The *ada baiknya X* construction: Description of an idiomatic expression in Indonesian

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The aim of this paper is to reveal the idiomatic features of the phrase *ada baiknya X* in Indonesian. The phrase *ada baiknya X* is seemingly a canonical phrase created by combining words following grammatical rules. However, further observation demonstrates that this phrase is difficult to explain based on normative Indonesian grammar. This study describes *ada baiknya X* both morphosyntactically and semantically using a corpus, showing that *ada baiknya X* has morphosyntactic irregularities, semantic non-compositionality, and other idiosyncratic constraints. These results lead us to conclude that *ada baiknya X* cannot be adequately explained compositionally from its component parts following grammatical rules, but rather is stored in the speakers' knowledge as a cohesive form-meaning pair, such as [[*ada baiknya X*]_{form} = [ADVICE, CAUTION, PROHIBITION (ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE)]_{meaning}].

1. Introduction¹

1.1 Background

Languages contain many idioms. Therefore, in order to speak fluently, we must both know grammatical rules and be familiar with such idioms (Langacker 1987: 35–36). In other words, to truly understand a language, it is necessary to study idiomatic phrases. The term "idiom", which will be defined in more detail later, refers not only to fixed phrases, like *kick the bucket* 'die', but also to productive idioms, which permit lexical and syntactic variation (Taylor 2012: 76). For example, Taylor (2012: 87) described *what about X*, an idiom used to ask a hearer to focus on *X*, as one such idiom. This phrase is productive in that *X* can be an adverbial clause (*What about if she says no?*) or a prepositional phrase (*What about on Tuesday*), not only a noun phrase.

The significance of idiom studies has long been recognized (Gries 2008: 3). In fact, much work has been accomplished in the field of Construction Grammar (Croft & Cruse 2004; Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor 1988; Hilpert 2014) and Phraseology (Gries 2008; Inoue 2018; Wray 2002). In the Indonesian language, many fixed idioms are described in dictionaries, such as *buah hati* 'baby, child' and *terburu nafsu* 'impetuous' (Baryadi 2013, 2017), and comparative studies with other languages have previously been done (Haiyan, Wijana & Hariri 2016). However, there are few studies that describe productive idioms in Indonesian. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to provide a detailed description of one productive Indonesian idiom.

1.2 Aims

This paper will present a description of *ada baiknya X*, a phrase worth describing because it appears to be created using canonical grammar rules, but in fact it is not. Inoue (2018: 254) explains that, as many idioms are created from known words, we believe we already

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understand such phrases and thus overlook them. However, when we study examples in detail, we discover various features of which we were previously unaware. This is true of *ada baiknya X*, where a closer investigation reveals features that are challenging to explain using Indonesian normative grammar. This explanation in *A Comprehensive Indonesian-English Dictionary (CIED)* (Stevens & Tellings 2010) is a helpful example.

(1)	Ada baik-nya ² semua pihak bersatu padu.	
	exist good-NYA all side become.united unite	
	'It would be a good idea for all parties to join together.'	$(CIED: 6)^{3}$
(2)	Ada baik-nya tuan naik kelas satu aja. exist good-NYA 2SG up class one only	
	'It would be a good idea for you to go first class.'	(CIED: 76)
(3)	Ada baik-nya saya hanyut ke negeri lain.	
	exist good-NYA 1SG drift to country other	
	'It would be a good idea for me to travel to another country.'	(CIED: 348)

According to the examples in *CIED*, the phrase *ada baiknya* can be followed by "Subject + Predicate." In addition, the dictionary explains that conjunctions such as *kalau* 'if' or *bila* 'when' may be inserted immediately after *ada baiknya*, as in *ada baiknya kalau semua pihak bersatu padu*. Semantically, the phrase can be translated as 'There is a good idea to', 'It would be a good thing', or 'I suggest'. In these descriptions, we discover two irregularities, both morphosyntactic and semantic. Syntactically, if the conjunctions are used, the phrase that follows *ada baiknya* becomes an adverbial clause, which possesses different syntactic attributes than if they were not used. Therefore, it is unnatural to regard these two cases as identical. Semantically, while the translation 'I suggest' may be related to the meaning of the component parts, it is not entirely predictable. These observations raise the question: Is *ada baiknya X* a phrase that can be constructed following normative grammar, or is it an idiomatic phrase? This paper addressed the question by describing the phrase based on a corpus. As a result, it was found that *ada baiknya X* is a productive idiom with morphosyntactic irregularities and semantic non-compositionality.

This paper is organized as follows: The next section defines the usage of the term "idiom" based on the theory of Construction Grammar. Section 3 provides an explanation of the component parts *ada* and *-nya*. Section 4 analyzes the features of *ada baiknya X* by means of a web corpus. Section 5 clarifies that *ada baiknya X* involves morphosyntactic irregularities, semantic non-compositionality, and idiosyncratic constraints and argues that this phrase is stored in speakers' knowledge as an idiom. The final section of this paper features a conclusion and outlook.

2. Theoretical framework

As previously mentioned, this paper states that *ada baiknya X* is an idiomatic expression. The definition of "idiom" here needs to be clarified in advance, because although the term "idiom" is used in this paper for convenience, it has a different nuance from what is commonly used. This paper takes the term "idiom" to be the same as "construction" in

² In the example cited from the previous study, the abbreviations are matched with the definition in the original source. In other cases, the abbreviation -NYA is used for the suffix -nya.

³ The absence of any notation for the source of the citation implies that it is a sentence cited from MALINDO Conc, or a sentence created by the author. The source of the original data for MALINDO Conc is appended at the end of the paper.

Construction Grammar.

