

1

AN INVESTIGATION INTO ~~THE WRITTEN COMPOSITION ERRORS~~ <sup>the</sup>  
OF CHINESE ~~LEARNERS OF MALAY~~ <sup>speakers in Malay written compositions</sup> AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR  
THE EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF MALAY AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

---

THESIS

submitted for the degree of

Master of Philosophy

in the

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

by

Alias bin Shamsuddin

School of Oriental and African Studies

DECEMBER 1970

---



ProQuest Number: 10731281

All rights reserved

INFORMATION TO ALL USERS

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.



ProQuest 10731281

Published by ProQuest LLC (2017). Copyright of the Dissertation is held by the Author.

All rights reserved.

This work is protected against unauthorized copying under Title 17, United States Code  
Microform Edition © ProQuest LLC.

ProQuest LLC.  
789 East Eisenhower Parkway  
P.O. Box 1346  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 – 1346

ABSTRACT

Up to 16 years ago, Malay was taught only to Malay pupils in Malay medium and English medium schools. Today, it is a compulsory subject in all schools and a pass in Malay is a condition for all public examinations. Malay ( Bahasa Malaysia ) is now the official language of Malaysia. The ultimate aim is that Malay will be the sole medium of instruction for all subjects in schools.

In this new situation, teachers of Malay have a special responsibility. Not only does the success of government policy depend on their skill ; on their ability depends to a large measure the prospect in life of their pupils.

In the past, the basis of Malay instruction to non-Malay learners has been the finding of research done in the teaching of English as a second language, together with certain assumptions, for example, on the extent of the influence of bazaar Malay, which may not be well-founded. There seems to be now a strong case for a more specific and direct research into the teaching of Malay language itself.

This thesis is written in the belief that a study of the errors made by Chinese learners of Malay in their written composition will reveal the true nature of their problems. Teachers might find indications of the areas for remedial teaching which will be required

of them ; they might be able to consider how best to prevent the growth of bad language habits by effective teaching at a more elementary stage.

The work has been divided into four stages:-

- (i) The identification of the errors.
- (ii) Their division into two major classes - grammatical and lexical, the emphasis in this thesis being on the grammatical.  
Grammatical errors are classified into types and sub-types with reference to the grammatical description outlined in chapter two.
- (iii) The explanation of the errors and their possible causes.
- (iv) Some suggestions which might help those concerned with the teaching of Malay to combat those errors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my gratitude to my Supervisor, Professor R.H.Robins, for his continued guidance and advice during the preparation of this thesis.

My gratitude is also expressed to the Ministry of Education, Malaysia, for granting me study-leave to enable me to undertake this work.

I am grateful to the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate for the loan of examination scripts which were used in this investigation.

I thank my wife and children for their patience and understanding.

LIST OF NON-LETTER SYMBOLS

///	Sentence boundary
//	Clause boundary
/	Phrase boundary
+	Morpheme boundary
*	Unproductive formation
---	is transformed into
=	is translated into English as

ABBREVIATIONS

A	Adjunct ( an element in clause structure )
adj.	adjective
C	Complement ( an element in clause structure )
Cl	Clause
H	An element in nominal phrase structure
H <sup>n</sup>	Item at H is a noun
H <sup>ppn</sup>	Item at H is a personal pronoun
H <sup>prn</sup>	Item at H is a proper noun
H <sup>v</sup>	An element in verbal phrase structure
M	An element in nominal phrase structure
M <sup>d</sup>	Item at M is a determiner
M <sup>adj</sup>	Item at M is an adjective
M <sup>ppn</sup>	Item at M is a personal pronoun
M <sup>prn</sup>	Item at M is a proper noun

M <sup>non</sup>	Item at M is a non-numeral quantifier
M <sup>yg</sup>	Item at M is a yang piece ( a feature of rank-shift )
M <sup>v</sup>	Item at M is a verb
NP	Nominal phrase
P	Predicator ( an element in clause structure )
PP	Prepositional phrase
pn	preposition
Q	An element in nominal phrase structure
Q <sup>c</sup>	Item at Q is a classifier
Q <sup>n</sup>	Item at Q is a numeral quantifier
Q <sup>non</sup>	Item at Q is a non-numeral quantifier
S	Subject ( an element in clause structure )
X	An element in verbal phrase structure
Y	An element in verbal phrase structure

CONTENTSCHAPTERPage No.

	Abstract	2
	Acknowledgement	4
	List of symbols and Abbreviations	5
ONE	- General Introduction	8
TWO	- A Brief Description of Malay Grammar	28
THREE	- Classification of Grammatical Errors	75
FOUR	- Explanation of Grammatical Errors	115
FIVE	- Lexical Errors	145
SIX	- Conclusion	164
	Appendix	188
	Bibliography	194

CHAPTER ONE

General Introduction

1.0	The Country
1.01	The people
1.02	The Chinese and their dialects
1.1	The role of English
1.2	The Malay Language
1.21	Historical development
1.22	Written records
1.23	Modern written Malay
1.24	Spoken Malay
1.25	The status of the Malay language
1.3	The Malay language among the Chinese
1.4	The education system
1.41	Before independence
1.42	Primary schools
1.43	Secondary schools
1.5	The teaching of Malay as a second language
1.51	The Razak Report 1956
1.52	Education Report 1960
1.53	Teachers of Malay
1.54	Methods of teaching Malay
1.6	The scope of this thesis
1.61	Underlying assumptions
1.7	Texts analysed
1.8	Orthography
1.81	Malay orthography
1.82	Chinese orthography

## 1.0 The Country

Malaysia occupies two distinct regions in South-East Asia - the Malay Peninsula which extends south southeast from the narrow Kra Isthmus to the Straits of Johore and the north western coastal area of the Island of Borneo. The former is now known as West Malaysia and the latter as East Malaysia.

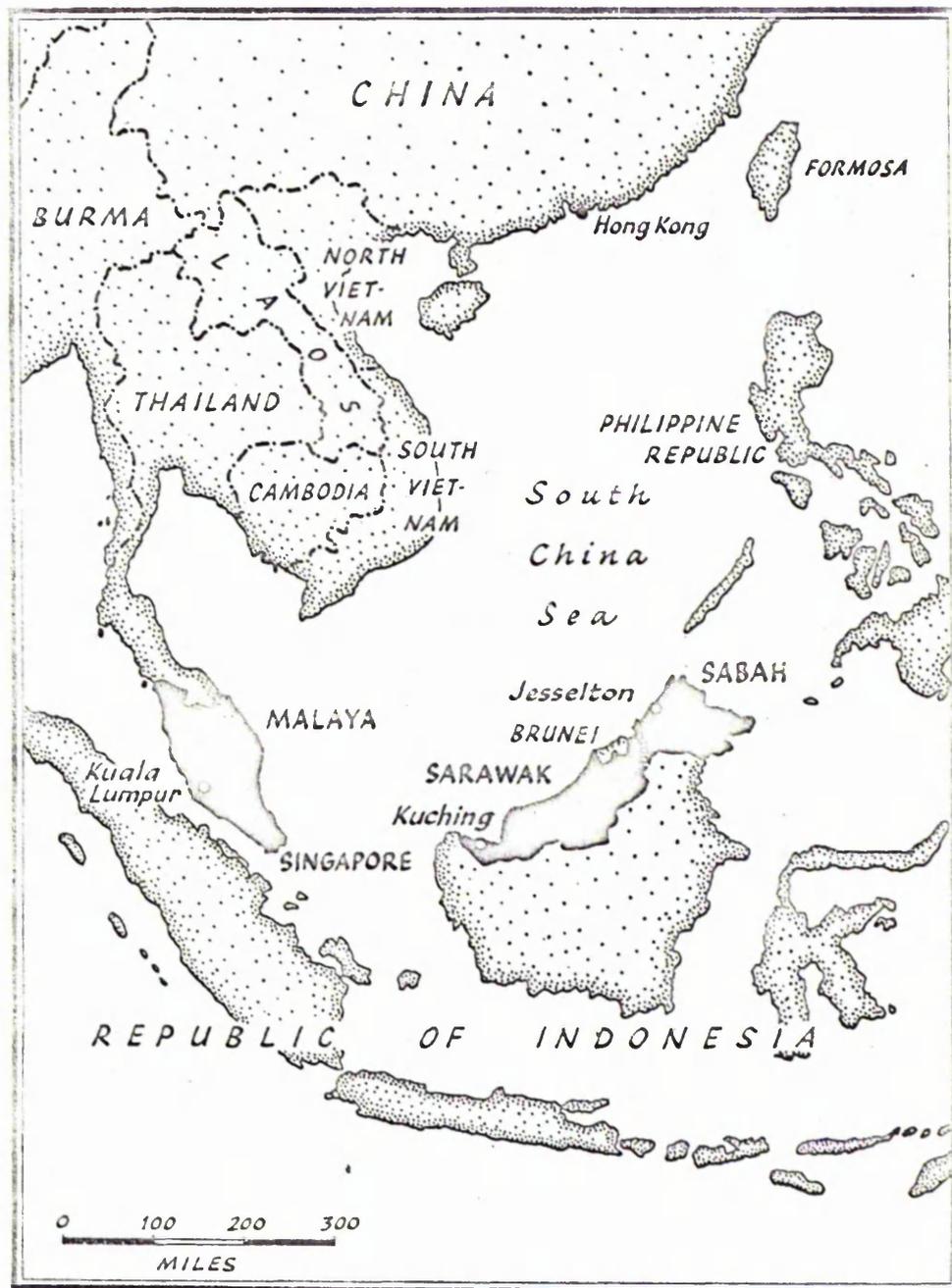
Malaysia has come into being in two separate stages. The Federation of Malaya which comprised the Malay states and the Straits Settlements of Penang and Malacca achieved independence from the British government on 31st., August, 1957. The Federation was dissolved when Malaysia came into being on 16th September 1963.

### 1.01 The People

A diversity of peoples compose Malaysia's population of 10 million. According to census and population figures as at 31st December 1967, the population of Malaysia is made up as follows:-

	West Malaysia	East Malaysia
Malays	4, 351,021	-
Chinese	3,157,423	-
Indians & Pakistanis	957,944	-
Others	188,911	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,655,299	1,513,880
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Two races, the Malays ( the indigenous people ) and the Chinese,



*A general map of Malaysia and its neighbours*

11

descendents of immigrants, dominate in West Malaysia - the Malays forming 50% of the population and the Chinese 37%. The Chinese are more concentrated on the west coast and in particular, in large towns and in industrial areas, while the Malays predominate on the east coast and in rural and agricultural areas.

#### 1.02 The Chinese and their dialects.

The Chinese in Malaysia have been described as a microcosm of China in their tribal composition, their numerous dialects and the variety of their superstitious and religious beliefs. The majority of them have originated from the southern provinces of China, and although the records of Chinese connections with the Peninsula and the Borneo states go back to very early centuries, Chinese settlements in the Peninsula itself really began soon after the foundation of Penang by the British in 1786. The flow of Chinese immigrants became steady towards the end of the nineteenth century when labourers were needed to work in tin mines all over the Peninsula, particularly on the west coast. In the inter-war years (1919 - 1939) they flooded into the country in such alarming numbers that the British government found it necessary to introduce a quota system. Since 1942, Chinese immigration into Malaya has been almost stopped.

Among the Chinese, at least nine dialects are spoken, many of them

are mutually unintelligible. Dialectal distribution among the Chinese in West Malaysia is roughly as follows:-

Hokkian	31.7 %
Hakka	21.8%
Cantonese	21.7%
Tieucheu	12.1%
Hainanese	5.3%
Kwangsai	3.0%
Hockchui	2.0%
Hengkwa	.5%
Hockchia	.4%
Others	1.5%
Total	<hr/> 100 % <hr/>

In each of the urban areas, there is a Chinese lingua franca, which speakers of other Chinese dialects learn, often in a pidgin form; Cantonese in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur and Hokkian in Penang. Since 1920, following the national movement in China, Chinese medium schools have recognized Guo-yu (Mandarin) as the medium of instruction.

### 1.1 The role of English

Since 1909 when the whole of the Peninsula came under British domination, English has been the most important language in the country. Consequently, the language has played a very significant role in the life of any educated Malaysian. It is a language of social prestige and a language of economic advancement. It is a passport to higher education and to higher social status conferred by respectable employments. Chinese parents have always wanted their children to study English. They consider the knowledge of English as an essential part of their children's education.

Today, Malay is the official and national language of the country<sup>1</sup> but the position of English has had little change.

---

1. As from 1967 Malay (Bahasa Malaysia) is the official language of the country but English continues to be the alternate official language.

## 1.2 The Malay language<sup>1</sup>.

1.21 The Malay language is a member of the Malayo-Polynesian or Austronesian language family which is one of the most extensive in the world and contains about 125 million speakers. Other members spoken in areas from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island, include some well-known tongues such as Tagalog spoken in the Phillipines, Batak and Minangkabau in Sumatra, Sundanese and Javanese in Java and Bugis in Celebes. Historical records have shown that since the time of Srivijaya (680 - 1250 A.D.) Malay has been the lingua franca in the Indonesian archipelego. The Sultanate of Malacca (1400 - 1511 A.D.) helped to spread the use of Malay; and the knowledge of Malay was certainly considered essential among traders in the area. Early in the sixteenth century Piga Feeta, the Italian sailor who travelled with Magellan compiled a list of basic Malay words with glosses in Italian. The list was designed for use by his fellow-sailors. In the nineteenth century the Dutch introduced Malay as the medium of instruction in schools in areas where Malay was not the mother-tongue. Similarly, Malay was selected by the Chartered Company of North Borneo to be the medium of instruction in the vernacular schools for the indigenous people of North Borneo.

---

1. It is now common to refer to Malay language (Bahasa Melayu) as Bahasa Malaysia.

1.22 The earliest records of Malay are found in inscriptions of the Seventh century from Sumatra in a Southern Indian script.

1.23 Modern Malay as the contemporary standard form of communication can be considered to be a fairly recent phenomenon with the tradition reaching not much further back than the end of the last century. Its immediate predecessor, the 'classical Malay' known as 'Bahasa Melayu Lama', had its beginning soon after the spread of Islam in South-East Asia in the fourteenth century. Islam brought the Perso-Arabic script, popularly known as the 'Jawi script' which became the accepted medium of writing. Examples of this variety of literary Malay are to be found in the works under the heading of 'hikayat' meaning simply 'story', and include titles such as 'Hikayat Raja-Raja Pasai = The Annals of the Rulers of Pasai (1400 A.D.) and 'Hikayat Sejarah Melayu = The Malay Annals (1500).

The beginning of modern written Malay coincides with the impact of western civilization in the Peninsula, but its development was restricted until the Federation of Malaya achieved independence in 1957, due to the economic, social and political importance of English<sup>1</sup>. Like many other languages today, it is necessarily an artificial system, for besides embodying natural trends of language development, various activities such as the introduction of formal education in Malay

---

1. See (1.1)

medium primary schools towards the end of the nineteenth century, Malay newspapers (1890), radio and books have all contributed towards the spread and the development of written Malay. In fact, as in many countries, it is a system in which the educated minorities have played the most important role.

These various trends and activities contribute towards the formation of standard written Malay which today is the style used by all writers, journalists and for all forms of formal communication. Admittedly, its norm must be considered still weak, but it has undoubtedly much greater uniformity among its users than the spoken standard Malay.

1.24. The spoken language has many distinct dialects, the majority of which are geographically marked. The speech of educated Malays, in particular of the capital of Kuala Lumpur is today recognized<sup>2</sup> as the standard speech. The pidginised form of the language used as the lingua franca of the market place between races is known as "bazaar Malay".

1.25 Under the 1957 Constitution of the Federation of Malaya, Malay was proclaimed to be the national language, but for a period of at least 10 years (i.e. until 1967) English would continue to be the alternate official language.

Naturally, in a multi-racial country like Malaysia, the tasks involved in implementing this goal are tremendous. A further concern has been the fact that, linguistically Malay had failed to keep pace with technological, commercial and scientific developments of the

modern age. Before the days of the European, Malay had been the lingua franca of much of South-East Asia and its versatility and flexibility enabled it to survive repeated onslaughts by various European and Asian languages.

The Federation of Malaya government and now the Malaysian government and various interested agencies have acted in an aggressive manner to remedy these deficiencies. An important and very significant step was the establishment of the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (Language and Literary Agency). The Agency has been charged with great responsibilities - among them to develop literary talents, especially in the national language, publishing and promoting the publication of literature, standardizing spelling, coining new technical terms and preparing the Malay language dictionary. It is in the production of school text books in Malay that the Agency has met with considerable success.

### 1.3 The Malay language among the Chinese

It would be correct to assume that today it will be a rare experience for anyone to meet a Chinese who is completely non-Malay speaking<sup>1</sup>. The knowledge of Malay among the Chinese can best be described as a cline ranging in terms of the individual <sup>individual</sup> speakers from completely non-Malay speaking at one end who never use any Malay in their daily life,

---

1. Professor R.B. Le Page of the University of Malaya who conducted a survey in 1962 found that of 200 students in the University of Malaya and the Malayan Teachers College, Kuala Lumpur, all but two of the Chinese students spoke Malay of one sort or another.

through speakers who make use of varying degrees of Malay (usually bazaar Malay<sup>1</sup>) to the end point where a Chinese speaker has completely mastery of the language. The completely non-Malay speaking Chinese are usually to be found among the older generation of Chinese living in large towns on the west coast of the Peninsula. The younger generation Chinese have good opportunities now to be proficient in Malay. Already a fair number of them have graduated with honours degrees in Malay studies and many Chinese are at present teaching various subjects in Malay-medium primary and secondary schools.

The great majority of the Chinese people speak the bazaar Malay. Many of those who are living in predominantly Malay areas such as the states of Kelantan and Trengganu and to a lesser extent the states of Kedah and Perlis have become proficient in speaking the local dialects.

It is a well-known fact that many Chinese individuals and Chinese organizations including the Federation Chinese Teachers Association opposed very strongly the decision to make Malay the sole official language of the country. They would have preferred the four main languages spoken in the country namely Malay, English, Chinese and Tamil to be the official languages. Inevitably, some Chinese would look down upon the Malay language which in their view would not measure up to the standard of their own language. These factors contribute towards the

---

1. See 1.24.

somewhat slow acceptance of Malay as the official language by the Chinese community.

#### 1.4 The Education System.

1.41 Under the British administration, there were four distinct types of schools - the English medium schools (primary and secondary) and the Malay medium schools (primary), the Chinese medium schools (primary and secondary) and the Tamil medium schools (primary). There was then very little in common between them.

1.42 To-day, while primary education is still available in the four media, English and Malay are compulsory subjects in all schools. For a Chinese pupil entering a Chinese medium primary school, the task would be tremendous for besides having to learn Mandarin (an entirely new language for him), he would also have to learn Malay and English. The age at which the pupil is exposed to the three languages varies from school to school but in any case not later than 8 years old.

1.43 For secondary education, only two types are recognized by the government<sup>1</sup>, the English-medium secondary schools and the Malay-medium secondary schools. Malay is compulsory in the English-medium schools and English is compulsory in Malay-medium schools.

#### 1.5 The Teaching of Malay as a second language

The teaching of Malay as a subject in non-Malay medium schools

---

1. Under the present system, Chinese secondary schools are using English as the medium of instruction.

has a very short history. It has its beginning soon after the publication of the Barnes Report on Malay Education<sup>1</sup> (1952), but it was not until after the publication of the Education Report of 1956<sup>2</sup>, (popularly known as the Razak Report) that rigorous efforts were made to teach Malay to non-Malay pupils. Prior to 1952, Malay was taught only to Malay-speaking pupils in English-medium schools with the view to prepare them to offer Malay as a subject for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate Examination<sup>3</sup>. A small and insignificant number of non-Malay pupils also sat for the paper. In a sense, the teaching of Malay to Malay pupils in English-medium schools until 1957<sup>4</sup>, followed very closely the methods of teaching a second language. Most teachers of Malay used English as the medium of instruction and the major part of learning the language took the form of translation from and into English.

#### 1.51 Razak Report

The Razak Report which became the basis of the 1957 Education Ordinance came out when the country was about to achieve independence. Quite naturally, it laid great stress on the position of Malay as the National Language and recommended the establishment of " a national

- 
1. The report recommended that Malay and English should be made compulsory in all government and government-aided schools.
  2. Report of Education Committee 1956 - Kuala Lumpur 1956.
  3. This examination was taken at the end of the fifth year in the secondary school. It was conducted jointly by the Cambridge University, Local Examination Syndicate, and the Examination Syndicate, Malaysia. It has now been replaced by the Malaysian Certificate of Education.
  4. Malay syllabus X which requires all answers to be written in Malay was introduced.

system of education acceptable to the people of the Federation as a whole which will satisfy their needs and promote their cultural, social, economic and political development as a nation, having regard to the intention to make Malay ~~as~~ the National Language of the country whilst preserving and sustaining the growth of the language and culture of other communities living in the country". The immediate effect of the recommendation was that Malay became compulsory in all government and government-aided schools. The Report also declared that "The ultimate objective of the educational policy of the country must be to bring together the children of all races under a national system of education in which the National Language is the main medium of instruction, though we recognise that progress towards this goal cannot be rushed and must be gradual"<sup>1</sup>.

#### 1.52 Report of the Education Review Committee 1960.

The importance of Malay in the school curriculum was further enhanced by this report which recommended that "The Lower Certificate of Education<sup>2</sup> and the Federation of Malaya Certificate of Education<sup>3</sup>

- 
1. Razak Education Report 1956.
  2. This examination is taken at the end of the third year in the secondary school. Only those who pass well in the examination will be allowed to continue their education in form four.
  3. This examination is now known as the Malaysian Certificate of Education and it is equivalent to the Cambridge Oversea School Certificate (except that the award is conditioned by a pass in Malay.) The examination (conducted jointly by the Cambridge Examination Syndicate and the Examination Syndicate, Malaysia) has now replaced the Cambridge Oversea School Certificate Examination)

shall be conducted only in the official languages (Malay and English)". In 1964, a pass in Malay (National Language) was made compulsory in the Lower Certificate of Education.

#### 1.53 Teachers of Malay as a second language

With very few exceptions, teachers of Malay to Chinese learners, particularly in the upper classes of the secondary schools, are native speakers of Malay. Four types of teachers are distinguished:-

- (a) University graduates either with pass degrees or honours degrees in Malay who in addition have received training leading to the award of the Diploma in Education.
- (b) Teachers who have received general purpose training either at Teacher Training Colleges or have received their training part-time. The latter are known as Normal Trained Teachers.
- (c) Those who have received special training in the teaching of Malay as a second language at the Language Institute, Pantai Valley, Kuala Lumpur.
- (d) Those who have received training for the teaching of general subjects for Malay medium primary schools.

It has been the policy of the Ministry of Education that only graduates should teach in the upper secondary classes. But a shortage of graduate teachers have forced those in groups b, c, and to a lesser extent in group d, to teach up to form five. In fact, it is correct to say that today the majority of teachers who are preparing the candidates for the Malaysian Certificate of Education are teachers of groups b and c.

#### 1.54 Methods of teaching Malay

1.541 It is relevant to point out that in almost all cases the teaching of Malay to non-Malay speaking pupils is conducted in the medium of Malay. This situation is determined very largely by the requirements of the examination papers at all levels of public examinations - namely that all answers must be written in Malay.

1.542 While it cannot be denied that many teachers of Malay still need to resort to translation to explain certain lexical and grammatical items, the grammar-translation method as a way of teaching language has been little used. The preceding paragraph has explained why such a method would be to the disadvantage of the learners.

1.543 The most widely used method is the direct method. This is partly because it is the method most useful and practical to meet the needs of the examination requirements and partly because most teachers

have been familiar with it in connection with the teaching of English as a second language. Training colleges where courses on the teaching of Malay as a second language are given have also adapted and adopted the methods of teaching English as a second language.

#### 1.544 The Oral Approach

The oral approach<sup>1</sup>, associated with C.C.Fries<sup>1</sup>, is also used by teachers in the first stage of language learning. The aim of the oral approach is to train the learner to "produce (the required response) orally, automatically, and without hesitation" in the presence of appropriate stimulus.

#### 1.6 The scope of this thesis

The scope of this thesis is related to Chinese learners of Malay in Chinese and English secondary schools in West Malaysia.

The thesis aims at investigating their written Malay as represented in their written compositions for the Malay (National Language<sup>2</sup>) paper of the Malaysian Certificate of Education<sup>3</sup>. It is considered that this is the most appropriate level at which the investigation could

- 
1. C.C.Fries "American Linguistics and the Teaching of English" Language Learning (Ann Arbor, Michigan), VI.
  2. This paper is now known as Bahasa Malaysia Paper 1.
  3. See (1.52).

profitably be carried out. The learners sitting the examination have to work on a set syllabus. All of them speak one Chinese dialect or another and have learnt Malay for at least eight years. In this sense they are a homogeneous group.

The study is concerned mainly with errors at the grammatical level. Lexical errors are dealt with briefly in Chapter 5. Four exercises are attempted -

- (a) to present a grammatical and a lexical description suitable for the analysis and classification of the errors.
- (b) to classify the errors.
- (c) to explain the causes of the errors.
- (d) to give reasons why the teaching and learning of Malay has not been very successful and to offer suggestions to remedy these deficiencies.

#### 1.61. Underlying assumptions.

Some of the underlying assumptions are as follows:-

- (a) The various types of errors of Chinese learners would help to reveal their difficulties in their attempts to write in the language. On the other hand, areas of Malay grammar and lexis marked by absence of deviations from the standard written Malay would indicate generally the areas of adequate linguistic acquisition and mastery for the Chinese learners in their attempts to write Malay.

- (b) Isolated errors can be explained in terms of carelessness, fatigue etc., and would not be of much linguistic interest. Only persistent errors would be of linguistic interest and hence would be described and explained in the thesis.
- (c) It cannot be denied that during the process of acquiring Malay as a second language, the Chinese learners face linguistic and non-linguistic problems. While it must be recognized that non-linguistic problems could impede learning, linguistic problems are the most fundamental.

### 1.7 Texts analysed

For purposes of this investigation, the texts analysed are taken from the Malay (National Language) and Bahasa Malaysia 1 scripts of the Malaysian Certificate of Education, 1968 and 1969 respectively. They represent both Chinese and English secondary schools:-

The scripts are free written compositions and each is on the average 300 words in length.

	<u>No. of scripts</u>
(a) Bukit Nanas Convent Kuala Lumpur	50
(b) Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur	128
(c) St. Mary's, Kuala Lumpur	22
(d) Penang Free School, Penang	65
(e) Clifford School, Kuala Kangsar	60
(f) Methodist English School, Ipoh	89

(g) Methodist Girls School, Kuala Lumpur	80
(h) Methodist Boys School, Kuala Lumpur	67
(i) Convent, Green Lane, Penang	40
(j) Keat Hwa Secondary School Seremban	50
(k) Chung Hwa Secondary School Seremban	50
(l) St. Francis Institution, Penang	30
(m) Bandar Hilir English School, Malacca	30
(n) Secondary English School, Began Serai	<u>40</u>
Total	<u>797</u>

### 1.8 Orthography

1.81. The orthography used for transcribing the Malay texts in this study, with a few exceptions, is the standard Romanized orthography, for Malay. The use of hyphen is confined only to compound words. Hence, prepositions 'di' and 'ka' which in the official orthography are separated from the following nominal phrases by hyphens will have spaces after them instead. The passive prefix 'di' will not be hyphenated from the base word.

