Basic Copula Clauses in Indonesian
Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Introduction
We analyzed three types of basic copula clauses in Indonesian: copula clauses with noun phrase (NP) expressing the notions of 'proper inclusion' and 'equation', adjective phrase (AP) expressing 'attribution', and prepositional phrase (PP) predicates expressing 'location'. Our analysis is implemented in the Indonesian Resource Grammar (INDRA), a computational grammar for Indonesian (Moeljadi et al., 2015): http://main.delph-in.net/IndraTop.

Copula clauses with NP pred.
Three copula verbs which may appear are (1) adalah, (2) ialah, and (3) merupakan.

Figure 1: Type hierarchy of copula verbs

Some examples:
(1) a. Budi (adalah/ialah/merupakan) guru.
   Budi COP teacher
   “Budi is a teacher.”

   b. Budi (adalah/ialah/merupakan) guruku.
      Budi COP
      “Budi is my teacher.”

   c. *Saya ialah guru.
      1SG COP teacher
      Intended meaning: I am a teacher.

   d. *Orang itu merupakan Budi.
      person that COP Budi
      Intended meaning: That person is Budi.

   Figure 2: DMRS of Budi ialah guru

   • Copula adalah, ialah, and merupakan take two arguments, similar to transitive verbs
   • Our analysis follows the Montagovian treatment as presented in Van Eynde (2009)

   Figure 3: Parse tree of Budi guru

   • The syntactic structure is similar to the one in Arka (2013) → any lexical category can be a predicate
   • Our zero copula analysis corresponds to ‘Construcational analysis II’ in Bender (2001) → does not work for African American Vernacular English (AAVE) but can be implemented for Indonesian because of differences in syntactic structure

   Figure 4: Parse trees of Budi pandai and Budi adalah pandai

   • The MRS of the clauses with and without adalah are the same

   Figure 5: DMRS of Budi (adalah) pandai

   Copula adalah or ialah, as well as an existential verb ada or berada may appear as in (3).
(3) Budi (adalah/ialah/ada/berada) di rumah.

   Budi COP/EXIST
   “Budi is at home.”

   • Predicative PPs take two arguments, similar to transitive predicates
   • adaht, ialah, ada, and berada are treated as aux. which do not introduce a predicate
   • The MRS of the clauses with and without adalah, ialah, ada, or berada are the same

   Figure 6: Parse trees of Budi ada di rumah and Budi di rumah

   Generation

   Figure 8: Semantic hierarchy of copulas

   Having been implemented in INDRA, we can generate other possible copula clauses with different copulas from one input clause:

   Input: Budi merupakan Budi ada di guru rumah
   Output: Budi guru Budi di rumah

   Budi merupakan Budi berada di guru
   Budi di rumah

   Conclusion

   Our analyses of Indonesian copula clauses are similar to Arka (2013)’s LFG analysis but covers more copula verbs with a refined type hierarchy. Because of differences in syntactic structure between AAVE and Indonesian, the analysis that builds a VP out of a predicative NP, which does not work for AAVE, can be successfully implemented for Indonesian.

   References