

Sorting Passive Sentences in Japanese Language for Students in Indonesia

Dedi Sutedi

Department of Japanese Language, Faculty of Language and Arts Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia,
Jl. Dr. Setiabudhi No. 229 Bandung

Abstract Sorting passive sentences in Japanese language is still a problem for Indonesian students. For example, there are two Japanese passive sentences with similar syntactic category and function, on the one hand acceptable and the one hand not acceptable; of course, this is difficult for students to comprehend. This is so because sorting passive sentences in Japanese has only been done from the function and syntactic categories, without looking at the semantic aspects of it. This study tries to sort out Japanese passive sentences in terms of their syntactic functions, categories and syntactic subcategories, with regard to their semantic roles; thus the Japanese passive sentences can be sorted into 18 types. This study includes both passive neutral for animate nouns and inanimate nouns, transitive verbs and ditransitive verbs, as well as adversative passive with predicates using transitive verbs, ditransitive, and intransitive verbs. In addition, it is also known that the number of structures used in passive sentences in Japanese contains 12 types. This means that there are several types of Japanese passive sentences that use the same structure, which can only be distinguished by looking at their semantic and syntactic subcategories. Sorting passive Japanese sentences into these 18 types can be used to revise and supplement the Japanese language learning system facing the current problem, as well as to assist teachers in explaining them.

Keywords Adversative Passive, Direct Passive, Neutral Passive, Indirect Passive

1. Introduction

Japanese passive sentences are part of the subject content often considered difficult by the foreign language students, including students from Indonesia. The errors in the use of passive Japanese sentences for Indonesian students have been studied by Tanaka[11] and Sutedi[8]. These errors are caused by the interference from the Indonesian language. This is because of the differences between passive sentence structures in Japanese and Indonesian language. For example, in Japanese passive, (a) there exists direct passive (chokusetsu ukemi) and indirect passive (kansetsu ukemi); (b) predicates can use transitive, ditransitive, and intransitive verbs; and (c) inanimate noun cannot be a subject by itself. Such rules are not found in the Indonesian language, making them difficult to understand.

So far, Japanese passive is generally divided into two major parts, namely (1) direct passive and (2) indirect passive. Direct passive is the passive voice sentence in which the subject comes from the object of the active voice, whether it is direct object or indirect object. Based on the type of subject, this passive structure is further divided into

(a) passive with animate noun subjects and (b) passive with inanimate noun subjects. Indirect passive is a passive voice sentence which subject is not derived from the object of the active sentence, but rather from the outside the active sentence. This passive structure is also further divided into (a) passive with predicate using transitive verbs and (b) passive with predicate using intransitive verbs. Passive with predicate using transitive verbs is further divided into (i) passive main part, (ii) passive possession, and (iii) passive non-possession. Thus, there are at least six types of passive sentences in Japanese. All of these passive rules are commonly included in elementary level textbooks, compressed in a single lesson. Ogawa[6] criticized that Japanese passive sentence structure should be sorted into basic, intermediate, and advanced levels. This opinion is quite reasonable, considering the materials regarding passive voice that are taught to students are quite extensive.

However, sorting passive sentences should be reviewed again to check if it is correct or incorrect, especially for students whose mother tongue is Indonesian. From sorting passive sentences so far, there turn out to be several passive sentences that have the same function as well as syntax, in which one is acceptable while others are not. This is difficult for Japanese language students. Sorting passive Japanese sentences done by experts so far does not involve the semantic role of each argument that makes up the passive sentence structure. In addition, passive ditransitive and

* Corresponding author:

dedis66@yahoo.co.jp (Dedi Sutedi)

Published online at <http://journal.sapub.org/linguistics>

Copyright © 2013 Scientific & Academic Publishing. All Rights Reserved

passive intransitive still need to be further sorted into several subtypes, because there are several types that have the same structure.

