

## The Comparison of Adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese Languages: a Syntactic Typology Analysis

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### Abstract

The main focus of this study is to describe the order of degree word and adjective (AdjDeg) or (DegAdj) in three languages; Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese. Specifically, the study looks at the similarities and differences of typological syntactic features in three languages. This research used descriptive qualitative research by using data which belong to Austronesian language families. The results showed that (1) the similarities and differences of the order of modifying phrase in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese which have different features in order of word degree and adjective, some of the compositions are (AdjDeg), or (DegAdj), and both of them; (2) the similarities at the level of comparison, the composition that often occur is 'lebih + adjective+ dari' in Indonesian language, 'luweh + adjective + soko' in Javanese language, or 'leuwih + adjective + ti' in Sundanese language; (3) at the level of superlative, the similarities of order of degree word in Indonesian language is 'paling + adjective', Javanese is 'subject + paleng+ adjective + soko + object', Sundanese is 'subject + pohara + adjective + na + ti + object'. The difference, In Indonesian 'Subject + ter + adjective', Javanese language 'subject + paleng + adjective', Sundanese language, 'subject + pang + adjective + na'; (4) On equative level, the similarities of equative, Indonesian language is 'Subject + sama + Adjective + nya', Javanese language, 'subject + podho + adjective + e', Sundanese is 'subject + sarua + adjective + na'. The differences, Indonesian language, 'Subject + Se + adjective', Javanese language, 'subject + adjective + e + podho', Sundanese 'subject + adjective + na + sarua'. This research can be used as a reference in advanced research related to the typology in order of degree word and adjective with data from different language in Indonesian archipelago.

**Keywords :** *Syntactic Typology, Comparative, Superlative, and Equative*

### INTRODUCTION

The language in the world is grouped by features and characteristics that differ from one another. Syntactically, the languages of the world have different features that can be grouped such as; subject, object and verb. Greenberg in Mallison and Blake (1981: 5) said that language can be grouped based on basic order, subject, Object, and Verb (SOV). He proposed a typology which called as typology of word order that concluded there are 6 groups in forming a sentence pattern, namely SOV, SVO, VSO, VOS, OVS and OSV. Mallison and Blake (1981: 1-3) says that typology is the grouping of language based on the features of words and also syntactically.

Specifically, this study will examine the dominant patterns contained in

Indonesian syntactic structure; S-V-O. In syntactic typology, particularly the degree of order word and adjectives of Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese have the features contained that belongs to the Austronesian language. As Comries (1989: 86-87), word order typology has played a major role in the development of language typology, in particular, the major constituent of the clause (subject, object, and verb).

DK Adiwinata in Fatimah *et.al* (1994: 122) says that adjective is a word that gives the feature to noun or word that answer the question 'how'. It is also said that the function of adjective related to the position or function of adjective in the sentence, Fatimah *et.al.* (1994: 129). Alwi *et.al* (2003: 171) says that adjective is featured by the quality degree and comparison of noun which is modifying. Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns, Sargeant (2007: 32). Frank (1972: 102) said that adjective is a modifier that has grammatically property of comparison. It is often identified by special derivational endings or by special adverbial modifiers that precede it.

Adjective acts as a heads of a variety of different phrase structures, Sneddon (1992: 177). Degree words are words with meanings like 'very', 'more', or 'little' that modify the adjective to indicate the degree to which properly denoted by the adjective. Degree words are traditionally referred to adverbs, though in many languages the words degrees do not belong to the same word class as adverbs. Degree words in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages have variations and features which different with another language. The previous study of Dryer showed that there are some orders of adjective and degree of word order based on 481 languages in the world. His study showed that word degree precedes adjective (DegAdj) as a dominant order in 227 languages, word degree which followed by adjective (AdjDeg) in 192 languages, and both orders occur with neither order dominant in 62 languages. According to Dryer, geographical distribution of word degree which precedes the adjective is a dominant type, with very little exception in Europe and Asia, except in the Middle east and Southeast Asia. The previous study of Sneddon (1992) showed that; fifteen word degrees precede the noun, four that follow noun, and one that either precede or follow.

