transformation is given below.

Pseudo-cleft transformation

SD	X	NP	V	W	NP	Y
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Condition: 2 does not dominate S					
SC	1, <i>apa yang</i> + 2,3, 4, <i>ia-lah</i> + 5, 6					

Using this transformation, we get the pseudo-cleft version of sentence A,

1. *Apa yang Hanoi menuntut ia-lah bahawa*
 (that which Hanoi demand was COMP.)

Amerika Syarikat menghentikan serangan-serangan
 (United States stop attacks)

udara itu.
 (air the)

= What Hanoi demanded was that the U.S. stop the air attacks.

Using the same transformation, we get the pseudo-cleft version of sentence B,

2. *Apa yang mereka memberitahu saya ia-lah*
 (that which they tell me was)
bahwa John sudah mengirimkan surat itu.
 (COMP. John already send letter that)
 = What they told me was that John had already sent that letter.

Both these sentences are perfectly grammatical in the language, showing how the embedded sentence functions like the other NP's which undergo the pseudo-cleft transformation in the same way.

The passive is yet another very useful test for noun phrases since it interchanges the positions of the subject and the direct object NP's of the sentence. A rough formulation of the passive transformation is given below.³

Passive transformation

SD:	X	NP	V	W	NP	Y
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Conditions: 2 ≠ 5					
	2, 5 do not directly dominate VP					
SC	1, 5, <i>di-</i> + 3, 4, <i>oleh</i> + 2, 6					

The first condition is necessary since, if the two NP's are identical, reflexivization takes place instead of the passive, for these two transformations are mutually exclusive. The second condition will only be apparent toward the end of this paper. This rule interchanges the positions of the subject and the object NP's of the sentence, making the deep structure subject into the agent of this derived sentence by adding the preposition *oleh* before it. The passive morpheme *di-* is also prefixed to the verb in the passive. Applying this transformation to sentence A, we get

3. *Bahawa Amerika Syarikat menghentikan*
 (COMP. United States stop
udara itu di- tuntutan oleh Hanoi.
 (air the PASS. demand by Hanoi)
 = That the U.S. stop the air attacks was demanded by Hanoi.

Applying the same transformation to sentence B, we get

4. *Bahawa John sudah mengirimkan surat*
 (COMP. John already send letter)

itu di beritahu saya oleh mereka.
 (that PASS. tell me by them)

That John had already sent that letter was told me by them

Since these two sentences are also perfectly grammatical, this demonstrates the validity of the claim that the embedded sentences function as NP's and thus should be dominated by NP's. Two more examples of sentences of the structure represented by sentence A are given below, first in the active form, and then the pseudo-cleft and passive transformations are applied to each of them to produce equally grammatical sentences in the language.

5. *Mereka yakin bahawa Ali akan menulis pidato*
 (they believe COMP. Ali FUT. write speech)

= They believed that Ali would write the speech.

5a. *Apa yang mereka yakin ia-las bahawa*
 (that which they believe was COMP.)

Ali akan menulis pidato.
 (Ali FUT. write speech)

= What they believed was that Ali would write the speech.

ib *Bahawa Ali akan menulis pidato di-*
 (COMP. Ali FUT. write speech PASS.)

yakinkan oleh mereka.
 (believe by them)

= That Ali would write the speech was believed by them.

6. *John tegaskan bahawa ra'ayat Indonesia*
 (John confirm COMP. citizens Indonesia)

tidak akan terpecah.
 (NEG. FUT. divided)

= John confirmed that the citizens of Indonesia would not be divided.

6a. *Apa yang John tegaskan ia-lah bahawa*
 (that which John confirm was COMP.)

ra'ayat Indonesia tidak akan terpecah.
 (citizens Indonesia NEG. FUT. divided)

= What John confirmed was that the citizens of Indonesia would not be divided.

6b. *Bahawa ra'ayat Indonesia tidak akan*
 (COMP. citizens Indonesia NEG. FUT.)

terpecah di- tegaskan oleh John.
 (divided PASS. confirm by John)

= That the citizens of Indonesia would not be divided was confirmed by John.

Below is another example of a sentence of the structure represented by sentence B, first in the active form, and then the pseudo-cleft and passive transformations are applied to each of them to produce equally grammatical sentences in the language.

7. *Mereka mengingatkan kita bahawa kita*
 (they remind us COMP. we)

menghadapi nasib yang sama.
 (face fate which same)

= They reminded us that we face the same fate.

