

Chapter 8

COMPARISONS AND DIFFERENCES

Comparisons indicating a greater or lesser degree are shown, respectively, by the expressions *lebih ... daripada* and *kurang ... daripada*, and those showing equality by *sama dengan*. There are, however, also a number of alternatives which are used in conversational speech. These standard and alternative forms are discussed in the following sections.

8.1 Greater Degree

(i) *Lebih, lagi* and alternatives

Comparisons showing greater degree are made with *lebih* [more] and the preposition *daripada* [than]. The following are examples.

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| 1. <i>Makanan di luar lebih sedap daripada makanan di kampus.</i> | 1. <i>Makanan di luar lebih sedap daripada makanan di kampus.</i> |
| The food outside is tastier than the food on campus. | The food outside is tastier than the food on campus. |
| 2. <i>Hamid berjalan lebih cepat daripada saya.</i> | 2. <i>Hamid berjalan lebih cepat daripada saya.</i> |
| Hamid walks faster than I do. | Hamid walks faster than I do. |

An alternative to the above utterances, common in conversation, is to use *lagi* [still] or [yet] in place of *lebih*. The *lagi* may either precede or follow the adjective. This alternative is found in Malaysia, not Indonesia. The English translation remains the same.

3. *Makanan di luar sedap lagi daripada makanan di kampus^M.*
4. *Hamid berjalan lagi cepat daripada saya^M.*

In the conversational speech of Malaysia as well, *daripada* is often shortened to *pada* or to *dari*.

5. *Makanan di luar sedap lagi dari makanan di kampus^M.*
6. *Hamid berjalan lagi cepat pada saya^M.*

If the comparison is implied by the context of the conversation, as is usually the case, then *lebih* or *lagi* may be omitted and *daripada*, *dari* or *pada* used alone. Utterances 7-8, however, would be less common than 5-6. In Indonesia, when *lebih* is omitted, it is also common in conversation to use *dibanding* [compared to]. An alternative in Malaysia and Singapore is to say *berbanding dengan*.

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| 7. Makanan di luar sedap daripada makanan di kampus. | 7. Makanan di luar enak daripada makanan di kampus. |
| 8. Hamid berjalan cepat pada saya. | 8. Hamid berjalan cepat dibanding saya. |

Questions which ask for comparisons of greater degree are as follows. Utterances 9-10 are the questions which would be asked in the standard language.

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| 9. Makanan yang mana lebih sedap , makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus? | 9. Makanan mana yang lebih enak , makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus? |
| Which food is tastier , the food outside or the food on campus? | Which food is tastier , the food outside or the food on campus? |
| 10. Siapa berjalan lebih cepat , Hamid atau saya? | 10. Siapa berjalan lebih cepat , Hamid atau saya? |
| Who walks faster , Hamid or me? | Who walks faster , Hamid or me? |

Lagi may also be used in questions as it is in answers. It may either precede or follow the adjective as was the case in the comparisons given above. This occurs in Malaysia, not Indonesia.

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| 11. Makanan yang mana sedap lagi , makan di luar atau makanan di kampus ^M ? |
| 12. Siapa berjalan lagi cepat , Hamid atau saya ^M ? |

8.1 Greater Degree

(ii) Various short forms

It is also possible to have various shortened forms of the question in conversational speech. As previously mentioned, since *lebih* is implied in the comparison, it may be omitted.

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| 13. Makanan yang mana sedap , makan di luar atau makanan di kampus? | 13. Makanan mana yang enak , makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus? |
| Which food is tastier, the food outside or the food on campus? | Which food is tastier, the food outside or the food on campus? |

Makanan is also redundant in the introductory clause since it is repeated in the clauses which follow, and so it too may be omitted. The English translation remains the same.

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14. *Yang mana sedap, makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus?* 14. *Mana yang enak, makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus?*

Yang is also optional in the example above (also see Section 2.3). This leaves the very basic question which has varying degrees of acceptability.

15. *Mana sedap, makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus?* 15. *Mana enak, makanan di luar atau makanan di kampus?*

When asking questions, *atau* [or], as well, is often omitted, replaced by the question particle *-kah* following the two noun phrases which are being compared. The suffix *-kah* used in this way is pronounced *-ke* in Malaysia.

16. *Makanan yang mana lebih sedap, makanan di luar**kah**, makanan di kampus**kah**.* 16. *Makanan mana yang lebih enak, makanan di luar**kah**, makanan di kampus**kah**.*

Once the comparison is set by the use of *-kah*, then the *lagi* or *lebih* become redundant and may be omitted in conversation.

17. *Siapa berjalan cepat, Hamid**kah**, sayak**kah**?* 17. *Siapa berjalan cepat, Hamid**kah**, sayak**kah**?*

It is also possible to place emphasis directly on the items being compared by placing them at the beginning of the question.

