# Construction of Relative Clause in Indonesian Language

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## Abstract

Researchers are interested in the study of the syntactic typology of language. There is one problem in this research, namely how the types of constituents and the structure of Indonesian relative clauses. Words/phrases greatly affect the presence of relative clauses as constituent extension or explanation clauses. The constituents explained by the relative clauses certainly have a relationship that is in accordance with the meaning of the constituents. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data source used is native Indonesian speakers. The data of this study are sentences containing relative Indonesian clauses. Data collection techniques used in this study are collaboration techniques with informants and questionnaire techniques. Data analysis method used is the method of sharing with lingual units. The analysis technique of this research uses x-bar theory analysis technique which produces a word/phrase structure into a tree diagram of the whole sentence/clause. The conclusion of the results of this study is the type of constituents that can be expanded with relative clauses. As well as the patterns produced by the construction. The results of this study are expected to update previous research relating to the relative clauses of the Indonesian language.

**Keywords:** *Phrase; Clauses; Relative; Typology*

## Introduction

There are many aspects that have not yet become the area of linguistic study, especially Indonesian from the scope of language typology. Typology is the grouping of languages based on the characteristic grammar and sentence structure (Mallinson and Blake 1981: 1-3). Mallinson further argues that languages can be classified according to the constraints of their structural characteristics. Structural characteristics that guide the area of language typology. Based on the characteristics of the sentence structure, every language in the world has the characteristics of each of their sentence structures.

The clause is the central syntactic basis. Clause is a syntactic construction containing predictive elements. This predication element is marked by the presence of the verb/verb category. Clause is the smallest grammatical unit that can show a complete proposition and a combination of several clauses will form a sentence (Kroger, 2005: 32). In the clause contained in compound sentences, has a way to connect between these clauses with coordination and subordination (Alwi, 2003: 386). Givon (1990: 47) states that relative clauses are subordinative clauses embedded as modifiers of nouns in nouns or nouns. The

construction of a relative clause consists of two components, namely the core noun (head noun) and the relative clause as its constituent. In the Indonesian language between the core nouns and relative clauses associated with the word *yang*.

In this study, the researcher will discuss the relative construction of the Indonesian language clause. Research on relative Indonesian clauses has been carried out by several researchers. Cole, Hermon, & Tjung (2016) examined the use of relative clauses in adults and children in Jakarta. Their research resulted in three conclusions where children looked different from adults. Children use less object gap minimization than adults. The second difference between children and adults comes from a few examples where children use relative clauses when relying on time information. Children have generalized usage to a broader domain. The final difference is the greater inaccuracy in children using verbs with nasal prefixes instead of core verbs. Adults seem to 'sporadically' violate 'conditions of core verbs. Furthermore, Agustina (2007) examines the relative clauses of Indonesian. Researchers, both foreign and Indonesian, in studying the BI KR generally depart from the rules of English or other Western languages, so that their views and findings are sometimes a controversial phenomenon. For example, in English, there are at least 3 main features of KR, namely (1) there must be an antecedent (Ant), ie the parent clause FN must be the same as the KR FN; (2) there must be a relator / coupling of KI elements with KR elements positioned before KR; and (3) the relator must occupy one of the syntactic functions in KR. Based on these characteristics. It turns out that in BI it does not meet the condition to (3), because that is only a ligature with no argument status. Then Ahmed Saber Abd (2008) examined the Indonesian Relative Clause and the Arabic Relative Clause A Contrastive Study. The results of the analysis show that the relative clauses of Indonesian and the relative clauses of Arabic have four similarities and nine differences. This difference causes difficulties for Indonesian speakers who learn Arabic and also Arabic speakers who learn Indonesian. Difficulties faced by Indonesian speakers are in using masculine and feminine conjunctions; single, dual, and plural; understanding and not understanding; mu'rab and mabni, and referential pronoun. Difficulties faced by Arabic speakers occur in the process of relativity that is not the subject. This is caused by relativity other than the subject having to go through the process of passively the sentence so that the word to be relegated is in the subject's position. Park (2015) in his research entitled Discourse Coherence and Relativization in Korean. He claims that IHRCs semantically encode a linking clause that is bound to coordinate coherence relations. He has also proposed a new classification of Korean language relatives that distinguishes different types of relatives based on the inadequacy of relative function and relative discourse, and offers an explanation for why the formation of a coherence relationship seems only relevant in the case of IHRCs. In principle, each part of the discourse must help achieve a coherent interpretation of the discourse, and the relative clause does so by achieving the specific objectives of the construction discourse. Meanwhile, Fitriana Andriyani (2018) in her study of the Indonesian Relative Clause with Relative Markers Where, which and in which. Found that the relative clauses of the Indonesian language can not only be relative with words which and places, but can also be relative with markers where, which and in which. Relative clauses where, which and in which can relatize core nouns through obliteration/gapping strategies and pronoun retention strategies. The pronoun retention strategy functions to relate the subject with which markers. Grammatical units that can be relatized with markers where, which and in which are the subject, oblique locative, temporal oblique, and ajungta. Whereas relative markers which can only relative the subject.

