

The Use of the Indonesian Word ‘*Akan*’ in Literary Work Across Three Centuries

Shara Monarizka

Department of Linguistics
University of Indonesia (FIB UI)
Depok, Indonesia
monarizkas@gmail.com

Abstract—According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (The Indonesian Dictionary), the word *akan* may act as either an adverb that indicates things or actions taking place in the future or a preposition that relates verbs with any class of words. Commonly, the word *akan* in Indonesian language is directly translated into modal *will* in English. However, it may also share a similar meaning as *about/regarding/towards* in English depending on the context of the text. As Indonesian speakers realize the two different meanings of the word *akan*, this paper aims to investigate the development of the word in three periods of time. The data used in this paper are *Hikayat Hang Tuah*, *Siti Nurbaya*, and *Aku, Kau, dan Sepucuk Angpau Merah* which represent texts published in the 19th, 20th, and 21st century, respectively. By using a corpus linguistics software to help with the analysis, the result shows that the word *akan* always appears as an adverb from the 19th until 21st century. Meanwhile, it appeared as a preposition only in the 19th and 20th century. In other words, the word *akan* is only used as a modal word among Indonesian speakers in the 21st century. Besides, the preposition *akan* is used not only to mark a relationship of a direction of destination but also a relationship of things or problems.

Keywords: *language development, corpus, akan*

I. INTRODUCTION

All languages change in the meaning of the word, the sound, or even the structure every day. All of them happen naturally. It is because one of the characteristics of language is dynamic, meaning that it can change over time and it is unavoidable. It applies to the Indonesian language as well. As a part of Malay dialects, the current Indonesian language is the result of centuries of development of the Malay language. In order to identify the development that occurred in the Indonesian language, researchers can start investigating texts written in certain periods of time. It can start from the classical Malay literature written before the 20th century, as Tjardrasmita (2006) stated that the classical texts were written from the 16th to the 19th century until the texts written in the present time.

Texts belonged to the classical Malay literature such as “*Hikayat Hang Tuah*” in the 19th century and those written years after that might have some differences in terms of linguistic. For example, the word *akan* that was used frequently in the classical Malay literature has been used differently over time based on its usage in Malay texts or modern novels. It was used as both an adverb indicating future things and a preposition connecting

verbs or others with its complement. Despite being used in the later times such as in the 21st century, the word *akan* that functions as a preposition is hardly found. As stated before, language is dynamic so this kind of phenomenon can happen. The change in the usage of the word *akan* can be observed through its frequency of occurrences in the texts throughout certain periods of time. Hence, the present study tries to investigate the development of the word *akan* from the 19th until 21st century based on the texts written in those periods of time.

II. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method and diachronic approach because it examines the development of the word *akan* in three periods of time. In qualitative research, multiple sources of data are used and interpreted with the influence of the research’s background, bias, and value (Creswell, 2013). The data are excerpts containing the word *akan* taken from three texts. The first text is a tale by Bot Genoot Schap (2010) entitled “*Hikayat Hang Tuah*” written in 1849. The other two texts are novels entitled “*Siti Nurbaya*” by Marah Rusli published in 1922 and “*Aku, Kau, dan Sepucuk Angpau Merah*” by Tere Liye in 2012. Each of the texts represents the use of language from three different centuries that are the 19th, 20th, and 21st century.

There are two steps undertaken in collecting the data. First, the file of each text in .pdf format is downloaded by using the search engine *Google*. Second, the initial format of the file is changed into .txt or plain text. It is important because AntConc, a corpus software that is used as the analysis tool in the present study, can only recognize plain texts. Furthermore, several steps are taken in order to analyze the data. The first step is calculating the frequency of occurrence of the word *akan* in each text by using AntConc. In this step, the development of the word occurrence throughout the years can be determined. In the next step, the occurrence of the word *akan* is grouped according to their function as word classes: adverb and preposition. The final step is observing the words that collocate with it or known as ‘collocation words’. By undergoing those aforementioned steps, it is expected that how the usage of the word *akan*, serving as an adverb and a preposition, has developed in the Indonesian society can be revealed.