Therefore, the author tries to sort Japanese passive voice based on the structure that includes function and syntax, with the semantic role of each of the argument that fill those functions. The purpose of this study is to examine, describe, and create a new sorting system for Japanese passive sentences by looking at their function, syntax, and semantic roles, as to obtain clarity on the acceptability of Japanese passive sentences. The results of this new sorting system can be used as reference to revise the Japanese language instructional materials for Indonesian students, especially regarding the matter of passive sentences.

2. Methods

This study aims to describe and classify Japanese passive sentences with regard to their function, syntax, and semantic roles. Therefore, the method used is the descriptive method of analysis. The data required consists of examples of passive sentences from various novels, newspapers, and other writing materials that are classified as standard modern Japanese. The data was collected using the methods of listening and writing, while the data processing was done by using the distributional method through technique of change, technique of insertion, technique of parenthesis, technique of expansion, and technique of transformation.

3. Theoretical Review

This study does not refer to one theory, but uses several theories in a diverse manner. The theory of assessing passive sentence structure refers to Kridalaksana[2, 3], Muraki[4, 5], Hasegawa[6], Tsunoda[12], Verhaar[13, 14], and Parera[7], which asserts that sentence (clause) analysis can be done through discussing the issues of syntactic function, syntactic categories, and semantic roles.

Issues concerning the syntactic functions consist of the sentence elements like subject, predicate, object, and complement that are used in Japanese passive sentences. Syntactic category is associated with the types of nouns that can be used for the subject, object, and complement, as well as the types of verbs that can be used as predicates in the Japanese passive sentences. Nouns that are used as subjects are divided into smaller sub-categories, such as animate nouns animate (human or animal) and inanimate nouns. Verb subcategories are divided based on syntactic and semantic behavior. Based on the syntactic behavior, Japanese verbs are sorted into transitive verbs (*tadoushi*), ditransitive verbs (*nijuu-tadoushi*), and intransitive verbs (*jidoushi*); while based on the semantic behavior, Japanese verbs are sorted into action verbs (*dousa doushi*), dynamic verbs (*henka doushi*), and stative verbs (*joutai doushi*).

The semantic roles that are used are obtained in Muraki

(1996, 2004), who states that there are 30 types of roles, including their various elements in the Japanese language. This study certainly does not use all of those semantic roles, but only uses the roles associated with Japanese passive sentences from the existing data. The semantic roles used in this study are, among others, agentive (A), experience (E), objective (O), goals (G), source (S), locative (L), directional (Dir), transitional/path (Pt), objective-change (Oc), objective-effective (Oe), and experience adversative (Ea) that the author devised to distinguish it from the role of ordinary experience. One of the earlier studies regarding passive Japanese sentences used as the main reference is Takami[9, 10].

4. Findings and Discussion

First, sorting the Japanese passive sentences in this study is based on the origin of the subject, as what the previous researchers have done, categorizing them into (1) direct passive (*chokusetsu ukemi*) or neutral passive (*chuuritsu ukemi*) and (2) indirect passive (*kansetsu ukemi*) or adversative passive (*meiwaku ukemi*). Direct passive is the passive voice sentences in which the subject comes from the object of the active voice, either direct object or indirect object. Judging from the function and the meaning, this passive voice is used to express the neutral meaning. That is, there is no partiality from the speaker. Indirect passive voice is a passive sentence which subject is not derived from object or noun phrase in the active voice, but come from outside the active voice. This passive voice is generally used to express adversative meaning (*meiwaku*), namely the existence of bias or sympathy from the speaker on the subject of the passive sentence. In short, the speaker or the subject dislikes or is disrupted by what is presented in the active voice.

Second, the type of verbs used for the predicate are divided into (a) neutral passive with predicate using transitive verb (transitive neutral passive), (b) neutral passive with predicate using ditransitive verb (ditransitive neutral passive), (c) adversative passive with predicate using transitive verb, including ditransitive verb (transitive adversative passive), and (d) adversative passive with predicate using intransitive verb (intransitive adversative passive). Neutral passive voice (whether transitive or ditransitive) can be further divided based on the subcategory of the noun used for the subject, into (i) transitive neutral passive with animate noun as the subject (type I), (ii) transitive neutral passive with inanimate noun as the subject, which is divided again based on their semantic roles, into the passive types II ~ VIII, (iii) ditransitive neutral passive with animate noun as the subject (type IX), ditransitive neutral passive with inanimate noun as the subject (type X), and ditransitive neutral passive stating the content (type XI).

