

A B S T R A C T

JAVANESE WORD FORMATION

A Generative Grammar Approach

by Martin H. Sudiroatmadja, S.J., M.S.

Traditional structural grammarians have unsuccessfully formalized Javanese word-formation leaving lists of unexplained irregularities. Recent developments in linguistics and technology have challenged us to attempt a more comprehensive solution based on current linguistic principles.

The aim of this study is to construct a comprehensive performance model for Javanese word-formation and to investigate the scope and the limitations of formal methods in linguistics, with special reference to computer simulation of language knowledge, production, and perception.

The data is comprised of oral and written corpora, taken from the regions of Yogyakarta and Surakarta, renown for its high standard of speech. This data, analyzed and classified structurally by the assistance of computational devices, investigated and interpreted by a native speaker, shows definite sound patterns and word forms : eight vowels, twenty two consonants, four main word structures and a set of affixes with their morphophonemic adjustments. Computational programs provide a concordance where words are used which helps to determine a word's categorial status as well as its semantic features.

It was argued that formal transformational generative grammar is not

able to account for the flexibility of the human linguistic capacity in actual use. However, its continuing development, especially the revival of morphological investigation, is of immense help. The theory offers a clear look at the word structures and sound interpretation to produce generative formulation rules. Relying on the Word Base Hypothesis, and Word Formation Rules (WFRs) with their restrictions, and Readjustment Rules (RRs) a Generative Morphology of the Javanese lexicon becomes a linguistic model. By these rules, expressed in tree diagrams or in labeled brackets, they offer a clear look at the Javanese word forms : simple, generative, representing the rules of the language. The WFRs and the RRs are later formulized in computational devices. Being mechanical, all aspects being considered, they produce a more generative model, which generates complex, compound, clipped and reduplicated words. In a reversed form, the model can trace back the original stems of derived words. The latter operation, named parsing, is not done in this thesis, however its possibility has been foreseen.