

## Introducing Predicate Noun Phrases in Advanced IFL Classes

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### Abstract

A predicate noun phrase is a unique structure in Indonesian. To construct the sentence containing this structure, we simply combine a first noun phrase functioned as a subject of the sentence and a second one functioned as its predicate. However, there is a certain rule regulating the structure. This paper attempts to identify a certain kind of noun phrases which functions as a predicate of a sentence especially for the advanced IFL students. The discussion is focussed on the internal requirements of a predicate noun phrase and then followed by the identification of its external requirements. Since there is an overlap between this type of sentence and that of an identificational sentence, the discussion on distinguishing the two different structures is also presented. The data confirm that the identificational predicate might be categorized as a predicate verb phrase if it is preceded by a copulative verb *adalah*. The ability to identify this type of sentence structure is very important for the IFL students.

**Keywords:** IFL, predicate noun phrase, internal/external requirement, identificational predicate

### 1. Introduction

The teaching of Indonesian as a Foreign Language (IFL) is a world wide phenomenon nowadays. Some universities in Russia, Germany, Japan, Korea, Australia, the USA, and other Asian and African countries have offered Indonesian and Indonesian Studies in their program (Gani, 1999). In Japan, the Malay language was introduced to the Japanese in 1908 and then became study-program in Indonesian (*Indoneshia-go Gakuka*) at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies since 1949 (Rosidi, 1999). In Australia, Indonesian was one of languages taught in the Army since 1957 and in the last two decades, it is getting more popular compared to other foreign languages, i.e., Japanese, Chinese, Russian, and Vietnamese (Deck, 1999).

One syntactical competence that needs to be introduced at the advanced level is the ability to analyse predicates in Indonesian. The predicates can essentially be manifested in five general categories (cf. Samsuri, 1985; Moeliono, 1990), i.e.,

- (a) noun phrases (e.g. in *Nenek saya [pengagum Elvis]* 'My grandma is fans of Elvis');
- (b) verb phrases (e.g. *Ibu si Ali [membeli kucing hitam]* 'Ali's mom bought a black cat');
- (c) adjective phrases (e.g. *Harga kucing sekarang [mahal]* 'Cats are expensive nowadays');
- (d) prepositional phrases (e.g. *Pembantu kami sedang berlibur [di Inggris]* 'Our maid is now on vacation in England'); and
- (e) numerals (e.g. *Mobil Pak Amat [tujuh]* 'Mr Amat has seven cars').

The following discussion will attempt to identify predicate noun phrases in Indonesian.

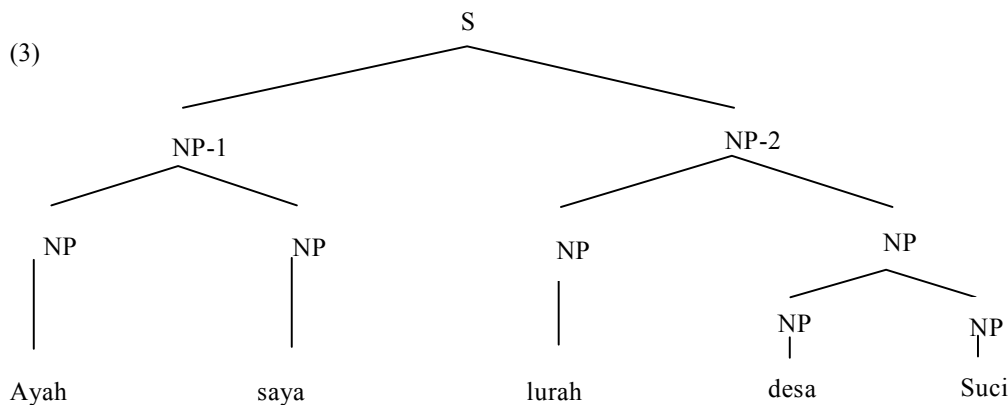
A predicate noun phrase in this paper is defined as any predicate of a sentence which consists of a noun or noun phrases (cf. Kridalaksana, 1982; Samsuri, 1985; and Moeliono, 1990). In Indonesian, a sentence containing this kind of predicate can be stated briefly as:

$$(1) S \rightarrow NP-1 + NP-2$$

such as in:

- (2) Ayah saya [lurah Desa Suci]  
 father I-gen chief county Suci  
 'My father is a chief of Suci County'

What is interesting with this type of a sentence is that, first of all, it does not need a special verb of a copula to make this sentence acceptable. To construct the sentence, we simply combine the first noun phrase which functions as a subject of the sentence, and the second noun phrase that functions as a predicate. This sentence can be illustrated in the following tree diagram:



Secondly, as we notice from the above diagram, all of the elements of the sentence are noun phrases; even though the noun phrases *saya* and *Suci* function more as adjectives (modifying head noun phrases *Ayah* and *Desa* respectively) rather than as nouns. This is one of the unique features of Indonesian sentences.

Thirdly, with the involvement of intonation, this sentence can be interpreted as shown in the above sentence (2) and tree diagram (3), or as the following:

- (4) Ayah, saya lurah Desa Suci  
 father I chief county Suci  
 'Dad, I am the chief of Suci County'

Although it sounds weird to say the expression, this sentence can be acceptable if it is used in particular situation, for example in this context:

- (5) Ayah: Kau nak, apa yang kau ketahui tentang administrasi perkantoran?  
 (Father: You son, what do you know about office administration?)  
 Anak: Ayah, saya lurah Desa Suci!  
 (Son: Dad, I am the chief of Suci County!!)

And, fourthly, there is a slight difference between a sentence containing a predicate noun phrase and what Baker (1989: 355-87) claims as an identificational sentence; even though the later sentence has also a noun phrase which functions as a part of its predicate. The following is an example of an identificational sentence:

- (6) Orang yang mengganggu kami semalam adalah orang yang menyewa rumah Pak Lurah  
 man who disturb we last night be man who rent house Mr Chief  
 'The man who disturbed us last night was the man who rented the Chief's house'

While it is optional in a sentence with a predicate noun phrase, the word *adalah* is almost obligatory in the above sentence. If we try to delete *adalah* in this sentence, the result will be completely unacceptable:

- (7) \*Orang yang mengganggu kami semalam orang yang menyewa rumah Pak Lurah.

This paper will attempt to identify a certain kind of noun phrases which functions as a predicate of a sentence. Since intonation is not an integral part of syntax, there will be – whenever necessary – a small amount of discussion on it. First of all, the discussion will be focussed on the internal requirements of a predicate noun phrase and then followed by the identification of its external requirements. Since there is an overlap between this type of sentence and that of an identificational sentence, the next discussion is on distinguishing the two different structures. Finally, a conclusion will be presented briefly.

## 2. Internal requirements of a predicate noun phrase

The following discussion will be focussed on an identification of the internal structure of a predicate noun phrase, i.e. on how the structure of a predicate noun phrase is built by a certain rule. *Firstly*, a predicate noun phrase in Indonesian can be a single noun or a *bare* noun phrase; however, not all of these noun phrases can be used as a predicate noun phrase. The following is an example:

- (8) a. [kusir delman]  
b. [dokter]  
c. [guru Taman Kanak-kanak]

For instance in these sentences:

- (9) a. Ayah si John [kusir delman].  
father particle John driver cart  
'John's father is a "delman" driver'  
b. Ibunya [dokter]  
mother-his physician  
'His mom is a physician'  
c. Kakaknya [guru Taman Kanak-kanak]  
sister-his teacher kindergarten  
'His sister is a kindergarten teacher'

As we can see, these noun phrases semantically refer to a certain profession, occupation, or position. Changing those special noun phrases into other noun phrases will result in a weird sentences:

- (10) a. \*Ayah si John [kitab suci]  
b. \*Ibunya [pena]  
c. \*Kakaknya [bemo]

*Secondly*, proper noun phrases can also be used as predicate noun phrases. Consider the following examples:

- (11) a. [Bill Clinton]  
b. [Ichie]  
c. [Cecep Gorbachep]

in these sentences:

- (12) a. Saya [Bill Clinton]  
'I am Bill Clinton'  
b. Nama istri saya [Ichie]  
'My wife's name is Ichie'  
c. Adik saya [Cecep Gorbachep]  
'My brother's name is Cecep Gorbachep'

*Thirdly*, if the sentence is about animals or things, the predicate noun phrases of this kind of sentences will usually have a certain characteristic of those animals or things, or a detailed description of the subjects of the sentence. Consider the following noun phrases:

- (13) a. [binatang buas]
- b. [mahluk mungil yang lucu]
- c. [sumber ilmu]
- d. [lambang bahaya]

for example in these sentences:

- (14) a. Kucing [binatang buas]  
      'Cats are wild animals'
- b. Kecoa itu [mahluk mungil yang lucu]  
      'Cockroaches are funny little animals'
- c. Buku [sumber ilmu]  
      'Books are sources of knowledge'
- d. Warna merah adalah [lambang bahaya]  
      'Red symbolizes danger'

*Fourthly*, some derivational forms -- e.g. the word *ketua* 'chairman' is derived from prefix *ke-* + adjective *tua* 'old'; *penari* 'dancer' from prefix *pe-* + a word *tari* 'to dance', etc. -- can also be a predicate noun phrases of a certain sentence; for instance in:

- (15) a. [kekasih Jean]
- b. [tamatan universitas]
- c. [wartawan perang]

such as in

- (16) a. John [kekasih Jean]  
      'John is Jean's boy friend'
- b. Pembantu kami [tamatan universitas]  
      'Our maid is a college graduate'
- c. Neneknya [wartawan perang]  
      'His grandma is a war reporter'

Again, not all of these derivational forms can function as a predicate noun phrase. While we can delete the word *perang* in sentence (16c) and change it into

- (17) Neneknya [wartawan]  
      'His grandma is a reporter'

(of course with a restriction in meaning), we can not delete the words *Jean* and *universitas* in the above examples. Doing so will result in completely unacceptable sentences:

- (18) a. \*John [kekasih]
- b. \*Pembantu kami [tamatan]

Consider other examples:

- (19) a. Affandi adalah [seniman lukis yang sukses]  
      'Affandi is a successful painter'

- b. Paman si Dul [penarik beca]  
'Dul's uncle is a "beca" driver'
- c. Kakek si Amat [penyelenggara pesta dansa]  
'Amat's grandpa is an organizer of a dance party'

While we can omit [lukis yang sukses] in (19a) into

- (20) Affandi adalah [seniman]  
'Affandi is an artist'

we can not leave out [beca] and [pesta dansa] in the above sentences:

- (21) a. \*Paman di Dul [penarik]  
b. \*Kakek si Amat [penyelenggara]

Noun phrases like *kekasih* 'lover', *kerabat* 'friend, family', *kehendak* 'a will', *tamatan* 'graduate', *bawahan* 'subordinate', *penarik* 'trigger', or *penyelenggara* 'organizer' have to be satisfied by other noun phrases. We can make small rules for these words, as follows:

- (22) a. KEKASIH : [ - NP ]  
b. KERABAT : [ - NP ]  
c. KEHENDAK : [ - NP ]  
d. TAMATAN : [ - NP ]  
e. BAWAHAN : [ - NP ]  
f. PENARIK : [ - NP ]  
g. PENYELENGGARA : [ - NP ]

On the other hand, noun phrases like *wartawan* 'reporter', *olahragawan* 'athlete', *seniwati* 'artist, actress', *ilmuwan* 'scientist' and the like do not need noun phrases to satisfy these words. In other words, the lexical specifications for these words are:

- (23) a. WARTAWAN : [ - ]  
b. OLAHRAGAWAN : [ - ]  
c. SENIWATI : [ - ]  
d. ILMUWAN : [ - ]