Transitive adversative passive is further sorted based on the origin of the subject, into passive possessive (type XII) and passive non-possessive (type XIII). Intransitive adversative passive is sorted based on the semantic roles and

the original structure into a regular intransitive adversative passive (type XIV), existence passive (type XV), transfer passive (type XVI), transitional passive (type XVII), and change passive (type XVIII). Thus, Japanese passive sentences are divided into 18 types as in the following chart.

Third, sorting Japanese passive sentence structure is based

on the function and syntactic category, along with the elements for every FN that fulfills the syntactic function. Results of the analysis show that all 18 types of passive sentences only use 12 types of structures. Therefore, there are the same passive structures that are used by several different types of passive sentences.

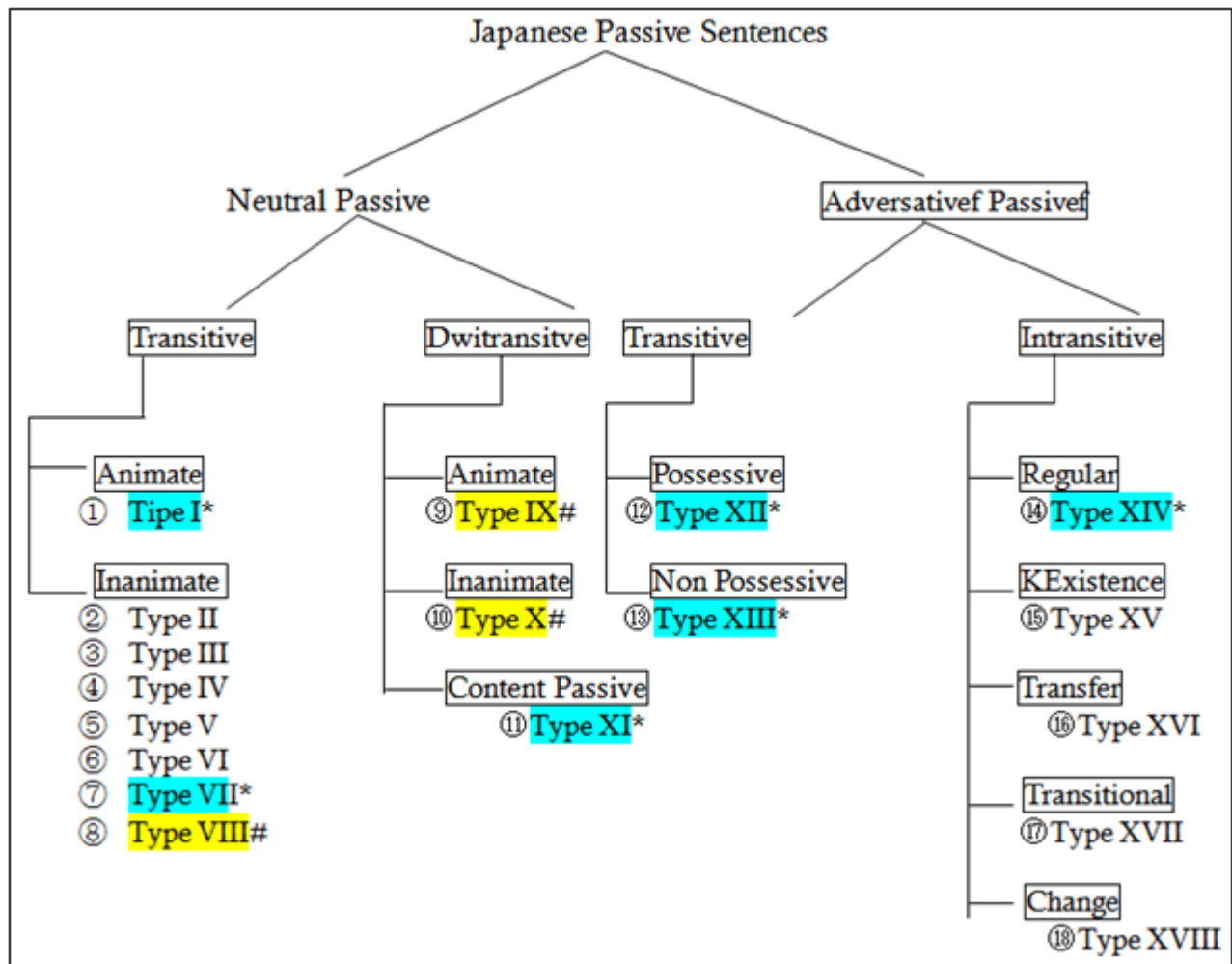


Figure 1. Classification of Japanese Passive Sentences

Table 1. Japanese Passive Sentence Structure

No	Structure	Subject	Compliment	Obj/Adv	Pred.	Used in type:
1	A	FN1-WA	FN2-NI		V-tr-ARERU	I, II, III, IV, V, VI
2	B	FN1-WA	FN2-NI YOTTE		V-tr-ARERU	VI
3	C	FN1-WA			V-tr-ARERU	VIII
4	D	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-WO	V-ditr-ARERU	IX
5	E	FN1-WA	FN2-KARA	FN3-NI	V-ditr-ARERU	X
6	F	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-TO	V-ditr-ARERU	XI
7	G	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-WO	V-tr-ARERU	XII, XIII
8	H	FN1-WA	FN2-NI		V-intr-ARERU	XIV
9	I	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-NI	V-intr-ARERU	XV
10	J	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-E	V-intr-ARERU	XVI
11	K	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-WO	V-intr-ARERU	XVII
