Existential predicate clauses in Papuan Malay

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Papuan Malay

Papuan Malay varieties (based on Donohue forthcoming, and Kim et al. 2007)
Existential predicate clauses

- Existential verb **ada** ‘exist’
  - Intransitive clauses with one core argument
    - Existence or availability of the subject or “theme expression” (Dryer 2007:241)
    - Possession of a definite possessum
  - Transitive clauses with two core arguments
    - Particular states of existence of the theme expression
    - Possession of an indefinite possessum
One-argument existential clauses

- ada ‘exist’ – THEME (indefinite/nonidentifiable)
  - ‘a THEME exists’
    ⇒ ‘there is a THEME / ‘a THEME is available’

- THEME (definite/identifiable) – ada ‘exist’
  - ‘the THEME exists’
  - ‘POSSESSOR’s POSSESSUM exists’
    ⇒ ‘the POSSESSOR has the POSSESSUM’
One-argument existential clauses

- **ada** ‘exist’ – THEME (indef./nonident.): ‘a THEME exists’

  (1) [Addressing a hungry family member]
  
mari,       ada nasi
  come.here  exist cooked.rice

  ‘come here, there is cooked rice’

- THEME (def./ident.) – **ada** ‘exist’: ‘the THEME exists’

  (2) [Addressing a hungry visitor]
  
nasi ada itu, timba suda
  cooked.rice exist DEM.DIST spoon already

  ‘the rice is over there, just spoon (it)’
Indefinite / nonidentifiable theme

- **Existence of an entity: ‘there is a THEME’**
  
  (3) [Conversation about evil spirits]
  
  ada orang suanggi to?
  exist person evil.sorcerer right?
  ‘there are evil sorcerers, right?!’

- **Availability of an entity: ‘a THEME is available’**
  
  (4) [Addressing a hungry visitor]
  
  ada nasi dengan sayur
  exist cooked.rice with vegetable
  ‘there is cooked rice and vegetables’
Definite / identifiable theme

- Existence of an entity: ‘the THEME exists’
  
  (5) [Addressing a hungry guest]
  o,    kue  ada
  oh!  cake  exist
  ‘oh, (we do) have sweet snacks’ (Lit. ‘the sweet snacks exist’)

  (6) [Narrative about a motorbike accident]
  saya  ada
  1SG  exist
  ‘I’m alive’ (Lit. ‘I exist’)
Definite / identifiable theme

- Possession of a definite/identifiable possessum
  ‘POSSESSOR’s POSSESSUM exists’
  ⇒ ‘the POSSESSOR has the POSSESSUM’

- Genitive Possessive
  - Possessor NP “is construed as an adnominal modifier to the possessed NP” (Stassen 2011:3)

(7) [Conversation about the speaker’s husband’s motorbike]

```
POSSESSOR NP   POSSESSUM NP   exist
bapa   pu   motor   ada
father   POSS  motorbike   exist

‘father had a motorbike’ (Lit. ‘father’s motorbike exists’)
```
Definite / identifiable theme

- Possession of a definite/identifiable possessum
  ‘the POSSESSOR has the POSSESSUM’

(7) [Conversation about the speaker’s husband’s motorbike]

bapa pu motor ada
father POSS motorbike exist

‘father had a motorbike’ (Lit. ‘father’s motorbike exists’)

(8) [Conversation about a friend who forgot to bring her cloth]

de pu kaen ada
3SG POSS cloth exist

‘she has a cloth’ (Lit. ‘her cloth exists’)

One-argument existential clauses

- Locational adjuncts

  (9) [Conversation about a former teacher]
  \[
  \text{de} \quad \text{ada} \quad \text{ke} \quad \text{Arbais} \\
  3SG \quad \text{exist} \quad \text{LOC(to)} \quad \text{Arbais}
  \]
  ‘he is (on his way) to Arbais’

- Locational predicate clause

  (10) [Reply to a question outside the recording range]
  \[
  \text{bapa} \quad \text{sa} \quad \text{kira} \quad \text{bapa} \quad \text{su} \quad \text{ke} \quad \text{sana} \\
  \text{father} \quad 1SG \quad \text{think} \quad \text{father} \quad \text{already} \quad \text{LOC(to)} \quad \text{LOC.DIST}
  \]
  ‘the gentleman, I think the gentleman already (went) to over there’
Two-argument existential clauses

- Functions
  - Particular state of existence of the theme expression
  - Possession of an indefinite possessum
Particular states of existence

- Adjective in predicate slot: ‘the THEME exists as ADJ’
  - Continuative reading: ‘the THEME is being ADJ’

(11) [Conversation about a cold night outside with a wet cloth]

```
3SG POSS cloth exist RDP-cold little
```

‘her cloth was in a state of being a bit cold’
Particular states of existence

- Noun phrase in predicate slot: ‘the THEME exists as NP’
  ⇨ Emphatic reading: ‘the THEME is indeed NP’

