Passive Construction in the Utterances Produced by 3–year-old Javanese Identical Twin Children

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Abstract

The passive constructions emerge and become the puzzling phenomena in twins' syntax acquisition. Concerning the passive constructions, there have been bulks of researches work on voice acquisition. Existing work on the voice acquisition has been concerned mainly with the input factors. Beside that, there are only a few studies conducted on twin children. Here, this research was conducted to analyze the passive construction in the utterances produced byJavanese identical twin children. The 3-year-old twin children speaking Javanese language were studied to analyze the passive construction in Javanese language. This research was the qualitative descriptive study. The data of this study were the utterances produced by the twins. Then, the data were analyzed by using the theory of active and passive construction suggested by Subroto et al (1991). The findings are, (1) in Javanese passive construction, the twins tend to use the appropriate word order: O-V-S; (2)The twins tended to produce active sentences than the passives, (3) there are some mistakes in combining the passive verb with its affixes and it influenced the meaning of the sentence. The study conluded that the twins in this study were able to produce passive sentences, but they had difficulties in making the Javanese passive sentence with certain verb category ended with suffix –ake.

Keywords: passive construction, identical twins, javanese passive construction

Introduction

Every child must undergo language acquisition process. It is interesting to know the ways children acquire language that follow a specific pattern and it is inherently systemic in nature. Through daily conversations, a child naturally obtains a communicative competence and understands the rules of grammar, and gain knowledge of the rules in using language. Menyuk (1969, p.8) states that children are not born to talk, and to form well-grammar sentence, normal children recognize their linguistic knowledge within a process of language development through time and their environment intake.

There is an undoubtful fact that either singletons or twins in normal condition must experience with what so-called language acquisition. Bowen (2000) states that late onset of speech, and speech and language differences, including stuttering, are more common in twins than singletons and this is one of the reasons why twins are a bit later in acquiring the language for various reasons; lack of interaction with adults, immature physical development, and even a syndrom.

When acquiring the language, twins learn both passive and active voices. Blackwell (1991) states that the errors in passives particularly happen because children consider passive as a new rule of language that is hard to learn. This argument is supported by the finding from the previous study conducted by Hidajat (2008) that children have difficulties in acquiring both active and passive sentence at age 4;0. It shows that children still do not understand how to distinguish the use of active and passive sentences. Studies on Korean children acquiring passive have been done which focuses on the children's comprehension of passive predicates and structures (Lee and Lee, 2008). Another study by Farayda (2011) analyzed the verb construction in active and passive sentence in the narrative writing of mentally retarded high school students with mild category and found that the participants tended to use intransitive verb appeared in the active sentence.

From those previous studies, the interesting point is that many studies in examining the active and passive construction of singleton children. However, there is no specific research on active and passive construction in utterances of twin children. Hence, the writer wants to analyze the active and passive construction in the utterance produced by Javanese identical twin children. Identical twins monozygotic (MZ) twins, biologically, result when a single zygote (that originates from the fertilization of one ovum by a single sperm) divides in two (Stromsworld, 2006, p. 337).

In this research, the writer would like to analyze the construction of passive and active utterances produced by 3-year-old Javanese identical twin children, by using theory of active and passive of Javanese language proposed by Subroto et al. (1991).The verb is prominent feature of a sentence in Javanese language. The verb can be differentiated and analyzed based on its affixes. According to Subrata et al (1991), the verbs used in the passive sentences are categorized into four categories. These categories are based on the prefixes or suffixes that follow the verb. The categories are:

a. di-D, di-D-i, di-D-ake categories.

b. tak-D, tak-D-i, tak-D-akecategories.

c. kok-D, kok-D-i, kok-D-ake categories.

d. D-en, D-ana, and D-na categories.

