

Chapter 4

Conclusion

In the preceding chapters, we have analyzed syntactically marked passive construction in both languages, i.e. *bei* in Mandarin Chinese and *di-* in Bahasa Indonesia. While it is clear that constructions marked by *bei* in Chinese and prefix *di-* in Indonesian both express a passive meaning, there are nevertheless a range of differences in the semantic characteristics between the passive verbs in the two languages. In this chapter, the findings will be summarized, and then we will also make some suggestions for future research.

4.1 Summary of results

The similarity of the two languages' passive forms is that the occurrences of both intransitive and transitive verbs are closely related to causative reading. Besides, transitivity is the most prominent semantic feature of the verbal stems in order to be eligible in passivization. Some intransitive verbs (unaccusative verbs) in Mandarin Chinese can be passivized only if such verbs can function as transitive verb. On the other hand, all intransitive verbs in Bahasa Indonesia can be passivized after undergoing suffixation process first. The suffixation process changes the intransitive

verb to transitive one and attaches an additional meaning (depending on the function of the suffix).

The difference between the two languages' passive forms is that *bei* passives convey an aspectual meaning of result and can only occur in dynamic events. In contrast, *di-* passives in Bahasa Indonesia do not have to convey a result-state; they occur in both dynamic and stative situations. From the standpoint of verb transitivity, *bei* passives in Mandarin are more often to co-occur with transitive verbs while in Bahasa Indonesia *di-* passives can co-occur with both intransitive and transitive verbs. Additionally, regarding the relation between structure and meaning, *bei* passive structure requires the patient to undergo a change of state or to be causally affected by the action denoted by the base verb. The passivization process only adds a causative-resultative reading; the lexical meaning of the verbal stem does not change. On the contrary, the passivization process in Bahasa Indonesia involves a derivation process such as changing of the transitivity of the verb (intransitive becomes transitive) or adding additional reading to the grammatical meaning of *di-*verbs.

4.2 Limitations of the study

There are a number of limitations of the study. Firstly, this study merely focuses on the restrictions to verbal stems with regard to the semantic feature of transitivity. It

may be of interest to analyze passive verbs from perspective of the situation type and discourse. Secondly, the corpus data is collected from the international news and entertainment articles only. It is considered that the analysis may be more objective if we collect more articles from different genres of e-newspaper and texts from spoken data.

4.3 Suggestion for future research

For future research of the passive construction, quantitative and qualitative study of both written and spoken corpus should be conducted. There are still controversies on the semantic function of the *bei* construction; therefore, future studies of the passive construction conducted using other perspectives, such as discourse and pragmatic, are necessary. Because the thesis has explicated the restrictions on semantic features of base verbs in *bei* construction and *di-* passive, hopefully the research result will shed light on future studies of unexplored issues.