1.82 The Chinese texts will be written in Pinyin.

## Chapter Two

A Brief Description of Malay Grammar

2.0		Purpose of Chapter
2.1		Word Classes
	2.11	The nominals
	2.12	The Verbals
	2.13	The Particles
2.2		The Grammatical Units
	2.21	The Word
	2.22	The Phrase
	2.23	The Clause
	2.24	The Sentence

2.0 The grammatical description presented in this chapter is not a full statement of Malay grammar. It is a grammatical outline which forms the basis for the teaching of Malay to Chinese learners with special reference to the level under examination<sup>1</sup>. The description aims to provide a sufficient norm against which the grammatical errors found in the analysed texts can be classified, explained and described, and by reference to which the scripts which are used as materials for the thesis are marked.

2.01 The theory behind this grammatical description is derived from Halliday's 'Systemic grammar'<sup>2</sup> and the analysis has been adapted and adopted from Payne's thesis 'Basic Syntactic Structures in Standard Malay'<sup>3</sup>.

2.02 Five grammatical units are distinguished namely the sentence, the clause, the phrase<sup>4</sup>, the word and the morpheme. These units are built up inside the other and there exists a fixed hierachical relation among the units. Any unit is said to consist of one or more than one of the units 'next below'. A word, therefore, must consist of one or more morphemes, a phrase must consist of one or more words and so on.

---

1. See (1.6)

2. See Halliday 'Category of the Theory of Grammar' Word Vol, 17 No.3

3. E.M.F. Payne Ph.D. Thesis (University of London 1964)

4. Group and phrase distinction is not recognized in this description. See Payne, p.62.

2.03 The term 'structure' accounts for the various ways in which 'the occurrence of one unit may be made up out of the occurrences of the unit next below it'. A structure is an arrangement of elements. Thus the elements of structure of the unit clause is "subject (S)", "predicator (P)", "complement (C)" and "adjunct (A)".

2.04 This is essentially a grammatical description of modern written standard Malay. Hence, the examples cited in the description are relevant to written Malay as taught to non-Malay learners in schools in Malaysia.

### 2.1 Word Classes

Malay words are placed in classes primarily according to the position they occupy in relation to members of other word classes and to a small extent, according to their forms. The word classes considered in this thesis are the nominals, the verbals and the particles.

#### 2.11 The Nominals

The nominals have the following features:-

- a) They can occupy the S position in S P or S P C Clause structures<sup>1</sup>.
- b) They are negated by 'bukan'. They are not negated by 'tidak'.

There are five sub-classes:-

##### 2.111 Nouns

Nouns are words which exhibit the following features:-

- a) They constitute an open class.
- b) Functionally a noun can be the head of a nominal phrase<sup>2</sup>.

---

1. See (2.4)  
2. See (2,31)

- c) Positionally a noun may be preceded in the structure of the nominal phrase by a sequence of a numeral quantifier and a classifier, e.g. 'dua buah rumah = two houses' where 'buah' is the classifier. A noun may also precede an adjective or a determiner in the nominal phrase.
- d) Some nouns bear noun-marking affixes.<sup>1</sup>

2.1111 Nouns may be derived<sup>2</sup> or non-derived<sup>3</sup>. Five types of derived nouns are distinguished and they are classified as follows:-

a) root + suffix an

- i. Transitive verb<sup>4</sup> + an      pukul + an → pukulan      = a blow
- \*ii. Noun + an      darat + an → daratan      = land
- \*iii. Adjective + an      manis + an → manisan =      = honey

b) prefix ke + root + suffix an

- i. ke + adj. + an      ke + besar + an → kebesaran      = greatness
- ii. ke + Trans. verb + an      ke + bakar + an → kebakaran      = a fire
- \*iii. ke + noun + an      ke + ahli + an → keahlian      = speciality
- \*iv. ke + int. verb + an      ke + bangkit + an → kebangkitan = an  
awakening

c) prefix pe + root + an

- i. pe + tran. verb + an      pe + tembak + an → penembakan = the shooting
- ii. pe + adj. + an      pe + besar + an → pembesaran = the  
enlargement

- 
1. Generally derived words with suffix/an are nouns.  
2. Derived nouns are those which are composite full words.  
3. Non-derived nouns are those which consist of one free morpheme.  
4. See (2.121)

d) prefix per + root + an

- i. per + noun + an      per + anak + an → peranakan = offspring  
of a mixed marriage
- ii. per + trans. verb + an      per + buat + an → perbuatan = deed

e) root + suffix nya

- i. adj. + nya      jauh + nya → jauhnya      = distance

N.B. Those marked with asterisks are generally unproductive.

2.112 Personal pronouns.

They constitute a closed class and for the purpose of this thesis, they are listed as follows:-

saya	I
aku	I
kamu	you
awak	you
dia	he/she
beliau	he (polite form)
mereka	they
kami	we (exclusive <sup>1</sup> )
kita	we (inclusive <sup>2</sup> )
nya	his, her, its (used as item M in the nominal phrase <sup>3</sup> )

- 
1. Refers to the speaker and his party and excludes the person addressed.
  2. It includes the person or persons addressed.

2.113 Proper Nouns

Proper nouns have the following features:-

- a) As head of the nominal phrase, it does not ordinarily pattern with a determiner<sup>1</sup> or an adjective<sup>2</sup>. It occurs with Myg.<sup>3</sup> e.g. 'Tunku Abdul Rahman yang menjadi yang dipertua UMNO .....= Tunku Abdul Rahman who is the president of UMNO.....'
- b) Proper nouns are ordinarily capitalized.

2.114 Quantifier

Quantifiers generally occupy positions preceding the head-word in the nominal phrase. There are three sub-classes:-

2.1141 Numeral quantifiers.

Numeral quantifiers have two forms exemplified by the following:-

empat	keempat	four/fourth
sembilan	kesembilan	nine/nineth

2.1142 Non-numeral quantifiers

Some of the common non-numeral quantifiers are:-

semua	= all
tiap-tiap	= every
segala	= all
kebanyakan	= most of
beberapa	= several, a few
ramai	= many (for persons)
banyak	= many, much (persons, things etc)

---

1. See (2.115)

2. See (2.32)

3. See (2.2211)

2.1143 Classifiers

Classifiers are characterised by the fact that they can occur only in ~~syntagmas~~ <sup>syn tags</sup> with numeral quantifiers e.g.

lima buah buku = five books

(buah = volume is the classifier)

2.115 Determiners

There are only two namely 'itu = that/the' and 'ini = this/the'.

2.12 The Verbals

They are words which when occupying the P position in S P or S P C clause structure can be negated both by 'tidak' and 'bukan'.

There are two sub-classes:-

2.121 Verbs.

Verbs are verbals other than adjectives. They may be derived or non-derived<sup>1</sup> and transitive or intransitive<sup>2</sup>.

2.122 Adjectives

The main features of adjectives are their possibilities of positions as follows:-

- a) They can occur with 'sangat = very' which may precede an adjective or be followed by it e.g. 'sangat chantek = very beautiful or chantek sangat.'

- 
1. Non-derived verb consist of one free morpheme and a derived verb consists of more than one morpheme. See Payne p. 53.
  2. Transitive verbs are those which can have a prefix di form. See payne p.53.

P.  
cat

- b) They may occur in a sequence between 'lebeh' and 'daripada'  
 e.g. 'lebeh pandai daripada = cleverer than'.
- c) A monomorphemic adjective can form an endocentric  
 construction with a noun e.g. 'rumah besar = a big house'.

### 2.13 The Particles

All the remaining words will be placed in the general class called the particles. They constitute a closed class of words. A particle by itself cannot represent S or P in the clause structure. There are five sub-classes:-

#### 2.131. Prepositions

Prepositions are particles which can form exocentric constructions with nominal phrases. Some of the common prepositions are:-

ka	= to
di	= at/in
dari	= from
oleh	= by
dengan	= with/by
untuk	= for
pada	= at
daripada-	= from
salama	= for (period of)
ber	= to be in possession of

2.132 Postpositions

Postpositions are listed as:-

lah ; kah ; tah

2.133 Intensifiers

These are identical with Payne's 'positionally free particles'<sup>1</sup>.

The most common ones are as follows:-

sangat	= very
amat	= very
juga	= too
langsung	= at all
sahaja	= only

2.134 Linkers

They are particles such as 'dan = and', 'atau = or' and 'tetapi = but'.

They are identical with Payne's 'co-ordinating particles'<sup>2</sup>.

2.135 Binders

They are particles such as 'kalau = if', 'semenjak = since', 'supaya = in order that', 'bila = when', 'sebab = because'.

They are identical with Payne's 'subordinating particles'<sup>3</sup>.

1. See Payne p.45
2. See Payne p. 46
3. See Payne p. 46

2.136 Operators<sup>1</sup>

Operators have the following characteristics:-

- a) They precede the head-verbs in the verbal phrase.
- b) They are invariable.
- c) They are listed as follows:-

akan	= implying that something will be done
belum	= not yet
maseh	= still
pernah	= ever
sedang	= in the process of
telah	= implying completion
mesti	= must
boleh	= can
patut	= ought
tidak	= not
sudah/dah	= implying completion

---

1. These are identical with Payne's 'auxiliaries' in 'Basic Syntactic Structures in Modern Malay'. See, p.40. In this description operators are not treated as verbal.

## 2.2 The grammatical units

### 2.21 The Word

The word is the unit of rank below that of the phrase and operates in the structure of the phrase. The elements of structure of the word are free morphemes and bound morphemes. Bound morphemes are usually affixes (prefix and suffix) or reduplicated form of the root. There are four types of word-structure:-

- (i) consisting of a free morpheme

e.g. beras = rice

- (ii) consisting of a root and one or more affixes:-

(a) prefix + root (free morpheme)<sup>1</sup>

ber + lari →	belari	= to run
me + makan →	memakan	= to eat
per + buat →	perbuat	= to do/make something
pe + main →	pemain	= a player
sa + telah →	satelah	= after that
ter + makan →	termakan	= is/was eaten (denoting accidental and or completed action)
di + makan →	dimakan	= is/was eaten

(b) root (free) + suffix

besar + kan →	besarkan	= to extend
makan + an →	makanan	= food
mula + i →	mulai	= to begin
derma + wan →	dermawan	= a philanthropist

<sup>1</sup>. A small number of Malay words may consist of a bound root and an affix - e.g. ber + niaga (prefix + bound root) = to trade

(c) prefix + root + suffix

In the following table, a '+' sign indicates that the prefix combines with the base in question and a '-' sign, it does not.

The possible combinations are as follows:-

prefix	base root + kan	base root + i	base root + an	base root + nya
ber	+	-	+	+
me <sup>(~)</sup>	+	+	-	+
per	+	+	+	-
pe	-	-	+	-
sa	+	-	+	+
ter	+	-	-	+
di	+	+	-	+
ke	+	-	+	-
pe <sup>(~)</sup>	-	-	+	-

(d) two prefixes + root with or without suffix

prefix 1	prefix 2	root	root + kan	root + i	root + an	root + nya
me/di	ber <sup>1</sup>	-	- <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
	per	+	+	+	-	+
	pe <sup>(~)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
	sa	+	+	+	-	-
	ter	-	- <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-

1. The only exception is the form 'me+ber+henti+kan --- memberhentikan = to stop.
2. The exception is the form 'me+ter+tau~~kan~~kan --- mentertaukan = to laugh at.

<u>prefix 1</u>	<u>prefix 2</u>	<u>root</u>	<u>root + kan</u>	<u>root + i</u>	<u>root + an</u>	<u>root + nya</u>
me / di	ke	-	+	+	-	-
	pe	-	-	-	-	-
	me	-	-	-	-	-
	di	-	-	-	-	-
ber	me <sup>r</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
	per	-	-	-	+	-
	pe	+	-	-	-	-
	sa	+	-	-	+	-
	ter	-	-	-	-	-
	di	-	-	-	-	-
	ke	-	-	-	-	-
	pe <sup>r</sup>	-	-	-	+	-
	ber	-	-	-	-	-
	ter	ber	- <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
me		-	-	-	-	-
per		-	-	-	-	-
pe		-	-	-	-	-
sa		-	-	-	-	-
di		-	-	-	-	-
ke		+	+	-	-	-
pe <sup>n</sup>		-	-	-	-	-

1. 'ter+ber+henti --- terberhenti = to stop' is an exception.

(iii) root + reduplicated root form(a) root + reduplicated root form

rumah = house

rumah + rumah → rumah-rumah = houses

makah = to eat

makan + makan → makan-makan = to have a snack

N.B. In general, all nominals and verbals can be reduplicated as above.

(b) root preceded by part of root

laki = husband

lelaki = male

kuda = horse

kekuda = trestle

(c) root + reduplication form with phonetic change

gunong = mountain

gunong+gunong → gunong-ganang = mountains of various shapes and sizes

bengkok = crooked

bengkang+bengkok → bengkang-bengkok = twist and turn  
(of road, line on the ground or floor)

## 2.211 Rules for Affixation

All affixes except for prefix *me* and *pe*<sup>(m)</sup> combine with the base without undergoing any morphophonemic changes. However, prefix *me* and prefix *pe*<sup>(m)</sup> have four allomorphs each - (*mem+*, *men+*, *meng+*, *meny+*) (*pem+*, *pen+*, *peng+*, *peny+*) and these are phonologically conditioned by the initial unit of the underlying word. Taking *me*<sup>1</sup> as the basic form of the prefix, the forms other than *me* can be described in terms of rules of addition and replacement and can be exemplified as follows:-

### (a) Rules of Addition

(i) *m* is added to *me* → *mem* when the initial unit of the underlying form is *b* - e.g. *me* + *bacha* → *membacha* = to read

(ii) *n* is added to *me* → *men* when the initial unit of the underlying form is *ch*, *j* and *d*.

e.g. *me* + *churi* → *menchuri* = to steal

*me* + *jadi* → *menjadi* = to become

*me* + *dukong* → *mendukong* = to carry someone on the hip

(iii) *ng* is added to *me* → *meng* when the initial unit of the underlying form is a vowel, *h* and *g*.

e.g. *me* + *ikut* → *mengikut* = to follow

*me* + *ubat* → *mengubat* = to cure

---

1. Morphophonemic changes for *pe*<sup>(n)</sup> follow the same rules as prefix *me* and are therefore not exemplified.

me + ambil	→	mengambil	= to take
me + olah	→	mengolah	= to give in
me + erti	→	mengerti	= to understand
me + edarkan	→	mengedarkan	= to circulate
me + harap	→	mengharap	= to hope
me + garis	→	menggaris	= to draw a line

(b) Rules of Replacement

(i) m replaces the initial unit p, f. e. g.

me + pukul	→	memukul	= to strike (a blow)
me + fikirkan	→	memikirkan	= to regard, consider

(ii) n replaces the initial unit t, e.g.

me + tangkap	→	menangkap	= to catch
me + tari	→	menari	= to dance

(iii) ny replaces the initial units s, e.g.

me + sumpah	→	menyumpah	= to swear at, curse
me + sangkut	→	menyangkut	= to hook something to

(iv) ng replaces the initial unit k, e.g.

me + kirim	→	mengirim	= to send
------------	---	----------	-----------

N.B. When the prefix me or pe<sup>(m)</sup> is prefixed to a loan-word whose initial unit is t, s or k, rule (a) ii above may also apply.

Examples

me + tafsir	→	mentafsir	= to interpret
me + sifatkan	→	mensifatkan	= to regard
me + keritik	→	mengkeritik	= to criticize

(c) Basic form me

The basic form me will be used when the initial unit of the underlying form is one of the following:-

r, w, y, m, n, ng.

Examples:

me + riwayatkan	→ meriwayatkan	= to narrate
me + yakinkan	→ meyakinkan	= to ensure
me + warisi	→ mewarisi	= to inherit
me + nganga	→ menganga	= to open one's mouth
me + matikan	→ mematikan	= to stop something functioning
me + nampakkan	→ menampakkan	= to make visible.

2.22 The Phrase

The phrase is the unit of rank higher than the word and it operates in the structure of the clause. Three phrase types are distinguished - the nominal phrase, the verbal phrase and the prepositional phrase.

2.221 The Nominal Phrase

The nominal phrase has three elements of structure - Q, H, M.

o/ H is the head-word and is obligatory. Q and M are dependent words and are therefore optional. In the nominal phrase, Q represents word or words preceding H and M represents word or words following H.

Two types of nominal phrase are distinguished - simple and complex. A simple nominal phrase has only the element H. A complex nominal phrase is an endocentric construction which has one H and one or more Q and/or one or more M i.e. one or more dependent words.

### Examples

	H	
<u>Simple NP</u>	/Dia/tak datang hari ini	
	= He has not come today	
	H                      M	
<u>Complex NP</u>	/Semua budak-budak itu/tak datang hari ini.	
	= All the children have not come today	
	(None of the children came today).	

The nominal phrase operates in the clause structure as the exponent of S and C. In the clause structure of pattern E (2.235) it operates as the exponent of P. It can also operate as the exponent of A in the clause structure.

### 2.2211 The Exponents of the Elements of Structure

<u>Element</u>	<u>Exponent</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
Q	i. non-numeral quantifier	$Q^{non}$
	ii. numeral quantifier	$Q^n$
	iii. numeral classifier	$Q^c$
	iv. the particle 'bukan'	$Q^{bu}$

The general order of the items is  $Q^{bu}$ ,  $Q^{non}$ ,  $Q^n$ ,  $Q^c$ .

## vi) non-numeral quantifier

semua, sakalian  $M^{non}$

There are two types of  $M^{yg1}$ .

- a) One in which the relativizing 'yang' replaces the S element in a verbal clause structure. For example, in the sentence, 'Budak yang memancing itu ponteng sekolah = The boy who is fishing plays truant' - 'yang memancing itu' is treated as the item M.
- b) One in which 'yang' <sup>represents C of</sup> ~~precedes an S P C Clause~~ <sup>and is co-referential with H of the main</sup> structure ~~in which the element C is identical with the~~ <sup>clause.</sup> ~~element H.~~ The optional prefix me is omitted from the verbal item of the P exponent.

Example

Saya menangkap budak itu = I caught the boy

Budak itu menchuri buku = The boy stole the book.

Budak yang saya tangkap itu menchuri buku = The boy

I caught stole a book.

N.B.  $M^{yg}$  is treated as a rankshifted clause <sup>2</sup>.

---

1. See Payne's 'Basic Syntactic Structure in Standard Malay' p.64, 65.

2. See Halliday 'Category of the Theory of Grammar' Word Vol.17

No. 3.

Example:

$Q^{bu}$        $Q^{non}$        $Q^n$        $Q^c$   
 /Bukan      semua      lima      orang.....  
 = Not all the five.....

H	i. Noun	$H^n$
	ii. personal pronoun	$H^{ppn}$
	iii. proper noun	$H^{prn}$
	iv. some verbals such as	$H^{vb}$
	$V^{ber(i/A)}$ (see 2.2232) and	
	$V^{me(iv/C)}$ (see 2.2232)	

Examples:

$H^n$   
 /Rumah itu/Chantek = The house is beautiful  
 $H^{ppn}$   
 /Dia/tak datang = He has not come.  
 $H^{prn}$   
 /Aminah/dah pergi ka Ipoh = Aminah has gone to Ipoh.  
 $H^{vb}$   
 /Membacha/akan meluaskan pengalaman.  
 = Reading will widen one's experience.

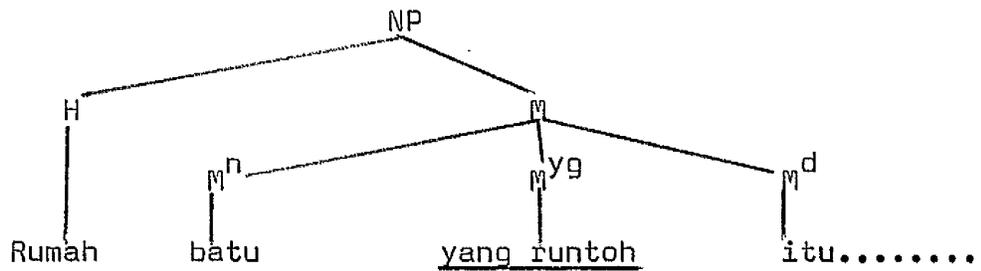
<u>Element</u>	<u>Exponent</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
M	i) determiner	$M^d$
	ii) noun	$M^n$
	iii) personal pronoun	$M^{ppn}$
	iv) verb	$M^v$
	v) yang piece	$M^{y9}$

2.2212. Restrictions on the positions of items at M

a)  $M^{yg}$  will occur following  $M^n/M^v/M^{ppn}/M^{adj}/$  i.e. in a position immediately preceding  $M^d$ .

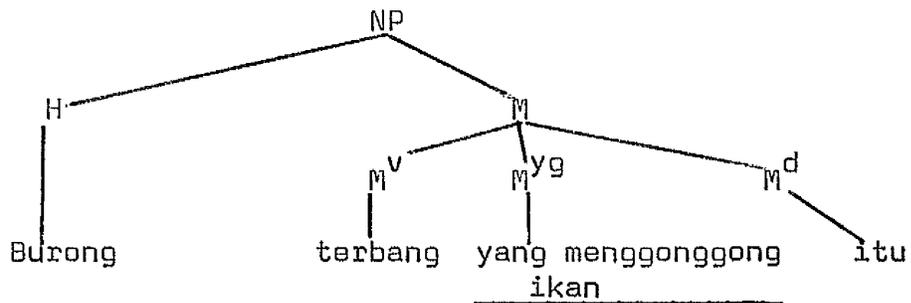
Examples

i.



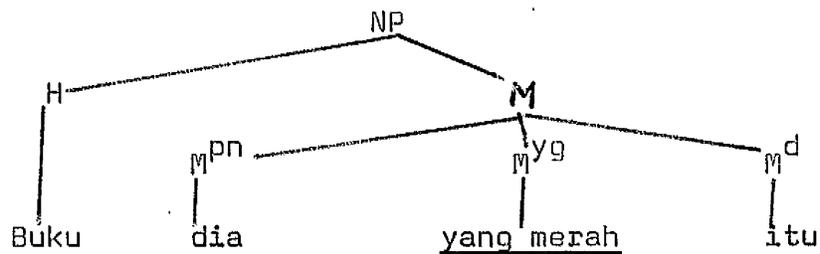
= The brick house which had crumbled....

ii.



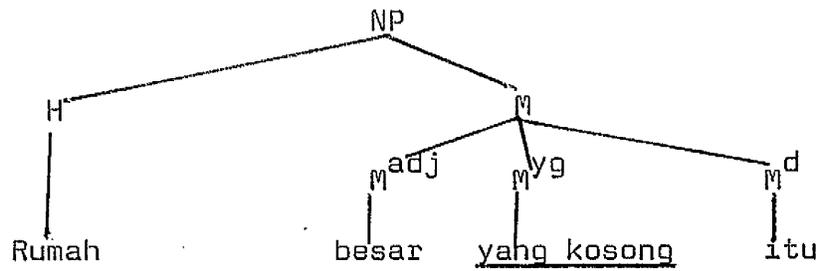
= The flying bird which carries a fish in its mouth....

iii.



= His red book....

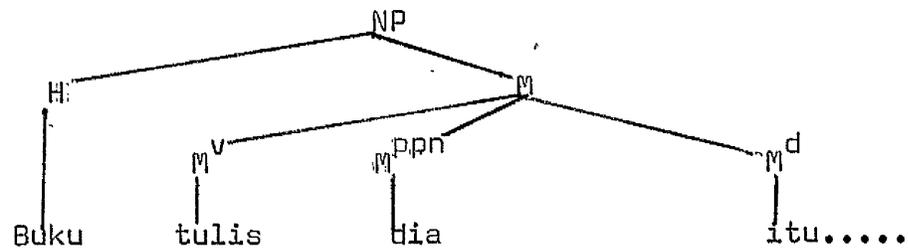
iv.



+ The big house which is empty.....

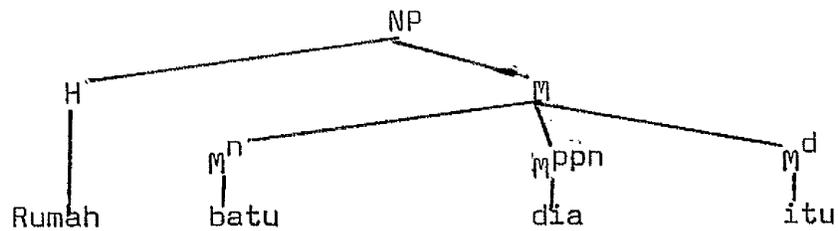
b) M<sup>ppn</sup> will occur following M<sup>v</sup>/M<sup>n</sup>/M<sup>adj</sup>:-

i.



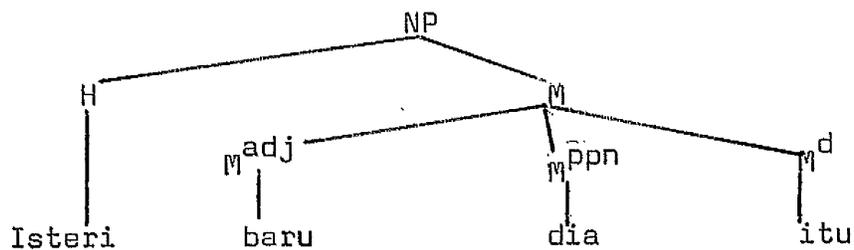
= His writing book.....

ii.



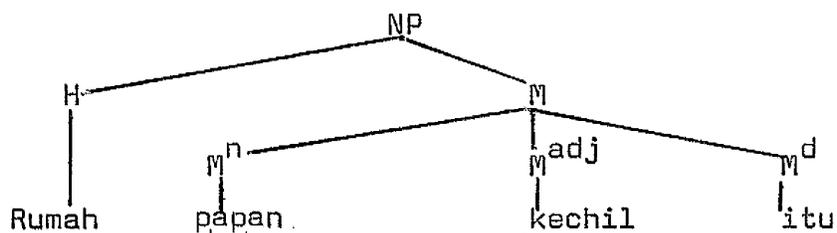
= His brick house

iii.



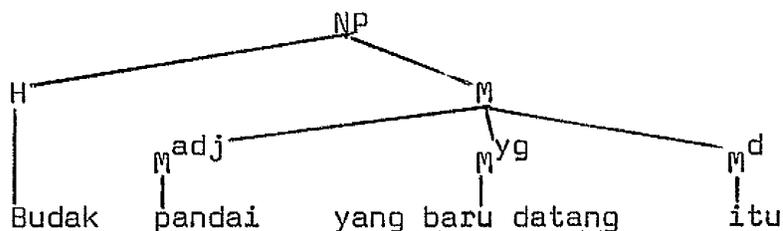
= His new wife .....

*n/* c)  $M^n$  will generally precede  $M^{adj}$ :



= The small wooden house

d)  $M^d$  occurs finally in the nominal phrase



= The bright boy who has just arrived

### 2.2213 Restrictions on the recurrences of items

Generally all items can recur once in the structure.  $M^n$  can recur up to a practical maximum of four and  $H^n$  and  $H^{ppn}$  each can recur more than once when connected by linkers (2.134).

### 2.2214 The Structure of an extended Nominal Phrase

The structure of an extended nominal phrase can be illustrated by a tree diagram as shown below. The items representing elements of the nominal phrase generally occur in this fixed order.



- b) Class (a) can operate as P in clause structure (2.235)  
and to a restricted extent as C.
- c) Class (b) operates as C in a clause structure pattern D  
(2.235)

Examples

Orang itu/di bilek nya/. = The man is in his room.

a/ Abang di/ tinggal/di London/. = His brother lives in London.

Ahmad memukul budak itu/dengan kayu/. = Ahmad hits the child  
with a stick.

Kuching itu ditangkap oleh Ahmad. = The cat is caught by  
Ahmad.

