

## The Use of Suffix -I And -Kan in Indonesian Online Newspapers: A Corpus-Based Study

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the use of suffix {-i} and {-kan} in Indonesian online newspapers by discovering the bases as well as grammatical meanings and functions that are shown by the use of each suffix. The researcher also attempts to analyze the differences between suffix {-i} and {-kan}. Two hundred thousand words of the articles from three Indonesian online newspapers, Kompas, Republika, Tempo, were taken for being analyzed. The data were analyzed by a corpus program AntConc. For the knowledge of suffixes, the researcher used Sneddon's (2010) book as a guidance. The results showed that the noun bases often appear to be attached by suffix {-i} and {-kan}. It can be concluded that the use of suffix {-kan} are more common in the articles of formal documents, in this case Indonesian online newspapers, because many Indonesian bases that come from English, which mostly appear in the formal documents, can be only attached by suffix {-kan}.

**Keywords:** *AntConc, Grammatical Functions, Grammatical Meanings, Suffix {-i}, Suffix {-kan}*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the important things in people's life. People use it for many kind of purposes in many different ways. Language exists, not only for human, but also for animal, even for plant species. However, human language is unique in being a symbolic communication system that is learned instead of biologically inherited. A major advantage of learning human language as symbolic communication system is that it is infinitely flexible. Meanings can be changed and new symbols created, which can be active or passive (O'Niel, 2006). Without language, people cannot do anything in this life, especially in socializing with other people. In order to live well, people have to know and understand the knowledge of the right use of language. After they understand about the knowledge, they also have to know how the language is used in daily life.

Language usage refers to the rules for making language, i.e. the structures used. It can be compared to use, which considers the communicative meaning of language

(“Language Usage,” 2008). Considering this definition, it is found that every language has its own rules that are learnt by people. Therefore, there are also some rules about the right use of Indonesian suffixes in the sentences, in this case about suffix {-i} and {-kan}.

As Indonesian people, we have to be aware of grammar rules in Indonesian language, one of which is about affixes. In the case of affixes, sometimes people are often confused of the right affixes to be used. Affixes hold an important role in the use of Indonesian language, especially in the word formations. Therefore, it is possible for the user to make errors in those formations (Tongeng, 2012). For example, in the case of suffix {-i} and {-kan}, people feel confused to differentiate both suffixes when they are applied in the sentences. There are always some errors in the use of suffixes, both in terms of forms or functions (Tongeng, 2012). Both suffixes have different functions, depend on the context of the sentences, such as suffix {-kan} that has a causative function while suffix {-i} has a repetitive function. There

are some studies about Indonesian suffix {-i} and {-kan} which come from Arka (2009) and Cole (2004). They focused on functions of the suffixes. Arka also used computational morphosyntactic analysis to analyze applicative function of Indonesian suffix {-i}.

The analysis of suffixes can also be done using a corpus program. There are many corpus programs that are designed to facilitate the researchers do linguistic studies, especially for a study of words, sentences, or utterances. Firstly, according to McEnery and Wilson (2001, p. 29) who stated about corpus, "In principle, any collection of more than one text can be called a corpus: the term 'corpus' is simply the Latin for 'body', hence a corpus may be defined as any body of text. But the term 'corpus' when used in the context of modern linguistics tends more frequently to have more specific connotations than this simple definition. Corpus is sampling and representativeness, finite size, machine-readable form, and a standard reference." Another definition of corpus comes from

Baker, Hardie, and McEnery (2006, p. 48), "In linguistics a corpus is a collection of texts (a 'body' of language) stored in an electronic database. Corpora are usually large bodies of machine-readable text containing thousands or millions of words."

