Homework 5: Testing the Effect of Movement
Due Friday, October 21st, 2016

Bahasa Indonesian

Bahasa Indonesian is an Austronesian language spoken by around 200 million people worldwide. Two typical sentences in this language is given in (1) and (2).

(1) Seseorang men-djual mobil kepada paman saja.
    someone TRANS-sell car to uncle my
    ‘Someone sold a car to my uncle.’

Draw a tree for (1).  

(2) Mereka sedang be-renang di danau itu
    they PROG INTR-swim in lake the
    ‘They were swimming in the lake.’

Draw a tree for (2).

Dative Shift

There is a phenomenon (so-called “dative shifting”) in Bahasa Indonesian which transforms contracts a sentence containing a direct object (DO) and an indirect object (IO) by deleting the preposition, adding a benefactor morpheme (BEN) to the verb, and placing the indirect object between the verb and direct object.

So a linear schema of this would look like something in (3):

(3) SUBJ V DO PREP IO → SUBJ V+BEN IO DO

The goal of this homework is to look at the syntactic relationship of the direct and indirect object before and after the dative shift and compare two hypotheses that make differing predictions.

There are two hypotheses concerning the role that the indirect object assumes after the dative shift:

Hypothesis A states that after the shift, the indirect object will assume the role of a noun phrase that complements the verb (a direct object) and the direct object will take on an oblique role;

Hypothesis B states that after the shift, there will be no role-changing and that the direct and indirect object still assumes its original position.

1Disclaimer: I'm reformulating a homework I had in undergrad, it assumes minimal knowledge of trees but it should show you how linguists might go about testing hypotheses.

2For the purpose of this exercise, the PP is an adjunct phrase in the VP. Crucially, the indirect object is not a complement to the verb.

3English has a dative shift as well. Ditransitive verbs can take its objects in two forms: either in Oblique Dative (OD) form or Double Object Construction (DOC) form as illustrated below.

1. Mary gave the book to John.

2. Mary gave John the book.
What kind of evidence would you have to have in order to know which hypothesis is correct?

Direct Object Fronting

There is another phenomenon in Bahasa Indonesian that allows the direct object (the NP that is the complement to the verb) in a sentence to be pre-posed or fronted. This means that the direct object is able to be transported to the front of the sentence landing right before the subject noun phrase.

Sentences (4), (5), and (6) are examples of this fronting transformation. As the examples show, the constituents that are fronted are restricted to only direct objects.

(4) Ikan merah itu dia sudah tangkap
    fish red the he PERF catch
    ‘He already caught the red fish.’

(5) Buku itu saja kirim kepada-mu
    book the I send to-you
    ‘I sent the book to you.’

(6) Ikan itu saja masak untuk perempuan itu
    fish the I cook for woman the
    ‘I cooked the fish for the woman.’

Choose a sentence from (4-6) and draw a tree showing the movement of the DO from the complement position of the verb to a position (linearly) before/(structurally) above the subject NP.4

Sentences (7-10) show that neither prepositional phrase nor noun phrases that do not complement the verb can be fronted.

(7) *Untuk perempuan itu sudah saja masak ikan.
    for woman the PERF I cook fish
    ‘I already cooked fish for the woman.’

(8) *Perempuan itu sudah saja masak ikan.
    woman the PERF I cook fish
    ‘I already cooked fish for the woman.’

(9) *Wanita itu saja kirim surat itu kepada
    woman the I send letter the to
    ‘I sent the letter to the woman.’

(10) *Wanita itu saja kirim surat itu
    woman the I send letter the
    ‘I sent the letter to the woman.’

Hypothesis Testing

The fronting transformation in Bahasa Indonesian is crucial to the argument for the dative shift because it allows us to test how the indirect object behaves before and after the dative shift.

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4If you’re unsure where the DO should go, ask a linguist!
What are the predictions made by Hypothesis A and B with respect to DO Fronting?

Below are the relevant data for your analysis. These sentences have fronting and dative shift because the BEN morpheme is present on the verb.

(11) Wanita itu saja kirim-i surat itu 
    woman the I send-BEN letter the
    ‘I sent the letter to the woman.’

(12) Perempuan itu saja masak-kan ikan 
    woman the I cook-BEN fish
    ‘I cooked fish for the woman.’

(13) *Buku itu saja kirim-i kau 
    book the I send-BEN you
    ‘I sent the book to you.’

(14) *Ikan itu saja masak-kan perempuan itu 
    fish the I cook-BEN woman the
    ‘I cooked the fish for the woman.’

Given what you know so far and the relevant data, the predictions of which hypothesis are borne out? Explain why?