Some of the research described above turns out that no one has yet discussed the relative construction of Indonesian clauses based on the constituents described. Therefore, researchers discuss the relative construction of Indonesian clauses.

Keenan and Comrie (1977: 63-64) explain the relative clauses that each syntactic object is a relative clause if the object specifies a set of things (could be a set of members) in two stages; the larger device is determined called the relational domain, then limits it in smaller parts to certain and true sentences. Kroger (2005: 230) also believes that relative clauses are clauses which modify core nouns in

noun phrases. Examples in English such as the following "[the woman {that I love} s] is moving to Argentina".

Sawardi (2015) suggests that the relative clauses in Indonesian are marked with markers that do not explain a particular function, but rather explain words / phrases in certain nouns. For example, in the example "[cat {who runs}] it bit the bone". The word is called the word perelative or relative pronoun and is very productive to form the construction of the relative so the relative clause is equated with the word Hogbin & Song (2007).

### Theory

The researcher uses several theoretical bases to examine the relative ambiguity of Indonesian clauses. The following is a description of the theory used by researchers.

### The Meaning of Clause

Kroger (2005: 32) states that a clause is the smallest grammatical unit that can show a complete proposition and a combination of several clauses will form a sentence. Van Vallin (2004: 3) says one of the most important language syntactic properties is that basic sentences/clauses can be combined in various ways to form complex sentences. It can be said that syntax enables the formulation of expressions with complex meanings outside the elements of simple meanings.

Van Vallin (2004: 46-47) also states complex sentences provide some of the most important subject tests, and the first to be examined is the formation of relative clauses. In relative clauses, sentences are usually used as NP modifiers, and the modified NP is referred to as the 'head' relative clause. Merging between several clauses can be through several mechanisms. The first amalgamation can be in the form of conjunctions and, concatenations which state additions. Second, combining with words while stating the relationship of ways. Furthermore, merging with the word, which functions to combine the clause with one of the nouns in the parent clause (Sawardi, 2015: 2-5).

Subordinate relationships combine two or more clauses so that it is proven compound sentences which one of the clauses becomes part of the other clauses. According to Alwi (2003: 391) Multilevel compound sentences can also be arranged by expanding one of its syntactic functions (S, P, O, K) with clauses. The expansion was done using yang.

### Relative Clause

Hogbin & Song (2007: 205) states that the construction of a relative clause consists of two components called the relational domain and the relative clause as a boundary. While the elements in the relative clause are three elements, namely the core noun, the modifying clause, and the word perelative. For example, in the example "the woman that I love's". The core noun in that sentence is the woman, while the perelative words are that, and the modifying clause is I love's. In addition, Kroger (2005: 239) also believes that there is a relative clause construction without the existence of a core noun or called a headless relative clause. Likewise, Sawardi (2015: 17-19) also explained relative clauses without the existence of core nouns in Indonesian. Indonesian has a parallel construction to what is expressed by Kroeger. For example, in sentences.

Sentences (3a) and (4a) above are reasonable sentences. But it is different with the sentences (3b) and (4b) which do not have a core noun. In sentences (3b) and (4b) there are relative clauses, but the relative domain does not exist. However, there are nouns that have been obscured. This happens because there are noun markers like some and all, so it can be ascertained that there are core nouns that have been missed. Of course this depends on the context.

