# What is the role of (su)dah? Insights from Jakarta Indonesian

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- Jakarta Indonesian (JI) has several preverbal, periphrastic markers that encode temporal and/or aspectual information.
- The focal point of this talk is one such marker (u)dah which occurs frequently in colloquial speech.
  - (1) Pok Ati udah lama tinggal di sini? [BTJ-20070513.001] older.sister PN UDAH long.time stay LOC here '(Ati) Have you been living here for a long time?'

 What is interesting about this particular marker is that it can occur in multiple different linear positions in an utterance.

(2) Bapak.. bapak.. udah meninggal semua. [BTJ-040808.0033] father father UDAH pass.away all 'All of my husbands have passed away.'

- (3) Sayang ya masuk-nya udah dulu-dulu. [BTJ-20040706.207] compassion yes go.in-NYA UDAH before-RED 'It's too bad that we went to the faculty years ago.'
- (4) Ya. abis Lebaran aja udah. gitu [BTJ-040808.1236] finished like.that ves FILL PΝ just UDAH 'Yeah, it was done after the Lebaran feast.'

- Of the three examples given in (2-4), discussion and analyses of (u)dah's function has been limited to the distribution seen in (2). Even then, there lacks a current consensus.
- In previous work, it has been variously glossed as:
  - already (Sneddon 2003, 2006; Wouk 1999);
  - the perfect aspect (Connors, Bowden, & Gil 2013; Cole et al 2006);
  - the perfective aspect (Hidajat 2011);
  - the perfect aspect but described as already in the text (Tjung 2006);
  - an iamitive (Olsson 2013, Dahl & Wälchli 2016; Dahl 2022).

- In this talk, I hope to offer a clearer picture of (u)dah's role by examining its function relative to its position in the utterance. Is (u)dah polyfunctional, like iamitives in other languages?
  - How is this potential polyfunctionality reflected in the syntax?
  - What are these varied functions?
- I discuss three different surface positions which I refer to as preverbal, postverbal / sentence-medial, and sentence-final – utilizing both conversational data as well as some syntactic diagnostics to explore this.

- I utilize two different sources of data in this talk:
  - the Jakarta Field Station Corpus of conversational Jakarta Indonesian (found at <a href="https://jakarta.shh.mpg.de/">https://jakarta.shh.mpg.de/</a>) (Gil and Tadmor 2015)
  - elicitation with native speakers<sup>1</sup>
- A few comments on the glossing conventions used in this talk:
  - Context or speaker comments are often important, so I include this when relevant
  - I provide the reference ID from the written transcription (for corpus work) and of the speaker and date (for elicitation data)
  - I utilize glosses used in the corpus transcription (except for (u)dah)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Many, many thanks to my speakers Yoel Prokhorus and Memmy Yamin. Any mistakes in interpretation are my own.

## Roadmap

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Some known basics of *(u)dah* 
  - Its distribution
  - As an iamitive (Olsson 2013)
- 3. The function of preverbal *(u)dah* 
  - Extending Olsson's analysis
  - A summary
- 4. Polyfunctionality of (u)dah
  - u(dah) > NEG =/= NEG > (u)dah
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  - A restriction of postverbal u(dah)
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  - A summary
- 5. Concluding thoughts

• JI (u)dah occurs most frequently in a preverbal position, where it either occurs adjacent to the verb (in active or the di-passive), in (9-10), or preceding the agent (in the so-called 'object voice', or bare passive (Chung 1976)), as in (11).

```
(9) Eh udah dilepasin kok. [BTJ-20041101.0135]
EXCL UDAH DI-come.off-IN KOK
'He was released, you know.'
```

- (10) Dia kalo dah jalan-jalan tuh di rumah sodara-nya. [BTJ-20061210.023]
  3SG TOP UDAH walk-RED that LOC house sibling-NYA
  'You know, when she walks around in her relative's house...'
- (11) Dina Dagul dah gue umpet-in. [BTJ-20041101.0657]
  PN PN UDAH 1SG hide-IN
  'Dina, I've hidden Dagul.'

