

Japanese Clause Relativization Strategy

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ABSTRACT

This study is entitled Japanese Clause Relativization Strategy. The purpose of this study is to describe the structure, strategy, and previous functions of relative clauses in Japanese. The theory used in analyzing the formulation of problems related to relative clauses in this study refers to the theory developed by Dixon (2010) in his book entitled "Basic Linguistic Theory 2". This study summarizes the analysis in micro linguistics, namely syntax. Syntactically, the antecedent in the Japanese relative clause is positioned at the end. In Japanese relative clauses, there are no relative markers. Only antecedents that are attached directly to the predicate are part of the relative clause. The function of the relative clause is to explain nouns or noun phrases which in Japanese are called hishuushokumeishi. This research is included in qualitative research. The data analyzed in this study came from the media and publications from the site <https://www.sukasuki.org/koran-sukasuki>. This study produced several points, including that Japanese relative clauses precede the nouns that are described or known by the previous term. The basic structure of relative clauses in Japanese always begins with a clause that describes and ends with the noun being described. Antecedents in Japanese can be nouns, noun phrases, or particles such as *no* and *koto*. There are no conjunctions such as "yang" in Indonesian or "who/which" in English. In this study, pseudo-conjunctions such as *ni kan suru* and *to iu* were found. Predicates in Japanese relative clauses can be verbs, verbs conjugated with *hojodoushi*, nouns, and can also be adjectives.

KEYWORDS

Antecedents; Japanese; relative clause; syntax.

INTRODUCTION

In learning a language, it is mandatory to understand the rules in that language. This is because each language in the world has its own characteristics. Therefore, foreign language learners must know and understand every characteristic of the foreign language they are learning. One of them is in learning Japanese. As with other foreign languages, Japanese also has its own characteristics that must be known and understood by Japanese language learners. This is very necessary to be able to communicate all information to others in the language we are learning, in the sense that we must be able to communicate well and correctly so that the information we convey can be well received by the other person in oral or written form, and vice versa. The characteristics of Japanese that distinguish it from other foreign languages are that there are many words written in kanji letters and the Japanese sentence structure is patterned SOP (Subject-Object-Predicate). Kindaichi (1986) classifies the characteristics of Japanese into five large groups, namely hatsuon (pronunciation), moji (letters), goi (words), bunpou (grammar) and hyogen (expressions).

This research focuses on the characteristics of Japanese bunpou (grammar).

This research is categorized in micro linguistic analysis, namely syntax. Syntax comes from the Greek language, namely sun and tatein which means putting together words into groups of words or sentences (Chaer, 2003:54). The term syntax in Japanese is called 「統語論 “ tougoron”」 or 「シNTAX “shintakusu ”」 . Syntax is the science the language that learning about merging words into language units (Tjandra, 2014:69). Combining words there it is pattern and its structure that is permanent and does not change. According to Kridalaksana (2008: 223) syntax is the arrangement and relationship between word with words or units that bigger . Language elements which include In the scope of syntax are phrases, clauses and sentences. According to Verhaar (1999: 161) syntax as a science which discusses interword relationship in speech. The relationship between The word includes grammatical units which include phrases, clauses and sentences. The syntactic definition of some of the opinions above can concluded that syntax is a part from linguistics who studies formation of structure in sentences. In this study, the object of study is the clause. A clause is a grammatical unit in the form of a group of words that consists of at least a subject and a predicate and has the potential to become a sentence (Kridalaksana, 1983: 118). This study focuses on the type of clause known as a relative clause.

Relative clauses are subordinate clauses that are also commonly called embedded clauses, because the clause is embedded in a constituent or one of the higher elements. Based on the clause structure, there are two types of language, namely the PO (Predicate-Object) and OP (Object-Predicate) language types. Japanese is included in the OP language type . The characteristics of different language types in each language are distinctive or unique in the language itself, and this is interesting to study. Likewise, Japanese relative clauses have a different construction than other languages in the world.

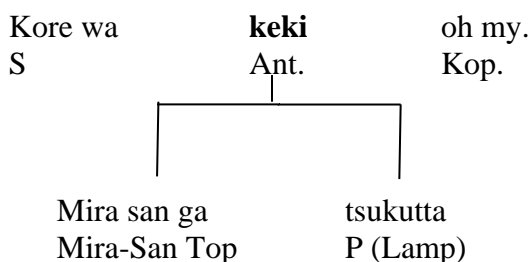
In this study, the structure, strategy, and antecedent function of relative clauses in Japanese were examined. The following are the lingual phenomena that are the focus of this study:

- (1) これはミラーさんが作ったケーキです。

Kore wa Mira san ga tsukutta keki desu.