According Hilpert (2014: 2), constructions refer to "units of linguistic knowledge that pair a linguistic form with a meaning" in the field of Construction Grammar.⁴ In this sense, words are a kind of constructions because they consist of a form-meaning pair. Construction Grammar applies this concept to the levels of phrases and sentences. The sentence *What's X doing Y* is one such construction (Kay & Fillmore 1999; Taylor 2012). The following are concrete examples:

(4)	a. What are all these people doing here?	(Taylor 2012: 92)
	b. What's this scratch doing on the table?	(Kay & Fillmore 1999: 3)

The example (4a) can be interpreted as a simple question about what people are doing. However, this sentence often expresses surprise at a situation with a strangely large number of people. (4b) has the same structure as (4a) but is difficult to interpret lexically. This is because it is basically impossible for the verb do to take *this scratch* as the subject, as in (5).

(5) **What does this scratch do on the table?* (Kay & Fillmore 1999: 6)

Therefore, the sentence (4b) is used exclusively to describe a congruous situation where a table has a scratch that should not be there. In addition, these sentences express anger at the presence of many people and scratches on the desk and have the function of requesting that the listener explain why such a situation is occurring. From the above, we can say that *What's X doing Y* is a construction in that the form is directly associated with the meaning or function. In other words, speakers remember the symbolic form-meaning pair, where the form *What's X doing Y* has the function of expressing surprise or outrage, without paying attention to the component parts.

Hilpert (2014: 14-22) argued that constructions often exhibit the following four characteristics.

- (6) a. the expression deviates from canonical patterns.
 - b. the expression carries non-compositional meaning.
 - c. the expression has idiomatic constraints.
 - d. the expression has collocational preferences.

For (6a), if a phrase is morphosyntactically deviant, speakers cannot make it by grammatical rules and must memorize it as a coherent unit. For example, the *What's X doing Y* construction above has morphosyntactic irregularities. As already mentioned, this construction allows for combinations of subject and predicate that are usually inappropriate (cf. (4b) and (5)). In addition, there is a restriction that negation cannot be added (7).

(7) a. *What aren't my brushes doing soaking in water?

b.**What are my brushes not doing soaking in water?* (Kay & Fillmore 1999: 7)

These irregularities support the fact that this phrase is a construction.⁵ As for semantic non-compositionality (6b), *How has your day been*? is a good example. Literally, this sentence is a question asking what kind of day the listener has had. However, this phrase is usually treated as a common phrase to start a conversation. There is a gap between the

⁴ For a more details on the definition of construction in Construction Grammar and its historical transition, see Taylor (2012: 124–127), Hilpert (2014: 8–23).

⁵ See Kay & Fillmore (1999: 5–7) for other morphosyntactic features and detailed explanations.

literal meaning of the component parts and the function of the whole sentence. This function is entrenched through repeated use and goes beyond the compositional meaning (Hilpert 2014: 16). In this respect, *How has your day been*? meets the criterion of (6b) and can be regarded as a construction.

(6c) implies that, if a phrase has a constraint that cannot be predicted from its component parts, speakers remember the form-meaning pair as a unit, including the constraint. Take the adverbial *long* construction in English as an example (Hilpert 2014: 19). The sentences (8) show that not all verbs can occur in the adverbial *long* construction, where *long* is treated as an adverb.

(8) a. I have long known your father.b. *I have long read this book.

(Hilpert 2014: 19)

However, this construction has the same meaning as the structure *I have V-ed NP for a long time*, in which both verbs can be used (*I have known your father for a long time* / *I have read this book for a long time*). Therefore, this constraint cannot be predicted from the component parts and should be considered as directly encoded in the adverbial *long* construction.

The last characteristic (6d) can be confirmed by quantitative methods (Gries & Stefanowitsch 2004; Stefanowitsch & Gries 2003, 2005). Gries & Stefanowitsch (2004) pointed out that the future marker *be going to* is associated with more dynamic verbs than *will*. In addition, Gries, Hampe & Schönefeld (2005) showed through experimental research that speakers are sensitive to such preferences. This means that such preferences are also stored in the speaker's knowledge as part of the information associated with the form (Hilpert 2014: 21).

It is worth mentioning here that a phrase does not necessarily have to have all the characteristics to be certified as a construction. For example, *kick the bucket* is a construction that lacks semantic compositionality, but it does not satisfy the criterion in (6a) in that it can be generated by normative syntactic rules (cf. Taylor 2012: 72). If a phrase fits any one of the criteria (6), it has features that cannot be explained by normative rules alone, and therefore, speakers must memorize those features. In other words, the phrase exists as a construction in the speaker's knowledge.

This section defines the usage of the term "idiom" and describes its characteristics. Before investigating whether *ada baiknya X* has these characteristics, the next section will provide an explanation of the component parts.

3. An overview of the verb *ada* and the suffix *-nya*

The phrase *ada baiknya* can be divided into three component parts: *ada* 'exist / have', *baik* 'good', and a suffix *-nya*.⁶ The following describes a conventional explanation of these words, specifically focusing on the grammatical functions of the verb *ada* and the suffix *-nya*.

3.1 *ada*

It is widely acknowledged that the verb *ada* has four functions in Indonesian: presentational, locational, possessive, and intensifying (Sneddon et al. 2010: 272–275). The sentences in (9) below are examples of the four functions of *ada*. In the presentational

⁶ It is controversial whether *-nya* is best regarded as a suffix or as an enclitic. In this paper, *-nya* is defined as a suffix in accordance with Englebretson (2003), Sneddon (2006), and Sneddon et al. (2010).

sentence (9a), the argument *orang* 'person' is "information which has not yet been identified in the discourse" (Sneddon et al. 2010: 272). Conversely, the argument *koran itu* 'the newspaper' is information that is already shared by the speaker and the hearer in the locational sentence (9b). In the possessive sentence (9c), the possessor is placed before the verb *ada*, and the argument *uang kecil* 'a coin' follows the verb. In this case, the possessor, *saya*, can be regarded as a "topic", and the following phrase, *ada uang kecil*, as "focus", introducing new information about the topic. The fourth example differs from the others in that the sentence is not fully acceptable to some people and that it is still valid without *ada*. Therefore, the focus of this paper is on the first three usages.