JI (u)dah can co-occur with other preverbal auxiliary or modal-like markers, such as bisa 'can', and negation.

```
(12) Udah nggak ngerokok lu? [BTJ-080807.0741]

UDAH NEG N-cigarette 2

'You don't smoke anymore?'
```

```
(13) Sampe kira-kira udah bisa ditinggal ya? [BTJ-20070513.712] arrive reckon-RED UDAH can DI-leave yes 'Until it can be left, right?' (until the mother of the baby is fit enough to take care of the child by herself)
```

Note that (u)dah can only precede these markers, not follow them:

```
(14) Udah nggak (*udah) ujan.

UDAH NEG UDAH rain

'It's not raining anymore.'
```

(15) Bokap gue **udah** bisa (\*udah) pergi ke Kalimantan. [YP-050323] father 1SG UDAH can UDAH go LOC PN 'My father was able to go to Kalimantan (and he wasn't able to before).'

- The only work to posit a semantic analysis for (u)dah specifically in JI is Olsson (2013).
- In a 2013 survey study, Olsson posits that (u)dah in JI is an iamitive, which he defines a
  marker that combines features of already and the English perfect.

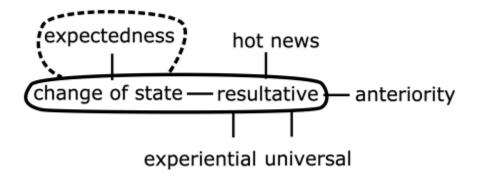


Figure 1. Semantic map of Olsson's proposed iamitive meaning (Krajinović et al 2023)

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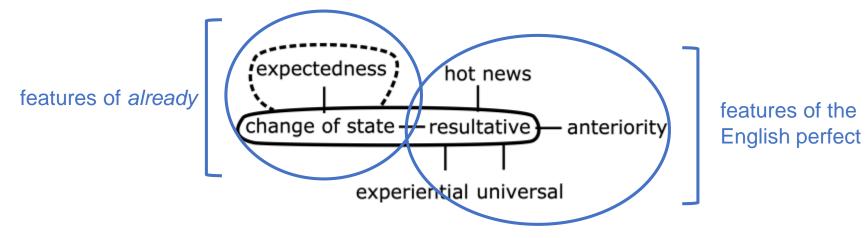


Figure 1. Semantic map of Olsson's proposed iamitive meaning (Krajinović et al 2023)

Olsson's analysis is predominantly based on two features of (u)dah. First, (u)dah
contributes a change-of-state meaning when combined with stative predicates, and the
result state of the event holds at the time of the utterance.

Context: Speaker is telling a story about a woman who went crazy after a curse was put on her. Her son comes home to find the housemaid who says...

```
(16) 'Wah, mak lu dah gilak.' [BTJ-181008.0920]

EXCL mother 2 UDAH crazy

'Oh dear, your mom has become crazy.'
```

```
(17) Temen dia udah gendut.

friend 3sg udah fat

'Her friend is fat.'

(speaker comment: she wasn't fat before but now she is)
```

[MY-011723]

• Second, there is a implicature of 'expectedness' when using preverbal (u)dah. The following example in (18) is infelicitous as it would require the speaker to expect that they would lose their wallet.

```
(18) Dompet gue (*udah) ilang. Lu bisa bantu cariin nggak? [YP-051023] wallet 1sG UDAH lose 2 can help look.for-IN NEG
'I lost my wallet! Can you help me look for it?'
(speaker comment: if you use 'udah' here, it means you expected to lose your wallet)
```

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- Olsson (2013) uses these facts to identify preverbal (u)dah as an iamitive. However, work developed later by Vander Klok and Matthewson (2015) introduced some additional diagnostics (originally developed for Javanese wis, which is often connected to (u)dah).
- I discuss two of these to eliminate the perfective aspect as a potential analysis for (u)dah: compatibility with a habitual interpretation, and the unmarked preferentially interpreted as non-past.

 Markers of the perfective aspect should be incompatible with any imperfective readings (Comrie 1976), including a habitual interpretation. Preverbal (u)dah in JI can co-occur with the habitual adverbs kebiasaan and biasanya 'usually'. This is unexpected if (u)dah were a perfective marker.

```
(19) Udah
             ke-biasa-an
                              kerja.
                                                                           [BTJ-040808.3093]
             KE-usual-AN
     UDAH
                              work
     'She's just used to working.'
     (intending to say that working has become her habit)
                                                                            [MY-011723]
     Gue
             biasa-nya
                         udah
(20)
                                             rumah
                                                        jam
                                 sampe
                                                                empat.
```

house

four

hour

'I usually arrive home at 4.'

usual-NYA

UDAH

arrive

1sg

• Further, if (u)dah marked the perfective, we might expect that predicates without (u)dah would preferentially be interpreted as non-past reference time. This is not true of JI, where (u)dah is not a prerequisite for a past time interpretation.

```
(21) Bikin jaket-nya Teh. [BTJ-070109.1830]

make jacket-NYA older.sister

'I made the coat.'

(referring to when she worked in the garment industry)
```

• Similarly to other languages of Indonesia, sentences like (22), when there are no overt temporal or aspectual adverbs, can be interpreted as past, present, or future tense dependent upon the context.

