

VERB FEATURE DIFFERENCES IN INDONESIAN AND ENGLISH IMPERATIVE SENTENCES: A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS STUDY

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Abstract

This study contrasted verb features that exist in Indonesian and English imperative sentences. The contrastive analysis is used to make the second language or foreign language learners understand more easily on the target language being learnt. In this case, the study tried to contrast Indonesian language as L1 and English as L2. The data that were used in this study were taken from two sources; Indonesian and English Grammar. The grammar was sorted specifically only on imperative sentences that were collected through attentive observation method and is continued by note-taking technique. Hence, some imperative sentences that were collected were then be analyzed by comparing language units with determining tools in form of comparative relationship between all determining elements that are relevant with all the determined language units. The result revealed that there were some similarities and differences in the verb features of Indonesian and English imperative sentences. Both Indonesian and English mostly use base verb to form imperative sentences, in some cases, they also use suffixes. Also, they attach marker words to form negative and to soften the imperative sentence. On the contrary, some contrasts were found in the existence of passive form, the use of suffixes, the distribution of some markers, the use of auxiliary verbs, and the existence of inversion form.

Keywords: *Contrastive Study, English, Imperative sentences, Indonesian, Verb Features*

INTRODUCTION

In this globalization era, the countries in the world that already have their own language is obliged to learn English as International language. It is intended so that the nations in the world can communicate with each other. However, every language has similarities and differences especially in terms of language rules or grammar in each language.

Similarities and differences between first language (L1) or mother tongue and second language (L2) or target language (TL) that are being learnt will definitely influence each other. Similarities between L1 language and target language (TL) do not cause difficulties for the learners who are learning a different language. On the other hand, differences in L1 and TL can create difficulties for learners that result

in a mistake in using language. Brown (1987: 172) contended that one of the causes of mistakes is interlingual transfer, that is transfer of first language elements or mother tongue into second language or language that is being learnt by the students. Thus, in the learning process, first language interference into second language often happen due to habitual use of first language's forms into the language being learnt.

In learning a language, learning grammatical rules to form sentences has a significant role. It is because when delivering something, the use of sentences is unavoidable. In language, sentences can be in form of declarative, interrogative, and imperative. This research focuses on imperative sentences focusing on verb features. The supporting constituents of the verb features where the language reference points are contrasted between Indonesian and English.

The construction of imperative sentences in English is surely different from imperative sentences in Indonesian. Indonesian and English come from different language families. This difference, in fact, creates difficulties and obstacles for English learners in Indonesia especially in producing imperative sentences.

In order to avoid learning

difficulties that occur in Indonesian learners in learning English, contrastive analysis is required in these two languages. Therefore, this research attempted to analyze and to identify similarities and differences in imperative sentences in both Indonesian and English.

METHOD

The study that was taken in this research was written study so that the method applied in this research was attentive observation (*simak*) method that was continued with note (*catat*) technique. It is in line with what was contended by Sudaryanto (1983: 133-136) that data collection from written sources is done through attentive observation (*simak*) method and is continued with note (*catat*) technique. Written resources that was used in this research were Indonesian and English grammar books, such as *Tata Bahasa Indonesia: Penggolongan Kataby Ramlan*, and *A University Grammar of English* by Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum.

After the data were collected, the next step was data analysis. In analyzing the data of this research, this research applied *hubung banding* technique, which is data analysis technique that is done by contrasting language units that are being analyzed with determining tools in form of

comparative relationship between all determining elements that are relevant with all the determined language units (Kesuma, 2007: 53). The data was classified by using contrastive approach to find out similarities and differences between imperative sentences in Indonesian language and English. Data analysis method that was used in this research was distributional method and identifying method. Distributional method is an analysis method in which the determining tools are in and are parts of the language being investigated (Sudaryanto, 1993: 15). Imperative languages in Indonesian language and English were then compared by using identifying method. Identifying method is a method/way that is used as an attempt to find language rules in data analysis stage in which the determining tools are outside of and are not parts of the investigated language (Sudaryanto, 1993: 15). Identifying method that was used in this research was translational identifying method in which the determining tool is other language(s).

The results of this research are differences and similarities between Indonesian and English sentences. Therefore, it is hoped that the results can be used to make mastery and learning of English easier.

DISCUSSION

In language teaching, contrastive analysis is considered highly essential. By comparing language being learnt with the language possessed by the students, the language patterns that can create difficulties in learning target language can be predicted and described. In contrasting process between languages, the first language's phrase will then be compared with second language's phrase, including the basic pattern of core sentence of L1 and BT.

Before analyzing the data, imperative sentences in English and Indonesian will be briefly explained.

Imperative Sentences

Keraf in Rahadi (2005: 2) defines imperative sentence in Indonesian as a sentence that is used to make other people do something according to the delivered statement. Imperative sentence in Indonesian language is also marked with the existence of additional constituents that can function as softening, for example: *Silakan masuk* (Please come in!). The word *silakan* (please) here functions to soften imperative sentence from '*masuk (come in)!*'. If the word *silakan* (please) is deleted from that imperative sentence, that sentence sounds unpolite. Based on the structure, Ramlan (2005: 39-

40) divides imperative into four types, such as: genuine imperative sentence, invitation sentence, and prohibition sentence.

The definition of imperative sentence in English, George O. Curme in his book entitled *English Grammar* (1966: 97) stated that “we usually employ simple imperative in commands, admonitions, and requests.” In other words, we usually use imperative sentence when giving order, warning, and request. In line with what was stated by Quirk and Greenbaum (1983: 200-202), he also divided imperative sentences in English into three groups, such as *commands*(perintah), *negative commands* (*prohibition*) (larangan), and *persuasive imperatives*(ajakan).

