

Nominal Marking in Semarangan Indonesian-Javanese

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This paper explores the distribution of the cognate *-é/-nya* suffixes on nouns in four related languages found on the island of Java, Indonesia: Javanese, the dominant language of the majority ethnic Javanese; Standard Indonesian, the national language; Semarangan, the language of the native Chinese community of Semarang, Java; and Jakartan Indonesian, the variety of Malay spoken in Jakarta. Though these four languages are closely related, each has a unique distribution of this cognate marker. Through this comparative approach, I am primarily interested in analyzing the distribution in Semarangan, which has elements of both Indonesian and Javanese lexicon, phonology, morphology and syntax. It has been suggested that Semarangan defies description as a traditional mixed language, code switching language, or code mixing language (Tadmor pers. comm.). In this paper, I show that the pattern of nominal marking with *-é* is based on the Javanese, and not the standard Indonesian pattern.

Below I give one example of nominal marking in two different possessive constructions, a possessed NP and a possessive nominal construction. In Javanese, a possessed NP is obligatorily marked with *-(n)é*; this is also the case in Semarangan (which, in form, makes use of both the Javanese marker, *-(n)é*, and its Indonesian cognate *-nya*). In Standard Indonesian, it is ungrammatical to mark the NP with *-nya*. In Jakartan Indonesian, however, the possessed NP can optionally appear with (a pattern borrowed from Javanese) or without further marking.

In possessive nominal constructions, with *punya* in Indonesian and *duwékan* in Javanese, a slightly different pattern emerges across these four languages. In Standard Indonesian, it is again ungrammatical to mark the possessive nominal with *-nya*; and again in Javanese and Semarangan the marker is obligatory. Jakartan Indonesian differs, however, in not allowing the possessive nominal to be marked with *-nya*.

There are significant questions that emerge from these patterns. What is the semantic meaning of these markers? And what is their syntactic function? But more crucially, given the distinct distribution patterns, is there a single analysis that can unify these markers and account for their behavior across the four languages? This is especially difficult given that the marker is sometimes obligatory and sometimes optional. Here, I propose a preliminary account of this data, with differences accounted for by the variation in syntactic categories across these languages. I further argue against these markers as functional elements tracking referents across utterances.

	Possessed NP	Possessive Nominal
Semarang	<i>Sepéda *(-nya) Wawa aja ada. *(-né)</i>	<i>Punya *(-nya) Tante. *(-né)</i>
Standard Indo	<i>Sepéda (*-nya) Wawa aja ada.</i>	<i>Punya (*-nya) Tante.</i>
Jakarta Indo	<i>Sepéda (-nya) Wawa aja ada.</i>	<i>Punya (*-nya) Tante.</i>
Javanese	<i>Pít *(-é) Wawa mung ana.</i>	<i>Duwèkan *(-e) Bu Dhé.</i>
English	bicycle -é/nya Wawa only have 'There is only Wawa's bike.'	have/possession -é/nya aunt 'It's aunties.'