18. *Makanan di luar**kah**, makanan di kampus**kah**, yang mana sedap?* 18. *Makanan di luar**kah**, makanan di kampus**kah**, mana yang enak?*

The food outside, or the food on campus, which is tastier?

The food outside, or the food on campus, which is tastier?

It is also possible to answer a question retaining the same emphatic word order. In this instance, the respondent (the person who answers) actually repeats the question as if considering the possibilities before expressing an answer.

19. *Makanan di luar**kah**, makanan di kampus**kah**, makanan di luar yang sedap.* 19. *Makanan di luar**kah**, makanan di kampus**kah**, makanan di luar yang enak.*

The food outside, or the food on campus, the food outside is tastier.

The food outside, or the food on campus, the food outside is tastier.

8.1 Greater Degree

(iii) *Lebih* used without an adjective

Lebih may also be used without a stated adjective. *Lagi* would be less acceptable in this type of utterance. The first English translation is general. The second is more literal and is not necessarily what an English speaker would say. While *daripada* in Indonesia generally retains its full form in comparisons, it may be shorted to *dari* when immediately following *lebih*. *Daripada* is commonly shorted in this way in Malaysia.

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| <p>20. <i>Duit dia lebih daripada duit saya.</i></p> <p>He has more money than I have. (His money is more than mine.)</p> | <p>20. <i>Uang dia lebih daripada uang saya.</i></p> <p>He has more money than I have. (His money is more than mine.)</p> |
| <p>21. <i>Kerusi di Dewan Kuliah Dua lebih dari kerusi di Dewan Kuliah Tiga.</i></p> <p>There are more chairs in Lecture Theatre 2 than Lecture Theatre 3. (The chairs in Lecture Theatre 2 are more than in Lecture Theatre 3.)</p> | <p>21. <i>Kursi di Aula Dua lebih dari kursi di Aula Tiga.</i></p> <p>There are more chairs in Lecture Theatre 2 than Lecture Theatre 3. (The chairs in Lecture Theatre 2 are more than in Lecture Theatre 3.)</p> |
| <p>22. <i>Anggota kumpulan Abdullah lebih daripada anggota kumpulan Mashudi.</i></p> <p>Abdullah's group has more members than Mashudi's. (The members of Abdullah's group are more than Mashudi's.)</p> | <p>22. <i>Anggota kelompok Abdullah lebih daripada anggota kelompok Mashudi.</i></p> <p>Abdullah's group has more members than Mashudi's. (The members of Abdullah's group are more than Mashudi's.)</p> |

What is implied in each of the preceding utterances, but not stated, is the adjective *banyak* [many]. This may be added to each of the utterances. One example follows. The translation is the same as for utterance 20.

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| <p>23. <i>Duit dia lebih banyak daripada duit saya.</i></p> | <p>23. <i>Uang dia lebih banyak daripada uang saya.</i></p> |
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Banyak is optional in the preceding utterances because it is understood from the context of the utterance. It is not, however, optional when the same information is conveyed using an existential utterance (see Section 2.1.3). These are utterances where *ada* is either indicated, the common expression in Malaysia, or implied, the common expression in Indonesia. *Banyak* must be included in the following utterances. The omission of *banyak* is a common error made by students of Malay and Indonesian.

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24. *Ada **lebih banyak** kerusi di Dewan Kuliah Dua **daripada** Dewan Kuliah Tiga.*

There are **more** chairs in Lecture Theatre 2 **than** Lecture Theatre 3.

24. ***Lebih banyak** kursi di Aula Dua **daripada** Aula Tiga.*

There are **more** chairs in Lecture Theatre 2 **than** Lecture Theatre 3.

25. *Ada **lebih banyak** anggota di kumpulan Abdullah **daripada** kumpulan Mashudi.*

There are **more** members in Abdullah's group **than** in Mashudi's.

25. ***Lebih banyak** anggota di kelompok Abdullah **daripada** kelompok Mashudi.*

There are **more** members in Abdullah's group **than** in Mashudi's.

Utterances 26-27 are incorrect in Malaysia. While in Indonesia they may have some acceptance with certain speakers, this is certainly not a model students should use.

26. **Ada **lebih** kerusi di Dewan Kuliah Dua **daripada** Dewan Kuliah Tiga.*

26. **Ada **lebih kursi** di Aula Dua **daripada** Aula Tiga.*

27. **Ada **lebih** anggota di kumpulan Abdullah **daripada** kumpulan Mashudi.*

27. **Ada **lebih** anggota di kelompok Abdullah **daripada** kelompok Mashudi.*

In general, the comparisons as expressed in utterances 20-22 are preferable to those expressed in 24-25 which appear to be influenced by the structure of English.

