

## Topic-Marking Constructions in Bantik

Atsuko Utsumi

Meisei Unviersity

This paper aims to show how a topic NP is marked syntactically in the Bantik language. Cleft-sentence construction, left-dislocation, and construction with an existential marker will be looked into. All the above constructions can mark an NP which is referred to or activated in the immediately preceding discourse.

A cleft construction in Bantik places a contrastive topic NP in the sentence-initial place, which is followed by a linker *nu* that introduces a main clause. The fronted NP, *ana?* in (1), is previously mentioned, and was picked up in those sentences as a contrastive topic.

Left-dislocation in Bantik is defined as a construction where the left-dislocated NP is referred to again by a pronoun in the main clause. A fronted NP, *i-tuadi?=ne* is referred to again in the main clause by *=ne* in example (2). In the previous context, the two brothers were introduced as discourse topics and the elder brother has been explained, so *i-tuadi?=ne* in this sentence is clearly a contrastive topic.

There is also a topic-introducing construction that employs the existential marker *pai*. The topic NP, *batu karang* in (3) is introduced by *pai*. The NP introduced by *pai* is generally a newly introduced entity which behaves as a discourse topic in the following context.

The above three constructions will be described and their informational functions will be compared in this paper.

- (1) <*zadi*> <*hidop*> =*ku*    *ie,*    *doŋka*    [*ana?*]    *nu*  
then    life=LINK.1sg    this    then    child    LINK  
*ma-miaha?*              *e*  
AV.NPST-feed          E  
'So, my life is (like) this, then it is my children that support (me).' (*Hidupan*,  
monologue)
- (2) [*i-tuadi?=ne*]                                  *aden=ne*                  *i-gimon*  
[SUBJ-younger.sibling=LINK=3sg]    name=LINK.3sg    SUBJ-Gimon  
'The younger brother, his name was Gimon' (*Kokokuk*, folk story)
- (3) [*pai*    *batu*    *karang*]    *kagio=ne*                  *ma-pia*                  *sere-an*  
[exist    stone    Karang]    figure=LINK.3sg    MA-good                  see-GV  
'There was Karang stone, figure of which was beautiful when seen (by people).'