The word *akan* in Indonesian language has two different functions, namely as an adverb to express something that is

about to happen and also as a particle or preposition to connect verbs and so on with its complement (KBBI online, 2019). Functioned as an adverb, *akan* shares the same meaning with the modal *will* in English, whereas as a preposition it might be *about* or *regarding* as in the example “A knows everything *about/regarding* B” or it might share the similar meaning with other English words depends on the context (see Tabel I).

According to Kridalaksana (1990), there are thirteen word-classes in Indonesian, and an adverb is a category that can accompany adjectives, numeral, or prepositions in syntactic construction. Furthermore, adverbs can also be divided into six types based on its form: (1) free base adverb, (2) derived adverb, (3) adverbial which occurs from a combination of other categories and pronouns, (4) combined deverbial adverb, (5) combined de-adjectival adverb, and (6) combination of processes. In this case, the word *akan* classified as a free base adverb.

On the other hand, KBBI defines particles as words that contain grammatical meaning, including prepositions. A preposition is a category that precedes other categories, such as nouns, thus it forms an exocentric directive phrase (Kridalaksana, 2005). Exocentric phrases are phrases that usually function as information in sentences (Chaer, 1990). In this case, there is a relationship in meaning between the constituents preceding the preposition with the constituents that follow. It is in line with the statement by Chaer (2003) that the preposition has its own function which can mark certain meanings such as (1) place of residence, (2) direction of origin, (3) direction of destination/goal, (4) actors, (5) tools, (6) comparison (7) things or problems, (8) results, and (9) objectives. Based on its function or the semantic role of the preposition, the word *akan* is included in the preposition which states the relationship of a direction of destination in Table I.

TABLE I. EXAMPLES OF THE USAGE OF THE WORD *AKAN*

<i>Akan</i> as an Adverb (adv.)	<i>Akan</i> as a Preposition (p)
<i>Dia akan pergi menonton pertandingan sepak bola di lapangan hari ini.</i> ‘He will watch a soccer match on the field today.’	<i>Anak itu selalu ingat akan jasa orang tuanya.</i> ‘The boy always remembers the merit of his parents.’
<i>Tampaknya hari ini akan turun hujan</i> ‘It seems like it’s going to rain today.’	<i>Kesukaannya akan hewan peliharaan memang tidak diragukan lagi.</i> ‘His love for pets is indeed no doubt.’

The table above contains the examples of sentences using the word *akan* as an adverb (adv.) and a preposition (p). It appears that the word *akan* has two different functions, namely to state something that wants to happen (adv.) and to state the direction of destination (p). Finally, these two classifications of functions are used as the basic theory in the present study.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Frequency of Occurrence of the Word ‘Akan’ From the 19th Until the 21st Century

With the help of AntConc, the result of the analysis shows that the word *akan* appears in *Hikayat Hang Tuah* (HHT) 873 times, whereas in the novel *Siti Nurbaya* (SN) and *Aku, Kau, dan Sepucuk Angpau Merah* (AKSAM) 940 times and 308 times, respectively. Based on these numbers, it can be inferred that SN is the one that uses the word *akan* the most in its text, followed by HHT with a difference of 67 only and AKSAM with a very large difference to SN of 632. To find the percentage values, each number of occurrences is then divided by ‘word tokens’ (the number of words) and is multiplied by 100%. The following is Table II that consists of the frequency of occurrence of the word *akan* along with the percentages.

TABLE II. FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF THE WORD *AKAN* FROM THE 19TH UNTIL THE 21ST CENTURY

No.	Text Title	Number of Occurrence of the Word <i>Akan</i>	Total Word Count (Word Tokens)	Percentage of Occurrence
1.	<i>Hikayat Hang Tuah</i> (HHT)	873	93,224	0.94%
2.	<i>Siti Nurbaya</i> (SN)	940	94,127	1%
3.	<i>Aku, Kau, dan Sepucuk Angpau Merah</i> (AKSAM)	308	98,023	0.31%

The table above shows that each text has a number of occurrences that varying despite having almost similar word tokens which are around 93,000 to 98,000 words. SN has the greatest number of occurrences of the word *akan* compared to the other two texts, with percentage of 1%. On the other side, AKSAM has the least number in spite of having the most token words compared to the other two texts. Thus, the percentage of occurrence in AKSAM is only 0.31%. Meanwhile, HHT takes place in the middle with 0.94% based on the number of occurrences and the percentage result in Figure 1.