### *Semantic*

Saeed (2016: 259) argues "As we saw, these and other relations are characteristic of the lexicon. To explain this networking, some semanticists have hypothesized that words are not the smallest semantic units but are built up of smaller components of meaning which are combined differently (or lexicalized) to form different words. Thus, to take perhaps the commonest examples in the literature, words like woman, bachelor, spinster, and wife have been viewed as being composed of elements such as [ADULT], [HUMAN] and so on". Analysis of the meaning components pioneered by Nida (1975: 32) distinguishes the meaning components into three parts, namely the common component, diagnostic component, and supplement component.
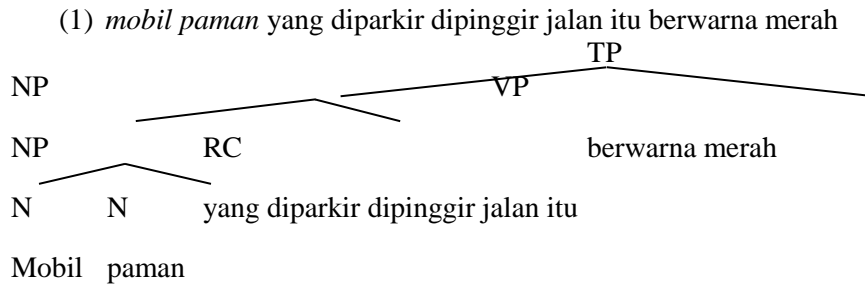
### *Methodology*

This research article is included in a qualitative descriptive study. Therefore, researchers must start from collecting data, analyzing, and making conclusions based on existing phenomena (Bogdan and Biklen in Creswell, 2003: 171). The data in this study are sentences containing words / phrases along with relative clauses that explain their antecedents. Furthermore, researchers limit the types of constituents to include phrases. In addition, the source of the data in this study was taken from native speakers of Indonesian through the data fishing method.

The research data was obtained using the refer and note technique. This study uses data collection techniques, namely collaboration techniques with informants (Edi Subroto, 2007: 41-49). Collaboration technique with informants is a way to obtain data by collaborating with informants about certain aspects of language. Informants were asked to provide linguistic information as desired by the researcher. So for this reason, researchers who design / plan questions in order to achieve research objectives. This technique is an experimental technique. The workings of this technique are by asking informants for responses and providing sentences containing certain data which in this study are sentences containing relative clauses. In this case the researchers used data fishing techniques online (online) using Google forms. Data fishing tools in the form of a network that is widely distributed and measured. Then the classification of data, the data that has been collected is carried out classification based on similarity of data so that it is arranged regularly and can be used for the data analysis stage.

### *Analysis*

The researcher found two descendants of types of constituents that are explained by relative clauses in words and phrases. These descendants are found in word types, namely compound words and word groups. Researchers will dissect the relationship of words, derivatives of words and phrases with relative clauses. As an antecedent explained by the relative clause there are certainly a number of patterns that indicate the core constituents explained by the relative clause.

(1) *mobil paman* yang diparkir dipinggir jalan itu berwarna merah

```
                                          TP
NP                            VP
NP              RC                        berwarna merah
N    N      yang diparkir dipinggir jalan itu

Mobil  paman
```

In the sentence above, there is an NP of an *mobil paman* and a relative clause construction *yang diparkir dipinggir jalan itu*. NP *mobil paman* is formed from two words namely mobil (N) + paman (N). The two forming words are categorized as nouns. Linguistically the core constituent in the phrase *mobil paman* is a mobil. The core constituents of the phrase are obtained by applying the explained and explaining conceptions. However, this can be seen further by considering the constituents that explain it. In this sentence the core constituents are mobil. Then this is the purpose of analyzing the components of meaning to find out which core nouns are explained by the relative clause. The phrase *mobil paman* consists of two words, mobil and paman. If it is broken down according to its semantic characteristics, it looks like this:

The word mobil has characteristics:　　+ noun　　　　- animate
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　- human　　　　+ concrete.
The word paman has characteristics:　　+ noun　　　　+ animate
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　+ human　　　　+ male
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　+ concrete

The construction of relative clause <u>yang diparkir dipinggir jalan itu</u> means that only an inanimate and nonhuman object can be *yang diparkir*. So the noun with the characteristics of objects, lifeless, and nonhuman is the word mobil.

