

JAVANESE CIRCUMFIX {SA- + -É}: A MORPHOLOGICAL, SYNTACTICAL AND SEMANTICAL APPROACH

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this Article is to show that the Javanese circumfix {sa- + -é} is one of the Javanese affixes that can be attached to more than one part of speech, namely adjective, adverb and noun. It has a relatively high frequency in terms of its usage. The analysis of this article focuses on the use of circumfix {sa- + -é} in terms of morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Methodology: Javanese circumfix found in Javanese culture was analyzed according to morphological, syntactical and semantical approach

Results: In Javanese, the circumfix {sa- + -é} is added partly on the left and partly on the right of the base morpheme. Such a kind of morphological process is known as confixation, or simulfixation, or circumfixation.

Implications: Thus, the entire analysis describes what the circumfix {sa- + -é} can do to the base morphemes particularly in the Javanese language. Many of the derivatives formed by the attachment of the circumfix may function as the opener of the subordinate clause expressing adverbs of time.

Keywords: *Javanese circumfix, Circumfix, Affix, Subordinate clause, Adverb of time*

INTRODUCTION

The Javanese language is one of the vernacular languages in Indonesia. A rough estimate says that it is spoken approximately by 40% of the total population of the country, mainly those living in Central and East Java. The number of speakers of Javanese might have reached 75,5 million and are scattered not only in Central and East Java but also in New Caledonia, Suriname, Lampung the southern part of Sumatra and many others. ([Poerwadarminta. \(1939\)](#); [Wedhawati, 2006](#) ; [Elgueta, Martín Quintana, et al. 2018](#)) It has relatively various and complex systems of syntax, particularly in terms of word formation. One of the processes of word formation in the Javanese language is the addition of affix to the base morpheme or the underlying form, which can also be regarded as a morphological process.

LITERATURE REVIEW

([Verhaar, JWM. \(1996\) \(2008\)](#).) states that "morphology identifies basic units in a language as grammatical units." According to ([Ramlan, M. 2009](#), [Zare & Zade. 2014](#); [Kedrova, 2016](#)) "morphology deals with the forms of word and their alterations, both in their grammatical and semantic functions," while ([Kridalaksana, Harimurti. \(1985\)](#).) argues that "morphology is a branch of linguistics dealing with morpheme and its combinations or part of language structure that comprises word, i.e. morpheme." A word is the smallest unit in syntax which is derived from a lexeme and has undergone a morphological process([Kridalaksana, Harimurti. \(1982\) \(2011\)](#). ; [Tabatabaei et al., 2014](#); [Selomo and Govender, 2016](#)). Javanese morphemes may be categorized into two types, namely free and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are those that can stand by themselves, and thus can occur as words or utterances. On the contrary, bound morphemes cannot stand by themselves, and, as such, they never occur as words or utterances. In other words, they are attached to free morphemes([Sumukti, Rukmanto Hadi \(1971\)](#)). The word *pangan* is a free morpheme and is monomorphemic or is of one morpheme, i.e. the word *pangan* itself, while the word *mangan* is polymorphemic or is of more than one morpheme since it is a combination between the free morpheme *pangan* and the bound morpheme {N-} with an allomorphic realization /m-/.

In morphology, free and bound morphemes may result in four morphemic processes, namely affixation, reduplication, cliticization, and compounding. However, not all of them are analyzed in this article as the writer focuses his study only on affixation, in particular, circumfixation. ([Kridalaksana, Harimurti. \(1985\)](#); [Metsämuuronen, J. 2018](#)) further argues that affixation simplifies the expression in that fewer words may be used in small alterations in utterances. This may be exemplified by the fact that the Javanese base morpheme 'ngerti' may be developed and simplified by the use of affixes such as *ngertia* 'to be aware', *ngerténana* 'try to understand', *dingertèni* 'to be understood', *dingertèkaké* 'to

make someone understand', *pangertèn* 'thoughtful', and so on. (Verhaar, J.W.M. (1996) (2008))states that there are four kinds of affix, namely:

(1) Prefix that is added to the left of the base is known to undergo the process of prefixation, e.g. /kə-/ 'accidental passive' + /pidak/ 'stepped on' → /kəpidak/ 'is accidentally stepped on'; /sə-/ 'one' + /paro/ 'half' → /səparo/ 'a half'.

(2) Suffix that is added to the right of the base morpheme is known to undergo the process of suffixation, e.g. /aras/ 'to kiss' + /-i/ 'iterative' → /arasi/ 'to kiss repeatedly'; /maṅan/ 'to eat' + /-ɔ/ 'hortatory' → /maṅanɔ/ 'Please eat'/'Why don't you eat?'