' **This is** a cake **made by Sister Mira** '

(Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 1: 186)



From sentence (1), the relative clause is *Mira san ga tsukutta* 'made by Mira' which functions to expand information from the antecedent *keki* 'cake'. In Japanese language rules, the predicate function, whether in the form of a verb or an adjective, is always at the end of the sentence and will undergo conjugation that is adjusted to the needs of the meaning of the sentence. From relative clause (1), the predicate is the word *tsukutta* 'made'. This word comes from the word *tsukuru* 'to make' then undergoes past conjugation so that it changes to *tsukutta* 'to make'.

Syntactically, the antecedent in a Japanese relative clause is positioned at the end. In

Japanese, a relative clause consists of at least an object and a predicate as a modifier followed by a main clause accompanied by particles such as the particle “no”.

The characteristics of relative clauses in Japanese can also be seen from the pronouns. As in the example sentence (1), if you want to explain a noun, just put the verb before the noun. However, if you want to do the same thing in Indonesian, you need to be aware of the following two points.

- a. Place the clause after the noun.
- b. Use *the one* in the section used for explanation.

With this pattern, relational demonstratives are used to connect "clauses used to describe nouns" and "nouns to be explained". In Indonesian, the word "yang" is needed as a relative pronoun that plays a role in explaining two clauses, phrases, and accompanying nouns.

Based on the explanation of this background, there are many things that can be discussed in studying Japanese relative clauses. Downing (1978: 377) stated that linguists tend to use the term relative clause as if the clause refers to a universal grammatical entity. In fact, to know the syntactic properties of relative clauses in a particular language, it is necessary to first know the construction pattern in the language identified as a relative clause. This view is the basis for the study entitled " Japanese Clause Relativization Strategy".

Studies that are related and can be used as references for this study include Alexiadou (2000) in his book entitled "The syntax of relative clauses". This book presents the latest generative research on the syntax of relative clause construction. Most of the papers collected here react to Kayne's (1994) proposal to treat relative clauses in terms of determinant complements and relativized nominal increments. The editors provide a thorough introduction to these proposals, their background and motivation, arguments for and against. There are detailed studies of the syntax and semantics of relative clause construction in Latin, Ancient Greek, Romanian, Hindi, English (Old), Old High German, (dialects of) Dutch, Turkish, Swedish, and Japanese. This book is interesting for every linguist working in generative syntax. This book contributes to the understanding of analysis through generative syntax. This research refers more to the analysis based on Dixon's theory.

Prideaux (1987) in his book entitled "Strategies and structures: the processing of relative clauses". In this book, the nature of processing strategies is explored in detail in an attempt to cut through the maze of often conflicting and confusing proposals regarding the nature and form of various strategies. After an initial conception of the nature of cognitive strategies and hypotheses about how they interact with linguistic structures have been achieved, then it will be explored how these strategies are used by testing experiments that address the role played by certain strategies in the comprehension and production of sentences. The authors distinguish between strategies on the one hand and grammatical structures on the other. They argue that, in principle, strategies should be formulated as cognitive-based operations that are independent of language, involved in cognitive domains other than language, but, in language processing, interact with language-specific structures to facilitate processing. In addition, strategies are not linguistic rules, because, unlike rules, strategies allow exceptions and express tendencies, rather than strict yes-no choices. This book contributes to the understanding of strategies and relative clause structures. This study also discusses the relationship between strategies and the emergence of meaning in relative clauses.

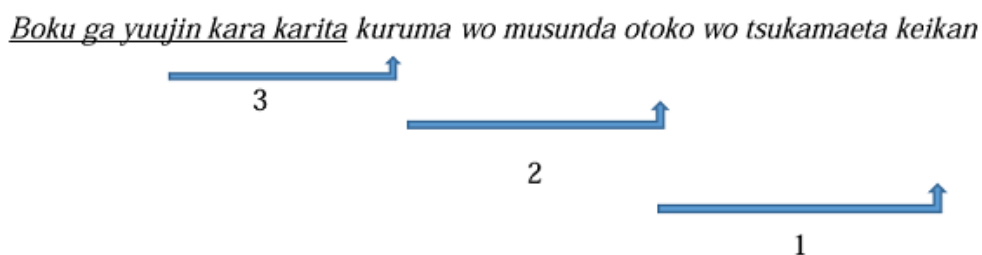
Kidd (2011) in his book entitled "The acquisition of relative clauses: processing, typology and function". This book explains the acquisition and processing of relative clauses which have long been a challenge for psycholinguistic researchers. This book

