

Chapter 7

GENERAL AFFIXES

The affixes included in this section have various functions which are explained under the heading of each individual affix.

7.1 *Se-*

(i) Introduction

Se-, a shortened form of *esa* [one], is an adjectival and adverbial prefix. *Esa* is rare, used only in set expressions such as *Tuhan yang Maha Esa* [The one and only God]. The common form of "one" is *satu*. Because *se-* derives from a word meaning "one" it carries the meaning of "oneness", "equality", or "unity" in most of its active uses.

7.1 *Se-*

(ii) Affixed to nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs

Se- may be prefixed to nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs roots. The first set of examples show *se-* affixed to nouns.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Baljit tinggal serumah dengan Ranjit.</i>
Baljit lives in the same house (one house) with Ranjit. | 1. <i>Nyoman tinggal serumah dengan Wayan.</i>
Nyoman lives in the same house (one house) with Wayan. |
| 2. <i>Surinder seumur dengan Saroja.</i>
Surinder is the same age (one age) as Saroja. | 2. <i>Maringan seumur dengan Astuti.</i>
Maringan is the same age (one age) as Astuti. |
| 3. <i>Apa guru Nazir kata serupa dengan apa kata guru kita kata.</i>
What Nazir's teacher said is the same as what our teacher said. | 3. <i>Apa kata guru Nazir serupa dengan apa kata guru kita.</i>
What Nazir's teacher said is the same as what our teacher said. |

When *se-* is prefixed to verb roots it may show equality or unity. In Utterance 4, *tuju* means "to aim for" or "to head in a particular direction" and *pendapat* means "opinion". *Setuju* means "in agreement" or "having the same aim" or "direction" and *sependapat* means "having the same opinion".

4. *Prakash jarang **setuju** dengan Ravi mengenai politik.* 4. *Yeni jarang **sependapat** dengan Retno mengenai politik.*

Prakash rarely **agrees** with Ravi about politics.

Yeni rarely **agrees** with Retno about politics.

Se- prefixed to adverbs and adjectives shows equality or suitability. For many of these examples, it is the prefixed form which is more common than the simple root. For example, *sesuai* [suitable for], is more common than *suai*, and *selaras* [parallel to] or [in accordance with], is more common than *laras*. An example with *cocok*, also meaning "suitable", follows. In Malaysia *cocok* is prefixed with *se-*. In Indonesia it is not.

5. *Cara hidup di bandaraya besar seperti Kuala Lumpur tidak **secocok** dengan Aminah yang membesar dan tinggal hampir 25 tahun di kampung.* 5. *Cara hidup di kota besar seperti Jakarta tidak **cocok** dengan Aminah yang dibesarkan dan tinggal hampir 25 tahun di desa.*

The way of life in large cities such as Kuala Lumpur is not **suitable** for Aminah who grew up and lived for almost 25 years in a village.

The way of life in large cities such as Jakarta is not **suitable** for Aminah who grew up and lived for almost 25 years in a village.

This equality may also be expressed as a comparison (see Section 8.3(ii)).

6. *Saya tidak **sepandai** abang saya.* 6. *Saya tidak **sepandai** kakak laki-laki saya.*

I am not **as smart as** my older brother.

I am not **as smart as** my older brother.

7. *Rumah saya tidak **sejauh** rumah Shariah.* 7. *Rumah saya tidak **sejauh** rumah Halida.*

My house isn't **as far as** Shariah's.

My house isn't **as far as** Halida's.

The idea of equality, unity, or oneness may also be seen when *se-* is prefixed to adverbs of time. In each of the following utterances, a unit of time is being set as the time some event takes place. For a specific discussion of *selama* and *sepanjang* see Section 12.22.

8. ***Semasa** saya ada di Pulau Pinang, pekerja-pekerja bas bandaraya mogok.* 8. ***Sewaktu** saya ada di Malang, pekerja-pekerja bis kota mogok.*

The time I was in Penang, the City Council bus workers were on strike.

The time I was in Malang, the City Council bus workers were on strike.

CHAPTER 7

9. **Selepas** dia pergi, barulah saya gembira.
After she went, only then was I happy.
10. **Sebelum** mula belajar, makanlah.
Before (you) begin studying, eat.
9. **Setelah** dia pergi, barulah saya gembira.
After she went, only then was I happy.
10. **Sebelum** mulai belajar, makanlah.
Before (you) begin studying, eat.

Se- prefixed to certain verbs may also show the relative time an action takes place.