 (9) a. Ada orang di kantor. exist person in office 'There is a person in the office.' 	(Sneddon et al. 2010: 272)
b. <i>Koran itu ada.</i> newspaper that exist. 'The newspaper is there.'	(Sneddon et al. 2010: 273)
c. <i>Saya tidak ada uang kecil.</i> 1SG NEG exist money small 'I don't have a coin.'	(Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)
d. <i>Ia ada menerima⁷ surat itu.</i> 3SG exist AV.receive letter that 'He received the letter.'	(Sneddon et al. 2010: 274)

Syntactically, in the locational sentence (9b), the argument must be in the pre-predicate position, which distinguishes this sentence from the other two usages. The distinction between presentational (9a) and possessive (9c) applications depends upon the position of the locative arguments. Nomoto $(2006)^8$ stated that, in a presentational sentence, the locative argument can be placed in either the pre-predicate position or in the post-predicate position as in (10). Alternatively, a possessive sentence has the restriction that a possessor cannot be in the post-predicate position (11).

- (10) a. *Ada* [Th *se-buah buku*] [Loc *di atas meja*]. be one-CL book in on table 'There is a book on the table.'
 - b. [Loc *Di atas meja*] *ada* [Th *se-buah buku*] in on table be one-CL book 'On the table (there) is a book.'

⁽Nomoto 2006: 10)

⁷ This paper defines the prefixes *meN*- and *di*- as markers of an Actor Voice and Undergoer Voice, following Grangé (2015: 134): "An Actor Voice is marked by a verbal nasal prefix, *men*- (AV) hence 'Agent men-V Patient', while an Undergoer Voice is marked by the prefix *di*- (UV), hence 'Patient di-V (Agent)'." The *N*- of the prefix *meN*- appears in the forms *m*-, *n*-, *ng*-, *ny*-, *nge*-, or \emptyset -, depending upon the first sound of the word base. They may be connected to the base of a word directly or may replace the first phoneme of the word. In this paper, the former is shown with a morphological boundary marker (i), and the latter is regarded as a single word (ii).

⁽i) *mem-bawa* (ii) *memukul* [meN-+(p)ukul] AV-take AV.hit

⁸ Nomoto (2006) uses different terms for the sentences (9a)-(9c), such as predicate locative, existential, and 'have' predication, respectively. To avoid confusion hereafter, this paper conforms to the terms in Sneddon et al. (2010).

- (11) a. [Loc Saya] ada [Th se-orang adik]. 1SG be one-CL younger.brother/sister 'I have a brother/sister'
 - b.**Ada* [Th se-orang adik] [Loc (pada) saya]. be one-CL younger.brother/sister on 1SG (Nomoto 2006: 10)

3.2 -nya

(1 A)

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It has been stated that *-nya* has numerous functions, which makes it difficult to classify them accurately (Sneddon 2006). However, it is accurate to state that the following four functions are recognized: pronoun, definite marker, nominalizer, and adverbializer (Englebretson 2003; Grangé 2015; Sneddon 2006; Sneddon et al. 2010). Morphologically, this suffix can be attached to a noun, adjective, preposition, or verb. When *-nya* is attached to a noun, it functions as a pronoun or determiner. In example (12) below, *-nya* occurs as a possessive pronoun, referring to the specific person who possesses the house for which the speaker is looking.

(12) Di mana rumah-nya?
in where house-3.POSS
'Where is his/her house?'
(Sneddon et al. 2010:168)

In an Indonesian topic-comment clause, which is also referred to as double-subject construction, the second subject must be marked by the possessive pronoun *-nya*.

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n 1

(13)	Sopir	itu	nama-nya	Pak	7	Ali.		
	driver	that	name-3.POSS	Mr		Ali		
'The name of that driver is Mr. Ali.'								
	(lit: 'As for the driver, his name is Mr. Ali.')							(Sneddon et al. 2010: 287)

In addition to its function as a possessive pronoun, *-nya* also occurs as a pronoun referring agent, or patient of the verb. In example (14), the first *-nya*, is a possessive pronoun, and the second is the patient of the verb *menjual* 'sell' in an actor voice.

(14)	Mobil-nya	masih	baru	tetapi	dia	men-jual-nya.	
	car-3.POSS	still	new	but	3sg	AV-sell-3	
	'His/Her car is still new, but he/she sold it.'						(Grangé 2015: 134)

In an undergoer voice, the pronoun -nya serves as an agent.

(15) Rumah itu di-jual-nya kepada Anwar. house that UV-sell-3 to Anwar 'He/She sold this house to Anwar.' (lit: 'This house was sold by him/her to Anwar.') (Grangé 2015: 135)

Sentence (16) below illustrates the function of *-nya* as a definite marker. Although the *-nya* in (16) has no referent, what *-nya* represents can be recovered from context. In this sentence, the *-nya* is used because *air* 'water' can be assumed from *mandi* 'take a bath'.

(16) Saya ingin mandi, tetapi air-nya tidak ada.
1sG want take.a.bath but water-DEF NEG exist
'I wanted to take a bath but there wasn't any water.' (Sneddon et al. 2010: 156)

In (17), *-nya* is attached to the verb *terjadi* 'happen' and functions as a nominalizer. This sentence shows that *terjadi-nya* 'occurrence' forms a noun phrase occupying the object position of the preposition *atas* 'on'.

(17) Mereka prihatin atas terjadi-nya kerusuhan di kampus.
3PL concern on happen-NMLZ riot in campus
'They are concerned about the occurrence of riots on the campus.'

(Sneddon et al. 2010: 312)

The same is true of *-nya* attached to an adjective. In (18), *tingginya* 'height' functions as the subject.