- In both the features outlined by Olsson (2013) and the diagnostics laid out by Vander Klok and Matthewson (2015), JI (u)dah patterns like Javanese wis.
- Additionally, Nomoto & Mohd. Farez Syinon (2019) utilized VK&M's diagnostics with preverbal sudah/dah in Standard Malay, and found the same.

## Summary of preverbal (u)dah

- VK&M analyze wis as having the semantics of English already following Krifka (2000) (a focus operator that presupposes that the focus is a maximal element among a set of ordered alternatives). N&MFS posit this analysis for SM sudah/dah as well.
- I propose that JI (u)dah in its preverbal position additionally follows this analysis.

# Summary of preverbal (u)dah

| Preverbal <i>(u)dah</i>         | Postverbal <i>(u)dah</i> | Sentence-final <i>(u)dah</i> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| semantics of already / iamitive |                          |                              |
| > neg<br>> modals               |                          |                              |

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## Polyfunctionality of (u)dah

- At this point, I have summarized:
  - the function of preverbal (u)dah, largely based upon previous work;
  - some syntactic constraints on (u)dah, based on its interaction with other preverbal markers.

## Polyfunctionality of (u)dah

- The question now is whether or not these facts hold for *(u)dah* when it occurs in other positions: namely, when it occurs either postverbally or sentence-finally.
- I argue that (u)dah does show polyfunctionality, with its function dependent upon its position. I demonstrate this through:
  - Interaction with negation;
  - Co-occurrence restrictions with downward-entailing quantifiers;
  - Certain functionality only being available for preverbal (u)dah;
  - Restrictive discourse functionality of sentence-final (u)dah.

• I first turn to (u)dah's behavior when it co-occurs with negation. I noted earlier that preverbal (u)dah must precede negation, not follow it:

```
(22) Udah nggak (*udah) ujan.

UDAH NEG UDAH rain

'It's not raining anymore.'
```

• It is possible for *(u)dah* to follow negation, however, when it occurs postverbally. Note that the negator still occurs preverbally in both of these examples.

```
(23) A: Nah yang pas Dagul ini terakhir. [BTJ-20041101.0639]

NAH REL precise PN this TER-end

'And Dagul was the last person.'
```

```
B: Nggak ketemu udah.

NEG KE-meet UDAH

'We don't meet him.'
```

 It is possible for (u)dah to follow negation, however, when it occurs postverbally. Note that the negator still occurs preverbally in both of these examples.

```
(24) A: Nggak, saya ga kaya gitu.

NEG 1SG NEG like like.that

'I am not like that.'

(telling that he's not a kind of person who likes to make a fixed price for the customer.)
```

```
A: Kecuali orang-orang, saya gak tau dah. except person-RED 1SG NEG know UDAH 'I don't care if other people do so.'
```

• If (u)dah occupied the same syntactic position both preverbally and postverbally, we would expect that they would be semantically equivalent, i.e. in both cases, (u)dah would scope over negation, like seen in below.

```
(25) Udah nggak ngerokok lu? [BTJ-080807.0741]
UDAH NEG N-cigarette 2
'You don't smoke anymore?'
(26) Udah nggak makek se-ragam dia? [BTJ-080807.1184]
UDAH NEG N-use SE-manner 3
```

• The previous examples, with *(u)dah* postverbally, do not have the interpretation of 'no longer' or 'anymore' as (25-26) above do. This suggests they occupy different syntactic positions – and negation scopes above postverbal *(u)dah*.

'He doesn't wear a uniform anymore.'

- I now turn to (u)dah's behavior when it co-occurs with both downward-entailing and non-downward entailing quantifiers.
- This is relevant to the question at hand -
  - Soh & Gao (2008) show that the English already may not appear in a sentence with a downward-entailing quantifier. If JI (u)dah is to be analyzed as already, it therefore should not be able to co-occur with a downward-entailing quantifier.
  - Soh (to appear) demonstrates how CM dah can only co-occur with downward-entailing quantifiers in its preverbal position, not its postverbal or sentence-final position.

