Towards the communicative strategies in Dawera-Daweloor (Eastern Indonesia)

(discourse)

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The Dawera-Daweloor (DD) language is spoken on the islands with the same name and in the village of Letwurung on the eastern coast of the Babar Island, a part of the Babar archipelago. Our information on this language was obtained from native speakers in the village of Letmasa on the Dawera. Typologically, DD is similar to other Austronesian languages in Eastern Indonesia: the basic word order is SVO; possessor precedes possessed; nouns lack alienable/inalienable distinction; verbs display subject agreement with the pronominal prefixes; and there is no special passive morphology.

In this paper I have taken a preliminary look at the communicative strategies in Dawera-Daweloor, specifically focusing on the frequently used auxiliary word *kede*, a pragmatic marker of salience of some constituent in a sentence.

Kede appears to have many functions. Most often, *kede* occurs in the sentences with OSV word order characteristic of so-called "passive-like sentences" (whereas the important function of the passive voice is to promote the patient referent), as in

(1)*Pet wel kede yale mlik-e!*
Box DEM kede PROH 2SG-turn over-O
Don't turn over this box!
(Ind. *Peti ini jangan dibanting!*);

Compare: in its source diathesis this sentence does not exhibit *kede* and O is not encoded by the verb, that is

(1a)*Yale m-lik pet wel*
PROH 2sg-turn over box DEM
Don't turn over this box!

Kede follows a NP in topic status/subject in an equational clause, as in

(2) *Wat-e   kede daw-el*
Woman-3SG/DEF   wife-3SGPOSS
That woman is his wife
(Ind. *Wanita itu isterinya*)

Whereas *e* is 3sg personal pronoun, as well as demonstrative pronoun (equivalent Indonesian *itu*), the interpretation of the initial NP in this sentence is ambiguous: it appears to be a topic in the case when *e* is 3sg personal pronoun, and it is identified as a subject in the case when *e* is demonstrative pronoun.

In addition to marking a specific object (1) and subject (2) noun phrases as a topic, *kede* also occurs with an initial NP, profiling the time of the event which is designated in a sentence, as in

(3) *Wull-a mukwele kede   letol esel-e r-wud-wik-a   koll-a il   welware*
Month-(?) front-Def kede village all-DEF 3Pl-do-clean-(?) pond-(?) fish mutual cooperation
Next month all the villagers will clean the fish pond by way of mutual cooperation
(Ind.*Dalam bulan depan seluruh kampung akan bersihkan dasar kolam ikan secara gotong-royong*)

The following example shows that *kede* can freely occur with a constituent of a clause which is neither initial nor NP. For instance, *kede* can follow a verb, as in

(4) *Pell-ol   llod   kede lkurlol-la   dari rusa*
turtle-NM 3SG-run *kede*   3SG-less-DIR   ABL deer
A turtle runs slower than a deer
(Ind.*Kura-kura lari kurang cepat dari rusa*)

Here *kede* singles out a portion of the information that is unexpected (indeed, it is difficult to imagine a running turtle), and clearly has a focus function.

It is not possible to examine all the constructions with *kede* within the space constrains of this paper, but even the examples provided display multiplicity of this functional word. It is especially interesting that Dawera-Daweloor appears to use the same construction to encode such diverse strategies as voice, topic, and focus. With no linguistic research on Dawera-Daweloor

and with a rather limited data, this conclusion is very tentative. Clearly, there are various points which need to be clarified.

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