

THE REFLECTIVE EXPERIENTIAL ASPECT OF MEANING OF THE AFFIX *-i* IN INDONESIAN

Francien Herlen Tomasowa
Universitas Brawijaya Malang

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif deskriptif dan bertujuan untuk menjelaskan tentang aspek eksperiensial reflektif dari makna akhiran *-i* dalam bahasa Indonesia.

Data yang digunakan berupa klausa yang mengandung akhiran *-i* sebagaimana digunakan oleh penutur asli bahasa Indonesia dan yang terdapat dalam buku-buku tatabahasa Indonesia dan bahan lainnya, seperti koran, majalah dan buku cerita anak yang tersebar luas di Indonesia dalam dua dasawarsa terakhir ini.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa aspek eksperiensial reflektif dari makna akhiran *-i* dalam bahasa Indonesia berkaitan erat dengan macam kata dasar (base) serta macam proses di mana akhiran tersebut berada.

INTRODUCTION

The literature shows that there have been phonological, morphological and syntactical analyses of the characteristics of the verbal affix *-i* in Indonesian, among others by Edmond Tes (1957), Alisjahbana (1963, 1976, 1978), Abas (1971), Aman Singgih (1972), Keraf (1980), Samsuri (1976, 1985), Dardjowidjojo (1971, 1977, 1983) and Tampubolon (1977, 1978, 1983).

Tampubolon (1977:22) suggests that there are three approaches to affixation in the language: traditional (Mees, 1964; Alisjahbana, 1963), structural (Macdonald, 1976), and the one which he himself uses, namely semantic. Let us look at examples of each of these approaches below.

Sabaruddin Ahmad, as cited by Edmond Tes (1957:53) states that the affix *-i* functions as a verb-former. In functioning as a verb-former, the affix *-i* as a suffix forms a secondary base, and as part of the affixation *per-i* forms a tertiary base.

Alisjahbana (1976:88) claims that it can be assumed that the suffix *-i* makes from the object a kind of location; the object is static, e.g.: *Ahmad melempari pohon itu dengan batu* 'Ahmad is pelting the tree with stones'. On the other hand, the suffix *-kan* represents the object as something in movement, thus dynamic: *Ahmad melemparkan batu kepada pohon itu* 'Ahmad is throwing stones at the tree'. Further he argues that the difference between *menamakan* and *menamai* in which *nama* means 'name', is that in the first case the person is changed from nameless to one with a name whereas in the second case a name is given to the person.

Aman Singgih (1972:20) asserts that the affix *-i*, like the affix *-kan*, has two functions:

- 1) to make a word become a transitive verb; and/ or
- 2) to make a transitive verb (variant a) become 'more transitive' (variant b) such as in:
 - a. Saya **mendengar** suara letusan mercon. 'I heard the cracker explosion.'
 - b. Saya **mendengarkan** siaran radio. 'I listened to the radio broadcast.'

As for the choice of *-kan* or *-i*, Singgih argues that the first is used whenever the object 'moves' while the latter when the object is 'static' or 'does not move'. Some examples are:

Ali mengirimkan surat ke Tokio. 'Ali sent a letter to Tokio.'
 Ali mengirimi ibunya uang. 'Ali sent his mother money.'

Whether the affix *-i* is a transitivity marker, an intensifier or benefactive marker is idiosyncratic (Abas 1971:308). The given examples, which are admittedly not very illuminating, are presented in the table below.

transitivity marker	'meng-ingin-I' 'me-' + want + '-i'	'meng-ingin-kan' 'me-' + want + '-kan'
benefactive marker	'me-nama-I' 'me-' + name + '-i'	'me-nama-kan' 'me-' + name + '-kan'
intensifier	'me-minjam-I' 'me-' + lend + '-i'	'meng-ajar-kan' 'me-' + teach + '-kan'

The literature also shows that some linguists who are non-native speakers of Bahasa Indonesia have shown interest in the function(s) of the affix *-I* in Indonesian. Among others are Pickering, A. (1974), Tcheckoff, C. (1978), Hopper, P.J. and Thompson, S.A. (1980), Prentice (1987) and Verhaar (1984).