Based on those previous studies, this article tries to continue the

research by collecting data from the third closed languages in Indonesia: Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages. The gap from the previous study that can be traced to fill this research by taking a research to know the order of modifying adverbs, comparative, superlative, and equative from Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese. Those languages have some similarities and differences in order of degree word and adjective. The researcher thinks that it is very interesting to know the similarities and differences in order of degree word and adjective of those languages. The investigation was conducted to know the order of degree word; (AdjDeg), (DegAdj), or both of them in those languages in comparative, superlative, and equative level.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research used descriptive qualitative research. The researcher described the order of word degree and adjective in syntactical typology especially in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages. Data from this research were taken from writing text and oral language from native language. The data taken by interviewing some people from Java and Sunda.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **A. The Similarities in Order of Degree Word and Adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese Language**

Some languages like Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese have similarities in order degree word and adjective. The similarities can be seen from the modifying phrase, comparative, superlative, and equative in order of degree word of Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese language.

#### **1. The Similarities of Modifying Phrase in Order of Degree Word Adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese Languages**

The adjective can be preceded by one of modifying adverbs. These show the quality indicated by the adjective. There are some similarities of modifying phrase of Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages have variations in degree of word order and adjective. The similarities are on the position of adjective that is preceded by modifying adverbs. Adverbs that

can modify phrase of adjective in those languages are variatives. There are some modifying phrase like '*sangat, amat, terlalu, terlampau, sungguh, cukup, relatif, serba, agak, makin, semakin, kian, tambah, bertambah, begitu, demikian, sedemikian, begini*', in Javanese language can be seen as '*banget, bener-bener, pol, tambah, tambah-tambah, mandan*', in Sundanese language can be seen as follow '*meuni, rada*'.

The following data will show the similarities of order of degree word and adjective from those languages. Let see the data below,

#### Data 1

Beban ini <b>sungguh</b> berat	(Indonesian)
Beban iki <b>bener-bener</b> abot	(Javanese)
Beban ieu <b>meuni</b> beurat	(Sundanese)
This load is <b>truly</b> heavy	(English)

On data (1) above, the degree order and adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese have different variations, like '*sungguh, bener-bener, and meuni*'. Based on that data, it can be seen that the order of degree word from those languages are same. The adjective of those languages are preceded by adverbs (*sungguh, bener-bener, meuni, and truly*). The words modify adjectives contained in four languages, '*berat, abot, beurat, and heavy*'.

In above data, modifying phrase contained in Indonesian is '*sungguh*'. This adverb modify to adjective '*berat*' for the subject '*beban ini*'. It means that '*beban ini*' as subject is described as something that is truly heavy. In Javanese language the adverbs that is used is '*bener-bener*'. This adverb modify to adjective '*abot*' for subject '*beban iki*'. It means that '*beban iki*' as subject is described as something that is truly heavy. In Sundanese language, adverb '*meuni*' is used to modify the adjective '*beurat*' for subject '*beban ieu*'. It means that '*beban ieu*' as subject is described as something that is truly heavy.

The similarities of those languages of modifying phrase can be used for emphasize the subject as seen below:

#### Data 5

Daging ini <b>agak</b> mahal <b>sedikit</b>	(Indonesian)
Dageng iki <b>rodok</b> larang <b>sitik</b>	(Javanese)

Daging ieu **rada** mahal **sakedik** (Sundanese)

This meat is **somewhat expensive** (English)

On data (5) above, it can be seen the similarities of the order degree word and adjective for emphasize. The modifying phrase is used for emphasizing by placing order degree word and adjective 'agak+ adjective + sedikit' in Indonesian. It is the same in Javanese language that the emphasizing can be done by adding modifying phrase in front of and behind adjective like 'rodok + adjective + sitik'. In Sundanese, the emphasis can be done by adding a modifying phrase in front of and behind adjective 'rada + adjective + sakedik'. Meanwhile in English the modifying phrase 'somewhat' is placed before adjective 'expensive'. It means that the subject described as something that is somewhat expensive.

In Indonesian language, adverb 'agak' and 'sedikit' is used to modify the adjective 'mahal' for subject 'daging ini'. In Javanese language, adverb 'rodok' and 'sitik' is used to modify the adjective 'larang' for subject 'dageng iki'. In Sundanese language, adverb 'rada' and 'sakedik' is used to modify the adjective 'larang' for subject 'dageng iki'. Structurally, the position of modifying phrase to modify adjective is located after and before adverb to show the emphasis for the subject. The position of that adjective in those languages is same.

