

Particles Ka(h) of Indonesian and Japanese: Cross Linguistic Study

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Abstract

Some languages in the world have particles with their respective functions. One of them is Ka(h) particle which is used both in Indonesian and Japanese. Both are equally used as markers of the question sentence. In Indonesian the ka(h) particle is pronounced "Kah" while in Japanese it is pronounced "Ka." The purpose of this study is to identify what are the similarities and differences in the use of Ka(h) particles in Indonesian and Japanese. The data is taken by a literature study in Indonesian linguistics and Japanese linguistics. These similarities and differences will be studied through aspects of characteristics, function, location, and intonation. Both particles are enclitic and arbitrary, but only Kah particle has a free distribution characteristic. On the function of point of view, both particles are question marker, but only The Ka particle functioned as a choice marker and indefinite pronoun. The results of this study indicate that in Indonesian the use of Kah particles is always pronounced with rising intonation, whereas in Japanese the "ka" particle can be pronounced with rising or falling intonation. Also both particles can be located in the middle and at the end of the sentence.

Keywords: *function; intonation; marker; question; particle.*

1. Introduction

Both Indonesian and Japanese are located in Asia. They also have a historical relationship when Japan colonized Indonesia for 3,5 years. But it doesn't mean that both countries share the same language perception. But uniquely, both countries have a similar marker of question marker, they are Kah in Indonesian and Ka in Japanese. Besides, the different pronunciation between "Ka" and "Kah" in both languages is a derivation. "Ka" is pronounced the same as the phoneme [k] in Indonesian.

While "Kah" is pronounced [k]+[h]. Also, the phoneme belongs to the velar sound which then due to distribution, causes an aspiration process so that air comes out of the throat. Based on the description above, the Ka(h) particle needs to be studied in cross-linguistic studies so that it can be formulated more about its differences and its similarities between the two. Cross-linguistic research has been conducted before, one of them is by Sari (2011) who discusses the use of particles Ya in Indonesian and English. Results

indicated that the comparison of naturally occurring conversation data yields a distinction in the particle pair functions as a reception particle and common ground extending particle.

A cross-linguistics dimension of the particle pair is offered. Strategies in solidarity politeness are discussed. Also, in 2018 Machmud researched the cross-linguistic influence of Arabic in English. The results of his research are intralingual and interlingual errors by the learner in written assignments and translations. In contrast to the two studies above, this research focuses on cross-language usage of Indonesian and Japanese of Ka (h) particles.

The purpose of this study is to identify the similarities and differences in the use of Ka(h) particles in Indonesian and in Japanese, in terms of intonation and meaning. The author assumes that there must be any different and similar parts of Ka(h) particles, due to both languages are Asian languages and are functioned as particles. There are also possibilities that

both particles don't share the same function.

2. Methods

This research uses descriptive method through a qualitative approach. To conduct this research, 3 stages were carried out, namely the data collection stage, the data analysis stage, and the results presentation stage. The method used to collect data is the library method. The library method is a research method that aims to collect data and information with the help of various materials contained in the library room, such as books, magazines, documents, notes, and historical stories and others (Mardalis, 1999: 28). The technique used is the documentation technique, which is data collection techniques through text reading, assessment, and recording of all literature related to this research.

To collect data, the authors documented several written sources and examined the use of Ka(h) particles. Written sources that reviewed journal articles and linguistic books. The next stage is the analysis phase. Data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive methods. Using the collected data, the writer will describe the cross-linguistic relationship of Ka(h) particles in Indonesian and Japanese.

This study will be presented in the form of a cross linguistics study description. Through the above process, it is hoped that the purpose of this research can be achieved. To simplify the understanding of the conclusion, the writer will also add a table, after a descriptive conclusion. This article will give some short reviews on how the Ka(h) particles are used in Indonesian and Japanese.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Characteristics and Function of Kah Particle

In Indonesian, particle Kah belongs to question particles (Kridalaksana, 2008:

174). The particle itself has the characteristics of enclitic, arbitrary, and free distribution. Enclitic means that particles cannot stand alone. It is always attached to the word that precedes it. For example, the word "Bagaimanakah" consists of "Bagaimana" and the question marker particle "Kah." The word "Bagaimana" can stand alone and has meaning, whereas "Kah" Particle cannot stand alone and does not have meaning. Thus, it can be understood that the particle only has grammatical meaning, and it always sticks to words that have lexical meaning.