Other derivational forms, such as *pergerakan* 'movement', *perkotaan* 'rural', *kepemimpinan* 'leadership', *pemersatuan* 'unification', *pelatuk* 'trigger', *komunisme* 'communism', *kolonialisasi* 'colonialization' (note that the underlined segment is the base form of the word) can not be used as predicate noun phrase. The following sentences are weird in standard Indonesian:

- (24) a. \*Kursi itu [pergerakan]  
b. \*Rumah mewah [perkotaan]  
c. \*Teman adik saya [kepemimpinan]  
d. \*Negara yang sedang berkembang [pemersatuan]  
e. \*Kegemaran ayah saya [pelatuk]  
f. \*Kakek Gorbachep [komunisme]  
g. \*Neneknya [kolonialisasi]

To summarize, noun phrases that function as predicate noun phrases in Indonesian are common noun phrases which refer to a certain profession, occupation, or position -- e.g. *dokter* 'doctor, physician', *insinyur* 'engineer', *manajer* 'manager', including derivational forms like *wartawan* 'reporter', *ilmuwan* 'scientist', *seniman* 'artist' -- and

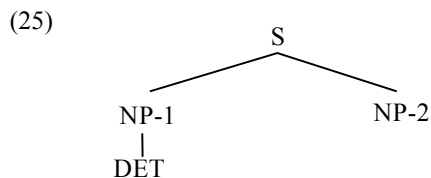
proper nouns like *Bill Clinton*, *Sudja'i*, *Abu Muthalib*, etc. If the sentence is about animals or other things, the predicate noun phrases are usually certain characteristics of descriptions of the subject. Derivational forms which can be used as predicate noun phrases are prefix *ke-* (*kekasih*, *ketua*, *kehendak*, etc), prefix *peN-* with its allomorphs *pe-*, *pen-*, *peng-*, *penye-*, and *penge-* (*penyanyi* 'singer', *pen(t)ulis* 'writer', *peng(k)awal* 'guide', *peny(s)embelih* 'slaughter', *peng(k)emudi* 'driver', etc.), and suffix *-an* (*tamatan* 'graduate', *bawahan* subordinate', etc.).

### 3. External requirements of a predicate noun phrase

We will now try to identify this predicate noun phrases in a larger context and find out any rules regulating this structure.

#### 3.1 Predicates of determiners *ini/itu*

First of all, it is interesting to notice that when we use determiners *ini/itu* as the subject of the sentence, all the words prohibited to be used in the previous discussion can be used as a predicate noun phrase in this structure. This can be diagrammed as:



such as in:

- (26)
- a. Ini [bemo]  
'This is "bemo"'
  - b. Itu [pelatuk bedil mimis]  
'That is a trigger of a weapon'
  - c. Ini [komunisme]  
'This is communism'
  - d. Itu [kolonialisasi]  
'That is colonialization'

Again, because of their lexical specifications, the words like *kekasih*, *bawahan*, and *penarik* have to have objects to satisfy these words. We can not simply say, for example,

- (27)
- a. \*Ini [kekasih]
  - b. \*Itu [bawahan]
  - c. \*Ini [penarik]

We have to add objects, for instance, *Jean*, *istri saya*, and *suara* respectively to those sentences:

- (28)
- a. Ini [kekasih Jean]  
'This is Jean's boyfriend'
  - b. Itu [bawahan istri saya]  
'That is my wife's subordinate'
  - c. Ini [penarik suara]  
'This is a vote getter'

This *ini/itu* subject might also have predicate noun phrases in form of pronouns and proper nouns, for example:

- (29)
- a. Itu [mereka]  
'That is them'

- b. Ini [dia]  
'This is him'
- c. Itu [Farid al-Fasud]  
'That is Farid al-Fasud'
- d. Ini [Cecep Gorbachep]  
'This is Cecep Gorbachep'

Interestingly enough, the determiner *itu* (but not *ini*) can also be used to substitute the optional copula *adalah*. For a predicate noun phrase *keberhasilan yang tertunda* 'a delayed success', we can not say for instance