When (u)dah occurs in its preverbal position in JI, it can co-occur with both downward-entailing quantifiers and non-downward-entailing quantifiers. This is shown below with the DE quantifier kurang dari 'less than' in (23) and the non-DE quantifier lebih dari 'more than' in (24).

```
(27) Mereka udah sampe kurang dari tiga jam yang lalu.

3PL UDAH arrive less than three hour C ago

'They arrived less than three hours ago.'
```

```
(28) Mereka udah sampe lebih dari tiga jam yang lalu. [YP-050323]

3PL UDAH arrive more than three hour C ago

'They arrived more than three hours ago.'
```

This is in contrast with the postverbal (u)dah, which can only occur with non-downward-entailing quantifiers. This follows CM dah (Soh to appear).

```
(29) *Mereka sampe udah kurang dari tiga jam yang lalu. [YP-050323]

3PL arrive UDAH less than three hour C ago

'They arrived less than three hours ago.'
```

```
(30) Mereka sampe udah lebih dari tiga jam yang lalu. [YP-050323]

3PL arrive UDAH more than three hour C ago

'They arrived more than three hours ago.'
```

Sentence-final (u)dah, however, is deemed unacceptable with both types of quantifiers.

```
(31) *Mereka sampe kurang dari tiga jam yang lalu udah. [YP-050323]

3PL arrive less than three hour C ago UDAH

'They arrived less than three hours ago.'
```

```
(32) *Mereka sampe lebih dari tiga jam yang lalu udah. [YP-050323]

3PL arrive more than three hour C ago UDAH

'They arrived more than three hours ago.'
```

- This pattern can be seen below with the DE quantifier aja 'only' as well.
- For Colloquial Malay, Soh (2011, to appear) notes that postverbal dah is felicitous with DE quantifiers if there is a prosodic break. This is not true of JI, however; (29) is not possible with or without a prosodic break.
  - (33) \*Dia minum dah // dua pil aja.3 drink UDAH two pill just'She's already taken two of those pills.'
  - (34) \*Dia minum dua pil aja dah.

    3 drink two pill just UDAH

    'She's already taken two of those pills.'

[MY-122822]

[MY-122822]

 These facts look similar to the French déjà, which can occur postverbally to act as a focus particle (Mosegaard Hansen & Strudsholm 2008):

```
(35) Je l'attends [déjà depuis deux heures]. (Mosegaard Hansen & Strudsholm 2008: 22)

1 3-wait DEJA since two hour

'I've been waiting for him/her for two hours already.'
```

 These facts look similar to the French déjà, which can occur postverbally to act as a focus particle (Mosegaard Hansen & Strudsholm 2008):

```
(35) Je l'attends [déjà depuis deux heures]. (Mosegaard Hansen & Strudsholm 2008: 22)

1 3-wait DEJA since two hour

'I've been waiting for him/her for two hours already.'
```

```
(36) Mereka sampe [udah lebih dari tiga jam yang lalu].

3PL arrive UDAH more than three hour C ago

'They arrived more than three hours ago.'
```

But contra French, JI (u)dah is restricted in its distribution: its only possible with (u)dah preceding the temporal adverbial, not after.

```
(37) *Mereka sampe lebih dari tiga jam yang lalu udah. [YP-050323]

3PL arrive more than three hour C ago UDAH

'They arrived more than three hours ago.'
```

- Both the negation and downward-entailing quantifier facts suggests that preverbal and postverbal (u)dah occupy multiple different positions in the syntax.
- JI postverbal (u)dah differs from Javanese wis Vander Klok & Matthewson argue that wis, on the basis of negation, scopes over negation even when it occurs in a sentencefinal position.
- Both preverbal and postverbal JI (u)dah function similarly to CM in regards to downward-entailing quantifiers as described by Soh (to appear).

| Preverbal (u)dah                          | Postverbal <i>(u)dah</i>                   | Sentence-final <i>(u)dah</i>                |
|---|--|---|
| semantics of already / iamitive           |  |   |
| > NEG<br>> modals                         | NEG >                                      |   |
| downward-entailing non-downward-entailing | *downward-entailing non-downward-entailing | *downward-entailing *non-downward-entailing |

- This further suggests that (u)dah's function can vary dependent upon its position, and that it can potentially modify more than just the verb or predicate.
- Now, I present some data that show that postverbal (u)dah is more restricted in its interpretation than preverbal (u)dah.