2.223 The verbal Phrase

The verbal phrase has the element  $H^V$  and X or Y.  $H^V$  is the head-word and is represented by a verb or an adjective. X represents items which can colligate with verbs as the head-words and Y represents items which can colligate with adjectives as head-words.

Two types of verbal phrase will be distinguished - simple and complex. A simple verbal phrase has only the element  $H^V$  and a complex verbal phrase is an endocentric construction consisting of an  $H^V$  and one or more X, or one or more Y.

Examples

Simple

$H^V$

Ahmad/membeli/buku.  
= Ahmad is buying a book.

Complex

X            H<sup>V</sup>

Ahmad/belum membeli/surat-khabar.

= Ahmad has not bought the newspaper

Y            H<sup>V</sup>

Rumah itu/sangat chantek/

= The house is very beautiful

2.2231 The verbals at H<sup>V</sup>

The verbals at H<sup>V</sup> are distinguished by their word-formations and the way they are used in the clause structure. In terms of word-formation, they will be classified according to the affix or affixes they take. For example, those with suffixes kan and i are essentially verbals (verbs). In terms of their use in the clause structure, the distinction is based on whether they are exponents of P in S P clause structure, or exponent of P in S P C clause structure.

2.2232 Nine H<sup>V</sup> types are distinguished:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
a) with zero affix <sup>1</sup>	V <sup>0</sup>
b) with prefix me	V <sup>me</sup>
c) with prefix ber	V <sup>ber</sup>
d) with prefix ter	V <sup>ter</sup>
e) with prefix di	V <sup>di</sup>

---

1. By this is meant an H<sup>V</sup> which occurs in the clause structure without an affix.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
f) with prefix per <sup>1</sup>	$V^{per}$
g) with suffix kan <sup>2</sup>	$V^{kan}$
h) with suffix i <sup>3</sup>	$V^i$
i) with prefix ke and suffix an	$V^{ke..an}$

N.B. In the analysis of sub-types of  $H^V$  below, the capital letter within the bracket denotes the clause pattern in which the  $H^V$  can occur (see ~~2.35~~<sup>2, 2.35</sup>) The Roman numeral denotes the sub-type.

(a) with zero affix

$V^o(i/A)$  is an intransitive verb. Members of this sub-type include 'tidor = to sleep; mandi = to bath; datang = to come'.

Example: Ahmad/tidor/  
= Ahmad is sleeping (is asleep)

$V^o(ii/A)$  is an adjective e.g. 'chantek = beautiful; besar = big'.

Example: Rumah itu/chantek/  
= The house is beautiful

- 
1. This  $H^V$  always occurs with prefix me.
  2. This  $H^V$  always occurs with prefix me.
  3. This  $H^V$  always occurs with prefix me.



b) with prefix me

V<sub>me(i/A)</sub> is formed by prefixing me to an adjective denoting colour<sup>1</sup>,  
 e.g. ' me + hijau → menghijau<sup>2</sup> = to become green, to look green  
 ( turning green).

Example: Sawah di kampong itu/menghijau.  
 = The ricefield in the village looks green.

V<sub>me(ii/A)</sub> is formed by prefixing me to a noun,

e.g. ' me + laut → melaut = to go to sea.'

N.B. This sub-type of H<sup>V</sup> is not considered productive in the language.

Some of the common ones are: ' me + tikus → manikus = to be as  
 frightened as a mouse; me + gunung → menggunong = to loom like a  
 mountain'.

V<sub>me(iii/A)</sub> is formed by prefixing me to an intransitive verb which  
 is a bound root e.g. ' me + tangis → menangis = to cry;  
 me + aum → mengaum = to roar ( of a tiger) '.

V<sub>me(iv/C)</sub><sup>3</sup> is formed by prefixing me to a transitive verb  
 e.g. ' me + tulis → menulis = to write'.

Example: Alish / menulis / surat kepada abang nya.  
 = Alish is writing a letter to his brother.

1. The forms 'menebal' and 'menipis' formed by prefixing me to 'tebal = thick', 'nipis = thin' are also in common usage today.
2. Morphophonemic rules are given in the section on "The Word" ( see 2.211)
3. While the omission of me as in 'Saya/tulis/surat ' is also grammatically acceptable, for the purpose of this thesis it will be regarded as a deviation. Examiners who mark the scripts used for this investigation would mark the omission of me as an error.

v<sup>me</sup>(v/C) is formed by prefixing me to a noun which is usually an instrument e.g. 'talipun → menalipun = to telephone 'kapak → mengapak = to cut with an axe'.

Example:

Ali/menalipun/ayah nya.

= Ali is telephoning his father.

N.B. The C element of  $v^{me}(iv/C)$  and  $v^{me}(v/C)$  may be omitted.

c) with prefix ber

v<sup>ber</sup>(i/A) is formed by prefixing ber to an intransitive verb which is a bound root e.g. 'ber + diri → berdiri = to stand up; ber + renang → berenang = to swim.

v<sup>ber</sup>(ii/A) is formed by prefixing ber to a transitive verb e.g. 'ber + susun → to be arranged; ber + ator → berator = to be assembled'.

Example:

Budak-budak itu/berator/pada pukul lima,

= The boys assembled at five o'clock.

v<sup>ber</sup>(iii/H) is characterised by the fact that when the S element refers to more than one it is followed by a C element which is a prepositional phrase with the preposition 'dengan = with, by'. This H<sup>v</sup> has often been described as one with 'reciprocal action'<sup>1</sup>.

---

1. See Payne's 'Basic Syntactic Structures in Standard Malay' p.54.

This sub-type may be formed by prefixing ber to a transitive or an intransitive verb.

Examples:-

'ber + janji → berjanji = to promise

Saya/berjanji/dengan dia semalam

= He and I made a promise last night.

N.B. If the root word is a transitive verb, it is usually reduplicated. 'tolak = to push'.

'ber + tolak + tolak → bertolak-tolak = to push each other'.

Dia/bertolak-tolak/ dengan Ahmad diatas jambatan.

= He and Ahmad were pushing one another on the bridge.

d) with prefix ter

V<sup>ter(i/A)</sup> is formed by prefixing ter to an adjective, e.g.

'ter + besar → terbesar = to be too big'. Baju ini terbesar = This shirt is too big'. Included in this sub-class, are words such as

'terkejut = to be shocked, startled', 'terperanjat = to be startled'.

The last two examples have features of adjectives. The derived form is intransitive.

V<sup>ter(ii/A)</sup> is formed by prefixing/ter to verbs of V<sup>o(i/A)</sup> above.

Examples: ter + tidur → to fall asleep

ter + duduk → to sit down unintentionally.

Semantically, this sub-type of  $V^{ter}$  refers to a completed action and therefore time adjuncts such as 'esok = tomorrow', 'malam ini = tonight' etc., cannot occur in the clause structure with this verb. The derived form is intransitive.

$V^{ter(iii/C)}$  is formed by prefixing *ter* to a transitive verb, e.g.

*ter* + *makan* → *termakan* = to have eaten something unintentionally.

*ter* + *panjat* → *terpanjat* = to be able to climb.

Saya termakan durian itu.

= I (accidentally) ate the durian.

Saya terpanjat pokok itu.

= I am able to climb the tree.

N.B.  $V^{ter}$  denoting accidental action cannot occur in a clause structure with time adjuncts such as 'esok = tomorrow', 'malam ini = tonight'. The derived form is transitive in the sense that it can be followed by a nominal phrase with the preposition 'oleh = by'.

e) with prefix di

$V^{di(i/D)}$  is formed by prefixing *di* to a transitive verb. In the clause structure, this sub-type is usually followed by a <sup>ne</sup>perpositional phrase having the preposition 'oleh = by'.

Example

makan = to eat

di + makan → dimakan = to be eaten.

Ikan itu/dimakan/ oleh kucing.

The fish is eaten by the cat.

N.B. di could also be prefixed to a derived transitive verb,

e.g. 'chanteke = beautiful'. chantekekan = to beautify

dichantekekan = is made beautiful

f) with prefix per<sup>1</sup>

v<sub>per</sub>(i/C) is formed by prefixing per to an adjective. prefix

me is then added.

Example

kaya = rich

per + kaya = to enrich

Usahanya memperkaya sastra Melayu.

= His works enrich the Malay literature.

v<sub>per</sub>(ii/C) is formed by prefixing per to a transitive verb

or to a derived transitive verb. Prefix me is then added to the base form.

Example

jamu = to feed

perjamu = to give <sup>a</sup>feast

Raja itu memperjamu rakyatnya

= The Raja gave feast to his people

---

1. For purposes of this thesis, prefix me always occurs preceding prefix per. }

g) with suffix kan

v'kan(i/C) is formed by suffixing kan to an adjective, an intransitive verb, a noun, an operator and a particle. Prefix me is then added to the base.

Examples:

besar = big

besarkan = to extend

membesarkan = to extend

Ahmad/membesarkan/dapor nya.

Ahmad is extending his kitchen.

naik = to ascend

naikkan = to raise, to cause to go up

Orang itu/menaikkan/ bendera.

That man is raising the flag.

nama = name

namakan = to name

Orang itu/belum menamakan/anak nya.

That man has not named his child yet.

v'kan(ii/C) is formed by prefixing kan to a transitive verb e.g.

buka = kan → bukakan = to open (implying doing it not for one's self)

Example with prefix me

Saya/membukakan/pintu itu semalam.

= I opened the door (for him or someone) last night

h) with suffix i

v<sup>i(i/C)</sup> formed by suffixing i to an adjective, an intransitive verb, noun or a particle.

Examples

baru = new

barui = to renew

Saya/membarui/lesen minggu sudah.

= I renewed my licence last week.

Other examples are:

naik + i → naiki = to go up

atas + i → atasi = to solve, excel

raja + i → rajai = to become king (or sultan)

i) with prefix ke and suffix an

v<sup>ke..an(i/C)</sup> is formed by prefixing ke and suffixing an to a transitive verb, e.g. 'ke + lihat + an = to see, to be visible; ke + dengar + an → kedengaran = to hear, to be audible'.

Example

Saya/belum kelihatan/menara masjid itu.

= I have not been able to see the minaret of the mosque.



2.22322 Restrictions on the Sequence of Items at X.

Set out below is a sequence table with all the items at X divided into four sub-types arranged according to the order in which they can occur.

a	b	c	d	H <sup>v</sup>
maseh	belum	boleh	pergi	membeli
	tidak	pernah	mula	bermain
	bukan	patut	datang	
		hendak	suka	
		dapat	mahu	
		mahu		
		akan		
		sedang		
		mesti		
		harus		
		mungkin		

Items in column b. may be preceded only by items in column a (not every item in b. by every item in a.); items in c by those in b and so on.

Example

a	b	c	d	H <sup>v</sup>
Diä/maseh	belum	boleh	pergi	bermain/

= He is still unable to go and play.

### 2.2233 Characteristics of items at Y

a) It usually precedes the item  $H^V$  (adjective). Sometimes it follows the  $H^V$ .

#### Examples

Y       $H^V$   
Budak itu/sangat nakal/.

OR

$H^V$       Y  
Budak itu/nakal sangat/.

= The boy is very mischievous.

b) It constitutes a small number of words and may be listed as follows:-

sangat	= very
amat	= very
paling	= very
chukup	= indeed
tak berapa	= not very
terlalu	= extremely
terlampau	= exceedingly, extremely

### 2.23. The Clause

The clause is the unit of rank above that of the phrase and operates in the structure of the sentence.

There are four elements of structure - "subject(S)", "predicator (P)", "Complement (C)", and "adjunct (A)". The first three elements are primary and the element A is secondary.

By secondary is meant an element which may be omitted from the structure without destroying the grammaticality of the sentence.

### 2.231 The Element S

- a) is represented by a nominal phrase (simple or complex),
- b) is followed by the element P.
- c) together with P forms the basic exocentric construction of the type:

Ahmad tidur.

= Ahmad is sleeping (Ahmad is asleep).

- d) is represented less commonly by a verbal phrase e.g.

'Membersehkan rumah pekerjaan orang 2 perempuan'

= Tidying up the house is the work of the women'.

### 2.232 The Element P.

- a) is represented by a verbal phrase and less commonly by a prepositional phrase.
- b) follows S.
- c) precedes C if there is one.

Examples (The element P is underlined)

i. P → VP

S            P  
Budak itu/mendengkor

= The boy is snoring.

ii.

P → PP

S P  
Budak itu/ka rumah kawan nya/

= The boy has gone to his friend's house

2.233 The Element C.

- a) is represented by a nominal phrase (simple or complex) and less commonly by a prepositional phrase.
- b) follows P.
- c) may or may not be in all verbal clauses.
- d) when following a transitive verb, it can be transformed into the subject of a corresponding passive clause e.g.

Ahmad/menangkap/burong itu/ → /Burong itu/ditangkap/oleh Ahmad.

= Ahmad caught the bird.                      The bird was caught by Ahmad.

Examples: (The element C is underlined)

i. C → NP

/Dia/membeli/lima buah buku/

= He is buying five (volumes of) books.

ii. C → PP

/Ayah nya/tinggal/di London/.

= His father lives in London.

### 2.234 The Element A

- a) is optional in the clause structure
- b) is usually represented by a prepositional phrase and less commonly by a nominal phrase, or an intensifier<sup>1</sup>.
- c) it can occur more than once in the clause structure.
- d) Its place in the structure is flexible.

Example: (The element A is underlined)

i. A → PP

/Kami/mengadakan/meshuarat/di rumah dia/

= We held the meeting at his house.

ii. A → NP

/Budak itu/mandi/tiap-tiap malam/

= The boy has a bath every night.

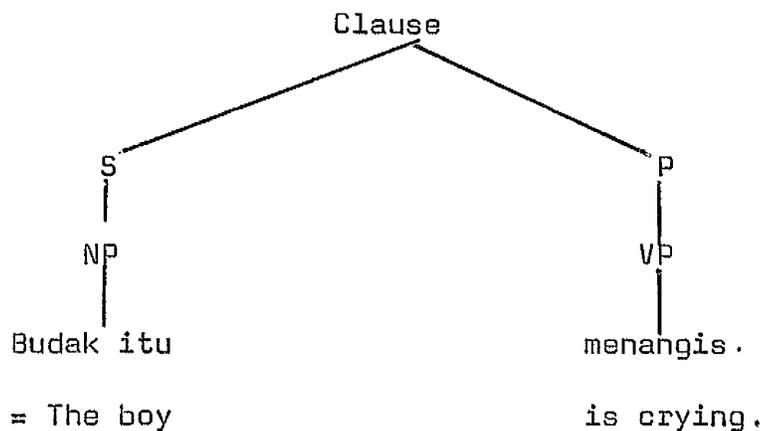
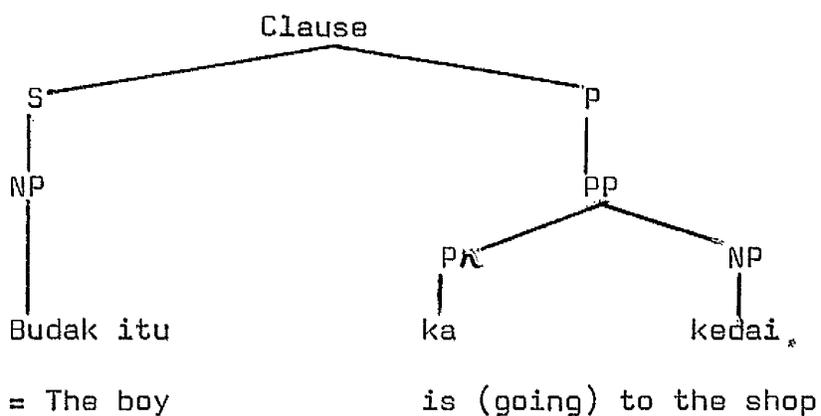
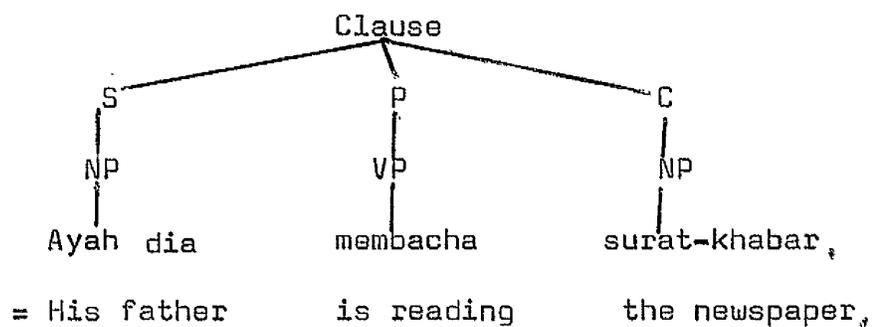
### 2.235 Basic Clause Structures

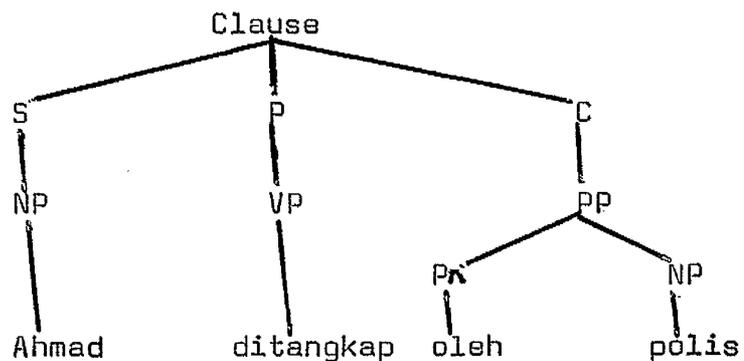
In this thesis, the following basic clause structures<sup>2</sup> are considered. They are illustrated and exemplified by tree diagrams as follows:-

---

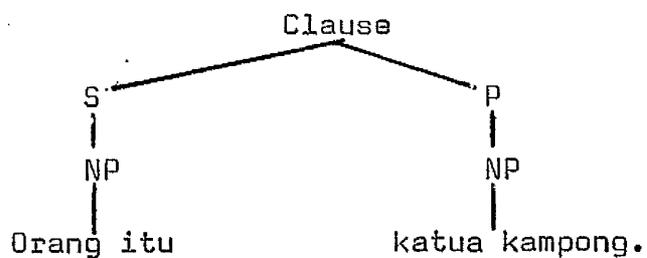
1. See (2.133)

2. These clause structures represent those which are commonly found in the analysed texts. Only the primary elements are included.

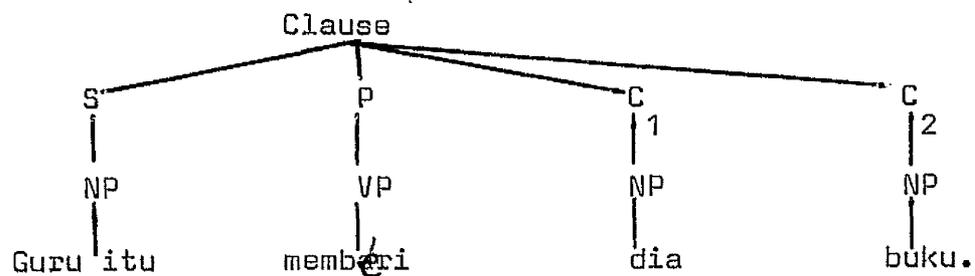
Pattern A.Pattern B.Pattern C.

Pattern D.

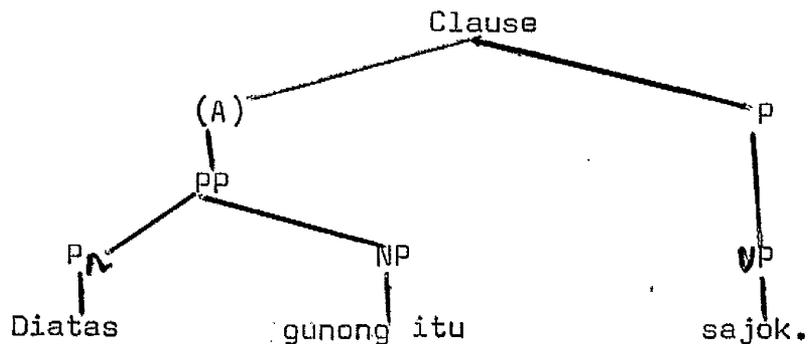
= Ahmad was arrested by the police

Pattern E

= That man is the headman.

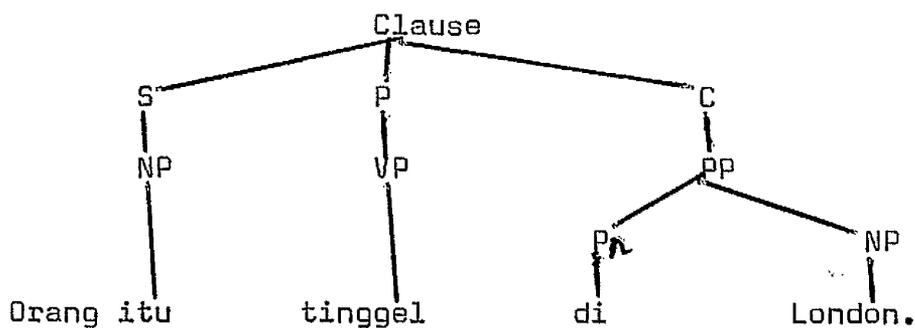
Pattern F

= The teacher gave him a book.

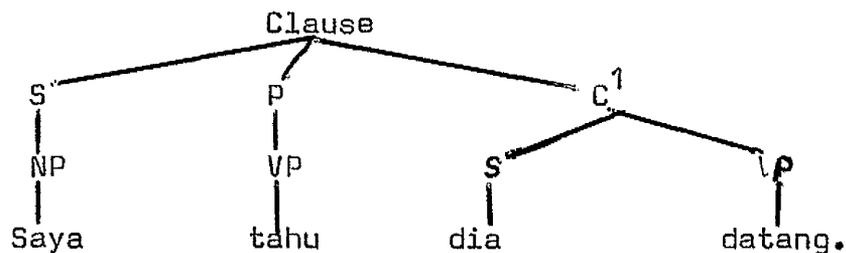
Pattern G

= On the mountain, it is cold.

N.B. The element A is usually present in this pattern.

Pattern H

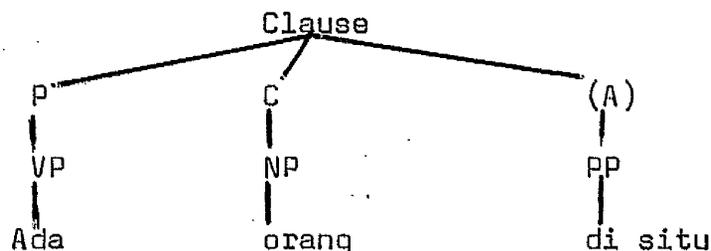
= That man lives in London.

Pattern I

= I know that he is coming.

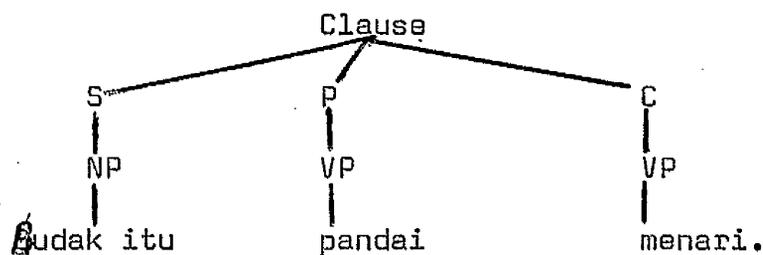
---

1. The element C is a clause rank-shifted to the rank of the phrase.

Pattern J<sup>1</sup>

= There is a man there.

N.B. It is usual for this pattern to take the element A. The verb has only one member namely 'ada = there is/are'.

Pattern K

= The boy is good at dancing.

2.24 The sentence

The sentence is the highest unit in rank. Two types of sentence are recognised - simple and complex. A simple sentence consists of one clause and a complex sentence consists of more than one clause.

In this section, only the structure of the complex sentence will be described. The structure of a simple sentence is identical to that of a clause.

---

1. The element A is included in order to make the meaning of the sentence clear.

<sup>A</sup>  
~~2.241~~ Two kinds of relationship exist between clauses in complex sentences - linkage and bondage. The relationship is described as bondage when a dependent clause is bound to an independent clause.

Dependent clauses have one or more of the following characteristics:-

- a) They are optional elements, i.e. they can be deleted.

Example:

Cl.1

Cl.2

// Lepas makan tengah hari // saya menaip surat //

After having my lunch, I typed a letter.

In the above example, Cl.1 may be deleted.

- b) They may precede or follow an independent clause.
- c) They have some features which mark them as dependent and these are usually binders<sup>1</sup>. Some of the common binders are:-  
 lepas itu = after that; walau pun .....tetapi = although;  
 kalau = if; semenjak = since; sebelum = before;  
 sakiranya = supposing etc. In the sentence structure, binders are treated as A element.
- d) The element S in an independent clause is usually omitted if it is in common with the S in the dependent clause, e.g.,

// Salepas saya menaip surat// saya pergi ka kadai//

OR

//Salepas menaip surat// saya pergi ka kedai//.

= After typing the letter, I went to the shop.

---

1. See (2.135)

2.232 The relationship is described as linkage when the clauses involved are independent clauses. Linkage relationship has one or more of the following features:-

- a) The presence of a linker such as *dan* = and; *tetapi* = but etc.
- b) A pair of clauses which have linkage relationship will usually make sense if the order is reversed<sup>1</sup>.

Example:

Ahmad menengok talivishen tetapi Suffian membacha surat-khabar

OR

Suffian membacha surat-khabar tetapi Ahmad memengok talivishen.

= Suffian is watching television but Ahmad is reading a newspaper.

- c) The presence of a shared element usually the element S, e.g.,  
Ibubapa boleh pergi ka sakolah dan bertanya tentang kemajuan anak nya.  
= Parents could go to the school and enquire about the progress of their children.
- d) The presence of a punctuation such as a semi-colon. e.g.,  
Polis telah menangkap dia di dalam kampong itu; dia tak melawan.  
The police arrested him in the village; he offered no resistance

---

1. For further discussion see Payne p.112.

## CHAPTER THREE

CLASSIFICATION OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS.

3.0	Introduction to chapter
3.1	Classification of errors
3.2	Errors at the rank of the word
3.3.	Errors at the rank of the phrase
3.31	The verbal phrase errors
3.32	The nominal phrase errors
3.33	The prepositional phrase errors
3.4	Errors at the rank of the clause
3.5	Errors at the rank of the sentence
3.6	Frequency of Errors.

### 3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, attempts will be made to identify and classify the grammatical errors found in the analysed texts with reference to the grammatical description outlined in chapter two. Only those errors which are found to be persistent will be classified and exemplified. Isolated errors, though not without linguistic interest, do not easily fall into systematic patterns and hence no satisfactory general remarks could be made about them to serve any useful purpose for a thesis of this nature.

3.01 All the grammatical errors will be cited in sentences, except those occurring at the rank of the word. The 'incorrect'<sup>1</sup> form will be underlined and the 'correct' form will be written within brackets at the end of the cited sentence. The English translation which accompanies each example interprets only what the candidate intended to express and it is therefore not the translation of the erroneous version.

3.02 Only one type or sub-type of error will be considered from each cited sentence. Other errors which may still be found in the sentence will be ignored and will be treated elsewhere at the appropriate rank. To draw attention to an error at any one particular rank, error or errors occurring elsewhere in the cited sentence have been corrected.

---

1. The term 'incorrect' is used in the sense that a particular form or structure deviates from that of the grammar of standard written Malay as outlined in Chapter two.

### 3.1 Classification of Errors

Errors are classified under grammatical ranks. There will therefore be errors at the rank of the word, the phrase, the clause and the sentence.

