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ARE THERE FLOATING QUANTIFIERS IN INDONESIAN?

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ARE THERE FLOATING QUANTIFIERS IN INDONESIAN?²

In this paper, I have shown that, in Indonesian, the floating of quantifiers is only possible with unaccusative predicates, but impossible with either unergative or transitive predicates. I suggest that the structures with floating quantifiers involve quantifier stranding: the NP is generated to the right of an unaccusative predicate, and, after that, the nominal head undergoes movement to the left periphery of the clause.

Keywords: floating quantifiers; Indonesian language; information structure; unaccusative predicates

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1. Introduction

This paper describes some previously undocumented properties of quantifier float in Indonesian.

Indonesian belongs to the Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian language family (Hammarström et al. 2020). In my work, I study the Standard Indonesian, which is the language that is “recognized as ‘standard’ by educated native speakers, documented in grammars and instructional materials, and attested in newspaper articles, novels, and other forms of written discourse” (Chung 2008: footnote 1).

My major sources of data are elicitation and the study of written texts found in Indonesian media or books. I have worked with two educated speakers of Indonesian, both with higher education and under the age of forty.

The main points to be made here are summarized below:

(i) what has previously been called ‘floating quantifiers’ is in fact right-dislocation in the sense of Ott (2017)

(ii) there are ‘genuine’ floating quantifiers in Indonesian, but their usage is restricted. They can only occur in clauses with **unaccusative** predicates and cannot occur with unergative or transitive predicates.

(iii) a possible explanation for this lies in the fact that the sole argument of unaccusatives is base-generated as VP-internal argument; when the quantifier float occurs, the noun is moved to the left periphery of the clause, where subjects/topics occur, but the quantifier remains *in situ*.

In Section 2, I consider the syntax of right-dislocation in Indonesian. In Section 3, I show that the floating of quantifiers is only possible with unaccusative predicates, and in Section 4, I sketch out a tentative account for the observed phenomena. Section 5 is a conclusion

2. “Floating quantifiers” are not always floating quantifiers

In floating quantifier constructions, the quantifiers are separated from the nominals over which they quantify (Cirillo 2012). For example, in the English sentence in (1), the quantifier *all* is separated by some clausal material from the NP it relates to, hence it is a floating quantifier.

(1) **The students** have **all** read the book.

(Cirillo 2012: ex.2)

The floating of quantifiers is widely attested in East Asian languages (see Shin 2017 on Korean, Kobuchi-Philip 2007 on Japanese, Jenks 2013a on Thai, Simpson 2011 on Burmese). Furthermore,

quantifiers may “float” in a number of Malayo-Polynesian languages, which are genealogically related to Indonesian. This is the case, for instance, in Balantak (van den Berg & Busenitz 2012: 60-61), *Tukang Besi* (Donohue 1999: 110), Nias (Brown 2001: sect. 8.5.2), Lamaholot (Nishiyama & Kelen 2007: 39-42). Some examples are given below (2-3).

In (2), an example from Balantak, the noun occurs clause-initially, while the universal quantifier *wiwi'na* ‘all’ follows the predicate.

(2) **Floating universal quantifier in Balantak**

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Minti-minti'i-na</i> | <i>wiwine</i> | <i>tia</i> | <i>utu-utus-na</i> | <i>k<um>aan-mo</i> |
| RED-elder-3S | woman | with | RED-sibling-3S | INTR-eat-PERF |

wiwi'na.

all

‘The woman’s parents and her siblings all eat.’

(van den Berg & Busenitz 2012: 61)

A parallel example from Nias is given in (3): here, the numerative complex *önö na=eu* ‘six LF=CLF’ is separated from the noun *mbaβi* ‘pig:MUT’ by the main clause predicate³.

(3) **Floating numerative complex in Nias**

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>önö</i> | <i>na=eu</i> | <i>i-fahö</i> | <i>mbaβi.</i> |
| six | LF=CLF | 3s.RLS-stab | pig:MUT |

‘He stabbed six pigs.’

