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. 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 new entity is often introduced by a topic-introducing construction that employs the existential marker *pai*.

1. Introduction

The Bantik Language\(^1\) is an Austronesian language spoken in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. It is said to belong to the Sangiric subgroup within the Philippine group, Western Malayo-Polynesian (cf. Noorduyn (1991), Sneddon (1984) among others). It is said to be spoken by around 10,000 people in nine villages in the vicinity of Manado, a provincial city of the North Sulawesi, and two more villages around 100 kilometers away from Manado (cf. Noorduyn (1991)). Every speaker of Bantik also speaks Manado dialect of Indonesian. As people born after 1970 mostly use Manado dialect and people born after 1980 basically do not use Bantik, it is clearly in danger of extinction.

Syntactic features of Bantik are similar to those of other Philippine languages, so are the topic-introducing constructions in the following sections, but the comparison between them is beyond the focus of this paper.

The example sentences were taken from elicitation, naturalistic data, and translation of folk tales in Indonesian to Bantik. Naturalistic data consist of folk stories ‘*Biou ni-timpunuu bo i-boheng* (The tale of a turtle and a monkey)’ and ‘*Batu Madengkei* (Mandengkei Stone)’, and naturally occurring conversation ‘*Memperbaiki Rumah* (Reconstructing a house)’, and ‘*Hidupan* (life)’.

Translated stories are: ‘*Biou ni-toada? bo i-lummuutu* (The tale of Toada and Lumimuutu)’, ‘*Kokokuk* (The tale of a kokokuk bird)’, and ‘*Burung Taoun dan Burun Ngulngul*’ (The tale of Taon Bird and Ngulngul bird).

In the following discussion, several technical terms are used. ‘Discourse topic’ is used to refer

\(^1\) The Bantik language has five vowels /i, e, a, o, u/ and fourteen consonants /p, b, t, d, k, g, s, h, j, r, m, n, ʔ/. The glottal stop occurs only base-finally with a few exceptions. A word consists of a base, or a base with one or more affixes. The basic word order is SVO while VOS word order frequently occurs when the verb is in an Undergoer Voice. Like many other Philippine type languages, Bantik has more than one Undergoer Voices (at least two) in addition to an Active Voice. For detailed description of Bantik, see Bawole (1993) and Utsumi (2005).
to an entity which is important for the text and repeatedly referred to.

2. A construction for introducing a new entity: existential sentence

Bantik has a existential marker *pai*. This marker has three main usages. First, it is used to denote that something exist, and most often co-occur with a PP which shows location as in example (1). Second, it is used to show the possession as in example (2). Third, it is used to denote a resultative state of the following clause as in example (3) and (4).

(1) *su pandihiʔ nu-raodoʔ* *su bukidiʔ wulur maatus*
   LOC near LK-sea LOC hill Wulur Maatus
   *pai*  *batu karang*.
   EXIST stone Karang
   ‘Near the sea, at the Wulur Maatus Hill, there was a stone (named) Karang.’ *(Biou ni Toadaʔ bo i-Lumimuutu)*

(2) *iaʔ* *pai sinage bua nu Bali.*
   SUBJ.1sg EXIST friend from LK Bali
   ‘I have a friend from Bali’. *(Elicitation)*

(3) *pai*  *[i-deki na-idaoʔ=te su buha e]*
   EXIST SUBJ-Deki NA-reach=COMP LOC Buha DP
   ‘Deki has arrived at Buha.’

(4) *pai*  *i-stefi ma-mokou rakuʔ=ku.*
   EXIST SUBJ-Stevy AV.NPST-wash clothes=LK.1sg
   ‘Stevy is already (started) washing my clothes’

The topic introducing function of *pai* derives from the first usage. A sentence with *pai* is often found in the first sentence of the text as in example (5) and (6). The *pai* in example (1) can also be analyzed as having a topic-introducing function. It is also the first sentence of the tale.

(5) *pona e pai i-opoʔ, aden=ne i-opoʔ ronkoro.*
   before DP exist SUBJ-old.man name=LK.3sg SUBJ-old.man Rongkoro
   ‘Once upon a time, there was an old man, whose name was Grandpa Rongkoro.’ *(Batu Madengkei)*

(6) *su rou pona pai side dua sinja-tuhan*.
   LOC day before EXIST SUBJ.3pl two one-sibling
   ‘Days and days ago, there were two brothers.’ *(Kokokuk)*

In contrast, when an entity has already been activated in the previous context, *tou*² and *side*³, which

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² *Tou* is supposed to derive from *toumata* ‘human being’in Bantik. The reconstruction of ‘human being’ in Proto-Sangiric languages (which Bantik belongs) is *tau* (Sneddon 1984).
show the information status of ‘referential’ or ‘uniquely identifiable’, are attached. *Tou* co-occurs with an NP that denotes a singular entity, both human and non-human, whereas *side* does with an NP that denotes plural entities. (The description of *tou* and *side* is presented in Utsumi 2014). Example (7) shows that an entity which is salient in the non-linguistic context can be introduced by *tou*. It also appears in example (9), which follows example (8). In the first appearance of *korano* ‘king’ in example (8), there is no marker at all, but when it appears for the second time (example 9), it follows *tou*. Example (10) shows the usage of *side* that is attached to an NP which denotes an entity that is activated by the immediately preceding sentence.