### 3.2 Errors at the rank of the word

Errors occurring at the rank of the word will be described in terms of deviation from Malay word-structure rules (2.21) and morphophonemic rules ( Rules of affixation 2.211 ). In the analysed texts, these errors cannot be regarded as common. Generally speaking, candidates whose scripts are examined for purposes of the investigation seem to have already mastered the two rules fairly well. The errors exemplified below are listed out in word-forms and no contextual citation is given.

#### 3.21 Deviation from word-structure rules ( 2.21 )

##### (a) Deviation from rule ( iid )

As illustrated in the table ( 2.21 ) very few pairs of prefixes can combine with the root word to form a new derived word. Prefix di ( passive marker ) does not combine with prefix me, essentially an active clause marker. The following are examples of errors:-

dimendaki	from	di+me+daki	= to climb (didaki / mendaki)
dimengalahkan	"	di+me+alah+kan	= to defeat (dikalahkan / mengalahkan)

dimenggigit	from di+me+gigit	= to bite (digigit / menggigit)
dimemberi	" di+me+beri	= to give (diberi / memberi)
dimenghentikan	" di+me+henti+kan	= to stop (dihentikan / menghentikan)
dimenguasai	" di+me+kuasa+i	= to control (dikuasai / menguasai)
dimenolong	" di+me+tolong	= to help (ditolong / menolong)
dimengajar	" di+me+ajar	= to teach (diajar / mengajar)
dimeneruskan	" di+me+terus+kan	= to continue (diteruskan / meneruskan)
dimenyediakan	" di+me+sediakan	= to prepare (disediakan / menyediakan)

(b) Deviation from rule iic.

By this rule prefix me or di cannot be attached to a base having suffix an. The following are examples of errors:-

mendakian	from me+daki+an	= to climb (mendaki)
merekaan	" me+reka+an	= an invention (rekaan)

dibandingkan	from	di+banding+an	= to compare	( bandingan )
mendapatan	"	me+dapat+an	= income	(pendapatan)
membangunan	"	me+bangun+an	= a building	( bangunan )

### 3.22 Deviation from morphophonemic rules ( see 2.211 )

#### (a) Deviation from rule of addition

menengar	from	me+dengar	= to hear	( mendengar )
menangkat	"	me+angkat	= to lift/carry	( mengangkat )
menhadapi	"	me+hadap+i	= to encounter	( menghadapi )

#### (b) Deviation from rule of replacement

mentengok	from	me+tengok	= to see	( menengok )
menturunkan	"	me+turun+kan	= to bring down	( menurunkan )
meneddiakan	"	me+sediakan	= to prepare	( menyediakan )
mentangkap	"	me+tangkap	= to catch	( menangkap )

#### (c) Deviation from rule of basic form of me

menlihat	from	me+lihat	= to look, sees	( melihat )
pesharah	"	pe+sharah	= a lecturer	( pensharah )
mengrugikan	"	me+rugi+kan	= to the disadvantage of	( merugikan )
menglarikan	"	me+lari+kan	= to run away with	( melarikan )

### 3.3 Errors at the rank of the phrase

#### 3.31 Verbal phrase errors

Verbal phrase errors are classified into two types:-

- (a) Errors involving items at  $H^V$ .
- (b) Errors involving items at X and Y.

#### 3.311 Errors involving items at $H^V$ . ( see 2.2232 )

Errors at  $H^V$  are generally errors in the use of affixes. Four sub-types are distinguished:-

- (a) Wrong insertion of an affix.
- (b) Omission of an affix or affixes.
- (c) Mistaken use of an affix.
- (d) Wrong insertion of a postposition ( see 2.132 )

#### 3.3111 Wrong insertion of an affix ( see 2.2232 )

##### (a) prefix ber in $V^o(i/A)$

- i. Anak jiren saya / bertidor / siang. (tidor)  
= My neighbour's child sleeps in the afternoon.
- ii. Dengan sebuah jip, kami pun / bersampai / ka kaki gunung itu.  
( sampai )  
= By jeep, we reached the foot of the mountain.
- iii. Beberapa minit kemudian, ~~pen~~jual itu / bermasok / . e  
( masok )  
= A few minutes later, the salesman entered.

(b) prefix me in V<sup>o</sup>(i/A)

- i. Kami / memandi / didalan tasek itu. ( mandi )  
= We bathed in the lake.
- ii. Semua budak-budak itu / melulus / . ( lulus )  
= All the children passed.
- iii. Kami / mendudok / dibawah sapohon pokok. ( dudok )  
= We sat down under a tree.

(c) prefix me in V<sup>o</sup>(iv/H)

- i. Kami / meninggal / di gunung itu selama tiga hari.  
( tinggal )  
= We stayed on the mountain for three days.
- ii. Orang itu/tidak suka meninggal / di New York lebih  
daripada tiga bulan. ( tinggal )  
= The man did not like staying in New York for more than  
three months.

(d) prefix ter in V<sup>o</sup>(i/A)

- i. Kalau kita / tidak terlulus /, kita akan malu. ( lulus )  
= If we do not pass, we shall feel ashamed of ourselves.
- ii. Kami bertolak salepas kawan-kawan semua / terdatang /.  
( datang )  
= We left after all our friends had come.
- iii. Ais yang / terturun / bolah merosakkan jalan. ( ~~turun~~ turun )  
= The ice which came down the hill could cause damage to  
the road.

(e) prefix ber in V<sup>o</sup>(ii/A)

- i. Negeri kita / akan bermaamor /. ( maamor )  
 = Our country will be prosperous.
- ii. Jadi, pada masa lima puluh tahun yang akan datang,  
 Malaysia / akan berkaya /. ( kaya )  
 = So, in fifty years' time, our country will be rich.
- iii. Mereka / akan bertaat / kepada negara ( taat )  
 = They will be loyal to the nation.

(f) prefix ber in V<sup>o</sup>(iii/C)

- i. Peladang- peladang itu / akan berada / mesin-mesin. baru  
 ( ada )  
 = The farmers will have new machines.
- ii. Tiap-tiap orang budak itu / berada / pensel.  
 = Every child has a pencil.
- iii. Mereka/tidak berada / sampan. ( ada )  
 = They did not have sampans.

(g) prefix me in V<sup>o</sup>(v/C)

- i. Tiap-tiap hari Zain / menghilang / telur ayam. (hilang)  
 = Everyday Zain lost chicken's eggs.
- ii. Bila saya / menahu / hal itu, saya pun ketawa. (tahu)  
 = When I <sup>k</sup>new about it I laughed.

iii. Dia / menurun / bukit itu pada pukul lima. ( turun )

= He came down ~~to~~ the hill at 5 o'clock.

(h) prefix ter in  $V^o(ii/A)$

i. Motokar-motokar rosak kerana hawa / tersejok /. ( sejok )

= The cars broke down because the weather was cold.

ii. Mereka menunggu sahingga buah-buah itu / terbesar /. ( besar )

= They waited until the fruits became big.

iii. Orang-orang kampung itu / sangat tergembira /. ( gembira )

= The village folks were very delighted.

(i) suffix kan in  $V^o(i/A)$

i. Kami / sampaikan / ka kaki gunung itu pada pukul dua. ( sampai )

We arrived at the foot of the mountain at 2 o'clock.

ii. Saya takut ular-ular / akan keluarkan /. ( keluar )

= I was afraid that snakes would crawl out of hiding.

iii. Budak-budak itu / datangkan / ka rumah Ahmad. ( datang )

= The children came to Ahmad's house.

(j) suffix kan in  $V^{me/iv/C}$

i. Negara kita / mendapatkan / kemerdekaan pada tahun 1957.

(mendapat)

= Our country achieved independence in 1957.

ii. Sabelum itu ia/pergi memeriksa / jala-jala ikan nya.  
(memeriksa)

= Before that he went to inspect his fishing net.

iii. Lepas itu, ia / membajakkan / tanah itu dengan saekor kerbau.  
(membajak)

= After that, he ploughed the land with the help of a buffalo.

3.3112 Omission of an affix or affixes (see 2.2232)

(a) prefix ber in V<sup>ber(i/A)</sup>

i. Kereta-kereta kebal yang / boleh jalan / di ayerpun ada. (berjalan).  
 = Armoured cars which can go in the water were also there.

ii. Bila sa-saorang / kerja / sapanjang hari, dia suka berehat.

(bekerja)

= When one is working all day long, one likes to rest.

iii. Tujuh orang itu / sedang kelahi / bila polis datang. (berkelahi)

= The seven people were quarrelling when the police arrived.

(b) prefix ber in V<sup>ber(ii/A)</sup>

i. Salepas itu kami semua / kumpul / di situ. (berkumpul)

= After that we all assembled there.

ii. Kejayaan negara kita / akan tambah /. (bertambah)

= The success of our country will be greater.

iii. Ibu kota negara kita Kuala Lumpur / akan tukar / dalam  
 50 tahun yang akan datang. (bertukar)

= The capital of our country will change in 50 years' time.

(c) prefix me in V<sup>me(iv/C)</sup>

i. Kata Pak Chek, Mak Chek selalu bermain majong dan / ~~tidak~~ ajar /  
 anak-anak nya baik-baik. (mengajar)

= Pak Chek (uncle) said that Mak Chek (auntie) always

plays mahjong and does not bring up their children properly.

ii. Budak-budak jahat itu / tumbok / pemandu kereta itu

hingga kepala nya pechah. ( menumbok )

= The bad boys punched the driver of the car and he had  
a cut in the head.

iii. Pada suatu hari Sabtu emak saya / suruh / saya pergi ka pasar.

( menyuruh ) /

= One Saturday, my mother asked me to go to the market.

iv. Kami / akan bawa / makanan dan minuman. ( membawa ).

= We shall bring food and drink.

(d) prefix di in V<sup>di(i/D)</sup>

i. Semua sekolah / tidak patut jadikan / sekolah champoran.

( dijadikan )

= All schools should not be converted into mixed schools.

ii. Saya akan bersetuju dengan tajok yang / beri / diatas. (diberi )

= I shall agree with the title given above.

iii. Bila ikan-ikan itu / sudah jual / dia pun balek. ( dijual )

= When the fish was sold, he returned home.

(e) suffix kan in V<sup>kan(i/C)</sup>

i. Kami / menyedia / apa-apa barang yang kami handak bawa.

(menyediakan)

= We got ready whatever things we wanted to bring with us.

ii. Peladang-peladang / boleh mengguna / <sup>t</sup>ala-alat itu. ( menggunakan )

= The farmers will be able to use those implements.

iii. Penjual itu / mengata / dia hendak menuntut bela.

( mengatakan )

= The shopkeeper said that he wanted to take revenge.

(f) suffix i in  $v^{i(i/C)}$

i. Dia pun / membalik / batas-batas dan membajak tanah.

( membaiki )

= He then repaired the ridges and ploughed the land.

ii. Sekarang banyak orang / boleh mempunya / motokar-motokar besar.

( mempunyai )

= Now many people can own big motor cars.

iii. Tidak lama lagi dia/akan mengakhir / ucapannya.

( mengakhiri ).

= Not long after this, he will end his speech.

### 3.3113 Mistaken use of an affix

(a) prefix me for  $v^{ber(i/A)}$

i. Apabila mereka / merehat / mereka terdengar daun-daun ditiup

angin. ( berehat )

= While they were resting, they heard *the leaves blown by the wind.*

ii. Mereka pun / melari / ke bilik hadapan. ( berlari )

= They then ran to the front room.

iii. Orang-orang itu / berjalan / ke sana sini dengan menggunakan

'sledge'. ( berjalan )

= The people went here and there by sledges.

(b) prefix di for V<sup>ber</sup> (iii/A)

i. Pada masa akan datang semua kampong-kampong kecil/akan  
ditukar /. ( bertukar )

= In future, all the small villages will change.

ii. Pada masa lima puluh tahun yang akan datang padi yang  
ditanam di negeri kita / akan ditambah /. ( bertambah )

= In fifty years' time, rice which is grown in our  
country will increase in quantity.

iii. Murid-murid sekolah itu / diator / pada pukul lapan  
pagi. ( berator )

= The pupils of the school assembled at eight o'clock  
in the morning.

(c) prefix di for V<sup>ter</sup>(iv/H)

i. Gunung Ledang / diletak / di negeri Johor. ( terletak ).

= Gunung Ledang is in the state of Johore.

ii. Negara kita / didiri / daripada tiga bahagian ia-itu Malaya,  
Sabah dan Serawak. ( terdiri )

= Our country comprises three parts namely, Malaya, Sabah,  
and Serawak.

iii. Perkara itu / dijadi / dengan tidak diketahui oleh ibu  
bapa nya. ( terjadi )

= The incident happened without the parents knowing about  
it.

(d) prefix ter for V<sup>ber</sup>(iii/A)

i. Pada masa itu ramai orang / terkumpul / di dalam rumah  
saya. ( berkumpul )

= At the time many people assembled in the court-yard  
of my house.

ii. Kami melihat dua buah lori / terlanggar /. ( berlanggar )

= We saw two lorries colliding with each other.

iii. Ahmad dan Husain / terkelahi / dihadapan guru besar.

( berkelahi )

= Ahmad and Husain were quarelling in front of the  
headmaster.

(e) prefix ber for V<sup>me</sup>(iv/C)

i. Saya / berseediakan / dua ratus ela tali. ( menyediakan )

= I got ready with two hundred yards of rope.

ii. Mereka / berhentikan / Mahmud lalu membawa Zain ke rumah

sakit. ( merentikan ).

= They stopped Mahmud and took Zain to the hospital.

iii. Walau pun budak-budak itu jahat, tetapi mereka / berhormatkan /  
orang-orang perempuan. ( menghormatkan )

= Although the children are naughty, they respect (~~the~~)  
ladies.

iv. Ah Kau / suka berkachau / orang-orang lain. ( mengachau )

= Ah Kau likes to disturb other people.

v. Dengan segera saya / berubat / kaki nya. ( mengubat )

= Immediately I applied medicine to his foot.

(g) prefix di for Ver<sup>me(iv/C)</sup>

i. Oleh kerana negara kita maseh tidak berapa maju, kerajaan

/ dihadapi / beberapa masalaah pada masa sekarang.

( menghadapi )

= Because our country is not very advanced, our government

faces a number of problems.

ii. Dia / dibawa / ikan itu ka pasar untok dijual. ( membawa )

= He took the fish to the market to sell.

iii. Pada masa sekarang pun saya / tidak boleh dilupakan /

jalan raya itu. ( melupakan )

= Even now I cannot forget the road.

(h) prefix me for V<sup>di(i/D)</sup>

i. Kulit nya/boleh menjadikan / pakaian. ( dijadikan )

= The skin could be made into clothing.

ii. .... untok belajar bagaimana filem itu / membuat /.

( dibuat )

= ..... to study how the film is made.

iii. Perhubungan diantara kampung dan pekan / akan memperbaiki /.

( diperbaiki )

= Communication between towns and villages will be improved.

(i) suffix kan for V<sup>i(i/C)</sup>

i. Mereka / tidak mengalamkan / apa-apa- kesusahan. ( mengalami )

= They did not experience any hardship.

ii. Pada mula-mulanya dia / membaiikkan / batas-batas yang

sudah rosak. ( membaiki ).

= At first he repaired the damaged ridges.

iii. Jikalau dia / menaikkan / kapal terbang dia akan merasa

hairan. ( menaiki )

= If he went by an aeroplane he would be surprised.

(j) suffix i for V<sup>kan (i/C)</sup>

i. Saya / akan meluasi / tanah untok menanam padi. (meluaskan).

= I shall extend my land for planting rice.

ii. Pada hari Sabtu itu kami / memulai / perjalanan kami.

( memulakan )

= On that Saturday we began our journey.

iii. Tetapi pengalaman di negeri itu / tidak boleh melemahi /

semangat pemuda-pemuda itu. ( melemahkan ).

= But the experiences in that country will not dampen the spirit of the youths.

3.3114 Wrong insertion of a postposition ( 2.132)

(a) Wrong insertion of postposition lah in  $V^o$ (iii/C)

- i. Surat-khabar itu / ada lah / beberapa iklan. ( ada )  
 = The newspaper has a number of advertisements.
- ii. Tiap-tiap orang yang boleh membaca / ada lah / *buku di rumah nya.*  
 = Everyone who can read has books in his house.
- iii. Orang gemok itu / ada lah / sebuah motokar. ( ada )  
 = The fat man has a car.
- iv. Bapa dia / ada lah / tongkat sakti. ( ada )  
 = His father has a magic rod (literally 'walking-stick').

(b) Wrong insertion of Lah in  $V^o$ (Viii/J)

- i. Diatas bangunan itu / ada lah / sebuah taliskop. ( ada )  
 = On top of the building, there is a telescope.
- ii. Didalam dunia ini / ada lah / banyak negeri2 yang sejok. ( ada )  
 = In the world, there are many cold countries.
- iii. / ada lah / satu jalan yang kechil ka atas gunung itu. ( ada )  
 = There is a narrow road to the summit of the mountain.
- iv. / Ada lah / banyak perbezaan diantata sebuah negeri yang  
 berhawa sejok dengan negeri yang berhawa panas. ( ada ).  
 = There is a lot of difference between a cold country and a  
 hot country.

3.312 Errors involving items at X ( see 2.2232)

Errors involving items at X are errors in the wrong insertion of an affix. The following are examples of errors:-

3.3121 Wrong insertion of an affix - the item X is a verb

- i. Bila kami sampai ka sana, Kami /  $\overset{X}{\text{bermula}}$   $\overset{H^V}{\text{mendaki}}$  / gunung itu.  
( mula )  
= When we reached there we began to climb the mountain.
- ii. Pada waktu senja, kami pun /  $\overset{X}{\text{memulai}}$   $\overset{H^V}{\text{turun}}$  / ( mula )  
= At dusk we began to descend.
- iii. Pada pukul lima petang, dia /  $\overset{X}{\text{berpergi}}$   $\overset{H^V}{\text{membeli}}$  / sayur. (pergi)  
= At five o'clock in the evening he went to buy vegetables.

3.3122 Wrong insertion of an affix - the item X is an operator.

- i. Tiap-tiap orang peldang /  $\overset{X}{\text{diboleh}}$   $\overset{H^V}{\text{menanam}}$  / padi dan sayur-sayor.  
( boleh )  
= Every farmer could plant rice and vegetables.
- ii. Kami /  $\overset{X}{\text{mendapat}}$   $\overset{H^V}{\text{menangok}}$  / bunga-bunga yang chantek. ( dapat ).  
= We could see beautiful flowers.
- iii. Saya pergi ka Sabah kerana saya /  $\overset{X}{\text{hendaki}}$   $\overset{H^V}{\text{mendaki}}$  / gunung itu.  
( hendak )  
= I went to Sabah because I wanted to climb the mountain.

iv. Budak kecil itu / <sup>X</sup> <sup>H<sup>v</sup></sup> bersudah makan / ( sudah )

The small boy has had his meal.

3.3123 Wrong order of items at X (2.22322 )

i. Kami / <sup>X</sup> <sup>H<sup>v</sup></sup> akan tidak menjadi / pemuda2 yang tidak sayangkan  
negara ( tidak akan menjadi )

= We shall <sup>not</sup> become young men who do not love their country.

ii. Mereka / <sup>X</sup> <sup>H</sup> patut tidak melakukan / kesalahan itu. ( tidak patut )

= They should not have committed the offence.

iii. Penuntut-penuntut itu / <sup>x</sup> <sup>Hv</sup> dapat belum menchari / barang itu  
(belum dapat menchari)

= The students have not found that thing yet.

3.313 Errors involving items at Y (see 2.2233 )

All the errors can be classified as 'inappropriate items'

at Y.

i. Kami mendaki gunung yang / <sup>Y</sup> <sup>H<sup>v</sup></sup> berapa jauh / dari rumah kami. (agak)  
= We climbed a mountain which is fairly far from our house,

ii. Kupu-kupu itu semua / <sup>Y</sup> <sup>H<sup>v</sup></sup> banyak chantak / dan besar. ( sangat )

= The butterflies are very beautiful and big.

iii. Pada mulanya perjalanan kami / <sup>Y</sup> tidak <sup>beberapa</sup> susah/.  
(tidak berapa)

= At first, the journey was not difficult.

iv. Budak-budak sekolah itu / <sup>Y</sup> tidak <sup>beberapa</sup> tua /.

= The school children are not very old

( )

### 3.33. Prepositional Phrase Errors (2.222)

The following is the suggested classification of examples of errors found in the analysed texts:-

#### 3.331 Using Inappropriate Preposition

(a) 'pada = at on' instead of 'bagi = for; kepada = to;

dalam = in, into; untuk = for ; kerana = because of'.

- i. /Pada tiap-tiap pekerja /, hari bekerja ialah hari itnin sampai hari ~~Rabu~~<sup>Sabtu</sup>. (bagi)  
= For every worker, the working days are from Monday to Saturday.
- ii. Orang-orang lain berchuti / pada sebab-sebab yang lain /.  
( kerana )  
= Other people have vacations for different reasons.
- iii. Ini sangat berguna / pada prang-orang perempuan /. ( kepada )  
= This is very useful to the ladies.
- iv. Oleh itu / pada lima puluh tahun / yang akan datang, negara kita akan menjadi kaya. ( dalam ).  
= so, in fifty years time, our country will become rich.
- v. /Pada masa itu / hingga sekarang, negara kita sudah sebelas tahun merdeka. ( dari )  
= From that time until now, our country has been independent for eleven years.

vi. Kami hendak memasak nasi / pada orang laki-laki /. ( untok )  
 = We wanted to cook rice for the menfolk.

viii. / Pada malam itu / sampai pagi angin/sejok bertiup. ( dari ) #  
 = From night until morning cold wind was blowing.

(b) 'dengan = with ' instead of ' oleh = by, bersama = along with.  
 ikut = following '.

i. Rumah mereka dikelilingi / dengan ayer /. ( oleh )  
 = Their house is surrounded by water.

ii. Disamping itu saya membawa / dengan saya / baju tebal. ( bersama )  
 = Other than <sup>that</sup> ~~then~~, I brought along with me warm clothing.

iii. Kami tak suka mendaki gunung / dengan jalan lama /. ( ikut ).  
 = We did not like to climb the mountain following the old  
 route.

iv. Ada banyak perbezaan / dengan kehidupan negeri sejok / dengan  
 kehidupan negeri panas.  
 = There is a lot of difference between life in the cold  
 country and that of the hot country.

(c) 'untok = for e.g. Saya beli buku untok dia = I bought the book  
 for him ' instead of ' selama = 'for - denoting period'

i. Kami mendaki / untok dua jam /. (salama)  
 = We climbed for two hours.

ii. Sahabat saya itu telah menjadi pengakap / untok lima tahun /.  
 = My friend has been a scout for five years. (( salama ))

(d) 'kapada = to 'instead of ' untuk = for '.

i. Tiap-tiap pagi dia bangun dan menyediakan makanan /  
kapada anak nya/. ( untuk )  
= Every morning she got up to prepare breakfast for  
her child.

ii. Kita akan membuat tempat-tempat permainan / kapada  
budak-budak miskin. ( untuk )  
= We shall make a playground for the poor children.

(e) 'di = at, in' instead of 'ka = to (to a place) '.

i. Kami akan bertolak / di Kuala Lumpur / esok. ( ka )  
= We are leaving for Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

ii. Kemudian mereka pun hampir / di tepi sungai itu /. ( ka )  
= Then they approached the bank of the river.

(f) 'dalam = in, inside' instead of 'dengan = with, by'

i. Kami terus ka kaki gunung itu / dalam / sebuah jip. ( dengan )  
= We went straight for the foot of the mountain by jeep.

(g) 'dengan = with ' instead of 'daripada = of e.g., of rubber'.

i. Barang-barang seperti kasut yang diperbuat / dengan getah /  
senang dapat dibeli. ( daripada ).  
= Articles made of rubber can easily be bought.

ii. Kain-kain itu dibuat / dengan kulit binatang /. ( daripada )  
= The clothing is made from the skin of animals.

3.332 Omission of a preposition

(a) Omission of 'dengan = with'

i. Kami berjanji / ( dengan ) dia.

= We promised <sup>him</sup> him.

ii. Ahmad telah berkahwin / ( dengan ) anak ketua kampong itu /.

= Ahmad had married the daughter of the headman.

iii. Emak saya telah berchakap / ( dengan ) dia / selama dua jam.

= My mother was talking to him for two hours.

(b) Omission of 'ka = to'

i. Kita di Malaysia suka berkunjung / ( ka ) negeri-negeri yang berhawa sejok.

= We in Malaysia like to visit the cold countries.

ii. Kami sampai / ( ka ) kaki gunung itu / pada pukul lapan pagi.

= We reached the foot of the mountain at 8 o'clock in the morning.

iii. Bila sekolah chuti budak-budak semua balek / ( ka ) kampong /.

= When the school holidays start, the pupils returned home.

( literally, 'to their village' ).

(c) Omission of 'di = at, in'

i. Dalam lima jam lagi kita akan tiba / ( di ) Tangkak /.

= In five hours' time we shall reach Tangkak.

ii. Negeri yang berhawa sejok terletak di utara dan / ( di )  
selatan Khatulistiwa.

= Cold countries are in the north and south of the  
equator.

### 3.32. The Nominal Phrase Errors. ( see 2.221 )

The following is the suggested classification of examples of  
errors found in the analysed texts:-

N.B. Nominal phrases will be written within slant brackets and the  
erroneous items will be underlined.

#### 3.321 Wrong order of elements of structure.

M H instead of H M

i. Guru itu menanyakan / <sup>M</sup> kawan-kawan <sup>H</sup> nama / kepada saya. ( nama  
kawan-kawan )

= The teacher asked me the names of the friends.

ii. Gunung itu sangat besar dan saya tidak tahu / <sup>M</sup> mana <sup>H</sup> jalan /  
kami mesti ikt<sup>ut</sup>. ( jalan mana )

= The mountain is very big and we did not know which way we  
must follow.

iii. / <sup>M</sup> Lain orang / <sup>H</sup> berchuti kerana sebab-sebab yang lain. ( orang lain )

= In the other basket I kept my money.

v. Lebih banyak / <sup>M</sup> moden <sup>H</sup> bangunan akan didirikan. ( bangunan moden )  
 = More modern buildings will be built.

vi. Pada masa itu / <sup>M</sup> Timor <sup>H</sup> Malaysia / pun akan mempunyai banyak jalan-jalan raya. ( Malaysia Timor ).  
 = At that time East Malaysia too will have many roads.

3.322 Errors involving items at Q

(a) wrong insertion of a prefix in a non-numeral quantifier

- i. Dalam negara kita pada 2018, / berbanyak bangunan / akan didirikan. ( banyak )  
 = In our country in 2018, many buildings will be built.
- ii. / Terbanyak penjaja / tidak menutup barang-barang makanannya.  
 = Many hawkers do not cover their foodstuff.
- iii. / Beramai orang / berkumpul melihat ikan itu. ( ramai )  
 = Many people gathered to see the fish.

(b) Wrong insertion of a classifier

- i. Apabila / orang polis itu / datang, mereka pun lari.  
 ( polis itu )  
 = When the police came, they ran away.
- ii. / Banyak buah universiti / akan dibena untuk rakyat,  
 ( Banyak universiti ).  
 = Many universities will be built for the people.

iii. Semua kampung-kampung akan menjadi / buah bandar-bandar  
yang indah /. ( bandar-bandar yang indah )

= All the villages will become beautiful towns.