(30) \*Kegagalan [keberhasilan yang tertunda]

(This structure can be used in spoken Indonesian by changing the intonation of its predicate). Instead, we can construct

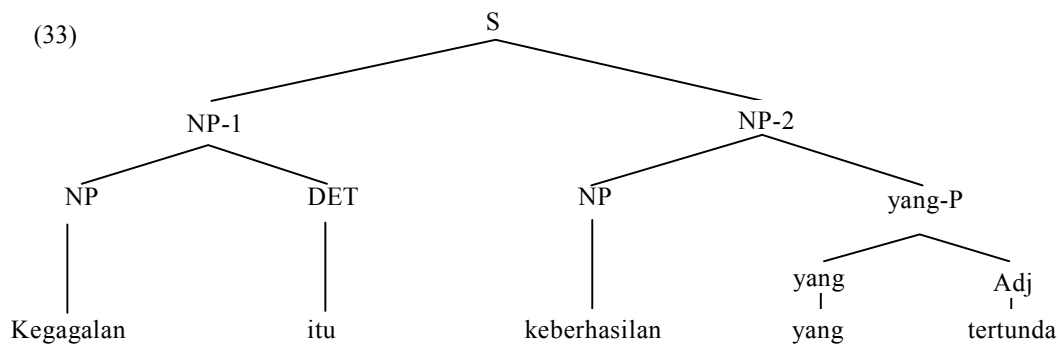
(31) Kegagalan adalah [keberhasilan yang tertunda]

'Failure is a delayed success (?)'

or

(32) Kegagalan itu [keberhasilan yang tertunda]

This sentence can be diagrammed as:

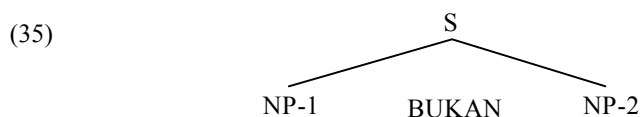


Using determiner *ini* in that sentence will result in an unacceptable sentence:

(34) \*Kegagalan ini [keberhasilan yang tertunda]

### 3.2 Negation

Another characteristic of a predicate noun phrase is the use of negation *bukan* in interrogative sentences (Indonesian recognizes two different kinds of negation: *bukan* and *tidak*) as illustrated in the following diagram:



For example in:

- (36) a. Ayah si Jack [bukan kusir delman]  
'Jack's father is not a "delman" driver'

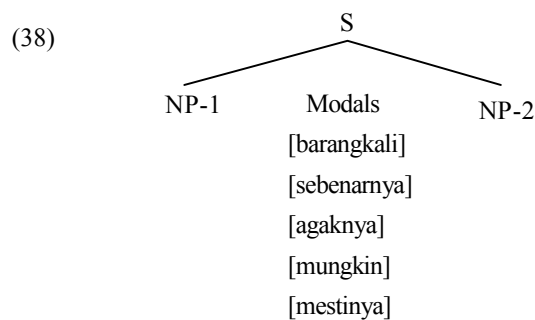
- b. Jim [bukan kekasih Jean]  
'Jim is not Jean's boyfriend'
- c. Saya [bukan George Bush]  
'I am not George Bush'
- d. Itu [bukan bemo]  
'That is not a "bemo"'
- e. Kegagalan itu [bukan keberhasilan yang tertunda]  
'Failure is not a delayed success'

Using negation *tidak* will result in completely unacceptable sentences:

- (37)
- a. \*Ayah si Jack [tidak kusir delman]
  - b. \*Jim [tidak kekasih Jean]
  - c. \*Saya [tidak George Bush]
  - d. \*Itu [tidak bemo]
  - e. \*Kegagalan itu [tidak keberhasilan yang tertunda]