(18) *Tinggi-nya orang itu seratus tujuh puluh sentimeter* high-NMLZ person that hundred seven ten centimeter 'The person's height is one hundred and seventy centimeters.'

(Sneddon et al. 2010: 313)

Other than these primary functions, some researchers (Englebretson 2003; Grangé 2015) suggest that *-nya* performs the function of an adverbializer. As in (19), the suffix *-nya* following *nyata* forms an adverbial phrase meaning 'in fact'.

(19)	Nyata-nya ,	sains	me-miliki	dinamika-nya	sendiri.
	be.real-ADVL	science	AV-have	dynamics-3.POSS	alone
	'In point of fact, science possesses its own dynamics.'				(Grangé 2015: 134)

This *-nya* is also called an "epistemic marker" because it is often used to express a speaker's opinion or judgment, such as *harus-nya* 'should' and *seperti-nya* 'it seems that'. However, the semantic function of the suffix *-nya* is not fully understood (Nomoto & Mohd 2018).

4. Descriptions of ada baiknya X

4.1 Data

Examples in this section and the following section are predominantly cited from the MALINDO Conc online concordance system. The corpus used in this concordance system consists of three subcorpora: ind_mixed_2012, ind_web_2012, and ind_wikipedia_2016. The original data of each subcorpus were extracted from webpages, online news, and Wikipedia articles and stored in the Leipzig Corpora Collection (Goldhahn, Eckhart & Quasthoff 2012). Each corpus contains 300,000 sentences and approximately 5 million words (Shiohara, Sakon & Nomoto 2019: 82). MALINDO Conc annotates these corpora in terms of morphological information, enabling us to search for words and sentences based on their morphological characteristics, such as affixes or reduplication type (Nomoto, Akasegawa & Shiohara 2018).

Example (20) below shows the settings of the search used in this study, which yielded 177 sentences.⁹

(20) STEM: *ada* SURFACE FORM OF COLLOCATE: *baiknya* POSITION OF COLLOCATE: between Left-1 and Right-1

In the following section, the morphosyntactic and semantic features of *ada baiknya X* are demonstrated. Statistical data are based on the corpus, but some examples from websites are used for explanatory purposes.

⁹ The original source of one example could not be referenced because the site had been deleted (January 7, 2020). Therefore, the item was excluded from this study.

4.2 Morphosyntactic features

First, we will observe the syntactic environment in which *ada baiknya* appears. The result of the classification of co-occurring phrases is summarized in Table 1.¹⁰

Table 1. The types of phrases co-occurring with ada baiknya

Subject- Predicate	Predicate	Adverbial Clause	Noun Phrase	zero	all
93 (52.8%)	57 (32.4%)	23 (13.1%)	1 (0.6%)	2 (1.1%)	176

Next, some examples are briefly explained. More than half of the items from the corpus include sentences in which *ada baiknya* is followed by a subject and a predicate, like (21).

(21) Ada baik-nya orang Kristen tahu tanggal lahir Yesus. exist good-NYA person Christian know date born Jesus 'A Christian should know the date of the birth of Jesus.'

Sometimes the subject is left unexpressed. In the example below, the verb phrase *menghindari keramaian* 'avoid the crowd' immediately follows *ada baiknya*.

(22) *Karena itu, ada baik-nya meng-hindari keramaian.* because that exist good-NYA AV-avoid crowd 'Because of it, it is better to avoid the crowd.'

It is also possible for *ada baiknya* to co-occur with an adverbial clause, such as a conditional clause with *bila*, *apabila*, *jika* or *kalau*.

- (23) Ada baik-nya bila barang tersebut di-simpan dulu di tempat khusus. exist good-NYA when thing that UV-keep first in place special 'First of all, that thing should be stored in a special place.'
- (24) Ada baik-nya kalau kita sedikit mem-bahas tentang masalah exist good-NYA if 1PL.INC little AV-discuss about problem keamanan jaringan komputer. security network computer
 'We should argue a bit about network security on a computer.'

These three patterns account for over 95 percent of all tokens. Only two items are coded as "zero," without argument, as exemplified below.

(25) Mudah-mudahan ada baik-nya. hopefully exist good-NYA 'May you have a good day.'

Finally, the category "noun phrase", in which *ada baiknya* co-occurs with a noun phrase, is different from the examples above in that its argument occurs before the verb.

¹⁰ Note that adverbial clauses syntactically independent of *ada baiknya* are not included in the scope of this survey; therefore, the sentence below is categorized as "*ada baiknya* + Predicate."

[[]Sebelum menuju hasil analisa kami,]adverbial clause

before toward result analysis 1PL.INC

ada baik-nya [tau definisi-nya dulu.]predicate

exist good-NYA know definition-NYA first

^{&#}x27;Firstly, before we state the result of the analysis, we should know the definition.'

(26) Bahkan dalam kadar tertentu, konflik ada baik-nya juga;
contrary in degree specific conflict exist good-NYA also mem-buat kita bisa lebih saling menerima dan memahami.
AV-make 1PL.INC can more each.other AV.receive and AV.understand
'On the contrary, to a certain extent, there is a positive side to a conflict; it makes us accept and understand each other.'

The examples in these two categories, "zero" and "noun phrase", display different features semantically and syntactically and are regarded as exceptions.

4.3 Semantic features

It is observed that the phrase *ada baiknya X* can have a slightly different meaning depending on the subject of the subsequent clause. Table 2 shows the number of occurrences of person type in the subject. If the subject is not explicitly stated, it is determined based on the context. Those that are difficult to determine or are judged to be generic are placed in the category of ambiguous.

