

# Nominalization in Indonesian

Ekarina Winarto  
Cornell University



## Nominalizations

- Indonesian has two basic patterns of low nominalization:  $\sqrt{P}$  lexical nominalization (suffix -an in a, c) and the slightly higher event nominalization (circumfix per-...-an and peN-...-an in b, d):

	RootP	Low Nominalization	High Nominalization
(1)	dagang 'to sell'	a. dagang-an 'things that one sells'	b. per-dagang-an 'commerce'
	pajang 'to display'	c. pajang-an 'decoration'	d. pem-ajang-an 'the decorating'

- Low locus of nominalization with -an is shown in (3) where objects are disallowed.
- Nominalizations with circumfixal peN-...-an can take objects (2).
- Per/N-...-an must nominalize above vP, in order to case-license the object.

- (2) *Pen-ulis-an cerpen (oleh John) sudah NML-write-NML short.stories by John PRF ditunggu-tunggu banyak penggemar -nya.*  
PERF.wait many fans his  
'John's writing short stories has been anticipated eagerly for years by his fans.'
- (3) \* *Tulis-an buku saya sangat baik.*  
writing-NML book my very good  
Intended: My writing a book is very good.

## Event Nominalization and Voice

- The distribution of the circumfixes per/N-...-an mirrors the distribution of the verbal voice morphemes ber- and meN- (Sneddon 1996).
- When verbs can take either the ber- or meN- prefix the nominal formed by per-...-an is clearly a nominalization of the ber- marked verb (4)
- Nominals formed with peN-...-an are clearly nominalizations of the meN- marked verb (5).

- (4) *per-buat-an* 'the doing'  
*Saya harus ber-buat baik supaya masuk surga.*  
I must do well so that enter heaven  
'I must do good things so that I can go to heaven.'
- (5) *pem-buat-an* 'the doing'  
*Saya harus mem-buat PR untuk kelas Matematika*  
I must do homework for class Math  
'I must do some homework for my Math class'

## Summary

In this paper, I analyze a set of interesting nominalization data in Indonesian that at first sight seem to counterexemplify the Functional Nominal Hypothesis (FNH) (Borsley and Kornfilt 2000); I will argue that the FNH can be maintained, but requires positing a nominal Voice projection. Nominal VoiceP immediately dominates n, the nominal category-fixing projection (Harley 2013).

## Per/N-...-an = VoiceP nominalization?

- A straightforward way of analyzing these data would be to posit that event nominalization in Indonesian involves the introduction of a nominal head above the VoiceP projection (Alexiadou 2013)
- However, the nominalizing circumfixes can never co-occur with the applicative suffix -kan; nor can they co-occur with the verbal voice morphemes meN- and ber-.

Verb	Nominalized Forms
(6) <i>mem-berikan</i> 'to give + APPL'	<i>pem-beri-an</i> 'gifting' * <i>peN-meN-beri-an</i> * <i>peN-beri-kan-an</i>

## Per/N-...-an = Lower than VoiceP

- The fact in (6) would be puzzling if per/N-...-an were merged above verbal VoiceP.
  - Not just the applicative suffix -kan, but applicative syntax (promotion of the indirect object or instrument to a core argument position (7)) is disallowed in per/N-...-an nominalizations (8):
- (7) *Ali memukul-kan kayu ke anjing itu*  
Ali hit.APPL wood to dog that  
'Ali hit the dog with a piece of wood'
- (8) \* *Pem-ukul-an kayu ke anjing itu.*  
NML-hitting-NML wood to dog that  
Intended; 'The hitting of that dog with a piece of wood'