(c) The mistaken use of a wrong non-numeral quantifier

'ramai = many ( of persons, human beings ) instead of

' banyak = many ( of things, persons, etc. '

i. / Ramai jejambat / akan dibena. ( banyak )

Many fly-overs will be built.

ii. Saya mendapat / ramai pengalaman / pada masa mendaki  
gunong itu. ( banyak )

= I gained a lot of experience by climbing the mountain.

iii. Mereka membuat kapal-kapal yang boleh menyenangkan mereka,  
menangkap / ramai ikan/. ( banyak ).

= They built ships which would make it easy for them to catch  
fish.

'berapa = how, how much, how many ( an interrogative particle)  
instead of beberapa = a few, several.'

iv. Padi itu direndam didalam ayer untok / berapa hari /.

( beberapa )

= The rice is soaked in water for several days.

v. / Berapa utas tali / dibawa bersama. ( beberapa )

= Several pieces of rope were brought along,

vi. Saya datang dengan / berapa orang kawan saya / . ( beberapa ).  
 = I came with a few of my friends.

'sa-suatu = any e.g. sa-suatu benda = any article; instead of

' suatu = a e.g. suatu negara yang maamor = a prosperous nation'

vii. Pada masa lima puluh tahun yang akan datang negara kita akan menjadi / sa-suatu negara yang kaya /. ( suatu )  
 = In fifty years time, our country will become a rich country.

viii. Negara kita ialah / sa-suatu negara yang modern /. ( suatu )  
 = Our country is a modern country.

(d) Omission of a classifier

N.B. The omitted item is written within brackets.

i. / Beberapa ( orang ) kami / jatuh.

= A number of us fell down.

ii. / Dua ( orang ) daripada mereka / ditipu.

= Two of them were cheated.

iii. Malaysia mendirikan / lapan ( buah ) universiti /.

= Malaysia is building eight universities.

(e) Omission of a non-numeral quantifier

N.B. The omitted item is written within brackets.

- i. / Lebih ( banyak ) hutan rimba / akan dibuka.  
= More jungles will be cleared.
- ii. Kerajaan akan mendirikan / lebih ( banyak ) rumah  
sakit. /  
= The government is building more hospitals.
- iii. Pada masa lima puluh tahun yang akan datang kita akan  
mempunyai / lebih ( banyak ) motokar/.  
= In fifty years' time, we will have more motor cars.

### 3.23. Errors involving items at M.

#### (a) Wrong order of items

H Md. Myg. instead of H. Myg. Md

- i. Kami berbesikal ka / gunong itu yang jauhnya 14 batu /.  
= We cycled to the mountain which is 14 miles away.  
H Md. Myg
- ii. Setelah saya membeli / kasut itu yang berharga \$ 25, saya  
balek ka rumah. ( kasut yang berharga \$25 itu )  
= After I bought the shoes which cost \$25, I returned  
home.
- iii. Kita ada peluang menggunakan / tanah itu yang belum diusahakan /.  
(tanah yang belum diusahakan itu)  
= We have a chance to utilize the land which has not yet  
been developed.

(b) Wrong insertion of M<sup>d</sup> at M

- i. Sungguh pun / banyak keburukan dan kebaikan sains itu /, tetapi jika kita boleh menggunakannya dengan betul, kita akan beruntung. ( banyak keburukan dan kebaikan sains ).  
= Although science has its bad and good points if we can use it properly, we would benefit by it.
- ii. / Akhbar itu / telah menjadi sa jenis bacaan yang didapati di-mana-mana. ( Akhbar ).  
= The newspaper has become a reading material available anywhere.
- iii. / Russia dan Canada itu / mengalami hawa sejok tiap-tiap tahun. ( Russia <sup>dan</sup> ~~and~~ Canada )  
= Russia and Canada experience cold weather every year.

3.224 Errors involving items at H(a) Wrong insertion of suffix 'an' to a non-derived noun.

- i. / <sup>H</sup> Hargaan sanaskhah surat khabar / sangat murah. ( harga )  
= The cost of a copy of newspaper is very cheap. H
- ii. Kita terpaksa menggunakan parang untuk membuat / jalanan /.  
( jalan )  
= We had to use a parang to ~~clear a track~~,

iii. Bagi kaum perempuan yang berpengetahuan senang lah  
 mereka menchari / <sup>H</sup> kerjaan / . ( kerja )  
 = It will be easy for women with education to get  
 jobs.

(b) Mistaken combination of affixes to form derived nouns.

adj + an instead of ke + adj + an ( see 2.1111,b )

i. Pada masa itu berbagai-bagai bangsa di seluruh dunia boleh  
 meneruskan / hidupan nya / dalam aman.

( ke + hidup + an --- kehidupan )

= At that time all races in the world will be able to  
 continue to live in peace.

ii. / Majuan / di negeri ini pun bertambah. ( ke + maju + an  
 --- kemajuan )

= The rate of progress of this country will increase.

iii. / Takutan saya / tidak dapat dicheritakan. ( ke + takut + an  
 --- ketakutan )

= My fear cannot be described.

'ke + adj + an' instead of 'per + adj + an'.

iv. / perpanasan itu / sampai 85 F. ( ke + panas + an ---  
 kepanasan )

= The heat reached 85 F. ( The temperature reached 85 F.)

(c) Inappropriate personal pronouns

'kita = we ( inclusive )' instead of 'kami = we ( exclusive )'<sup>1</sup>

- i. / Kita / mendaki gunung itu sebelum hujan turun. ( kami )  
= We climbed the mountain before the rain started.
- ii. Pada pukul dua belas tengah hari / kita / berehat di tepi sebuah sungai. ( kami )  
= At twelve noon we rested by the bank of a river.
- iii. Mereka sangat baik dan memberi nasihat yang berguna kepada / kita /. ( kami )  
= They were very good and gave useful advice to us.

(d) Mistaken use of a personal pronoun instead of a noun.

- i. Sekolah-sekolah pada masa itu akan menjadi besar. / Mereka / akan menjadi sekolah-sekolah yang terbesar di dunia ini.  
( sekolah-sekolah )  
= At that time the schools will be large schools. They may become some of the largest schools in the world.
- ii. /Ia/ ada pegawai-pegawai yang chekap. ( Malaysia ).  
= Malaysia has efficient officers.
- iii. /Dia / akan ada pelabuhan-pelabuhan yang moden. ( Malaysia )  
= Malaysia will have modern sea-ports.

---

1. See ( 2.112 )

### 3.3 Errors at the rank of the Clause.

Three error-types are distinguished and all of them are errors involving items at A<sup>1</sup>.

- (a) Inappropriate item at A
- (b) Wrong insertion of item A
- (c) Wrong positioning of A in the clause structure.

#### 3.31 Inappropriate item at A.

" pun = also, too " instead of " juga = too "

- i. // Salain daripada itu kami pun membeli ubat //. ( juga )  
= Besides that we also bought medicine.
- ii. // Kami pun membawa chukup ayer untok menchuchi tangan // ( juga )  
= We also brought enough water to clean our hands,
- iii. // Pelajaran kita mesti pun dibaiki //. ( juga )  
= Our education must also be improved.
- iv. Kami pun membawa tali yang kuat. ( juga )  
= We also took with us strong rope.

#### 3.32 Wrong insertion of A ( The item to be omitted is underlined )

- i. // Ada pun banyak surat-khabar dalam bahasa Melayu //.  
= There are many newspapers in the Malay language.
- ii. // Kadang-kadang mereka pun mati // sebab tidak men dapat makanan.  
= Sometimes they died because of shortage of food.

---

1. See ( 2.234 )

iii. // Alat-alat sains dan alat-alat rumah akan dibuat di negeri ini pun //.

= Scientific instruments and household goods will be manufactured in the country.

### 3.33 Wrong positioning of A in the clause structure.

i. // Pelajaran kita mesti pun dibaiki //.

instead of

Pelajaran kita pun mesti dibaiki.

= Our education too must be improved.

ii. // Di negeri yang panas hendak mendapat air pun susah //.

instead of

Di negeri yang panas hendak mendapat air pun susah.

= In a hot country to obtain water is also difficult.

iii. // Emak bapa nya tidak bersetuju pun dengan rancangan itu //

instead of

Emak bapa nya pun tidak bersetuju dengan rancangan itu.

= His parents too did not agree with the plan.

iv. // Saya menyewa pun sebuah motor //

instead of

Saya pun menyewa sebuah motor.

= I too hired a motorcar.

### 3.5 The Sentence

#### 3.51 Inappropriate Binders ( see 2.41 )

bila = when instead of 'pada masa = when, at the time'

- i. /// Bila saya berjalan-ka kedai, saya nampak orang bergaduh ///. ( pada masa ).  
= As I was walking to the shop, I saw people quarelling.
- ii. /// Bila saya berjalan-jalan di pantai, saya terdengar orang menjerit///. ( pada masa ).  
= While I was taking a walk on the beach, I heard someone shout.
- iii. /// Bila saya di sana, saya sangat suka melawat bandar London /// ( pada masa ).  
= While I was there I liked to visit the city of London.
- iv. /// Bila saya membacha surat khabar, beberapa orang kawan saya datang /// ( sedang, pada masa )  
= While I was reading a newspaper, a number of my friends came.

#### 3.52 Inappropriate Linker ( see 2.41 )

'dan' instead of 'lalu'

- i. /// Saya nampak isteri nya bangun dan mengambil sabuah kerusi ///.  
( lalu )  
= I saw his wife getting up and picking up a chair.
- ii. /// Ali pun pergi ka rumah Ramasami dan mengikat nya ka sabuah pokok /// ( lalu ).

= Ali then went to Ramasami's house and tied him to a tree.

iii. /// Ahmad senyum dan melompat ka atas bahu Ali /// ( lalu )

= Ahmad smiled and climbed on Ali's shoulder.

### 3.6 Frequency count of grammatical errors.

Of the 800 scripts used for this investigation, 200 of them have been taken for making this count. They are considered representative of the total scripts for they include scripts written by learners both from the rural as well as the urban areas, and those from the Chinese secondary and English secondary schools. Quite naturally these 200 scripts have been subjected to more thorough marking than the rest.

The purpose of the count is merely to reveal which error-types are the most common. It is not meant to be a full statistical study. Hence, the figures are not dealt with later according to strict laws of statistics. They are helpful in so far as they support in a tangible manner any conclusion made about the grammatical errors in general.

#### 3.61

#### Frequency Count of Grammatical Errors

	<u>According to Rank</u>	
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number of Occurrences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Word	54	3
Phrase	1495	88

Clause	72	4
Sentence	<u>84</u>	<u>5</u>
	<u>1705</u>	<u>100%</u>

N.B. For the purpose of this count, errors other than grammatical are not taken into account.

3.62 Frequency Count of Grammatical Errors  
at the Rank of the Phrase

<u>Phrase</u>	<u>Type / sub-type</u>	<u>Number of Occurrences</u>
	ber in $V^o(i/A)$	85
	me in $V^o(i/A)$	96
	me in $V^o(iv/H)$	30
	ter in $V^o(i/A)$	22
	ber in $V^o(ii/A)$	50
Wrong Insertion of an affix (3.3111)	ber in $V^o(iii/C)$	52
	me in $V^o(v/C)$	25
	ter in $V^o(ii/A)$	30
	kan in $V^o(i/A)$	40
	kan in $V^{me}(iv/C)$	50
Omission of an affix (3.3112)	ber in $V^{ber}(i/A)$	25
	ber in $V^{ber}(ii/A)$	37
	me in $V^{me}(iv/C)$	120
	di in $V^{di}(i/D)$	30
	kan in $V^{kan}(i/C)$	25
	i in $V^i(i/C)$	10

Type / sub-type

	me for $V^{ber(i/A)}$	42
	di for $V^{ber(iii/A)}$	24
	di for $V^{ter(iv/H)}$	25
	ter for $V^{ber(iii/A)}$	30
Mistaken use of	ber for $V^{me(iv/C)}$	20
an affix	di for $V^{me(iv/C)}$	23
(3.3113)	me for $V^{di(i/D)}$	14
	i for $V^{i(i/C)}$	15
	i for $V^{kan(i/C)}$	18

211

---

VERBAL	Wrong insertion	
	of a postposition	lah in $V^o(iii/C)$ 28
	(3.3114)	lah in $V^o(viii/J)$ 23

51

Items at X

An affix when the	
item X is a verb	18
An affix when the	
item X is an	
operator	26
Wrong order of	
items at X	12

56

<u>Type / sub-type</u>		<u>Number of Occurrences</u>	
<u>Items at Y</u>	Errors of items at Y	16	16

---

Total 1067

Wrong order of ele.

<u>of structures</u> (3.321)	M H instead of H M	24	24
---------------------------------	--------------------	----	----

NOMINAL

	wrong insertion of prefix in $Q^{\text{non}}$	25	
	wrong insertion of classifier	28	
<u>Errors involving</u> <u>items at Q</u> ( 3.322 )	mistaken use of $Q^{\text{non}}$	15	
	omission of classifier	22	
	omission of $Q^{\text{non}}$	17	107

Errors involving	wrong order of items	23	
items at M ( 3.3223)	wrong insertion of $M^{\text{d}}$	20	43

<u>Type / sub-type</u>		<u>Number of Occurrences</u>
	wrong insertion of kan to a non-derived noun	15
Errors involving items at H ( 3.3224 )	wrong combination of affixes Inappropriate personal pronouns	22 70
	mistaken use of personal pronoun for noun	18
<hr/>		<u>125</u>
		<u>299</u>
	Using inappropriate preposition	95
PRE- POSITIONAL	Omission of preposition	34
<hr/>		129
TOTAL		<u>1489</u> <u>1,489</u>

CHAPTER FOUR  
EXPLANATION OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS

- 4.0 Introduction to chapter
- 4.1 Contrastive analysis with the mother tongue.
  - 4.11. Contrastive analysis with English
- 4.2 Explanation of errors at the rank of the word.
- 4.3 Explanation of errors at the rank of the phrase.
  - 4.31 The verbal phrase errors
  - 4.32 The nominal phrase errors
  - 4.33 The prepositional phrase errors
- 4.4 Explanation of errors at the rank of the  
clause.

#### 4.0 Introduction to chapter

This chapter aims at describing and explaining most of the grammatical errors classified in chapter three.

The main causes of errors offered are interference from the SL<sup>1</sup>, inadequate teaching and learning and the extension of analogy of patterns the learners have already learnt. While this is not exclusively an exercise in contrastive analysis, it is found necessary to resort to its methods in explaining errors caused by the interference of the SL.

#### 4.1 Contrastive analysis with the mother tongue

For purposes of making a contrastive analysis with the learners' mother-tongue, Mandarin has been chosen as the representative of all the dialects spoken in Malaysia. All examples cited therefore will be from Mandarin. This does not mean that the writer does not recognize the differences existing at all linguistic levels between the Chinese dialects<sup>3</sup> but the task would simply be tremendous if comparison has to be made against each Chinese dialect spoken in West Malaysia. Although the majority of the Chinese speak either Cantonese or Hokkian, the choice of Mandarin is a logical and practical one<sup>2</sup>.

---

1. Source language.

2. See (1.02)

3. The term 'dialect' is used in traditional sinological term. This in fact is a language.

Regarding the difference between Chinese dialects, Yuen Ren Chau<sup>3</sup> writes "Dialects differ from one another in three aspects.

The most importance difference is that of pronunciation. Thus the same root which means " wood " is pronounced 'lin' in Peiping, 'ling' in Shanghai and 'lam' in Cantonese. Secondly, dialects differ in the choice of words for common use. Thus the word for 'he, she' is 'ta' in Mandarin, 'yi' in Shanghai and 'ghoe' in Cantonese..... Thirdly, dialects differ in grammar. Thus, in Peiping, one uses the word order 'give me some water', while in Cantonese and in Shanghai dialects, one says, 'give some water me'. This third aspect is the least important, as there is comparatively great uniformity of grammar among the dialects".

4.11 Many Chinese learners in English medium schools come from families in which English is their first language. While, very few Chinese learners are completely non-Chinese speaking<sup>2</sup>, a good number of them tend to be more proficient in English than in Chinese. For this reason, it is only logical to explain errors in terms of interference from English.

- 
1. See "Mandarin Primer" by Yuen Ren Chao, published by Harvard University Press 1964.
  2. All Chinese learners are presumed to be able to speak at least one Chinese dialect.

#### 4.2 Explanation of Errors at the rank of the word.

4.21 Based on the frequency count of errors<sup>1</sup>, this is certainly an area of Malay grammar which gives the least trouble to the learners. The total number is very small compared to the actual errors collected in the course of this investigation. Most of the errors are made by candidates who scored less than average marks for the paper. It can be assumed therefore that candidates who scored average and more than average marks rarely make errors of this type.

#### 4.22 Deviation from word-structure rules ( see 2.21 )

This particular type of error is concerned with the right combination of affixes ( prefix and prefix or prefix and suffix ) and root word to form new derived words. The citations indicate that candidates who make this type of error have failed to recognize one important fact of Malay grammar - namely that at H<sup>V</sup>, whilst there exists a maximum selection of nine-term system of affixes, some pairs of affixes are mutually exclusive<sup>2</sup>. The choice of prefix me or prefix di at H<sup>V</sup>, is a case in point.

It cannot be suggested that deviation of this type can be described in terms of interference from the SL - Mandarin or English.

---

1. See ( 3.61 )

2. See ( 2.21 )

$V^{me}$  is a feature of an active clause and  $V^{di}$  that of a passive clause. In Chinese, the distinction between active and passive clause is not distinguished morphologically in the head-verbs, Yuen Ren Chao<sup>1</sup> writes, "There is no distinction of voice in Chinese, the direction of the action depending upon the context. Thus, 'Wo yao shi lean' = I want to wash my face : 'lean hair mei shii ne' = My face has not yet been washed". The head-verb 'shii = to wash' remains the same. Similarly, there is no formal correspondence<sup>2</sup> in English of features such as  $V^{me}$  and  $V^{di}$  as markers of active and passive clause structures respectively.

Like many other types of errors, inadequate learning and teaching seems to be the plausible cause. The learners have failed to master the rules properly and in their confusion have made use of affixes which were available at immediate recollection.

Errors of this type must be considered basic although the variety and the number found in the analysis texts is very small. It is certainly very disappointing for those concerned with the teaching of Malay to note that after eight years, the learners have not fully mastered the mutually exclusiveness of  $V^{me}$  and  $V^{di}$ . More so when books on Malay grammar used as text books throughout the schools in

- 
1. 'Mandarin Primer' by Yuen Ren Chao, published by Harvard University Press 1964.
  2. 'A linguistic Theory of Translation' J.C. Catford, O.U.P 1965.

Malaysia today have exercises specially dealing with transforming passive verb di form into active verb me form., and vice versa.

#### 4.23. Deviations from morphophonemic rules

The variety and the number of errors certainly do not justify one making elaborate explanation. It can safely be said that errors of this type are no longer a problem to the learners.

#### 4.3 Explanation of errors at the rank of the phrase

##### 4.31 Verbal phrase errors ( see 3.31. )

##### 4.311 Errors involving items at H<sup>V</sup>

The errors of items at H<sup>V</sup> as exemplified in chapter three are deviations involving the correct selection of affixes. The variety and the large number of errors<sup>1</sup> simply support what every teacher of Malay as a second language already knows too well - namely that this is an area of Malay grammar in which the Chinese learners and indeed all learners of Malay find exceedingly troublesome. Many teachers have gone so far as to suggest that a learner of Malay who has mastered the use of affixes at H<sup>V</sup> will have mastered the major portion of Malay grammar.

The difficulty in selecting the correct affix at H<sup>V</sup> (prefix or suffix) is due to the fact except for the selection of prefix me or prefix di it is not determined by syntactic criteria. The selection

?

---

1. See ( 3.62 )

is not determined by such categories as number, tense, person etc. In other words concord and government are features which are totally irrelevant in Malay grammar. The selection of an affix at H<sup>V</sup> is largely a matter which is lexically determined i.e. what affix a particular H<sup>V</sup> should have is conditioned by the lexical item itself. For this reason, it is not an area of Malay grammar in which the non-Malay learner can easily predict. Like Malay, Chinese head-verbs are not inflected for number, tense and person. But whilst Malay head-verbs are mostly poly-morphemics, Chinese head-verbs on the other hand mostly occur in monomorphemic forms.

Examples (Chinese and Malay head-verbs are underlined)

(a) Ta mai ti ben.

= Dia nak mem+beli buku.

= He will buy one (copy of) book.

(b) Wo neng shuo zhongguo-hua.

= Saya boleh berchakap bahasa China

= I can speak Chinese.

(c) Wo ba tamende mingzi duo wang le.

= Saya terlupa nama mereka.

= I have forgotten their names.

(d) Zuotian wo kan dianyingr yi hou, wo shi zouhui jia  
qu de.

= Semalam saya berjalan balek ka rumah salepas saya  
menengok wayang.

= Yesterday I walked home after I saw the pictures.

(e) Wo hai yao wen ni.

= Saya juga suka nak bertanya awak.

= I would also like to ask you.

The purpose of the preceding examples is to show that there exists no formal correspondence between Chinese system of affixation and that of Malay. Chinese affixes are mostly suffixes and the most common ones are 'le' suffix of completed action, 'guo' suffix of an action which have taken place once in the past, and 'zhe''suffix of action of relatively long duration.' None of these can be placed on one to one correspondence with Malay affixes.

This lack of any formal correspondence between the two systems of affixation in the two languages suggests that generally deviations at H<sup>V</sup> cannot be explained in terms of interference of the SL. ?

In the following sections, it is proposed to examine and explain each type of errors at H<sup>V</sup> separately.

It is important, before giving descriptions and explanations of errors at H<sup>V</sup> to point out the extent to which Malay affixes are used in modern written Malay. It would be next to impossible to say even approximately what the number and frequency of Malay head-verbs take affixes without a large scale analysis, but perhaps a count from two passages of modern written Malay - each of 5,500 words each - will give at least an idea of what the proportions are like. Only ~~five~~ <sup>few</sup> prefixes are represented.

	<u>Number of occurrences</u>			
	<u>Passage A<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Passage B<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
V <sup>o</sup>	44	38	82	8.5
V <sup>me</sup>	208	224	532	55
V <sup>ber</sup>	152	108	260	27.5
V <sup>ter</sup>	<u>64</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	<u>468</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>893</u> <del>956</del>	<u>100</u>

This is, of course, the kind of table from which many false impressionistic conclusions could be drawn. The number of occurrences would most likely be different for different passages and different styles. Nevertheless, it will be noted that instances of prefix me

and ber cover more than 80% of all the prefixes.

4.3111 Wrong insertion of affixes ( see 3.3111)

Errors in the wrong insertion of affixes are due to two causes. The first cause is that of inadequate learning and teaching. This may not sound very fair in view of the fact that the candidates whose written compositions are used for this investigation have studied the language for a period of eight years continuously at a minimum of three hours a week. There is no doubt that many teachers have over-emphasized the importance of the use of affixes in general at H<sup>V</sup> and this has resulted in great confusion among learners of Malay. It is indeed true that many Malay head-verbs are accompanied by affixes<sup>1</sup> but there is still a small but an important list of Malay verbs<sup>2</sup> which must occur on its own in certain clause structures. It does appear as though many learners have not been aware of the existence of such head-verbs. Hence simple everyday words such as ' mandi = to bath, ' dudok = to sit down ', ' tinggal = to live, stay at a place ', ' balek = to return ', etc. which in the clause pattern under discussion

- 
1. See (4.311) table showing frequency of occurrences of affixes.
  2. See (4.311) table showing frequency of occurrences of affixes.

take the zero affix have been given a me, ber, or ter prefix. One could even deduce from the citations that in their confusion, the learners are making wild guesses in regard to the selection of an affix. Quite naturally prefix ber and prefix me would make the first choice as they are the most widely used Malay prefixes.

The wrong insertion of an affix instead of the zero affix ( see 3.3111 ) can therefore be described as a feature of hyper-correction.

The learners are under the misconception that a Malay head-verb must always occur with an affix and have therefore ensured that an affix must be present.

The second cause is that of the application of analogy. In a sense this overlaps the first ~~cause~~<sup>cause</sup> as it could be explained that the extension of analogy of points of grammar the learners have learnt, have led them to believe that an affix must at all times be used with a head-verb.

Of these errors the wrong insertion of prefix me and prefix ber are the most common.

Errors in the wrong insertion of suffix 'kan' in the head-verb such as 'mendapat = to get, achieve ' instead of 'mendapatkan ', 'memeriksa = to inspect ' instead of 'memeriksa', 'membajak = to plough ' instead of membajakkan ' ( see 3.3111,J ) indicates very

clearly the lack of grasp between transitive and intransitive verbs in the Malay language. To attach prefix 'kan' to the above words (which are already non-derived transitive verbs) would alter the meaning of the whole sentence. As pointed out in the description ( see 2.2231 ) suffix kan attached to a transitive verb is benefactive 'kan' and hence, ' mendapatkan = to get or achieve something for the sake of someone else or for the benefit of someone other than the agent', memeriksakan = to inspect something on behalf of someone', and so on. For the purposes of conveying the intended meanings as exemplified in the citations, the inclusion of suffix 'kan' would render the sentences erroneous. Like errors in the wrong insertion of prefixes instead of the zero affix, the learners have again shown the desire to be 'over-correct' in the use of affixes. In fact, such errors further indicate that the learners have a totally wrong concept of the function and the use of Malay affixes. As in the case of the wrong insertion of an affix instead of the zero affix (exemplified in 3.3111), these are mostly basic lexical items which by any standard the learners should have mastered long before they reach this stage of their learning Malay. Another typical example is the word 'ada = to have, to possess. A fairly wide range of affixes have been used to combine with this words

when all the candidates need to do is to use the zero affix.

4.3112 The omission of affix / affixes.

The omission of prefix me and prefix ber ( see 3.3112 a.b.c. ) are errors which can be explained in terms of interference. The two causes mentioned above will also apply.

The source of interference is mainly bazaar Malay<sup>1</sup>, although there is still the possibility that the influence of the mother-tongue plays a part. Head-verbs in bazaar Malay are rarely given affixes. This means that head-verbs will occur in their root forms as they would normally appear as entries in the dictionary. Hence 'kerja' instead of 'bekerja = to work', 'jalan' instead of berjalan = to walk and so on. 'Kerja' and 'jalan' are in fact examples of two very common day-to-day words used by bazaar Malay speakers. It is fair to assume that the learners whose written compositions are investigated for purposes of this thesis, have first acquired bazaar Malay<sup>2</sup> and it does seem that this habit of using Malay head-verbs in their root forms is carried over when the learners speak or write in standard Malay. Words such as 'kelahi<sup>3</sup> = to quarrel', 'tambah<sup>4</sup> = to increase' would not normally be

---

1. See (1.24)

2. See (1.3)

3. For 'kelahi = to quarrel' bazaar Malay speakers would use the word 'gadoh'.

4. For 'tambah = to increase' bazaar Malay speakers would use the word 'baik = to become better, to better'.

included in the vocabulary of bazaar Malay and yet they too have received the same treatment as the more common day-to-day words such as 'kerja' and 'jalan' mentioned earlier.

The omission of prefix *ber* in the head-verb may also be due to another cause - namely 'play it safe' attitude. Having reached this stage of learning the language, the learners should be fully aware that the majority of Malay head-verbs, as mentioned earlier, are accompanied by affixes. So, quite naturally, when they have recalled the lexical item rightly or wrongly for purposes of conveying the meaning<sup>1</sup> they are then confronted with the problem of supplying the right prefix. But, because they have not fully mastered the patterns at H<sup>V</sup> the learners would resort to one of two ~~causes~~ <sup>causes</sup> of action, namely to make a wild guess and supply one of the more common affixes as discussed above or to present the lexical item in its root form. Many learners are under the misconception that to present a lexical item in its root form is to express it in 'simple Malay'. It is clear therefore rather than taking the risk of making errors by selecting the wrong affix, the candidates prefer to 'play it safe' and conform to the so-called 'simple Malay'.