(Brown 2001: 432)

Some authors have given examples of floating quantifiers in Indonesian as well (Jenks 2013b, Musgrave 2001). I suggest, however, that the constructions previously called ‘floating quantifiers’ are in fact instances of right-dislocation (in the sense of Ott 2017).

Jenks (2013b) gives an example of floating numerals. In (4), the numerative complex *tiga ekor* ‘three CLF’ is separated from the noun *sapi* ‘cow’ by an adverbial:

(4) **Floating numerals after Jenks (2013b)**

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>saya</i> | <i>beli</i> | <i>sapi</i> | <i>kemarin</i> | <i>tiga</i> | <i>ekor</i> |
| I | buy | cow | yesterday | three | CLF |

³ It seems that, in Nias, the quantifiers “float” to the left periphery of the clause, in contrast to floating quantifiers in English and other languages. The same holds for *Tukang Besi* (Donohue 1999: 110).

‘I bought three cows yesterday.’

(Jenks 2013b: 4)

Examples of that kind, however, are not licit for my consultants. According to them, one should make a pause (or put a comma) before the numerative complex. In other words, in Jenks’s sentence, the numerative complex is not in the same clause; hence, it cannot be treated as a floating quantifier. This is shown in (5): the sentence in (5a), which is identical to Jenks’s example, is illicit. In (5b), a pause is made before the numerative complex, and the sentence is fully grammatical.

(5) a.

* *saya beli sapi kemarin tiga ekor*

I buy cow yesterday three CLF

int. meaning: ‘I bought three cows yesterday.’

b.

saya beli sapi kemarin / tiga ekor

I buy cow yesterday two CLF

‘I bought cows yesterday; {in fact} three cows.’

The same holds for the examples given in Musgrave (2001). If the “floating quantifier” occurs in the same clause, the sentence is ungrammatical; however, if it occurs in a clause of its own, the sentence is licit.

For instance, in (6a) the quantifier *semua* ‘all’ is not adjacent to the noun it quantifies over, *hadiah* ‘present’, and the sentence is incorrect. However, if one makes a pause before the quantifier, the sentence becomes grammatical (6b).

(6) a.

* *saya mem-beri-nya hadiah itu dulu semua*

I ACT-give-3.POSS presentthat before all

int. meaning: ‘I gave her all the presents before.’

(marked as grammatical in Musgrave 2001: 175)

b.

^{ok} *saya mem-beri-nya hadiah itu dulu / semua*

I ACT-give-3.POSS presentthat before all

‘I gave her these presents; (in fact) all of them.’

Examples in (7) are similar: the noun is separated from the quantifier, and the sentence is ungrammatical unless the quantifier forms a separate intonation unit.

(7) a.
 * *saya memukul anak-anak itu kemarin semua-nya*
 I ACT:beat child~PL that yesterday all-3.POSS
 ‘I hit all the children yesterday.’
 (marked as grammatical in Musgrave (2001: 174))

b.
^{ok} *saya memukul anak-anak itu kemarin / semua-nya*
 I ACT:beat child~PL that yesterday all-3.POSS
 ‘I hit the children yesterday; (actually) all of them.’

I suggest that what has previously been called ‘quantifier float’ is in fact **right-dislocation**, since right-dislocated elements are extra-clausal (Ott 2017: 2). Furthermore, as can be seen from the examples above, the dislocated quantifiers introduce an afterthought, or additional information (*actually, all of them*), which is also characteristic of right-dislocation constructions (Ott 2017).

3. Quantifier float is only possible with unaccusatives

So far, I have suggested that the existing examples of quantifier float in fact involve extra-clausal (or right-dislocated) quantifiers. However, one can find some naturally occurring data with quantifiers that are separated from their nominal head. In this section, I consider such examples.