Further, this research is called a corpus-based study. According to Baker, Hardie, and McEnery (2006, p. 49), in corpus-based study, the former uses a corpus as a source of examples to check researcher intuition or to examine the frequency and/or plausibility of the language contained within a smaller data set. Corpus-based study can achieve "explanatory adequacy": the results of the study establish a direct relationship between the frequency of the various types of elliptical coordinations across the languages of the world and their overall frequency in English. All corpus-based research is functional in the sense that it is grounded in the belief that linguistic analysis will benefit if it is based on real language used in real contexts. (Meyer, 2004, p. 10)

There have been some studies as corpus-based studies. A study from Ismail, Begi, and Vaseghi (2013), Loke, Ali, and Anthony (2013), Manokaran, Ramalingam, and Adriana (2013) took the data from Malaysian Corpus of Students' Argumentative Writing (MCSAW) to be analyzed. Their target for these studies are Malaysian students that learn English as their second language. They analyzed some grammars in the students' essays, such as modals, preposition of time 'on' and 'at', and past auxiliary 'be'.

The previous research of suffix {-i} and {-kan} do not do a corpus-based study for discovering the use of suffix {-i} and {-kan}, especially in the newspapers' articles. It is widely known that newspaper is the first information media for human in the beginning of their civilization (Supriyadi, 2014). By understanding the knowledge of suffixes, this present research attempts to discover the bases that are attached by suffix {-i} and {-kan} and also grammatical meanings and functions that are shown by the use of each suffix in Indonesian online

newspapers. The researcher also wants to analyze the differences between suffix {-i} and {-kan}.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative and descriptive method with the presence of a simple statistical data for describing the occurrences of the intended features. The researcher uses this method to explore and investigate the problems deeply. Cassell and Symon (1994) state that there are some characteristics of qualitative research, which are: the research focus on interpretation rather than quantification, an emphasis on subjectivity rather than objectivity, and an orientation towards process rather than outcome.

This research uses Sneddon's (2010) book as a guideline about affixes, especially for analyzing the right use of suffix {-i} and {-kan} in the articles. This research is going through two things to be done, which are data collection and data analysis.

The data are taken from three Indonesian online newspapers, which are Kompas, Republika, and Tempo. It is widely known that those three

newspapers are popular among Indonesian citizen and having more rubrics than the other Indonesian online newspapers.

There are 200.000 words of corpora taken from eight different categories of topic in the newspapers, which are economics and business, politics, lifestyle, automotive, sport, technology, entertainment, and travel.

Therefore, there are 25.000 words taken from each topic in the articles in the newspapers. The researcher chooses 200.000 words of corpora to fulfill the requirement of the accepted corpus-based study. The articles are put in the Notepad, according to their newspapers. The articles are put in the Notepad so that it can be analyzed by a corpus program, AntConc. As Tang (2013) said that in order to analyse text electronically it must be in a format readable by AntConc. This format is called plain-text file or just text file. It has the extension of '.txt'.

Because this research attempts to discover the bases that attach in suffix {-i} and {-kan} in Indonesian online newspapers, the researcher uses AntConc, one program of corpus linguistics, as Nesselhauf (2005) said

that one type of data, which is naturally occurring language, in this case randomly collected texts, is included in corpus linguistic analysis. This research uses AntConc to find what kind of bases that are attached by suffix {-i} and {-kan} in the articles.

After all the data have been compiled, they are analyzed further by AntConc. There are some steps in analyzing the data. The researcher has to open all files of the data that have had extension of '.txt'. Then, after opening the files, all files are put in the left side of AntConc view. In order to find the bases that are attached by suffix {-i} and {-kan}, the researcher uses the tool of concordance in AntConc. The next step is searching the words that have suffix {-i} and {-kan} by putting '\*i' and '\*kan'' in the column 'Search Term'. The results show all words that have letters 'i' and 'kan' as ending of the word, so that the researcher has to manually check the words. Next, the researcher discovers the meanings that are shown by the use of suffix {-i} and {-kan} by using Sneddon's (2010) book as a guidance for knowledge of the

functions of suffix {-i} and {-kan}. The researcher sees all the bases and match them with the functions that each suffix has with the bases. After the matching process, there are some meanings that are shown by the use of suffix {-i} and {-kan} in the words of the articles in Indonesian online newspapers.