7a. *Apa yang mereka mengingatkan kita*
 (that which they remind us)

ia-lah bahawa kita menghadapi nasib
 (was COMP. we face fate)

yang sama.
 (which same)

= What they reminded us was that we face the same fate.

7b. *Bahawa kita menghadapi nasib yang sama*
 (COMP. we face fate which same)

di- ingatkan kita oleh mereka.
 (PASS. remind us by them)

= That we face the same fate was reminded us by them.

This section has therefore shown that sentences of the two structures represented by sentences A and B have embedded sentences in the predicate which function as direct object NP's of the sentences.

3.0 Transformational Component: Two Different Predicate Complements

It was claimed at the beginning of this paper that sentences of the type represented in sentence C had the deep structure of sentence A, i.e. NP V [S]_{NP}, the only difference being that the subject of the embedded sentence has been deleted in sentence C. It is claimed that *melanjutkan pelajaran-nya* is what remains of the embedded sentence in the surface structure, its subject having been deleted on conditions of identity with the subject of the matrix sentence. That this is so is seen from the fact that the following sentence, in which the embedded sentence has been given its own subject in surface structure, this subject being identical to the subject of the matrix sentence, is equally grammatical and considered synonymous with sentence C.⁴

8. *dia bercita-cita untuk dia melanjutkan pelajaran-nya.*
 (he aspire COMP. he further studies his)

= He aspires to further his studies.

The deep structure of the sentence must therefore be:

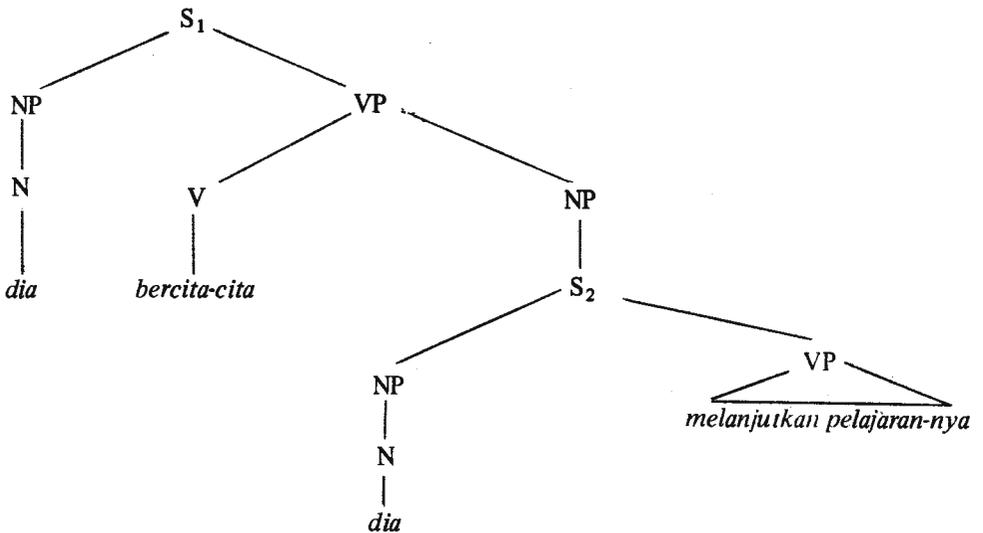


Figure 5

This sentence therefore has the same deep structure P-marker as those sentences of the structure represented by sentence A, i.e. the deep structure P-marker without an indirect object NP. The Identity Erasure rule then operates to delete the subject of the embedded sentence on conditions of its identity with the subject of the matrix sentence. Sentence C therefore has the same deep structure P-marker as sentence A, the only difference being that the subject of the embedded sentence has been deleted by the Identity Erasure rule in sentence C. This Identity Erasure rule must be optional since the following pairs of sentences are considered to be equally acceptable and synonymous.⁵ The first of each pair of sentences has undergone the Identity Erasure rule while the second has not.

9a. *Mereka bercadang melancarkan kempen penerangan.*
 (they propose launch campaign information)

= They proposed to launch an information campaign.

b. *Mereka bercadang mereka melancarkan kempen penerangan.*
 (they propose they launch campaign information)

= They proposed to launch an information campaign.

10a. *Harry memutuskan untuk menukar nama-nya.*
 (Harry decide COMP. change name his)

= Harry decided to change his name.

b. *Harry memutuskan untuk Harry menukar*
 (Harry decide COMP. Harry change)
nama-nya.
 (name his)

= Harry decided to change his name.