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(7) *i-tou*  *pun m-baŋo ma-raŋkasa? apade?=ku*
I-PRO  tree LK-coconut ADJVZ-tall belong=NI-1sg
‘The tall coconut tree belongs to me’ (Elicitation session)

(8) *dadiŋihiʔ=te i-korano ni-boheŋ.*
listen=COMP I-king LK-monkey
‘Monkey's king listend.’  (*I-timpunu bo i-boheng* line 54)

(9) *na-maɾo=te i-tou korano nu-boheŋ kasi?*
AV.PST-announce=COMP I-PRO king LK-monkey INT
*pa-dadiŋihiʔ, ‘kite?*  *sinja-maya-n  ie, ka-kanioʔ*  *bo bagai.*
CAUS-listen 1.1pl.EXC one-all-AN this RED-small and big
‘The king of monkeys announced and let (them) listen (to him), “We are one people, including small ones and big ones.”’  (*I-timpunu bo i-boheng* line 62)

(10) *manu? si-yopi ni-tekos-an.*
chicken LOC-Yoppy PST-steal-GV
*isie na-moagaʔ*  *si-side ma-na-nekosoʔ*
SUBJ.3sg NAN-beat SI-PRO MA-RED-steal
‘A chicken at Yopi’s house was stolen. He beat the thieves.’ (Elicitation session)

In short, the existential sentence with *pai* is used to introduce a new entity in the discourse whereas *tou* and *side* are for ‘referential’ or ‘uniquely identifiable’ entity.

3. A Cleft construction

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3  *Side* is predominantly used as third person plural pronoun.

4  The term ‘Referential’ is used here according to the definition in Hedberg 2013. ‘Referential’ satisfies one of the following two conditions: (i) ‘It is mentioned subsequently in the discourse’, and (ii) ‘it is evident from the context that the speaker intends to refer to some specific entity’.

5  The definition of the term ‘uniquely identifiable’ here is taken from Hedberg 2013. ‘Uniquely identifiable’ satisfies both of the following two conditions. (i) ‘The referent form contains adequate descriptive/conceptual content to create a unique referent’, and (ii) ‘a unique referent can be created ia a ‘bridging inference’ by associating with an already activated referent.’
A cleft construction in Bantik places a contrastive topic 6 NP in the sentence-initial place, which is followed by the linker nu that introduces a main clause as shown in example (11). The hot season is contrasted with rainy season, and ene ‘that’, which denotes the hot season is treated as a contrastive topic. This construction, as often is the case with other languages in Philippines and Indonesia, is also used in content question as in example (12). Example (13) has the same construction but the linker nu introduces a relative clause.

(11) duŋkuɾ nu-ene mayørου bo suayə nu-rou
before LK-that hot.season and light LK-day
ene=te nu paŋ-uɾi? ma-iha?
that=COMP LK APP-say ADJVZ-hot
‘Back then, (it was in a) hot season, and the sunshine, that is the one which could be said hot’. (Biou ni Toadaʔ bo i-Lumimuutu)

(12) isai nu na-mihei doitiʔ si-kau
who LK AV.PST-give money OBJ-2sg
‘Who gave you the money?’ (Elicitation)

(13) babaɛheʔ su-beo, isie ma-ka-deaʔ apa nu
merit LOC-wild.pig SUBJ.3pl AV.NPST-POT-find what LK
ni-kan n-toumata
PST-eat LK-people
‘As the merit to the wild pig, he (=wild pig) can find what was eaten by people’

When more than two entities are compared and one of them is picked up, the cleft construction is used to mark the ‘contrastive topic’. The fronted NP, anaʔ in (14), is previously mentioned, and was picked up in those sentences as a topic, being contrasted with iaʔ ‘I’ in the previous sentence. Sentences in example (15) are taken from a free conversation between four people. They are neighbors for a long time and share the knowledge of village people. When they talk about a possible candidate for a folk-story teller, several elderly people occur in their minds. The people who are compared become the contrastive topic of the last two sentences. Words in bracket in the below examples are borrowed ones from Indonesian.

(14) <ʒadi> iaʔ ie gagudan=te,
then SUBJ.1sg now old=COMP
<ʒadi> <hidop>=ku ie, doŋka [anaʔ] nu ma-miahaʔ e
then life=LINK.1sg this then child LK AV.NPST-feed DP
‘Then I got old, so my life is (like) this, then it is my children that support (me).’ (Hidupan, monologue)

(15)L: ada isie man-deaʔ ma-biou e, i-maʔ

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6 I use the term ‘contrastive topic’ as appears in Lambrecht (1994: 291).
In example (16), the timing of the marriage is a discourse topic. A man and a woman finally got married one day when the condition for the marriage was met, and the NP which denote that day (rou ene ‘that day’) becomes the contrastive topic.