Imperative Sentence Characteristics

There are some characteristics of imperative sentence in Indonesian language and English. Alwi (2003: 353-354) contended that imperative sentence in Indonesian language has the formal characteristics as follows.

1. Intonation that is marked with low tone in the end of the speech;
2. The use of defining particle;
3. Softening and order words of invitation, hope, request and prohibition;
4. Inverse order so that the order is not always revealed predicate-subject, if required;

5. The performer of act is not always revealed.

Whereas the characteristics of imperative sentence in English, Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 200) stated that the general feature of English imperative sentence is: it has no subject and it has an imperative finite verb.

After describing the definition and the characteristics of imperative sentences in Indonesian and English, in the data below there will be presented some data of imperative sentences in Indonesian and English.

Table 1. Data Collection of Indonesian Imperative Sentences.

No.	Indonesian Imperative Sentences
1.	<i>Silahkan masuk!</i>
2.	<i>Tolong buka pintunya! Harap datang tepat waktu! Tolong sampah itu dibuang! Ambillah uang ini!</i>
3.	<i>Ayolah senam pagi setiap hari agar badan kita menjadi sehat!</i>
4.	<i>Jangan dikerjakan!</i> <i>Loncat!</i>
5.	<i>Jangan dibanting!</i> <i>Cobalah parfum ini! Masuklah</i>
6.	<i>dengan tenang!</i>

The data show that imperative sentence in Indonesian language has various forms. Before the data were analyzed, some data of English imperative sentences are presented in the table 2

Table 2. Data Collection of

English Imperative Sentences

No.	English Imperative Sentences
1.	<i>Leave the key at the door!</i>
2.	<i>Hurry up! Be quiet!</i>
3.	<i>No smoking!</i>
4.	<i>Don't be lazy!</i>
5.	<i>Show me your true love, please! Let's take a walk in a jungle! Don't do that!</i> <i>Jump!</i>
6.	<i>work harder!</i>
7.	<i>Please write with a good pen! Do it quietly!</i>

From the data above, the patterns of imperative sentences in Indonesian language are *Basic Verb*, *Verb + Adverbial Phrase*, *Verb + Nominal Phrase*, *Verb + Nominal + Adverbial*, *Verb + Prepositional Phrase*, and *Verb + Nominal + Prepositional Phrase*. Whereas the pattern in imperative sentence in English are *Basic Verb*, *Verb + Adverbial Phrase*, *Verb + Nominal Phrase*, *Verb + Nominal + Adverbial*, *Verb + Prepositional Phrase*. In both languages, there were also some signs. The signs that were found in Indonesian language is in form of suffixes – *lah* and –*kan* verb, (example: *ayo ayolah*, *mari marilah*, *maaf maafkan*, *tolong tolonglah*, *coba cobalah*, *jangan janganlah*). However, the addition of suffixes is not available in

the entire Indonesian imperative sentences absolutely and not every suffix of –*lah* and –*kan* marks imperative sentences. The development in other forms that is possible in the formation of Indonesian imperative sentences.

Indonesian: *Coba!*

Coba

lah!

Cobalah parfum ini!

Tolong, cobalah

parfum ini!

Ayolah

dicoba!

Jangan

dicoba!

Jangan coba-

coba!

Whereas if they are translated into English, the formation of imperative sentences in the word *coba* (try) have the following forms.

English : *Try!*

Please,

try!

Please, try this

parfume! Come on,

try it!

Don't

try!

Never ever try it!

In English, the marks can be in form of the words such as *do not*, *let's not*, dan *please*. Additionally, in Indonesian, imperative sentence can be in form of passive sentence such as *Jangan dibanting (Don't throw down)!*. This sentence, if translated into English cannot be changed into **don't was beaten it!* However, it will be *don't throw down*. In the distribution of the marker of *tolong* in Indonesian and *please* in English is also different. In Indonesian, the word *tolong* can only be placed at the beginning of a sentence, example, *tolong ambikan air (please give me a glass of water)!* Cannot be **ambikan air tolong!*, whereas in English, the marker *please* can be distributed both at the beginning and at the end of a sentence such as *please, give me a glass of water!* or *give me a glass of water, please!*.

CONCLUSION

Based on the explanations that have been given in the discussion chapter, it can be concluded that there are some differences in Indonesian and English imperative sentences. The similarities and the differences among them are as follows.

Similarities

There are 3 similarities that have been found in this study. The similarities are the use of base verb; the use of marker words '*jangan*' and '*janganlah*' in Indonesian negative imperative sentence while in English, they also use marker words such as '*don't*' and '*let's not*' in forming negative imperative sentence; the use of the words '*tolong*', '*mohon*', '*coba*', '*harap*', and '*silakan*' in Indonesia and the word '*please*' in English to soften a command in form of imperative sentence.

Differences

The study also found some differences in verb features of imperative sentence in English and Indonesian. The differences found are as follow.

1. the existence of passive form in Indonesian that is unavailable in English;
2. there are some verb features that can be used in constructing imperative sentences in Indonesia, such as the use of base verb, the use of suffix *-lah*, and the use of suffix *-kan* in verb. Whereas in imperative sentences found in English, verb that is only applied is base verb or verb that is changed into nominal by adding suffix *-ing (gerund)* in negative imperative;
3. difference in the distribution of

the word 'tolong' in Indonesian and the distribution of the word 'please' in English imperative sentence;

4. the use of auxiliary verbs in the construction of English imperative sentences;
5. the existence of inversion form in Indonesian imperative sentences.

By acknowledging similarities and differences of Indonesian and English imperative sentences, it hoped to be able to reduce interference problems in imperative sentence in English language learning by Indonesian speakers.

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