(12) [Narrative about a visit to a government office]
  majelis ada tiga orang yang ikut
  church.elder exist three person REL follow
  ‘it was indeed three church elders who came along’
  (Lit. ‘the church elders were indeed three people’)

Possession of an indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

- ‘POSSESSOR exist POSSESSUM’
  - Subject slot: Possessor NP
  - Predicate slot: Possessum NP

  ⇒ ‘the POSSESSOR has a POSSESSUM’

(13) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

POSSESSOR NP exist POSSESSUM NP

sa ada anak
1SG exist child

‘I have children’ (Lit. ‘I exist child’)

Possession of an indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

- Typology of predicate possession (Stassen 2011)
  - Have-Possessive ('I have children')
  - Genitive Possessive (Lit. ‘my children exist’)
  - Locational Possessive (Lit. ‘at me are children’)
  - Conjunctional Possessive (Lit. ‘I am with children’)
  - Topic Possessive (Lit. ‘as for me, children exist’)

(13) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

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\text{sa} \quad \text{ada} \quad \text{anak}
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1SG exist child
Possession of an indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

- Typology of predicate possession (Stassen 2011)
  - Have-Possessive ('I have children')
  - Existential verb ada ‘exist’ and not ‘have’-verb punya
  - Genitive Possessive (Lit. ‘my children exist’)
  - Locational Possessive (Lit. ‘at me are children’)
  - Conjunctional Possessive (Lit. ‘I am with children’)
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  - Have-Possessive ('I have children')
  - Genitive Possessive (Lit. 'my children exist')
    - Possession of a definite possessum: *sa pu anak ada*
  - Locational Possessive (Lit. 'at me are children')
  - Conjunctonal Possessive (Lit. 'I am with children')
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(13) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

\begin{verbatim}
  sa  ada  anak
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(13) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

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\begin{array}{ccc}
sa & ada & anak \\
1SG & exist & child \\
\end{array}
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‘I have children’ (Lit. ‘I exist child’)

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{I exist child} & \text{I have children} \\
\text{subject} & \text{predicate} \\
\end{array}
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Possession of an indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

Typology of predicate possession (Stassen 2011)

- Have-Possessive (‘I have children’)
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- “Transitivization or have-Drift” from a Topic Possessive

(13) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

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sa ada anak
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‘I have children’ (Lit. ‘I exist child’)
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Possession of an indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

- Typology of predicate possession (Stassen 2011)
  - “Transitivization or have-Drift” from a Topic Possessive
    - Reanalysis: existential ‘be’-item ⇒ transitive verb
      POSSESSOR NP ⇒ subject
      POSSESSUM NP ⇒ direct object

  ⇒ Intransitive Topic Possessive ‘as for me, there are children’

  ⇒ Transitive possessive construction

(13) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

    sa ada anak
    1SG exist child

  ‘I have children’ (Lit. ‘I exist child’)
Possession of an indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

- Indefinite / unidentifiable possessum

(14) [Custom of giving children to childless relatives]

kitong smua ada sodara di situ
1PL all exist relative LOC(at) LOC.MED

‘We all have relatives over there’ (Lit. ‘we all exist relative’)

(15) [Conversation about evil spirits taking on human form]

prempuan, iblis itu ada de punya jin
woman devil DEM.DIST exist 3SG POSS genie

‘(that) woman, that devil has her genies’ (Lit. ‘that devil exists her genie’)
## Summary

**One-argument existential clauses**
- Indefinite/nonidentifiable theme expression

- Definite/identifiable theme expression

**Two-argument existential clauses**
### Summary

**One-argument existential clauses**
- Indefinite/nonidentifiable theme expression
  - Existence
  - Availability
- Definite/identifiable theme expression
  - Existence
  - Possession

**Two-argument existential clauses**
- Particular state of existence
  - Possession
### One-argument existential clauses

**Indefinite/nonidentifiable theme expression**

- **Existence**: ‘there is a THEME’
  - *ada oran suanggi*: ‘there are evil sorcerers’
- **Availability**: ‘a THEME is available’
  - *ada nasi*: ‘there is cooked rice’

**Definite/identifiable theme expression**

- **Existence**: ‘the THEME exists’
  - *nasi ada itu*: ‘the rice is over there’
- **Possession**: ‘the POSSESSOR has the POSSESSUM’
  - *bapa pu motor ada*: ‘father had a motorbike’

### Two-argument existential clauses

**Particular state of existence**

- **Possession**
### Summary

#### One-argument existential clauses

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#### Two-argument existential clauses

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<td>‘it was indeed three church elders …’</td>
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| Possession                    | ‘the POSSESSOR has a POSSESSUM’ | sa ada anak | ‘I have children’ |


Indefinite / nonidentifiable theme

- Adverbial modification

(1) [Reply to question about public transport]

```
tida tau blum ada mobil
NEG know not.yet exist car
'I don’t know, there aren't yet any cars'
```
Indefinite / nonidentifiable theme

- Locational adjuncts

  (2) [Conversation about flowers]
  
  ada bunga di halaman itu bagus
  exist flower LOC(at) yard DEM.DIST good
  ‘(when) there are flowers in the yard that’s good’