## **2. The Similarities of Comparative Adjective in Indonesian, Javenese, and Sundanese Languages**

Comparative adjective is used to compare one thing to another thing or one person with another person. There are similarities which can be found from those languages. In Indonesian language, comparative adjective is formed by placing the word 'lebih or kurang + adjective + dari' or 'lebih or kurang + adjective + daripada' in Indonesian language. In Javanese language, it is formed by adding 'luweh + adjective + tekan', or 'luweh + adjective + karo', or 'kurang + adjective + tekan'. In Sundanese language, it can be formed by adding 'leuwih + adjective + ti'.

Let see the data below related to the similarities of comparative adjective in those languages:

#### Data 6

Dia <b>lebih</b> tinggi <b>dari</b> saya	(Indonesian)
Dewe'e <b>luweh</b> duwur <b>soko</b> aku	(Javanese)
Manehna <b>leuwih</b> jangkung <b>ti</b> urang	(Sundanese)
He is <b>taller</b> than me	(English)

The data above show the comparison between two things or two people by using the similarities pattern in which the position of adjective is between modifying adverbs to show the comparison of two things. In Indonesian language, adverb '*lebih*' and '*dari*' is used to modify the adjective '*tinggi*' describing about subject pronoun.

### 3. The Similarities of Superlative Adjective in Indonesian, Javenese, and Sundanese Languages

Superlative is used to show that something is the most from the others. Based on this study, it can be seen the similarities of the patterns of superlative adjective from those languages. Superlative can be formed by adding '*paling*' to the adjective in Indonesian labguage. In Javanese language by adding '*paleng*', '*dhewek*' to the adjective. In Sundanese language by adding '*teuing*', '*naker*', '*pisan*', '*kacida/pohara + afiks -na*' and '*pang- + -na*'. Fron those modifying adverbs, it can be seen that some of them can be made in the same pattern.

Data below shows the similarities of those languages

#### Data 8

Nasi goreng yang <b>paling</b> enak <b>dari</b> semua makanan	(Indonesian)
Sego goreng seng <b>paleng</b> enak <b>soko</b> kabeh panganan	(Javanese)
Sangu goreng anu <b>pohara</b> ngeunahna <b>ti</b> sadaya tuangan	(Sundanese)
Fried rice is <b>the tastiest</b> of all the food	(English)

The data above show that superlative of three languages. From the data above, it can be seen the similarities of order degree word and adjective.

In Indonesian language, adverb '*paling*' and '*dari*' is used to modify the adjective '*enak*' which describe about subject as noun phrase. It means that '*nasi goreng*' as subject is described as something that is the tastiest of all the food. In Javanese language, adverb '*paleng*' and '*soko*' is used to modify the adjective '*enak*' describing about subject as noun phrase. It means that

'sego goreng' as subject is described as something that is the tastiest of all the food. In Sundanese language, adverb 'pohara' and 'ti' is used to modify the adjective 'ngeunah' describing about noun phrase. It means that 'sangu goreng' as subject is described as something that is the tastiest of all the food. From above data, it can be seen that the pattern of superlative adjective in order degree word have the same pattern. In English, to show the superlative by adding 'the+ adjective + est' to the adjective for one syllable.

#### **4. The Similarities of Equative Adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese Languages**

An equative construction is similar to another in the quality indicated by the adjective. There are some constructions to show the similarities of equative adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages. In Indonesia language, equative can be made by placing 'sama + adjective + nya', in Javanese language by placing 'podho + adjective + e', 'podho + adjective + ne', in Sundanese language as 'sarua + adjective + na'. The similarities of those patterns can be seen in the following data:

##### **Data 9**

John dan ali **sama** pandainya (Indonesian)

John lan ali **podho** pintere (Javanese)

John sareng ali **sarua** pintera (Sundanese)

John and ali are **as clever as** each other (English)

The data above show that the same level of two objects or two people can use the pattern 'sama + adjective-nya'. In Indonesian language, the order is 'sama + adjective + nya. In Javanese language, the order of degree is 'podho' in front of the adjective 'pintere', so the pattern is 'podho + adjective + e'. In Sundanese, the word 'sarua' is placed in front of adjective 'pintera', so the pattern is 'sarua + adjective + na' while in English to show the equative level the pattern is 'as + adjective + as'.

