

## 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) Desane 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 from 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

sakdurunge      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.  
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 roko. “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

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Lambrech, Knud. 1994 Information Structure and Sentence Form. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

DATA

Magazines *Jjaka Lodang*

Narratives narrated by A, B.