(2) *Mobil paman* yang berbaju merah itu diparkir di jalan.

```
                                     TP
        NP                                        VP
                                  diparkir dipinggir jalan
        N            NP
     Mobil      N          RC
       paman     yang berbaju merah itu
```
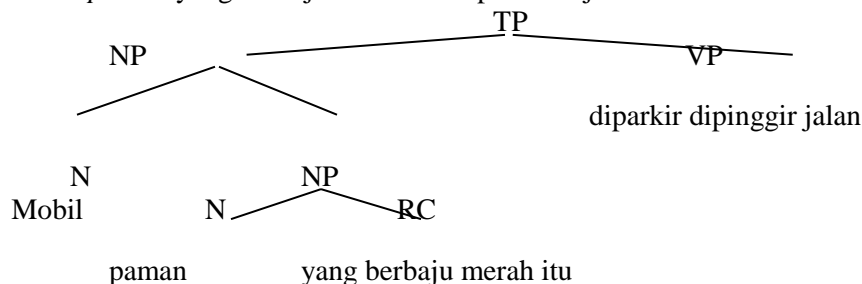
In sentence (2) the NP is in the form of an *mobil paman*. Linguistically the core constituents in that phrase are *mobil*. The core constituents of the phrase are obtained by applying the explained and explaining conceptions. This is in line with sentence (1), but the relative clause which explains in sentence (2) is directed at paman. So in this case the core constituent of the phrase in sentence (2) is paman.

The constituent explained by relative clause *yang berbaju merah itu* is a phrase *mobil paman*. While the core nouns that are explained in the NP are not yet known. Then this is the purpose of analyzing the components of meaning to find out which core nouns are explained by the relative clause. The phrase *mobil paman* consists of two words, mobil and paman. If it is broken down according to its semantic characteristics, it looks like this:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The word mobil has characteristics: | + noun | - animate |
| | - human | + concrete. |
| The word paman has characteristics: | + noun | + animate |
| | + human | + male |
| | + concrete | |

The construction of the relative clauses in clothes means that only animate and human objects can yang berbaju. So the constituents with characteristics relevant to the construction are paman.

(3) Sepasang *suami istri* yang sedang menunggu dokter di depan pintu itu sangat romantis

```
                                    TP
          NP                                           VP
     NP              RC                          sangat romantis
 N    N    N    yang sedang menunggu dokter di depan pintu itu

Sepasang suami istri
```
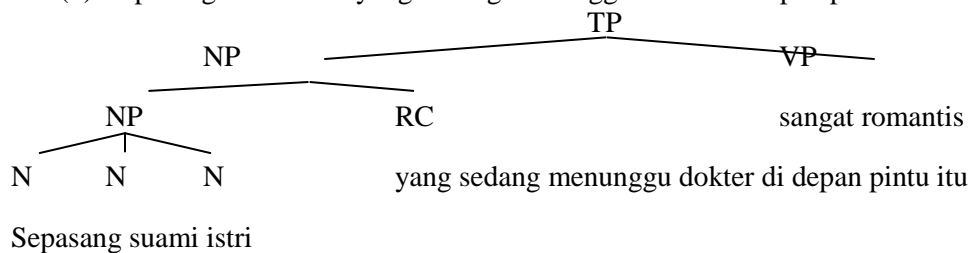
In the sentence above, there is a NP *suami istri* and a relative clause construction *yang sedang menunggu dokter di depan pintu itu*. NP *suami istri* is formed from two words, namely suami (N) + istri (N). The two forming words are categorized as nouns. The phrase suami istri is an equivalent phrase or coordinative phrase that is a phrase whose constituent elements are parallel. Linguistically the core constituents in the phrase *suami istri* are all the phrases, namely *suami istri*. However, this can be seen further by considering the constituents that explain it. In that sentence the core constituents are all phrases because all the elements of the phrase are explained by the relative clauses *yang sedang menunggu dokter di depan pintu itu*. Unlike the case with the following sentence.

