

THE ADA VERB OF BEING IN BAHASA MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the various syntactic and semantic functions of the ada verb of 'being' in Malay. The claim is made that there is an abstract uppermost ada in the underlying structure of Malay sentences, which asserts or denies the truth of the surface main clause. A further claim is made that the ada of the uppermost sentence is identical to the ada of location and possession, the difference in meaning arising from the distinction in sentence structures in which the ada verb appears. Informants for the study were Miss Noraini Aziz of Kuala Selangor (Selangor State) and Miss Latifah Abdol Latif, of Alor Gajah (Malacca State).

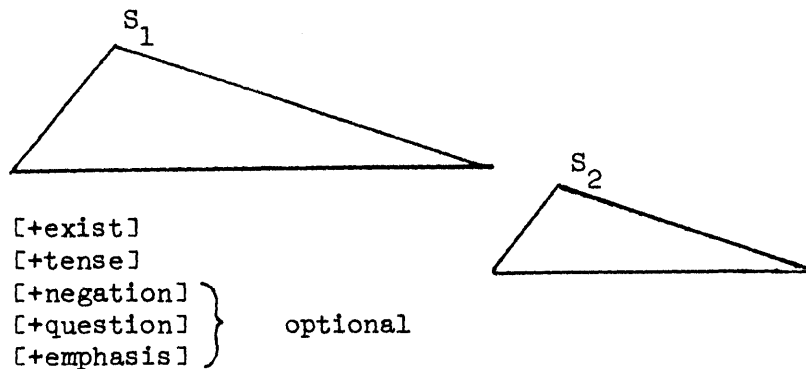
-M2-

## Introduction.

There appears to be strong evidence in the Malay language for the existence of an abstract uppermost sentence which carries such features as existence<sup>1</sup>, tense, negation, question, and emphasis for Malay sentences. These features occur in surface sentences in the form of the verb ada (to be) and its various suppletive forms, as well as in the particles -kah (question) and -lah (emphasis).

In this paper I shall propose the following generalized structure for Malay sentences:

1)



Since the evidence for this analysis occurs in the surface verb ada and its suppletive forms, this paper will make a careful examination of this verb along the continuum of its meaning and syntactic status. The various meanings, plus the relative syntactic independence of this verb can be diagrammed generally as the following:

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ada

syntactically dependent		syntactically independent	
[+exist]	[+exist]	[+exist]	[+exist]
(auxiliary verb)	'to be, to exist'	'to be' (stative)	'to have' (possessive)
'it is true that...'	(identity)	'to be' (equivalent)	'to be' (locative)
'it is the case that...'	(existence)		
'do'			
I	II	III	IV

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The discussion that follows will be divided into four sections as illustrated in the diagram above. The assumption is that these are all basically the same verb, a verb which in itself carries only the meaning of 'being', but which has different semantic functions according to the structure in which it appears.

#### I. [+exist] Auxiliary Verb

In most declarative sentences in Malay ada does not appear in the surface structure. The following two sentences are of this type:

- 3.1)       Dia hendak pergi.  
               he       want       go  
               'He wants (wanted) to go.'
- 3.2)       Ali beli buku itu.  
               Ali     buy     book     the  
               'Ali buys (bought) the book.'

But if a speaker wishes to place emphasis on the fact that something took place as opposed to the non-occurrence of that fact, he can use the following structures:

- 4.1)       Ada dia hendak pergi.  
               [+exist]   he       want       go  
               'He did want to go.'
- 4.2)       Dia ada hendak pergi.  
               he   [+exist]   want       go  
               'He did want to go.'
- 4.3)       Ali ada beli buku itu.  
               Ali   [+exist]   buy     book     the  
               'Ali did buy the book.'

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In declarative sentences this type of emphasis normally carries a past tense meaning. In questions, however, both present and past meanings can be understood.

- 5.1)      Ada kah awak makan daging ular  
           [+exist] Q    you    eat    meat    snake  
           a) 'Do you eat snake meat?'  
           b) 'Did you eat the snake meat?'
- 5.2)      Ada kah dia hendak pergi  
           [+exist] Q    he    want    go  
           a) 'Does he want to go?'  
           b) 'Did he want to go?'
- 5.3)      Ada kah Ali beli buku  
           [+exist] Q    buy    book  
           a) 'Does Ali buy books?'  
           b) 'Did Ali buy (some) books?'

The above questions are not the most neutral types of questions for the sentences which underlie them, however. The questions in 5 are concerned with the truth of the entire statement, whereas the questions in 6, with the question particle kah attached as an enclitic on the verb phrase, are more neutral.

- 6.1)      Awak makan daging ular kah  
           you    eat    meat    snake    Q  
           'Do (did) you eat (the) snake meat?'
- 6.2)      Dia hendak pergi kah  
           he    want    go    Q  
           'Does (did) he want to go?'

-M6-

6.3) Ali beli buku kah

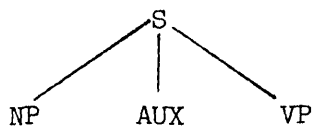
Ali buy book Q

'Does (did) Ali buy (some) books?'

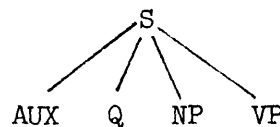
Thus, even though the ada form does not appear on the surface of neutral declarative and interrogative constructions, its potential occurrence seems to be there and its function is to assert or question more strongly the truth of the entire utterance. This potential for occurrence suggests that the verb ada is in the underlying structure of such sentences and is realized as zero under normal circumstances.