---

1. The implication of this statement is that learners particularly the weak ones are continually translating from the SL into the TL.

The omission of prefix *me* (see 3.3112, c) is among the most numerous of errors at H<sup>V</sup>. All that which have been said on the omission of prefix *ber* can also be said of prefix *me*. However, one further point may be added. This is the fear of taking the risk of making morphophonemic errors<sup>1</sup>. This means that while the learner realizes that such and such a verb must be accompanied by prefix *me*, he is unable to present the head-verbs with a prefix *me* because he is unsure of the allomorph to select.

As has been suggested earlier, the errors involving the omission of prefix *ber* and *me* may also be due to the influence of the mother tongue.

Malay affixes have no formal correspondence in Chinese and the learners may try to transfer the principle of Chinese H<sup>V</sup> into Malay namely to present the head-verbs in the root forms as in Chinese. We do not however consider this to be a very plausible argument in view of the fact that by the time the learners wrote the compositions would they/have been sufficiently exposed to the Malay language.

#### The omission of prefix *di*

Very few of this sub-type of error has been found in the analysed texts. A possible explanation of the deviation is the interference from Chinese morphology in which no distinction is made morphologically

---

1. See morphophonemic rule (2.211)

between transitive and intransitive verbs.

The omission of suffix kan and suffix i

Strangely enough, the errors involving the omission of suffix kan and suffix i are also considered common among some native speakers of Malay particularly those who come from the north of Malaysia. In a sense, the norm as far as the use of suffix kan is concerned differs among the Malay speakers themselves. It is however, correct to say that teachers of Malay tend to conform to the standard usage<sup>6</sup>.

It would be wrong to assume that the learners have been influenced by the regional usage for there is evidence that learners who make mistakes in the use of the prefix kan not only come from the northern states but also from other parts of West Malaysia. The deviation seems to be due to the failures to recognize the semantic function of the suffix. Kan is a transitivizing suffix and it must therefore be attached to words which are not transitive verbs if the new derived words were to function as transitive verbs.

Errors in the use of suffix i are very rare. Non-Malay learners shun the use of the suffix and hence few mistakes are found in the analysed texts.

4.3113 Mistaken use of an affix or suffixes.

Under this heading, errors involving the mistaken use of a wrong affix at H<sup>V</sup> instead of another will be discussed. As a sub-type of error, this is found to be fairly common in the analysed texts. It seems fair to point out that as in the case of all errors at H<sup>V</sup> ( 3.311 ) in general the indications are that the learners have not adequately learnt this area of Malay grammar. One fact appears to stand out namely that the learners have shown that they realize the typical characteristic of items at H<sup>V</sup> and this realization automatically rules out the possibility that the deviations are caused by interference from the mother tongue, or bazaar Malay or for that matter English.

The citations ( 3.3113 ) have certainly indicated that the Chinese learners have made great efforts to learn, remember and reproduce the correct lexical items in each case for purposes of conveying the intended meaning. They have, however, as in other areas involving affixes, failed to recall the correct affix to accompany the root word.

It is necessary to examine in greater detail in what ways inadequate teaching can be described as the cause of the deviation. The term 'inadequate teaching' admittedly covers a wide field and as has been pointed out earlier, it is one of the causes of grammatical errors found at all ranks, in this investigation. And as far as this

particular sub-type error is concerned, inadequate teaching implies the failure on the part of the teachers of Malay to recognize that while forms such as 'lari = to run', 'jalan = to walk', 'kumpul = to assemble' etc. are regarded as root words, for purposes of teaching, each root form must not be separated from the affix it usually takes. Thus, 'berjalan = to walk', 'berkumpul = to assemble', 'berlari = to run' and so on would have to be treated as it were, as an unanalysable whole and it is in this form that it should be introduced to the learners and be taught in meaningful contexts.

It might be argued that many teachers of Malay in fact do not make it a practice to teach the root forms of the words as the unit of teaching. This may be so, but certainly it is a fact that many teachers of Malay as suggested earlier do make it a practice to draw unnecessarily the attention of the learners of Malay that forms such as 'berlaku = to occur' are analysable into prefix ber and root 'laku' and that the forms 'laku' and 'berlaku' must be taught separately in the same way as forms 'put' and 'puts' in English. But English 'put' and 'puts' as one lexical item can each be used in a sentence for a different grammatical purpose. 'laku' on the other hand is a bound form and does not occur on its own in a sentence. In a sense, this is the same as saying that teachers of Malay have the tendency to emphasize very strongly the significance and function of Malay

affixes. This is what we mean by 'inadequate teaching' and in our opinion it is this that will lead the children to learn 'jalan' separately from 'berjalan' and 'kumpul' separately from 'berkumpul' and 'laku' separately from 'berkumpul' and so on. The result is obvious. When the learners want to express themselves, they would as suggested in the earlier section, recall the root word and then think of the appropriate accompanying affix. The learners may or may not recall the correct affix or affixes.

#### 4.32 The Nominal Phrase

##### 4.321 Errors of the order of elements of structure ( 3.32 )

Interference seems to be the main cause of errors of this sub-type. Deviations indicate that the learners have not yet fully mastered the order of the elements of structure of the Malay nominal phrase nor have they recognized fully the difference between the order of elements of structures of the nominal phrase in their mother tongue and that of Malay. Hence, there is a great tendency to carry over the order of elements of structure of the nominal phrase in Chinese and English when expressing themselves in Malay.

This is another area of Malay grammar where many teachers of Malay expect the Chinese learners to encounter difficulty. This however is not the case. The number and the variety of errors falling under this heading is very small. Undoubtedly, at a lower level of competence, Chinese learners find this area troublesome.

In Chinese, the general principle of the order of the elements of structure of the nominal phrase is a complete reversal of that of Malay - namely that the corresponding element M precedes the element H. Thus, 'Zhongguo-ren = a Chinese person' where 'Zhongguo = Chinese' and 'ren = person'. Other examples are:-

Zhongguo-pengyou        = Chinese friends / friends of China  
 ni-taitai                = your wife

All the errors, therefore, can be explained in terms of interference of the nominal phrase structure of the SL. (Chinese and English).

#### 4.322 Errors involving items at Q (3.322 )

##### 4.3221 Wrong insertion of a prefix in a non-numeral quantifier

All the errors found in the texts are centered around two lexical items 'banyak = much, many ( of things countable and uncountable, of persons, etc. ) ' and 'ramai = many ( of persons only).

Like the errors in the wrong insertion of affixes at H<sup>V</sup> ( 3.311 ) the indication is that the learners are trying to be overcorrect in their use of affix or affixes. Here, again the learners seem to be deceived by the concept that 'correct' Malay forms should have affixes. We can only speculate that the choice of prefix 'ber' as in 'beramai' and 'berbanyak' in preference to prefix me or ter, is due to the fact in certain contexts, <sup>the</sup> forms 'berbanyak' can occur.

It must be admitted that while this sub-type of error is not really common in the analysed texts, it must be regarded as significant to warrant a separate explanation. There is no doubt that, the pattern of the SL does not interfere with the pattern of the TL, because both in Chinese and in English proper nouns do not colligate with the item 'the'. One can only speculate as in many other areas that the learners have extended by analogy the pattern the learners have learnt namely that the item Md.'itu' in Malay is always present in the exponent S of a clause structure. In some special contexts of the spoken language, the item Md. 'itu or ini' could indeed be inserted after a proper noun such as 'Ahmad ini selalu sahaja sakit' = This Ahmad is always sick', but we hesitate to suggest that the spoken language could actually have interfered with the written style. After all, at this stage of the learners competency in the language, it would be unlikely for them to be familiar with the pattern 'proper noun Md.'

In the second sub-type of error, the item Md. is wrongly inserted following a common noun. Here again, as in the case of the sub-type mentioned above, the plausible cause of the deviation is the extension of analogy. Interference from the pattern of the SL could also be another cause. While it is true that many Malay nouns can be followed by 'itu' in the structure of the nominal phrase, it will be 'incorrect'

that forms such as 'beramai' and 'berbanyak' are acceptable in some special contexts. 'berbanyak terima kaseh = many thanks' is an example.

These errors are not described in terms of interference of the SL patterns as no formal correspondence exists in the SL.

The desire to be 'over-correct' can be related to inadequate learning and teaching. Like in other errors, it is the failure on their part to recall spontaneously and correctly the 'correct' pattern that result in the deviations.

#### 4.3222 The mistaken use of a wrong non-numeral quantifier (3.322,c)

The mistaken use of 'ramai' for 'banyak' is also another example of hype-correction. It cannot be denied that teachers of Malay have taught or for that matter the learners themselves have learnt the difference between the two items - namely that as a non-numeral quantifier 'ramai' is used exclusively when the following head-noun is a human noun and 'banyak = much, many' is used with any noun. However, the 'purists' among the teachers seem to have over-stressed what could be regarded as merely a stylistic difference between the two items, i.e. ' banyak' when used preceding a human noun is considered as sub-standard. They would not therefore accept the phrase

'banyak orang = many people'. (This was true some ten or fifteen years ago, but in current usage only the former difference is recognized). The consequence of this 'over-emphasis' in the stylistic difference is that the inefficient learners are more inclined to remember that 'ramai' is a 'better' word than 'banyak'.

The mistaken use of 'berapa = how?, how much? how many?' instead of 'beberapa = several, a few of ' seems to be common among the very inefficient learners. Inadequate teaching and learning is the only plausible explanation.

The above explanation will also apply in the case of the mistaken use of 'suatu' for 'sasuatu'.

#### 4.3223. The omission of classifiers

The omission of classifiers, as expected, are errors which are found to be common among learners from English secondary schools. There is a formal correspondence in Chinese<sup>1</sup>. Like Malay, a number cannot precede a nominal phrase directly:-

<u>Chinese</u>	<u>Malay</u>	<u>English</u>
sanben-shu	tiga buah buku	three (volumes of) books.

The errors can be related to transference of the pattern of the English nominal phrase ( where the item classifier is not generally required ) into Malay. In the citations, the corresponding English

nominal phrase, would not need a classifier.

#### 4.3224 The omission of non-numeral quantifier

Transference of the pattern of the English nominal phrase is also the cause of errors involving the omission of 'banyak = many, much' in the Malay nominal phrase. In Malay, the item 'lebih = more' is not usually followed directly by a noun in the nominal phrase structure.

#### 4.323 Errors involving items at M.

##### 4.3231 Wrong order of items at M.

Only one sub-type of errors is found to be persistent and it concerns the order of items Myg. and Md. (3.323a). As has been pointed out in (2.22), in all cases the item Md. must come finally in the structure of the Malay nominal phrase. Quite clearly, the learners have failed to recall spontaneously the order of the two items and have therefore allowed the pattern of the SL to interfere with the pattern of the TL. Hence, as in English, the head-noun<sup>1</sup> is followed immediately by the item Md. 'itu' which corresponds to 'that' or 'the' and the 'myg'. then follows Md. Indeed in all the citations, the deviations can be produced by a word<sup>for</sup> translation from English into Malay.

##### 4.3232. Wrong insertion of Md.

~~Two sub-types of errors are distinguished. First, the deviation is caused by the wrong insertion of Md. following a proper noun.~~

In Malay it is an error ~~to~~ →

to insert an Md. when the preceding noun carries a general meaning. Hence items like 'surat-khabar = newspaper' is not followed by 'itu' unless it specifically refers to a particular paper e.g. 'Surat-khabar itu charek = The newspaper is torn.

#### 4.33 The Prepositional Phrase ( See 3.33 )

Contrary to expectation, the variety and the number of errors found in the analysed texts at this rank is relatively small considering that there exists one important difference between the structures of the Malay prepositional phrase and the Chinese prepositional phrase. The structure of the Malay prepositional phrase (2.222 ) is similar to that of English and has the same fixed order of elements of structure, namely that the preposition precedes the nominal phrase. This is, however, not the case with many Chinese translation equivalents of Malay and English prepositional phrases for certain items which correspond to Malay prepositions are placed preceding the nominal phrase while others following it.

#### Examples

N.B. Malay prepositions and the corresponding items in Chinese are underlined.

<u>Chinese</u>	<u>Malay</u>	<u>English</u>
frangzi- <u>litou</u>	<u>didalam</u> rumah	inside the house
shan- <u>shang</u>	<u>dibawah-</u> bukit	down the hill
<u>cong</u> Meiguo	<u>dari</u> Amerika	From America
<u>dao</u> shudian	<u>ka</u> kedai buku	to the bookshop
<u>zuo</u> gonggong	<u>dengan</u> bas	by bus

There is no doubt that at a lower stage of the learners competence in the Malay language, this difference can be a source of interference in constructing prepositional phrase in the TL. Mistakes of the type 'kerusi bawah = under the chair' instead of 'bawah kerusi', 'meja atas = on the table' instead of 'atas meja' and 'rumah belakang = behind the house', instead of 'belakang rumah' and so on are known to be common in the primary and lower secondary schools. It is indeed very gratifying to note that such errors are not found to be persistent in the analysed scripts and it can safely be assumed therefore that they have got over this difficulty by the time the learners sit for the Malay paper for the Malaysian Certificate of Education<sup>1</sup>.

#### 4.331 Inappropriate prepositions

Errors which have been classified under the heading 'inappropriate prepositions' can be attributed to two causes - inadequate teaching and learning and transference<sup>2</sup>.

---

1. See foot-note 3 (1.52)

2. "A Linguistic Theory of Translation" J.C. Catford O.U.P. 1965

It is not intended to discuss the first cause in detail.

It would be sufficient to reiterate what has been said earlier in the thesis that one obvious result of inadequate learning and teaching is that the learners find themselves unable to recall spontaneously and correctly the TL linguistic patterns and items they have learnt in order to convey the meanings they intend to express. It has been stated above that the learners seem able to recall correctly the order of elements of the structure of the Malay prepositional phrase and in general they have shown that they have mastered the use of the more common Malay prepositions such as 'depan or didepan = in front of', 'belakang or dibelakang = behind' 'dari = from' and so on.

These items are in fact easier to learn and remember for not only such items are of everyday use but also each one of the items, as shown in the examples above can be placed on one to one correspondence with the item in the SL, be it English or Chinese. It is therefore with the less common prepositions and those which cannot easily <sup>be</sup> placed on one to one correspondence with the prepositions in the SL that the learners encounter difficulty. Transference will therefore be carried out. By this is meant the SL prepositional items are represented in the TL text by quasi-prepositional items deriving their formal and contextual meanings from the structures of the SL (Chinese

or English), not the TL ( Malay ). 'untuk dua jam' instead of 'salama dua jam' = for two hours' in the sentence 'Kami mendaki/ untuk dua jam/' is a good example of transference where the learner has given the Corresponding item in Malay for the English 'for' as 'untuk' instead of 'salama'. True enough, in another context the English item 'for ' could be translated into Malay by 'untuk' e.g. 'I bought it for him' = Saya beli itu untuk dia'.

It is because of transference that most of the examples of errors under the heading of 'inappropriate prepositions' can be translated word for word into the SL ( and in the majority of cases the SL is English).

#### 4.332 Omission of prepositions

Most of the citations under the heading of "Omission of Preposition" derives from lack of prepositions in the corresponding SL clauses. The omission of preposition 'ka' in the sentence 'Kami sampai kaki gunung itu pada pukul lapan malam' instead of 'Kami sampai ka kaki gunung itu pada pukul lapan malam ' is a good example. The SL in this case is the English - we reached the foot of the mountain at eight o'clock in the evening.

#### 4.4. The Explanation of Errors at the Rank of the Clause.

Contrary to expectation, this is an area of Malay grammar in which the learners seem to have no great difficulty. There is a good reason for this. The learners have been able to minimise the number and variety of errors by expressing themselves within a few basic clause structures<sup>1</sup>. The indication is that they have mastered these structures fairly adequately. To a large extent, their knowledge of English clause structures have helped the learners for in many ways basic Malay clause structures are similar to basic English clause structures. In both cases, the element S and the element P ( with few exceptions ) must be present. The element A, particularly when it is represented by a prepositional phrase is positionally free in both Malay and English clause structures.

Most of the errors at this rank are errors of items at A. In our opinion, this is caused by the semantic complexities of the items themselves. Many learners are under the illusion that the insertion of 'pun' and 'juga' would make the sentences look or sound 'more Malay'. What they fail to realize is that although it is right to say that the corresponding English items for 'pun' and juga' are 'also' and 'too', not every 'also' or 'too' could be translated by 'pun' or 'juga'. There is certainly very much more than that. It would certainly be

---

1. Clause Structure (2.235),

an impossible task to try and analyse the errors involving these two items in terms of the brief grammatical outline in chapter *Two*.

CHAPTER FIVE  
LEXICAL ERRORS

5.0 Introduction

Formal items operating at the level of lexis are described as lexical items and enter into an open set selection<sup>1</sup>. Most grammatical words in Malay can be co-extensive with lexical items, but lexical items can also be co-extensive with the grammatical unit, the phrase. For this reason, constructions such as compound words, idioms, and 'ready-made utterances'<sup>2</sup>, 'cliche', will be regarded as lexical items.

The two axes of relationship, namely paradigmatic and syntagmatic are used as the basis for the identification and classification of lexical items. For the syntagmatic relation, the term collocation<sup>3</sup> is used.

5.02 Collocation

By collocation is meant the tendency for one lexical item to habitually co-occur with another lexical item. In Malay, the item 'hujan = rain' collocates with 'lebat = heavy ( of rain )', 'basah = wet' berat = heavy (of object, responsibility etc.) does not collocate with 'hujan'. Thus, in the sentence "Hujan itu berat = the rain is heavy", the item 'berat' is erroneous and in the

- 
1. See M.A.K.Halliday 'Category of the Theory of Grammar' Word Vol,17.
  2. See J.Lyons 'Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics', Cambridge 1968, No. 3.
  3. See R.H.Robins 'General Linguistics - An Introductory Survey' Longmans 1966.

analysis it will be classified under the heading 'Collocation unaccepted in Malay.'

### 5.03 Lexical set

For paradigmatic relation the term 'set' is used. Items which belong to one lexical set have one collocational range. In Malay, items such as 'pinggan = plate', 'piring = saucer', 'chawan = cup', 'chamcha = spoon' are members of one lexical set on the basis that they are likely to collocate with the same set of items such as 'makan = to eat', 'minum = to drink' etc.

### 5.1 Classification of lexical errors

Four main types of lexical errors are distinguished.

- (a) Errors of Collocation.
- (b) Sub-standard lexical items.
- (c) Contextually unacceptable items.
- (d) Errors of 'ready made utterances'

#### 5.11 Errors of collocation

- (1) "patah = to break ( of wood, stick, branch of a tree etc )" instead of "pechah = to break ( of glass, chinaware etc )".

// Diatas lantai itu ada chawan yang patah // (pechah)  
 = On the floor there is a broken cup ( liter. a cup which is broken )

- (2) "lebar = wide - measuring from side to side, e.g. jalan lebar = wide road", instead of "banyak = many".  
 // Saya akan ada pilehan yang lebar.// ( banyak )  
 = I shall have a wide choice.
- (3) "jelas = clear, distinct, well-defined ( of voice, explanation etc.) instead of "jerneh = Clear ( of water )  
 // Ayer sungai itu sangat jelas.// ( jerneh )  
 = The water of the river is very clear.
- (4) "segar = to be physically fresh" instead of "berseh = clean"  
 // Orang-orang itu meminum ayer yang segar itu // ( berseh )  
 = The people drank the fresh water.
- (5) "gagah = to be strong ( of human being )" instead of "teguh = Strong of rope, structure etc.  
 // Dia menurunkan tali yang gagah//. ( tegoh )  
 = He brought down a strong piece of rope.
- (6) "lekas = to be quick" instead of "pantas = fast (~~lekas~~)  
 // Pada masa itu kita boleh menaiki roket-roket yang lekas //.  
 ( pantas ) ~~(lekas)~~  
 = At that time we shall be able to ride on fast rockets.

- (7) "pechah = to <sup>break</sup> break ( of glass, chinaware ) " instead of  
 "koyak = to tear ( of cloth, paper ) " etc.  
 // Baju baru Ahmad pechah.// ( koyak )  
 = Ahmad's new shirt is torn.
- (8) "pechah = to break ( of glass, chinaware )" instead of "putus =  
 to snap, break ( of string, chain, etc.)  
 // Rantai anjing itu pechah dan Ahmad sangat takut//. ( putus )  
 = The dog's chain broke and Ahmad was very frightened
- (9) "hilang = to lose something, e.g. hilang pensel = to lose a  
 pencil" instead of "sesat = to lose one's way".  
 // Kami tidak akan hilang jalan.// ( sesat )  
 = We shall not lose our way.
- (10) "terdiri = to be situated ( of buildings, monuments etc. )  
 instead of "terletak = to be situated ( of mountain, hill etc.)  
 Gunung itu terdiri di barat negeri ini. ( terletak ).  
 The mountain is situated in the western part of the country.

### 5.12. Sub-standard lexical items

These are items which are not acceptable as written Malay<sup>1</sup> lexical items. They include:-

- (a) Words which are used only in particular spoken dialects, such as 'mencherin = to feel unwell' in Perak dialect.
- (b) Words which are acceptable in spoken standard Malay<sup>2</sup>, but have not yet been accepted for purposes of writing. Example; "merambu = to wander around".
- (c) Words which are used only in bazaar Malay<sup>3</sup>. Examples are; "bikin = to do, to make" instead of "buat"; "bilang = to say" instead of "kata or chakap" etc.

For obvious reasons, no example of error or sub-types (a)<sup>4</sup> and (b) are found in the texts. Errors of sub-type (c) are exemplified as follows:-

- (11) "taroh = to place" . . . . . instead of "masokkan =  
to put into"  
// Kami taroh makanan itu didalam beg kami.// ( masokkan )  
We put into the bag the food. ( put the food into the bag )

- 1. See ( 1.2.3. )
- 2. See ( 1.2.4. )
- 3. See ( 1.2.4. )
- 4. The learners are native-speakers of Chinese and apparently have not been influenced by regional dialects of Malay or the standard spoken Malay.

- (12) "mari = to come ( used in standard Malay in the imperative sense only" instead of "datang = to come"  
 ///Bila bas mari, saya pun naik/// ( datang )  
 = When the bus came I boarded it.
- (13) "mahu = to want, desire e.g. Saya mahu barang itu sekarang = I want that item now" instead of "hendak = shall, will".  
 /// Bila kami mahu turun, kami nampak bendera/// (hendak )  
 = When we were about to descend, we saw a flag.
- (14) "kasi = to give" instead of "beri"  
 // Saya tidak kasi tali itu pada dia malam itu/// ( beri )  
 = I did not give the string to him that night.
- (15) "bikin = to do, make" instead of "buat"  
 // Pada petang itu saya tidak bikin apa-apa//  
 = That evening I was not doing anything.
- (16) "lu = you" instead of "kamu, awak"  
 // Anak lu tidak sudah pergi ka rumah dia//. ( awak )  
 = Your son did not like to go to his house.

### 5.13 Contextually unacceptable items

Under this heading are lexical items which are inappropriate in the contexts they are used. By itself, each of the items is acceptable Malay. The following are examples of errors.

#### 5.131 The erroneous item is a verb

(17) "mengambil = to take", instead of "membawa = to bring"

// Mustafa mengambil sabilah parang dan sabotol ayer // ( membawa )  
= Mustafa brought a parang and a bottle of water.

(18) "menengok = to look at, to try to see" instead of "nampak =

to see. Salepas berjalan beberapa batu // kami menengok  
saekor binatang yang ganjil//. ( nampak ).  
= After walking a few miles, we saw a strange animal.

(19) "menyaksikan = to witness, to watch ( a football match, a performance ) instead of "nampak = to see

// Kami menyaksikan beribu-ribu pokok yang besar//. ( nampak )  
= We saw thousands of trees.

(20) "lihat" = to look instead of "nampak = to see"

/// Apabila saya sampai ka rumah // saya melihat saorang budak  
mengambil sabatang kayu ///. ( nampak )  
= When I arrived home I saw a child taking a stick.

- (21) "membuangkan = to throw something e.g. membuang batu -  
to throw a stone" instead of "merebahkan = to lie down,  
to throw oneself onto something".  
/// Saya pun balek ka rumah // dan membuangkan badan saya ka  
atas katil//  
= I then returned home and threw myself on the bed.
- (22) "anggap = to regard, consider" instead of "agak = to  
expect".  
/// Saya anggap saya akan pergi lagi ka gunung itu /// ( agak )  
= I expect I shall go to the mountain again.
- (23) "meminta = to ask for something, to request " instead of  
"bertanya = to ask a question, to enquire".  
/// Kalau awak meminta seorang Eropah, dia akan mengatakan  
dia suka hawa sejok ///. ( bertanya )  
= If you were to ask a European, he would say that he likes  
cold weather.
- (24) "belajar = to study, to learn " instead of "ketahui =  
to know, to find out".  
/// Kami belajar bahawa turun lebih susah daripada naik ///.  
( ketahui )  
= We found out that to go down is more difficult than to go up.

(25) "datang = to come " instead of "pergi = to go".

/// Salepas satengah jam // kami datang ka pasar ///. ( pergi )

= After half an hour, we went to the market.

(26) "berchadang = to have the intention," instead of "menetapkan

= to make up one's mind, to decide".

/// Salepas berchadang gunung yang kami hendak daki // kami pun balek ///. ( menetapkan )

= After deciding which mountain we were going to climb, we returned home.

(27) "bertanya = to ask, enquire" instead of "menyuruh =

// Pagi itu emak saya bertanya saya pergi ka kedai. ( menyuruh )

= That morning my mother asked me to go to the shop.

(28) "datang = to come" instead of "tiba = Dia memasang lampu

minyak sebab malam hampir datang. ( tiba )

= He lighted a lantern because it was getting dark ( liter. night is coming)

(29) "membuat = to make, to do", instead of "memasak = to cook"

Apabila kami sampai ka atas gunung itu kami membuat makanan.

( memasak )

= When we reached the summit, we cooked our food.

(30) "datang = to come" instead of "menjadi = to become".

Tempat-tempat yang diluar bandar akan datang! baik. ( menjadi )

= Places in the rural areas will become nice.

(31) "belajar = to study, to learn" instead of "membacha = to read".

Murid-murid itu dapat belajar buku-buku yang lebih susah.

( membacha )

= The pupils could read more difficult books.

(32) "difikirkan = was thought of" instead of "dibinchangkan = was discussed"

Perkara itu telah difikirkan dengan guru kami. ( dibinchangkan )

= The subject was discussed with our teacher.

(33) "tinggal = to be left" instead of "berhenti = to stop"

Penuntut-penuntut yang baru tinggal dari sekolah digalakkan menjadi doktor.

= Students who have just left schools were encouraged to

become doctors.

(34) "menyusun = to arrange, to pile up" instead of "mengemaskan

= to pack up.

Pada pagi itu kami bangun dan menyusun khemah kami. ( mengemaskan)  
 = That morning we got up and packed up our tent.

(35) "menjemput = to invite"( to a party ) instead of "mengajak =  
 to invite

Kawan saya menjemput saya mendaki gunung itu.  
 = My friend invited me to climb the mountain.

(36) "mengangkat = to lift up something" instead of "mengambil =  
 to take,

Ah Chong mengatakan adek nya nampak Ah Leong mengangkat wang itu  
 ( mengambil )  
 = Ah Chong said his brother saw Ah Leong taking the money.