Lastly, after all the analysis have been done, the researcher can see the differences between the use of suffix {-i} and {-kan} in the words of the articles in Indonesian online newspapers.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of the use of suffix {-i} in the articles of three Indonesian online newspapers, which are Kompas, Republika, and Tempo, showed that suffix {-i} attaches to many kinds of bases. There are verb, adjective, and noun bases. There are 27.991 concordance hits related to the words that have 'i' as their ending of the word. However, there are only 146 words that have suffix {-i} found in the whole articles. According to their bases, there are 36 words that use

verb bases, 34 words use adjective bases, and 76 words use noun bases.

Based on this fact, suffix {-i} mostly attaches to the noun bases in the articles of Indonesian online newspapers. This statement is in line with statements from Saharia, Sharma, and Kalita (2010), in any language, nouns and verbs are the most crucial parts of a sentence. The noun class is always an open lexical category; its members can occur as the head word in the subject of a clause, the object of a verb, or the object of a preposition.

The words that have suffix {-i} are also having prefixes in the beginning of the words. The basic one is having prefix {me-} and {di-} to indicate active or passive sentence, for example memasuki and disukai. There is also prefix {meN-} that attaches to the bases, such as the word menjalani. There are cases when prefix {meN-} and {di-} attach to two-word bases, for example menindaklanjuti and dilatarbelakangi. The last case is the words that only have suffix {-i} without any prefixes, such as dalam, produseri, senang, sutradarai, etc.

In this research, the words that have suffix {-i} has their grammatical meanings and functions. Grammatical meanings are created when suffix {-i} attaches to the various bases in the articles of Indonesian online newspapers. For the verb base, there is a word *mendatangi*. It has a verb base *datang*. The base *datang* has a lexical meaning, which is 'arrived at a destination place'. When the base is attached by suffix {-i}, it creates a grammatical meaning, which is 'approaching, visiting'. In this case, suffix {-i} is a locative {-i}.

For the adjective base, there is a word *dicurigai*. This word has a base *curiga*, which means 'careful, feeling less believe to the truths or someone's honesty'. After the attachment of suffix {-i}, the meaning of the word *curigai* becomes 'suspect to'. Therefore, suffix {-i} indicates that something is applied to the object, in this case, cigarettes are suspected to be a cause of the problem.

For the noun base, there is a case of the word *menjembatani*. In this case, when suffix {-i} attaches to the bases, the meaning of the words are different from the meaning of the

bases. Eventhough the meanings are different, the meaning of the words are still referring to the meaning of the base. This is called polysemy. Polysemy is the words that have more than one meaning because there is a concept in the meaning of the word ("Makna Kata Polisemi, Hipernimi (Hipernim) dan Hiponimi (Hiponim) - Ilmu Bahasa Indonesia," 1970). The concept is seen through the sentence of the word. The word *menjembatani* that has a noun base *jembatan*, means 'a road (from wood, concrete, bamboo) that stretched out above the river'. When suffix {-i} attaches to the base, the meaning of the word becomes 'to link'. It is widely known that the function of making the bridge is to link the lands that are separated with water. Therefore, the grammatical meaning of the word *menjembatani* still refers to the meaning of the base *jembatan*. It can be seen that affixation process can create a new meaning based on the context of the sentences.

The results of the use of suffix {-kan} in the articles showed that suffix {-kan} is oftenly used as suffix in the words. Suffix {-kan} attaches to

the various bases, such as noun, adjective, and verb bases. There are 10.437 concordance hits related to the words that have 'kan' as their ending of the word. Eventhough the numbers of corcondance hits of the words that have 'kan' as their ending of the word are smaller than having 'i' as their ending of the word, the numbers of words that have suffix {-kan} are bigger. There are 333 words that have suffix {-kan} in the whole articles in Indonesian online newspapers. The number of words can be seen according to their bases, that there are 94 words that use verb bases, 107 words use adjective bases, and 132 words use noun bases.