The Category	The Affixes				The Function of the Suffixes
	Prefix + D	No (0) suffix	Suffix *-i*	Suffix *-ake*	
di-D, di-D-i and *di-D-ake*Categories	di-D	√	-	-	For all categories: If the base form / D (Dasar) is followed by (0) suffix, the verb will state that the action, which the agent did, is done for one time.
	di-D	-	√	-	
	di-D	-	-	√	
tak-D, tak-D-I, and *tak-D-ake* Categories	tak-D	√	-	-	For all categories: If the base form / D (Dasar) is followed by suffix -i, the verb will state that the action, which the agent did, is done for several times. Or it can be said, the suffix –i states the plurality of the action.
	tak-D	-	√	-	
	tak-D	-	-	√	
kok-D, kok-D-i and *kok-D-ake* Categories	kok-D	√	-	-	For all categories: If the base form / D (Dasar) is followed by *-ake* suffix, the verb will state that the action is done by the agent for someone. Or the suffix –*ake* states the benefactive action.
	kok-D	-	√	-	
	kok-D	-	-	√	

Table 1.1 The Passive Verb Categories

Basically, there are similar ways to produce passive sentence by using these categories and to produce ones by using *tak-D, tak-D-i,* and *tak-D-ake* categories. Some processes occurred during the **D-en, D-ana,* and *D-na* categories are:

a. If the D is ended by consonant, the D will be added by suffix –en and – ana:

thuthuk→ thuthuken or thuthukana peres → peresen or peresana

b. If the D is ended by vowel, the suffix –en will change to be suffix –nen:

sunggi→ sungginen ≠ sunggien tunggu → tunggunen ≠ tungguen.

c. If the D is ended by vowel, the suffix –na will change to be suffix –kna. But this change will not happen, if the D is ended by consonant:

jaga→ jagakna ≠ jagana jereng → jerengna

Compared with *di-*, *tak-*, and *kok-* categories, *D-en*, *D-ana*, *D-na* categories have some significant differences:

- In terms of its suffixes, *D-en, D-ana, D-na* categories state the imperative verbs. The speaker is the commander and the hearer is the one being commanded. For example: Pelemkuwi *jupuken*!
- *D-en, D-ana, D-na*categories are similar to *kok-D, kok-D-i* and *kok-D-ake* Categories. The agent of the passive is second-person singular and second-person plural pronouns. For instance:

  Pelemkuwi *jupuken*. → Pelem kuwi *kok jupuk*.

There are some characteristics of Javanese Passive sentence based on the personal pronouns of the agent or the object:

Personal Pronouns	The Affixes followed the Verb		The Explanation of The Passives
	Prefix	Suffix	
First-person Singular: *Aku* The active sentence: *Aku nggawa* klambine.	tak-	- without suffix	- If the agent of the sentence is the first-person singular, the verb of the passive sentence will be added by prefix tak-. For example: Klambine *takgawa*. (The correct sentence)
		-i	- If the verb is followed by prefix *tak-*, the passive sentence will not need pronoun 'aku'.
		-ake	Klambine *takgawa aku*. (The incorrect sentence→The pronoun 'aku' makes this sentence becomes redundant sentence).
First-person Plural: *Awake dhewe* The active sentence: *Awake dhewe njupoki* watu.	di-	- without suffix	- If the agent of the active sentence is the first-person plural, the verb of the passive sentence will be added by prefix *di-* and the verb should be followed by the agent. For example: Watune dijupoki (ambek) awake dhewe. (The correct sentence)
		-i	
		-ake	- If the verb is not followed by the agent, the passive sentence will be an ambiguous sentence. Watune *dijupoki*. (The incorrect sentence →The question will emerge: Who does take the stone?)