In (8a) the nominal *burung ini* ‘bird this’ is separated from the quantifier it associates with, *enam ekor* ‘six CLF’. Note that the quantifier (the numeral) occurs with a classifier, and that the classifier is optional. The same holds for (8b): the NP *udang purba itu* ‘shrimp ancient that’ is separated from the quantifier *dua ekor* ‘two CLF’ by the main clause predicate.

(8) a.
^{ok} *dan pada tahun 1998 di-lapor-kan burungini hanya*
 and in year 1998 PASS.3-report-APPL bird this only
 tinggal **enam (ekor)** saja
 remain six CLF only
 ‘... and in 1998 it was reported that only six (of) these birds are left.’
<http://ndobos.blogdrives.com/archive/270.html>

b.

^{ok} *udang purba itu tinggal dua (ekor)*

shrimp ancientthat remain two CLF

‘Only 2 (of those) shrimps are left.’

<https://sains.kompas.com/read/2013/06/17/09490266/Udang.Purba.Itu.Tinggal.Dua.Ekor>

In these sentences, the quantifier is in the same clause with the noun, since it forms a single intonation unit with the other clausal material. Furthermore, right-dislocating *enam ekor saja* ‘six CLF only’ renders the whole sentence illicit. For instance, in (9a), *enam ekor saja* ‘six CLF only’ is separated from the main clause by a pause, i.e. it is, by hypothesis, extra-clausal; but this sentence is awkward, since it means literally ‘these birds only LIVE; only SIX’. The same holds for the example in (9b): the numerative complex *dua ekor* ‘two CLF’ cannot be separated from the main clause by a pause, which suggests that it cannot be extra-clausal.

(9) a.

* *dan pada tahun 1998 di-lapor-kan burungini hanya*

and in year 1998 PASS.3-report-APPL bird that only

tinggal/ enam ekor saja

remain six CLF only

int. meaning: ‘... and in 1998 it was reported that only six (of) these birds are left.’

b.

* *udang purba itu tinggal/ dua ekor*

shrimp ancientthat remain two CLF

int. meaning: ‘Only 2 (of those) shrimps are left.’

In examples of this kind (with *tinggal* ‘remain’ or semantically similar predicates), the numerative complex may be substituted by other quantifiers. For instance, in (10), the NP is associated with *sedikit* ‘a few’, and in (11), the NP is associated with *beberapa* ‘some’.

(10) *udang purba itu tinggal sedikit*

shrimp ancient that remain a.few

‘A few of these ancient shrimps remain.’

(11) *udang purba itu tinggal beberapa*

shrimp ancient that remain some

‘Some of these ancient shrimps still remain.’

The predicate *tinggal* ‘remain’ has special lexical semantics: the quantity of the individuals quantified over should be below the norm. Consequently, this predicate is incompatible with quantifiers such as *banyak* ‘a lot’ or *semua* ‘all’. However, one can use *tersisa* ‘remain’ with *banyak* ‘a lot’, as in (12), or *masih hidup* ‘still live’ with *semua* ‘all’, as in (13).

(12) *udang purba itu masih tersisa banyak*
 shrimp ancientthat still remain a.lot
 ‘A lot of these ancient shrimps remain.’

(13) *udang purba itu masih hidup semua*
 shrimp ancientthat still live all
 ‘These ancient shrimps are still all alive.’

The data suggest that the quantifier float is licit in some sentences, but illicit in some others (see sect. 5.1 above). But what is the reason for this?

The emerging empirical generalization is that floating quantifiers are only possible with one-place **unaccusative** predicates (Perlmutter 1978).

According to Levin & Rappaport Hovav (1995), intransitive verbs can be either non-accusative or non-ergative. The difference between them lies in that unergative verbs have a subject but no object, while unaccusative verbs have an object and no subject at deep structure. The syntactic structure somehow correlates with semantics of the verbs: the verbs with an agentive subject are prototypically unergative (e.g. *sing*), while the verbs with a patient/experiencer subject are prototypically unaccusative. This correlation, however, is not a rule. Whether a verb is unaccusative or unergative in a given language is determined by language-particular diagnostics.