After the Identity Erasure transformation has deleted the subject of the complement, the derived P-marker is

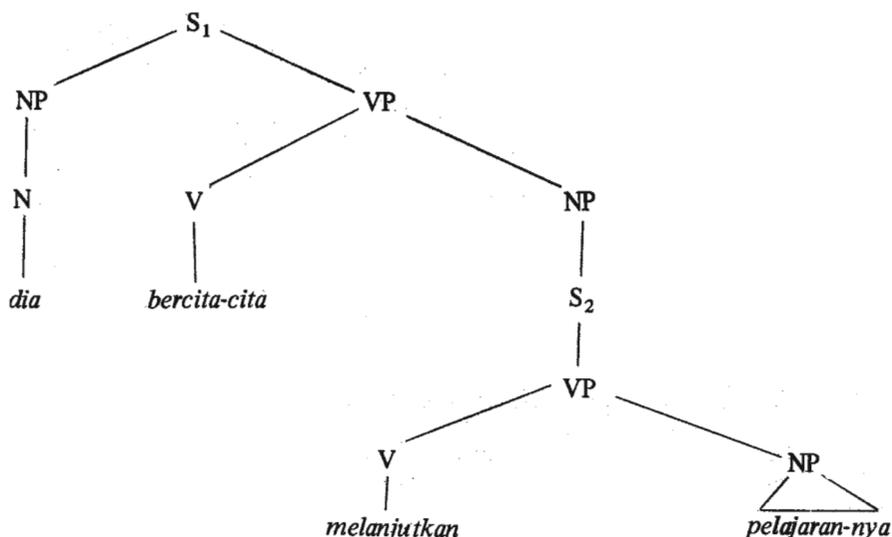


Figure 6

Ross (1966) has established a convention that any S which dominates only one category be pruned out of the tree, and this applies to S₂ above, which has only VP branching from it. S₂ is therefore pruned out of the tree, leaving the complement VP to be dominated directly by NP. The final derived P-marker is now

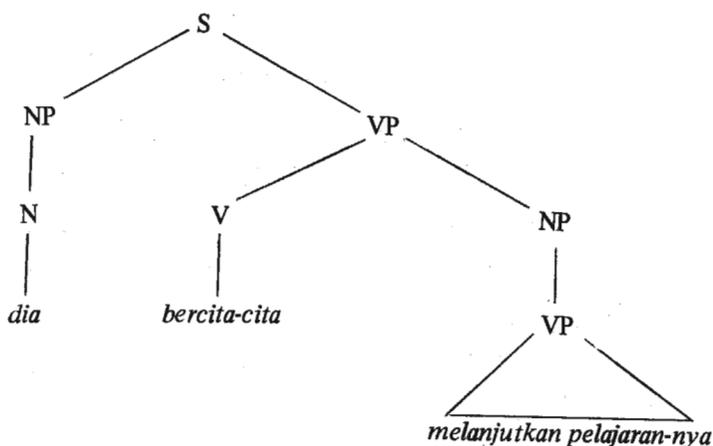


Figure 7

For those sentences with the structure of sentence D it was claimed at the beginning of this paper that they had the same type of deep structure as sentences with the structure of sentence B, i.e. NP V NP [S]NP, the only difference being that the subject of the embedded sentence has been deleted transformationally in sentence D. It is claimed that *pergi* is all that remains of the embedded sentence functioning as the direct

object NP of sentence D, its subject having been deleted transformationally on conditions of identity with another NP in the matrix sentence. Sentence D therefore has the same deep structure P-marker as sentence B, i.e. the P-marker with the indirect object node. For sentence D, it is necessary to find out what was the subject of the embedded sentence in deep structure. If it has been deleted transformationally on conditions of its identity with another NP in the matrix sentence, then it must be identical either to the subject NP or to the indirect object NP of the matrix sentence. It is simple enough to show that this deleted subject of the embedded sentence is identical, not to the subject of the matrix sentence, as with sentence C, but to the indirect object of the matrix sentence. The following examples show this. The *a* sentences are without a subject in the complement. The *b* sentences posit that the subject of the complement is identical to the indirect object of the matrix sentence, while the *c* sentences posit that the subject of the complement is identical to the subject of the matrix sentence. The *b* sentences are found to be acceptable as paraphrases of the *a* sentences, but the *c* sentences are not, thus showing that for sentences of the structure represented by sentence D, the deleted subject of the complement must be identical to the indirect object of the matrix sentence.