On the other hand, the particle is arbitrary. The presence of particles is arbitrary because it depends on whether the speaker will use it or not. In other words, there are no standard rules about its use. If it is used, it will give a formal and subtle nuance, and also emphasizes the word attached. Also, the particles have a free distribution characteristic, as in the example below:

- (1) Sudah*kah* kamu sadari
kesalahanmu?
'Have you realized your mistake?'
- (1a) Sudah kamu sadari*kah*
kesalahanmu?
'Have you realized your mistake?'

Based on the prevalence of its use, the Kah particles in the example above can be attached to the word "Sudah" and "Sadari." This proves that the particle has free distribution in Indonesian by not forgetting its prevalence. But interestingly, in sentences contains question words, Kah particles can only be attached to the word. It cannot be attached to other words. It indicates that the nature of the free distribution of Kah particles is not found in this case. Also, based on Indonesian grammar which states that the question word always lies in front of the sentence, of course, the Kah particle will always lie at the beginning of the sentence, attached

to the question word. The following are some examples:

- (2) Apakah kamu sakit?
'Are you sick?'
- (2a)? Apa kamukah sakit?
'Are you sick?'
- (2b) ? Apa kamu sakitkah?
'Are you sick?'

Based on the sentences above it can be understood that sentence (2) is a natural sentence. Sentence (2) has fulfilled Kah's particle rules, while sentences (2a) and (2b) do not, so both sentences are not natural in their use. Also, based on the types of questions in Indonesian, Kah particles often appear in total question sentences, partial question sentences, and rhetorical question sentences. The total question sentence is a sentence that only requires a yes or no answer. An example of a total question sentence is in the following sentence:

- (3) Apa Agung Pergi?
'did Agung leave?'

The question sentence above can be answered with:

- (4) Iya
'yes.'
- (4a) Iya, Agung pergi
'yes, he left.'
- (4b) Tidak.
'No.'
- (4c) Tidak, Agung tidak pergi.
'No, Agung did not leave.'

While the partial question sentence is a question sentence that requires information from the part of the question. The characteristic of a partial question sentence is to use a question word or question word that is added with Kah particle, except for the question word "why" because it is not natural if the Kah particle is pinned. Sentence (5) is an example of a partial question sentence.

- (5) Siapakah Nama anak itu?
'What's the child's name?'

Also, the use of Kah particles in a rhetorical question sentence in Indonesian is not absolute. This is consistent with the nature of particles in the Indonesian language, namely arbitrators. For example:

- (6) Apakah kamu rugi lagi?
'Do you want to suffer from loss again?'
- (6a) Apa kamu mau rugi lagi?
'Do you want to suffer from loss again?'

The last function of Kah Particle is as a choice marker. Below is the example:

- (7) Besok datang atau tidakkah, aku belum tahu
'I don't know if I come or not tomorrow.'

Based on the example above, we understand that Kah particle is used as a choice marker. The speaker in the sentence (7) confuses to decide whether she will come or not tomorrow, so she uses Kah particles as a choice marker to state it. The choice that is shown above is between two choices, namely, come or not come. Based on the description above, we may conclude that there are some characteristics and functions of Kah particle in Indonesia. The characteristics of Kah particles in Indonesia are enclitic, arbitrary, and free distribution. While on the other hand, the usages are as a question marker and as a choice marker.

3.2 Characteristics and Function of Ka Particle

On the other hand, the Ka particle in Japanese has several functions, namely as a marker of question sentences, as an indefinite pronoun, and as a choice marker. In a question sentence Ka particles can be used as in the example below:

- (8) お元気ですか
Ogenki desuka?
'How Are You?'

Also, the Ka particle has a function as a marker of solicitation sentences in the form of question sentences. As in the example sentence below:

- (9) 食事に行きませんか?
Shokuji ni ikimasenka
 ‘Would you like to go out for a meal?’
- (10) 食事に行こうか
Shokuji ni ikouka
 ‘Let’s go for a meal’

Although the two sentences above use the same Ka particles, there are different nuances in the two sentences. In sentence (9) the speaker seems to offer the listener to have a meal together, so the listener has the opportunity to accept or reject. Whereas in the sentence (10) has a nuance to force the listener to do what the speaker wants the listener to do, without allowing the listener to accept or reject. Therefore, it can also be understood that sentence (9) is a formal solicitation sentence, and sentence (10) is an informal solicitation sentence.