## A restriction of postverbal (u)dah

One function of preverbal (u)dah is that it can be used to refute a wrong assumption.

Context: Someone accuses you of napping all afternoon.

[YP-051023]

```
(38) Gue *(udah) baca tiga buku kok!

1SG UDAH read three book KOK

'I have read three books!'

(speaker comment: you need to use 'udah' if you want to refute them)
```

## A restriction of postverbal (u)dah

• Postverbal (u)dah in this same context, however, cannot be used to correct a wrong assumption. Instead, it is used in the context of tracking some progress, as in (40).

Context: Someone accuses you of napping all afternoon.

[YP-051023]

```
(39) #Gue baca udah tiga buku.1SG read UDAH three book'I have read three books'!
    (speaker comment: this doesn't work if you want to refute)
```

Context: Someone asks you how the reading is going for your thesis.

```
(40) Gue (udah) baca (udah) tiga buku.

1SG UDAH read UDAH three book
'I've read three books (so far).'
```

- One of these functions associated with (u)dah refuting an incorrect assumption is only available if (u)dah occurs in the preverbal position.
- This does not hold for all functions, however, as both the preverbal and postverbal (u)dah can be used to track progress, as in (40). The interpretation in this example does not vary dependent upon position.
- This could suggest that postverbal (u)dah has a subset of functions of preverbal (u)dah

   but this is a very preliminary analysis.

| Preverbal <i>(u)dah</i>                   | Postverbal <i>(u)dah</i>                   | Sentence-final <i>(u)dah</i>                |
|---|--|---|
| semantics of already / iamitive           | a subset of functions of already           |   |
| > NEG<br>> modals                         | NEG >                                      |   |
| downward-entailing non-downward-entailing | *downward-entailing non-downward-entailing | *downward-entailing *non-downward-entailing |

- I have largely avoided the sentence-final (u)dah up until this point.
- There is a reason for this one interesting feature of sentence-final (u)dah is that is seems to be quite limited to conversations. Attempts to elicit (u)dah in this position were nearly always deemed unacceptable, regardless of context.

- In conversations, it occurs frequently. This seems to suggest that sentence-final (u)dah is discourse-dependent.
- I now turn to a preliminary discussion of the usage of this (u)dah and its function in discourse.

• One instance where *(u)dah* was accepted in elicitation was the following. Importantly, however, it had to be accompanied by rising intonation. Note that there is no difference in interpretation between (41) and (42).

- (41) Dia udah tau rincana ini.

  1SG UDAH know plan this
  'S/he already knows the plan.'
- (42) Dia tau rincana ini udah.1sg know plan this this'S/he already knows the plan.'

[YP-050323]

 I argue that sentence-final (u)dah has at least one discourse function: to reiterate, or emphasize, what is being said. Consider the following conversation:

(43) Ya, ya diem-diem aja begini. yes yes reside-RED just like.this 'Well, I just stay at home doing nothing.'

Kerja apa aja dah. work what just UDAH 'Just do anything I can do.'

Iya, iya ngapain aja dah.
yes yes N-what-IN just UDAH
'Yeah, yeah...I just do anything I can do.'

Bebenah-benah aja dah.

BE-clear.away-RED just UDAH

'I just put things in order.'

La trus Nenek sehari-hari ngapain di rumah? What do you do everyday at home?

Ngapain gitu.

I think maybe you have something to do.

[BTJ-040808.0055]

- In this conversation, (u)dah occurs in the sentence-final position and has significant emphasis and rising intonation in the two utterances indicated.
- In each instance, it co-occurs with aja 'just', which occurs without (u)dah in the first utterance, and reiterates the main idea that the speaker doesn't really do anything at home.

 There is more evidence of sentence-final (u)dah used when reiterating or confirming previously mentioned information.

(44) A: Yang merah malah udah dijual. REL red even UDAH DI-sell 'The red [car] was already sold.' Yang merah jual. red sell RFL 'You sold the red one.' Merah jual udah. sell UDAH red 'I sold the red one.'

[BTJ-080807.0610]

Sentence-final (u)dah can additionally be used in commands.

'Just take this one.'

```
(45) Beres-beres aja udah. [MY-122822]
clean-RED just UDAH
'Just clean it up.'
(46) Ini aja dah. [BTJ-040808.0168]
this just UDAH
```

• It has been noted for some Papuan languages that relevant iamitives can be used to soften commands. It's not clear if this is possible for *(u)dah*, perhaps somewhat in part to its co-occurrence with *aja* in both (45-46).