Assuming that ada is part of the underlying structure, two obvious possibilities for analysis come to mind. One is that ada is part of the main statement, occurring as an auxiliary of the verb. It then is fronted obligatorily in certain non-neutral questions and optionally in past emphatic declaratives, and is deleted elsewhere:

7)



declarative

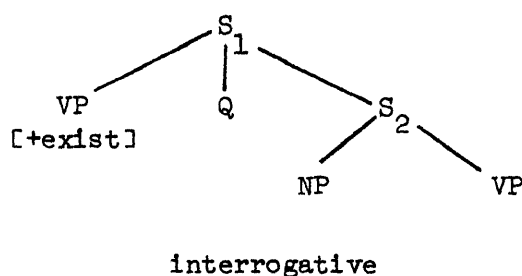
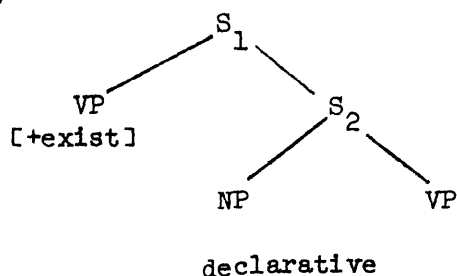


interrogative

The other possibility is that ada is part of a higher sentence which asserts or questions the truth of the statement and remains in this position except when deleted in present declaratives and other constructions having neutral meanings. In emphatic past meanings there is optional SUBJECT RAISING to the subject position of the higher sentence.

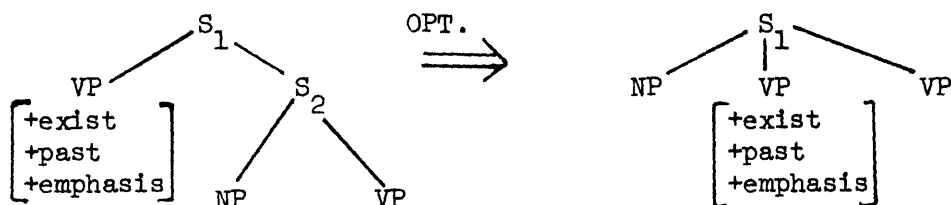
-M7-

8)



The second of these two alternatives seems preferable in that fewer transformations are needed to derive the surface structures. The verb is in the fronted position in the underlying form and only an optional transformation is needed to place the subject initially in the special case that the ada verb carries a past emphatic meaning. The SUBJECT RAISING rule (plus PRUNING) operates thus:

9)



In addition to being transformationally less complex, the higher-sentence analysis helps to explain the syntax and usage of two different kinds of negative forms in Malay. There is one type bukan which, apparently, can only negate definite nouns or entire sentences and another type tidak that negates verbs, adjectives and indefinite nouns.

The negative bukan appears quite commonly in a statement that is intended to deny the truth value of a statement that immediately

-M8-

precedes it or in negative questions where an affirmative answer is expected. The negative tidak, on the other hand, is much more neutral in meaning. Tidak is used in forming all normal negative questions which are simply requests for information.

The following examples illustrate the two types of negation:

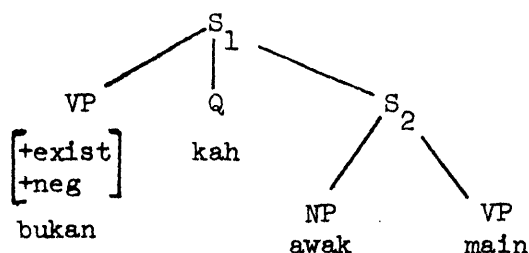
- 10.1)      Awak tidak main  
              you   not   play  
              'You don't (didn't) play.'
- 10.2)      Awak tidak main kah  
              you   not   play   Q  
              'Don't (didn't) you play?' (neutral negative question)
- 10.3)      Tidak kah awak main  
              not   Q   you   play  
              'Do (did) you not play?' (focus of the question is on the  
    negation, not on the entire VP  
    as in 10.2)
- 10.4)      Bukan kah awak main  
              [+exist] Q you play  
              [+neg ]  
              'Is-it-not-so-that you play?' (expect affirmative answer)
- 10.5)      \*awak bukan main
- 10.6)      \*awak bukan main kah
- 10.7)      \*awak bukan kah main

If bukan is analyzed as being part of a higher sentence, this explains why bukan kah always appears sentence initially and also illustrates the scope of the negation, which is the whole of  $S_2$ :



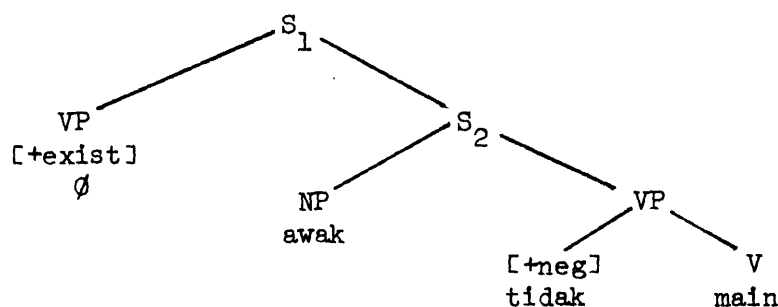
-M9-

11)

(underlying structure  
for 10.4)

The negative tidak, on the other hand, is part of the verb phrase of the lower sentence, just as it appears in sentences 10.1 and 10.2, and fronting of tidak occurs only when the focus of the question is on the negative particle. The underlying structure for sentence 10.1 is:

12)