Hopper and Thompson (1980:261) compare Indonesian *-kan* and *-i* in terms of their semantic and distributional similarities. The two affixes can be found as a minimal pair (cf. Tjokronegoro 1968). They argue that the semantic difference between 'Dia memanasi air' and 'Dia memanaskan air' is that:

1. the action of heating in the first is gentler and more controlled than that in the latter; and
2. in the first the heat is brought to the water, whereas in the latter the water is placed over the heat.

Historically, they suggest that the two affixes may be derived from prepositions: *-kan* from the directional *akan/ke-* 'to (a place)'; and *-i* from the locative 'at'.

As part of circumfixes with *men-* and *memper-*, the affix *-i* assigns locative role meaning to the Direct Object NP, frequently figurative, as in *menduduki* 'to sit on, to occupy'; *memperingati* 'to commemorate'; *menghormati* 'to confer honour on, to honour' (Verhaar 1984:6). As a derivational suffix (not the final portion of a circumfix), the affix *-i*, such as in *memukuli* 'to hit repeatedly' and *menampari* 'to slap over and over again' (see also Dardjowidjojo 1977:4)

According to Prentice (1987:924) there is one phonologically determined constraint on the occurrence of the affix *-i*. It cannot concur with a base ending with the orthographic *i*. Some examples are *memakai* ‘to wear’ stemming from the base *pakai* ‘use’, and *membenci* ‘to dislike’ stemming from the base *benci* ‘dislike’. Verhaar (1984:6) argues that it is the ‘locative *-i*’ that cannot be added to a base or stem already ending in the orthographic *-i*. He further expects that in earlier Malay the examples above were:

- *memakaii* instead of *memakai*, and
- *membencii* instead of *membenci*.

Kartomihardjo (1981:66) and Poedjosoedarmo (1982:70) assert that the affix *-i* in Indonesian and in Javanese has the following functions common to both languages:

1. formation of verbs referring to repetitive actions:
e.g.: menghantami - ngantemi ‘to hit repetitively’
(Indonesian) (Javanese)
2. formation of a verb, the recipient of which is the place of the action. The recipient may be either inanimate:
e.g.: menggulai - nggulani ‘to add sugar’
(Indonesian) (Javanese)
or animate:
e.g.: mengobati - nambani ‘to medicate’
(Indonesian) (Javanese)
3. formation of verbs the meaning of which is ‘become or be (Noun)’:
e.g.: mengepalai ‘to head’
4. formation of verbs, the meaning of which is ‘make (adjective, number)’:
e.g.: menyamai ‘to be alike’

In summary, the non-systemic functional approaches have revealed that the affix *-i* has seven functions/meanings:

1. verb-former (e.g. Sabaruddin Ahmad);
2. transitivizer (e.g. A. Singgih);
3. intensifier (e.g. Hopper and Thompson);
4. iterative/ repetitive (e.g. S. Dardjowidjojo; S. Kartomihardjo);
5. object becomes kind of location (e.g. S.T. Alisjahbana; S. Kartomihardjo);
6. become/ be (Noun) (e.g. S. Kartomihardjo); and
7. make Adjective/ Numeral (e.g. S. Kartomihardjo).

Despite those previous works on the affix, some problems concerning its grammatical meanings remain unsolved. Firstly, what in fact is the unifying function of the affix? Secondly, are the various functions assigned to the affix in complementary distribution to each other? Thirdly, is the generalization that an un-prefixed word containing the affix *-i* is a verb in its imperative form acceptable? And lastly, does the affix *-i* in *menangisi* ‘to cry (about)’ and *menduduki* ‘to sit (on)’ only function as a ‘transitivizer’?

1 METHOD OF RESEARCH

This study is descriptive qualitative by which the writer tries to explain the reflective experiential aspect of meaning of the verbal affix *-i* in Indonesian in detail.

Two main sources of data were used for this descriptive study, namely, native speakers of Indonesian and written materials.