(37) "membaikkan = to mend, repair", instead of mengubat = to  
 apply medicine".

Doctor itu membaiki kaki saya dengan ubat. ( mengubat )  
 = The doctor applied medicine to my foot.

(38) "buka = to open" "for kembang = to bloom".

/// Dari kebun Mahmud saya mengutip <sup>u</sup> bunga2 yang telah buka///  
 = From Mahmud's garden we gathered flowers which have blossom

(39) "di-basohkan = was washed" for basah = 'wet'

/// Muka budak itu di-basohkan dengan ayer mata///. ( basah )

= The boy's face was wet with tears.

(40) 'berulang' = to repeat' for terus = to continue

/// Lepas itu kami pun berulang mendaki gunung itu /// ( terus )

= After that we continued to climb the mountain.

(41) 'memandang = to look for' melihat = to see, watch.

/// Ramai orang memandang perkelahian itu///. ( melihat )

= Many people were watching the fight.

#### 5.14. Errors of 'Ready-made' utterances

'Ready-made utterances' are "expressions which are learned as unanalysable wholes and employed on particular occasions by native speakers"<sup>1</sup>. These include idioms, cliché<sup>2</sup> and other habitual collocations of more than one word. An example from Malay is 'naik angin = to be short tempered'. Other examples are 'pada dua haribulan oktober = on the 2nd of October', pagi-pagi lagi = early in the morning and so on.

- 
1. See J. Lyons, Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics' Cambridge University Press 1968.
  2. See R.H. Robins "General Linguistics - An Introductory Survey - Longmans 1966.

The suggested classification of errors are as follows:-

N.B. Errors are underlined and the correct forms are written within brackets.

5.141 "ready-made" utterances which are not Malay.

(42) // Sapendek masa sesudah merdeka, negara-negara lain tahukan  
negara kita // ( tidak lama )

= Not long after independence, other countries knew our country.

(43) // Sakejap lepas, kami nampak beberapa batu besar //. ( tidak lama  
kemudian )

= Not long after that, we saw several boulders.

(44) // Kami berbesikal dengan baik laju //. ( dengan pantas, chepat )

= We cycled with good speed.

5.1.4.2. Wrong construction of 'ready-made utterances'

(45) // Kami mendaki gunung itu pada masa pukul tujuh pagi //

( pada pukul tujuh pagi )

= We climbed the mountain at 7 o'clock in the morning

(46) // Pada masa bulan yang lalu, saya telah melihat satu perkelahian//.

( pada bulan yang lalu )

= Last month, I saw a fight.

(47) // Pada hari petang itu, di rumah saya saya bising //.

( pada petang itu )

= That evening, it was very noisy in my house.

(48) // Pada pagi-pagi benar, kawan-kawan saya datang ka rumah saya //.

( pagi-pagi lagi )

= Very early in the morning, my friends came to my house.

(49) // Pada hari dua haribulan Oktober, kami pergi mendaki Gunung Anjing//.

( pada dua hanbulan Oktober )

= On the 2nd of October, we climbed Gunung Anjing.

(50) // Pada pagi-pagi sahaja saya pergi ka rumah kawan saya //.

( pagi-pagi lagi )

= Early in the morning, I went to my friend's house.

(51) // Pada enam pagi, kami bertolak//. ( pada pukul enam pagi, pukul enam pagi).

= At six o'clock, we left.

(52) // Di kanan kiri, kami melihat pokok-pokok besar // ( di kiri kanan )

= On the left and on the right, we saw large trees.

(53) Bernasib baik, negeri kita dikelilingi oleh laut yang chetek

( nasib baik )

= Fortunately, our country is surrounded by shallow seas.

(54) Membacha surat-khabar ~~itu~~ sudah menjadi tabiat orang-orang

yang tidak buta-hurufnya. ( buta huruf )

= Reading newspaper has become a habit for people who are not illiterate.

(55) Akhir kami bersedia hendak pergi. ( akhirnya )

= At last we are ready to go.

(56) Satiba-tibanya, saekor ular kechil keluar dari lobang itu.

( tiba-tiba )

= Suddenly a small snake came<sup>a</sup> out from the hole.

(57) Lelaki itu ketawa bila peremuan<sup>p</sup> itu jatoh ka atas lima kaki.

( kaki lima )

= The man laughed when the woman fell on the five-foot way.

(58) Negara kita akan menjadi maju samakin masa ( samakin lama )

= Our country will become progressive as time goes by.

(59) Samula waktu, mendaki gunung itu sangat senang. ( mula-mulanya )

= At first, climbing the mountain was easy.

(60) Sabalek pun, negeri itu sangat panas pada musin panas.

( sabaleknya )

= On the other hand, the country is very hot in the summer.

#### 5.1.4.3. Mistaken use of 'ready-made utterances'

In the following examples, the 'ready-made utterances' are erroneous in the contexts they are used.

(61) // Tidak lama lagi, kami sampai ka kemunchak gunung itu //.

(tidak lama lepas itu )

= Not long after that we reached the summit.

N.B. "tidak lama lagi = soon", cannot be used to refer to the past.

(62) // Economic negara kita pada masa sekarang didalam tangan

bijeh timah // (bergantung kepada).

= Our economy now depends on tin.

N.B. "didalam tangan = *in hand* .

(63) // Esok pagi, saya membawa kawan saya berjalan // . ( pagi

esok-nya )

= The next day, I took my friend for a walk.

N.B. "esok pagi = tomorrow" could not be used to refer to the past.

(64) // Beberapa hari lagi sebelum kami bertolak, kami menyiapkan  
 perkakas- perkakas yang berguna // ( beberapa hari )  
 = A few days before we left, we packed all the necessary  
 things.

"beberapa hari lagi = a few days more ".

## 5.2

The errors listed above are only a small sample of errors found in the analysed texts. Of the four sub-types, two are found to be common namely 'contextually unacceptable items' and 'errors of ready-made utterance'.

Contrary to expectation, errors falling under the heading of 'sub-standard lexical items' are not persistent. This is very gratifying when one takes into consideration the fact that nearly all Chinese learners of Malay speak bazaar Malay. We can conclude that the influence of bazaar Malay at the lexical level is no longer a problem to learners of Malay in the upper secondary classes.

### 5.21 Contextually unacceptable items.

If we turn to the citations, we find one thing common to nearly all of them is that errors are caused by attempts to provide translation equivalents of SL items ( mostly English ) in the TL. A typical example is the use of "mengambil = to take " instead of "membawa = to bring" (17). It is true that the translation equivalent of the English word "to take"

in Malay is "mengambil" as in " I am taking the book from him = Saya nak mengambil buku itu daripada dia", but the English word 'take' used in the sense of 'to carry, accompany ' as in ' to take letters to the post, to take the luggage upstairs etc.' has the translation equivalent "membawa".

The root cause of such errors is inadequate learning and teaching. The indication is that learners are still unable to recall habitually the lexical items in the TL and in their attempt to express themselves in the TL , the SL lexical items are first selected, to be followed by the translation equivalents in the TL. We admit that errors of lexical items with complicated semantic features in the TL are tolerable but we fail to understand/<sup>why</sup>errors of type "mengambil " instead of "membawa "(17), "meminta" instead of "bertanya" (23), "belajar" instead of "membacha"(31) are still persistent among learners who have learnt the language for a considerable length of time.

It is relevant to point out at this juncture that there is now a real need for a good mono-lingual dictionary. It is common knowledge that many learners of Malay have relied on bi-lingual dictionary ( Malay-English ) . We suggest that a mono-lingual Malay dictionary incorporating details as found in "The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English"<sup>1</sup> would help learners to master some of their problems of learning Malay vocabulary.

---

1. See Hornby, Gatenby, Wakefield, "The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English", O.U.P. 1963.

### 5.3 Errors of 'ready-made utterance'

Like errors under the heading of 'contextually unacceptable items', here too the learners have resorted to giving translation equivalents of the SL in the TL ( see 5.14 ). Some of the translations result in good Malay ( many 'ready-made utterances' in English have been translated word for word into Malay e.g. in other words = dengan lain-lain perkataan ), but a good number have resulted in unacceptable Malay. A typical example is "sakejap lepas " from English "shortly after, afterwards".

There is lack of grasp among the learners of the fact that 'ready-made utterances' are items which must be learnt as unanalysable wholes. It might be possible for some of those exemplified ( 45) - ( 60) to be analysed as grammatical constructions, for example, "pada bulan yang lalu" as a prepositional phrase with items pn, H<sup>n</sup>, M<sup>yg</sup>, and so on, but we feel that it would be best to regard each one of them as one fixed construction. Learners of Malay <sup>must</sup> learn them as fixed constructions and teachers should drill their pupils in the form of controlled exercises<sup>1</sup> until they are able to recall the constructions habitually.

Errors of idioms are very rare and are therefore not exemplified.

---

1. See ( 6.31 ).

## CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION6.0. Introduction

This chapter will be concerned with linguistic and some general problems of Malay language learning and teaching to Chinese learners in non-Malay medium secondary schools. Where practical, recommendations and suggestions to remedy the problems are offered.

6.1 The thousands of errors from the analysed texts of which only samples have been given in chapter three ( grammatical errors ) and chapter five ( lexical errors ) are made by Chinese learners from all regions in Malaysia<sup>1</sup>. If we take into consideration the fact that the learners have not only studied the subject for at least eight years, but have also lived in a country where half the population are native speakers of Malay - a situation which must be regarded as ideal for learning a new language - the standard of competency is

---

1. This refers to West Malaysia.

very disappointing<sup>1</sup>. No doubt there is every indication that the general standard is gradually rising<sup>2</sup> but it is still far from satisfactory. A fairly large proportion of the errors involve basic grammatical items and constructions and simple lexical items. With improved learning and teaching, stronger motivation and more practice in writing and speaking the language both inside and outside the classroom, these errors could have been eradicated long before the learners sat for the paper<sup>3</sup>.

Various causes have been offered for the deviations - among them interference from the SL (Chinese as well as English), inadequate learning and teaching and language interference. From this investigation one further fact seems to stand out namely that many of the errors arise because a learner always finds himself in a situation in which he puts into writing not what he wants to say but what he is actually able to recall. So, when he has to write a 'composition exercise' his total expression is limited to the small number of grammatical items and patterns and lexical items which are

- 
1. This is particularly so in view of the fact that in the investigation the sample of errors are taken only from scripts with average or more than average marks.
  2. The writer was the chief examiner for the Malay ( National language ) paper for a number of years and had noted the rising standard year by year.
  3. Malay ( National language ) paper - now Bahasa Malaysia 1 for the Malaysian Certificate of Education.

available at immediate recollection. He recognizes more than that if they are presented to him but there are not 'at the end of his pen'. The task for the learner then resolves itself into an exercise not in composition but in translation as he struggles to find expression in the TL ( Malay ). This explains why errors at H<sup>V</sup> ( 3.311 ) are most common for the task of supplying the TL lexical items and the grammatical items and patterns that go with them are too much for him. For example, it would not be adequate merely to be able to recall that the corresponding Malay word for the English word "to rest" is "rehat", without knowing what affix would go with it in the clause structure<sup>1</sup>.

6.2. Errors among the learners will undoubtedly continue to flourish until they have adequate mastery of the various grammatical items and patterns and are able to recall sufficient number of lexical items expected of them. By this is meant, the learners must be able to use them in a habitual manner and must not merely be able to recognize them when they are presented to him. Many teachers are aware of this and aural-oral drills during the early years have contributed a great deal towards helping the learners to master basic grammatical items

---

1. See ( 2.235 )

and patterns. But it does seem that in order to produce the kind of writing expected of him at the end of the secondary school, the learner needs a great deal of concentrated remedial work in written Malay. For this purpose, it is possible to apply the techniques and principles used in the teaching of Malay on the aural-oral level to the teaching of written Malay.

6.3 There are today, a number of texts written for non-Malay learners in secondary schools which contain exercises on various aspects of Malay grammar, exercises on comprehension, exercises in constructing sentences, filling in the blanks with appropriate grammatical or lexical items, transforming one type of construction to another etc.

While these exercises could be regarded as suitable, the following criticisms, in our opinion, are valid.

- (a) There is too much emphasis on passive recognition of grammatical items and structures and lexical items brought about by too many exercises on reading and comprehension. We admit that one of the ultimate objectives of learning a language is understanding both the spoken language and the written language but such exercises should not be carried out to the detriment of other important aspects of language learning.

- (b) Out-moded language materials such as exercises on proverbs, archaic Malay idioms should be excluded from texts for non-Malay learners.
- (c) Exercises on precis writing should be left to the last years in the secondary school.

We recommend two categories of language material to be included in a text for non-Malay Learners : controlled exercises and controlled contents.

6.31 Some suggested examples of controlled exercises on the nominal phrase and the verbal phrase are found at the end of the section. Similar exercises could be planned for practice in other grammatical units.

In these exercises, the use of symbols<sup>1</sup> ~~are~~<sup>is</sup> proposed and the learners are required to convert some 'abstract-looking algebraic' symbols into actual units of Malay - the verbal phrase the nominal phrase etc. These symbols, although not important in themselves, are important to the learners for they help them focus on the structures of the Malay language rather than on the meaning

---

1. The symbols used in the suggested exercises are identical to those found in the grammatical description of this thesis. For purposes of teaching, they could be simplified.

of the individual words. Those concerned with the teaching of Malay to non-Malay learners realize that the meaning conveyed by the head-verb with prefix *ter*, such as 'terjatoh = to fall off ( accidentally )', is almost impossible for them to grasp, yet these same learners can be taught to use the verb from the point of view of the structure of Malay clause / sentence patterns, rather than from the point of view of meaning. Of course, in actual practice, both structure and meaning must be considered. Thus the typical Malay nominal phrase structure,  $H^N M^{adj} M^d$  can represent a variety of lexical combinations such as 'rumah besar itu = the big house', 'motokar baru itu = the new car', 'budakmalas itu = the lazy boy', but not just any combination. The learners to whom such exercises are directed should have adequate vocabulary at their command so that they would be unlikely to try a combination like 'motokar rajin itu = the industrious car'.

6.311 Suggested controlled exercises on the nominal phrase.

- (1) Transform the following sentences into nominal phrases.

Models: i. Guru itu mengajar sejarah → Guru yang mengajar sejarah itu = The teacher teaches history → the teacher who teaches history.

ii. Kawan saya minum susu. → Kawan saya yang minum

susu itu = My friend is drinking milk → My  
 friend <sup>who</sup> is drinking milk.

(a) Orang gemok itu menjual sateh.

= The stout man sells sateh.

(b) Pekerja-perkerja itu bekerja di ladang getah.

= The workers work in the rubber estate.

(c) Kasut itu dibuat daripada kulit.

= The shoe is made of leather.

(d) Jam tangan itu berharga lima ringgit.

= The wrist watch costs five dollars.

(e) Rancangan itu belum berjalan.

= The plan has not been implemented.

(2) Write noun phrases using the following formulas.

Make the phrases as specific and interesting as possible.

Models: i.  $H^n$              $M^{adj}$              $M^d$   
                  Orang    gemok            itu

= The stout man

ii.  $Q^{non}$              $H^n$              $M^{adj}$              $M^{pn}$              $M^d$   
                  Semua            bakul            besar            dia            itu

= All his large baskets. . .

- (a) Q<sup>n</sup>    Q<sup>c</sup>    H<sup>n</sup>
- (b) Q<sup>bu</sup>    Q<sup>non</sup>    H<sup>n</sup>    M<sup>d</sup>
- (c) Q<sup>non</sup>    H<sup>n</sup>    Myg.(i)    M<sup>d</sup>
- (d) H<sup>n</sup>    M<sup>n.</sup>    M<sup>adj</sup>    M<sup>d</sup>

6.312 Suggested exercises on the verbal phrase

(1) Write verbal phrases according to the following formulas.

Use as many different items at X as possible.

Model:            X            V<sup>o</sup>(i/A)  
                               sudah        tidor  
                               = is asleep

- (a) X V<sup>o</sup>(i/A)
- (b) X V<sup>o</sup>(vii/1)
- (c) X V<sup>me</sup>(ii/A)
- (d) X V<sup>me</sup>(iii/A)
- (e) X V<sup>me</sup>(v/C)
- (f) X V<sup>ber</sup>(ii/A)
- (g) X V<sup>ber</sup> (i/A)
- (h) X V<sup>ter</sup>(ii/A)
- (i) X V<sup>di</sup>(i/D)
- (j) X V<sup>kan</sup>(i/C)
- (k) X V<sup>i</sup>(i/C)

6.32 In "controlled contexts" the learner is required to extend the principles of close imitation to a unit longer than the sentence - paragraph<sup>1</sup>. This involves memorizing paragraph or paragraphs of conversation, narration and description. The task for the learner is undoubtedly more difficult for instead of focussing attention on imitating syntactic units no longer than the sentence, he has to imitate series of logically related sentences. In this case, each word choice narrows the potential for the next choice. He has not only to master logical and grammatical units but also of the real grasp of the Malay vocabulary. Many non-Malay learners, if given a topic to write on, seem to have more to say than the average Malay pupils, but they do not have sufficient grasp of Malay grammatical constructions to do more than compound their errors. "Controlled texts" carried out with the principle of close imitation would help him to develop better language habits and overcome his difficulties.

6.33 At this juncture, it is relevant to point out one very important principle which should be carried over from the aural-oral course to that of written composition namely that the amount of time spent

---

1. In the grammatical description of this thesis the paragraph is not treated as a grammatical unit.

talking about the Malay language should be small in proportion to the time spent in using the language. The implication of such a statement is that general remarks made by teachers of Malay with the view to impress upon the learners the importance and significance of certain aspects of Malay grammar without giving adequate concrete examples to be followed by spoken and written exercises will do more harm than good to the learners.

In 'Linguistic Sciences and Language teaching'<sup>1</sup> Halliday, Macintosh and Stevens write,

"Teaching a language involves conjoining two essential features: first the learner must 'experience' the language being used in meaningful ways, either in its spoken form or its written form: secondly, the learner must himself have the opportunity of performing, of trying out his own skills, making mistakes and being corrected. These are the essence of language learning; and teaching about a language does not contribute directly to either of them".

---

1. See "Linguistic Sciences and Language Teaching" Halliday, McIntosh and Stevens - Longmans 1966.

#### 6.4 Correction

It is common experience that correction is a very useful activity for the effective teaching and learning of a language. Many teachers spend hours during their free periods and at home correcting composition exercises written by their learners, but remain unhappy with the result. They are disappointed because the learners continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. The following are some of the common faults of correction:-

- (a) Vague remarks or symbols such as long dashes, wavy lines, circles etc, which could represent anything from error in spelling to error in style.
- (b) Correction is often regarded as an activity which is an end in itself. The learners notice the errors and are not required to do anything about them.
- (c) Teachers have little time<sup>1</sup> to discuss the errors with the learners. In some cases the correction done by the learners are later ignored by the teachers due to pressure of work.
- (d) Teachers are not able to classify and describe the errors to the full satisfaction of the learners. As native speakers<sup>2</sup>, they are naturally able to identify the errors.

---

1. Generally speaking, teachers of Malay are expected to teach around 32 periods per week, each period is of 45 minutes duration.  
2. See ( 1.53 ).

In correction, the objectives should always be the complete eradication of errors and formation of proper language habits that will automatically produce the correct forms. To achieve these two important objective/ the activity of correction should be systematic and be carried out as a special language exercise. Learners must be taught to react intelligently to correction of mistakes by the teachers otherwise time spent by teachers would be a great loss.

It is not intended to discuss the various aspects of correction in this thesis. However, we suggest the use of specific correction symbols accompanied with directions telling the learners, for example, to write five sentences modelled on the corrected sentence. This practice, admittedly, is nothing other than old-fashioned, often boring drill. But, this is undoubtedly the kind of practice that is needed before anyone can form the proper habits to write a foreign language with ease and facility. The suggested examples of symbols are as follows:-

$V^d$  Use the verb without the prefix "tidor" instead of "bertidor".  
Write ten sentences modelled on the corrected sentence.

Example: Budak itu suka  $V^d$  bertidor siang.

Correction:  
Budak itu suka tidor siang.  
= The boy likes to sleep during the day.

V<sup>me</sup>

Use the verb with prefix me - mengajar = to teach instead of "ajar". Write ten sentences modelled on the corrected sentence.

Example:

Itek it<sup>a</sup>ajar<sup>v<sup>me</sup></sup> anak nya berenang

Correction:

Itek itu mengajar anak nya berenang.

= The duck is teaching its young ones to swim.

L

Linker<sup>1</sup>

- i. Wrong linker
- ii. Linker needed
- iii. More appropriate linker required, e.g. Saya suka chara dia berchakap, dan saya fikir susah hendak mengajok nya. ( tetapi )  
= I like the way he speaks and ( but ) I think it is difficult to imitate him.

M<sup>d</sup>

Determiner - itu, ini.

- i. determiner missing.
- ii. determiner not needed
- iii. wrong determiner
- iv. wrong position of determiner, e.g. "rumah itu yang besar" instead of "rumah yang besar itu = the big house".

q<sup>n</sup>

Numeral classifier

- i. classifier missing
- ii. wrong classifier
- iii. classifier in the wrong position

p<sup>pn</sup>

Personal pronoun

- i. wrong personal pronoun, e.g. 'Kita sampai di situ pada pukul lima' instead of "Kami sampai di situ pada pukul lima = We arrived there at five o'clock".  
N.B. Exclusive instead of inclusive.

6.5 Non-linguistic Problems.

As has been mentioned in the introduction (1.61), in the process of acquiring the Malay language, the Chinese learners encounter a number of non-linguistic problems. In this investigation, these problems are not offered as direct causes for the deviations found in the analysed texts. It is, however, relevant to take note of some of the major non-linguistic problems, as these, in one way or another, hinder the learners linguistic acquisition.

6.51 Teachers' Qualification

While nearly all those who teach Malay to Chinese learners in the secondary schools are native-speakers of Malay, many of them have not been specially trained for language teaching<sup>1</sup>. Regarding the importance of training for teachers of language, Professor Pattison B.

---

<sup>1</sup> See (1.53)

in "Studies in Education No. 4., English Teaching in the World Today" writes "The problem of teaching a language is at once linguistic and pedagogic. That is why teachers of language need special training. Much effort is wasted by entrusting language teaching to people who can merely speak and write in the language and have some sort of general qualifications as teachers". The need for special training is greater for teachers of Malay as a second language because of the very varied standard of competency among the learners of Malay even among those studying in the same form. The situation is now aggravated in schools where native-speakers of Malay and Chinese learners are put together in one class. On the surface of it, such a situation would be to the advantage of the non-Malay learners who would have *an* excellent opportunity to practise in speaking the language. In practice, however, in the hands of untrained language teachers, the non-Malay learners tend to be neglected and while admittedly a small number will still forge ahead, the rest of them will find the subject too difficult and gradually lose interest in the subject. A trained-teacher of language would be able to cope much better in such a situation. Not only would he divide the class for teaching purposes into two groups namely, the native speakers on one hand and the non-Malay learners on the other, he would also be able to plan his lesson

in such a way that at any one time every member of the class would be learning something. Two separate texts could be used but a trained teacher of language knows that he should not depend entirely on the texts for his language materials. Within the non-Malay learners group the standard of competency varies so much that it will be necessary for him to prepare his own language lessons, language exercises and remedial works which will be as far as possible suitable for each individual learner in the classroom. For this reason, the traditional method of conducting a lesson on written composition exercises where the teacher writes down the title of a composition and then collects the exercises at the end of the period would be most ineffective. From the scripts we find that many of the candidates were not really ready for "free composition exercises" and although we admit that the syllabus requires them to write free composition exercises in the examination, exercises on remedial work, controlled exercise<sup>1</sup> and controlled contexts<sup>2</sup> should form the major part of their Malay lessons until the end of form four. In the last year, perhaps they could have more exercises on free compositions.

---

1. See ( 6.311 )  
 2. See ( 6.321 )

6.52 Teachers Own Problems

6.521 One problem besetting teachers of Malay has been the relative inadequacy of suitable/<sup>reading</sup>materials for non-Malay learners,

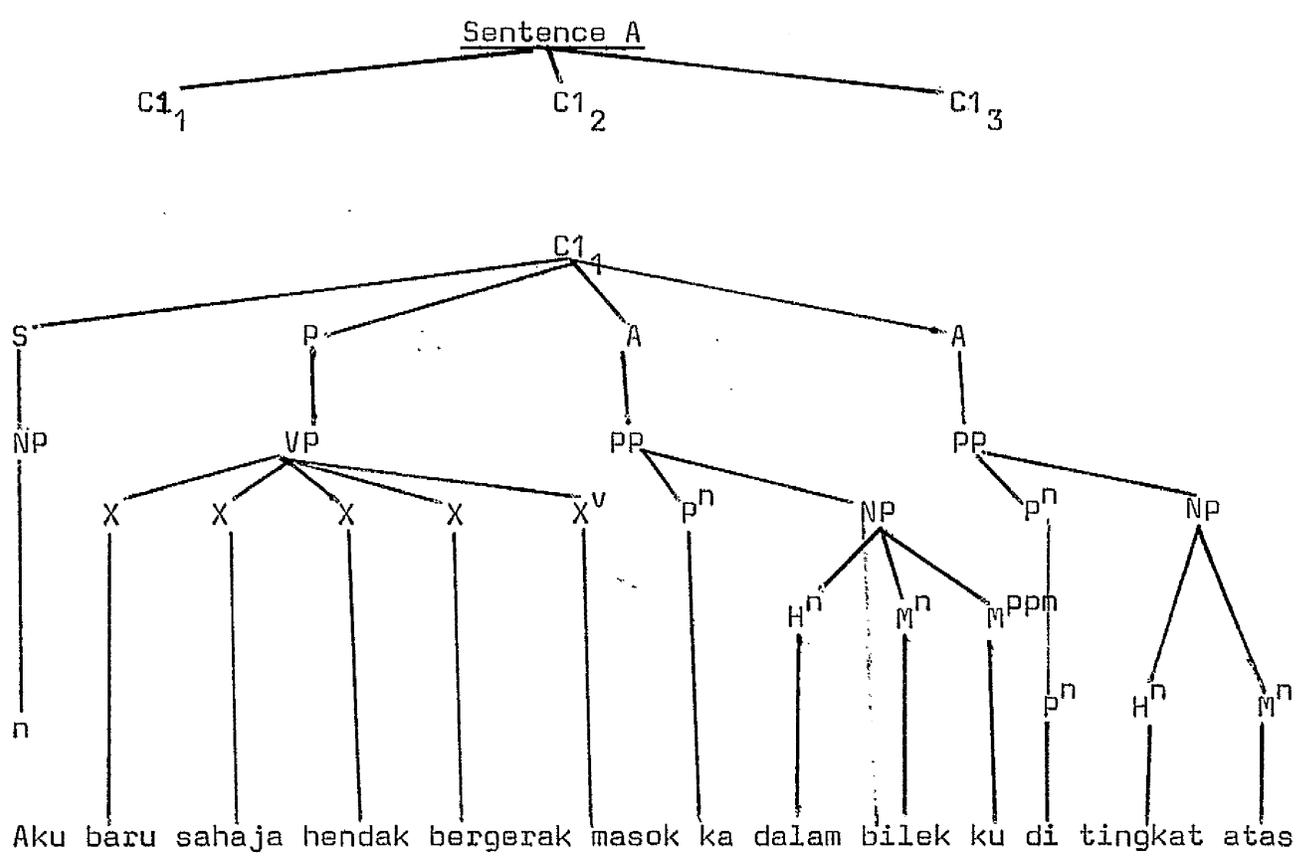
It has been stated earlier that much progress has been made in recent years but much work still remains to be done. Some suggestions have been made in regard to the contents of suitable language texts for non-Malay learners and we do not intend to elaborate further on this point. However, it is felt that mention should be made about the lack of suitable supplementary readers to be used by non-Malay learners both inside and outside the classroom. Considerable progress has been made in terms of quantity, illustrations and contents, but not enough attention has been given to the linguistic items and structures. Many supplementary readers supposedly written for non-Malay learners in the secondary schools have syntactic structures and lexical items far beyond their comprehension. It is realized that such remarks are unfair without a large scale analysis of the grammatical structures, but perhaps sentence analysis of two sentences each taken from page one of supplementary readers will give at least an idea of the complexities of the grammatical structures.