presents a collection of chapters that discuss the acquisition of relative clauses with a special focus on function, typology, and language processing. Various theoretical and linguistic approaches are used to acquire this type of construction. This book will be of interest to students and scholars whose interests lie in the acquisition and processing of syntax with a special focus on complex sentences in a cross-linguistic and functionalist perspective. This book contributes to the understanding of typology in relative clauses. However, this study does not touch on the realm of acquisition and processing of relative clauses.

Atindogbé (2017) in his book entitled “Relative clauses in Cameroonian languages: structure, function and semantics”. In this book there are a series of nine (9) contributions to the understanding of relativization strategies in eleven (11) Cameroonian languages spread across seven (7) sub-branches of the Niger-Congo phylum: Ekoid, Mambiloid, Mamfe, Mbam, Bantu Sempit, Padang Rumpit Luas, Yemne-Kimbi. As a productive strategy in the world's languages, and considering the evidence that African languages are under-described, poorly described or not described at all, investigations into the form, structure and function of relative clauses and relativization are beginning to fill the gap in the world's languages. The absence of analytical descriptive work on the topic. This book discusses the construction of relative clauses, their structure and boundaries, their morphosyntactic properties, how they are used to highlight thematic topics or participants in a particular discourse, and to mark the boundaries of text units, and the formal characteristics of restrictive relative clause constructions. The findings produced so far are an inexhaustible source for many fields of hyphenated linguistics including general linguistics, cognitive linguists, applied psycholinguists, psycholinguists, neurolinguists, cognitive psychology, linguistics and pragmatics. This book contributes to the discussion of relative clauses in terms of structure and semantics. However, this study analyzes the characteristics of relative clauses in Japanese.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theory is a scientifically credible general principle that explains a phenomenon. The theory used in analyzing the formulation of problems related to relative clauses in this study refers to the theory developed by Dixon (2010) in his book entitled "Basic Linguistic Theory 2" . In the book, several abstracts are taken regarding the theoretical basis used to analyze the Japanese clause relativity strategy. Relative clauses can also be called embedded clauses. In Japanese, this type of clause is called *rentaishuushokusetsu* . The function of the relative clause is to explain the noun or noun phrase which in Japanese is called *hishuushokumeishi*. This noun or noun phrase can be located on the left side of the relative clause (left branching) and there are also those on the right side of the relative clause (right branching) (Fadhillah: 2020). The previous discussion only focused on constructions consisting of a main clause with one relative clause. However, in some languages, there is also more than one relative clause in the main clause. It can consist of two or more relative clauses, whose arguments generally have different functions in the main clause. This can be seen in the construction of relative clauses in Japanese as follows.



(Shibatani *et al.* 1982:164)

In the construction above, there are three relative clauses in a main clause. The first relative clause is related to the other relative clauses. In the first relative clause, it consists of a core noun which is then called the antecedent *keikan* 'police' which is explained by the relative clause *musunda otoko wo tsukamaeta* 'win the man'. Then in the second relative clause, it consists of the antecedent *otoko* 'man' which is explained by the relative clause *kuruma wo musunda* 'steal a car'. Finally, in the third relative clause, there is the antecedent *kuruma* 'car' which is explained by the relative clause *boku ga yuujin kara karita* 'I borrowed it from a friend'. The three relative clauses, if translated into Indonesian, become 'The police caught the man who stole the car I borrowed from a friend'.