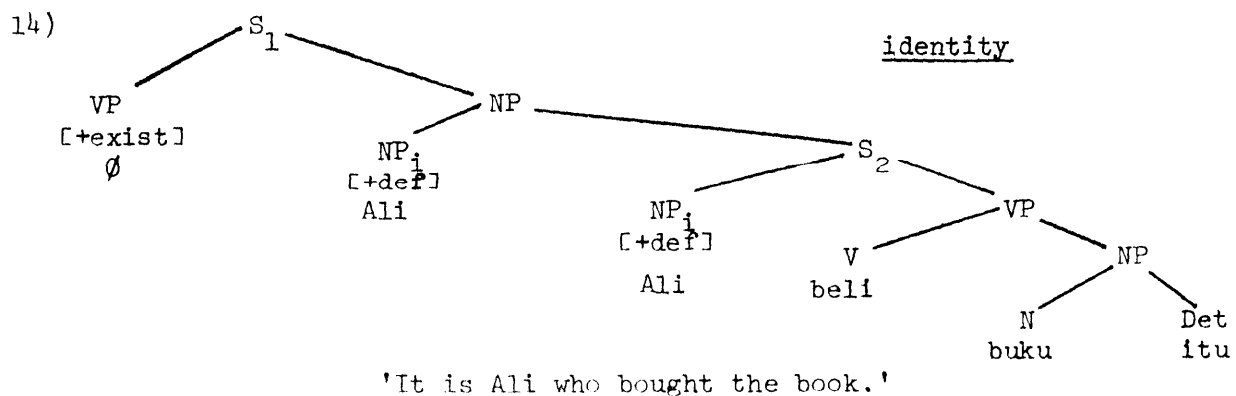
## II. [+exist] 'to be, to exist' (identity, existence)

There is another sentence type in Malay where the verb ada acts much more like a main verb than an auxiliary, in that it asserts the identity or existence of a noun (usually the noun of a complex noun phrase) rather than the truth of an entire sentence. The following are sentences of this type:

-M10-

- 13.1) Ali yang beli buku itu  
 Ali who buy book the  
 '(It is) Ali who bought the book.'
- 13.2) Ada kah Ali yang beli buku itu  
 [+exist] Q Ali who buy book the  
 'Is it Ali who bought the book?'
- 13.3) Bukan Ali yang beli buku itu  
 [+exist]  
 [+neg] Ali who buy book the  
 'It isn't Ali who bought the book.'
- 13.4) Bukan kah Ali yang beli buku itu  
 [+exist] Q Ali who buy book the  
 [+neg]  
 'Isn't it Ali who bought the book?' (expect affirmative answer)
- 13.5) Tidak kah Ali yang beli buku itu  
 [+neg] Q Ali who buy book the  
 'Isn't it Ali who bought the book?' (neutral negative question)

In all of the above sentences the focus is on a [+definite] noun Ali, and the main concern is whether or not it was he who bought the book as opposed to someone else's buying it. I suggest the following underlying structure for sentence 13.1:

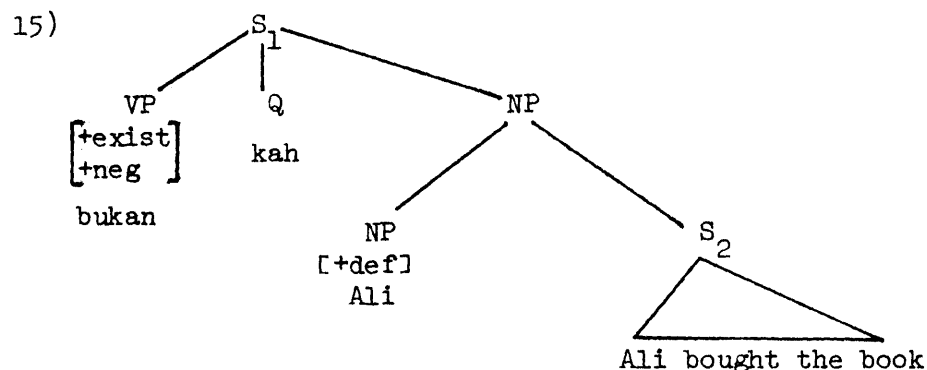


-M11-

Two things are needed to arrive at the surface structure:

- (1) RELATIVIZATION causes the lower 'Ali' to become 'yang' and
- (2) the uppermost [+exist] verb is deleted. It appears that the deletion of the *ada* verb depends on the definiteness of the NP, since with indefinite NP's the *ada* usually remains, as we shall see in examples 17.1-2.

The difference between 13.4 and 13.5 above seems to be basically the same type of distinction between *bukan* and *tidak* that was mentioned in Section I. Since *bukan* negates sentences and [+definite] nouns, the structure for 13.4 is the following:



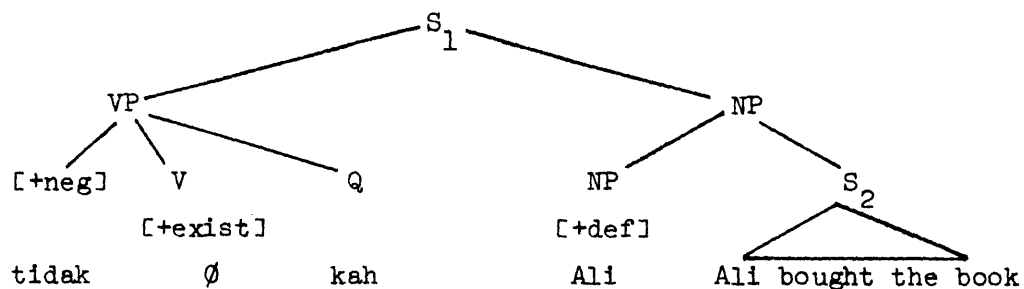
'Isn't it Ali who bought the book?'

(expect affirmative answer)

*Tidak*, on the other hand, negates verbs, adjectives and verb phrases, so it is the verb phrase that is being questioned in the case of 13.5. (Recall that in Section I the most neutral questions are those in which the question particle *kah* is attached as an enclitic to the entire VP.) This analysis suggests the following underlying structure for 13.5:

-M12-

16)



Again the ada verb is deleted because of the definiteness of the subject NP, and the question particle kah is attached to the remainder of the verb phrase, tidak.

Another sentence of this type occurs where the focus is on the existence (or nonexistence) of someone who did the action. In this type of sentence the subject NP is [-definite] and the ada verb appears on the surface:

17.1) Ada orang yang beli buku itu.