Sentence A<sup>1</sup>

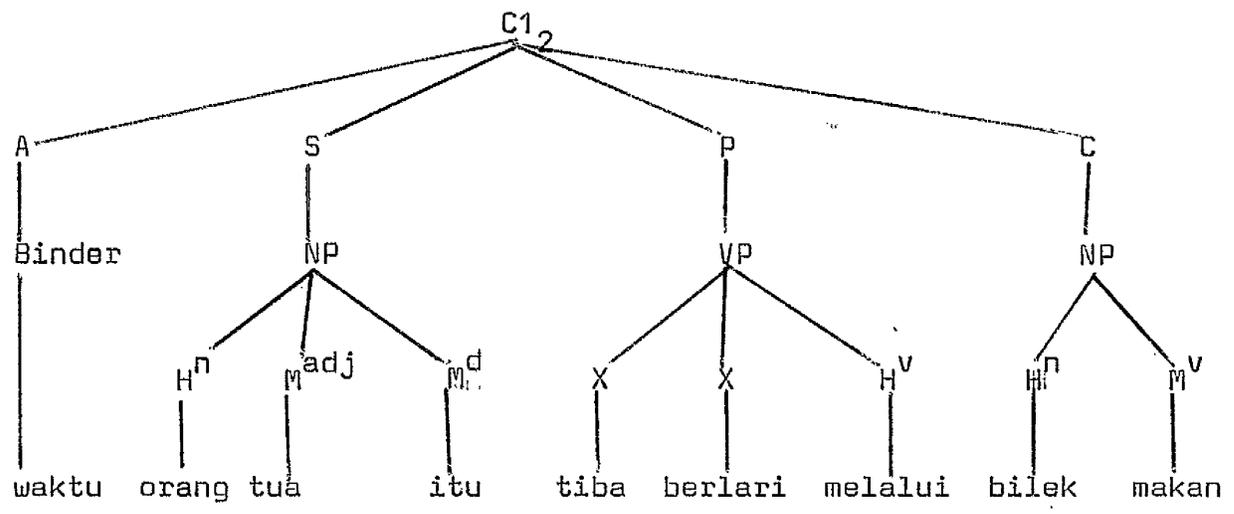
C1

/// Aku baru sahaja hendak bergerak <sup>1</sup>masuk ka dalam bilek ku  
 di tingkat atas // waktu orang tua itu tiba berlari melalui bilek  
 makan // terus masuk ka bilek mutallah nya ///

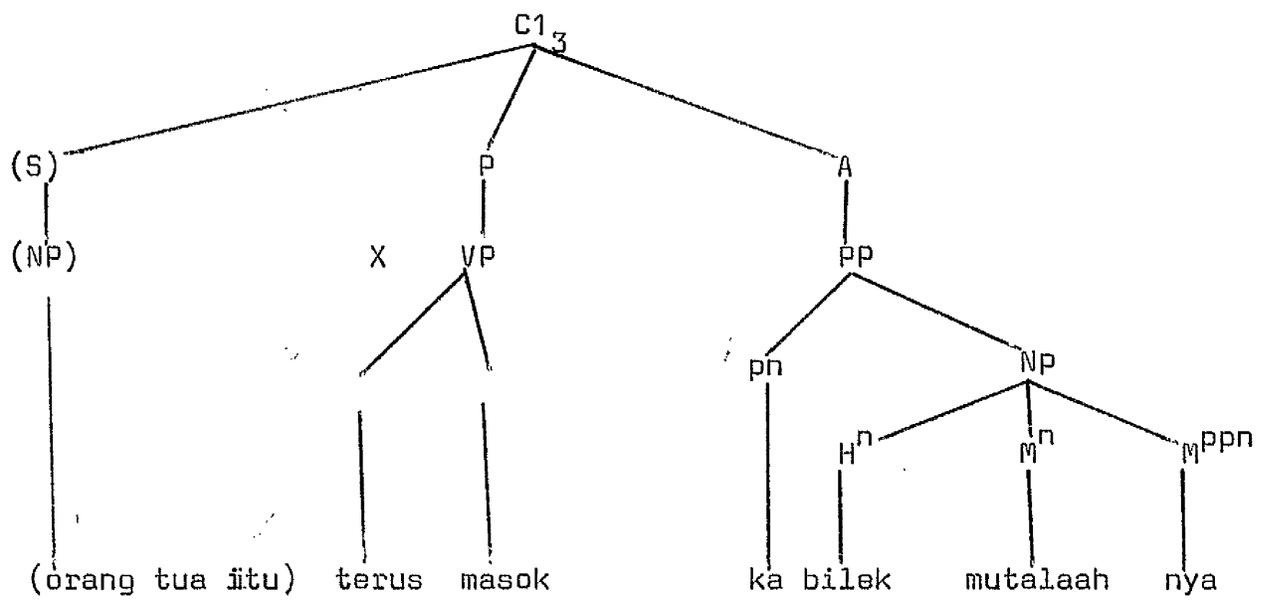
= I was about to enter my room upstairs when the old man came  
 running through the dining room and went straight upstairs.



1. This sentence is taken from Page 1 of "Pengembaraan Ka Pusat Bumi" by J.Verne and translated into Malay and published by Longmans, Malaysia.



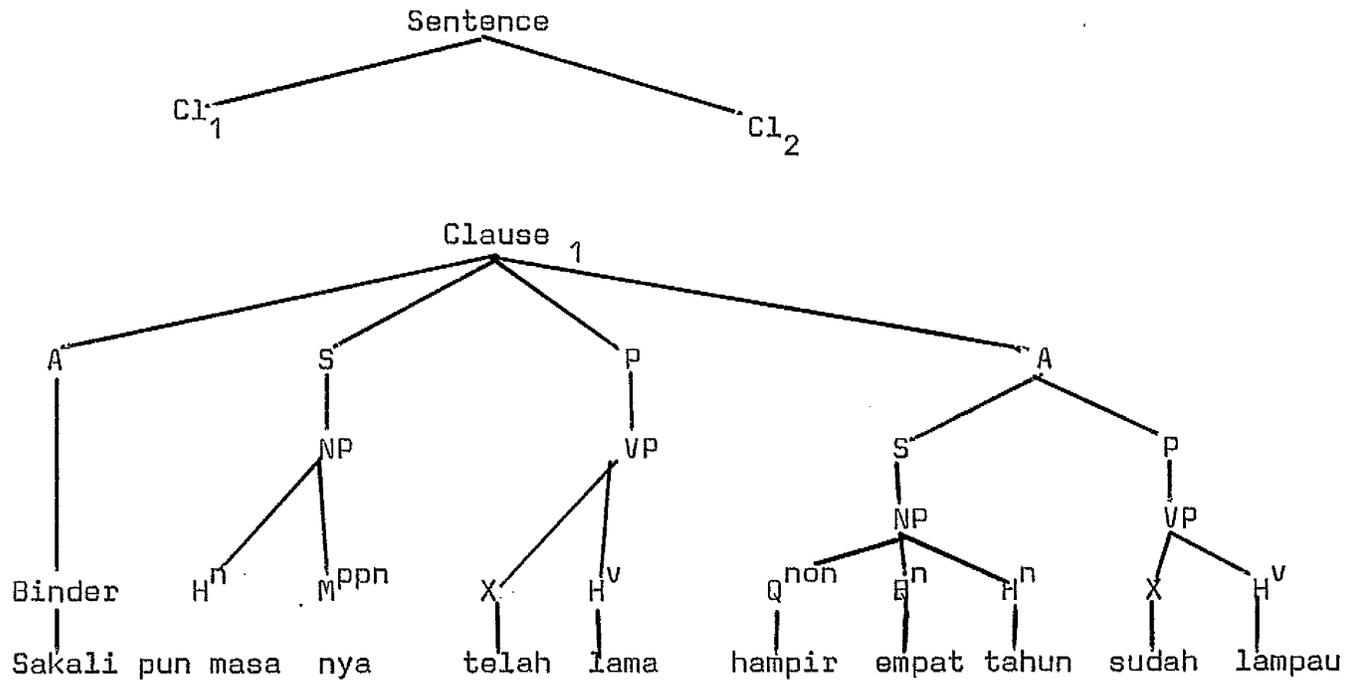
= when the old man came running through the dining room



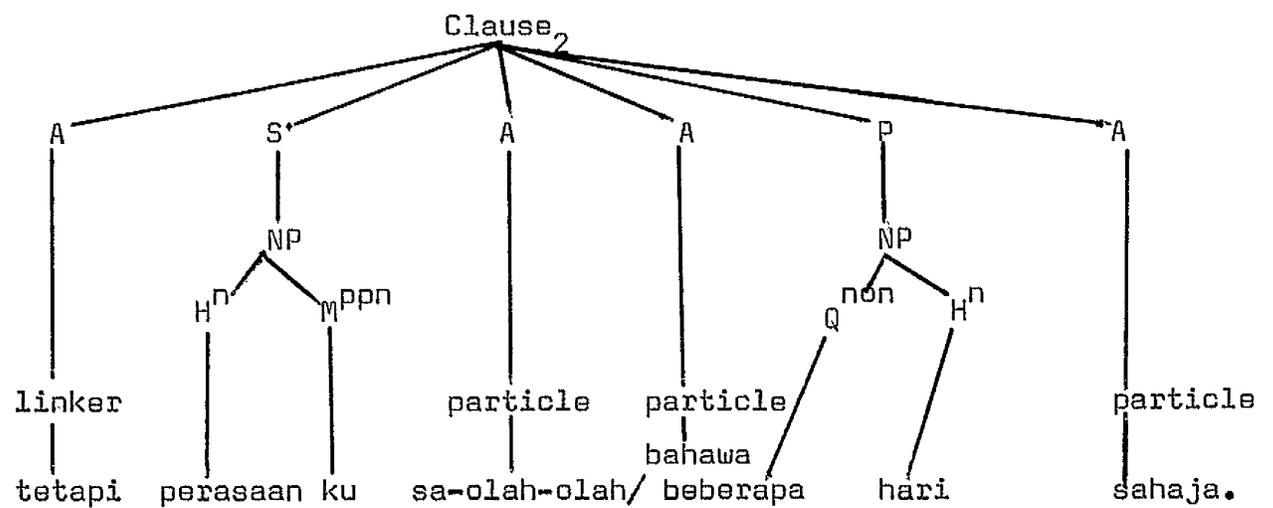
= (the old man) went straight to his study.

Sentence B<sup>1</sup>

/// Sakali pun masa nya telah lama, hampir empat tahun sudah lampau,/  
tetapi pada perasaan ku seolah-olah bahawa beberapa hari sahaja ///



= Although the time has long since past ( nearly four years )



= it seems to me as though only a few days ago.

1. The sentence is taken from "Nakhoda Tenggara " by Abdul Samad Ahmad-Kuala Lumpur.

6.522 Unlike other subject teachers, the Malay language teacher gets practically no help from his colleagues in the school. He is virtually alone in his effort to improve the learners mastery of the language. In comparison, his colleagues, the English teacher has the assistance of other subject teachers, because all other subjects are taught in the medium of English. In a sense, this is understandable but surely in the days when the Malaysian government and the Malaysian people as a whole are working towards establishing Malay as the sole official language and ultimately making Malay as the sole medium of instruction for all subjects, other subject teachers should co-operate by means of participating in such activities/<sup>such</sup> as 'National Language Week', 'National Language Day' and 'National Language Society' etc. Such an act would greatly help his morale and would help eliminate a prevalent feeling that he is not as important as teachers of other subjects. Indeed, until recently, his subject has not the recognition automatically accorded all other subjects in the curriculum.

Even his headmaster is unlikely to give the encouragement he needs. Most headmasters either because of their limited knowledge

of Malay or because of their indifferent attitude towards the subject would be quite happy to leave the Malay teachers to get on with their work with the minimum of interference, - to the delight of the unconscious teachers. In our view, this is one of the most serious problems with which teachers of Malay have to contend with. It is common knowledge that many Chinese learners have a predetermined attitude towards learning Malay that is often negative. It is an attitude which they have been conditioned by their parents, elders and some leaders of the Chinese community who directly or indirectly are opposed to the idea that Malay is an important subject to study. Headmasters and other subject teachers could do a great deal to remedy this situation and help raise the status of the Malay teachers in the eyes of the non-Malay learners.

We cannot of course rightly claim that what is generally applicable is true of each Chinese family or each non-Malay medium school. However, we believe, the following suggestions could have an immediate effect upon the problems encountered by teachers of Malay in non-Malay medium schools.

- (a) More rigorous efforts should be made to teach Malay ( Bahasa Malaysia ) to headmasters and teachers

of other subjects<sup>1</sup>. In future, a qualification in Malay<sup>2</sup> should be compulsory for the appointment of a headmaster or a headmistress.

- (b) More non-Malays should be encouraged to become teachers of Malay in non-Malay secondary schools.
- (c) 'Malay language supervisors' should be appointed in every state to ensure co-ordination of effort among teachers, to advise Malay teachers in their work. While we recognize that such posts have already been created in many states in Malaysia, they have not attracted the people with/right qualifications. Supervisors must have the respect of fellow-teachers and we are of the opinion that such posts should be filled up by qualified teachers having the following qualifications and experience:-

- i. Qualified teachers with honours degrees in Malay.
- ii. At least five years teaching experience.
- iii. Must have followed a course on the teaching of a foreign language or a second language.

- 
1. Since 1952 it is compulsory for all trainees in teachers training colleges to have a pass in Malay. It is found that the standard of competency of the teachers is generally low. The whole aspects of teaching and learning of Malay must be reviewed.
  2. We feel that a pass in Malay (Bahasa Kebangsaan) is inadequate for this purpose. A special test which takes into account both their ability to spell and write in the language could be devised.

There is no doubt that many such teachers are to be found in Malaysia today. It might be relevant to mention that 'supervisors' should work closely with the training colleges. Much time and effort will be wasted if teachers of Malay trained at a training college are unable to put into practice what ~~he has~~ <sup>they have</sup> learnt in classrooms simply because the ideas are not acceptable to the 'supervisor'. Most teachers resent the presence of 'supervisors or inspectors' in the classrooms and there is a prevalent feeling among them 'supervisors are out to look for faults. For this reason we believe that every individual teacher must be given the opportunity to discuss <sup>his</sup> ~~their~~ problems as language teachers with the supervisor.

- (d) Through parent-teacher association, parents could be made to offer encouragements which will help change the attitudes of their children towards learning Malay.

APPENDIX

SAMPLE SCRIPTS

Script A

sa-lepas hari pilihan ~~ku~~, nama saya telah di-siarkan di-tiap<sup>2</sup> surat Akhbar dan saya telah di-pilih oleh semua ra'ayat menjadikan sa-orang raja di-negeri ini bernama negeri Tuah. Warga negeri ini menkuasakan saya agar mengendarikan negeri yang amat kaya ini.

Menjadi sa-orang raja, saya hendak-lah mencheborkan diri pada negeri dan mesti juga menikit beberapa chara yang mungkin memberi keselamatan dan kemaanoran pada negeri ini. Bahkan, hendak-lah saya menjadikan negeri ini lebih kemajuan dari negeri<sup>2</sup> yang lain.

Jangan-lah kita lupa pula pepatah yang berkata "Pemuda harapan bangsa, pemuda tiang negara." Dari pepatah-nya, saya mengerti bagaimana mustahak-nya pemuda pemudi pada negeri. Oleh yang demikian saya mesti bertindak agar mendidik dan ~~mempelajar~~ dan menggalakkan mereka supaya menjadi mereka berkelakuan baik dan benar<sup>2</sup> bertant setia kepada negeri. Dengan nya bila mereka ~~meningkat~~ meningkat menjadi

107  
Kebebasan beragama tidak di-nafikan  
sangat-lah penting. Oleh itu saya tidak akan  
memaksa ra'ayat-nya beragama tentu. Saya tahu  
tiap<sup>2</sup> ugama-nya akan membimbing pengikut-da  
menjadikan mereka berkelakuan baik.

Hendak-lah juga saya memperpadukan  
semua ra'ayat dan menjadikan negeri ini sa-  
buah negeri yang serupa bangsa. Dengan perpadu-  
perselisehan akan di-elakkan dan jika di-  
langgar oleh negeri lain dapat-lah negeri ini  
mempunyai kuasa berlawanan dengan-nya.

Untuk mencapai kemajuan, mesti-lah  
saya meringgikan tahap pelajaran sains dan  
menggalakkan perat ra'ayat-nya berusaha  
bersama<sup>2</sup> belajar sains. —

Ini semua-nya sangat-lah penting bagi  
ra'ayat negeri itu. Jika keselamatan dan  
kema'amanatan telah di-chapai, ra'ayat-nya  
dapat diam di-sabuai negeri yang aman dan  
damai. —

Tentang saling persahabatan antara ra'ayat  
di-negeri ini, saya hendak mendirikan beberapa  
~~kelep~~ dan pertubuhan pemuda pemudi dan  
menggalakkan semua pemuda pemudi menyaki  
~~kelep~~<sup>2</sup>, supaya melalui cara ini dapat-lah  
menggajudkan saling persahabatan antara warg  
negeri ini.

190  
a) SCRIPT B Menyembarkan berjalan kaki ke-negeri

13 1/2  
Dalam sa-bulan masa saya pun beli barang yang hendak di-gunakan untuk menge berjalan kaki ke-negeri lain. Saya taruh semua barang itu ke-dalam sa-buah bag kulit yang tidak beberapa besar. Bag itu saya akan menangrono di-belakang saya.

Bila hari itu sudah sampai saya pun pu dengan membawa dua ratus ringgit sahaja. Saya pun memakai semar dan baju serdik dan memakai kasut kulit. Dengan peritama saya mengikut sa-buah kapal yang hendak pergi ke India. Dalam kapal itu saya buat sedikit kerja sahaja. Bila saya tiba ke-negeri ini, saya pun berjalan kaki ke-buru. Di-India saya menemu bermacam-macam benda. Di-negeri ini ada banyak orang. Ada pun orang yang mempial kuch dan lain, lagi. Sa-lepas beberapa bulan saya pun sampai ke-negeri siapa. Poket saya pun sudah botong dan perut saya lapar. Saya perg bertampana musal, dan buat kerja seperti pagu numah, memchudi keseta dan sa-bagai nya. Dengan itu saya boleh mendapat wang dan makanan. Pada malam tempat itu sangat chante baik, dan jalan saya ada bermacam warna lampu. Saya membuat kawan, sana.

Pada suatu hari saya tiba ke-Amerika.

Negeri itu sangat besar dan cantik. Dengan  
 tidak berasa hari saya pun mendapat ~~di~~  
 Saya ~~perai~~ ka-keuarga dan ~~trigonal~~ ~~beberapa~~ ~~han~~  
 keluarga itu sangat baik. Saya ~~mengata~~ ~~negari~~  
 saya dan ~~mengambawa~~ saya itu. Bila saya ~~ing~~  
 sudah sehat saya ~~tinggi~~ keluarga itu. Mengentah  
 burjolan kaki itu sangat-lah susah tetapi saya  
 boleh lihat negeri ini dan beritahu perhiduan  
 mereka. Bila saya baik ka-seperi saya lima  
tahun sudah lepas. (257 patah perkataan)

711, Jalan Duta  
 Ayer Star,  
 Pulau Pinang

17hb. Nov. 4

ka-kadapan sahabat saya yang berada dengan  
 selamat-nya di-kuala Lumpur.

Sahabat Mary,

Saya telah mendapat pidangit kan  
 pelajaran di-sa-buah Maktab di-negeri kamru.  
 Sebab itu saya hendak tanya kamu untuk  
 bagi saya tinggal. Tolong memberitahu saya  
 perkara itu. Saya boleh bayar tempat dan



ting sekali di-dalam kehidupan sendiri. Ada juga  
 yang mempunyai wang banyak dan dia boleh berlanjak  
 ke negeri lain dengan kapal terbang atau kereta,  
 dia pun boleh berlanjak ke mana sa-suatu negara  
 tapi itu telah hilang sa-suatu kegembara pada  
 dia sa-rang. Dia tu di-puji oleh rakyat sa-sabuk  
 negara, tetapi kalau dia sa-rang ada cita-bendak  
 ke jalan kaki ke-negeri lain dan dia se-mena dia  
 dia di-puji oleh orang dan gambar dia akan di-  
 bit di-dalam surat khabar. Jadi mana dia akan  
 di-trap<sup>2</sup> negara.

Berjalan kaki ke-negeri lain bukan senang.  
 dia mesti hendak bersusah, dan mesti ada ugama  
 hendak berjalan ke-sa-sabuk negeri. Dia mesti  
 dia ber-susah bahasa, supaya dia boleh ber-susah  
 dengan sa-sabuk negeri. Dia  
 hendak ber-susah hati baik dan ber-susah bahasa,  
 payu rakyat sa-sabuk negara itu suka menolong  
 dia kalau dia ada menghadapi bestarima kesusah

Berjalan kaki ke-negeri lain sa-lah suatu  
 jika yang suka. Kalau dia pun hendak berjalan,  
 dia pun berjalan juga. Ugama mereka  
 amat di-puji oleh orang. Mereka sa-sabuk  
 dia kalau dia berlanjak ke- mana tempat<sup>2</sup>  
 sa-negeri<sup>2</sup> mana-mana akan dia-trap<sup>2</sup> orang  
 dunia ini. Sungguh pun susah berjalan batuk

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ALLEN, Harold B. ( ed ) ( 1958 ), "Readings in Applied Linguistics",  
New York

ASMAH Hj. Omar, ( 1968 ), "Introduction to Malay Grammar", Dewan  
RAMA SUBBIAH Bahasa dan Pustaka

BLOCH, B., TRAGER G.L. ( 1942 ) "Outline of Linguistic Analysis",  
Baltimore.

BUSE J.E. ( ed 1963 ) "Number in Raratongan Maori" Bulletin of the  
School of Oriental and African Studies, University  
of London, Vol. XXV1 part 3.

CATFORD J.C. ( 1965 ), "A Linguistic Theory of Translation" - O.U.P.

CHAD, Y.R. (1964 ), "Mandarin Primer", Harvard.

DE FRANCIS J. ( 1968 ), "Beginning Chinese", Yale University Press.

FRIES C.C. ( 1957 ), "The Structure of English", London.

----- (1957 ), "American Linguistics and the Teaching of  
English" Language Learning (Ann Arbor, Michigan), VI

----- (1945), "Teaching and Learning English as a Foreign  
Language" Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.

GLEASON H.A. ( 1967 ), "An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics".

GURREY P ( 1954), "The Teaching of Written English" London, Longmans.

HALLIDAY M.A.K. ( 1961 ), "Categories of the Theory of Grammar",  
Word, 17. No. 3.

----- (1967), "Grammar, Society and the Noun", University  
College of London.

- HALLIDAY, M.A.K. ( ed 1966 ) 'Lexis as a Linguistic Level', 'In  
Memory of Firth', Longmans.
- HALLIDAY, M.A.K., MCINTOSH, A., AND STEVENS, P. ( 1964 ), "The  
Linguistic Science and Language Teaching", Longmans.
- HALLIDAY, M.A.K., MCINTOSH, A. ( 1966 ) "Patterns of Language, Longmans
- HILL, A.A. ( 1958 ) "An Introduction to Linguistic Structures",  
New York.
- HOCKETT, C.F. ( 1958 ), "A Course in Modern Linguistics", New York.
- HORNBY, A.S., GATENBY, E.V. WAKEFIELD, H. ( 1967 ) "The Advanced  
Learners' Dictionary of Current English - O.U.P.
- JONES, I.W.A. ( 1959 ) "A Study of the Difficulties Encountered in  
the Learning of English by pupils whose First  
Language is Chinese", Ph.D. Thesis University of  
London 1958-1959.
- KACHRU, B.B. ( ed 1966 ) "Indian English: A Study in Contextualization"  
Longmans.
- KRATOCHVIL, P. (1968), "The Chinese Language Today", London.
- LADD, R. (1965), "Language Testing", Longmans.
- LEWIS, M.B. (1968) "Sentence Analysis in Modern Malay", Cambridge.
- LE PAGE R.B. (1964) "The National Language Question", Oxford.
- LYONS, J. ( 1968 ) "Theoretical Linguistics", Cambridge.
- MACKEY, F. ( 1965 ), "Language Teaching Analysis", Longmans.

- MILLER, H. (1965), "The Story of Malaysia", London.
- PATTISON, B. "Studies in Education No. 4. - English Teaching in the  
World Today.
- PAYNE, E.M.F. ( 1964 ) "Basic Syntactic Structures in Standard Malay"  
Ph.D. Thesis, University of London.
- PURCELL, V. (1956) "The Chinese in Modern Malaya", Donald Moore,  
Singapore.
- QUIRK, R. ( 1968 ) "The Use of English," Longmans.
- ROBINS, R.H. (1964), "General Linguistics: An Introductory Survey." Longmans  
----- ( 1952 ), "A Problem in the Statement of Meanings", Lingua,  
Vol. 111.
- (1952), "Noun and Verb in Universal Grammar. Language 28.
- (1961), "Syntactic Analysis" Review articles in Archivum  
Linguisticum Vol. X111 Fasc.1. 1961
- SINCLAIR J.M. ( ed 1966 ) "Beginning the Study of Lexis", London  
Longmans.
- SLEDD, J. (1959), "An Introduction to English Grammar", Scott,  
Foresman and Company.
- SLAMEFMULJANA, R.B. (1960) "Kaedah Bahase Indonesia", Jambata<sup>n</sup>  
Djakarta.

STRANG, B. (1968), "Modern English Structure", Arnold.

<sup>u</sup>  
TEEW, A. (1959), "History of the Malay Language", Bijdragen Deel,  
115.

----- (1961) "A Critical Survey of Studies in Malay and  
Bahasa Indonesia, The Hague.

----- (1962), "Some Problems in the Study of Word Classes in  
Bahasa Indonesia. Lingua Vol. XI.

WANG GUNGWU ( ed by ) ( 1964 ) 'Malaysia, A Survey "Donald  
Moore, Singapore.

~~WINSTEAD~~, R.O. ( 1927 ). "A Malay Grammar", Oxford.

----- ( 1951 ), "Malaya and its History", London.

----- ( 1954 ), "An Unabridged Malay - English Dictionary  
- Singapore, 1954.

ZAINAL ABIDIN AHMAD ( 1949 ), "Pelita Bahasa Melayu 1, Malaya.

----- ( 1949 ), "Daftar Ejaan Melayn - Singapore.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS.

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS OF MALAYSIA 1938 to 1967/ (1968 ), A

Publication of the Ministry of Education Malaysia.  
Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

BUKU RASMI TAHUNAN ( Official Year Book ) ( 1968 ) - Government  
Printing Press, Kuala Lumpur.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT, 1956 ( 1956 ), Kuala Lumpur.

EDUCATION REVIEW REPORT, 1960 ( 1960 ) Kuala Lumpur.

POPULATION CENSUS on the FEDERATION OF MALAYA, 1957 ( 1967 ),  
Kuala Lumpur.