The information structure of Javanese narratives
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Overview
Javanese is a language spoken in Central and East Java. In this paper, I will examine the information structure in Javanese narratives on their experiences, focusing on the use of demonstratives and verbs.

1. Suffix e – for noun compound

(1) Desan e penulis ana warga kang seda.
    village-e writer there is member rel.pro. died

Mula, penulis engga-enggal bali
So writer hurriedly return

saka papan tugase sawise sejibahan rampung.
from place work-e after-e assigned finished

‘In writer’s village, there was a villager who died. So writer hurriedly returned form the workplace after obligation finished.’

(2) Maya rada kaget, amarga suster kuwi ora kaya
    Maya rather surprised, because sister this not like
    wong Indonesia.
    People Indonesia.

Rambute pirang, sepundhak, irunge mancung lan kulite putih.
    Hair-e blond top nose pointing and skin white

‘Maya was rather surprised at this sister, as her hair is blond, her nose is pointing, and the skin is white.’

(3) Maya ora gelem nyeritakke kedadean
    Maya NEG. like talk about incidence
    mau marang ibune
    that to mother-e
‘Maya did not want to talk about that incidence to her mother.’

(4) Rumah sakit iki dibangun tahun 1928,
Hospital this built year 1928

sakdurungơ Indonesia merdeka.
before Indonesia independent

‘This hospital was built in the year of 1928 before Indonesia got independent.’

2. **Givenness and demonstratives**

2.1. **Bare NP**

(5) penulis gumun, genea pethi mati ø ora
writer astonished how come coffin neg.

melu
accompany

‘The writer was astonished, how come the coffin does not accompany?.’

3. **Establishment of the topic**

Topic is marked by demonstratives, i.e. proximate demonstratives *iki* and *kuwi*, a medial demonstrative *kuwi, iku*, and a distal demonstrative *kae*. Once the topic is established by a certain demonstrative, that demonstrative does not switch to any other demonstratives.

3.1. **Proximate demonstrative *iki***

(6) Lelembut Neng Rumah Sakit Panti Rapih—
Ghost at Hospital Panti Rapih—

Kedadean *iki* dialami sedulur wadonku Maya.
incidence this experienced sister-my Maya

‘Ghost at Hospital Panti Rapih.’—this incidence was experienced by my female cousin named Maya.’

(7) Simbah Putriku lagi gerah lan kudu nginep
female-my at that time sick and have to sleep
rumah Sakit Panti Rapih Yogyakarta.
Hospital Panti Rapih Yogyakarta

‘My grandmother was being sick and had to stay at Panti Rapih Yogyakarta’;

Rumah sakit iki dibangun tahun 1928, sakdurunge Indonesia merdeka.
Hospital this built year 1928, before Indonesia got independent
“This hospital was built in 1928, before Indonesia got independent.’

(8) Akeh crito sing medeni saka rumah sakit iki.
a lot of stories which came out from hospital this
‘Lots of stories came out from this hospital.’

3.2. Proximate demonstrative kuwi

(9) Yen awujud wit empring mentelung nyegati dalan, kuwi ya
When form tree near street, this
gendruwa.
‘If it takes a form of tree, this is indeed a gendruwa.
Kanggo ngusir kuwi dipisuhi.
In order to throw away, this cursed
‘In order to throw him out, that is cursed.’

(10) Sing ketok mung geni rokoke. “Sapa ya kuwi?”
which seen only fire cigarette “who, expl. this
‘What was visible was only the fire of his cigarette. “Who is this?”

(11) Ana crita maneh, memedi kuwi malah wedi karo,
exist story also, memedi this even scared with

wong sing seneng mincing
people who likes catching
‘There is even a story that this ghost is scared with people who like catching.’
3.3. Medial demonstrative *iku*

3.4. Distal demonstrative *kae*

3.5. *Mau*

4. A verb *rungu, krungu, and keprungu*

5. **Conclusion**

In Javanese narratives, the givenness is marked by NP plus demonstratives. Demonstratives are hardly used for givenness. Interestingly, however, sometimes bare NP is observed, connoting that once givenness is established in the first place, it can stay as a bare NP throughout a narrative.

**Reference**

Helberg, Nancy, 2013 Applying the Givenness Hierarchy Framework: Methodological Issues, ILCAA workshop

Krifka, Manfred, 2006 Basic Notion of Information Structure.


**DATA**

Magazines *Jjaka Lodang*

Narratives narrated by A, B.