[+exist] person who buy book the

'Someone bought the book.'

17.2) Tidak ada orang yang beli buku itu.

not [+exist] person who buy book the

'No one bought the book.'

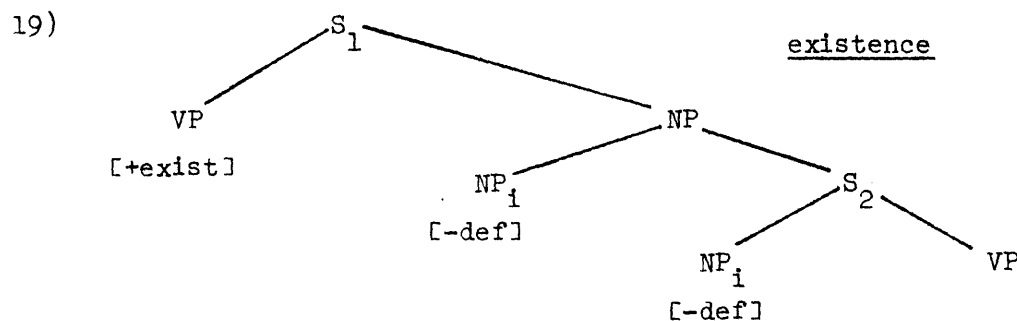
In these cases where the subject NP is indefinite it is not possible to use the negative form bukan which negates only [+definite] nouns and entire sentences:

18.1) \*Bukan orang yang beli buku itu.

18.2) \*Bukan ada orang yang beli buku itu.

-M13-

Thus, although this sentence type has the same fundamental structure as the one in 14, the ada verb appears on the surface and overtly asserts (or denies) the existence of the indefinite noun. Since, apparently, it is the [-definite] feature on the NP which governs the appearance of ada in the surface forms, I propose the following general structure for the sentences in 17:



### III. [+exist] 'to be' (equivalent, stative)

Another usage of the ada verb occurs in equivalent and stative sentences. In simple declarative sentences of these two types, ada either does not appear on the surface or it takes the form of ada lah < ada + lah (emphatic particle). Since stative and equivalent sentences have different structures and thus separate kinds of constraints on their negatives, they will be discussed individually in this section.

Taking equivalent sentences first, we have the following examples:

- 20.1) Dia ada lah seorang guru.  
 he [+exist] (emphatic particle) a (classifier) teacher  
 'He is a teacher.'

-M14-

- 20.2)     Dia   seorang guru.  
           he   a (classifier) teacher  
           'He is a teacher.'

The two sentences in 20 mean basically the same thing, although 20.1 seems to express more overtly the equivalency of the two noun phrases. The sentence without ada lah appears to be more neutral and is used more commonly in embedded sentences than the first.

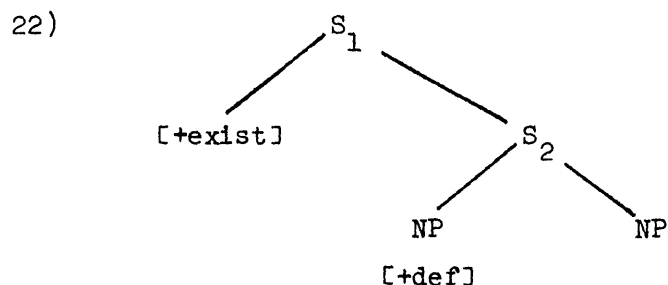
Since we are dealing here with sentences in which the subject NP is [+definite], one might expect the bukan form of the negative to be applicable. And this is, in fact, the case:

- 21.1)     Dia ada lah   seorang guru.  
           he [+exist] (emphatic particle) a (classifier) teacher  
           'He is a teacher.'
- 21.2)     Dia bukan   seorang guru.  
           he [+exist] a (classifier) teacher  
               [+neg]  
           'He is not a teacher.'
- 21.3)     \*Dia tidak   seorang guru.
- 21.4)     Ada kah dia   seorang guru.  
           [+exist] Q he a (classifier) teacher  
           'Is he a teacher?'
- 21.5)     Bukan kah dia   seorang guru?  
           [+exist]     Q he a (classifier) teacher  
               [+neg]  
           'Isn't he a teacher?'

-M15-

- 21.6) \*Tidak kah dia seorang guru.  
 21.7) \*Tidak kah ada dia seorang guru.  
 21.8) \*Tidak ada kah dia seorang guru.

I shall propose the following structure for such equivalent sentences where the subject NP is [+definite]:



The definiteness of the subject NP accounts for the usage of the bukan negative and also for the fact that the verb ada normally disappears in surface forms. The only surface appearance of ada in such structures occurs when ada is accompanied by the emphatic particle lah or by the question particle kah. (Compare this situation with that in example 13.1-5 where the subject NP is definite and ada only occurs on the surface in 13.2.)

Using this structure, the only movement transformation necessary for the examples in 21 is SUBJECT-RAISING to subject position in those special cases when the ada verb is followed by the emphatic particle lah or when bukan is being used. In addition, the form ada must always be deleted when not followed by a particle.

The stative usage of ada is similar to the equivalent one, except in the negatives. Here tidak is normally used instead of

-M16-

bukan since it is the state (either a verb or an adjective) which is being negated, rather than the subject NP or the whole sentence:

23.1) Dia tinggi.

he tall

'He is tall.'

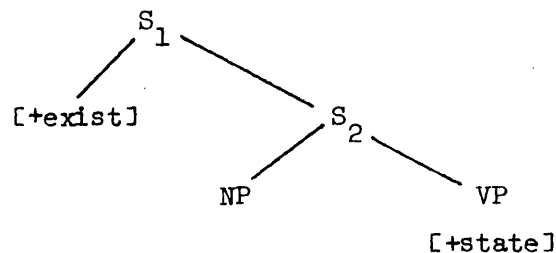
23.2 Dia tidak tinggi.

he not tall

'He is not tall.'