For the purpose of investigating the functional characteristics of the verbal affix *-i* in Indonesian, some Indonesian tertiary level teaching staffs that have all been brought up and educated in Indonesian since childhood were used as informants and were consulted to judge the acceptability of certain data. Each informant was asked to make sentences containing the affix *-i* from which the 400 sentences gathered were used as a bank to refer to in describing the functional characteristics of the affix.

The written data used comprised textbooks on the grammar of Indonesian (Alisjahbana 1963, Moeliono 1967, Macdonald and Soenjono 1967, Macdonald 1976, Sarumpaet 1977, Badudu 1980, Keraf 1980 and Harsana 1982), some widely distributed Indonesian newspapers (Kompas and Surya) and magazines (Tabloid, Intisari, Basis, Matra and Femina) and children's stories published in the last two decades. These written sources are chosen for three reasons. Firstly, the language used is both contemporary and used by educated people. Secondly, they are largely circulated in the country, and thirdly, they cover various text types. The newspapers and the first magazine mentioned contain socio-economic and political topics; Intisari and Basis contain scientific topics, whereas Matra and Femina are intended for readers of a certain sex, the first is for male and the latter for female readers. Given the range of fields, including the children's stories, it is considered that the data are sufficiently representative for the investigation.

The data were analyzed using the systemic functional model of grammar postulated by Halliday (1967, 1976, 1981, 1985). The theory underlying this grammar is a theory of meaning as choice: a language or any other semiotic system is interpreted as networks of interlocking options.

2 FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The result of perceiving the meaning of the verbal affix *-i* in Indonesian from systemic functional model of grammar postulated by Halliday (1967, 1976, 1981, 1985), which interprets a language or any other semiotic system as networks of interlocking options is as follows.

In terms of experiential meaning, processes in Indonesian can be distinguished into five types: those of 'doing' called **material processes**, such as *makan* 'eat', *pukul* 'hit', *tumbuh* 'grow'; those of 'sensing' called **mental processes**, such as *melihat* 'see', *mencintai* 'to love', *mengenal* 'to recognize'; those of 'being' called **relational processes**, such as *adalah* 'to be', *ternyata* 'to turn out to be'; those of 'verbalizing' called **verbal processes**, such as *berkata* 'to say'; and those of 'existing' called **existential processes**, such as *ada* 'to exist' (see also Tomasowa, 1989, 1992).

Furthermore, Tomasowa states that the types of processes vary in terms of the type of base forming the Process. In general, material Processes may stem from verbal, nominal, adjectival, adverbial, bound, multi-functional or

structural word bases. Mental Processes may stem from verbal, nominal, adjectival, adverbial, bound, multi-functional as well as minor-class bases. Relational Processes may stem from verbal and nominal bases. Verbal Processes may stem from verbal and multi-functional bases whereas the existential Process stems from an adjectival base. Table 1 below is the summary of the type of base forming the Process of an Indonesian dispositive clause.

Table 1. The type of base forming the type of Process in an Indonesian dispositive clause.								
Type of dispositive Process		Type of base forming the Process						
		V	N	Adj	Adv	B	MF	MC
material								
	Doing	√	√	×	√	√	√	√
	Making	×	×	√	×	×	×	×
	Animal natural	√	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Inanimate natural	√	×	×	×	×	×	×
Mental								
	Perception	√	×	×	×	√	√	√
	Positive inner feelings	√	√	√	×	√	√	×
	Negative inner feelings	×	√	√	×	√	×	×
	cognition	√	×	√	√	√	×	×
Relational								
	Equational	×	√	×	×	×	×	×
	Intensive attributive	√	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Circumstantial attributive	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Possessive attributive	√	√	×	×	×	×	×
	Adversative attributive	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Verbal								
	Statement	×	×	×	×	×	√	×
	Question	√	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Command	√	×	×	×	×	×	×
	offer	√	×	×	×	×	×	×
Existential		×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Notes: √ = present N = nominal B = bound
 × = absent Adj = adjectival MF = multi-functional
 V = verbal Adv = adverbial MC = minor-class

2.1 Distribution of the Affix *-i*

In terms of the distribution of the affix *-i* across dispositive processes, the circumstantial, adversative attributive and existential processes do not bear the affix *-i* whereas all the other processes in the language do. Furthermore, the affix *-i* appears attached to a certain lexical base to form a Process. The affix can occur by itself or as part of the larger verbal affixation (*me-*)+*-i* (or its receptive variants: *ter-*+*-i* or *di-*+*-i*). Thus the description of the verbal affix *-i*

in this study covers the functions of the affix by itself and as part of a larger affixation.