8.1 Greater Degree (iv) *Lebih or lagi* always implies a comparison

It must be remembered that when *lebih* or *lagi* is used, a comparison is always implied. Utterance 28, for example, implies that *Anwar* is working either harder than he did before, or harder than someone else. If no comparison is to be made or implied, then utterance 29 would be used (see Section 8.5).

28. *Anwar bekerja **lebih kuat**.*
*Anwar bekerja **kuat lagi**.*

Anwar is working **harder**.

28. *Anwar bekerja **lebih keras**.*

Anwar is working **harder**.

29. *Anwar bekerja **sangat kuat**.*
*Anwar is working **very hard**.*

29. *Anwar bekerja **keras sekali**.*
*Anwar is working **very hard**.*

8.2 Lesser Degree

(i) *Kurang* or *tidak se-*

Comparisons where one item is less than another are shown in Malaysia with *kurang* [less] and the preposition *daripada* [than]. In Indonesia this type of comparison is rare. Comparisons of lesser degree in Indonesia are made by indicating that things are not equal or the same (see Section 8.3(iv)). This is accomplished by using the negative *tidak* and the prefix *se-* on the relevant adjective.

The following are examples showing the usage of *kurang daripada* in Malaysia and *tidak se-* in Indonesia. *Daripada*, as discussed in the previous section, may be shortened to *pada* or *dari*.

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| <p>1. <i>Buku di Amerika kurang mahal daripada buku di Australia.</i></p> <p>Books in America are less expensive than books in Australia.</p> | <p>1. <i>Buku di Amerika tidak semahal buku di Australia.</i></p> <p>Books in America are not as expensive as books in Australia.</p> |
| <p>2. <i>Orang di Filipina kurang kaya daripada orang di Malaysia.</i></p> <p>People in the Philippines are less rich than people in Malaysia.</p> | <p>2. <i>Orang di Filipina tidak sekaya orang di Malaysia.</i></p> <p>People in the Philippines are not so rich as people in Malaysia.</p> |

8.2 Lesser Degree

(ii) *Kurang* used without an adjective

Kurang in Malaysia may also be used directly in comparisons without a stated adjective. The structure exemplified in utterance 3 is correct. There is no alternative existential sentence with *ada* as there was for comparisons of greater degree with *lebih* and *banyak* (see Section 8.1(iii)). Utterance 4 is incorrect. An equivalent utterance showing the more common usage of *tidak se-* in Indonesia is also given

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| <p>3. <i>Hujan bulan Oktober kurang daripada hujan bulan Februari.</i></p> <p>There is less rain in October than February. (The rain in October is less than the rain in February.)</p> | <p>3. <i>Hujan bulan Oktober tidak sebanyak hujan bulan Februari.</i></p> <p>The rain in October is not as great as the rain in February.</p> |
| <p>4. *<i>Ada kurang hujan di bulan Oktober daripada bulan Februari.</i></p> | |

8.2 Lesser Degree

(iii) *Kurang* used in implied comparisons

Kurang is also used for implied comparisons with someone or something specific or against a general standard. *Kurang* is used this way in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

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| 5. <i>Bagi saya, Rosalinda kurang cantik.</i>
As for me, Rosalinda is less pretty (compared to Siti, or compared to other women in general). | 5. <i>Bagi saya, Rosalinda kurang cantik.</i>
As for me, Rosalinda is less pretty (compared to Siti, or compared to other women in general). |
| 6. <i>Amirudin kurang kaya.</i>
Amirudin is less rich (than Hamid, or than other men in general). | 6. <i>Amirudin kurang kaya.</i>
Amirudin is less rich (than Hamid, or than other men in general). |

Kurang may also be used for politeness. Saying that someone possesses less of a positive quality is considered more polite than mentioning the opposite negative quality. Utterances such as *Rosalinda hodoh*^M/*Rosalinda jelek*^L [Rosalinda is ugly], and *Amirudin miskin* [Amirudin is poor] are avoided in favour of the utterances in 5 and 6.

When a comparison of lesser degree is neither intended nor implied, *kurang* is not used. *Tidak berapa* or *tidak begitu* [not very] or [not so] is used in its place. *Tidak begitu* is the preferred form in Indonesia and *tidak berapa* the preferred form in Malaysia.

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| 7. <i>Bagi saya, Rosalinda tidak berapa cantik.</i>
As for me, Rosalinda is not very pretty . | 7. <i>Bagi saya, Rosalinda tidak berapa cantik.</i>
As for me, Rosalinda is not very pretty . |
| 8. <i>Amirudin tidak begitu kaya.</i>
Amirudin isn't so rich . | 8. <i>Amirudin tidak begitu kaya.</i>
Amirudin isn't so rich . |

8.3 Similar Degree

(i) *Sama* and *serupa*

Comparisons where two items are of equal or similar degree are made with *sama* [same] and the preposition *dengan* [with].