(4) Sepasang *suami istri* yang mengenakan jilbab merah sedang menunggu dokter.

```
                                    TP
          NP                                           VP
   D              NP                         sedang menunggu dokter
 sepasang      N        NP
            suami   N        RC
                   istri  yang mengenakan jilbab merah
```
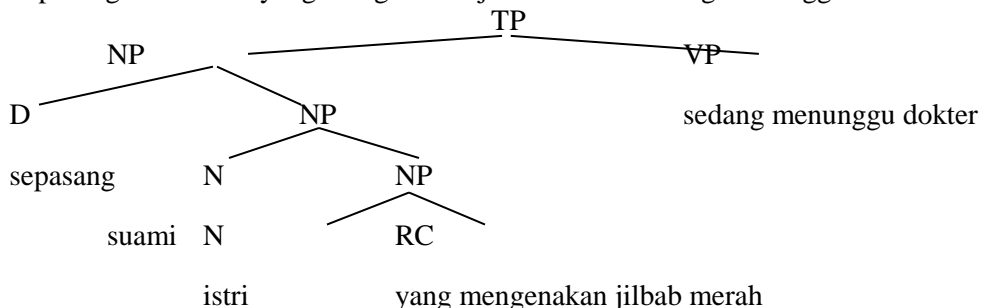
Linguistically the phrase is a parallel phrase so it cannot be determined which constituents are the core. However, in this case it is necessary to pay attention to the relative clauses which describe the phrase. The relative clauses in that sentence are *yang mengenakan jilbab merah*. The construction of relative clauses yang mengenakan jilbab merah is certainly related to the culture/demands of Muslim women. So the core constituent in the phrase explained by the relative clause is *istri*. This is influenced by the relationship of semantic meaning between the phrase and the construction of the relative clause. There are also phrases that are influenced by pragmatic or contextual meaning. For example, in the following example.

(5) *Istri camat* yang congkak itu memiliki mobil baru.

```
                                          TP
              NP                                           VP
         NP              RC                        memiliki mobil baru
      N    N      yang congkak itu

     istri  camat
```
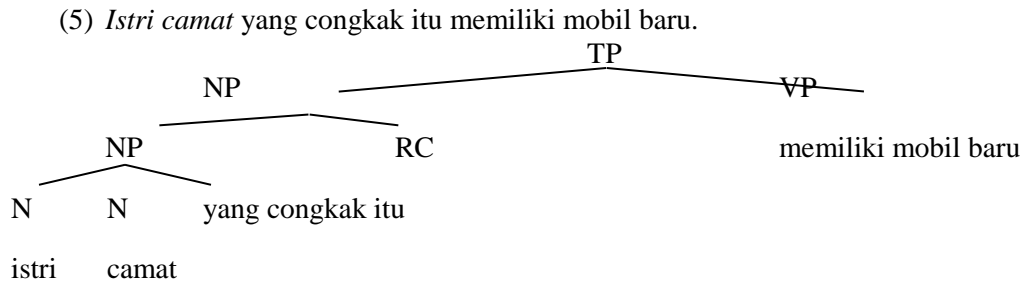
In sentence (5), the phrase is the *istri camat*. and the construction of the relative clauses *yang congkak itu*. NP istri camat is formed from two words namely istri (N) + camat (N). The two forming words are categorized as nouns. However, to determine the core constituents of the phrases are not the same as sentence (4). The semantic aspects of sentence (5) cannot be used, because of the construction of relative clauses that show personality characteristics. So there is ambiguity to the reference explained by the relative clause. Construction of relative clauses *yang congkak itu* does not clearly explain which constituents, whether *istri* or *camat*. Therefore, some of these cases are not discussed by researchers because they require pragmatic studies to find out the linguistic context.