12	L	FN1-WA	FN2-NI	FN3-NI	V-intr-ARERU	XVIII

Passive Voice Type I

Type I is the neutral passive voice in which the subject (FN1) and its complement (FN2) are inanimate nouns, with each acting as objective (O) and agentive (A), and the predicate function uses transitive verb that expresses intentional actions (volitional verb).

- (1) Kodomo wa haha nishikar-are-ta .
anak-FN1-OSubibu-FN2-APelmarah pasif lamp
'Anak dimarahi oleh ibu.'
- (2) Kodomo wa inu ni kam-are-ta .
anak-FN1-OSubjanjing-FN2-APelgigit pasif lamp
'Anak digigit anjing.'
- (3) Shimaumawa raion niosow-are-ta .
zebra-FN1-O Subjsinga-FN2-APel terkam-pasif-lamp
'Zebra diterkam singa.'

Passive Voice Type II

Passive voice type II is a neutral passive voice in which the subject (FN1) uses inanimate nouns which acts as objective role-change (Oc), its complementary function uses acting animate agentive noun (A), and the predicate function is filled by transitive verbs that express volitional acts that

Passive Voice Type IV

Type IV is a neutral passive voice in which the subject uses inanimate nouns that act as objective role-change (Oc), complementary uses people who are considered outstanding, and act as agentive (A), and the predicate uses a transitive verbs that express deliberate act. The result of the act is a major influence on the subject, so that it is stated in the passive voice.

- (8) Kono shousetsu wa Tennou heika nimo yom-are-teiru.
ini novel-FN1-OcSubj kaisar Baginda-FN2-Ajuga-Pel baca pasif Asp
'Novel ini dibaca juga oleh Baginda Kaisar.'
- (9) Kono uta wa Nagabuchi ni utaw-are-te, hittoringuninatta.
ini lagu-FN1-OcSubj Nagabuchi-FN2-APel nyanyi pasif hits G jadi
'Lagu ini setelah dinyanyikan oleh Nagabuchi, menjadi hits.'