- 11a. *Saya membenarkan dia supaya pergi.*
 (I allow him COMP. go)
- b. *Saya membenarkan dia supaya dia pergi.*
 (I allow him COMP. he go)
 = I allow him to go.
- c. **Saya membenarkan dia supaya saya pergi.*
 (I allow him COMP. I go)
 = *I allow him that I go.

- 12a. *Kerajaan menolong mereka untuk mencapai*
 (govt. help them COMP. achieve)
kemajuan.
 (prosperity)
- b. *Kerajaan menolong mereka untuk mereka*
 (govt. help them COMP. they)
mencapai kemajuan.
 (achieve prosperity)
 = The government helped them to achieve prosperity.

- c. **Kerajaan menolong mereka untuk Kerajaan*
 (govt. help them COMP. govt.)
mencapai kemajuan.
 (achieve prosperity)

=*The government helped them so that the government achieve prosperity.

- 13a. *Saya mengajar dia untuk membaca baik.*
 (I teach him COMP. read well)
- b. *Saya mengajar dia untuk dia membaca baik.*
 (I teach him COMP. he read well)
 = I teach him to read well.
- c. **Saya mengajar dia untuk saya membaca baik.*
 (I teach him COMP. I read well)
 = *I teach him so that I read well.
- 14a. *Saya minta dia untuk menukarkan saya.*
 (I ask him COMP. transfer me)
- b. *Saya minta dia untuk dia menukarkan saya.*
 (I ask him COMP. he transfer me)
 = I ask him to transfer me.
- c. **Saya minta dia untuk saya menukarkan saya.*
 (I ask him COMP. I transfer me)
 = *I ask him so that I transfer myself.
- 15a. *Saya memerintahkan dia untuk pergi.*
 (I order him COMP. go)
- b. *Saya memerintahkan dia untuk dia pergi.*
 (I order him COMP. he go)
 = I order him to go.

- c. **Saya memerentahkan dia untuk saya pergi.*
 (I order him COMP. I go)

= *I order him so that I go.

The main verbs which are found in this type of sentence pattern all belong to a semantic class which requires identity between the indirect object of the matrix sentence and the subject of the following embedded sentence. A semantic feature like 'influence' or 'effect' will apply to verbs of this set. All these verbs indicate some type of influence, ranging from coaxing to compelling, exerted by the subject of the matrix sentence on the indirect object, in order that the indirect object function as the subject of the embedded sentence to perform an action. It is semantically impossible for any of these verbs to have non-identity between the indirect object and the subject of the embedded sentence. It is also semantically impossible for the predicate in the embedded sentence to be in the past. Verbs which function like this are:

<i>suruh</i>	—	command	<i>beritahu</i>	—	tell
<i>arah</i>	—	direct	<i>paksa</i>	—	force
<i>perintah</i>	—	command	<i>wajib</i>	—	compel
<i>minta</i>	—	ask	<i>seru</i>	—	urge
<i>benarkan</i>	—	allow	<i>pujuk</i>	—	appeal
<i>ajak</i>	—	invite	<i>rayu</i>	—	petition
<i>tolong</i>	—	help	<i>galak</i>	—	encourage
<i>bolehkan</i>	—	enable	<i>ajar</i>	—	teach
<i>ingatkan</i>	—	remind			

Some of these verbs belong to the class of verbs called verbs of ordering by Robin Lakoff (1968: 20, 23), but not all these verbs can be called verbs of ordering. These verbs also are like causatives (see Lakoff 1965: Section IX) in that they cause an agent to perform an action, but they are not fully equivalent to the causatives although they contain many causative features. An important distinction between these verbs and the causatives is that not all causatives need indirect objects, whereas these verbs do. Moreover, not all causatives contain embedded sentences, whereas these verbs have embedded sentences as their direct objects. Further, even when causative constructions contain embedded sentences, not all the predicates in these embedded sentences have to contain true verbs which are also non-stative whereas these verbs under consideration require that the predicate of the embedded sentence contain a verb (not an adjective) which is non-stative, and also that this predicate should contain no indications of past time. All these verbs are therefore non-stative, but not all non-stative verbs belong to this semantic class of verbs. All these verbs also require animate subjects in the matrix sentence, and animate indirect objects which then function as the subjects of the complements. All these verbs therefore have the environmental frame [+animate]_{NP} . . . [+animate]_{NP} [S]_{NP}. However, not all verbs which also occur in the same environmental frame belong to the set of these verbs. These verbs are therefore not directly equivalent to any other recognized set of verbs. Rather, they contain features belonging to different sets of verbs. These verbs are thus

best regarded as an intersection of several sets and not freely correlated with any one of the sets. These verbs are most fully correlated with semantic features. The deep structure P-marker for sentence D is thus:

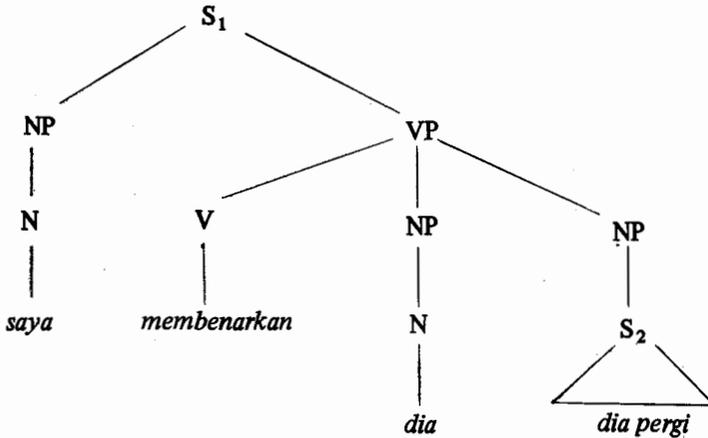


Figure 8

The Identity Erasure transformation then deletes the subject of the complement since it is identical to the indirect object of the matrix sentence, leaving the surface structure *Saya membenarkan dia pergi*.

This surface structure is similar to the surface structure of sentence A, i.e. NP V NP. V. The difference between them lies in the structure assignment for the NP after the main verb. In sentence A, this NP was called the subject of the complement while in sentence D this NP has been called the indirect object of the matrix sentence. The passive transformation can be used here to test the difference between these two types of sentences. The passive interchanges the positions of the subject and object NP's of a sentence. Where the sentence has two object NP's, indirect and direct, two passives can be formed, firstly by interchanging the positions of the subject and the indirect object NP's, and then secondly by interchanging the positions of the subject and the direct object NP's. If the NP after the main verb in a sentence is indeed the indirect object of the sentence, it should be able to interchange positions with the subject to form the passive. However, if the NP after the main verb in a sentence is not the indirect object of the sentence and is not its direct object, but is only part of the direct object NP (in that the direct object NP is an embedded sentence and the NP after the main verb is only the subject of the embedded sentence), then that NP cannot form the passive by interchanging positions with the subject of the matrix sentence. In sentence A,

Hanoi menuntut Amerika Syarikat menghentikan
 (Hanoi demand United States stop)

serangan-serangan udara itu.
 (attacks air the)

= Hanoi demanded that the U.S. stop the air attacks.

the NP after the main verb is *Amerika Syarikat*. If this were really the indirect object of the verb *menuntut*, then the following passive would be grammatical, but in fact it is not.

**Amerika Syarikat di- tuntutan menghentikan*
 (United States PASS. demand stop)

serangan-serangan udara itu oleh Hanoi.
 (attacks air the by Hanoi)

= *The U.S. was demanded to stop the air attacks by Hanoi.

On the other hand, this works for sentence D, giving us the grammatical sentence

Dia di- benarkan pergi oleh saya.
 (he PASS. allow go by me)

= He was allowed to go by me.

One final piece of evidence will be presented for insisting that sentence D is of a different structure from sentence A. Consider a sentence like the following:

Kerajaan menyeru mereka supaya jangan di-
 (govt. appeal to them COMP. NEG. PASS.)

pengaruhi oleh anasir-anasir itu.
 (influence by elements those)

= The government appealed to them not to be influenced by those elements.