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| 1. <i>Tambang bus sama dengan tambang kereta api.</i>
The bus fare is the same as the train fare. | 1. <i>Ongkos bis sama dengan ongkos kereta api.</i>
The bus fare is the same as the train fare. |
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In some colloquial uses *dengan* is omitted, resulting in the following utterance.

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| 2. <i>Tambang bus sama tambang kereta api.</i> | 2. <i>Ongkos bis sama ongkos kereta api.</i> |
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More common than utterance 2, and fully acceptable in conversation are the following.

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| 3. <i>Tambang bus dan tambang kereta api sama.</i> | 3. <i>Ongkos bis dan ongkos kereta api sama.</i> |
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The bus fare and the train fare **are the same**.

The bus fare and the train fare **are the same**.

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| 4. <i>Bas dan kereta api, tambangnya sama.</i> | 4. <i>Bis dan kereta api, ongkosnya sama.</i> |
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The bus and the train **have the same** fare.

The bus and the train **have the same** fare.

Serupa, meaning literally "of the same form", may be used in place of *sama*. Where *sama* means "same", however, *serupa* may be interpreted as both "similar" and "same". It would most commonly replace *sama* in utterances such as 1 and 3.

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| 5. <i>Tambang bus serupa dengan tambang kereta api.</i> | 5. <i>Ongkos bis serupa dengan ongkos kereta api.</i> |
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| 6. <i>Tambang bus dan tambang kereta api serupa.</i> | 6. <i>Ongkos bis dan ongkos kereta api serupa.</i> |
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When adjectives are included in the comparison, the utterance takes the following form.

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| 7. <i>Orang perempuan sama pandai dengan orang lelaki.</i> | 7. <i>Orang perempuan sama pandainya dengan orang laki-laki.</i> |
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Women **are as smart as** men.

Women **are as smart as** men.

Also used conversationally is the following.

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| 8. <i>Orang perempuan dan orang lelaki sama pandai.</i> | 8. <i>Orang perempuan dan orang laki-laki sama pandainya.</i> |
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Women and men **are as smart** (as each other).

Women and men **are as smart** (as each other).

8.3 Similar Degree

(ii) The prefix *se-*

Sama before adjectives may also be replaced by the prefix *se-*, the combining form of "one" (see Section 7.1(ii)). *Se-* indicates unity, oneness, similarity or equality.

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| 9. <i>Tambang bus semahal tambang kereta api.</i> | 9. <i>Ongkos bis semahal ongkos kereta api.</i> |
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The bus fare **is as expensive as** the train fare.

The bus fare **is as expensive as** the train fare.

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- 264 10. *Orang perempuan **sepandai** orang lelaki.* 10. *Orang perempuan **sepandai** orang laki-laki.*
Women **are as smart as** men. Women **are as smart as** men.
11. *Rumah Aziz **sejauh** rumah saya.* 11. *Rumah Aziz **sejauh** rumah saya.*
Aziz's house **is as far as** mine. Aziz's house **is as far as** mine.

It is also possible to ask questions of equality or similarity with *se-*. It must be remembered, however, that what is being asked for is a comparison with something else.

12. *Tambang bus **semahal** tambang yang mana?* 12. *Ongkos bis **semahal** ongkos yang mana?*
The bus fare **is as expensive as** which (other) fare? The bus fare **is as expensive as** which (other) fare?
13. *Orang perempuan **sepandai** orang yang mana?* 13. *Orang perempuan **sepandai** orang yang mana?*
Women **are as smart as** which (other) people? Women **are as smart as** which (other) people?
14. *Rumah Aziz **sejauh** rumah yang mana?* 14. *Rumah Aziz **sejauh** rumah yang mana?*
Aziz's house **is as far as** which (other) house? Aziz's house **is as far as** which (other) house?

8.3 Similar Degree (iii) *Berapa*

If a comparison is not intended or implied then the prefix *se-* cannot be used. Questions without an implied comparison are asked with *berapa*, literally "how much", but translating into English simply as "how".

15. ***Berapa mahal** tambang bus sekarang?* 15. ***Berapa mahal** ongkos bis sekarang?*
How expensive is the bus fare now? **How expensive is** the bus fare now?
16. ***Berapa pandai** orang perempuan?* 16. ***Berapa pandai** orang perempuan?*
How smart are women? **How smart are** women?
17. *Rumah Aziz **berapa jauh**?* 17. *Rumah Aziz **berapa jauh**?*
How far is Aziz's house? **How far is** Aziz's house?

These questions may be answered generally without a comparison being made, as in utterance 18, or they may be answered comparatively, as in utterances 19-20.