Passive Voice Type V

Passive sentence type V is a passive voice in which the subject uses inanimate nouns that acts as objective (O), complementary uses by arbitrary people and acts as agentive (A), and the predicate function uses transitive verbs which express intentional or circumstantial acts.

- (10) Kono hon wa ookuno hito ni yom-are-teiru.
ini buku-FN1-OcSubj banyak Gn orang-FN2-APel baca pasif Asp
'Buku ini dibaca oleh banyak orang.'
- (11) Kono uta wa ookuno wakamono ni ais-are-teiru.
ini lagu-FN1-OcSubj banyak Gn anak muda-FN2-APel cinta pasif Asp
'Lagu ini dicintai oleh kebanyakan kaula muda.'

Passive Voice Type VI

Passive voice type VI is a passive sentence in which a subject uses inanimate nouns that act as objective (O), complementary (adverb) filled by inanimate nouns that act as locative (L), instrumental (I), or non-locational source (Ns), and the predicate uses transitive verbs that express a stative state, process, or verbs that are presented in the form of resultative aspects.

imply a sense of damage or detriment to the subject, so it is considered harmful.

- (4) Genkanno doa ga Jirou nikowas-are-ta .
gerbang Gn pintu-FN1-OcSubj Jiro-FN2-APel rusak pasif lamp
'Pintu gerbang dirusak oleh Taro.'
- (5) Sono tegami wa Tarouniyabur-are-ta .
itu surat-FN1-OcSubj Taro Pel sobek pasif lamp
'Surat itu dirobek oleh Taro.'

Passive Voice Type III

Type III is a neutral passive voice in which the subject (FN1) uses inanimate nouns that act as objective role-change (Oc), complementary (FN2) uses human that acts as agentive (A), and the predicates use transitive verbs that express meaningful deliberate acts that increase the value of the subject, so it is considered beneficial.

- (6) Gen-an wa kachou nishounins-are-ta .
Proposal-FN1-OcSubj kep seksi-FN2-APel setuju -pasif lamp
'Proposal itu diterima oleh kepala seksi.'
- (7) Jimanno kamigata watomodachini homer-are-ta .
bangga Gn rambut-FN1-OcSubj teman-FN2-APel puji pasif lamp
'Potongan rambut kebanggaan (saya) dipuji oleh teman-teman.'

(12) Bitamin C wa mikan ni fukum-areteiru.
 Vitamin C-FN1-OSubjeruk-FN2-LKetkandung pasif Asp
 'Vitamin C terkandung di dalam jeruk.'

(13) Nihon wa umi ni kakom-are-te iru.
 Jepang-FN1-OSubjlaut-FN2-LKetkeliling pasif Asp
 'Jepang dikelilingi oleh lautan.'

Passive Voice Type VII

Passive voice type VII is a passive sentence in which the subject uses inanimate nouns which act as objectively effective (Oe) or factitive (F), the complementary uses inanimate nouns that are followed by the elements in NI YOTTE which act as agentive (A), and the predicate uses transitive verbs that express intentional acts that suggest the making, invention, or creation of something (the subject) that does not exist before.

(14) Kono kikai wa chuugakusei ni yottetsukur-are-ta .
 mesin ini-FN1-OeSubjsiswa SMP-FN2-APel buat pasif lamp
 'Mesin ini dibuat oleh siswa SMP.'

(15) Kono kisoku wa iinkaini yottekimer-are-ta .
 aturan ini-FN1-OeSubjpanitia Pel tetapkan pasif lamp
 'Aturan ini ditetapkan oleh panitia.'

Passive Voice Type VIII

Passive voice type VIII is a passive sentence in which the subject is uses inanimate noun with objective (O) role, its complementary function with the agentive role is not discusses, and the predicate uses transitive verbs that express intentional acts.

(16) Atarashihouhou ga kangaer-are-ta .
 baru cara-FN1-OSubjpikir pasif lamp
 'Metode baru sudah dipikirkan.'