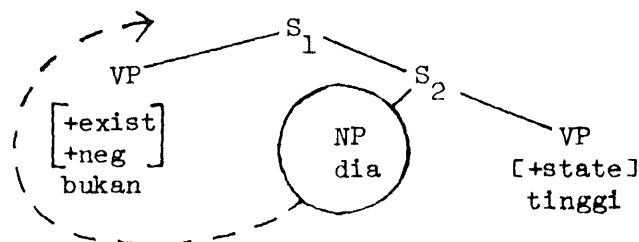
The negative Dia bukan tinggi. would be used only under very special circumstances, in order to insist that the positive statement Dia tinggi. was not, in fact, true. In other words the negative bukan is part of the higher existential sentence, whereas tidak arises from the lower sentence VP, and the overall structure of such stative sentences is generalized as:

24)



When bukan is used in positive sentences the subject NP is raised to subject position as in the equivalent sentences. For example:

25)

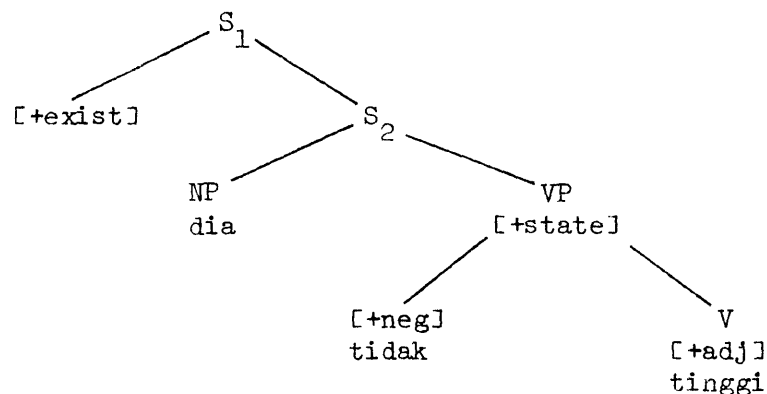




-M17-

And when tidak is used, the negative occurs on the VP of the lower sentence while the higher existential sentence is realized as  $\emptyset$ :

26)



In both equivalent and stative sentence types there appears to be a relevant distinction between questions that are concerned with the truth value of the statement and those which are more neutral:

## 27.1) Neutral questions (positive)

a) Dia seorang guru kah?

he a (classifier) teacher Q

'Is he a teacher?'

b) Dia tinggi kah?

he tall Q

'Is he tall?'

## 27.2) Neutral questions (negative)

a) \*Dia bukan tinggi kah?

he not tall Q

'Isn't he tall?'

b) Dia tidak tinggi kah?

he not tall Q

'Isn't he tall?'

-M18-

## 27.3) Questions on the entire sentence (positive)

a) Ada kah dia seorang guru?

[+exist] Q he a (classifier) teacher

'Is-it-the-case-that he is a teacher?'

b) Ada kah dia tinggi?

[+exist] Q he tall

'Is-it-the-case-that he is tall?'

## 27.4) Questions on the entire sentence (negative)

a) Bukan kah dia seorang guru?

[+exist  
+neg] Q he a (classifier) teacher

'Is-it-not-the-case-that he is a teacher?'

b) Bukan kah dia tinggi?

[+exist  
+neg] Q he tall

'Is-it-not-the-case-that he is tall?'

Again, the differences between the two question types, both in terms of word order and in terms of meaning, are most reasonably explained by the higher-existential-sentence analysis.

One further comparison between stative and equivalent sentence types that ought to be made involves the occurrence of the ada lah form. Although ada lah can be used optionally in the equivalent structures, it appears to be subject to more constraints in stative structures. Rarely appearing in simple stative sentences, it seems nevertheless to be obligatory in sentences with complex NP's or

-M19-

nominalized NP's as subjects:

28.1) \*Dia ada lah tinggi.

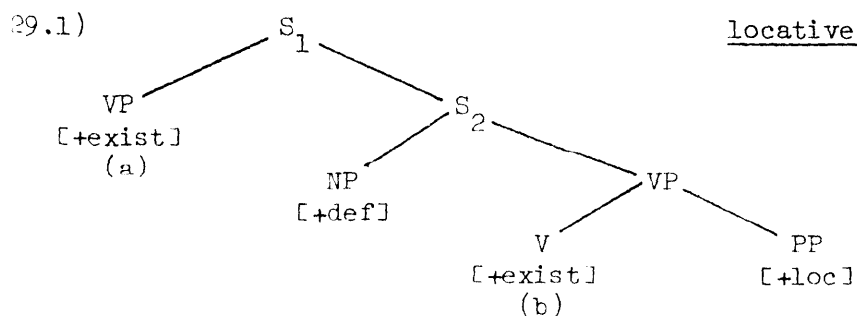
28.2) Budak yang saya jumpa itu ada lah baik  
 child that I meet the [+exist] (emphatic particle) nice  
 'The child that I met is nice.'

28.3) Membaca ada lah bagus.  
 reading [+exist] (emphatic particle) good  
 'Reading is good.'