Vamarasi (1999: ch.3) has listed the unaccusative verbs in Indonesian (see also Nomoto 2006: 18). She used two diagnostics to detect the unaccusative verbs. First, the only argument of an unaccusative verb aligns with the object of a transitive clause derived from the same stem by the affix (*meN-...-kan*). The subject of an unergative verb, in contrast, patterns with the subject of the corresponding transitive clause. For instance, in (14b), when *tidur* ‘sleep’ is modified by the *meN-...-kan* circumfix, the former subject (cf. 14a) becomes a direct object. Hence, *tidur* ‘sleep’ is unaccusative.

(14) a.
Dia tidur di atas tikar.
 s/he sleep in top straw.mat
 ‘He sleeps on a straw mat.’

b.

Ibu men-(t)idur-kan anak-nya.
mother ACT-sleep-APPL child-3.POSS
'Mother put her child to sleep.'
(Vamarasi 1999: 28)

The verb *berpikir* 'think' is, in contrast, unergative, as this diagnostic suggests. If the stem *pikir* is combined with a *ber-* 'INTR-' affix, the resulting verb is intransitive, as in (15a); when it is combined with the *meN-...-kan* circumfix, the predicate is transitive, as in (15b). The agentive subject of an intransitive clause in (15a) is also an agentive subject of the corresponding transitive clause in (15b).

(15) a.

Dia ber-pikir lama sebelum mem-(p)ilih isteri.
s/he INTR-think long before ACT-choose wife
'He thought a long time before he chose a wife.'

b.

Saya mesti mem-(p)ikir-kan soal itu.
I must ACT-think-APPL problem that
'I must think about that problem.'

The second diagnostic is more problematic. It suggests that the base of unaccusative verbs can host the *peN-...-an* circumfix, which derives an event nominal. The stems of unergative verbs, in contrast, cannot combine with this circumfix. Still, there are exceptions to this rule (cf. Nomoto 2006: 18), as I show below.

The verb *tidur* 'sleep', for instance, can combine with *peN-...-an* affix, as the example in (16) shows. Hence, by this diagnostic, it is unaccusative as well.

(16) *tidur* -> *pen-idur-an*
sleep NMLZ-sleep-NMLZ
'to sleep' 'putting to bed'
(Stevens & Schmidgall-Tellings 2010)

The verb *pikir* 'think' is unergative according to the first diagnostic. Hence, according to Vamarasi (1999), it should be impossible to attach the *peN-...-an* affix to this verbal stem. This is, however, perfectly, possible, as is shown in (17) below:

- (17) *pikir* -> *pem-ikir-an*
 think NMLZ-think-NMLZ
 ‘to think’ ‘thinking’
 (Stevens & Schmidgall-Tellings 2010)

Consequently, I assume that there is only one working diagnostic for unaccusative verbs in Indonesian: the subject of an unaccusative verb aligns with the object of corresponding transitive verb.

Let us now return to the floating quantifiers. I suggest they are only licit with unaccusative predicates, and illicit with others.

The naturally-occurring examples involving the quantifier float contain *tinggal* ‘remain’, as in (8) above, which is, by Vamarasi’s (1999) diagnostic(s), an unaccusative verb (see the list in Nomoto 2006: 18). Hence, this example (repeated here as 18) supports my hypothesis.

- (18) *udang purba itu tinggal dua ekor*
 shrimp ancientthat remain two CLF
 ‘Only 2 (of those) shrimps are left.’
 <https://sains.kompas.com/read/2013/06/17/09490266/Udang.Purba.Itu.Tinggal.Dua.Ekor>

In (19), there is an instance of quantifier float as well: the quantifier *semua* ‘all’ is separated from the NP *Wawako dan pejabat lain* ‘vice.mayor and official other’. The predicate is *lari* ‘run’, which is, syntactically, unaccusative⁴.