(17) Heyanoondo ga sager-are-ta .
 kamar Gnsuhu-FN1-OSubjturun pasif lamp
 'Suhu kamar sudah diturunkan.'

Passive Voice Type IX

Passive voice type IX is a neutral passive sentence with ditransitive verb predicates, in which the subject comes from the indirect object of the active voice. This passive voice has four syntactic functions, namely, the subject (FN1), complementary (FN2), object (FN3), and predicate (Pred). FN1 uses animate noun which acts as a source (S), FN2 uses animate noun with agentive (A) role, FN3 uses noun with objective (O) role, and the predicate uses ditransitive verb that expresses volitional actions.

(18) Yukiko wa Ichirou ni tegami wowatas-are-ta .
 Yukiko-FN1-GSubjIchiro-FN2-APel surat-FN3-OObjserah pasif lamp
 'Yukiko diserahi surat oleh Ichiro.'

(19) Tsuukoujin wa otoko ni okane woubaw-are-ta .
 pejalan kaki-FN1-SSubjlaki-laki-FN2-APeluang-FN3-OObjrebut pasif lamp
 'Pejalan kaki itu direbut uangnya oleh seorang laki-laki.'

Passive Voice Type X

Passive voice type X is a neutral passive with ditransitive verb predicates, in which the subject is derived from the direct object of the active sentence. This passive type has four syntactic functions, namely the subject (FN1), complementary (FN2), description (FN3), and predicate that uses ditransitive verbs. Subject (FN1), complementary (FN2), or description (FN3) all use nouns, and the predicate uses ditransitive verb that expresses volitional act..

(20) Tegami wa Ichiro kara Yukiko ni watas-are-ta .
 surat-FN1-OSubjIchiro-FN2-Sdari-PelYukiko-FN3-GKetserah pasif lamp
 'Surat itu diserahkan dari Ichiro pada Yukiko.'

(21) Sonoshousesuwa eigo kara nihongo ni honyaku-s-are-ta .
 itu novel-FN1-OSubjbs Inggris-FN2-Sdari-Ketbhs Jepang-FN3-GKetterjemah pasif lamp
 'Novel itu diterjemahkan dari bahasa Inggris ke dalam bahasa Jepang.'

Passive Voice Type XI

Passive voice type XI has four syntactic functions, namely the subject (FN1), complementary (FN2), description (FN3), and predicate (V-areru). FN1 uses noun with objective (O), FN2 uses a human with agentive (A) role, FN3 uses a noun phrase that is followed by TO element with content (Ct) role, and the predicate uses transitive verb (volitional verb) that could follow the TO element.

(22) Kanojo wa minna ni 'kouun no megumi'toyob -arer-u.
 dia-FN1-OSubjsemua-FN2-APelDewi Fortuna-FN3 Ctpanggil pasif
 'Dia oleh semua dipanggil (dengan) Dewi Keberuntungan.'

(23) Tarou no kouji wa kantokusha ni kanninguto minas-arer-u.
 gerak-gerak Taro-FN1-OSubjpengawas-FN2-APelcontek-FN3 Ctanggap pasif
 'Gerak-gerak Taro oleh pengawas dianggap menyontek.'

Passive Voice Type XII

Passive voice type XII is an adversative passive sentence which subject comes from the owner that becomes the object in the active voice. This passive type has four syntactic function, namely the subject (FN1), complement (FN2), object (FN3), and predicate. FN1 uses human who acts as an experience adversative (Ea), FN2 uses animate noun with agentive (A) role, FN3 uses a noun with objective (O) role, and the predicate is uses a transitive verb that expresses a volitional act.

(24) Jirou wa Tarou niatama wonagur-are-ta.
 jiro-FN1-AeSubjTaro-FN2-APelkepala-FN3-OObjpukul pasiflamp
 'Kepala jiro dipukul oleh Taro.'