1sg	1pl	2	3 (animate)	3 (inanimate)	ambiguous	all
4 (2.3%)	47 (27.2%)	50 (28.9%)	10 (5.8%)	18 (10.4%)	44 (25.4%)	173

Table 2. Occurrence of person type in the subject of the subsequent clause

Table 2 shows that first person and second person subjects each account for nearly 30 percent of the total, followed by the category of ambiguous. Third person subjects are less common than the others, at 16 percent. Detailed analysis will be given in 5.4. Here, we will focus on the person and describe the meaning of *ada baiknya X*.

If the subject is in third person, *ada baiknya X* basically represents such a meaning as 'if (S) does X, there is something good', or 'it is a good idea to do X'.

(27) Ada baik-nya pula, seseorang yang telah pensiun me-miliki passive exist good-NYA also someone REL already pension AV-have passive income. income

'It is a good idea for those who are already living on a pension to have passive income'

When the subject is in first-person plural or second-person, the meaning changes slightly to "advice". In (28), the advice given is to opt for natural medicine rather than conventional medicine, though the latter part is unexpressed.

(28) Ada baik-nya Anda men-cari alternatif yang lebih alami. exist good-NYA 2SG AV-seek alternative REL more natural 'You should look for an alternative natural medicine.'

In example (29) below, the subject is first-person plural. This sentence follows the construction of the original text: *Namun tentu saja, kita harus selektif memilihnya sebab banyak obat tradisional di pasaran yang sudah dicampur dengan bahan-bahan kimia berbahaya*. 'However, we obviously must select it with care, because many of the traditional drugs already on the market are laced with dangerous chemicals'. This sentence contains the auxiliary verb *harus* 'have to', which denotes obligatory modality, meaning that the following sentence (29), which contains *juga* 'also', must also be

interpreted as having an obligatory meaning in the same manner.

(29) berkonsultasi terlebih dahulu kepada Ada baik-nya juga, kita exist good-NYA also 1PL.INC consult first previously to dokter atau ahli untuk memastikan bahwa obat tanaman obat doctor or expert plant AV.verifv CONJ medicine medicine to peroleh aman untuk di-konsumsi. tradisional yang kita traditional REL 1PL.INC get UV-consume safe to 'To ensure that the traditional medicines we've been using are safe to drink, we need to consult a doctor or herbalist.'

Likewise, the sentence with a first-person subject adopts the nuance of giving oneself advice, as in (30).

(30)Sebelum saya men-jawab pertanyaan anda, ada baik-nya sava question before 1sg AV-answer 2sg exist good-NYA 1sg men-jelaskan dulu hukum seputar harta bersama. AV-explain past law about assets together 'Before answering the question, I'd better talk to you about the laws regarding property.'

The example (30) is a statement about explaining the law before answering a question, followed by a detailed explanation. The fact that there is a detailed explanation immediately after the sentence indicates that the *ada baiknya X* sentence not only mentions whether the action is good or bad, but also encourages the writer to do the action.

Care should be taken when the subject is an inanimate third person. In this case, all the examples in the corpus are undergoer voice sentences with the prefix *di*- attached to the verb. The undergoer voice in Indonesian (c.f. footnote 7), unlike the English passive voice, has a distinct agent.

(31) *Di atas meja ada kue, silakan di-makan nanti.* in on table exist cake please UV-eat later 'Please eat the snacks on your desk later.'

(Sakon 2020: 415)

The reason that the undergoer voice is used in (31) is not to indicate that the food was eaten by someone but rather to indicate that the cake is the focus of the conversation, and the agent, clearly present, is the hearer in this case. The same is true for many *ada baiknya* X constructions, as in (32).

tersebut hanya terdiri Dia menyarankan, kalau sekiranya dalam rumah (32)3SG AV. advice if in.case house be.built in that only dari satu kamar, ada baik-nya pemisahan di-lakukan meng-gunakan room exist good-NYA segmentation UV-do from one AV-use sederhana. sekat pemisah partition partition simple 'He advised that if there was only one room in the house, you should divide the room by a simple partition.'

This is a quote from a blog. In this case, it is the readers who are to perform *pemisahan* 'segmentation'. As is evident with the verb *menyarankan* 'advise', this can be captured as an advisory expression by which *dia* '3SG' counsels readers. However, not all examples can be judged in this manner, and some are blurred in distinction between having an advisory function or indicating a general tendency, as in (33).

(33) Ada baik-nya layout kamar mandi di-rancang se-sederhana mungkin. exist good-NYA layout room shower UV-design same-simple possible 'It is a good idea to keep the design of a shower room as simple as possible.'

Furthermore, when the subject is not explicitly stated in the agent voice, two interpretations can be observed: *ada baiknya* X can indicate a general tendency (34) or else encourage the hearer to act (35).

- (34) Untuk me-mulai kajian vang lebih luas berkaitan dengan iitihad AV-start more broad relate to research REL with ijtihad khusus, ada baik-nya kalau kembali me-lihat pikiran inti makna meaning special exist good-NYA if again AV-see thought core dari ijtihad makna khusus ini. from ijtihad meaning special this 'In order to start more comprehensive research on *ijtihad* as a special meaning, it is a good idea to consider a central idea with *ijtihad* as a special meaning. '
- (35) Ada baik-nya me-lakukan pemeriksaan pada kendaraan khusus-nya exist good-NYA AV-do inspection on vehicle special-NYA mobil yang di-gunakan.
 car REL UV-use
 'It is necessary to inspect the special car which has been used.' (medcom.id)

These differences are determined by the context. The sentence (35) is followed by the sentences *Pemeriksaan mobil usai melakukan perjalanan memang sangat dibutuhkan* 'The car which has traveled (a long distance) needs to be inspected' and *ada juga beberapa bagian menjadi bermasalah* 'there are several (automobile) parts that cause problems'. Judging from the context, the sentence (35) is not only advice but also a strong caution, which represents 'if you don't inspect your car, you will have problems'.