Second-person (singular or plural): *Koen, Awakmu kabeh* The Active sentence: *Koen ndhelok* sapine.	kok-	- without suffix -i -ake	- If the agent of the sentence is the second-person (either it is singular or plural), the verb of the passive sentence will be added by prefix kok-. For example: Sapine *kok dhelok*. (The correct sentence) - If the verb is followed by prefix *kok-* or suffixes such as *–en, -ana, -na*, the passive sentence will not need pronoun 'koen/awakmukabeh'. Sapine*kokdhelok ambek koen*. (The incorrect sentence → The pronoun 'ambek koen' makes this sentence becomes redundant sentence).
	-	-en -ana -na	
Third-person (singular or plural): dheweke, the name of someone: Rudi, and etc. The active sentence: Paiman makanin wedhuse.	di-	- without suffix -i	- If the agent of the active sentence is the third-person (either it is singular or plural), the verb of the passive sentence will be added by prefix *di-* and the verb cannot be followed or can be followed by the agent. For example: Wedhuse dipakani (ambek) Paiman (The correct sentence). Or Wedhuse *dipakani.*

Table 1.2The Relationship of Personal Pronouns and the Passive Verbs

Method

The writer used qualitative approach to conduct this research because this study needs a further and deeper explanation about the active and passive of Javanese sentence produced by Javanese identical twin children. By using qualitative approach, the data can then be analyzed more deeply to discover its pattern (Croker, 2009).

The data were taken from a pair of identical twin children. The twins were born prematurely, and had low-birth weight. They were female twins, second born, and were cared for primarily by their mother. The writer chooses the female twins because the girls on the average have larger vocabularies at every age than do boys (Hurlock, 1978, p. 172). Although the socio-economic status was not taken into account with respect to recruitment, the twins were from predominantly middle low-class family. They were 3-year-old twins and they had no language disorder.

The participants were recorded at home in every week period for one month. Each recording was divided into ten to fifteen minutes. During the recording, the twins were involved in natural activities. The writer analyzed the data by using active and passive sentence theory proposed by Subroto et al (1991). There were steps followed by the writer. Firstly, the writer identified the passive sentences that appear in the transcription of the conversation. Then, the writer analyzed the data by classifying the verbs in the sentence using the theory of Javanese sentences to find out the verb type, based on its affixes. Next, the writer put the analysis of the data into tables and counted the passive sentences produced. The last step was interpreting the data taken that has been classified before.

Discussion

From seven conversation recorded, there are 302 utterances produced by both twins. The first twin, who is symbolized T1, produced 158 utterances. The utterances consisted of 151 active sentences (including one-word sentences, two-word sentences, question sentences and exclamation sentences) and 7 passive sentences. The second twin, who is symbolized T2, produced 144 utterances. The utterances consisted of 135 active sentences and 9 passive sentences.

The results will be illustrated in table 2; *di-D* category is named D1, *di-D-ake* category is named D2, *di-D-ake* category is named D3, *tak-D* category is named Ta1, *tak-D-i* category is named Ta2, *tak-D-ake*category is named Ta3, *kok-D* category is named K1, *kok-D-i* category is K2, *kok-D-ake*category is K3, D-en category is named Dn1, D-na category is named Dn2, and the last is D-ana is named Dn3.

Twins	D1	D2	D3	Ta1	Ta2	Ta3	K1	K2	K3	Dn1	Dn2	Dn3
T1	2	-	0	2	-	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
T2	1	1	0	1	1	-	2	0	0	1	2	0

Table 2 The Result of Passive Verb in terms of its Category

In each category, both twins would produce the well-ordered and complete sentence. The passive sentences consisted of the Patient (P) as the Subject (S), the passive verb (V), and the Agent (A) as the Object (O) → S – V – O → P – V – A

Some of the data obtained are presented and analyzed as following:

(1) M: "Kenek apa Ca kok nangis?"

T1: "Sandalku *dipak Shafa*."(Sandalku ditepak Shafa).

(2) F: "Kalungm ukegedhen Ca."

T1: "Loh, kalunge sa *digae*." (Loh, kalunge isa digawe.)

(3) M: "Kok ngringik ae nyapo?"

T2: "Camataku *dipuk, Buk*." (Kacamataku dijupuk Buk)

M: "Dijupuk sapa?"

T2: "Mbak Nggi."