(25) Watashi wa otouto ni keeki wotaber-are-ta .
 saya-FN1-EaSubjadic-FN2-APelkue-FN3-OObjmakan pasif lamp
 'Kue saya dimakan oleh adik.'

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on function and syntactic category (subcategory), as well as semantic roles, Japanese passive sentences can be classified into 18 new types, although there are some types that use the same structure, they can be distinguished by analyzing those three things. Neutral transitive passive consists of passive with animate noun subject (type I) and passive with inanimate noun subject (type II ~ VIII); ditransitive passive consists of three types (types IX, X, and XI); adversative transitive passive consists of two types (type XII, XIII), and adversative intransitive passive consists of five types (type XIV ~ XVIII) with their own characteristics. All the eighteen types of passive voice can be used as a reference for to revise the teaching materials for Japanese language in Indonesia, because the characteristics and conditions for each type are already clear. This material can be presented up to the proficient level, based on the level of difficulty.

There are several things that need to be followed up in this study, which include first to determine which material should be presented earlier and which should be presented to

the intermediate level, this can be determined after it has been contrasted with the passive sentences in Indonesian. Therefore, all 18 types of passive sentences can be contrasted with the Indonesian passive forms, so it will be known which type corresponds to the Indonesian passive form, and which type cannot be compared with the Indonesian passive form. For that, research on passive contrastive in Japanese and Indonesian is needed.

REFERENCES

- [1] Hasegawa, Nobuko. *Seisei Nihongo-gaku*. Tokyo: Taishuukan Shoten. . 1999
- [2] Kridalaksana, Harimurti. 'Perwujudan Fungsi dalam Struktur Bahasa', dalam jurnal: *Linguistik Indonesia*, Vol. 4 No. 7. Jakarta: MLI. 1986.
- [3] Kridalaksana, Harimurti. *Struktur, Kategori, dan Fungsi dalam Teori Sintaksis*. Jakarta: Universitas Katolik Atma Jaya. 2002.
- [4] Muraki, Shinjiro. *Nihongo Doushi no Shosou*. Tokyo:

- Hitsuji Shobou. 1996.
- [5] Muraki, Shinjiro. 'Kaku', dalam: Nitta, dkk. (ed). *Bun no Kokkaku*. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten. 2004.
- [6] Ogaya, Yoshimi. 'Bunpou Koumoku no Dankaiteki Shirabasuka: Ukemi no Baai, dalam jurnal: *Sekai no Nihongo Kyouiku*. No. 9. 1999.
- [7] Parera, J.D.. *Dasar-Dasar Analisis Sintaksis*. Jakarta: Erlangga. 2009
- [8] Sutedi, Dedi. 'Indoneshiago no DI-doushi Koubun to Nihongo no RARERU to no Taishou Kenkyuu', dalam jurnal: *Nihon Gengo Bunka Kenkyuukai Ronshuu (Journal of Japanese Language and Culture)*. No.2. 2006.
- [9] Takami, Ken-ichi. *Kinouteki Koubunron ni yoru Nichi-Eigo Hikaku: Ukemibun, Kouchibun no Bunseki*. Tokyo: Kuroshio Shuppan. 1997.
- [10] Takami, Ken-ichi. *Ukemi to Shieki*. Tokyo: Kaitakusha. . 2011
- [11] Tanaka, Mari. 'Indoneshiago o Bogo to Suru Gakushuusha no Sakubun ni Arawareru 'Ukemibun' no Kousatsu'. dalam Jurnal: *Nihongo Kyouiku* No. 74, hal. 109-122. 1991.
- [12] Tsunoda, Tasaku. *Seikai no Gengo to Nihongo: Gengo Ruikeiron kara Mita Nihongo*. Tokyo: Kuroshio Shuppan. 2002.
- [13] Verhaar, J.W.M. *Pengantar Linguistik Jilid I*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press. 1982
- [14] Verhaar, J.W.M..*Asas-AsasLinguistikUmum*. Yogyakarta: GadjahMada University Press.2004.