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| <p>18. <i>Tambang bus tak berapa mahal.</i>
The bus fare isn't so expensive.</p> <p>19. <i>Orang perempuan sependai orang lelaki.</i>
Women are as smart as men.</p> <p>20. <i>Rumah Aziz sejauh 10 kilometer.</i>
Aziz's house is 10 kilometres away. (Aziz's house is as far as 10 kilometres.)</p> | <p>18. <i>Ongkos bis tidak begitu mahal.</i>
The bus fare isn't so expensive.</p> <p>19. <i>Orang perempuan sependai orang laki-laki.</i>
Women are as smart as men.</p> <p>20. <i>Rumah Aziz sejauh 10 kilometer.</i>
Aziz's house is 10 kilometres away. (Aziz's house is as far as 10 kilometres.)</p> |
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8.3 Similar Degree (iv) Inequality or dissimilarity

Inequality or dissimilarity may be shown simply by the introduction of the negative *tidak* or one of its short forms.

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| <p>21. <i>Tambang bus tak sama dengan tambang kereta api.</i>
The bus fare isn't the same as the train fare.</p> <p>22. <i>Orang perempuan tak sama pandai dengan orang lelaki.</i>
Women are not as smart as men.</p> <p>23. <i>Rumah Aziz tidak sejauh rumah saya.</i>
Aziz's house is not as far as my house.</p> | <p>21. <i>Ongkos bis tidak sama dengan ongkos kereta api.</i>
The bus fare isn't the same as the train fare.</p> <p>22. <i>Orang perempuan tidak sama pandainya dengan orang laki-laki.</i>
Women are not as smart as men.</p> <p>23. <i>Rumah Aziz tidak sejauh rumah saya.</i>
Aziz's house is not as far as my house.</p> |
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Inequality or dissimilarity may also be expressed by *lain daripada* [different from]. Also used quite commonly in Indonesia is *berbeda dengan*. Examples of this are shown in utterances 26-27.

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| <p>24. <i>Tambang bus lain daripada tambang kereta api.</i>
The bus fare is different from the train fare.</p> <p>265 25. <i>Adat orang Melayu lain daripada adat orang Cina.</i>
Malay customs are different from Chinese customs.</p> | <p>24. <i>Ongkos bis lain daripada ongkos kereta api.</i>
The bus fare is different from the train fare.</p> <p>25. <i>Adat orang Indonesia lain daripada adat orang Cina.</i>
Indonesian customs are different from Chinese customs.</p> |
|---|---|

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Lain daripada or *berbeda dengan* is used when nouns are directly compared.

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| 26. <i>Orang perempuan lain daripada orang lelaki.</i> | 26. <i>Orang perempuan berbeda dengan orang laki-laki.</i> |
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Women **are different from** men.

Women **are different from** men.

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| 27. <i>Rumah Aziz lain daripada rumah saya.</i> | 27. <i>Rumah Aziz berbeda dengan rumah saya.</i> |
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Aziz's house **is different from** my house.

Aziz's house **is different from** my house.

Lain daripada cannot normally be used when adjectives are directly compared, and *berbeda dengan* cannot be used at all in this type of structure. Utterances 28-29 which contain adjectives directly following *lain daripada* are incorrect unless they are perceived of as short forms for the nominals with *-nya* which follow (see Section 6.6). The utterances with *-nya* would be far more common in Indonesia than Malaysia.

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| 28. <i>*Orang perempuan lain pandai daripada orang lelaki.</i> | 28. <i>*Orang perempuan lain pandai daripada orang laki-laki.</i> |
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*Women **are differently smart than** men.

*Women **are differently smart than** men.

*Orang perempuan lain pandainya daripada orang lelaki*¹.
Women **have different types of skills** than men.

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| 29. <i>*Jalan ke Rumah Aziz lain jauh daripada jalan ke rumah saya.</i>
<i>*Going to Aziz's house is differently far than going to my house.</i> |
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*Jalan ke rumah Aziz lain jauhnya daripada jalan ke rumah saya*¹.

Aziz's house **is reached in a different (shorter or longer) way from** (going to) my house.

Utterances 28-29, may also be expressed with *lain* in the following way, but the resultant structure and meaning are different.

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| 30. <i>Orang perempuan lain, tidak sama dengan orang lelaki.</i> | 30. <i>Orang perempuan lain, tidak sama dengan orang laki-laki.</i> |
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Women **are different, not the same as** men.

Women **are different, not the same as** men.

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| 31. <i>Rumah Aziz lain, tidak sejauh rumah saya.</i> | 31. <i>Rumah Aziz lain, tidak sejauh rumah saya.</i> |
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Aziz's house **is different, not as far as** my house.

Aziz's house **is different, not as far as** my house.

8.3 Similar Degree

(v) *Macam and seperti*

Comparison as to the similarity of two items may also be made with *macam* or *seperti*, both meaning "like" or "as". *Macam ini* may also be expressed as *begini* and *macam itu* as *begitu*. *Begini* and *begitu* may be shortened in Indonesia to *gini* and *gitu* respectively. *Macam ini* and *macam itu* are used relatively infrequently in Indonesia.