(6) *Perempuan cantik* yang sedang makan bakso itu rupanya sudah menikah.

```
                                          TP
              NP                                           VP
         NP              RC                        rupanya sudah menikah
      N    Adj     yang sedang makan bakso itu

   perempuan  cantik
```

In the sentence above, there is a NP of a *perempuan cantik* and a relative clause construction *yang sedang makan bakso itu*. NP perempuan cantik is formed from two words namely perempuan (N) + cantik (Adj). The phrase is a noun category, because the core element of the phrase is a noun. This is reinforced by the concept of explained (perempuan) and explained (cantik) in a phrase. If the phrase is explained by the construction of the relative clause that is eating, then the core constituents in that phrase are women. This is explained by semantic features such as the following.

The word perempuan has characteristic:　　　+ noun　　　　+animate
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　+human　　　　+ concrete.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　-male

The word beautiful has characteristic:　　- noun　　　　-animate
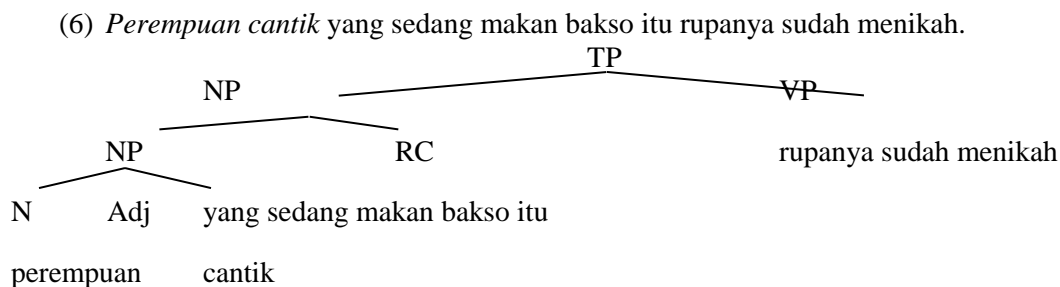　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　-human　　　　-male
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　-concrete　　+adjective

Based on the semantic features above, it can be determined the constituents explained by the construction of the relative clause. Reference clauses relative construction yang sedang makan certainly has features that animate can carry out these activities. The word perempuan has animate features, while the word cantik does not have that feature. Thus, the core constituents in the phrase are perempuan.

If previously the phrase explained by the relative clause, then the following will be discussed about compound words. Kridalaksana (2009: 104) explains compounding is the process of combining words between two or more words. These words merge and have new meanings but can still be traced to the meaning of the word formers. The following is an example of compound words explained by relative clauses.

(7) *Rumah sakit* yang besar dan mewah itu sangat terjamin fasilitasnya.

```
                              TP
        NP        ┌──────────────┴──────────── VP
                  │                    │
    Comp.         RC                   sangat terjamin fasilitasnya
   ┌──┴──┐
  N    Adj    yang besar dan mewah itu

rumah  sakit
```

In the sentence above, *rumah sakit* there are compound words and relative clause constructions namely *yang besar dan mewah itu*. Hospital compound words are formed from two words namely rumah (N) + sakit (Adj). The compound word is a noun category, because the core element of the word is noun. This is reinforced by the concepts explained (rumah) and explain (sakit) in a compound word. If the compound word is explained by the construction of a relatively clause *yang besar dan mewah*, then the word rumah sakit is explained. This is different from a phrase, although the formation of compound words consists of several words but has become one meaning.

(8) *Kereta api* yang memiliki gerbong panjang itu melaju dengan lambat.

```
                              TP
        NP        ┌──────────────┴──────────── VP
                  │                    │
    Comp.         RC                   melaju dengan lambat
   ┌──┴──┐
  N    N     yang memiliki gerbong panjang itu

kereta  api
```