11. **Sesampai Nazir** di padang, rusuhan mula-mula berlaku.
Upon Nazir's arrival at the playing field, the disturbances had just begun. (OR) When Nazir arrived at the playing field, the disturbances had just begun.
11. **Sesampai Nazir** di lapangan, kekacauan mulai terjadi.
Upon Nazir's arrival at the playing field, the disturbances had just begun. (OR) When Nazir arrived at the playing field, the disturbances had just begun.

Se- may also be used to express limits on particular abilities. It is possible to view the use of *se-* in this context as delimiting a unit beyond which a particular ability can no longer be used or is no longer relevant.

12. **Setahu saya**, Arif ada lagi di Singapura dan tidak akan balik sampai besok.
As far as I know, Arif is still in Singapore and will not be returning until tomorrow.
13. **Buatlah sendiri sedapat-dapatnya**, dan kalau tidak lagi berjaya, barulah minta pertolongan orang lain.
Work on it yourself **as much as possible**, and if it still isn't successful, only then ask for someone else's help.
14. **Cubalah tahan nafas seberapa lama yang boleh**.
Try holding your breath for **as long as possible**.
12. **Setahu saya**, Arif masih berada di Jakarta dan tidak akan kembali sampai besok.
As far as I know, Arif is still in Jakarta and will not be returning until tomorrow.
13. **Kerjakan sendiri sedapat-dapatnya**, dan jika tidak juga berhasil, barulah minta bantuan orang lain.
Work on it yourself **as much as possible**, and if it still isn't successful, only then ask for someone else's help.
14. **Cobalah tahan nafas sesanggupnya**.
Try holding your breath for **as long as possible**.

7.1 *Se-* (iii) **Retaining the meaning "one"**

Se- clearly retains its meaning "one" when affixed to adjectives such as *tiap* [each] and to particular numerical classifiers used preceding nouns (see also Section 11.1.5).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>15. <i>Setiap orang yang masuk, mesti menyebutkan namanya dulu.</i></p> <p>Each person who enters, must mention his name first.</p> | <p>15. <i>Setiap orang yang masuk, mesti menyebutkan namanya dulu.</i></p> <p>Each person who enters, must mention his name first.</p> |
| <p>16. <i>Seekor burung langgar cermin depan kereta, dan menyebabkan cermin itu pecah.</i></p> <p>A bird hit the windscreen of the car, causing it to break.</p> | <p>16. <i>Seekor burung menabrak kaca depan mobil, dan menyebabkan kaca itu pecah.</i></p> <p>A bird hit the windscreen of the car, causing it to break.</p> |
| <p>17. <i>Sepucuk dua surat sudah sampai tetapi orang belum membacanya lagi.</i></p> <p>One or two letters have arrived, but no one has read them yet.</p> | <p>17. <i>Sepucuk dua surat sudah sampai tetapi tak seorang pun telah membacanya.</i></p> <p>One or two letters have arrived, but no one has read them yet.</p> |
| <p><i>Se-</i> also quite clearly retains its meaning "one" when affixed to numbers and nouns marking divisions of time, such as "hour", "day", "week", "month", and "year".</p> | |
| <p>18. <i>Amir bayar seratus ringgit untuk lampu besar kereta dia.</i></p> <p>Amir paid one hundred dollars for the headlight of his car.</p> | <p>18. <i>Amir membayar sepuluh ribu rupiah untuk lampu besar mobilnya.</i></p> <p>Amir paid ten thousand rupiah for the headlight of his car.</p> |
| <p>19. <i>Sejam selepas saya masuk, pertunjukan wayang gambar mula.</i></p> <p>One hour after I entered, the movie show began.</p> | <p>19. <i>Sejam sesudah saya masuk, pertunjukan film dimulai.</i></p> <p>One hour after I entered, the movie show began.</p> |
| <p>20. <i>Saya tinggal di Singapura setahun sebelum boleh faham tingkah laku orang di sana.</i></p> <p>I lived in Singapore a year before I could understand the behaviour of people who lived there.</p> | <p>20. <i>Saya tinggal di Singapura setahun sebelum saya bisa memahami tingkah laku orang di sana.</i></p> <p>I lived in Singapore a year before I could understand the behaviour of people who lived there.</p> |