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| <p>32. <i>Singapura negara yang kaya, macam Jepun.</i></p> <p>Singapore is a rich country, like Japan.</p> | <p>32. <i>Singapura negara yang kaya, seperti Jepang.</i></p> <p>Singapore is a rich country, like Japan.</p> |
| <p>33. <i>Orang perempuan seperti orang lelaki. Kedua-duanya pandai.</i></p> <p>Women are like men. Both are smart.</p> | <p>33. <i>Orang perempuan seperti orang laki-laki. Kedua-duanya pandai.</i></p> <p>Women are like men. Both are smart.</p> |
| <p>34. <i>Rumah Aziz tidak jauh seperti rumah saya.</i></p> <p>Aziz's house is not far, unlike my house (as my house is).</p> | <p>34. <i>Rumah Aziz tidak jauh seperti rumah saya.</i></p> <p>Aziz's house is not far, unlike my house (as my house is).</p> |
| <p>35. <i>Hamid tinggi macam ini.</i>
Hamid is as tall as this.</p> <p>Also used in Indonesia is <i>segini</i>.</p> | <p>35. <i>Hamid tingginya begini.</i>
Hamid is as tall as this.</p> |
| <p>36. <i>Hamid segini tingginya¹.</i>
Hamid is this tall. (Hamid is tall, like this.)</p> <p>In each of the above utterances, <i>macam</i> or <i>seperti</i> may be replaced by <i>sama (dengan)</i> or <i>serupa (dengan)</i>.</p> | |
| <p>37. <i>Singapura negara yang kaya, serupa dengan Jepun.</i></p> <p>Singapore is a rich country, the same as Japan.</p> | <p>37. <i>Singapura negara yang kaya, serupa dengan Jepang.</i></p> <p>Singapore is a rich country, the same as Japan.</p> |
| <p>38. <i>Orang perempuan sama dengan orang lelaki. Kedua-duanya pandai.</i></p> <p>Women are the same as men. Both are smart.</p> | <p>38. <i>Orang perempuan sama dengan orang laki-laki. Kedua-duanya pandai.</i></p> <p>Women are the same as men. Both are smart.</p> |

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39. *Rumah Aziz tidak jauh, **tidak sama dengan** rumah saya.* 39. *Rumah Aziz tidak jauh, **tidak sama dengan** rumah saya.*
- Aziz's house is not far, **unlike** my house (not the same as my house). Aziz's house is not far, **unlike** my house (not the same as my house).
40. *Hamid tinggi **serupa ini**.* 40. *Hamid tinggi **serupa ini**.*
- Hamid is as tall **as** this. Hamid is as tall **as** this.

8.4 Superlative Degree

The superlative refers to the highest degree of comparison of adjectives and adverbs. In English this is expressed by the suffix *-est* as in *the biggest* or the word *most* as in *the most expensive*.

8.4 Superlative Degree

(i) *Paling*

There are a number of ways of expressing the superlative degree. Perhaps the most common is with *paling* [most] preceding the modifier, either an adjective or an adverb.

1. *Bahasa-bahasa Filipina adalah yang **paling rumit** di antara bahasa Asia Tenggara.* 1. *Bahasa-bahasa Filipina adalah yang **paling rumit** di antara bahasa Asia Tenggara.*
- Philippine languages **are the most complex** of Southeast Asian languages. Philippine languages **are the most complex** of Southeast Asian languages.

This superlative degree may be further emphasised in Malaysia by the addition of *sekali*, here meaning "very". In Indonesia the tendency would be to use *sekali* on its own.

2. *Bahasa-bahasa Filipina adalah yang **paling rumit sekali** di antara bahasa Asia Tenggara.* 2. *Bahasa-bahasa Filipina adalah yang **rumit sekali** di antara bahasa Asia Tenggara.*
- Philippine languages **are the very most complex** among the languages of Southeast Asia. Philippine languages **are the very most complex** among the languages of Southeast Asia.

8.4 Superlative Degree

(ii) *Ter-*

The prefix *ter-* may also be used to show superlative degree (see also Section 5.5.1).

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| <p>3. <i>Di antara semua anaknya Leman yang terbaik.</i></p> <p>Among all her children, Leman is the best.</p> | <p>3. <i>Di antara semua anaknya Leman yang terbaik.</i></p> <p>Among all her children, Leman is the best.</p> |
|--|--|

Ter- may also be followed by *sekali* for emphasis. Again, this would be the case in Malaysia. In Indonesia *sekali* would be used on its own.

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| <p>4. <i>Rumah mereka yang terbesar sekali di sebelah kiri jalan.</i></p> <p>Theirs is the largest house on the left side of the street.</p> | <p>4. <i>Rumah mereka yang besar sekali di sebelah kiri jalan.</i></p> <p>Theirs is the largest house on the left side of the street.</p> |
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8.4 Superlative Degree

(iii) Implied

Very often the superlative degree is implied in the utterance itself, and the adjective or adverb is used with no further modification.