Such implication of strong urgency clearly arises when *ada baiknya* co-occurs with negatives.

(36) Sama seperti diet untuk menurunkan berat, me-naikkan berat badan same like diet to AV.reduce weight AV-increase weight body pun ada baik-nya tidak di-lakukan dengan sembarang. also exist good-NYA NEG UV-do with at.random 'Just like when you lose weight, you had better not randomly put on weight.' (liputan6)

This sentence does not mean 'when you don't do something randomly, it is a good thing'. It is followed by *jangan hanya mengonsumsi lemak serta kalori dalam jumlah banyak, pertimbangkan juga lemak dan kalori jenis apa yang masuk ke tubuh* 'Don't count only how much oil and calories you have taken. Consider what kind of oil and calories you have taken'. The words *jangan* 'must not' and *pertimbangkan*, an imperative form of *mempertimbangkan* 'consider', suggest that these sentences wholly give a warning to those who try to gain weight. Therefore, *ada baiknya tidak V* in (36) is interpreted as a prohibition, 'Don't do V', rather than merely giving advice. In summary, it is found that *ada baiknya X* has several uses, including advice, caution, and prohibition.

5. *Ada baiknya X* as an idiom

This section investigates the status of *ada baiknya X* as an idiom based on the criteria in (6), focusing on morphosyntactic irregularity, semantic non-compositionality, and idiosyncratic constraints, which can be analyzed qualitatively (Otani 2018).

5.1 Morphosyntactic irregularities

Based on the behavior described in the previous section, the expression *ada baiknya* X deviates morphosyntactically from a canonical pattern in Indonesian. First, the constituent X is a subject-predicate or a predicate as in (22).

(37)(=(22)) Karena itu, ada baik-nya meng-hindari keramaian. because that exist good-NYA AV-avoid crowd 'Because of it, it is better to avoid the crowd.'

There are two possible morphosyntactic interpretations of this sentence. The first interpretation is that *-nya* is a nominalizer as well as a definite marker. The *-nya* is attached to the adjective *baik* to form *baiknya*. In addition, *-nya* is a definite marker, because it refers indirectly to the affair illustrated by the following verb phrase, *menghindari keramaian* 'avoid the crowd'. In this interpretation, *ada* serves as a presentational verb (9a). From this analysis, this sentence may have a literal meaning, such as 'Avoiding the crowd is a good thing', and its structure can be considered as below.

(38) presentational Ada [Th baik-nya menghindari keramaian].

However, this is not the case. If the above analysis is correct, the phrase *baiknya menghindari keramaian* is a noun phrase and can be expected to appear in other environments such as subject (39) or prepositional phrase (40), but this cannot occur.

- (39) ?Baik-nya meng-hindari keramaian belum di-ketahui oleh masyarakat. good-NYA AV-avoid crowd yet UV-know by people 'The effectiveness of avoiding crowds has yet to be known by the populace.'
- (40) ?Para ahli setuju tentang baik-nya meng-hindari keramaian.
 PL expert agree about good-NYA AV-avoid crowd
 'Experts agree on the effectiveness of avoiding crowds.'

This is because the use of *baiknya* is not accepted unless it is clearly stated what exactly is "good". In (41) below, if we don't specify what is good about the movie, in this case *kualitas* 'quality', the acceptability is lowered.

(41) Saya terkagum-kagum oleh baik-nya ?(kualitas) film itu. 1SG be.impressed by good-NYA quality film that 'I was impressed by the quality of that film.'

This is also supported by the results of the corpus survey. There are 434 tokens of *baiknya* in MALINDO Conc. Other than *ada baiknya X* sentences, almost all of them are idiomatic phrases, such as the exclamatory sentence *alangkah/begitu/betapa baiknya X* 'How good X is (!)'; a positive degree phrase *sama baiknya dengan X* 'It is as good as X'; and *semakin baiknya* 'it gets better', which is equivalent to the so-called *the X-er, the Y-er* construction. The next most common example is the case where *-nya* as a definite marker follows a noun phrase containing *baik*, such as *berita baiknya* 'the good news'. In this corpus, there were only two instances where *baiknya* was used purely in the sense of "goodness". From the above, it is unlikely that the phrase *menghindari keramaian* modifies *baiknya*, and the first interpretation is difficult to make. The second interpretation is that (37) is a possessive sentence. In other words, the verb *ada* functions as a possessive verb, like (9c), and the suffix *-nya* is a possessive pronoun. Therefore, (37) may be interpreted literally as 'To avoid the crowd has its advantage'. This analysis is illustrated below.

(42) possessive Ada [Th baik-nyai] [Loc menghindari keramaian]i.

However, the ada possessive sentence has the syntactic restriction that a locative

argument is not located in post-predicate position, and the expression *ada baiknya X* violates this restriction. Therefore, *ada baiknya X* is not a subclass of *ada* possessive sentences.

The fact that *ada baiknya* X is syntactically irregular is also supported by the following three features. First, if a co-occurring phrase is an adverbial clause, *ada baiknya* is also said to have a syntactic irregularity. Examples (43a) and (43b) illustrate that a *jika* conditional clause cannot be located at the beginning of a sentence, though it is an adverbial phrase.

- (43) a. *Ada baik-nya jika kita mengenal lokasi memancing ikan.* exist good-NYA if 1PL.INC AV.know location AV.fishing fish 'It is good to know the location for fishing.'
 - b.**Jika kita mengenal lokasi memancing ikan, ada baik-nya.* if 1PL AV.know location AV.fishing fish exist good-NYA intended meaning: 'If we know the location for fishing, it is good.'

In addition to this, *ada baiknya X* displays unique behavior that canonical *ada* sentences cannot. As shown in (44) below, *ada* does not have to be expressed.¹¹

(44) (*Ada*) baik-nya berpikir ulang. exist good-NYA think repeat 'It is better to think it over.'