- (19) *Wawako dan pejabat lain lari semua*
 vice.mayor and official other run all
 ‘Vice mayor and other officials all ran away’
 <https://www.batamnews.co.id/berita-25392-atap-panggung-mau-roboh-saat-penurunan-bendera-wawako-dan-undangan-lari-berhamburan.html>

⁴ This is proven by the following examples (i,ii). The subject of an intransitive clause (i) clearly patterns with a direct object of the corresponding transitive predicate (ii), not with its subject.

- (i) *dia lari ke rumah*
 he run to house
 ‘He ran to the house.’
 (ii) *me-lari-kan anak perempuan*
 ACT-run-APPL child woman
 ‘to abduct a girl’
 (Stevens & Schmidgall-Tellings 2010: 561)

The same holds for the sentence in (20): *muncul* ‘to appear’ is an unaccusative predicate (cf. Nomoto 2006), and the quantifier is floated to the right edge of the clause. The noun-determiner complex *buaya itu* ‘crocodile this’ is separated from *dua ekor* ‘two CLF’ by the verb. Crucially, this example – like, apparently, all of the examples with floating quantifiers – **is only licit when the subject** (*buaya itu* ‘crocodile this’) **is topical**, as the QUD in braces suggests. Note that, as my consultants note, this example is characteristic of rather colloquial register.

- (20) {How many crocodiles appeared there?}
buaya itu hanya muncul dua ekor saja
 crocodile that only appear two CLF only
 ‘Only TWO crocodiles appeared.’

The sentence in (21) is a similar example. The nominal head *tamu* ‘guest’ is separated from the numerative complex *tiga orang* ‘three CLF’ by the predicate. The numerative complex is focused, while the NP head is a topic, as the QUD suggests. This example, too, is more characteristic of spoken language than of written one.

- (21) {How many guests came to the party?}
tamu hanya datang tiga orang saja
 guest only come three CLF only
 ‘Only THREE guests came.’

Let us now consider the clauses with transitive verbs. We have seen so far that the floating of quantifiers is illicit with them. Consider again example (5a), repeated here as (22). The predicate is *mem-beli* ‘ACT-buy’ which is transitive; the numerative complex *dua ekor* ‘two CLF’ is expected to associate with the direct object, *sapi itu* ‘cow that’, but the whole sentence is ungrammatical.

- (22) * *saya beli sapi kemarin tiga ekor*
 I buy cow yesterday three CLF
 int. meaning: ‘I bought cows yesterday... three (of them)’

A parallel example is given in (23). The main-clause predicate *bertemu* ‘meet’ is transitive; the numerative complex *tiga orang* ‘three CLF’ follows the NP it associates with, *perempuan ini* ‘woman this’, yet it is clearly NP-external, since the rightmost element of the NP is a demonstrative (Sneddon 1996). The whole sentence (23a) is ungrammatical, unless a pause is made before the numerative complex (23b), i.e. unless the numerative complex is right-dislocated.

- (23) a.
 * *saya hanya bertemu perempuan ini tiga orang saja*

I only meet woman this three CLF only

int. meaning: 'I met THREE of these woman.'

b.

^{ok} *saya hanya bertemu perempuan ini / tiga orang saja*

I only meet woman this three CLF only

'I met these woman... only three of them.'

Sentences with the head of the nominal in the left periphery of the clause and the quantifier on the right of the predicate are also illicit. In (24a), the NP head *keranjang* 'basket' is clause-initial, while the numerative complex *tiga buah* 'three CLF' follows the predicate; the sentence is ungrammatical. It becomes licit if one uses a pseudo-cleft structure, as in (24b). The examples in (25) are similar: in (25a) the noun *beruang* 'bear' occurs clause initially, and the numerative complex occurs after the verb; this sentence is ungrammatical. The pseudo-cleft structure in (25b) renders it acceptable.

(24) a.

