

Verb Phrase Ellipsis in Indonesian

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In this paper, I present evidence that Indonesian has Verb Phrase Ellipsis ('I-VPE') (1).

- (1) Saya tidak bisa pergi ke toko sekarang,
 1SG NEG can go to store now
 tapi mungkin Siti **bisa** ~~pergi ke toko sekarang~~.
 but maybe Siti can ~~go to store now~~
 'I can't go to the store now, but maybe Siti can.'

Given the clause structure in (2), I show that Indonesian has a type of ellipsis targeting the vP , stranding an auxiliary or modal. This ellipsis is licensed to occur under (syntactic) identity with an antecedent vP (underlined).

- (2) [_{TP} Subject T [_{ModP} Mod [_{vP} Agent $v+V$ [_{vP} \forall Theme]]]]]

This paper, the first comprehensive description of I-VPE, has four primary goals. First, I motivate the basic clause structure in (2). Second, I demonstrate I-VPE has the same distribution and characteristics as English VPE, as described by Goldberg (2005). Third, I show I-VPE must be distinguished from other types of ellipsis applying within the clausal domain in Indonesian, and that I-VPE is not merely epiphenomenal (i.e., it is not the sum of individual null vP -internal constituents). Fourth, I account for two key differences between English and I-VPE. Unlike English, Indonesian VPE prohibits voice mismatches between the antecedent and elided vP s. I argue that this disparity is due to a parametric difference in the ellipsis domain: in Indonesian, the elided constituent contains the voice head. Additionally, the necessary licensing conditions for I-VPE are less restrictive than in English.