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|---|---|
| <p>5. <i>Di antara bahasa Asia Tenggara, bahasa-bahasa Filipina adalah yang rumit.</i></p> <p>Among the languages of Southeast Asia, Philippine languages are (the most) complex.</p> | <p>5. <i>Di antara bahasa Asia Tenggara, bahasa-bahasa Filipina adalah yang rumit.</i></p> <p>Among the languages of Southeast Asia, Philippine languages are (the most) complex.</p> |
| <p>6. <i>Di antara semua anaknya, Leman yang baik.</i></p> <p>Among all her children, Leman is good (the best).</p> | <p>6. <i>Di antara semua anaknya, Leman yang baik.</i></p> <p>Among all her children, Leman is good (the best).</p> |

Without a general background knowledge of the contexts in which these utterances are set, there could be a certain amount of ambiguity. For example, utterance 5 could be interpreted as indicating that other Southeast Asian languages are simple and only the Philippine languages are complex. Utterance 1, however, attributes a certain amount of relative complexity to all the languages.

It is the same with utterances 6 and 3. Utterance 6 could be interpreted as indicating that of all the children in the family, Leman is good and the rest are bad, while utterance 3 attributes a certain amount of goodness to all the children.

8.5 Intensity

(i) *Sangat, terlalu, sekali and betul*

General intensity, such as that shown in English by "very", in which no comparison with anything else is made or implied, may be shown in a number of ways. Most commonly *sangat*, *terlalu* or *sekali*, meaning "very", are added to modify the adjective or adverb. While *terlalu* is commonly used in both Malay and Indonesian, *sangat* is more common in Malaysia, and *sekali* is far more common in Indonesia. Also used to show intensity is *betul* meaning "truly" or "really". The reduplicated form *betul-betul* tends to precede the adjective or adverb, and the nonreduplicated form, *betul*, to follow. Reduplicated and nonreduplicated forms of *benar* may be used in place of *betul*.

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|---|---|
| 1. <i>Radio jiran saya sangat kuat.</i>
My neighbour's radio is very loud. | 1. <i>Radio tetangga saya sangat keras.</i> My
neighbour's radio is very loud. |
| 2. <i>Kereta Mei Li terlalu jauh.</i>
Mei Li's car is very far away. | 2. <i>Mobil Dedi terlalu jauh.</i>
Dedi's car is very far away. |
| 3. <i>Kedai Pak Long dekat sekali.</i>
Pak Long's shop is very close. | 3. <i>Toko Pak Ajo dekat sekali.</i>
Pak Ajo's shop is very close. |
| 4. <i>Lantai di Dewan Kuliah Satu betul-betul kotor.</i>

The floor in Lecture Hall One is really dirty. | 4. <i>Lantai di Aula Satu betul-betul kotor.</i>

The floor in Lecture Hall One is really dirty. |

Betul may also follow the adjective modified in both Malaysia and Indonesia, and *sangat* may take this position in Malaysia alone. This type of utterance is more emphatic compared to utterances where the intensifier precedes the adjective.

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| 5. <i>Radio jiran saya kuat sangat^M.</i>
My neighbour's radio is very loud. | |
| 6. <i>Lantai di Dewan Kuliah Satu kotor betul.</i>

The floor in Lecture Hall One is really dirty. | 6. <i>Kotor betul, lantai di Aula Satu.</i>

The floor in Lecture Hall One is really dirty. |
| Extra emphasis may also be gained by prefixing <i>ter-</i> to <i>sangat</i> to give <i>tersangat</i> . <i>Terlalu</i> already shows such affixation. This would be more common in Malaysia than Indonesia. | |
| 7. <i>Lantai di Dewan Kuliah Satu tersangat kotor.</i>

The floor in Lecture Hall One is extremely dirty. | 7. <i>Lantai di Aula Satu tersangat kotor.</i>

The floor in Lecture Hall One is extremely dirty. |

8.5 Intensity

(ii) Reduplication

Intensity may also be shown through reduplication (see Section 9.3). The meanings indicated by reduplication, however, are highly context sensitive. In addition to showing intensity, reduplication also has a generalising function. In the Indonesian utterance in example 8, *keras-keras* may be interpreted as "very loud" (indicating intensity) or "somewhat loud" (showing generality). Because this ambiguity exists in Indonesian, intensity would more commonly be shown by one of the forms introduced in Section 8.5.1 rather than through reduplication.

In Malaysia reduplication has the same functions as in Indonesia, and the same types of ambiguity exist. We are, however, dealing just as much with tendencies in interpreting meaning, as well as with potential ambiguity. In the Malaysian utterance in example 8, *kuat-kuat* would be first interpreted as "very loud" and only subsequently as "somewhat loud" if for some reason this first interpretation did not seem to fit. As a result, reduplication is a common way of indicating intensity in Malaysia.

