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# **GRAMATICAL FUNCTIONS IN INDONESIAN RELATIVE CLAUSES IN FOREIGN STUDENTS' WRITING**

# FUNGSI GRAMATIKAL DALAM KLAUSA RELATIF BAHASA INDONESIA PADA KARANGAN MAHASISWA ASING

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## Abstract

This study aims to describe the grammatical function of the Indonesian relative clauses found on the foreign students' academic degree program at Technical Manager Unit Language (UPTBahasa) University SebelasMaret Surakarta. Data used in the form of writing, the sentences in the written essays of foreign students contained relative clauses. The techniques of data analysis use apportion method and advanced techniques of apportion method. The result of this study shows that the process of relativizationthat occurs in Indonesian can only relate the subject function. As the development of linguistics, the process of relativizationalso occurs in the object. Relativization on object will be accepted when it is altered through the passage process. In addition, the process of relativization that occurs can be through the steps, namely the obliteration strategy. The obliteration strategy serves to dissipate the nominative which relating its relative clauses. This research has concluded that the relativization process of relative clauses in Indonesian only occurs in the subject. Then, the most frequently used relativization in Indonesian is the obliteration strategy.

Keywords: Indonesian for foreign speakers, grammatical functions, strategy obliteration, relative clauses

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendiskripsikan tentang fungsi gramatikal klausa relatif bahasa Indonesia yang ditemukan pada karangan mahasiswa asing program darmasiswa level akademik di UPT Bahasa Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta. Data yang digunakan berupa data tulis, yakni kalimat-kalimat dalam karangan mahasiswa asing yang didalamnya terdapat klausa relatif. Teknik analisis data menggunakan metode agih dan teknik lanjutan dari metode agih. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa proses perelatifan yang terjadi dalam bahasa Indonesia hanya dapat

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merelatifkan fungsi subjek. Seiring perkembangan ilmu kebahasaan, proses perelatifan terjadi juga pada objek. Perelatifan pada objek akan berterima apabila diubah melalui proses pemasifan. Selain itu, proses perelatifan yang terjadi dapat melalui langkah-langkah, yakni strategi obliteration. Strategi obliteration berfungsi untuk melesapkan nomina yang direlatifkan dalam klausa relatifnya. Penelitian ini memeroleh simpulan bahwa proses perelatifan klausa relatif dalam bahasa Indonesia hanya terjadi pada subjek. Kemudian, strategi perelatifan dalam bahasa Indonesia yang sering digunakan adalah strategi obliteration.

*Kata Kunci*: bahasa Indonesia bagi penutur asing, fungsi gramatikal, strategi obliteration, klausa relatif

## Introduction

Indonesian for foreign speakers (BIPA) is the teaching Indonesian for foreigners to learn Indonesian as a foreign language. Level of Indonesian for foreign speakers can be divided into several stages, including beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Each level has four language competence competencies, namely reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Competence means invisible language knowledge (Riyanto, 2012). Indonesian for foreign speakers is the second language so that the acquisition is formed once they master the first language.

Indonesian learners for non-Indonesian speakers have different ways of communicating ideas verbally or writing. Oral delivery of ideas is usually shorter while writing the idea of writing should be done with a complete sentence, meaning that the structure of the language is at least composed of subjects and predicates. The linguistic level of language can be based on three levels, namely the phonological level, the grammatical level, and the level of discourse. The criteria consist of paragraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, and words.

Through grammar, students can use appropriate grammatical structures and can achieve skilled or satisfying syntax competencies (Misir, 2017). Then, grammar or structure can be considered as one of the basic elements to help students communicate in the target language (Akay and Toraman, 2015). In this case, the subject of this study is the grammatical function in the relative clauses of the Indonesian. Relative clause in Indonesian consists of some construction. To form a precise construction there must a placement change or word form process. Word form process does not change the identity which means does not change referent and meaning (Ermanto, 2016).

Related to this research, the theory used to address the problem of relativization is the theory of accessibility of relativization (Keenan and Comrie) and Basic Lingusitic Theory (Dixon, 1994). Song (2001) and Hogbin (2007) explain that the construction of a relative clause consists of two components, namely the nucleus and the relative clauses associated with word relative. The relative clause is expansive clause with words that are embedded in the main clause and function as explanations for certain syntactic functions (Alwi, 2003). Later, this study also outlines a relativization strategy. Comrie (1989) proposes four strategies of relativization, namely non-reduction, pronoun retention, relative pronoun, and obliteration. Among these strategies, the obliteration strategy will often be found in data analysis in this study. Indonesian

relativization whether using other relative words by utilizing obliteration. In the relativization strategy of Indonesian obliteration, the core nouns are not mentioned in relative clauses.