In the utterances (1) and (2), T1 produced the verb of *di-D* category. In sentence (1), we can find the agent/doer which functioned as the object 'Shafa', the action of the passive 'ditepak', and the patient which functioned as the subject of the passive 'sandalku'. Since 'Shafa' is the name of T1's friend, it is categorized as third-person singular. The consequence is the verb of the passive sentence "tepak" will be added by prefix *di-* and the noun or the prepositional phrase which follows the verb is optional. It means that the verb 'ditepak' is followed 'Shafa' or not.

Sandalku *ditepak Shafa*. Or Sandalku *ditepak.*

The sentence (2) look likes a complete sentence, but there is a misinterpretation meaning for the hearer. The T1 wanted to show her father that her necklace can be worn by herself. It means that the agent of the passive sentence is the first-person singular 'aku'. But, she used prefix *di-* in the verb of the passive. However, prefix *di-* should be replaced by prefix *tak-*.

Loh, kalunge isa *digawe.* → Loh, kalunge isa *takgawe.*

The sentence (3) produced by T2 is a well-ordered and complete passive sentence. There are the action of the passive 'dijupuk' and the patient 'kacamataku'. Because the agent is third-person singular, the agent is optionally written. It can be:

Kacamataku *dijupuk.* Or Kacamataku *dijupuk mbak Anggi*.

(4) T2: "Loh, *mbangeditik'ikoen*." (Loh, kembange dipethiki koen.)

T1: "Ndak lo!"

T2 produced a complete and well-ordered passive sentence. The passive verb is categorized as *di-D-i* category.There are the patient of the passive 'kembange', the action of the passive 'dipethiki', and the agent 'koen'. But, it can be an unaccepted sentence for Javanese people. It is due to the existence of the personal pronouns of second-person singular, 'koen'. If the agent of the sentence is the second-person (either it is singular or plural), the verb of the passive sentence will be added by prefix *kok-*, not *di-*. Beside that, suffix –i emphasizes the plurality of the action 'kokpethiki'. It means that the patient 'kembange' has plucked for several times.

Loh, kembange ***dipethikikoen***. → Loh, kembange ***kokpethiki***.

T1 and T2 did not produce the passives used the *di-D-ake* category.

(5) T1: "Patumu Ci, *takwe* aku yo."(Sepatumu Ci, *takgawe* aku yo.)

T2: "Ween loh!" (Gawenen loh!)

(6) T2: "Mbak Nggi, pensilmu *taklih*."(Mbak Nggi, pensilmu *tak silih.*)

S: :He'eh."

(7) T1: "Loh, lokku *takgaluk* metu abange." (Loh, borokku tak garuk metu darahe.)

S: "Iyo getihen. Ke'i betadine, njauk ibuk."

In the utterance (5), T1 produced *tak-D* category passive. There are the patient 'sepatumu', the action of the passive 'takgawe', and the agent 'aku'. Actually, this is a redundant sentence. It is because the agent is first-person singular. So, the verb of the passive sentence will be added by prefix *tak-*. But, the agent 'aku' is not mentioned anymore.

Sepatumu *takgawe aku*yo. → Sepatumu *takgawe* yo.

(8) T2: Buklo'en ta, bonekae *taklang-langi* otiku.

(Buk, dheloken ta, bonekane *takdulang-dulangi* rotiku.)

M: "Eh pinter mbak Eca, didulang roti ya? Ibu ndak didulang juga?"

In the utterance (8), T2 produced *tak-D-i* category passive. There are the patient 'bonekane', the action of the passive 'takdulang-dulangi', and the agent 'rotiku'. It is interesting, that this passive sentence contains of two mistakes. The first is, the agent of this sentence is first-person singular. So, the verb of the passive will be added by prefix tak-.

Moreover, the action was done in several times. It results the verb was preceded by prefix tak-, and followed by suffix –i 'takdulangi'. The repeated verb **'takdulang-dulangi'** is redundant verb. The second problem within this sentence is the agent 'rotiku' should be changed to 'roti' without adding the possessive pronouns such as –ku. The prefix *tak-* symbolizes the first-person singular and the possessive pronouns of 'aku'. So, the occurrence of possessive pronouns '-ku' is unnecessary.