- Locational adjuncts: Fronted for emphasis

  (3) [Narrative about a trip by ship]
  
  di kapal Papua-Satu ada mobil lagi
  LOC(at) ship Papua-Satu exist car again
  ‘at the ship Papua-Satu there was also a car’
Indefinite / nonidentifiable theme

- Temporal adjuncts

(4) [Narrative about church activities]

\[
\text{waktu itu ada satu misionaris}
\]

‘at that time there was a missionary’
Definite / identifiable theme

- Omitted THEME expression

(5) [Conversation about training activities for women]

\[
\text{ada, de punya dana sendiri} \\
\text{exist 3SG have funds alone} \\
\text{‘(the funding department) exists, it has its own funding}
\]

Omitted THEME: bagian dana

(6) [Conversation about a local fellowship-group]

\[
\text{suda ada} \\
\text{already exist} \\
\text{‘(the Pante-Barat fellowship-group) already exists’}
\]

Omitted THEME: ikatan Pante-Barat
Definite / identifiable theme

- Adverbial modification

(7) [Conversation about a former teacher]

o pinda sa pikir de masi ada
oh! move 1SG think 3SG still exist
‘oh, (he) moved, I thought, he’s still (here)’

(8) [Conversation about training activities for women]

kalo sa pu dana sua ada ...
if 1SG POSS funds already exist
‘if I already had funds …’ (Lit. ‘my funds already exist’)
Definite / identifiable theme

Locational adjuncts

(9) [Reply to a question outside the recording range]

an-ana prempuan dong ada di depan
RDP-child woman 3PL exist LOC(at) front
‘the girls, they are in front’

(10) [Conversation about bride-price customs]

sa punya noken ada dalam
1SG POSS stringbag exist inside
‘my stringbag is inside’
Definite / identifiable theme

- Temporal adjuncts

(11) [Narrative about hunting a wild pig]

jadi satu waktu saya ada di ruma ...
so one time 1SG exist LOC(at) house

‘so, one time I was at home …’
Particular states of existence

- Adjective in predicate slot: ‘the THEME is being ADJ’

(12) [Conversation about a cold night outside with a wet cloth]
- de pu kaen ada dingin-dingin sedikit
- 3SG POSS cloth exist RDP-cold little
- ‘her cloth was in a state of being a bit cold’

(13) [Narrative about a drunken youth]
- dong bilang, a de ada sakit
- 3PL say ah! 3SG exist sick
- ‘they said, ‘ah, he is in a state of being sick’”
Particular states of existence

- Noun phrase in predicate slot: ‘the THEME is indeed NP’

  (14) [Narrative about a visit to a government office]
  majelis ada tiga orang yang ikut
  church.elder exist three person REL follow
  ‘it was indeed three church elders who came along’
  (Lit. ‘the church elders were indeed three people’)

  (15) [Narrative about the speaker’s home village]
  di Webro sa punya dusung ada banyak
  LOC(at) Webro 1SG POSS garden exist many
  ‘in Webro I have indeed many gardens’
  (Lit. ‘my gardens are indeed many’)

Modification of two-argument existential clauses

- Adverbial modification

  (16) [Conversation about an acquaintance]
  a, Kamela Wally blum ada istri
  ah! Kamela Wally not.yet exist wife
  ‘ah, Kamela Wally doesn’t yet have a wife’

  (17) [Advice how to behave during the upcoming youth retreat]
  nanti kamu pasti ada percobaan
  later 2PL certain exist temptation
  ‘later on you (will) certainly have temptations’
Modification of two-argument existential clauses

- Modal modification

(18) [Conversation about sterility]

de mao ada anak lagi, ... harus ada
3SG want exist child again have.to exist

anak karna de harus ada turunan
child because 3SG have.to exist offspring

‘s/he also wants to have children … there have to be
children because s/he has to have offsprings’
### Summary

#### One-argument existential clauses

**Indefinite/nonidentifiable theme expression**

- **Existence**
  - ‘there is a THEME’
  - *ada oran suanggi*  
    - ‘there are evil sorcerers’
  - *ada nasi*  
    - ‘there is cooked rice’

- **Availability**
  - ‘a THEME is available’
  - *ada nasi*  
    - ‘there is cooked rice’

**Definite/identifiable theme expression**

- **Existence**
  - ‘the THEME exists’
  - *nasi ada itu*  
    - ‘the rice is over there’

- **Possession**
  - ‘the POSSESSOR has the POSSESSUM’
  - *bapa pu motor ada*  
    - ‘father had a motorbike’

#### Two-argument existential clauses

**Particular state of existence**

- ‘the THEME is being ADJ’
  - *de ada sakit*  
    - ‘he’s being sick’
  - ‘the THEME is indeed NP’
  - *majelis ada tiga oran* …  
    - ‘it was indeed three church elders …’

**Possession**

- ‘the POSSESSOR has a POSSESSUM’
  - *sa ada anak*  
    - ‘I have children’