Research on the relative clauses in the Indonesian is done by taking the data sources of foreign students because the essay or writing of foreign students certainly has a difference with Indonesian native speakers, syntactically. Based on the sample from the observation, there is still a relatively new set of relative clauses that are not in accordance with the process of relativization. Based on the background of the above problem, this research is entitled with *Gramatical Functions in Indonesian Relative Clauses in Foreign Students' Writing.* This study aims to find out the grammatical function and relativization of relative clauses in Indonesian on foreign students. The grammatical function here is the function of subject and object. Then, this study is also to unravel the use of the obliteration strategy to relativization process.

The clause consists of subjects and predicates. The most required element is a predicate clause. Clauses can be a present in a sentence or clause potentially to be a sentence (Word, 2017). The clause in Indonesian means the meaning of the clause in accordance with the Indonesian grammar. Eggins (2004) states that clause is named simplex clauses which are equivalent to simple sentences in formal grammar and complex clauses comparable to plural sentences and complex sentences. However, based on all grammatical units the clause is the only unit that simultaneously realizes an action along with other actions. The clause is distinguished from free clauses and clauses that cannot stand alone as a major sentence, called a bound clause (Cook, 1969).

Meanwhile, part of the clause is a relative clause. Relative clause is generally contained in multilevel compound sentences. Relative clauses include essential elements in forming multi-level compound sentences. Relative clauses in multi-level compound sentences have functions as subject, object descriptions, and other details. As with the above opinion, the clauses are divided into two types, namely the free clauses and bound clauses as expressed by Gucker (1966). Richards (1985) says that a clause is a collection of words that have limited subjects and verbs. Grammatically free clauses are composed of restricted verbs whereas bound clauses may consist of limited verbs or unlimited verbs (Downing and Locke, 2006).

The relative clause is a bound clause initiated by the relative pronominal (Kridalaksana, 2008) and its function describes a nominal or noun phrase contained in the main clause (Decapua, 2008). The construction of a relative clause consists of two components, namely head noun and the relative clause as its past. In Indonesian head nouns and relative clauses are connected by "yang" word. "Yang" word called relative word or pronominal is relatively and very productive to form a relative construction so that relative clauses are identified with "yang" word (Hogbin and Song, 2007). It is also worth noting that the clause is relatively the same as the adjectival clause because the relative clause serves as a qualifier or modifier of a main constituent in the form of nominations (Mallinson and Blake, 1981).

Song (2001) explains that there are four strategies in a relative clause that can be used to analyze a data such as a strategy used to disseminate the nominative nominations in a obliteration strategy, a strategy that includes the use of pronoun in a relative correspondence clause with the pronoun retention strategy, a strategy with a specific pronoun that is generally related to the expression of demonstrative (the

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relative pronoun strategy), a strategy used by languages that combine different perceived strategies (internal language distribution of the strategic relativization).

Related to this research , the second language theory should be presented. According to Soviaty (2010) the term second language is used to describe the languages that the acquisition or mastery starts after the early childhood includes the third language or other languages studied later. The languages they learned are called the target language.

The second language is obtained or learned after the first language. Based on the acquisition-learning hypothesis proposed by Krashen, the first language is not learned but acquired unconsciously. On the other hand, the second language is consciously learned by someone (Mitchell and Myles, 1998). Therefore, Krashen argues that the second language is not obtained as the first language but rather learned. Later, the second language student can become a native speaker as one starts writing (Davies, 2007). Furthermore, Indonesian for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) is a term for Indonesian language learning programs for foreign students. The Indonesian program for foreign speakers has become popular and has become increasingly popular since the opening of free trade. However, until now there is still a difference in opinion on how to effectively teach an Indonesian language to foreign speakers, both with regarding tools to achieve the goals, materials they should be taught, and their teaching methods (Azizah & Lestari, 2012).

Meanwhile, according to Muliastuti (2006), the teaching of Indonesian (BI) can be classified as follows: (1) If BI teaching is conducted on Indonesian students who have mastered regional languages as the first language (L1), then BI becomes the second language (L2); (2) If the teaching of BI is conducted on Indonesian students who do not have regional language, then the teaching of BI is categorized as the first language teaching (B1); (3) If BI teaching is done to foreigners who already have B1, then BI instruction is categorized as foreign language teaching.