In the sentence above, there are compound words of kereta api and relative clause construction that is *yang memiliki gerbong panjang itu*. The compound word train is formed from two words namely kereta (N) + api (N). The compound word is a noun category, because the core element of the word is noun. This is reinforced by the concepts explained (kereta) and explain (api) in a compound word. If the compound word is explained by the construction of a relative clause *yang memiliki gerbong panjang itu*, then the word kereta api is explained. This is different from a phrase, although the formation of compound words consists of several words but has become one meaning.
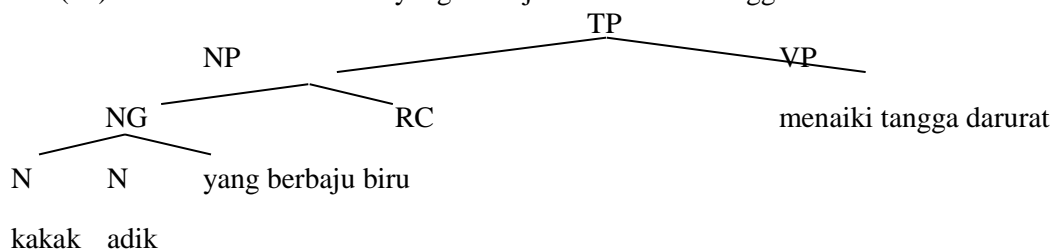
Besides phrases and compound words, there are also groups of words that are explained by relative clauses. In this case the researcher limits the meaning of word groups, which are a number of words that are not tangible clauses and have certain functions.

(9) *Ani, neny, dan budi* yang berasal dari smp daerah itu memperoleh penghargaan dari Gubernur.

```
                                    TP
            NP                                      VP
        NG              RC                  memperoleh penghargaan dari gubernur
  N     N     N      yang berasal dari smp daerah itu
 Ani   neny  budi
```
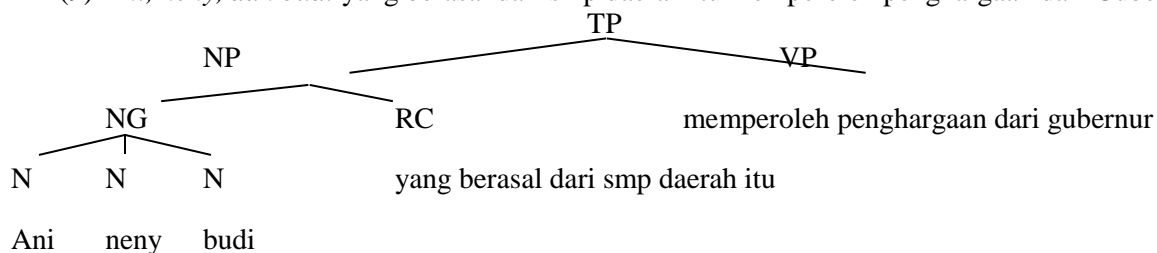
In the sentence above, there are groups of words ani, neny, and budi and construction of relative clauses *yang berasal dari smp daerah itu*. The word groups ani, neny, and budi in each of these word categories are nouns. If the said group of words is explained by the construction of relative clauses *yang berasal dari smp daerah itu*, the constituents that are explained are all the constituents of the said ani, neny, and budi word groups. The word group must be fully explained, because it is not only ani, neny, or budi that comes from junior high school and receives awards. This is because in the group of words it has a connector and so the constituencies between words are equal.

(10)      *Kakak dan adik* yang berbaju biru menaiki tangga darurat.

```
                                 TP
           NP                                    VP
       NG            RC                    menaiki tangga darurat
  N    N    yang berbaju biru
 kakak adik
```

In the sentence above, there are groups of words *kakak dan adik* and the construction of relative clauses, namely *yang berbaju biru*. The word group of kakak dan adik in each of these word categories are nouns. If the said group of words is explained by the construction of relative clauses in blue, then the constituents that are explained are all the constituents of said *kakak dan adik*. The word group must be fully explained, because it is not only kakak or adik who wears blue and climbs the emergency stairs. This is because in the group of words it has a connector and so the constituencies between words are equal.

## *Conclusion*

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher can conclude that there are four types of constituents that are explained by the relative clauses of Indonesian. These constituents are words, compound words, groups of words, and phrases. However, researchers, only examine compound words, groups of words, and phrases. Researchers find that not only words and phrases can be explained by relative clauses, but compound words and groups of words. There is also the phrase construction explained by the relative clause. Generally, the determination of the core elements in a phrase using concepts is explained and explained. But by using the construction of relative clauses, the core elements explained can be clearly seen. Specifically phrases with their constituent elements are nouns + nouns.

At the level of compound words and word groups, the constituents explained are all the elements contained in the constituents. This is caused by the categories and semantic aspects that affect it.

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