(9) T1: "Comu es *mbokpuk* amu ngunu." (Gacomu wis mbok jupuk awakmu ngunu.)

S: "Wis ja tukaran ae."

(10) T2: "Ca, layonku kok *mbokgel* seh?"(Ca, krayonku kok mbok tugel seh.)

T1: "Sing ndi?"

(11) T2: "Pak, kalungku *mbokpen* yo?" (Pak, kalungku mbok simpen yo?)

F: "La kae, diselang Eni, iku dheloken coba."

In this category, all utterances use prefix *mbok-* for substituting prefix *kok-*. Subroto et al. states that in certain dialects, such as in Surabaya and Sidoarjo, prefix *kok-* can be replaced by using prefix *mbok-* (1991, p.25). In the utterance (9), T1 produced a complete sentence. It consisted of the patient as the subject 'gacomu', the passive verb 'mbokjupuk', and the complement 'awakmu'. Recalling the *kok-D* characteristic, prefix kok- substitutes the personal pronouns of second-person (either it is singular or plural). It means, the complement 'awakmu' becomes useless, and makes the sentence ambiguous. Then, it should be omitted.

Gacomu wis *mbokjupuk awakmu* ngunu. → Gacomu wis *mbokjupuk* ngunu.

In the utterances (10) and (11), the using kok-D category is appropriate. T2 produced a complete sentence. It consisted of the patients as the subject 'krayonku' and 'kalungku', the passive verbs 'mboktugel' and 'mboksimpen'.

(12) T1: "Buk, *lo'en* ta!"(Buk, dheloken ta!)

→ T1 pointed at her picture.

(13) T2: "*ndhongen*Buk,*ndhongen*!"(Gendhongen Buk, gendhongen!)

In the utterance (12) and (13), T1 and T2 produced the passive verb of *D-en* category. It has been mentioned in point 3 that *D-en* category has the same function with *kok-D* category.

Unfortunately, there are no patient mentioned in (12) and (13) utterances. Omitting the patient in this category, the sentence will be ambiguous. In utterance (12) should be added with the patient:

*Buk, *dheloken* ta! → Buk, *gambar ku dheloken* ta!

*(If there is no patient, her mother will have no idea what she should look at.)

In utterance (13), the sentence should be added with the patient:

Gendhongen Buk, *gendhongen*! →Gendhongen Buk, *aku gendhongen*!

(14) T1: "Pu'na andhuk ku Buk!" (Jupukna andhukku Buk!)

(15)T2: "Iki lo Buk, bukuku gambalna, gambalna!" (Iki lo Buk, gambalna, gambalna.)

(16) T2: "Buk, gawakna, gawaknaklayon!" (Buk, gawakna, gawakna krayon!)

In the utterance (14)-(16), T1 and T2 produced the passive verb of *D-na* category. *D-na*category has also the same function with *kok-D* category. From those utterances, we can see that the twins would produce the passive sentence. There are the patient 'andhukku', 'bukuku', and 'krayon'; and the passive verb 'jupukna', 'gambarna' and 'gawakna'.

These categories seemed easy for the twins. It can be seen by counting the utterances produced in this category. There are five utterances: two utterances are classified in *D-en* category and three utterances are classified in *D-na* category. But, those twins did not produce *D-ana* category.

Conclusion

The twins, just like singletons, can produce active sentences and passive sentences. The previous researches on active and passive construction support the analysis of this research. The active sentences are easily produced by the twin than the passives. It is shown by the data of T1's utterances which consist of 151 active sentences (included one-word sentences, two-word sentences, question sentences and exclamation sentences) and 7 passive sentences; and the data of T2's utterances which consist of 135 active sentences and 9 passive sentences.

Besides, the twin can produce the well-ordered and complete sentences, which consist of the patients, the passive verbs, and the agents. Although, there are some mistakes in using the prefixes and the suffixes, the twins have already differentiated the passive verb in terms of its category

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