Similar studies were also written by Muliastuti (2006) which examines the error analysis of the examples of words, phrases, and Indonesian sentences in the Indonesian-Korean Dictionary. Subjects in this study were not foreign students, but the objects used were dictionaries compiled by Korean people. The dictionary had an important role for foreign students from Korea, so the research could be incorporated as relevant research. Based on his study, Muliastuti concludes that there were significant errors in Indonesian examples in the Indonesian-Korean Dictionary (Second Edition). These mistakes were caused by interference and intrusive factors. Research conducted by Muliastuti may be relevant to this study because they are both studying in grammatical aspects. If Muliastuti research analyzes words, phrases, and sentences, this study examines relative clauses.

A research related to relative clause is also done by Sawardi (2014) which deals with the Indonesian relativization strategy. In this case, the subject of discussion was a relative clause. The study explained how the nominal position was in a relative clause. The results obtained were the basis of relativizationcan be demonstrated that Indonesian genitive relativity only occurred in the subject and never in other grammatical functions.

#### Method

This study is qualitative descriptive. As is the case (Creswell, 2010) that qualitative research is a method of developing and understanding the meaning of which by a number of individuals or groups of people considered to be derived from social problems. The data in this research is written data. Written data used in the form of sentences in the composition of foreign students in which there is a relative clause. The essay was written by foreign students from Vietnam (My, Al, Ln), Philippines (Liz), and Timor Leste (Ev).

Technique of collecting data in research was listening method. Then the advanced technique of the methodology is writing. Data validity was maintained with triangulation. Triangulation means checking data with various sources and various time (Sugiyono 2008). The triangulation used in this research was data triangulation, method, and informant review. The data analysis technique used in this research was the method of distribution. Then, advanced techniques included were alternating techniques, deletion techniques, and modification techniques.

Data analysis technique used in this research wasthrough three phases, such as data collecting, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The first step was the data analysis technique using the method of distribution. Determinants in the method were in form or part of the language of the object of the research itself as the word (pronounced, preposition, adverbial), syntactic function (subject, object, and predicate), clause, word syllable, and so forth. The advanced techniques in the method used in this research were alternating technique, deletion techniques, and modification techniques.

In data reduction phase, the researcher recorded the data obtained at the previous stage. Then, the researcher conducted a selection process and simplification of the data so it was easier for researchers to take the necessary data. After that, the detailed data and the focus of the research were written in narrative or description form.

During drawing conclusion stage, the researcher classified data based on the type of problem that made it easier to analyze the data. The data presented were written data obtained from foreign students draft academic degree program at UNS Language Technical Manager Unit.

## **Result and Discussion**

#### Grammatical and Relativization Function in Indonesian

Relative Indonesian clause research has some grammatical functions in it. The syntactic function that can undergo relativizationprocess only has the function of the subject so that if there is another function that can be relativized, it must go through the process of changing the argument so that the syntactic functions can shift into an object. This is as described by Comrie (1989) that in Indonesian which usually allows the subject relativity, does not allow relativity of the object directly, but it is necessary through the process of indirect object relativity.

It is essential to notice that the process of relativization that occurs in Indonesian can only relativize the subject function. This relativization process cannot change sentence structure because the main point is already fulfilled. The form of relativization in the subject function to prove that relative clauses in compound sentences can serve as subjects, as the following data.

Kecelakaan yang menimbulkan korban jiwa dari pengendara sepeda motor disebabkan oleh luka kepala. (Accident that caused casualties from motorcyclists was due to head injuries. (01/ Al/ TP/ 4 April 2017)

The data (1) above, there are two initial clauses, namely (i) kecelakaan (accident), as main clause and (ii) menimbulkan korban jiwa dari penendara sepeda motor (caused casualties from motorcyclists), as attached clauses into the main clause. The main clauses contained in the data (1) will then undergo a relativization process of embedding relative clauses yang menimbulkan korban jiwa dari pengendara sepeda motor (that caused casualties from motorcyclists) using relativization 'yang' is in the basic clause. At the time of the two clauses undergoing a process of relativization and merging to form a new clause, then the clauses that have undergone the process will experience the deletion of the nominal in its relative clauses.