* *keranjang saya membeli tiga buah*

basket I buy three CLF

int. meaning: 'I bought three baskets.'

(marked as correct in Conklin 1981: 215)

b.

^{ok} *keranjang yang saya beli ada tiga buah*

basket REL I buy there.isthree CLF

'I bought THREE baskets.'

(25) a.

* *beruang saya mem-bunuh tiga ekor*

bear I ACT-kill three CLF

int. meaning: 'I killed three bears.'

b.

^{ok} *beruang yang saya mem-bunuh tiga ekor*

bear REL I ACT-kill three CLF

'I killed THREE bears.'

Finally, the floating of quantifiers is illicit with unergative verbs. In (26), the predicate is *bernyanyi* 'sing', which is in the Vamarasi's (1999) list of unergative verbs. In (26a) the noun *perempuan*

‘woman’ is clause-initial, while the numerative complex *tiga orang* ‘three CLF’ occurs at the right edge of the clause. This sentence is ungrammatical; it becomes licit only if one uses a pseudo-cleft construction (26b).

(26) a.

* *perempuan hanya bernyanyi tiga orang saja*
 woman only sing three CLF only

int. meaning: ‘Only three woman sang {while the others remained silent}.’

b.

perempuan yang bernyanyi hanya tiga orang saja
 woman REL sing only three CLF only

‘Only three woman are singing {now, while the others are silent}.’

The example in (27a) is structurally similar: *bekerja* ‘work’ is an unergative predicate according to Vamarasi (1999); the noun *pekerja* ‘worker’ is not contiguous with an associated quantifier, *tiga orang* ‘three CLF’, and this renders the sentence unacceptable. Again, one can make this sentence sound natural by using a pseudo-cleft structure, as in (27b).

(27) a.

* *pekerja hanya bekerja tiga orang saja*
 worker only work three CLF only

int. meaning: ‘Only three workers worked {while the others did nothing}.’

b.

^{ok} *pekerja yang bekerja hanya tiga orang saja*
 worker REL WORK only three CLF only

‘Only three workers worked.’

To sum up this section, I have shown that the floating of quantifiers is only licit with unaccusative verbs, but not with unergative or transitive one. But what is the reason for this?

4. Quantifier float in Indonesian: towards an analysis

In this section, I sketch a tentative analysis for the observed facts.

Here, I shall first discuss Japanese (< Japonic), another language of Southeast Asia, since it has similar restrictions on quantifier float. In this language, quantifier float is licit with unaccusative predicates and illicit with unergative ones (Miyagawa 1989 after Fukuda & Polinsky 2014). This is illustrated by the examples in (28). In (28a) the predicate is unaccusative, and the numeral *san-*

nin ‘three-CLF’ can be either adjacent to the noun or separated from it (i.e. “to float”). In (28b), by contrast, the predicate is unergative, and quantifier float is impossible: the numeral can only be adjacent to the noun *gakusei-ga* ‘student-NOM’.

(28) **Japanese**

a.

Gakusei-ga (san-nin) ofisu-ni (san-nin) ki-ta
student-nom (three-CLF) office-LOC (three-CLF) come-PST
‘Three students came to the office.’

b.

*Gakusei-ga (san-nin) geragera-to (*san-nin) waraw-ta*
student-NOM (three-CLF) loudly (three-CLF) laugh-PST
‘Three students laughed loudly.’

(Miyagawa 1989 after Fukuda & Polinsky 2014)

The situation is, in fact, more complex than Miyagawa (1989) first assumed: the possibility of quantifier float also correlates with the telicity of the verb and some other parameters (cf. Fukuda & Polinsky 2014); these issues, however, are not crucial for the analysis.