7.1 *Se-* (iv) Compared to *satu*

Whatever the similarities may be, *se-* is actually used quite differently from *satu* [one]. While *satu* is used for counting, *se-* cannot be used in this way. *Se-* always expresses a unit while *satu* simply indicates a number. In Indonesia *suatu* is used in place of *satu* when the meaning "one" is nonspecific (see Section 11.1.1(iii)). Compare the following utterances.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>21. <i>Satu hari</i> Nabilah mahu pergi makan angin di Amerika.</p> <p>One day Nabilah wants to go on holiday in America.</p> | <p>21. <i>Suatu hari</i> Nabilah ingin berlibur di Amerika.</p> <p>One day Nabilah wants to go on holiday in America.</p> |
| <p>22. <i>Saya cuma ada masa melawat satu negara saja di Asia Tenggara semasa balik dari cuti tahunan di England.</i></p> <p>I have time to visit only one country in Southeast Asia when returning from annual leave in England.</p> | <p>22. <i>Saya cuma ada waktu mengunjungi satu negara saja di Asia Tenggara sewaktu kembali dari cuti tahunan di Inggris.</i></p> <p>I have time to visit only one country in Southeast Asia when returning from annual leave in England.</p> |

Se- cannot be used in place of *satu* in utterances 21 and 22 since *sehari* and *senegara* can only refer to units that are, respectively, an entire day and an entire country which functions together. Utterances 23-24, marked with an asterisk (*), are incorrect.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>23. *<i>Sehari</i> Nabilah mahu pergi makan angin di Amerika.</p> | <p>23. *<i>Sehari</i> Nabilah ingin berlibur di Amerika.</p> |
| <p>24. *<i>Saya cuma ada masa melawat senegara</i> saja di Asia Tenggara semasa balik dari cuti tahunan di England.</p> | <p>24. *<i>Saya cuma ada waktu mengunjungi senegara</i> saja di Asia Tenggara sewaktu kembali dari cuti tahunan di Inggris.</p> |

Utterances 25-26 show the correct usage of *sehari* and *senegara*.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>25. <i>Nabilah cuma dapat makan angin di Amerika sehari saja kerana dia terpaksa balik dan menjaga emaknya yang sakit teruk.</i></p> <p>Nabilah was able to holiday in America for just one day because she had to return and take care of her mother who was very ill.</p> | <p>25. <i>Nabilah cuma dapat berlibur di Amerika sehari saja kerana dia terpaksa kembali dan menjaga ibunya yang sakit keras.</i></p> <p>Nabilah was able to holiday in America for just one day because she had to return and take care of her mother who was very ill.</p> |
|--|--|

26. *Rakyat Kemboja akhirnya menyedari mereka tidak **senegara** dengan tentera Vietnam yang menggulingkan pemerintah Pol Pot.*
26. *Rakyat Kamboja akhirnya menyedari mereka tidak **senegara** dengan tentara Vietnam yang menggulingkan pemerintah Pol Pot.*

The people of Cambodia finally realised they were not **united (one nation)** with the Vietnamese army that overthrew the government of Pol Pot.

The people of Cambodia finally realised they were not **united (one nation)** with the Vietnamese army that overthrew the government of Pol Pot.

Because *se-* indicates a complete unit, it is also incorrect to use it before nouns which normally require numerical classifiers (see Section 11.1.5). While it is possible to avoid the numerical classifier in utterances such as 27-28 where the number *satu* [one] is used, these utterances are totally incorrect when *se-* replaces *satu*. Utterances 29-30 show both the incorrect usage of *se-* and the correct usage with the numerical classifier. The English translation remains the same as in utterances 27-28.

27. *Saya pesan **satu kopi** dan satu teh.*
I ordered **a coffee** and **a tea**.
27. *Saya pesan **satu kopi** dan **satu** teh.*
I ordered **a coffee** and **a tea**.
28. *Ismail menghisap **satu rokok** saja hari ini sebab dia mahu berhenti.*
28. *Ismail membeli **satu buku** saja hari ini karena uangnya tidak cukup.*
- Ismail smoked just **one cigarette** today because he wants to stop.
- Ismail bought just **one book** today because he didn't have enough money.
29. *Saya pesan **secawan kopi** dan **secawan teh**.*
29. *Saya pesan **secangkir kopi** dan **secangkir teh**.*
- *Saya pesan **sekopi** dan **seteh**.*
- *Saya pesan **sekopi** dan **seteh**.*
30. *Ismail menghisap **sebatang rokok** saja hari ini.*
30. *Ismail membeli **sebuah buku** saja hari ini karena uangnya tidak cukup.*
- *Ismail menghisap **serokok** saja hari ini.*
- *Ismail membeli **sebuah buku** saja hari ini karena uangnya tidak cukup.*

Se- sometimes appears in the alternative form of *sen-* due to assimilation (the adjustment of one sound to another), generally before roots beginning with *d* such as in the word *sendiri* [by oneself] or [on one's own] (see Section 12.21).