(3) Infix, that is added by inserting it to the base morpheme in the process known as infixation, e.g. /sugih/ 'rich' + /-əm-/ 'pretensive' → /səməgih/ 'pretend to be rich'; /jaṅkah/ 'step' + /-um/ → /jumaṅkah/ → 'to step'

(4) Circumfix, or simulfix, or ambifix, or confix, that is added partly on the left and partly on the right of the base morpheme. Such a kind of morphological process is known as confixation, or simulfixation, or circumfixation, e.g. /slamət/ 'safe' + /ke—an/ 'the state of being' → /kəslamətan/ 'safeness'; /kunjara/ 'to imprison' + /pa—an/ → /pakunjaran/ 'the prison'.

This short article discusses the circumfix {sa- + -é} in Javanese. The data are obtained from the Javanese dictionary written by Poerwadarminta(1939), and the writer's intuition as he himself is a Javanese native speaker. The writer's intuition is used to know the acceptability of sentences. In Javanese the circumfix {sa- + -é} has relatively high productivity.

The term 'productivity' is related to whether or not the circumfixes are frequently used both in utterances and in sentences.

(Suwadi. (1986).)state that part of the prefix {sa-} in its use often varies with {sə-}. The prefix {sa-} is used as an independent affix but it can also be used with the suffix {-é} to form a combined affix or circumfix {sa- + -é}.

Basically, in the circumfix {sa- + -é}, the prefix {sa-} and the suffix {-é} can perform their independent function. However, although the suffix {-é} can be used in isolation without the presence of the prefix {sa-}, the prefix {sa-}, in its certain use, cannot stand alone without the presence of the suffix {-é}. On the basis of their use, both the prefix {sa-} and the suffix {-é}, added to the base morpheme, to form new words are treated as the combined affixes {sa- + -é}, both in supporting their function either when in combination or when in separation.

Given that they are treated as the combined affixes, the circumfix {sa- + -é} may be attached to verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. In general, the circumfix {sa- + -é} function as forming an adverb. The circumfix {sa- + -é}, when attached to verbs, may form adverbs of time that express 'since or as soon as an action mentioned in the verb has been done'. Below are the examples:

/katog/ (Adj.) + {sa- + -é} "satisfied" → /sakatogé/

'as one is satisfied with doing something'.

/lumrah/ (Adj.) + {sa- + -é} "appropriate" → /salumrahé/

'just the way it is'

/rampung/ (V.)+ {sa- + -é} "finish" → /sarampungé/

'after some activity is finished'.

/lawas/ (Adj.) + {sa- + -é} 'old' → /salawasé/

'forever; as long as'

/təmən/ (Adj.) + {sa- + -é} 'true' → /satemené/

'in fact'

/banjur/ (Adv.) + {sa- + -é} 'then' → /sabanjuré/

'afterwards'

/wareg/ (Adv.) + {sa- + -é} 'full' → /sawaregé/

'till one is already full'

In many, if not most, of the morphemes that end in vocals ‘u’, and ‘a’, the suffix {-é} is added with the consonant ‘n’

/tiba/ (V.) + /{sa- + -é} ‘fall’ → /*satibané*/

‘as one has arrived at’

/lunga/ (V.) + {sa- + -é} ‘leave’ → /*salungané*/

‘as one has left’

/bisa/ (V.) + {sa- + -é} ‘able’ → /*sabisané*/

‘as one can do’

/turu/ (V.) + {sa- + -é} ‘sleep’ → /*saturuné*/

‘until one is asleep’

Generally, adverbs made up of the circumfix {sa- + -é} whose meanings are written above are in their usage not separable from other words, and this is because of the syntactical function to which they are bound. Together with other words that form a clause, adverbs of this type may appear as an opener of a subordinate clause showing their function as an adverb of time, e.g.