The data (1) has undergone a relational process with the obliteration strategy which will result in the final clauses: (i) kecelakaan disebabkan oleh luka kepala (the accident caused by head injury), as the main clause and (ii) yang menimbulkan korban jiwa dari pengendara motor (that caused casualties from motorcyclists), as a relative clause. The relative clause type contained in data (10) is called a relative clause with a relative clause 'yang', which has a relatively active clause type. Relative clauses in data (1) are called relative clauses because relative clauses in data (1) directly explain the subject of the main clause. Data (1) does not indicate any change in the structure of the sentence as a result of the process of relativization that occurs in its head clause. The process of relativization the function of subject on the data (1) is elaborated in following chart.

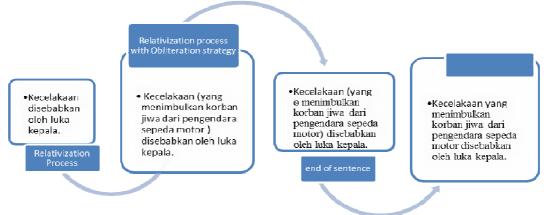


Figure 1. Relativization Process of Indonesian Subject Function

Spa My Beauty selalu menjadi tempat pelayanan kecantikan yang terkenal di banyak kota. (Spa My Beauty has always been a place that well-known beauty services in many cities. (02 /My /TP / 4 April 2017)



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The data (2) above has the same element as data (1), which consists of two initial clauses. First of all, Spa My Beauty selalu menjadi tempat pelayanan kecantikan (Spa My Beauty has always been a place of beauty services), as a main clause. Second, yang terkenal di banyak kota (that well-known in many cities) is an attached clause that is embedded into the main clause. The main clauses in data (2) will undergo a relational process with the presence of a relative clause yang terkenal di kota (that well-known in many cities) by using a relative 'yang'. At the time of the two clauses undergoing the process of relativization and merging to form new clause, the clause that have undergone the process of relativization will have a deletion of nouns in its head clause. The data (2) which have undergone relativization process using the obliteration strategy will experience the final clause, namely (i) Spa My Beauty selalu menjadi tempat pelayanan kecantikan di banyak kota (Spa My Beauty has always been the place of beauty services in many cities), as the main clauses and (ii) yang terkenal ( which is well-known) as relative clauses. The type of relative clauses in data (2) is active relative clauses because relative clauses in data (2) are relative types of clauses that have an active form and directly explain the subject of the main clause.

Then, in data (2) is clearly shown that its anticipated function occupies a function as the relative clause subject. In addition, data (2) does not indicate any change in the structure of the sentence due to the process of relativization occurring in its head clause. This is because the process of relativization does not occur in the active clause so as not to change the structure of the argument when the subject in the active clause is restored. The process of relativization the subject function in the data (2) is shown as follows.

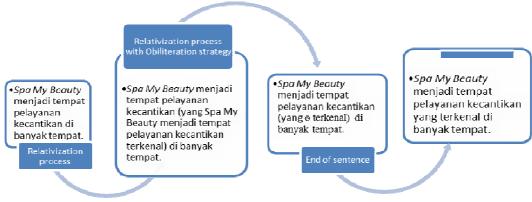


Figure 2. The Relativization Process of Indonesian Subject Functions

The same applies to data (3) below.

Mungkin tahun depan saya akan ke Indonesia untuk mengunjungi wisata-wisata yang ada di sana. (Maybe next year I will go to Indonesia to visit the tours there. (03 /Ev /TS / 7 Maret 2017)

The data (3) above has the same element as the previous data, which consists of two initial clauses. First, *wisata-wisata* (the tours), as the main clause. Secondly, *yang ada di sana* (there is) as an embedded clause into the main clause. The main clause in data (3) will undergo a relativization process with the presence of relative clauses by using a relative 'yang'. At the time of the two clauses undergoing the process of

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relativizationand merging to form new clauses, the clauses that have undergone the process of relativism will have a deletion of the nouns in its underlying clause.

The data (3) above has the same element as the previous data, which consists of two initial clauses. First, *wisata-wisata* (the tours), as the main clause. Secondly, *yang ada di sana* (there is) as an embedded clause into the main clause. The main clause in data (3) will undergo a relativization process with the presence of relative clauses by using a relative 'yang'. At the time of the two clauses undergoing the process of relativization and merging to form new clauses, the clauses that have undergone the process of relativism will have a deletion of the nouns in its underlying clause.