### 3.3 Modals

We can also identify a predicate noun phrase from the types of modals used in the sentence. A certain kind of modals -- such as *barangkali* 'maybe, perhaps', *sebenarnya* 'in fact', *agaknya* 'seem', *mestinya* 'have to', and *mungkin* 'maybe, perhaps' -- can be used as modals of a predicate noun phrase, while others -- *dapat*, *bisa* 'can, be able to', *boleh* 'may', *harus* 'must', *sebaiknya* 'better', and *seandainya* 'as you like' do not fit with this kind of predicate. (For a thorough discussion on modals in Indonesian, consult Samsuri, 1985) This structure can be diagramed as:



The following sentences illustrate this construction:

- (39)
- a. Nenek saya [mungkin pengagum Elvis]  
'Grandma might be one of Elvis' fan (?)'
  - b. Mala ini [sebenarnya bukan kehendak Tuhan]  
'This calamity should not be a will of God (?)'
  - c. Pengalaman [agaknya guru yang terbaik]  
'Experience might be a good teacher'
  - d. Itu [barangkali Ronald Reagan]  
'That might be Ronald Reagan'
  - e. Paul Tsongas [mestinya ketua kelas]



'Paul Tsongas must be the captain of the class'

Using other modals for the above sentences will result in weird sentences:

- (40)
- a. \*Nenek saya [dapat pengagum Elvis]
  - b. \*Mala ini [sebaiknya bukan kehendak Tuhan]
  - c. \*Pengalaman [harus guru yang terbaik]
  - d. \*Itu [boleh Ronald Reagan]
  - e. \*Paul Tsongas [seenaknya ketua kelas]

To summarize, a certain predicate noun phrase might have an *ini/itu* subject which functions as a determiner. Again, as a determiner, *itu* can substitute the optional copula *adalah*. Negation *bukan* is also an obvious feature of this type of predicate. In addition, only certain kind of modals can be used to express a modality of the sentence with this predicate noun phrase.

#### 4. Distinguishing a predicate noun phrase from a predicate of an identificational sentence

The following are Indonesian identificational sentences:

- (41)
- a. Orang yang mengganggu kami semalam adalah [orang yang menyewa rumah Pak Lurah]  
 'The man who disturbed us last night was the man who rented the Chief's house'
  - b. Tujuan utama Fido adalah [menyelesaikan tugasnya secepatnya]  
 'Fido's main goal is completing his duty as soon as possible'
  - c. Pendapat Presiden Bush adalah [bahwa Amerika Serikat harus memenangkan perang dingin ini]  
 'President Bush's opinion is that the United State of America has to win this cold war'

Those sentences can be stated by this rule:

- (42) S → NP-1 + *adalah* + NP-2

Even though the noun phrases after the word *adalah* may look like predicate noun phrases, we can not say that those phrases inside the bracket are predicate noun phrases. *First* of all, the word *adalah* is obligatory in this type of sentence.

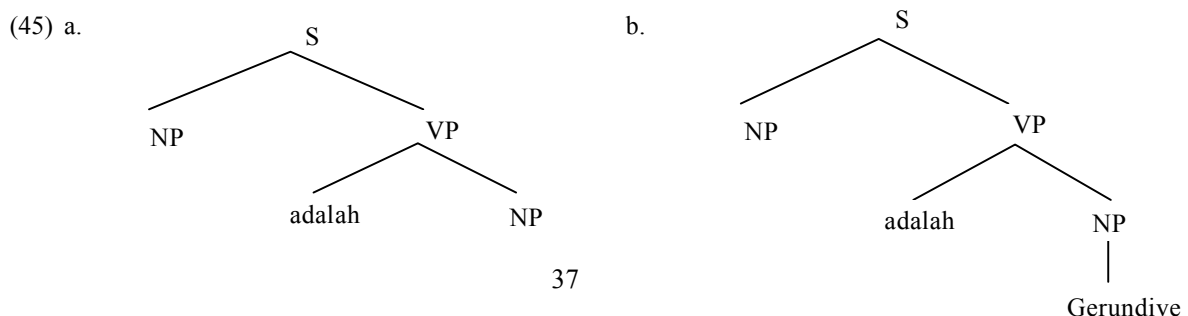
Deleting it will result in unacceptable sentences:

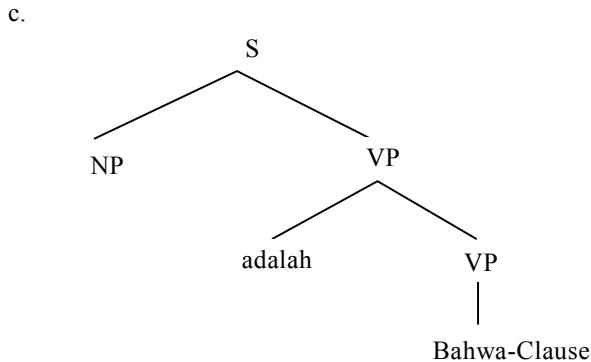
- (43)
- a. \*Orang yang mengganggu kami semalam [orang yang menyewa rumah Pak Lurah]
  - b. \*Tujuan utama Fido [menyelesaikan tugasnya secepatnya]
  - c. \*Pendapat President Bush [bahwa Amerika Serikat harus memenangkan perang dingin ini]

*Secondly*, *adalah* can not be replaced by *itu*. Doing so will result in incomplete sentences:

- (44)
- a. \*Orang yang mengganggu kami semalam itu [orang yang menyewa rumah Pak Lurah]
  - b. \*Tujuan utama Fido itu [menyelesaikan tugasnya secepatnya]
  - c. \*Pendapat President Bush itu [bahwa Amerika Serikat harus memenangkan perang dingin ini]

And *thirdly*, *adalah* is more a verb rather than a copula or other category of words. This construction can be diagrammed as:





So, it is quite obvious that noun phrases [orang yang menyewa rumah Pak Lurah], [menyelesaikan pekerjaannya secepatnya], and [bahwa Amerika Serikat harus memenangkan perang dingin ini] are only complements of the word *adalah*. In other words, rule (43) can be changed into:

$$(46) S \rightarrow NP + VP$$

To summarize, a predicate of an identificational sentence might be categorized as a predicate verb phrase preceded by a copulative verb *adalah*. While this special word is obligatory in an identificational sentence, it is optional in a sentence with a predicate noun phrase.

## 5. Conclusion

A sentence with a predicate noun phrase is a unique structure in Indonesian. To construct the sentence, we simply combine a first noun phrase functioned as a subject of the sentence and a second one functioned as its predicate. However, there is a certain rule regulating the structure.

These noun phrases are common phrases which refer to a certain profession, occupation, or position -- e.g. *guru* 'teacher', *insinyur listrik* 'electrical engineer', *sekretaris* 'secretary', etc. including derivational forms like *karyawan* 'worker', *seniman* 'artist', *psikolog* 'psychologist', etc. -- and proper nouns like *Pat Buchanan*, *Syafe'i*, *Mozart*, etc. In talking about animals or things, the predicate noun phrases are usually certain characteristics or descriptions of the subject. Derivational forms which can be used as predicate noun phrases are prefix *ke-* (*ketua* 'chairman', *kehendak* 'will', etc.), prefix *peN-* with its allomorphs *pe-*, *pen-*, *peng-*, *penye-*, and *penge-* (*penyanyi* 'singer', *pen(t)ulis* 'writer', *peng(k)awal* 'guide', *peny(s)embelih* 'slaughter', *peng(k)emudi* 'driver', etc.), and suffix *-an* (*tamatan* 'graduate', *bawahan* subordinate', etc.).

An *ini/itu* determiner/pronoun (?) might also be a subject of a certain predicate noun phrase. Again, as a determiner, *itu* can "substitute" the optional copula *adalah*. Negation *bukan* is also an obvious feature of this kind of predicate. In addition, a certain kind of modals can be used to express a modality of the sentence.

There is a slight difference between a predicate noun phrase and a predicate of an identificational sentence. The identificational predicate might be categorized as a predicate verb phrase preceded by a copulative verb *adalah*. The normal predicate noun phrase might also be preceded by *adalah* but it is optional. This ability to identify this type of sentence structure is very important for the IFL students

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