In its grammatical function as an internal causative marker, the affix *-i* may function by itself or as part of a larger affixation, and may be found in attachment to:

- a verbal base;
e.g.: *duduk* ‘to sit’ in *menduduki* ‘to sit on’, ‘to occupy’
- a bound base:
e.g.: *lucut* in *melucuti* ‘to disarm’
- a nominal or an adjectival base:
e.g.: *sampul* ‘cover’ in *menyampuli* ‘to cover, to wrap’
panas ‘hot’ in *memanasi* ‘to heat’
- a multi-functional base:
e.g.: *jalan* ‘road or to walk’ in *menjalani* ‘to walk, to spend’
- an adverbial or a minor class base:
e.g.: *dapat* ‘can’ in *mendapati* ‘to find’
serta ‘with, along with’ in *menyertai* ‘to accompany, to participate’

The affix may be attached to a verbal or nominal base in material, mental and verbal processes. When attached to a base other than the two mentioned before, it can be found in material and mental processes only. Chung (1978:338) calls the affix “the transitivity suffix *-i*”. She refers to examples such as *Guru itu memasuki rumah kecil.* meaning ‘The teacher entered a small house’ as if the affix is involved only in the transitive part of the statement. In fact, as part of the verbal affixation (*me-*)+*-i*, the affix *-i* in the above clause functions as an ‘internal causative marker’ in the ergative semantic model, and as an ‘indicator that the Goal is the location of the action’ in the transitive semantic model as shown below:

	Guru itu	memasuki	rumah kecil.
transitive	Actor	Process	Goal
ergative	Medium	Process	Range
	teacher that	to enter	house small
	‘The teacher entered a small house’		

In terms of the types of base the affix *-i* is attached to, the data show that it may be attached to a verbal base; a bound base; a nominal or an adjectival base; a multi-functional base; an adverbial or a minor class base. Whereas the affix is attached to a verbal base or a nominal base in material, mental, relational (equational, intensive and possessive) and verbal processes; it is attached to other types of base in material and mental processes of the language. The distribution of the affix *-i* across the processes is shown in Table 2.

Type of Process		Distribution of affix <i>-i</i>	Distribution in relation to type of Process base						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	material:								
	action – doing	√	√	√	x	√	√	√	√
	action – making	√	x	x	√	x	x	x	x
	natural - animate	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	natural - inanimate	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	mental:								
	perception	√	√	x	x	x	√	√	√
	inner feeling - positive	√	√	√	√	x	√	√	x
	inner feeling - negative	√	x	√	√	x	x	x	x
	cognition	√	√	√	√	√	√	x	x
3	relational:								
	equational	√	x	√	x	x	x	x	x
	attributive - intensive	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	attributive - circumstantial	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	attributive - possessive	√	√	√	x	x	x	x	x
	attributive - adversative	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	verbal:								
	statement	√	x	x	x	x	x	√	x
	question	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	command	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	offer	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	existential	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Notes: √ = present 3 = adjectival base 7 = minor-class base
 x = absent 4 = adverbial base
 1 = verbal base 5 = bound base
 2 = nominal base 6 = multi-functional base

Table 2 shows that in terms of type of process, the affix *-i* can be observed in all process types except for the existential processes. Moreover, its presence is related to the type of base forming the Process.