The data (3) that have undergone relativization process using the obliteration strategy will experience the final clause, namely (i) *wisata-wisata yang ada di sana* (the tours there), as the main clause and (ii) *yanga ada di sana* (that is there), as a relative clause. The relative clause type in data (3) is an active relative clause because the relative clause in data (3) is a type of relative clause that has an active form and briefly describes the subject of the main clause.

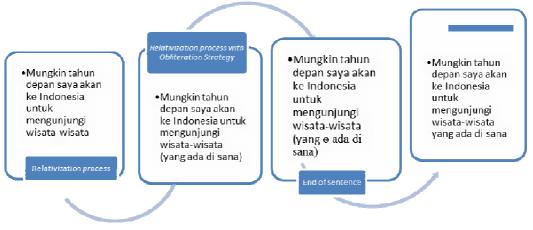


Figure 3. Relativization Process of Indonesian Subject Function

Menurut penelitian, manfaat buah salak mengandung zat yang menambah kecerdasan otak seperti potasium dan pectin. (According to research, the benefits of snake fruit contain substances that increase brain intelligence such as potassium and pectin. (04 /Ln /TE / 29 Maret 2017)

The data (4) above has two initial clauses: (i) *manfaat buah salak mengandung zat* (the benefits of snake fruit contain substances), as main clauses and (ii) *yang menambah kecerdasan otak seperti potasium dan pectin* (that increase brain intelligence such as potassium and pectin) are attached clauses into the main clause. The main clause of data (4) will undergo a relativization process with the presence of a relative *yang terkenal di kota* (that is well-known in the city) by using a relative 'yang'. At the time of the two clauses undergoing the process of relativization and merging to form new clauses, the clauses that have undergone the process of relativization will have a deletion of the nouns in its underlying clause.

The data (4) which have undergone a process of relativization using the obliteration strategy will experience the final clause, namely (i) *manfaat buah salak mengandung zat* (the benefits of snake fruit containing substances), as the main clause and (ii) *yang*  $\Theta$  *menambah kecerdasan otak seperti potasium dan pectin* (that increase

the intelligence of the brain such as potassium and pectin), as a relative clause. The relative clause type in data (4) is an active relative clause because the relative clause on data (4) is a type of relative clause that has an active form and briefly describes the subject of the main clause.

Then, the data (4) is clearly shown that its antecedent function occupies a function as the relative clause subject. In addition, the data (4) does not indicate any change in sentence structure due to the relativization process occurring in its head clause. This is because the process of relativization does not occur in the active clause so as not to change the structure of the argument when the subject in the active clause is deactivated. The process of relativization of subject function in data (4) is shown as follows.



#### Figure 4. Relativization Process of Indonesian Subject Function

In the relativization of object will have a change in the structure of the main sentence that occurs due to the process of argument alternation. An alternative argument is an active-passive process. The passive-active process is a process by which the object is directly transformed into a subject. The active-passive process can be seen in the following data.

Sebuah helm standar yang khusus diciptakan untuk melindungi kehidupan pengguna (A standard helmet specifically created to protect the user's life (05 /Al /TP / 4 April 2017).

The data (5) is a sentence that relativizes the object that has been subjected to passage through passive process. Then, the data (5) above has two initial clauses, namely (i) *sebuah helm standar untuk melindungi kehidupan pengguna* (a standard helmet to protect the user's life, as a main clause and (ii) *yang khusus diciptakan* (which is specially created), as attached clause in the main clause. The main clause in the data (5) will then undergo a relativization process with the presence of a relative clause that is specifically created using the relativization word 'yang' into basic clause. These two clauses undergo a process of relativity and merge to form a new clause, then the clauses that have undergone the process will experience the deletion of the nouns in their relative clauses.

The data (5) above is a type of passive relative clause that has a form of passive relative clause and indirectly describes the subject of the main clause. Then, the data (5) has shown that its anticipated function occupies the function as a subject. However, the fact is the data (5) has undergone a process of relativity, ie the function of the ONLINE ISSN 2928-3936 UNP JOURNALS

object. Therefore, in Indonesian that can relay the process of relativizationonly the word occupies the function as the subject. The word so that it can occupy the object can be restored, ie through active-passive process. Therelativization process of subject that occurs in the data object function (5) is shown as chart below.