On the surface, this sentence might seem to be without an indirect object, and hence of the structure assigned to sentence A, i.e. NP V [NP VP]_S. On this interpretation, since the embedded sentence is in the passive and *anasir-anasir itu* is obviously its deep structure subject, *mereka* cannot be treated as anything other than the object of this embedded sentence. The P-marker would then be

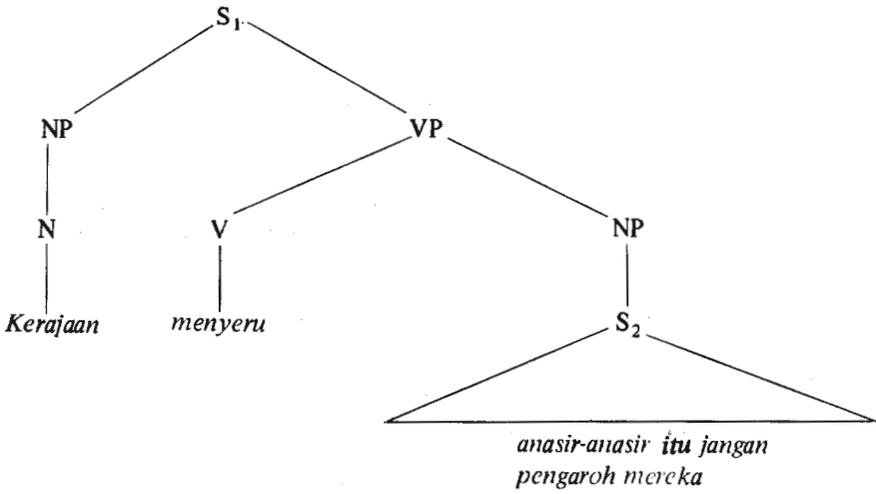


Figure 9

However, this deep structure conveys a different meaning from the original sentence. The deep structure sentence is:

= The Government appealed to those elements not to influence them

In the original sentence, the government appealed to 'them', whereas in the phrase marker posited above, the appeal is made to 'those elements'. In order to have the same meaning, the deep structure must be posited to have an indirect object node, as below:

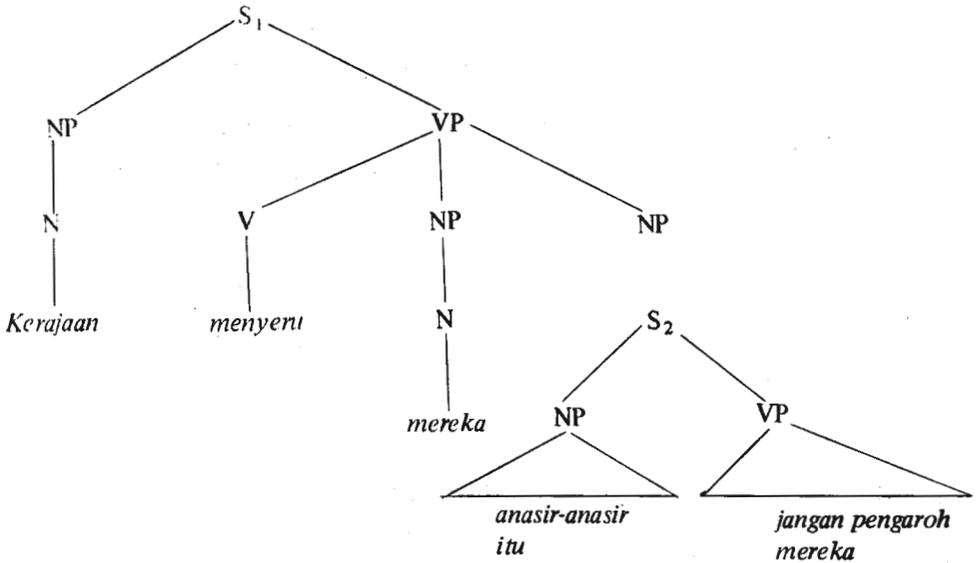


Figure 10

Now the meaning is preserved: The government appealed to them so that those elements would not influence them. What has happened to this deep structure is that the passive has applied to the embedded sentence, giving us

Kerajaan menyeru mereka supaya mereka
 (govt. appeal them COMP. they)
jangan di- pengaruhi oleh anasir-anasir
 (NEG. PASS. influence by elements)
itu.
 (those)

= The government appealed to them so that they not be influenced by those elements.

The derived P-marker for sentence D, after the Identity Erasure transformation has applied and the S₂ node has been pruned out of the tree since it has only VP branching from it, is the following.