#### IV. [+exist] 'to be' (locative), 'to have' (possessive)

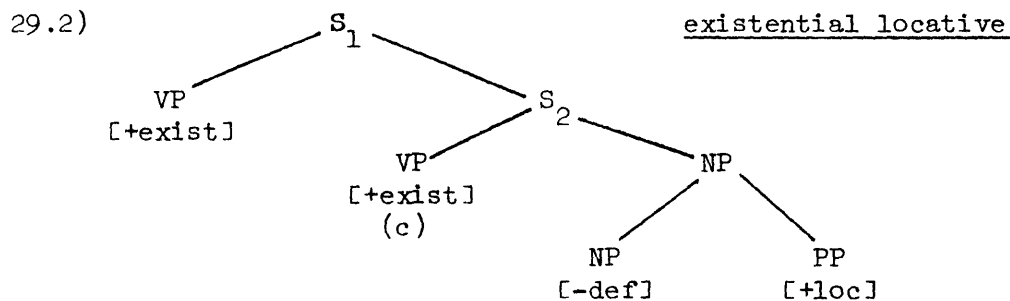
The two remaining uses of ada will be discussed in this section. These are the possessive and locative structures, which are the most complicated of all the uses of ada, since they apparently involve the embedding of a sentence containing a relatively verb-like ada in the higher sentence which also contains ada.

There are basically two kinds of locative constructions, one an existential locative and the other a true locative. The two types differ according to where the ada form occurs on the surface, a difference which is interrelated somewhat with the definiteness of the subject NP. The locative structure follows the normal SVO patterning for full verbs and usually has a definite NP as subject:



-M20-

The existential locative, on the other hand, appears to have a structure similar to the existential sentences of Section II (with a reduced relative?), which is further embedded in a higher existential sentence:



In the tree structures above there are three ada verbs, each of which performs a unique function in locative constructions. The ada form labelled (a) appears in both 29.1 and 29.2 and performs the same function as the auxiliary ada discussed in Section I. It is used in questions - both positive and negative - and is concerned with the assertion or denial of the entire embedded sentence  $S_2$ . The ada form labelled (b) in 29.1 performs the locative function, designating where the subject NP is. The ada form labelled (c) functions like the ada verb in Section II. It asserts or denies the existence of the subject NP.

First, let us take a look at locative constructions, where only the (b) ada appears on the surface. In these structures the locative ada acts just like a full verb. Compare it with a structure containing the full verb tinggal 'to live':

-M21-

- 30.1) Budak itu ada di dalam rumah itu.  
 child the [+exist] (locative marker) in house that  
 'The child is in that house.'  
 Budak itu tinggal di dalam rumah itu.  
 child the live (locative marker) in house that  
 'The child lives in that house.'
- 30.2) Budak itu tidak ada di dalam rumah itu.  
 child the [+neg] [+exist] (locative marker) in house that  
 'The child is not in that house.'  
 Budak itu tidak tinggal di dalam rumah itu.  
 child the [+neg] live (locative marker) in house that  
 'The child does not live in that house.'
- 30.3) Budak itu ada di dalam rumah itu kah?  
 child the [+exist] (locative marker) in house that Q  
 'Is the child in that house?' (neutral question)  
 Budak itu tinggal di dalam rumah itu kah?  
 child the live (locative marker) in house that Q  
 'Does the child live in that house?' (neutral question)
- 30.4) Tidak kah budak itu ada di dalam rumah itu?  
 [+neg] Q child the [+exist] (locative marker) in house that  
 'Isn't the child in that house?' (neutral negative question)  
 Tidak kah budak itu tinggal di dalam rumah itu?  
 [+neg] Q child that live (locative marker) in house that  
 'Doesn't the child live in that house?' (neutral negative question)
- 30.5) \*Budak itu ada kah di dalam rumah itu?  
 \*Budak itu tinggal kah di dalam rumah itu?

-M22-

In all the above sentences, only the locative meaning of ada, the (b) form, appears. However, in questions involving the truth of the proposition, only the (a) form normally appears:

31.1) Ada kah budak itu di dalam rumah itu?

[+exist] Q child the (locative marker) in house that  
'Is-it-the-case-that the child is in that house?'

Ada kah budak itu tinggal di dalam rumah itu?

[+exist] Q child the live (locative marker) in house that  
'Is-it-the-case-that the child lives in that house?'

31.2) Bukan kah budak itu di dalam rumah itu?

[+exist  
+neg] Q child the (locative marker) in house that

'Isn't-it-the-case-that the child is in that house?'

(expect affirmative answer)

Bukan kah budak itu tinggal di dalam rumah itu?

[+exist  
+neg] Q child the live (locative marker) in house that

'Isn't-it-the-case-that the child lives in that house?'

(expect affirmative answer)

31.3) Budak itu bukan di dalam rumah itu, tetapi

child the [+exist  
+neg] (locative marker) in house that but

ada di rumah kawan nya.

[+exist] (locative marker) house friend his

'It-is-not-the-case-that the child is in that house,

but he is in the house of his friend.'

-M23-

Budak itu bukan tinggal di dalam rumah itu, tetapi  
 child the  $\begin{bmatrix} +\text{exist} \\ +\text{neg} \end{bmatrix}$  live (locative marker) in house that but  
 tinggal di rumah kawan nya.  
 live (locative marker) house friend his

'It-is-not-the-case-that the child lives in that  
 house, but he lives in the house of his friend.'

In addition to the above structures, it is also possible to  
 have two *ada* forms in a locative sentence with a definite subject.  
 However, not all the logical combinations occur. The following  
 sentences are possible:

32) Ada kah buku yang kite beli itu sudah tidak ada di atas meja?

$\begin{bmatrix} +\text{exist} \end{bmatrix}$  Q book that we buy the (completed)  $\begin{bmatrix} +\text{neg} \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{bmatrix} +\text{exist} \end{bmatrix}$   
 (locative marker) on table

'Is the book that we bought no longer on the table?'

33) Bukan kah buku itu tidak ada di atas meja?

$\begin{bmatrix} +\text{exist} \\ +\text{neg} \end{bmatrix}$  Q book the  $\begin{bmatrix} +\text{neg} \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{bmatrix} +\text{exist} \end{bmatrix}$  (locative marker) on table

'Isn't-it-the-case-that the book is not on the table?'