In Indonesian language, adverb 'sama' is used to modify the adjective 'pandai' which is ending by -nya to describe about subject as noun phrase. It means that 'John dan Ali' as subject is described as clever as each other. In Javanese language, adverb 'podho' is used to modify the adjective 'pinter' which is ending by suffix -e to describe about subject as

noun phrase. It means that 'John Ian Ali' as subject are described as as clever as each other. In Sundanese language, adverb 'sarua' is used to modify the adjective 'pinter' which is ending by *-na* to describe about subject. It means that 'John sareng Ali' as subject are described as as clever as each other.

## **B. The Differences of Order Degree Word and Adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese Language**

As the features of syntactical typology that every language has a different in characteristic in word order. Based on this research, it can be seen that some of modifying adverbs, superlative adjective and equative have difference pattern and order of degree word and adjective.

### **1. The Differences of Modifying Phrase of Adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese Languages**

There are some differences of order of degree words from Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages. The composition of the modifying phrase that is located after adjective or (AdjDeg) and also (DegAdj) can be seen in the following data.

#### **Data 11**

Janjinya palsu <b>belaka</b>	(Indonesian)
Janjine <b>kur</b> palsu	(Javanese)
Janjina <b>saukur</b> palsu	(Sundanese)
His promises are <b>completely</b> false	(English )

On data (11) above, there is a modifying phrase in Indonesian language that is 'belaka', in the Javanese language 'kur', Sundanese is 'saukur', whereas in English is 'completely'. The words modify adjectives contained in four languages, namely 'palsu', and 'false'. Structurally, it can be seen that the positions of adjective is variative, in Indonesian, order position is after adjective degree, but it is different from the Javanese and Sundanese which was adjective after the order degree word. So, it can be said that the four languages use arrangement that varies the (DegAdj) and (AdjDeg).

On the above data, modifying phrase contained in Indonesian is 'belaka'. This adverb modify to adjective 'palsu' for the subject. It means that the 'janjinya' as a subject described as something that is completely false.



The position of adjective is before adverb in Indonesian language or it can be said as (AdjDeg) composition.

In Javanese language, the adverb that is used is 'kur'. This adverb modify to adjective 'palsu' for the subject 'janjine'. The position of adjective is after adverb in Javanese language or it can be said as (DegAdj) composition.

In Sundanese language, the adverb that is used is 'saukur'. This adverb modify to adjective 'palsu' for the subject (janjina). The position of adjective is after adverb in Sundanese language or it can be said as (DegAdj) composition.

## 2. The Differences of Superlative Adjective in Indonesian, Javenese, and Sundanese Languages

There are some differences of order of degree word and adjective in superlative from Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages. Data below show the difference of superlative which can be seen in the following data:

### Data 14

Ini gempa <b>terburuk</b> di daerah ini	(Indonesian)
Lindu iki <b>paleng</b> elek ning daerah iki	(Javanese)
Gempa ieu <b>panggorengna</b> di daerah ieu	(Sundanese)
This was <b>the worst</b> earth quake in this district	(English)

On the data (14) above, it can be seen that superlative use 'paling + adjective' or 'ter + adjective'. In Indonesian language, the order of degree use 'ter + adjective' which has the meaning as the most. In Javanese language, the order of degree use 'paleng' in front of the adjective (*elek*). In Sundanese, the order of degree use 'adjective +na' in front of the adjective (*parah*). It is clear that the Javanese cannot add a prefix on adjectives. Meanwhile in English, the adjective with one syllable word such as 'bad' has prefix 'the' followed by 'adjective + est'.

## 3. The Differences of Equative Adjective in Indonesian, Javenese, and Sundanese Languages

An equative construction is similar to another in the quality indicated by the adjective. There are some constructions to show the equative adjective in Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese languages which are

different. Let see the data below:

### Data 15

Gedung ini **setinggi** gedung itu (Indonesian)

Gedung iki **duwure podho** gedung kuwi (Javanese)

Gedung ieu **jangkungna sarua** jeung gedung eta (Sundanese)

This building is **as tall as** that building (English)

In Indonesian language, equative is formed by adding 'se + adjective' to describe the subject. In Javanese language, adverb 'podho' is used to modify the adjective 'duwur' which is ending by suffix -e to describe about subject. In Sundanese language, adverb 'sarua' is used to modify the adjective 'jangkung' which is ending by -na to describe about subject.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From analysis of data and findings, it can be concluded that the typology of syntax can be used to see the similarities and differences in the wording of a sentence in one language to another. Syntactic typology in word order degree and adjective of Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese is unique that differ from one to another language.

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