Based on this result, suffix {-kan} mostly attaches to the noun bases in the articles. There are also some Indonesian words that come from English words, such as demonstrasi, realisasi, proyeksi, klasifikasi, etc. Those words can only have {-kan} as their suffix which become demonstrasikan, realisasikan, proyeksikan, and klasifikasikan.

In this research, the large numbers of words that have suffix {-kan} are found. Therefore, the words

have various prefixes in relation to the suffix {-kan}. Generally, there are prefix {me-} and {di-} that attach to the bases to indicate active or passive sentences, for example meyakinkan and diragukan. There is also prefix {meN-} that attaches to the bases, such as the words menggunakan, mengingatkan, menjelaskan, mencemaskan, etc.

Grammatical meanings and functions are also created in the use of suffix {-kan} in the articles of Indonesian online newspapers. In relation to suffix {-kan}, there are various bases that influence the grammatical meanings and functions of the word. For the verb base, there is a word membawakan. This word has a verb base bawa which means 'to hold or carry things in the way'. After the base is attached by suffix {-kan}, the meaning of the word becomes 'to present (events)'. In Indonesian language, the word membawakan has several meanings beside 'carry things', so that this word is used to be a pair with 'acara', 'lagu', 'puisi', etc. This case is one example of polysemy.



For the adjective base, there is a case of the word *menentukan*. The word has an adjective base *tentu*, which means 'certain, does not change anymore'. The meaning of the word becomes 'causing to be certain' after suffix {-kan} attaches to the base. In the sentence, the object is caused to have the quality or characteristic specified by the base which means the event has to be fixed immediately.

For the noun base, there is a word *dinamakan*. It has a base *Nama*, which means 'a word to call people (animal, things)'. When the word *Nama* is attached by suffix {-kan}, the meaning of the word becomes 'give a name to'. After that, the word *namakan* is attached by prefix {di-} and the meaning becomes passive. In this case, suffix {-kan} cause the object to be the base or treat the object as the base.

For the grammatical functions of the words that have suffix {-i} and {-kan} in the articles, the grammatical functions are different depend on the bases. All words that have suffix {-i} and {-kan} in the articles of Indonesian online newspapers are in

the verb forms, so that if the bases are verb bases, there is no change in the case of the grammatical function which can be called as inflectional affixation. However, if the bases are noun or adjective bases, there is a change, which can be called as derivational affixation.

After all the analysis in the use of suffix {-i} and {-kan} in Indonesian online newspapers have been done, the researcher discovered some differences between each suffix, such as: suffix {-i} marks the object as location or recipient while suffix {-kan} marks the object as patient; not all verbs with verb bases, adjective bases, and noun bases can use both suffix {-i} and {-kan}. For example, for the verb bases, there is a word *mengetahui* that cannot use suffix {-kan}; however, there are verbs with verb bases, adjective bases, and noun bases that can use both suffix {-i} and {-kan}. For example, *memasuki* and *memasukkan* for the verb bases.

## CONCLUSION

From the results, it can be concluded that there are three kinds of bases that are attached by suffix {-i}

and {-kan}, which are verb, adjective, and noun bases. The noun bases often appear to be attached by suffix {-i} and {-kan}. In the case of suffix {-i}, the verb bases come second to be attached, while in the case of suffix {-kan}, the adjective bases come second to be attached.

For the analysis of grammatical meanings, there is a case when the meanings of the word are different from the meanings of the bases, which is called polysemy. Therefore, the analysis of grammatical meanings has to consider the context where the words are put in the sentences.

In grammatical functions analysis, there are inflectional and

derivational affixation. When there is no change in the process of affixation, this is called as inflectional affixation. Meanwhile, when there is a change in the process of affixation, this is called as derivational affixation.

Lastly, the major difference between suffix {-i} and {-kan} is that suffix {-i} marks the object as location or recipient while suffix {-kan} marks the object as patient in the sentences. The use of suffix {-kan} are more common in the articles of formal documents, in this case Indonesian online newspapers, because many Indonesian bases that come from English, which mostly appear in the formal documents, can be only attached by suffix {-kan}.

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