In contrast to the locatives with definite subjects, the locatives  
 with indefinite subjects appear to be normally existential in nature,  
 more like the sentences of Section II. The word order and meaning of  
 these sentences suggest strongly that it is the existential *ada*  
 within the subject NP that plays the dominant role, while the  
 auxiliary and locative forms of *ada* get deleted:

-M24-

34.1) Ada rumah di atas bukit itu.

[+exist] house (locative marker) on hill the

'There is { a } house on the hill.'  
(some)

34.2) Tidak ada rumah di atas bukit itu.

[+neg] [+exist] house (locative marker) on hill the

'There isn't { a } house on the hill.'  
(any)

34.3) Ada rumah di atas bukit itu kah?

[+exist] house (locative marker) on hill the Q

'Is there { a } house on the hill?' (neutral question)  
(some)

34.4) Tidak ada rumah di atas bukit itu kah?

[+neg] [+exist] house (locative marker) on hill the Q

'Isn't there { a } house on the hill?' (neutral negative  
(any) question)

As with the locatives having definite subjects, this type of existential locative can occur with more than one ada form on the surface. Sentence 35 is an example of this. In addition, the existential locative occurs with definite NP subjects, as in 36 (this may, however, be a different structural type).

35) Bukan kah ada rumah di atas bukit itu?

[+exist] Q [+exist] house (locative marker) on hill the  
[+neg]

'Isn't-it-the-case-that there is a house on the hill?'

(expect affirmative answer)

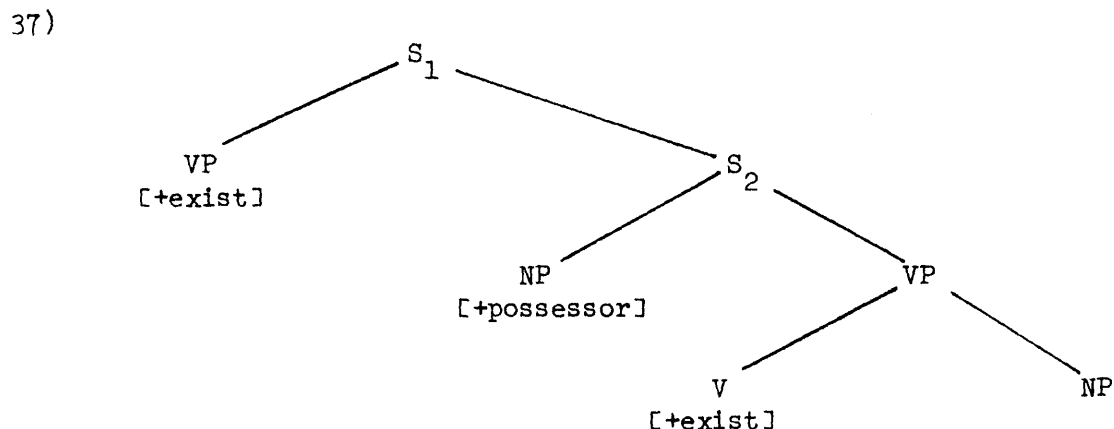


-M25-

Note the specialized meaning with a definite NP subject:

- 36)        Ada buku itu di atas meja.  
           [+exist] book the (locative marker) on table  
           'Some of the books are on the table.'

The possessive construction involving the existential verb appears to have basically two underlying ada forms, though, like the locative constructions, only one ada verb normally appears on the surface. I suggest the following general structure for possessive sentences:



The following possessive sentence types are the most neutral in meaning. Apparently, the definiteness of the object NP does not play a role in such structures. Surface word order and function of the ada form indicate which of the two existential verbs is operating.

- 38.1)        Dia ada buku itu.  
           (to)-he [+exist] book the  
           'He has the book.'

-M26-

Dia ada buku.

(to) -he [+exist] book

'He has { a } book(s).'

{ some }

38.2) Dia ada buku itu kah?

(to)-he [+exist] book the Q

'Does he have the book?' (neutral question)

Dia ada buku kah?

(to)-he [+exist] book Q

'Does he have { some } book(s)?' (neutral question)

{ any }

38.3) Dia tidak ada buku itu.

(to)-he [+neg] [+exist] book the

'He doesn't have the book.'

Dia tidak ada buku.

(to)-he [+neg] [+exist] book

'He doesn't have (any) books.'

38.4) Dia tidak ada buku itu kah?

(to)-he [+neg] [+exist] book the Q

'Doesn't he have the book?'

Dia tidak ada buku kah?

(to)-he [+neg] [+exist] book Q

'Doesn't he have (any) books?'

38.5) Ada kah dia buku itu?

[+exist] Q (to)-he book the

'Is-it-the-case-that he has the book?'

-M27-

Ada kah dia buku?

[+exist] Q (to)-he book

'Is-it-the-case-that he has (some) books?'

When both ada verbs come to the surface some subtle meaning changes occur. Again, not all logical combinations are possible.

39.1) Ada kah dia ada buku itu?

[+exist] Q (to)-he [+exist] book the

(This question has the same meaning as the first example in 38.5.)

39.2) Ada kah dia ada buku?

[+exist] Q (to)-he [+exist] book

'Is-it-the-case-that he has some book (at least)?'

39.3) Bukan kah dia ada buku itu?

[+exist]  
+neg ] Q (to)-he [+exist] book the

This question seems to be ambiguous:

a) 'Isn't-it-the-case-that he has the book?'

(expect affirmative answer)

b) 'Isn't it he who has the book?'