In Japanese relative clauses, there is no relative marker. Only the antecedent is attached directly to the predicate which is part of the relative clause. However, in the Indonesian version, the relative marker "yang" is found as a connector between the main noun and the constituent in the relative clause. This is one of the characteristics of Japanese relative clauses.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is included in qualitative research. Qualitative research methods are research approaches that aim to understand phenomena in depth, generally through the collection and analysis of non-numerical data such as interviews, observations, and document analysis. This method is often used in social sciences, humanities, and fields that require contextual understanding. Here are some commonly used qualitative research methods: Case Study – In-depth research on a particular case or phenomenon. Ethnography – Direct observation of groups or communities in everyday life. Phenomenology – Study of an individual's subjective experience of a phenomenon. Grounded Theory – Research that aims to build a theory based on the data collected. Narrative Analysis – Study of stories or narratives put forward by research subjects. By combining these approaches/methodologies, it is hoped that the problems in this research can be answered more completely, clearly, and thoroughly. Research methods is a way scientific to obtain data with purpose and certain uses . Scientific way means activity the research based on scientific characteristics , namely rational, empirical, and systematic. The systematics in this study consist of three stages, namely the data collection stage, the data analysis stage, and the presentation stage of the results of the data analysis . Data sources commonly used in qualitative research include Interviews - Conversations with sources to gather information from their perspectives. Observations - Direct observation of behavior, environment, or social interactions. Documents and Archives - Written sources such as reports, journals, articles, or historical records. Media and Publications - Data from news, films, podcasts, or relevant publications. Discussion Groups - Conversations with a group of people who have experience related to the research topic. The data analyzed in this study came from media and publications from the site <https://www.sukasuki.org/koran-sukasuki/>.

The collected data is then analyzed using the distribution method (distributional method). The research targets of the distribution method are words (denial words, prepositions, adverbs, etc.), syntactic functions (subjects, objects, predicates, etc.), clauses, syllables, pitch, and others (Sudaryanto, 1993: 16).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The grammatical structure of Japanese sentences in general is in the SOP (subject-object-predicate) order. However, it is different from the relative clause structure in Japanese with the SOP (subject-predicate-object) order. Relative clauses usually precede the nouns they describe. According to Comrie (2012), in Japanese relative clauses there is a formation by

placing the modification clause before the antecedent.

General Structure of Relative Clauses in Japanese:

1. [Relative clause] + [Noun]
2. [Subject] + [Verb] + [Object] + [Noun/Antecedent]

This is different from Indonesian or English, where the relative clause follows the noun (antecedent) that is explained, in Japanese the relative clause appears first. The following explains the variation of the order of sentences into Japanese relative clauses which are divided into 2, namely based on the emphasis of the antecedent function emphasized in the relative clause and based on the type of predicate that explains an antecedent.

Variations in Emphasis of Antecedent Function in Relative Clauses

Variations in the emphasis of the antecedent function in a relative clause consist of emphasis on the function of the subject, object, and topic. The following is the data analysis.

学生は日本語を話します。

Gakusei wa nihongo wo hanashimasu.

'Students speak Japanese.'

On data above there are two nouns that have the potential to be antecedents in relative clauses. The nouns are “学生” (gakusei) which functions as the subject and “日本語” (nihongo) which functions as the object. The predicate in the sentence is the verb “話します” (hanashimasu). The sentence can be made into two relative clauses as follows.

1. Emphasis on Subject (Students/gakusei)

日本語を話す学生。

Nihongo wo hanasu gagusei.

'Students who speak Japanese'.

Explanation: “日本語を話す” (Nihongo wo hanasu) is a relative clause that describes “学生” (gakusei) which functions as an antecedent.

2. Emphasis on Objects (Japanese/nihongo)

学生は話す日本語。

Gakusei wa hanasu nihongo.

'Japanese spoken by students'.

Explanation: “学生は話す” (Gakusei wa hanasu) is a relative clause that describes “日本語” (nihongo) which functions as an antecedent.

私は日本語が好きです。

Watashi wa nihongo ga suki desu.

'I like Japanese.'

The data above consists of two nouns, namely “私” (watashi) which functions as the subject and “日本語” (nihongo) which functions as the topic. In addition, there is also a predicate in the form of an adjective, namely “好き” (suki) which is classified as “形容動詞” (keiyoudoshi). If the sentence is changed into a relative clause, it will be as follows:

1. Emphasis on the Subject (I/Watashi)

日本語が好きな私。

Nihongo ga suki na watashi.

'I am the one who likes Japanese.'

Explanation: “日本語が好きな” (Nihongo ga suki na) is a relative clause that describes

“私” (watashi) which functions as an antecedent.

2. Emphasis on Topics (Japanese/Nihongo)

私は好きな日本語。

Watashi wa suki na nihongo.

'I am the one who likes Japanese.'

Explanation: “私は好きな” (Watashi wa suki na) is a relative clause that describes “日本語” (nihongo) which functions as an antecedent.

Variations in Types of Antecedent Predicates in Relative Clauses

In general, an antecedent is explained by a predicate. However, sometimes it is found that an antecedent is explained by more than one predicate. In addition, the types of predicates that explain it are also different. Here are some data related to this.

