TRANSITIVITY IN
CONTEMPORARY BAHASA INDONESIA:
A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL PERSPECTIVE
USING THE VERBAL AFFIX -I AS A TEST CASE.

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Supervisor: Associate Professor Colin L. Yallop

CERTIFICATE

I declare that this thesis has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

July, 1990

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SUMMARY

Transitivity and the meanings of the verbal affix -i in Bahasa Indonesia have been analysed using various linguistic approaches. The present study uses the systemic functional approach postulated by Halliday (1967, 1968, 1976, 1981, 1985) which demands the description of a language in its own terms: considering linguistic form in terms of what it achieves in its cultural context and delaying any assumptions about grammatical categories.

The systemic functional approach perceives transitivity in terms of paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations in the clause, and not the classification of verbs as 'transitive' and 'intransitive'.

Through a transitional stage using English as reference point, the study reveals that there are five types of processes in contemporary Bahasa Indonesia: 'doing', 'sensing', 'being', 'verbalizing' and 'existing'.

From the internal language evidence available, this study reveals that the functional characteristics of the verbal affix -i in the language depend on the type of
1) base the affix is attached to
2) process the affix occurs in.
Based on the influence of the two factors above, the functions of the affix can be distinguished into unifying and specific functions. The first of which is not influenced whereas the latter is. The unifying functions are as a 'dispositive marker' and an 'internal causative marker' whereas the specific functions are as a
- Process former.
- intensified Process marker.
- Goal is location of action indicator.
- repetitive Process marker.
- addition of base to Goal indicator.
- deletion of base to Goal indicator. and
- temporal/spatial relationship between Actor and Goal indicator.

Using the description of the functions of the verbal affix -i to revisit the proposed model of transitivity system of contemporary Bahasa Indonesia this study argues that the understanding of the functions of the verbal affix -i cannot be excluded from the interpretation of the system of transitivity of contemporary Bahasa Indonesia.
TERMINOLOGY AND SYMBOLS USED

The symbols and abbreviations used throughout this study are:

\[ V = \text{verbal} \]
\[ N = \text{nominal} \]
\[ \text{Adj} = \text{adjectival} \]
\[ \text{Adv} = \text{adverbial} \]
\[ \text{part.} = \text{participant} \]
\[ \text{dir.} = \text{direction} \]
\[ \wedge = \text{realized by} \]
\[ v = \text{applicable} \]
\[ - = \text{not applicable} \]

CBI = Contemporary Bahasa Indonesia

The standard Bahasa Indonesia orthography is used (Kep. Menteri P&K RI No.0196/U/1975) in this thesis. Conventions include \( \ig \) and \( j \) for palatal stops/affricates. Furthermore, \( \varepsilon \) has two values: /\varepsilon/ and /\epsilon/.

Some morphophonological changes worth mentioning in this study are those involving the affixations \( \text{me-} \) and \( \text{ber-} \). Throughout the study, the first is referred to as \( \text{me-} \) with the understanding that its allomorphs are:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(men-)} & \text{ if the base starts with } /t/, /d/: \\
\text{(meʃ-)} & \text{ if the base starts with } /s/: \\
\text{(mem-)} & \text{ if the base starts with } /p/, /b/ \text{ or } /f/: \\
\text{(men-)} & \text{ if the base starts with } /k/ \text{ or } /q/: \\
\text{otherwise it is } & \text{ (me-)}. \\
\end{align*}
\]

The second affixation, \( \text{ber-} \), has the following allomorphs:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(be-)} & \text{ if the base is a closed syllable of which the vowel is } /\varepsilon/: \\
\text{(bel)} & \text{ if the base is a verb starting with a vowel; otherwise it is } \text{ (ber-)}. \\
\end{align*}
\]

The morphophonological changes to the affix \( \text{me-} \) usually involve some changes to the base initial consonant as well.
In this study there is a distinction between 'process' and 'Process' in that the second is a functional label of an internal element of a clause. The clause can be of any process type. Take the following material process, for example:

<table>
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<th>Process</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ali</td>
<td>makan</td>
<td>pisang.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'Ali ate banana.'

of which makan is the Process of the material process Ali makan pisang.