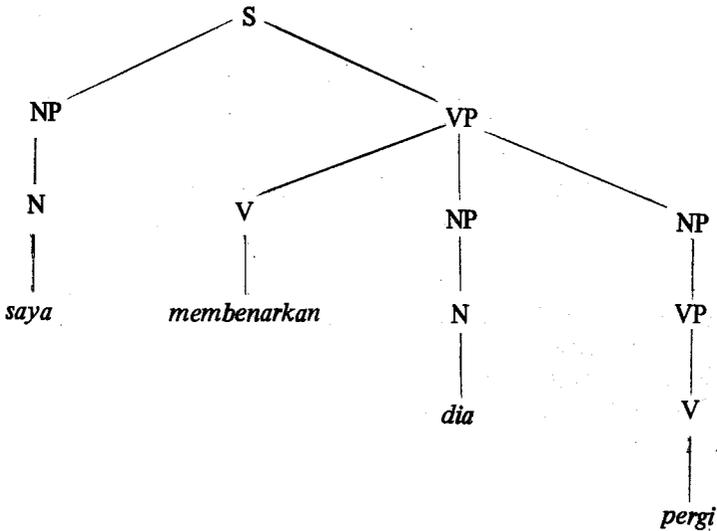


Figure 11

The Identity Erasure transformation can now be formulated to apply to both sentences of the type represented by sentence C and those represented by sentence D. This transformation deletes the subject of the embedded sentence if it is identical to the subject of the matrix sentence, in those cases where the matrix sentence has no indirect object, and if it is identical to the indirect object of the matrix sentence, in those cases

where the matrix sentence has an indirect object. When the Identity Erasure rule has applied, what is left in surface structure is a subjectless complement, as in sentences C and D. When the Identity Erasure transformation has not applied, either because the structural description of the rule is not met (if the conditions of identity between NP's are not met) or, for certain dialects where the rule is optional, if it is not selected to apply, then what remains in surface structure are complements which have their own subjects.

The Passive transformation has been formulated to apply only to NP's which do not directly dominate a VP, as stated in the condition of the rule. In the same transformational cycle, the Identity Erasure rule must be allowed to operate before the Passive. In those instances where the Identity Erasure rule has applied and deleted the subject of the embedded sentence, leaving the NP to dominate VP directly since the S₂ node is pruned out of the tree, the Passive cannot apply since the condition in the rule prevents its application to such NP's. This therefore explains why sentences C and D cannot undergo the Passive transformation, although the embedded sentences are dominated by NP. This also explains why sentences A and B can undergo the Passive transformation since the Identity Erasure rule has not been able to apply and since, therefore, the embedded complement is still an S and not a VP.

4.0 Conclusion

The treatment of complementation in this paper, based on the predicate complements of Malay, differs from the usual treatment of complements for English, which has the two types of complements, called Noun phrase complements and Verb phrase complements respectively, differing from each other in deep structure. In the account given here, all complements are seen to be similar structurally in deep structure, being embedded S's dominated by NP. The difference between them is effected transformationally, by the deletion of the subject of the complement when the structural description of the Identity Erasure transformation is met. In order to account for why certain complements can function as the derived subject of a passive sentence and why others cannot, the convention of tree-pruning and a simple condition on the structural description of the Passive transformation, both techniques which are not ad hoc but needed elsewhere in the grammar too, are utilized. This is therefore a much simpler and more general treatment of the complementation processes of language, based on a study of their functioning in Malay, and this should give grounds for a re-examination of complementation processes in general.

NOTES

¹Complements in Malay are often introduced by a complementizer like *bahawa*, *supaya*, or *untuk*. These complementizers have little meaning of their own and remain outside the structure of the embedded sentence. Sometimes the complementizer is purely optional, while at other times it appears to be obligatory, at least for stylistic purposes. This paper will not deal with the problems of complementizer placement, when it is optional and when it is needed, or with the problems of which complementizer is to be used when one is needed. Complementizers will be used in the

examples whenever they are considered necessary for reasons of style.

²Sentences have been found which appear to contradict this rule, e.g. *I gave the car a wash, he gave the table a kick*. It is felt, however, that the NP's occurring after the verb *gave* are not indirect object and direct object respectively, but that they should be accounted for differently.

³The rule as formulated here is adequate for this study of the predicate complements in Malay. It does not, however, deal with all the passive structures in the language and does not handle all the problems connected with Malay passives.

⁴This is true for the dialect under study. However, even in those dialects where this sentence is not acceptable as grammatical, speakers will still accept it as a correct paraphrase of sentence C.

⁵This is true for the dialect under study, although the *a* sentences are generally preferred over the *b* sentences. For those dialects in which the *b* sentences are not acceptable, the Identity Erasure rule will have to be obligatory.

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