**Topic-Marking Constructions in Bantik**

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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, *anaʔ* 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-tuadiʔ=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-tuadiʔ=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) `<ʒadi> <hidop> =ku ie, donka [anaʔ] nu ma-mihaʔ? e AV.NPST-feed E  

‘So, my life is (like) this, then it is my children that support (me).’ (Hidupan, monologue)

(2) `[i-tuadiʔ=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 beatiful when seen (by people).’

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