Also, Ka particles function as a marker of the rhetorical question sentence. In Japanese, the rhetorical question sentence is called *hango* (反語). Rhetorical questions are questions that do not require answers. In this case, the context greatly influences the answer generated by the question. In general, the answers to these questions are generally agreed upon. The appearance of the rhetorical question sentence serves as a confirmation in a speech event. As in the example below:

- (11) 遊んでばかりいては良い
 のだろうか
Asonde bakari ite wa oi no darouka?
 ‘Do you think it’s good if we always play around?’
- (12) いや、良くない
Iya, yokunai.
 ‘No, it’s not good.’

- (13) 遊んでばかりいては良くない
Asonde bakari ite wa yokunai
 ‘Always playing around it’s not good.’

An example of using Ka particles in a rhetorical question sentence is as in (11). If it has to be answered, then surely the question will be answered as in (12) and (13). But of course, it has become a general agreement that constantly playing is not a good thing, so the sentence (12) and (13) is a definite answer from (11) that will certainly not be spoken. However, people prefer to say a sentence (12) to (13) because it does not only contain a statement but it is considered more communicative. Based on the description above, it can be understood that as a marker of a question sentence, the Ka particle functioned as a marker for the question sentence itself, as a marker of solicitation question sentence, and as a marker of rhetorical question sentence.

In a question sentence, the Ka particle functions as *Shuujoshi* (終助詞) or the final particle. Whereas the use of Ka particles as Indefinite pronouns is as follow:

- (14) 何か食べたいです
Nanika tabetai desu.
 ‘I Want to eat something’
- (15) いつかまた、日本に來ます。
Itsuka mata, nihon ni kimasu.
 ‘I will come back to Japan someday.’

In sentence (14) and (15) the Ka particle is attached to the question words *Nani* ‘what’ and *Itsu* ‘when’, thus forming *futeidaimeshi* (不定代名詞) ‘indefinite pronouns.’ Also, an example of using Ka particles as an optional marker can be seen in the example below:

- (16) 牛乳かジュース、どちらがよ
 ろしいですか
gyuunyuu ka juusu, dochira ga yoroshii desu ka

‘Do you want some milk or juice?’

(17) そうですか
Sou desu ka.

In sentence (16) the Ka particle between *gyunyu* (牛乳) and *jusu* (ジュース) is used to give another person choice between milk and juice. So, it can be understood that Ka particle is also functioned as a choice marker.

‘Is that so?’ ↗

(17a) そうですか
Sou desu ka.

‘I see.’ ↘

3.3 Intonation of Particle Ka(h)

In Indonesian, the question sentence has the characteristic of being pronounced with rising intonation, using the question word (5W + 1H), and using question particles. Besides Kah particles, the Tah particle is also used as a question marker in Indonesian. However, the usage of the Tah particle has been very rare because in ancient times it was used only in written rhetorical questions in ancient literary works. As explained before, Kah particles are used depends on what the speaker wants to emphasize in a question sentence. Question sentences (1) and (1a) can be answered with "yes I have" or "not yet", but there are different nuances in the two sentences. In sentence (1) the speaker only asks whether the listener has realized his mistake or not, while in the sentence (1a) there is a nuance whether the listener has *truly* realized his mistake or not.

In Japanese, the Ka particle is used as a formal marker of question sentence and pronounced with rising intonation. Whereas in the informal form, the use of the Ka particle becomes *no*, *kai*, or *dai*. In special cases, the Ka particle may pronounce with falling intonation. As a final particle, Ka has different meanings when it is pronounced with rising intonation and falling intonation. When Ka particle pronounced with rising intonation, it is functioned the same as a question mark and implicitly can also mean the speaker’s doubt. On the contrary, when it is pronounced with falling intonation, it means that the speaker has just understood something new. Here is an example:

In learning Japanese, the rising intonation or falling intonation from sentence (17) and (17a) get special attention. The reason is, if there is a mistake in pronunciation, it may cause communication misunderstanding.