Probably the ambiguity arises from the two possible underlying structures:

a) [Bukan kah [dia ada buku itu] ]  
S<sub>1</sub> S<sub>2</sub> S<sub>2</sub> S<sub>1</sub>

b) [Bukan kah [dia [dia ada buku itu] ] ]  
S<sub>1</sub> NP S<sub>2</sub> S<sub>2</sub> NP S<sub>1</sub>

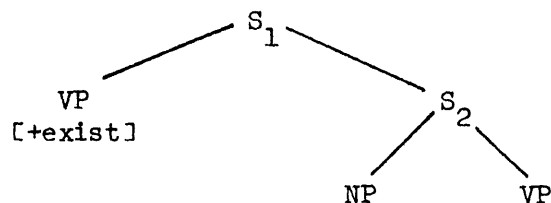
-M28-

The examples in this Section suggest that there are competing structures of a highly complicated sort for both locative and possessive meanings in Malay. The problems that arise from the embedding of ada structures in other ada structures are considerable and unfortunately cannot be dealt with here. Let it suffice to say that all the above structural types (discussed in Sections I-IV) can occur as embedded structures, and although in the first three types the underlying ada verb only occasionally appears on the surface, in possessive and locative structures there seems to be obligatory surfacing of at least one of the underlying ada verbs.

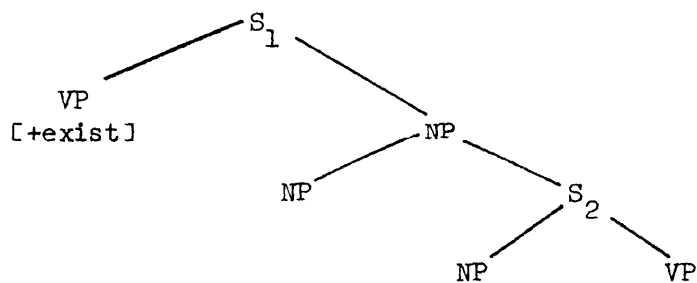
### Conclusion

The following is a schematic representation of all the structures discussed in this paper:

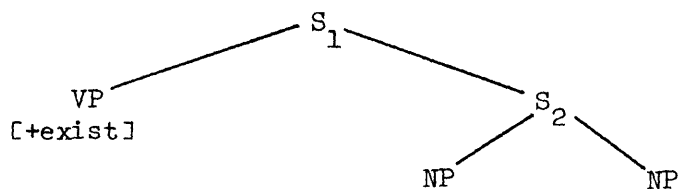
#### I. Auxiliary [+exist]



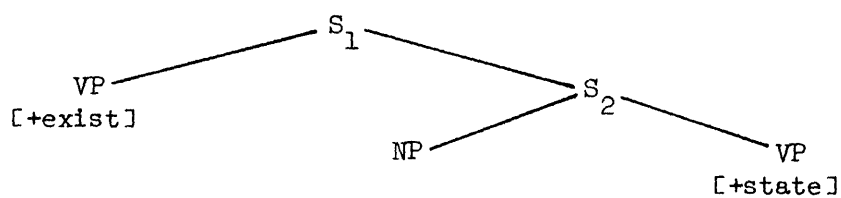
#### II. Identity; Existence [+exist]



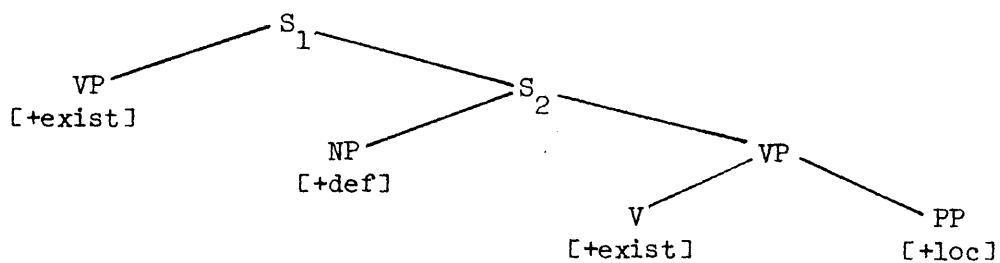
III. Equivalent [+exist]



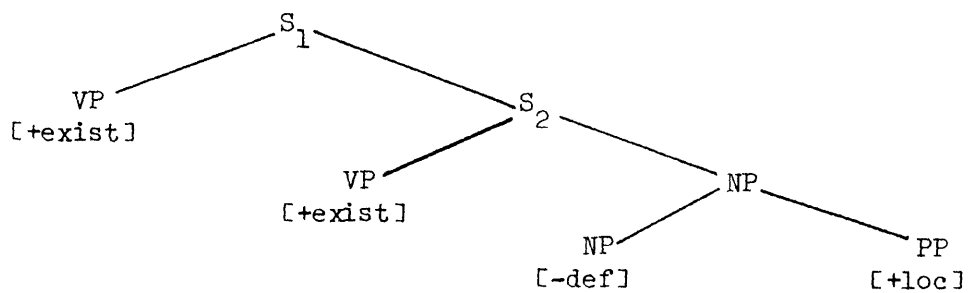
III. Stative [+exist]



IV. Locative [+exist]

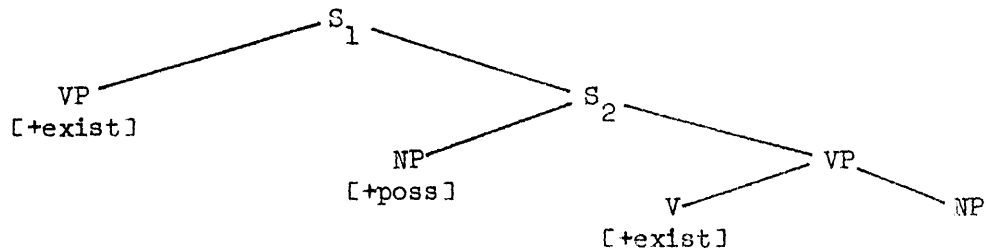


IV. Existential Locative [+exist]



-M30-

## IV. Possessive [+exist]



## Notes

1. The feature [+exist] is to be interpreted abstractly, as the common denominator of all the possible meanings of the ada verb. Its surface meanings of existential, locative, possessive, etc. are predictable in terms of the individual structure types in which the ada verb occurs.