7.2 The suffixes *-lah* and *dong*

The suffix *-lah* has a range of meanings which are discussed in this section. Also examined is the Indonesian usage of the particle *dong*.

7.2.1 -Lah**(i) Introduction**

The two main functions of the suffix *-lah* are to add emphasis and to take the edge off a command. Each of these is discussed in the sections which follow.

7.2.1 -Lah**(ii) Adds emphasis to particular words**

The basic function of *-lah* is to add emphasis to the word to which it is suffixed. While *-lah* is very commonly used in Malaysia, its use is more restricted in Indonesia. The examples below try to give some idea of this comparative usage.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Di mana pondok telefon? - Di situlah.</p> <p>Where is the telephone booth? - Why, it's over there.</p> | <p>1. <i>Di mana telepon umum?</i> - Di situ.</p> <p>Where is the public telephone? - Over there.</p> |
| <p>2. <i>Kereta rosak. Bas pun sudah pergi. Bagaimana kita nak sampai di sana?</i> - Jalan kakilah.</p> <p>The car's broken down. The bus has already gone. How are we going to get there? - Walk, (how else)?</p> | <p>2. <i>Mobil rusak. Bis pun sudah pergi. Bagaimana kita mau sampai di sana?</i> - Jalan kaki.</p> <p>The car's broken down. The bus has already gone. How are we going to get there? - Walk, (how else)?</p> |
| <p>3. Sayalah yang menang pertandingan bola tangkis. Mengapa semua orang menyangka Rosli yang menang?</p> <p>I was the one who won the badminton game. Why does everyone think it was Rosli?</p> | <p>3. Sayalah yang menang pertandingan bulu tangkis. Mengapa semua orang menyangka Gede yang menang?</p> <p>I was the one who won the badminton game. Why does everyone think it was Gede?</p> |
| <p>4. Bangunlah sekarang. Jam loceng sudah berbunyi. - Itu jam di bilik sebelah, bukan di bilik ini.</p> <p>Get up now. The alarm has already rung. - It's the clock in the next room, not this room.</p> | <p>4. Bangunlah sekarang. Lonceng sudah berbunyi. - Itu jam di kamar sebelah, bukan di kamar ini.</p> <p>Get up now. The alarm has already rung. - It's the clock in the next room, not this room.</p> |

The suffix -lah is also used when the predicate precedes the subject. This change in standard word order is made to emphasise the predicate, and while *-lah* is not required, it is usually used to underscore this emphasis (see also Section 2.1.1(ii)).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5. <i>Berkali-kali soal itu ditujukan kepada Menteri Besar. Akhirnya, jawablah dia dengan teragak-agak.</i></p> | <p>5. <i>Berkali-kali persoalan itu diajukan kepada Gubernur. Akhirnya, dia jawab dengan berat hati.</i></p> |
|---|---|

The question was repeatedly directed to the Chief Minister. Finally **he answered it** with hesitation.

The question was repeatedly directed to the Governor. Finally **he answered** it with hesitation.

7.2.1 **-Lah** (iii) **Takes the edge off a command**

The suffix *-lah*, in addition to its function of showing emphasis, also functions to take the edge off a command, thus making the command more polite. As with most particles of this type, the interpretation is highly context sensitive.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>6. <i>Janganlah pergi sekarang. Hujan lagi.</i></p> | <p>6. <i>Janganlah pergi sekarang. Masih hujan.</i></p> |
|---|--|

You don't want to go now. It's still raining.

You don't want to go now. It's still raining.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>7. <i>Duduklah di sini.
Why don't you sit here.</i></p> | <p>7. <i>Duduklah di sini.
Why don't you sit here.</i></p> |
|--|--|

It would, however, take only a change in context, intonation or the relative status of the speakers to give *-lah* a somewhat different interpretation, more emphatic and somewhat more reprimanding.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>8. <i>Mengapa tunggu lagi? Pergilah.
Orang lain sudah ada di sana.</i></p> | <p>8. <i>Apa lagi yang ditunggu? Pergilah.
Orang lain sudah di sana.</i></p> |
|--|---|

Why are you still waiting? **Go on.**
The others are already there.

Why are you still waiting? **Go on.** The others are already there.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>9. <i>Allah! Tulislah di kertas ini. Kertas itu orang lain punya.</i></p> | <p>9. <i>Ya Allah! Tulislah di kertas ini. Kertas itu punya orang lain.</i></p> |
|---|--|

Oh God! **Write** on this paper. That paper is someone else's.

Oh God! **Write** on this paper. That paper is someone else's.