In fact, sentence-final (u)dah co-occurs frequently with aja.

```
(47) Kerja apa aja dah.

work what just UDAH

'Just do anything that I can do.'
```

- (48) Udah, saya makan aja udah.

  UDAH 1 eat just UDAH

  'Then I just ate it.'
- (49) Nerimakin aja udah.

  N-receive-IN just UDAH

  'I just accept it.'

  (referring to accepting her destiny)

[BTJ-040808.0127]

[BTJ-010607.778]

[BTJ-040808.2721]

- I have outlined a few features of sentence-final (u)dah here but this discussion has been largely preliminary and speculative.
- More fine-grained discourse analysis needs to be done to determine what other potential features (u)dah can have when occurring sentence-finally.

# One final summary

| Preverbal (u)dah                          | Postverbal <i>(u)dah</i>                   | Sentence-final <i>(u)dah</i>                  |
|---|--|---|
| semantics of already / iamitive           | a subset of functions of already           | discourse particle reiteration / emphasis     |
| > NEG<br>> modals                         | NEG >                                      |   |
| downward-entailing non-downward-entailing | *downward-entailing non-downward-entailing | *downward-entailing *non-downward-entailing   |
|   |  | often accompanied by: rising intonation / aja |

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## Concluding thoughts

- There is still a significant amount to be done here. This work is really only a starting point to determining out the function and analysis of postverbal and sentence-final (u)dah.
- What I have determined is that one analysis of (u)dah as having the semantics of already
  is not enough to explain the polyfunctionality of this marker in JI.
- This work continues in a line of investigating these preverbal markers in languages of Indonesia.

#### sudah in Indonesia

 JI (u)dah is a cognate of sudah in Standard Indonesian, and further cognates of it exist in multiple varieties of Indonesian and Malay, as well as other Malayic languages spoken in Indonesia.

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(37) Aku dah sampai kat KLCC. Colloquial Malay
1sg DAH arrive at PN
'I have arrived at the KLCC.' (Soh 2011: 1)

(38) Lia, anto su makang. Ambonese Malay
look 3sG TMA eat
'Look, he's already eating.' (van Minde & Tjia 2002: 297)
```

#### sudah in Indonesia

 JI (u)dah is a cognate of sudah in Standard Indonesian, and further cognates of it exist in multiple varieties of Indonesian and Malay, as well as other Malayic languages spoken in Indonesia.

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Riau Indonesian
(39) Sudah
             diangkat
                         barang
                                   sama
                                                 orang.
             already
                        thing
     PFCT
                                   accompany
                                                 person
     'The things may have already been taken by someone.'
                                                           (Gil 2002: 249)
(40) Inya
            udah
                                   semare'.
                    mali
                           baju
```

```
3sg already buy shirt yesterday
'I bought a shirt yesterday.' (Sommerlot 2020: 93)
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Suak Mansi Desa

#### sudah in Indonesia

- There has been some discussion of the role and function of this marker in related languages in which some cognate exists:
  - Standard Indonesian (Kaswanti Purwo 1984; Alieva et al 1991; Grangé 2010; Olsson 2013)
  - Standard Malay (Nomoto & Mohd. Farez Syinon 2019)
  - Colloquial Malay (Koh 1990; Soh 2011, to appear)
  - Betawi Malay (Samaniri 2001)
  - Ambonese Malay (van Minde & Tjia 2002)
  - Javanese [wis] (Vander Klok & Matthewson 2015)

## Concluding thoughts

- I've noted throughout this presentation that some of these findings are compatible with what has been discussed for some of these languages: namely, Javanese (Vander Klok & Matthewson 2015), Standard Malay (Nomoto & Mohd. Farez Syinon 2019), and Colloquial Malay (Soh 2011, to appear).
- However, there does seem to exist some variation among these findings
  - Javanese notably has a preverbal and sentence-final *wis* but VK&M argue that it functions the same in either position (contra CM and JI).
  - CM postverbal *dah* and sentence-final *dah* occupy the same syntactic position; it is unclear if this is the case in JI, given that sentence-final *(u)dah* is very discourse-dependent.
- Looking at related languages with similar markers allows us to elucidate variation among languages, building towards a more complete analysis of these markers in general.

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