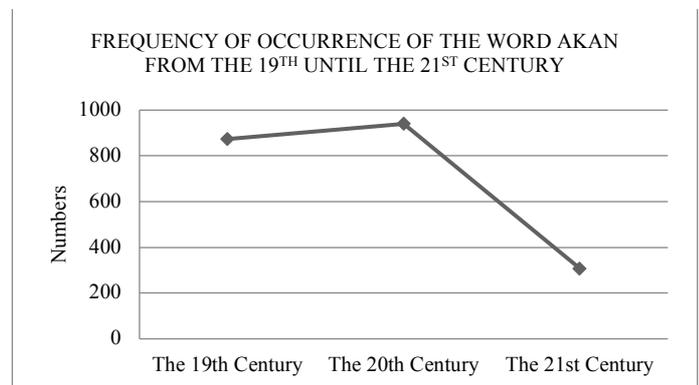


Fig. 1. Frequency of Occurrence of the Word *Akan* from the 19th until the 21st Century

The graph above shows that the occurrence frequency of the word *akan* in each period of time is fluctuating. Based on the graph above, it appears that the frequency of occurrence from the 19th century to the 20th century has increased. However, the increase was not too significant, namely only by 0.06%, i.e. from 0.94% to 1%. Meanwhile, the frequency of occurrence from the 20th century to the 21st century has decreased by 0.69%, i.e. from 0.94% to 0.31%.

B. Function of the Word 'Akan' in the 19th Century (*Hikayat Hang Tuah / HHT*)

This research found that the word *akan* which appears in *Hikayat Hang Tuah* or HHT has two different functions. The first function is as an adverb to state future act and the second one is as a preposition stating the direction of goal. The following excerpts contain the word *akan* found in HHT. The words in italics and bold indicate *akan* while the underlined ones indicate the collocation words.

1. The Word 'Akan' as an Adverb

The word *akan* which functions as an adverb is found in HHT. The excerpts can be found below.

- (1) *Siapa-siapa yang akan dititahkan pergi ke Majapahit itu?*
'Who will be commanded to go to the Majapahit?'
- (2) *Jika demikian bersimpanlah tuan putri, tiga hari lagi kita akan berlayar.*
'If so, be prepared, Princess, we will sail in three days.'
- (3) *Berapa hari lagi akan adinda naiki istana itu? Lebih baiklah dua hari lagi.*
'How many days left for the Princess to come to the palace? Two more days are better.'
- (4) *Akan yang dipakai Baginda itu ditanggalkan daripada tubuh Baginda dianugerahkan kepada Bendahara.*
'The one worn by His Majesty will be taken off from his body and given to the Treasurer.'
- (5) *Maka sembah Patih Gajah Mada, "Daulat tuanku, siapa yang akan menjadi jinjang?"*
'Then Patih Gajah Mada, "Master, who will be the messenger?'

Based on the excerpts above, it can be seen that the adverbial *akan* collocates with word classes, namely verbs (e.g. *dititahkan*, *berlayar*, and *menjadi*), nouns (e.g. *adinda*) and particles (e.g. *yang*). It can be concluded that in the 19th century *akan* has been used in writing and coexists directly or collocates with at least three types of word classes, namely: verbs, nouns, and particles.

2. The Word 'Akan' as a Preposition

Apart from being an adverb, the word *akan* functioning as a preposition is also found in HHT. Below are the excerpts.

- (6) *Setelah dilihat adinda baginda datang itu, maka Baginda pun berdiri memberi hormat akan adinda baginda itu.*
'After seeing the Princess comes, His Majesty stands up to greet her.'
- (7) *Setelah Raja melihat Bendahara datang itu, maka Baginda pun memberi hormat akan Bendahara, seraya bertitah, "Sungguhkah pengamuk bertemu dengan mamanda Bendahara tengah jalan pasar tadi?"*

'After the King sees the Treasurer coming, His Majesty salutes to the Treasurer while saying, "Is it true that the rampage met with the Treasurer on the way to the market?'