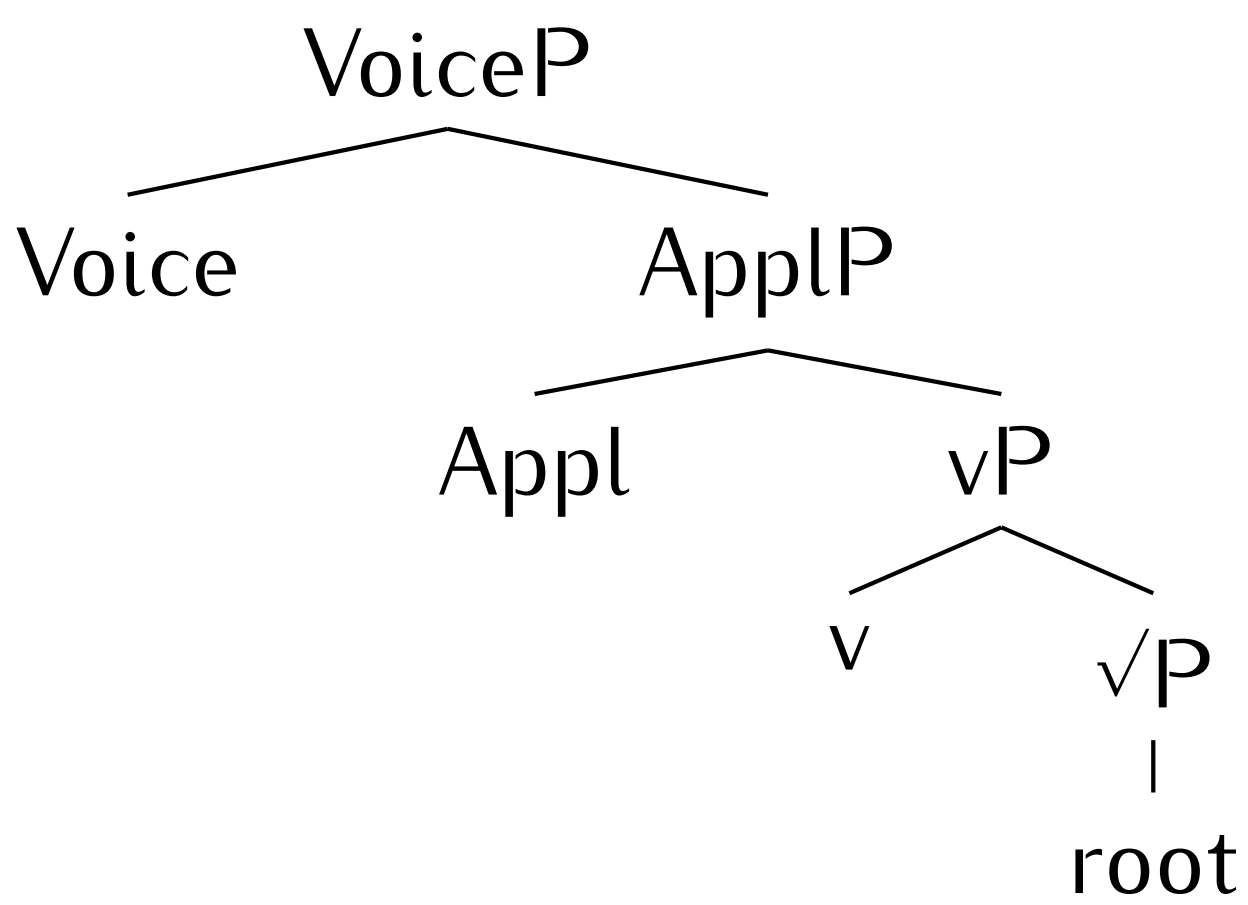
## Acknowledgements

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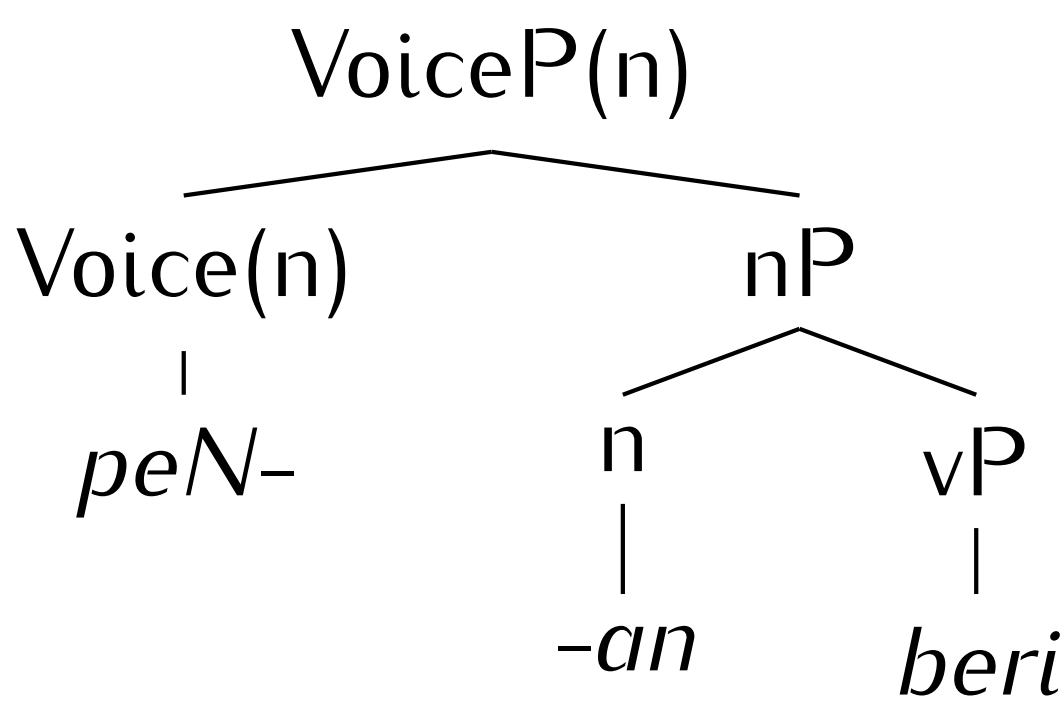
## Proposal

- I posit that event nominalization in Indonesian is triggered below the Applicative Phrase projection by suffixation of -an directly above vP.
- I assume Harley (2013) verbal decomposition (9).
- I then analyze the per-/peN- prefixal component of the event nominalizing circumfix that co-occurs with -an as a nominal Voice head selecting nP (10).
- This account explains the allomorphy between: per-/peN and meN-/ber-; the latter occur in the verbal domain, the former in the nominal domain.
- This also explains the inability of the applicative to occur in per-/peN- event nominalizations, as applicative -kan does not select nP.

(9) Harley's 2013 structure for verbal decomposition



(10) Derivation of the event nominal *pemberian* 'gifting'



- The data in Indonesian show that the FNH can be maintained if we allow for the existence of a nominal VoiceP projection (VoiceP(n)).
- More importantly, it shows that the inventory of nominal counterparts of verbal functional projections extends beyond n to a nominal counterpart of VoiceP.

## Selected References

- Alexiadou, A. (2013). Nominal vs. verbal-ing constructions and the development of the english progressive. Borsley, R. D. and Kornfilt, J. (2000). Mixed extended projections. Harley, H. (2013). External arguments and the mirror principle: On the distinctness of voice and v.
- Contact info:** ew385@cornell.edu