Figure 5. Relativization Process of Subjects Occurred in Functions of Indonesian Objects Function

After going through passive-active processes such as the chart above, it is obvious that data (5) has undergone a relativization process using a obliteration strategy that serves to deletion the nouns in relative clauses.

In addition, the form of passage can also be seen in the following data.

# Mungkin membuat papan yang ditulis "Dilarang membuang sampah di sini!" (Maybe make a board written "Forbidden to throw garbage here!" (06/ Liz/ TD/ 13 Maret 2017)

The data (6) is a sentence that relativizes the object that has been subjected to passage. Then, the data (6) above has a relative clause construction, i.e. *papan yang ditulis "Dilarang membuang sampah di sini."* (a board which is written "Forbidden to dump garbage here.") The head nouns on the data (6) is board. Then, its relative clause is *ditulis "Dilarang membuang sampah di sini!"* (written "Forbidden to dump garbage here.") And its relativization word is 'yang". *Papan* (The board) is the subject of a passive clause written "Forbidden to dump garbage here.") The active form of the clause is X writes "Do not waste trash here!". The prefix *me*- on writing is a tool to change the nominal board which is not the subject of an object.

The data (6) above is a type of passive relative clause that has a form of passive relative clause and does not directly explain the subject of the main clause. Then, data (6) has shown that its antecedent function occupies a function as a subject. However, the fact is the data (6) has undergone a process of relativization, i.e. the function of the object. Therefore, in Indonesian that can relay the process of relativization only the word occupies the function as the subject. The word so that it can occupy an object be restored, i.e. through an active-passive process. The process of relativization the subject that occurs in the data object function (6) chart below explains.

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## Figure 6. Relativization Process of the Subjects Occurred in Indonesian Object Functions

This research is about grammatical and relativization function in Indonesian. The result of the research shows that the existence of relativization process through the obliteration strategy in Indonesian relative clauses can apply to the subject and object function. The process of relativization the subject that occurs in the function of the object is formed due to the passage process so that it can be described through the process of relativization with the strategy obliteration. In accordance with the results of the study it is discovered that the process of relativization that occurs in Indonesian can only relativize the subject. In line with Kroeger's opinion (1993) is the most easily accessible subject with relativization when compared to other noun that occupies the functions below as objects.

The relative structure of Indonesia clauses found in this study is in line with the construction of the relative clauses of Indonesian i.e. the relative word 'yang'. It is as in Indira's (2010) study that Indonesia actually has a simple relative clause pattern, namely the relativization word which is different from the relative clause pattern in the Dutch language, which is the appearance of a question such as, which one, where, with whom .

As the development of linguistics, a process of relativization in Indonesian is not only a subject but also an object or description that has undergone a change so it shifts into subject and undergoes a process of relativization. Essays written by foreign students as research data indicate that non-Indonesian students from Asian scope still pay attention to the construction of relative clauses. It is seen in the data that can be analyzed for its relativization process. In contrast to the findings of Kilic (2015) found that students at the University of Turkey when writing essays paid more attention to the use of noun phrases. They do not pay much attention to relative clauses, especially the relativization.

The results of this study also show complex structure clauses. Each clause has a grammatical function of a subject or object. Jufrizal (2016) research concluded that typology study about grammatical construction in Minangkabau language need grammatical, semantics, and pragmatics consideration. The aforementioned consideration is equal to the valid result of the research. Relative clause of Indonesian also requires semantics and pragmatigs elements. Through the change technique

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semantics and pragmatics role is required to form a precise relative clause construction so rgar relativization process is accepted.

Thus, some relevant research on relative clauses can be comparable to the results of this study. The grammatical function and relativity of the relative clauses of Indonesian language differ from the relative clauses of other language clauses such as Dutch, German, Turkish or others languages.

### Conclusion

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded, first, the process of relativization that occurs in the Indonesian language can only relativize the function of the subject. In this process, there will be no change in the structure of the sentence because the main requirement of relativization is fulfilled. However, along with the development of linguistic science then the process of relativization not only occurs in the original subject but also the object. relativization on an object will be accepted when it is transformed through an active-passive or passive process.

Secondly, the obliteration strategy on relativization of Indonesia's relative clauses is a strategy used to delete nouns that are relativized in its relative clauses. Nominal deletion through the obliteration strategy is done so that the sentence through which the relativization has only one subject where previously has two common nouns. The aim of the obliteration strategy is to show the modified noun that is experiencing relative clauses.

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