In Indonesian, only unaccusatives allow for quantifier float as well. I assume (in the spirit of Miyagawa 1989) that this is because the subjects of unaccusative verbs are **base-generated as VP-internal arguments** (which is a standard assumption for unaccusatives, cf. Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995). After that, the nominal head undergoes movement to the left periphery of the clause; the movement is motivated by topicalization of the noun. The quantifier phrase, however, does not undergo movement, and stays in situ. This analysis is in fact a stranding/movement analysis of floating quantifiers (see, for example, Sportiche 1988); for a fresh overview of other analyses, see Cirillo (2012), Al Khalaf (2019) and references therein.

A short note about Indonesian clause structure is in order here. Chung (2007) shows that Indonesian has the same clause structure as English: the only movement that occurs is the movement of the sentential subject from Spec vP to Spec TP. There is no V-to-T movement, which means that the verb stays relatively low.

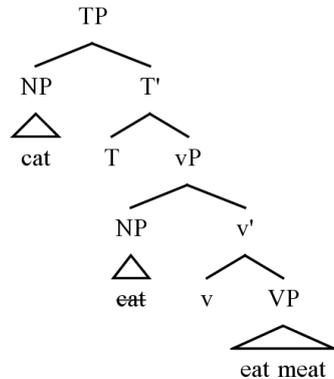
The tree for a simple example in (29), in which a transitive predicate *makan* ‘eat’ is involved, is given in (30) below. NP *kucing* ‘cat’, the sentential subject, first occurs in the specifier of vP, and then moves to the specifier of TP. Thus the standard SVO word order in Indonesian is generated.

(29) *kucing makan daging*

cat eat meat

‘A cat eats meat.’

(30) The Indonesian clause structure



With this in mind, let us consider the analysis of quantifier float in more detail. In (31), the predicate is an unaccusative verb *datang* ‘come’. Hence, the NP *dua orang tamu* ‘two CLF guest’ is base-generated as the complement of V. Then, *tamu* ‘guest’ is moved to the left periphery of the clause, where topics occur – to the specifier of TP. The numerative complex gets “stranded”, and stays where it originally was; thus, the quantifier is separated from the noun it quantifies over.

(31) [TP *tamu hanya* [VP *datang* [NP [NumP *dua orang*] ~~*tamu*~~] *saja*]]
 guest only come two CLF guest only

‘Only TWO guests came.’

This explains why the quantifier float is illicit with unergative predicates: their subject is not an internal argument of the VP, and the numeral is base-generated on the left of the verb. In the case of transitive verbs, there is an internal argument, yet it cannot move to the specifier of TP, since this position is occupied by the sentential subject.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have seen that, in Indonesian, the floating of quantifiers is only possible when the main clause predicate is unaccusative, and impossible in other cases (e.g. when it is unergative, or transitive).

The quantifier float is motivated by topicalization of the head noun: when it is topicalized, it moves to Spec TP, where topics occur; in case the quantifier is not topicalized, it remains *in situ*, i.e. gets stranded.

The floating of quantifiers is licit only with unaccusative predicates because the only argument of unaccusatives is the complement of V. At the same time, the Spec TP is free, and it is possible to move in there the whole nominal, or some part of it. If the same kind of movement occurs with unergative predicates, the quantifier and the noun still occur to the left of the predicate, since the only argument of unergatives is VP-external; hence, it is impossible to observe the quantifier float. As for the transitive verbs, the movement of the VP complement (or some part of it) to the Spec TP is not possible at all, since the Spec TP is already occupied by the sentential subject.

List of abbreviations

| | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | — | first person; |
| 2 | — | second person; |
| 3 | — | third person; |
| ABSTR | — | abstract; |
| ACT | — | active voice; |
| ASP | — | aspect; |
| APPL | — | applicative; |
| CLF | — | classifier; |
| FOC | — | focus; |
| FUT | — | future tense; |
| NEG | — | negation; |
| NMLZ | — | nominalization; |
| PASS | — | passive voice; |
| PL | — | plural; |
| POSS | — | possessive; |
| PST | — | past tense; |
| PTCL | — | particle; |
| REL | — | relative complementizer; |
| SG | — | singular. |

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