In natural material, intensive attributive, question, command and offer processes, the affix *-i* is usually attached to a verbal base. In equational processes it is attached to a nominal base, whereas in making processes, the affix is attached to an adjectival base. In possessive attributive processes, the affix is attached to a verbal or nominal base. In doing material processes it may be attached to a verbal, nominal, adverbial, bound, multi-functional or minor-class base. In positive inner feeling processes, the affix is attached to a verbal, nominal, adjectival, bound or multi-functional base. In negative inner feeling processes, the affix *-i* is attached to a nominal, adjectival or bound base. In mental processes of cognition it may be attached to a verbal, nominal, adjectival or bound base. In statement processes it is found attached to a multi-functional base.

2.2 Functions of the Affix -i

The verbal affix *-i* in Indonesian has two unifying grammatical functions: a dispositive marker and an internal causative marker. In addition to these unifying functions, it also carries some specific grammatical functions which differ from process to process, depending on the type of base it is attached to in forming the Process of a clause.

The functions of the affix *-i* can be distinguished into **unifying**, which apply to all types of process regardless of the type of base forming the Process of the clause, and **specific**, which depend on the type of base it is attached to in forming the Process. The unifying and specific functions of the affix *-i* are shown in Table 3.

types of dispositive processes	types of Process base	Types of function of the affix								
		unifying	specific							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
a. material										
doing	V	√	x	x	√	√	x	x	x	x
	N	√	√	x	√	x	√	√	x	x
	Adv	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	√
	B	√	√	x	√	x	x	x	x	x
	MF	√	x	x	√	√	x	x	x	x
	MC	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
making	Adj	√	√	x	√	x	x	x	√	x
animate natural	V	√	x	x	√	√	x	x	x	x
inanimate natural	V	√	x	x	√	√	x	x	x	x
b. mental										
perception	V	√	√	√	x	√	x	x	x	x
	B	√	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MF	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MC	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
positive. inner feelings	V	√	x	√	x	√	x	x	x	x
	N	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Adj	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	B	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MF	√	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
negative inner feelings	N	√	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Adj	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	B	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
cognition	V	√	x	√	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Adj	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Adj	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	B	√	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

	Ibu	memanasi	nasi.
transitive	Actor	Process	Goal
ergative	Medium	Process	Range
	Mother	warm up	rice
	‘Mother warmed the rice up’		

	*Ibu	memanasi.
transitive	Actor	Process
ergative	Medium	Process
	Mother	warm up

In terms of the ergative pattern of clause organization, the affix *-i* functions as an **internal causative marker** (‘internal’ after Itkonen, 1983). Note that with this affix, the second participant is the Range of the clause. Therefore, the affix *-i* can be regarded as an indicator that the second participant in that particular clause is the Range (not the Medium) of the clause. By contrast, the affix *-kan* in Indonesian is an **external causative marker**. It can be regarded as a marker that the second participant in that clause is the Medium of the clause, as can be seen in the following mental processes (compare the two clauses below).

	Pangeran	menyenangi	Bawang Putih.
transitive	Actor	Process	Goal
ergative	Medium	Process	Range
	Prince	like	Bawang Putih
	‘The prince likes Bawang Putih’		

	Pangeran	menyenangkan	Bawang Putih.
transitive	Actor	Process	Goal
ergative	Medium	Process	Range
	Prince	make happy	Bawang Putih
	‘The prince makes Bawang Putih happy.’		

In other words, there are two ways of viewing the unifying function of the verbal affix *-i* in this case:

1. transitively, it serves as a dispositive marker, and
2. ergatively, it serves as an internal causative marker.

In addition to this unifying function, the verbal affix *-i* also shows some specific grammatical functions as elaborated in the following.

2.2.2 Specific Functions

Depending on the type of base forming the Process of the clause, Table 3 shows that the affix *-i* may have one or more of the following specific functions:

- Process-former;
- intensified Process marker;
- Goal = location of action indicator;
- repetitive Process marker;
- addition of base to Goal indicator;

- deletion of base to Goal indicator;
- base = Attribute of Goal indicator;
- temporal relationship between Actor and Goal indicator; and
- spatial relationship between Actor and Goal indicator.