7.2.2 **Dong**

One of the particles used colloquially in Jakarta that shares some of the meaning of *-lah* is *dong*. In examples 1 and 2 *dong* adds emphasis to the utterance, and in 3 it takes the edge off a command. *Dong* and *-lah*, however, are not fully equivalent.

1. *Ujiannya, kan, sudah selesai? **Harusnya gembira dong!***
Your exams are finished, aren't they? You should be happy.

CHAPTER 7

2. *Jadi kita nggak ketemu lagi **dong** minggu ini? - Ketemu¹.*
So we won't be seeing each other again this week? - We will.
3. *Tunggu **dong**. Kok cepat-cepat sih¹?*
Why don't you wait up? How come you in a rush?

7.3 The suffix *-kah*

(i) Introduction

The suffix *-kah* is interrogative. It marks the utterances as a question. The following sections explore its use.

7.3 The suffix *-kah*

(ii) Optionality and placement

The suffix *-kah* is not required when asking questions, as questions can be shown by intonation. The two variations of utterance 1 are equally acceptable. The English translation remains the same.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Ramli bekerja di Singapurakah?</i>
<i>Ramli bekerja di Singapura?</i> | 1. <i>Ramli bekerja di Singapurakah?</i>
<i>Ramli bekerja di Singapura?</i> |
| Does Ramli work in Singapore ? | Does Ramli work in Singapore ? |

While the most neutral position for *-kah* is at the end of the utterance, it can occur after any phrase which the speaker wishes to question. This same emphasis is usually obtained in English by contrastive stress (relative loudness) or a change in word order. The following are examples.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. <i>Ramli <i>bekerjakah</i> di Singapura?</i>
Does Ramli work in Singapore? | 2. <i>Ramli <i>bekerjakah</i> di Singapura?</i>
Does Ramli work in Singapore? |
| 3. <i>Ramlakah yang bekerja di Singapura?</i>
Is it Ramli who works in Singapore? | 3. <i>Ramlakah yang bekerja di Singapura?</i>
Is it Ramli who works in Singapore? |
| 4. <i>Ramli bekerja jauhkah dari sini?</i>
Does Ramli work far from here? | 4. <i>Ramli bekerja jauhkah dari sini?</i>
Does Ramli work far from here? |

7.3 The suffix *-kah*

(iii) *Apa* and *apakah*

In Indonesia, but not Malaysia, questions may be signalled by preceding the utterance with *apakah*, frequently shortened to just *apa* in conversation. This question type is generally used when the speaker is requesting new information. If the speaker is requesting confirmation about something he or she suspects is correct, then the tag *ya* is used (see 10.2(v)). Utterances 6 and 7 compare these two uses.

5. **Apakah** nama bapak Bakar¹?
Is your name Bakar?
6. **Apa** Ramli bekerja di Singapura¹?
Does Ramli work in Singapore?
7. *Ramli bekerja di Singapura, ya?* Saya selalu ketemu dia di situ¹.
Ramli works in Singapore, **doesn't he?** I always meet him there.

7.3 The suffix *-kah*

(iv) **Adakah** and **apakah**

In Malaysia, more formal questions may be set by suffixing *-kah* to *ada*. This type of question is commonly seen in text books where the truth or falsity of a particular statement is being questioned. It may be equivalent to the English "Is it true that...". In Indonesia, *apakah* is used for this function.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>8. Adakah Cheng Guan dan Amin dengar sesuatu dari beca di tepi pantai?</p> <p>Did Cheng Guan and Amin hear anything from the trishaw along the beach? (OR) Was it true that Cheng Guan and Amin heard something from the trishaw along the beach?</p> | <p>8. Apakah Salim dan Amin dengar sesuatu dari becak di tepi pantai?</p> <p>Did Salim and Amin hear anything from the trishaw along the beach? (OR) Was it true that Salim and Amin heard something from the trishaw along the beach?</p> |
| <p>9. Adakah Sultan Kedah menjual sebahagian daripada tanahnya kepada Francis Light untuk mendapatkan wang atau untuk mendapatkan perlindungan dari kerajaan Siam?</p> <p>Did the Sultan of Kedah sell a part of his land to Francis Light in order to get money, or in order to get protection from the Thai government?</p> | <p>9. Apakah Mangkunegaran menjual sebagian tanahnya kepada Belanda untuk mendapatkan uang atau untuk mendapatkan perlindungan dari penjajah?</p> <p>Did the Mangkunegaran sell a part of its land to the Dutch in order to get money, or in order to get protection from the colonialists?</p> |