Furthermore, there is a restriction on the position of negatives. Normally, as in (9c), *ada* can be negated with the negation *tidak*. However, sentences (45a) and (45b) illustrate that if we want to negate the sentence, we must negate the following phrase.

- (45) a. ?*Tidak ada baik-nya kita mengenal lokasi memancing ikan.* NEG exist good-NYA 1PL.INC AV.know location AV.fishing fish intended meaning: 'You had better not know the location for fishing.'
 - b.*Ada baik-nya kita tidak mengenal lokasi memancing ikan.* exist good-NYA 1PL.INC NEG AV.know location AV.fishing fish 'You had better not know the location for fishing.'

From the analysis above, it can be concluded that *ada baiknya X* deviates from the canonical morphosyntactic patterns in Indonesian.

5.2 Semantic non-compositionality

In section 4.3, it was shown that *ada baiknya X* expresses such meanings as advice, caution, and prohibition. These applications have pragmatic functions beyond their literal meanings. In other words, when speakers use *ada baiknya X*, they do not merely state a general tendency such as "it is beneficial" or "it is a good idea", but they also urge a hearer to take actions by their utterance. Furthermore, in the case of prohibition, the meaning of the component word is often lost.

¹¹ From this, it may be possible that -nya could be interpreted as an epistemic marker (cf. (19)). However, as this function has not yet been analyzed accurately, this interpretation is a topic for future study.

(46)(=(36)) Sama seperti diet untuk menurunkan berat, me-naikkan berat same like diet to AV.reduce weight AV-increase weight badan pun ada baik-nya tidak di-lakukan dengan sembarang. body also exist good-NYA NEG UV-do with at.random 'Just like when you lose weight, you had better not randomly put on weight.'

In (46) above, the literal interpretation is 'If you don't do the weight gain randomly, it would be good'. However, as stated above, this sentence represents a prohibition rather than giving advice. From this, it can be said that there is a gap between the literal meaning and the actual meaning. Example (47) also illustrates that *ada baiknya X* does not have semantic compositionality. This phrase expresses nearly the same meaning with the conjunction *jika* 'if' as without it.

(47) Saat mengunjungi Korea Selatan, when AV.visit Korea South ada baik-nya jika tidak me-mainkan game online. exist good-NYA if NEG AV-play game online 'When you are in South Korea, you had better not play video games.'(tribunnews)

In this sentence, the speaker not only encourages those who visit South Korea not to play video games but prohibits them from doing so. This interpretation reflects the following sentence: *Sebab pemerintah telah melarang anak-anak berusia di bawah 16 tahun bermain video game secara online* 'It is because the government has prohibited children under 16 from playing video games'. In this interpretation, the meaning of *jika* 'if' is not expressed. Hence, we see that the compositional meaning has been lost. Additionally, this non-compositionality is particularly evident in the case where *ada baiknya* co-occurs with *jangan* 'must not'. In (48), the literal meaning of *ada baiknya* is almost ignored.

(48) Ada baik-nya jangan terlalu sering minum obat anti exist good-NYA do.not too frequently drink medicine anti migrain atau sakit kepala.
migraine or ache head
'Do not take migraine or headache medicine too frequently.'

In this section, we have seen that the meanings frequently conveyed in *ada baiknya X*, such as advice, caution, and prohibition, are beyond their lexical meanings in that they include pragmatic reasoning and that semantic compositionality disappears mainly while expressing prohibition.

5.3 Idiosyncratic constraints

This section insists that *ada baiknya X* has idiosyncratic constraints that cannot be reduced to properties of its component parts. The constraints are summarized in (49).

(49) an action denoted by X must be performed/completed by someone

The constraint (49) means that X in *ada baiknya* X must denote an action performed by someone, especially a hearer. For example, (50) below is not fully acceptable because what is denoted by X is not the action of a human.

(50) ?*Ada baik-nya tidak hujan besok.* exist good-NYA NEG rain tomorrow intended meaning: 'I hope it does not rain tomorrow.'

If the X is changed as below, although X is still not an action, its acceptability increases.

(51) Ada baik-nya makanan-nya lebih banyak. exist good-NYA food-NYA more many 'I hope there is more food (for someone).'

This increase in acceptability results from the illocutionary force characterizing the sentence. When the hearer hears this sentence, he or she may infer an instruction from the speaker to bring more food. In this connection, sentence (52) is a type of poetic expression, because *hujan* 'rain' is regarded as a human under this restriction.

(52) Ada baik-nya hujan tak segera berhenti sekarang. exist good-NYA rain NEG immediately stop now 'The rain shouldn't stop immediately.'

5.4 Discussion

This paper has revealed that *ada baiknya X* displays morphosyntactic irregularities, semantic non-compositionality, and other idiosyncratic constraints. These facts indicate that *ada baiknya X* is an idiomatic expression. The following discusses how it is stored in the speaker's knowledge base.