In explaining the function of the affix as a Process-former ('verb-former'), Sabarrudin Ahmad (as cited by Edmond Tes, 1957:53) fails to show the restrictions of this function. Tomasowa (1992) reveals that this function is mainly related to the non-verbal type of base forming the Process, as in material and mental processes in Indonesian. However, there are processes in which a verbal base by itself is still unacceptable in the language, such as intensive attributive and verbal processes. Here the base needs the affixation *me-+i* or *-i* to become acceptable. Take the intensive attributive process, for example:

- a. *Cerita itu kena seekor tikus.
- b. *Cerita itu kenai seekor tikus.
- c. *Cerita itu mengena seekor tikus.
- d. Cerita itu mengenai seekor tikus.

transitive	Carrier	Process	Attribute
ergative	Medium	Process	Range

story that about a mouse
'The story is about a mouse.'

The verbal base *kena* 'to hit' has to be affixed by *me-+i* to become the acceptable Process *mengena* 'to concern, be about' of the intensive attributive process. Similarly counts for the verbal base *tawar* 'to bargain' which has to be put in affixation with either *-i* or *me-+i* to become the acceptable Process *tawari* or *menawari* 'to invite' of the verbal process below:

- a. *Ina tawar Titut untuk ikut piknik.
- b. *Ina menawar Titut untuk ikut piknik.
- c. Ina tawari Titut untuk ikut piknik.
- d. Ina menawari Titut untuk ikut piknik.

transitive	Sayer	Process	Recipient	Verbiage
ergative	Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Range

Ina to offer Titut for follow picnic
'Ina invited Titut to join the picnic.'

Hopper and Thompson (1980) state that the affix *-i* is an intensifier. Using the systemic functional approach, this study has nevertheless revealed that the function of the affix *-i* as an intensified Process marker ('intensifier' after Hopper and Thompson) is strongly related to both the type of base forming the Process and the clause as a whole. In most instances, this function co-occurs with a verbal base forming the Process (perception, positive inner feeling, cognition and command verbal processes). In forming the Process, the affix *-i* may co-occur with a bound base (perception processes), a multi-functional base (positive inner feeling processes) or a nominal base (negative inner feeling processes) forming the Process.

From the way S.T. Alisjahbana (1976) and S. Kartomihardjo (1981) argue that the affix *-i* shows that the Object becomes a kind of location, it might be assumed that this function applies to all types of process. However,

the present study argues that this function applies only to the material processes in Indonesian. Furthermore, this function does not depend on the type of base forming the Process of the clause.

That the affix *-i* is iterative/ repetitive has been mentioned in earlier studies such as those by Dardjowidjojo (1977), Kartomihardjo (1981) and Poedjosoedarmo (1982). More delicately, this study reveals that the function of this affix as a marker of repetition of the Process is closely related to both the type of base forming the Process and the type of process as a whole. The function applies to material, mental and verbal processes only. Among the processes mentioned, the affix *-i* is mostly attached to a verbal base such as in doing, animate natural, inanimate natural, perception, positive inner feeling and command verbal processes. It can also be attached to a multi-functional base such as in doing processes.

In summary, the functions of the affix *-i* that are highly related to the type of base forming the Process and the type of process as a whole are as an indicator that:

- there is addition of base to/ from the Goal;
- there is deletion of base to/ from the Goal;
- there is temporal relation between Actor and Goal;
- there is spatial relation between Actor and Goal; or
- the base becomes the attribute of the Goal.

The first four functions apply only to doing material processes, in which addition or deletion of base to/ from the Goal co-occurs with the nominal base forming the Process while the temporal/ spatial relation between Actor and Goal co-occurs with the adverbial base forming the Process of the clause.

3 CONCLUSION

This article has tried to answer the unsolved questions about the grammatical meanings of the verbal affix *-i* in Indonesian using the systemic functional approach. The findings of this study assure that the functional characteristics of the affix *-i* in the transitive system of Indonesian are mainly determined not only by the type of process as a whole but also by the type of base forming the Process of the clause in which the affix occurs.

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