Antecedents are explained by predicate noun + noun

ちなみにこの5年間の桜の開花日と満開日は下記の通りです。

Chinamini kono 5-nenkan no sakura no kaika-bi to mankai-bi wa kaki no tōri desu

'By the way, the flowering and blooming dates of cherry blossoms for the past five years are as follows.'

すかSUKI新聞vol. 4

Antecedent of *kaika-bi to mankai-bi* 'flowering and blooming date' in the data it is explained by the relative clause *Chinamini kono 5-nenkan no sakura no* which consists of two predicates namely *kono 5-nenkan no* 'for five years' and *sakura no* ' (belonging to) cherry blossoms '. Both predicates are nouns. The characteristic of Japanese nouns is the presence of the particle *no* as a connector between nouns. Similar things are also found in the following data.

基本的に他の国の方にも人気が高い場所だと思われています。

Kihontekini hoka no kuni no kata ni mo ninki ga takai bashoda to omowa remasu.

'In general, it seems that this place is also popular among people from other countries.'

すかSUKI新聞vol. 5

Antecedents of *ninki* 'famous' in the data is explained by the relative clause *Kihontekini hoka no kuni no kata ni mo* which consists of two related predicates, namely *hoka no kuni no kata*. The first predicate is *kuni no* and the second predicate is *hoka no*. Both predicates are included in the type of noun. The characteristic of Japanese nouns is the presence of the particle *no* as a connector between nouns.

Antecedent is explained by predicate verb + verb

表を見ると毎年3月下旬頃に桜が開花し始め開花日が発表されているのがわかりませんが、開花日は何を基準に決めているのでしょうか。

Hyō o miru to maitoshi 3 gatsu gejun koro ni sakura ga kaika shi hajime kaika-bi ga happyō sa rete iru no ga wakarimasuga, kaika-bi wa nani o kijun ni kimete iru nodeshou ka.

'Looking at the table, we can see that cherry blossoms start to bloom around the end of March every year and the blooming date is announced, but what is the basis for determining the blooming date?'

すかSUKI新聞vol.4

Antecedents of *kaika-bi* 'bloom date' in the data is explained by the relative clause *Hyō o miru to maitoshi 3 gatsu gejun koro ni sakura ga kaika shi hajime* which consists of two predicates in the form of the verb *hajime* and the verb *kaikashi*. The verb *hajime* comes

from the word *hajimeru* which is included in the verb group II which means 'start' while the verb *kaikashi* comes from the word *kaika suru* which is a verb group III which means 'bloom'. The combination of the two verbs by changing them into the *masu form* then removing the *masu marker* so that *kaika suru* becomes *kaika shimasu* changes to *kaikashi*.

Antecedents are explained by predicate noun + verb

この「標準木」として指定されている桜の木の花が5~6輪咲くと、開花したと判断されます。

Kono 'hyōjun ki' to shite shitei sarete iru sakura no ki no hana ga 5 ~ 6-rin pocket to, kaika shita to handan saremasu.

'A cherry tree called a "standard tree" is considered to have bloomed when it has five or six flowers.'

すかSUKI新聞vol.4

The antecedent of the relative clause in the data above is *hana* 'flower'. The antecedent is included in the noun class explained by the relative clause *Kono 'hyōjun ki' to shite shitei sarete iru sakura no ki no* ' which consists of two interrelated predicates, namely the first in the form of a noun+noun relation *sakura no ki no* ' cherry blossom tree ' with the particle marker *no* between nouns. Then explained again with the predicate in the form of the verb *shitei sarete iru* ' shown ' which is the passive form of the verb *shitei s uru* ' to show ' which comes from verb group III (henkaku doushi).

Antecedents are explained by predicate adjective + verb

この日は残念ながら朝から少し雨が降っていて寒く感じました。

Kono hi wa zan'nen'nagara asa kara sukoshi ame ga futte ite samuku kanjimashita .

'Unfortunately, it rained a bit this morning and the weather was cold.'

すかSUKI新聞vol.4

The antecedent of the relative clause in the data is *kanjimashita* ' feel '. The antecedent is explained by the relative clause *Kono hi wa zan'nen'nagara asa kara sukoshi ame ga futte ite samuku* which consists of two related predicates, namely the first in the form of a noun + adjective relation with the adjective marker *samuku* which comes from the word *samui* ' cold '. This adjective is classified as *ikeiyoushi* with the rule of changing the final vowel *i* to *ku* when combined with the next word. The next predicate is the verb *futte ite* which comes from the verb group I (godan doushi) namely *furu* ' to go down '. This verb will change to the *te* form when combined with other words.

