# Semantic Vector Space Model and the Usage Patterns of Indonesian Denominal Verbs with *meN-*, *meN- -kan*, and *meN- -i* Affixes

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Verbal derivation takes a central position in the description and analysis of the Indonesian language. This paper proposes an approach using a *Semantic Vector Space* (SVS) model (e.g., Erk, 2012) to explore the semantic (dis)similarity between a set of denominal verbs derived with *meN-*, *meN- -kan*, and *meN- -i* affixes. Our study investigates whether verbs, such as *melangkah* 'to step', *melangkahkan* 'to step up', and *melangkahi* 'to step over', of the same noun-root (i.e., *langkah* '(a) step') exhibit distinct or similar co-occurrence usage patterns in a corpus. We report here on which word(s) of a given derivational set pattern differently and what their co-occurrence patterns (e.g., collocations) reveal regarding this difference.

We built an SVS model with the `wordVectors` R package (Schmidt & Li, 2017) on the basis of the whole files in the *Indonesian Leipzig Corpora* (Goldhahn, Eckart, & Quasthoff, 2012). SVS represents words as points in multidimensional space, reflecting the co-occurrence patterns of each word in the corpus. Words with similar vector-space values along these dimensions are closer in semantic space (Erk, 2012). Based on this model, and by means of *MorphInd* (Larasati, Kuboň, & Zeman, 2011), we examined the denominal verbs, having a minimum token frequency of ten and occurring with all three affixes. We first measured the *Cosine Distances* between the verbs; the smaller the distance between the verbs, the closer their semantics. Then, we performed *Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering* (HAC) analysis on the distances. We expect that verbs with similar co-occurrence patterns would cluster together. Figure 1 shows that for most verbs the base form (i.e., the *meN-* form) and the two derived forms (i.e., *meN- -i* and *meN- -kan*) do cluster together. There are no cases where the base form does not cluster with one of the derivatives, but there are several bases for which one derived-form separates from the other two forms. The separated form can be either the *-i* derivative (e.g., *membuahi* 'to fertilise') or the *-kan* derivative (e.g., *mencontohkan* 'to exemplify').

The most semantically coherent group consists of *foot*-related MOTION verbs based on the nouns *langkah* 'step', *tapak* 'sole of the foot', and *jejak* 'footprint' (see the cluster at the very bottom of the dendrogram in Figure 1). Even in this case, the *meN- -i* form of *langkah* (i.e., *melangkahi* 'to step over') is in different cluster. Informal inspection on the collocational data of *melangkahi* 'to step over' reveals that it is most frequently used in a metaphorical sense related to 'obligation', given the more abstract nature of its direct objects (e.g., *aturan* 'regulation', *kewenangan* 'authority', and *tugas* 'task'). These co-occurrence patterns potentially differentiate *melangkahi* from *melangkahkan* 'to step up', despite both being transitive verbs; *melangkahkan* frequently collocates with *kaki* 'foot' as its direct object. The intransitive *melangkah* 'to step; tread' is in a cluster with *melangkahkan* presumably because they mostly share animate subject collocate such as a third-person singular pronoun; these co-occurrence patterns suggest the more 'concrete motion' sense of *melangkah* 'to step' and *melangkahkan* 'to step up'.

Summing up, we provide a usage-based overview on denominal verbs with *meN-*, *meN- -kan*, and *meN- -i*. Different clustering patterns between these affixes indicate differences in the resulting co-occurrence patterns of the verbs the affixes derive. We will expand the potentials of SVS to find semantic clusters for (i) verbs of the same noun root but of different voice prefix (e.g. comparing the active *meN-* with the passive *di-*, provided the verbs do occur in the *di-* form), and for (ii) verbs with roots of other word classes (e.g., adjective and verb).

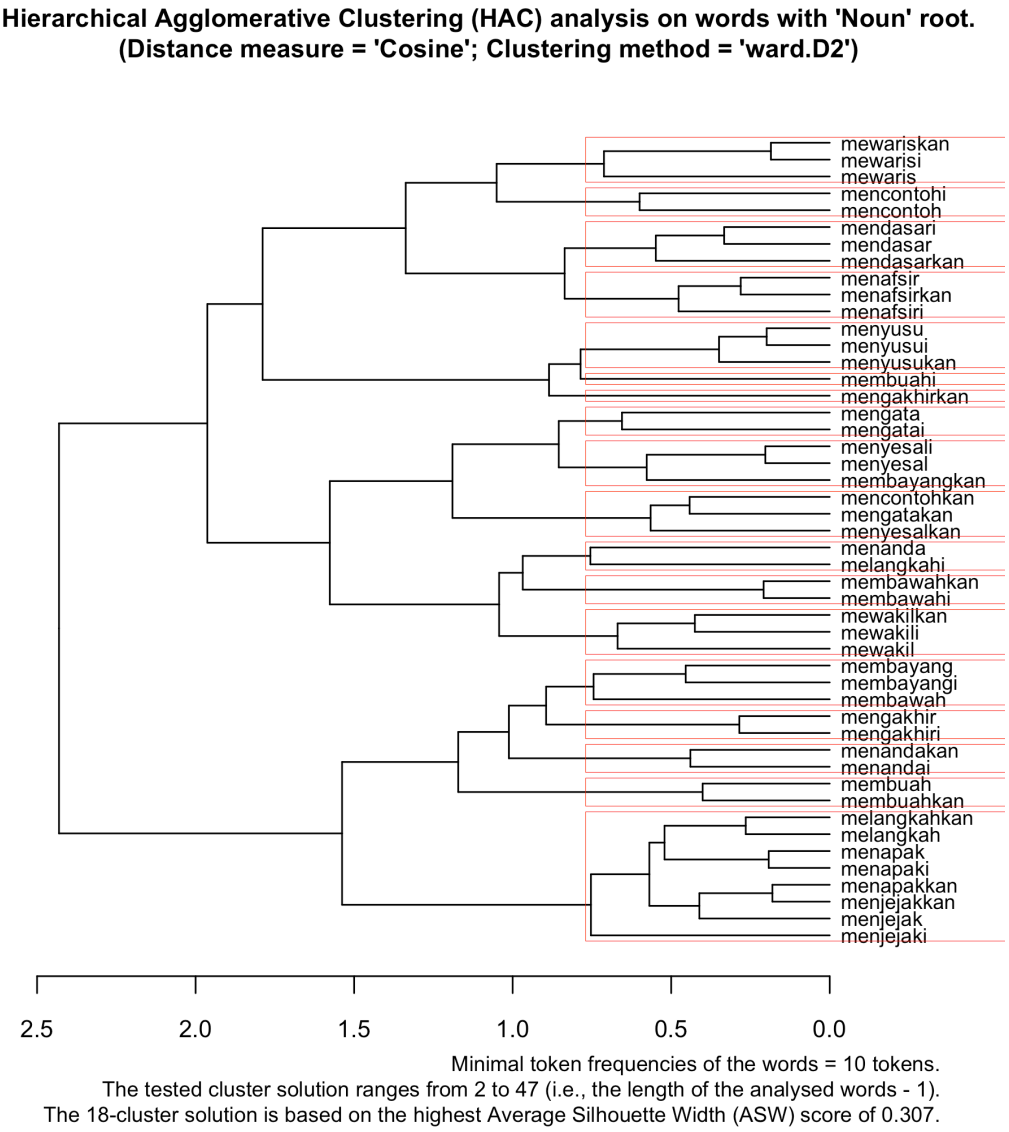



Figure 1 HAC dendrogram on the Indonesian denominal verbs with *meN-*, *meN- -kan*, *meN- -i* affixes.

## References


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