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| 8. | <i>Radio jiran saya kuat-kuat.</i>
My neighbour's radio is very loud . | 8. | <i>Radio tetangga saya keras-keras.</i>
My neighbour's radio is very loud . |
|----|--|----|---|

In Malaysia *sangat* may be added following the reduplicated adjective or adverb for extra emphasis.

9. *Radio jiran saya kuat-kuat sangat^M.*
My neighbour's radio is **very, very loud**.

8.5 Intensity

(iii) Not comparative

It is important to remember that the intensity modifiers discussed in this section do not imply comparison. In other words, the *radio* in utterance 1 is very loud not in comparison with other radios, but of itself. *Lebih*, or any of the alternatives discussed in the section on greater degree (Section 8.1), imply comparison. Students should be careful not to confuse the two.

For example, if a speaker were to say *Radio jiran saya lebih kuat^M/Radio tetangga saya lebih keras^I* [My neighbour's radio is louder], the listener would immediately think: *Lebih kuat daripada apa^M?/Lebih keras daripada apa^I?* [Louder than what?] or *Lebih kuat daripada radio yang mana^M/Lebih keras daripada radio yang mana^I?* [Louder than which radio?] If no comparison is intended or implied, then the proper modifier is *sangat* or one of the other alternatives discussed in this section.

8.5 Intensity

(iv) "Very" and "too"

There is no distinction in Malay and Indonesian between "very" and "too" as there is in English. For example, in English, "He is very fat" and "He is too fat" are very

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different kinds of expressions. This becomes obvious in utterances such as the following where only "too" can be used: "He is too fat to fit in the car".

"He is very fat" or "He is too fat" may be expressed in Malay or Indonesian as *Dia sangat gemuk* or *Dia terlalu gemuk*. *Terlalu*, perhaps, more closely approximates the English "too" than *sangat*, but neither may be used in an utterance such as "He's too fat to fit in the car". The structure which must be used is a structure which simply shows coordination and not causation.

10. *Dia terlalu gemuk dan tidak boleh muat dalam kereta.* 10. *Dia terlalu gemuk dan tidak bisa muat dalam mobil.*

He is **very fat** and can't fit in the car.

He is **very fat** and can't fit in the car.

There is a Malay or Indonesian equivalent, however, of the English structure "He's so fat that he can't fit in the car". This is expressed with no modifier at all. The literal translation is given in parenthesis (see Section 12.9.3).

11. *Dia gemuk sampai tidak boleh muat dalam kereta.* 11. *Dia gemuk sampai tidak bisa muat dalam mobil.*

He's **so fat that** he can't fit in the car.
(He's fat until he can't fit in the car.)

He's **so fat that** he can't fit in the car.
(He's fat until he can't fit in the car.)

8.5 Intensity (v) Degrees of intensity

Increasing degrees of intensity may be shown with *makin* or *semakin*. A literal translation in English is given following the more general translation.

12. *Kapal terbang makin dekat, bunyinya makin kuat.* 12. *Pesawat terbang makin dekat, bunyinya makin keras.*

The closer the aeroplane comes, **the louder** the sound. (The aeroplane comes increasingly close, the sound becomes increasingly loud.)

The closer the aeroplane comes, **the louder** the sound. (The aeroplane comes increasingly close, the sound becomes increasingly loud.)

Much of the time when *makin* or *semakin* is used, the context of the conversation supplies relevant information which then becomes redundant and is omitted from the utterance. A full utterance may be expressed as follows.

13. *Cuaca makin panas, saya makin letih.* 13. *Cuaca makin panas, saya makin letih.*

The hotter the weather becomes, **the more tired** I become.

The hotter the weather becomes, **the more tired** I become.

If it is clear from the context of the conversation that the weather is being referred to, then *cuaca* [weather] may be omitted from the utterance.

14. *Makin panas, saya makin letih.*

The hotter it becomes, **the more tired** I become.

If *saya* [I] is also understood, then it too may be omitted.

15. *Makin panas, makin letih.*

The hotter it becomes, **the more tired** (I) become.

It is in this abbreviated form, exemplified in utterance 15, that *makin* or *semakin* is most commonly used in conversation. Without specific subject references, these utterances may become general statements on the way of the world.

16. *Semakin lama, semakin mahal.*

The more time that passes, **the more expensive** things get.

17. *Makin kaya, makin kedekut.*

The richer one becomes, **the more stingy** one gets.

14. *Makin panas, saya makin letih.*

The hotter it becomes, **the more tired** I become.

15. *Makin panas, makin letih.*

The hotter it becomes, **the more tired** (I) become.

16. *Semakin lama, semakin mahal.*

The more time that passes, **the more expensive** things get.

17. *Makin kaya, makin kikir.*

The richer one becomes, **the more stingy** one gets.