First, in Section 5.1, we saw that *ada baiknya X* cannot be analyzed by means of canonical Indonesian grammar, suggesting that the phrase is retained in the speaker's knowledge as an indivisible unit. In other words, Indonesian speakers use the phrase ada baiknva X, not by combining the component parts and utilizing canonical Indonesian grammar, but by gleaning it directly from stored knowledge. Second, Section 5.2 revealed that the meaning of ada baiknya X, especially the applications of prohibition, does not match the literal meaning. This can be determined to be the result of pragmatic inference and the establishment of its function as a speech act (Austin 1962). In other words, the entrenchment of pragmatic meaning allows speakers to link form and meaning directly and disregard the meaning of component parts. Regarding the degree to which such meanings are entrenched, in Section 4.3, we saw that there is a bias in the person of the subject of the subsequent clause. As mentioned in that section, the meaning of ada baiknya X varies depending on the subject of the subsequent clause. Therefore, by examining this subject, we can get an approximate idea of the distribution of meanings. Since there are 44 cases of "ambiguous", it is not possible to provide an exact number. However, 58 percent of the cases are in the first and second person, which imply meanings of advice, caution, and prohibition. Given that there are examples such as (32), (35), and (36), which imply these meanings even when the subject is in the third person or zero, it is reasonable to say that these applications account for a large proportion of the total and that the central meaning of *ada baiknya X* is advice, caution, and prohibition in terms of frequency. In fact, several consultants also have the impression that ada baiknya X is a phrase that makes some kind of request. Furthermore, this establishment of pragmatic meanings is supported by the constraint explained in Section 5.3: an action denoted by the following phrase must be performed by someone. Since speakers perceive ada baiknya X as representing a speech act, they consider a phrase X after ada baiknya as denoting an action performed by a hearer. Therefore, as in (51), if X is not an action, the entire sentence will be re-interpreted as a sentence having illocutionary force. This claim is also supported by the fact that *ada baiknva* can co-occur with *jangan* 'must not', as in (48). In the previous section, we saw that *ada baiknya* co-occurs with a strong prohibition and that the literal meaning of ada baiknya is almost ignored. This fact also indicates that speakers recognize ada baiknya X as a phrase that urges the hearer to act without paying attention to the component parts. From this, this paper insists that Indonesian speakers memorize this phrase as a form-meaning unit, as illustrated in (53), and extract it directly from their lexicon at the time of utterance.

(53)[ada baiknya X]form=[ADVICE, CAUTION, PROHIBITION(ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE)]meaning

There are two possible problems with this model. The first is that applications such as advice are not often observed in the case of third-person subjects or some undergoer voice sentences (cf. section 4.3). However, this coexistence of multiple meanings in one construction is common, and one meaning does not exclude another. Bybee (2010: 174–176) takes the example of *will* in English to explain the retention of its meanings. From a diachronic point of view, *will* is said to have undergone the following changes in meaning:

(54) Intention > Prediction > Future Tense

In the present usage, the central meaning of the word is to mark the future tense. However, the central meaning does not preclude other meanings. Even today, it is sometimes used in the sense of intention. This argument could be applied to *ada baiknya X* as well. This paper argues that the central meanings of *ada baiknya X* are advice, caution, and prohibition, but this does not exclude a literal meaning in the case of third person usage. The second problem is the possibility that the knowledge the speakers has is only the lexical meaning of *ada baiknya X*, and meanings such as advice are secondary occurrences. However, this paper still argues that these meanings are not literal. As for prohibition, confirmed in section 5.2 above, there is semantic non-compositionality, which suggests that the speakers perceive the phrase as a coherent unit. In terms of advice and caution, some may suggest that these applications are relatively compositional in meaning and that there is no need to consider them as idiomatic. However, if this phrase had only a literal meaning, then an example like (50) would be acceptable. Therefore, it would be more reasonable to think of advice and caution as directly connected to the form rather than as secondary functions.

6. Conclusion and outlook

The Indonesian language includes various idioms. However, previous scholarship has not given much attention to the productive idioms seemingly developed by combining words following grammatical rules. This paper described *ada baiknya X* using a corpus and tested whether *ada baiknya X* has unique characteristics both semantically and morphosyntactically based on criteria suggested by Hilpert (2014). Consequently, it was shown that *ada baiknya X* meets three qualitative requirements of a productive idiom and that Indonesian speakers have linguistic knowledge such as [[*ada baiknya X*]_{form} = [ADVICE, CAUTION, PROHIBITION (ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE)]_{meaning}].

This study can be further developed in three directions. First, although idioms seem to be a relatively fixed customary expression, they do not necessarily exist as independent knowledge. Namely, the study of idioms can illustrate an organic connection between linguistic forms that cannot be captured only by grammatical rules and abstract generalizations. With respect to *ada baiknya*, in Section 4.2 we observed the pattern of *ada baiknya* following noun phrases and appearing alone. Although this paper treated these as exceptions, it is quite possible that they are related to other similar constructions, such as (*NP*) *ada Noun-nya*. The position of "Noun" in this construction can be filled with various words such as *arti* 'meaning', *guna* 'use', and *batas* 'restriction', resulting in a sentence like (55).

(55) *Tanpa visi, kepemimpinan tidak ada arti-nya.* without vision leadership NEG exist meaning-NYA 'Without a vision, leadership is meaningless.' Therefore, it is assumed that (*NP*) ada baiknya is formed by analogy with this construction. However, this is a subject for future analysis, because a comprehensive description of (*NP*) ada Noun-nya and diachronic analysis are required to confirm this hypothesis. Second, in addition to language descriptions, the finding is closely related to second language acquisition because this approach clarifies what one must know to use certain phrases. In the case of ada baiknya X, simply knowing what the component parts mean does not mean we can use it. This paper clarified that, in order to use this phrase, we must know the pairings of forms and meanings and the constraints. Therefore, by applying this idea to various other phenomena, especially grammatical categories such as affixes, it will be possible to create a systematic list that Indonesian learners must remember in addition to the basic rules. Finally, this paper has shown that ada baiknya X meets at least three criteria for a construction. However, since this paper has focused on a qualitative analysis, quantitative criteria were not considered. For a more accurate analysis of this phrase, it is essential to examine collocational preferences (Stefanowitsch & Gries 2003), that is, which words tend to be associated with the phrase.

Abbreviations

1	first person	2	second person
3	third person	ADVL	adverbializer
AV	actor voice	CL	classifier
CONJ	conjunction	DEM	demonstrative
DEF	definite marker	INC	inclusive
Loc	locative	NEG	negation
NMLZ	nominalizer	NP	noun phrase
NYA	suffix -nya	PL	plural
POSS	possessive	REL	relativizer
SG	singular	Th	theme
UV	undergoer voice		

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