3.4 Ka (h) Particles in Cross Linguistics

In the linguistic dimension, cross-linguistic phenomena do occur frequently, both between language and speakers in a particular region or not. In this case, Ka(h) particles are both used by Indonesian and Japanese which are both located in Asia. Both have interrelated historical histories, but the similarity of the use of Ka(h) particles which are both used as markers of the question sentence does not necessarily mean that they have the same background in their use. For Indonesian, the use of Kah particle in daily conversation is quite limited. That is because its use seems very formal. Questions with Kah particles only appear in written language or formal spoken language. In everyday conversation, most Indonesians avoid its use because it is considered not to bring a natural impression in the conversation. Most Indonesians prefer to use rising intonation to ask questions rather than using Kah particles. In everyday conversation, most Indonesians use sentence (18) instead of (19), as in the following example:

(18) Apakah Kamu sakit? ↗
 ‘Are you feeling sick?’

(19) Apa kamu sakit? ↘
 ‘Are you feeling sick?’

Whereas in Japanese, the Ka particle tends to undergo many forms of change in daily conversation, as in the

description above, Ka particles change to *no* (の), *kai* (かい), or *dai* (だい) .

(20) 暑いですか?

Atsui desu ka
'is it hot?'

(20a) 暑いの?

Atsui no?
'is it hot?'

(20b) 暑いかい?

Atsui kai?
'is it hot?'

(20c) 暑いか?

Atsui ka?
'is it hot?'

(20d) 暑いんだい?

Atsui dai?
'is it hot?'

(20e) 暑い?

Atsui?
'is it hot?'

Each sentence above have different usages. Sentences (20) are used in the formal variety, sentences (20a) are used in the informal variety, sentences (20b) - sentences (20d) are used in the informal variety by male speakers, while in the sentence (20e) is used by male and female speakers in the informal variety. The various changes in Ka particles in Japanese show that Japanese is a language which is influenced by gender, so the terms *danseigo*

(女性語) 'female language' and *danseigo* (男性語) 'male language' appear.

Based on the description above, we may conclude that Ka(h) particles have similarities in the characteristic of enclitic and arbitrary. Also, both are functioned as question marker and can be pronounced with rising intonation and always lies in the middle or in the end of the sentence. The following is a simple chart that illustrates the linguistic cross-linking of Ka (h) particles. On the other hand, Ka particles don't share the free distribution characteristic as Kah particle. It is due to the Japanese linguistics has positioned Ka particle as a final particle, so it has to lie at the end of the sentence.

From the function point of view, Kah particle shares the same function as a choice marker with Ka Particle but doesn't share the same function as an indefinite pronoun, like in Japanese. It's because the linguistic of the Japanese and Indonesian have a different style in the usage of a choice marker and indefinite pronoun. Whereas in the intonation point of view, Kah particle can't be used in falling intonation. In Indonesian linguistics, falling intonation only used to express a full stop sentence. Description above can be simply seen in the table 1.

Table 1 Relationship of Particle Ka(h) in Cross Linguistic

Point of View		Kah Particle	Ka Particle
Characteristic	Enclitic	√	√
	Arbitrary	√	√
	Free Distribution	√	-
Function	Question Marker	√	√
	Choice Marker	√	√
	Indefinite Pronoun	-	√
Intonation		Rising	Rising, falling
Position (Middle and End)		√	√

4. Conclusion

Based on the description above, it can be understood that the cross-linguistic

phenomenon of Ka(h) particles in Indonesian and Japanese occurs from 3 sides namely character, function, and

intonation. In Indonesian linguistics, the Kah particle is functioned as a question marker, while in Japanese linguistics the Ka particle is functioned as a final particle and as a marker of indefinite pronoun. Both refer to the same thing with different terms. Ka(h) particles have similarities in the characteristic of enclitic and arbitrary. Also, both are functioned as a question marker and can be pronounced with rising intonation and always lies in the middle or at the end of the sentence. In terms of intonation, Kah particle is only pronounced with rising intonation, while Ka particles can be pronounced with rising and falling intonation with different meanings.

From a cross-linguistics study point of view, the similarities of Ka(h) particles show that there are similarities in the usage of particles in Indonesian and Japanese, especially due to both are countries that are located in Asia. But both also have differences, because both have a different style of linguistics. But still can be understood that there is some intersection (similarities) between Indonesian and Japanese. Japanese learning in Indonesia also emphasizes that the characteristic of Japanese question is similar to Indonesia, so it's easy to remember.

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