- (1) *Sarampungé* nyambangi kancané, Paijo golek pelem ana kebon.
‘Having visited a friend, Paijo looked for mangoes at the garden.’
- (2) *Sabubaré* umbah-umbah, Suradi resik-resik omah.
‘Having washed his clothes, Suradi cleaned the house.’
- (3) *Sabaliné* nyambut gawe, Bapak terus utheg gawe kurungan manuk.
‘Having returned home from work, father kept himself busy by making bird cages.’
- (4) *Salungané* kancaku, aku ngrewangi Simbok marut klapa.
‘My friend having left, I helped mother grate coconut.’
- (5) *Sawisé* tangi turu, Bardi banjur nyiapake arit lan kranjang kanggo golek ramban kanggo wedhus- wedhuse.
‘Having gotten up, Bardi then prepared a sickle a bamboo basket to get foliage for his goats.’
- (6) *Satekané* ing pabrik, Sutris terus ganti klambi lan wiwit nyambut gawe.
‘Having arrived at the factory, Sutris immediately changed his clothes and started working there.’
- (7) *Sadurungé* mangkat sekolah, Ningsih sarapandhisik.
‘Before going to school, Ningsih had breakfast first.’
- (8) *Sajroné* dadi guru Sekolah Dasar, Slamet ora nate telat.
‘While working as an Elementary school teacher, Slamet never came late.’
- (9) *Sasuwéné* urip, aku durung naté menang lotré.
‘As long as I live, I never win a lottery.’
- (10) *Sawisé* mèlu kursus, Retno mundhak pinter.
‘After taking a course, Retno became smarter.’

The above examples show that *sarampungé* ‘having done some activity’ in sentence (1), *sabubaré* ‘having finished a certain work’ in sentence (2), *sabaliné* ‘having returned home’ in sentence (3), *salungané* ‘(someone’s friend) having left’ in sentence (4), *sawisé* (tangi turu) ‘having gotten up’ in sentence (5), *satekané* (ing pabrik) ‘having arrived at the factory’ in sentence (6) function as openers of the subordinate clauses that express adverb of time.

Other forms of {sa- + -é}, that are not derived from verbs, can also be considered similar in terms of their functions and uses of {sa + é} as exemplified above, for instance, *sadurungé* ‘before something is done’ as in sentence (7), *sajroné* ‘while’ as in sentence (8), *sasuwéné* ‘as long as’ as in sentence (9), *sawisé* ‘after’ as in sentence (10). In addition to bearing the meaning like those explained above, ‘since’ and/or ‘after something is done’, the circumfix {sa- + -é} can also mean ‘until’, and its function is also to form adverbs but they differ in their use. Consider the following examples:

(11) Entenana *saelingé*, bab utangé dheweké iku.

‘Wait until he is conscious/aware of his debts.’

(12) Tulung golekana dompetku *sakatemuné* dompetku, mengko tak opahi.

‘Help me look for my wallet until you find it,’ and I will give you a present later.’

(13) Wis ben jarna waé *sakeselé* olehe padha dolanan, aja kok penging mandheg.

‘Let them play until they get tired, do not stop them.’

(14) *Sabotrepoté* golek butuh, wong tuwaku ora tau njupuk apa maneh nyolong.

‘Although it is hard to earn a living, my parents never take anything without permission let alone steal.’

The adverb that is formed from the circumfix {sa + é} and which means ‘until’ is not only derived from a verb but it can also be derived from other parts of speech as used in sentences exemplified above. ‘*Saelingé* (from *éling*)’/‘until one is aware,’ ‘*sakatemuné*’/‘until something can be found,’ ‘*sakeselé*’/‘until someone gets tired’ turn out to become adverbs in sentences (11), (12), and (13) are not followed by other words to form dependent clauses.

Sakatemuné’ which in sentence (12) means ‘until something can be found,’ in a different example may mean ‘whatever can be found’. Other forms of {sa + é} whose meaning is like that of ‘*sakecekelé*’/‘what one can get/at random,’ are ‘*sabisané*’/‘what one can do,’ ‘*saolehé*’/‘what one can have,’ ‘*salaliné*’/‘until one forgets/what one allows. In line with this, the circumfix {sa + é} may serve to form quantitative adverbs, for instance: *sakecekelé* /‘what one can get’, *sabisané* /‘what one can do’, ‘*saolehé*’/‘what one can get’, ‘*salilané*’/‘what one can voluntarily give’, and so on; in this case the circumfix {sa + é} form and place the words that it forms as quantitative adverbs. The examples are as follows:

(15) Aja golèk jodho mung *sakecekelé* dhéwé.

‘Do not ever seek a wife at random.’

(16) *Saanané* waé, ora susah gawe sing angel, awit wektuné ora cukup.