(16) i-toadaʔ bo i-rumimuʔtu tu siyka-pahi-sabu side dua
I-Toada and I-Lumimuutu once-RCP-meet SUBJ.3pl two

na-pahi-sasuka nu tikin n-side.
AV.PST-RCP-measure NU stick LK-3pl

‘When Toada and Lumimuutu met, they compared their sticks.’

s-in-ere-an mai n-side tikin aya=te pada.
PST-see-GV already LK-3sg stick not=COMP same

‘It seems their sticks are not the same (length) anymore.’

yo rou ene=te nu side dua na-kabiy
then day that=COMP LK SUBJ.3sg two AV.PST-marry

su timbou nu-kantaŋ=ne.
LOC top LK-mountain=LK.3sg

‘Then that was the day when the two of them got married at the top of the mountain.’

4. Left-dislocation sentences

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. This construction is very commonly found.

A fronted NP, i-tuadiʔ=ne is referred to again in the main clause by =ne in example (18), which follows example (6), shown again as (17) here. 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. The left dislocated items are shown in the brackets [ ], and repeated NPs are
bold-faced in the following examples.

(17) su rou pona nu ie pai side dua siyka-tuhaŋ
LOC day before EXIST SUBJ.3pl two one-sibling
‘Days and days ago, there was two brothers.’ (Kokokuk)

(18) [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)

This construction is also used to introduce a discourse topic as in example (19). Here, the topic manuʔ taonan is referred to again by a possessive pronoun ne. A similar construction is found in (20) and (21) as well.

(19) su huaŋ nu <dunia>, ni-ka-deaʔ-en manuʔ taonan
LOC in LK workd PST-POT-find-GV bird Taon
bo manuʔ bayan
and bird Bayan.
‘In the (ancient) world, Taon bird and Bayan bird were found’.
[manuʔ taonan] aoʔ=ne bagai bo bomburu=ne ma-itunŋ
[bird Taon] body=LK.3sg big and feather=LK.3sg ADJVZ-black
‘Taon bird, its body was big and its feathers were black’ (Burung Taoun dan Burung Ngulngul)

(20) [isie] duŋkuru.nu.ene, <mayat>=ne ni-diŋan <kularahan> siŋkil.
SUBJ-3sg at.the.same.time body=LK.3sg PST-take region Singkil
‘At that time, he, his body was taken to Singkil’. (Memperbaiki Rumah)

(21) bo [sapi] anaʔ=ne e na-i-pahu? su p-in-a-ŋikiʔ-an
and cow child=LK.3sg DP AV.PST-NVlt-coil LOC PST-APP-tie-GV
‘And the cow, its child was unintendedly coiled to the pole (to which it is tied).’

Example (13), shown below as (22), has also left-dislocated NP. An NP which is repeated can be placed in the end of the clause as in example (23).

(22) [babaeheʔ su-beo], isie ma-ka-deaʔ apa nu
merit LOC-wild.pig SUBJ.3pl AV.NPST-POT-find what LK
ni-kan n-toumata
PST-eat LK-people
‘As the merit to the wild pig, he (=wild pig) can find what was eaten by people’

(23) [anaʔ] kadua=ne, i-franki kumaunŋ, ma-tuwau
child second=LK.3sg SUBJ-Franky Kumaunang AV.NPST-live
The second child, Franky Kumaunang, lives in Buha, he.’

5. Conclusion

In this paper, three constructions that show information structure in the Bantik languages were described. The existential construction is often used in the beginning of the text to introduce a new entity. Contrastive-topics are shown by cleft construction, and discourse topics by left-dislocation.

It seems very uncommon that the entity, which is already referred to by a pronoun, takes left-dislocated construction. It is possible to find cleft construction with a pronoun as a clefted item in elicitation, but it is also hard to find in the naturalistic data. The correlation between the information status of NPs and these constructions should be looked into in the future.

**Abbreviations**

1sg    first person singular
1pl.EXC first person plural exclusive
1pl.INC first person plural inclusive
2sg    second person singular
2pl    second person plural
3sg    third person singular
3pl    third person plural
-An    suffix -an which has a function of nominalization, or of forming derivational verbs
CONT   enclitic =te that indicates continuative aspect
COMP   enclitic =ken that indicates completive aspect
DP     discourse particle
-GV    suffix attached to verb bases, which indicates goal voice
I-     nominative case marker attached to subject nominals
INT    interjection
POT-   potitive prefix ka- which attaches to verb bases
AV.NPST prefix attached to verb base, indicating non-past tense and Actor Voice
AV.PST- prefix attached to verb base, indicating past tense and Actor Voice
REL    relativiser nu
PRO    pronoun tou that forms an NP with a noun, and that functions as an antecedent
LK-    noun marker ni-/nu- that denotes genitive or actor in undergoer voice sentences, or linker that connects two NPs
References