Antecedents are explained by predicate verb + adverb

人がたくさん集まる場所で問題となるのがゴミです。

Hito ga takusan atsumaru basho de mondai to naru no ga gomi des u.

'Trash is a problem in places where lots of people gather.'

すかSUKI新聞vol.4

The antecedent in the relative clause of the data above is *basho* ' place '. The antecedent is explained by the relative clause *Hito ga takusan atsumaru* which consists of two interrelated predicates, namely the first in the form of a noun + verb relation with the verb marker *atsumaru* which comes from verb group I which has the meaning ' gather '. The next predicate is in the form of the adverb *takusan* ' many '. In Japanese, there are two types of adverbs, namely *fukushi* which functions to explain verbs or adjectives while *rentaishi* which functions to explain nouns. The adverb *takusan* in this data is included in *fukushi* because it explains the verb *atsumaru*.

The antecedent is explained by the predicate adjective + adverb

すっきりせず憂鬱な気持ちになってしまう時期です。

Sukkiri sezu yūutsuna kimochi ni natte shimau jiki oh .

' This is the time when I feel dissatisfied and depressed. '

すかSUKI新聞vol. 6

The antecedent in the relative clause of the data above is *kimochi* 'feeling'. The antecedent is explained by the relative clause *Sukkiri sezu yūutsuna* which consists of two interrelated predicates, namely the first in the form of a noun + adjective relation with the adjective marker *yūutsu* 'stressed' which is classified as *keiyodoshi* with the marker *na* as a connector between words. The next predicate is in the form of the adverb *sukkiri* 'satisfied' negated to *sukkiri sezu*. The adverb in this data is also included in *fukushi* because it describes the adjective.

CONCLUSION

The typological features of Japanese reflect the unique structures and characteristics of its grammar, morphology, syntax, and writing system. The main typological features of Japanese include word order; Japanese generally uses the SOV (Subject – Object – Verb) word order. Japanese is agglutinative, meaning it uses affixes (especially suffixes) added to the root of a word to form grammatical meaning. Japanese uses particles to indicate the function of a word in a sentence . Nouns in Japanese do not change form to indicate quantity. For example 本 (hon) can mean "book" or "books". In addition, Japanese also does not recognize grammatical gender, although there are variations in pronoun forms and language styles based on the gender of the speaker. Japanese often omits subjects and objects if they are clear from the context of the sentence. In Japanese, there are levels of formality in language. This is based on the context of the situation, the speaker, and the person being spoken to. The level of formality in Japanese is called *keigo*. Japanese can be said to be a language rich in letters but poor in sounds, because it only has five vowels and a few consonants followed by the vowels in the form of open syllables. In Japanese, adverbs (locative, time, etc.) come after the word being described, not before as in Indonesian. Noun phrases in Japanese are phrases that have a noun as their core or center.

Characteristics of relative clause order: relative clause comes before the noun being described. So, the main sentence usually comes after the relative clause. Japanese relative clauses precede the noun being described or are known as antecedents. This is different from Indonesian or English, where relative clauses follow the noun being described, known as precedents. Thus, the basic structure of relative clauses in Japanese always begins with the clause that describes and ends with the noun being described. Antecedents in Japanese can be nouns, noun phrases, or particles such as *no* and *koto*.

Conjunctions: There are no conjunctions such as "yang" in Indonesian or "who/which" in English. As a point, the relative clause is directly connected to the noun being explained. It's just that in this study, pseudo-conjunctions such as *ni kan suru* and *to iu* were found. Subjects and predicates in relative clauses are often omitted or abbreviated. For example, subjects that are already clear from the context or do not need to be mentioned again in the relative clause. In relative clauses, the subject can be mentioned or omitted if it is clear from the context. If the subject is not mentioned, then it is assumed that the subject is in the main sentence. However, there are also subjects that are explained again at the end. So there are two nouns that are related to each other in one sentence. The predicate in a Japanese relative clause can be a verb, a verb conjugated with *hojodoushi* , a noun, and can also be an adjective. The verb in a relative clause usually appears in its dictionary form (infinitive) or past tense (depending on the context). In Japanese relative clauses, the verb does not need to be changed to the participle form as in English. What is important is that the relative clause precedes the antecedent it describes. Adjectives in relative clauses: Just

like verbs, adjectives are also used in dictionary form.

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