‘Let’s do this with whatever is available, do not make it complicated as the time is limited’

When attached to nouns, the circumfix {sa- + -é} may mean ‘whatever,’ ‘all,’ with all,’ for example:

{sa- + -é} + *duwé* → *saduwéné* /

‘all that someone has’

{sa- + -é} + *uni* → *sauniné* /

‘whatever someone says’

{sa- + -é} + *ana* → *saanané* /

‘whatever is available’

{sa- + -é} + *rosa* → *sarosané* /

‘with all one’s power or strength’

The words formed from the circumfix {sa- + -é} which are derived from the noun has a syntactical bind either to the left/front or right/back because of the prominent syntactical function of the circumfix {sa- + -é}; at least the suffix {-é} functions as an adverb. Example:

(17) *Saduwéné* dhuwit dianggo mbayar utange.

‘The whole amount of money that he has is used to pay for his debt.’

(18) Bèn *sauniné* sing arep omong, sing penting aku ora tau ngganggu.

‘Whatever he says, importantly, I never disturb him.’

(19) Wis gawanen waé *saanané* jagung iki, tinimbang kurang malah ndadak bola-bali maneh.

‘You’d better take what is left of the corn than you have to go to and fro.’

(20) *Sarosané* tenaga sing ditokké kanggo ngangkat kayu jabon iku kaya-kaya ora ana gunane.

‘All his strength to lift up the jabon wood seems futile.’

(21) *Sawernané* komputer lan barang-barang elektronika diobral ing pameran ana Ambarrukmo Plaza.

‘All sorts of computers and electronic goods are on sale at an exhibition in Ambarrukmo Plaza.’

(22) Kamera *salensa lan tripodé* didol limang yuta.

‘The camera with its lenses and tripod are sold five million rupiahs.’

(23) *Saparipolahétansah* dadi rerasane wong akeh.

‘Whatever he does becomes a rumor.’

Such words as *saduwéné* in sentence (17) has a backward syntactical bind with the word ‘dhuwit’; *sauniné* in sentence (18) has a backward syntactical bind with the phrase ‘sing arep omong’; *saanané* in sentence (19) has a backward syntactical bind with the word ‘jagung’; *sarosané* in sentence (20) has a backward syntactical bind with the word ‘tenaga’; *sawernané* in sentence (21) has a backward syntactical bind with the word ‘komputer’; and the phrase *salensa lan tripodé* in sentence (22) has a backward syntactical bind with the word ‘kamera’; *saparipolahé* in sentence (23) has neither backward not forward syntactical binds.

Such syntactical binds as explained above can also appear in other words with the circumfix {sa- + -é} whose functions are adverbs, like, for instance, *saburiné* ‘at the back of’, *sacedhaké* ‘near’, *sandhuwuré* ‘on top of’, *sangarepé* ‘in front of’, *sangisoré* ‘at the bottom of’, *sakiwané* ‘at the left of’, *satengené* ‘at the right of,’ etc.

(24) Topi pandan dicantholaké ing *sandhuwuréambèné*.

‘He hang the straw hat above his bed.’

(25) Pacul lan arit diselehake ing *sacedhakélawang* mburi.

‘He put the hoe and sickle near the back door.’

(26) Ing *sawétané* omah ana tegalan sing ditanduri wit salak.

‘Snake fruits have been planted in a field to the east of the house.’

(27) Glethakna ana *sangarepé* kandhang waé lukuné.

‘Put the plough in front of the barn.’

(28) Kèsèran dipindhahaké ana *sangisoré* wit pelem ing pekarangan mburi omah.

‘Move the wheelbarrow below the mango tree in the backyard.’

(29) Kuburan kampung iku persis ana *samburiné* lapangan bal-balan.

‘The village graveyard lies right at the back of the football field.’

The words *sandhuwuré* ‘above’ in sentence (24), *sacedhaké* in sentence (25), *sawétané* in sentence (26), *sangarepé* in sentence (27), *sangisoré* in sentence (28), *samburiné* in sentence (29) are confixed prepositions to the head which follow each of them respectively, i.e. ‘ambèné’, ‘lawang,’ ‘omah,’ ‘kandhang,’ ‘wit,’ and ‘lapangan.’

CONCLUSION

In a morphological process, affixation has a syntactical function. The circumfix {sa- + -é} can be attached to adverbs, verbs, and nouns. Basically, the morphological process brings about changes in form and is generally followed by changes in meaning. The syntactical function is liable to change, widening and narrowing owing to the morphological process that may occur. In Javanese, the circumfix {sa- + -é} is added partly on the left and partly on the right of the base morpheme. Such a kind of morphological process is known as confixation, or simulfixation, or circumfixation. The base morphemes with which circumfix is added may appear in the initial position and medial position of the sentence. They serve as adverbs.

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