- (8) *Setelah Seri Batara mendengar sembah segala pengawinan, maka Seri Batara pun terlalu duka cita akan segala pengawinan itu habis binasa.*
'After Seri Batara hears the worship of all marriages, Seri Batara is too sad that the marriage perished.'
- (9) *... Sementara itu lagi bertapa di dalam bumi, tetapi ia sudah tahu akan kehendak Patih Gajah Mada itu memanggil dia, ...*
'Meanwhile he meditates in the earth, but he already knows about Patih Gajah Mada calls him, ...'
- (10) *Maka Megat Terenggano pun teringat akan Laksamana.*
'Then Megat Terenggano remembers Laksamana.'

The excerpts above show that the preposition *akan* collocates with word classes, namely nouns (e.g. *adinda*, *Bendahara*, *Laksamana*, and *kehendak*) and numeral (e.g. *segala*). Thus, it can be concluded that in the 19th century, preposition *akan* has been used in writing and coexist directly or collocates with at least two types of word classes, namely: nouns and numeral.

C. Function of the Word 'Akan' in the 20th Century (*Siti Nurbaya/SN*)

In this period of time, the word *akan* also serves as two different functions based on data found in *Siti Nurbaya* or SN. The first function is as an adverb to state future act while the other function is as a preposition stating the direction of goal. The following are some excerpts that contain the adverb *akan* in SN. The words in italics and bold indicate *akan* while the underlined ones indicate the collocation words.

1. The Word 'Akan' as an Adverb

The word *akan* which functions as an adverb is found in SN. The excerpts can be found below.

- (11) *... pada malam ia akan berangkat ke Jakarta, setahun yang telah lalu.*
'... on the night he will go off to Jakarta, a year ago.'
- (12) *Kalau kepada tukang ikan ia akan dikawinkan*
'If she is married to a fisherman'
- (13) *... tak dapat tiada akan mendatangkan kebaikan juga atas dirimu atau diri orang lain.*
'... all the good deeds and intentions cannot bring in goodness for yourself or other people.'
- (14) *Dan jika tak suka atau khawatir anak itu akan salah mencari jodohnya sendiri*
'And if you don't like or worry about the child will look for a wrong partner'
- (15) *Tentulah akhirnya akan ke sana juga perginya.*
'Of course in the end it will go there too.'
- (16) *Kelak akan kita ketahui juga hal ini.*
'Later we will also know it.'

Based on the excerpts above, it appears that the adverb *akan* collocates with some word classes, namely verbs (e.g. *berangkat*, *dikawinkan*, and *m mendatangkan*), adjectives (e.g.

salah), particles (e.g. *ke*), and pronouns (e.g. *kita*). It can be concluded that in the 20th century, the adverb *akan* was largely used in writing and collocates with at least four types of word classes, namely: verbs, adjectives, particles, and pronouns.

2. The Word ‘Akan’ as a Preposition

The word *akan* which functions as a preposition is also still found in SN. Here are the excerpts found from the text.

- (17) *Dan jika aku tiada ingat akan engkau dan tiada takut akan Tuhanku*
‘And if I don’t remember you and have no fear to the God’
- (18) *Seakan-akan malu atau menyesal rupanya akan perbuatannya yang ceroboh itu.*
‘As if he is ashamed or sorry for his careless actions.’
- (19) *... sehingga ayahda tiada tahu akan anak sendiri.*
‘... so dad doesn’t know his own child.’
- (20) *Rupa-rupanya tak ada orang yang tahu akan perjalanan kita ini*
‘Apparently nobody knows about our journey’

The examples above show that the preposition *akan* collocates with nouns (e.g. *perjalanan, Tuhanku, perbuatannya, and anak*) and pronouns (e.g. *engkau*). Therefore, it can be concluded that in the 20th century the preposition *akan* was used in writing and collocates with at least two types of word classes, namely: nouns and pronouns.

D. Function of the Word ‘Akan’ in the 21st Century (*Aku, Kau, Dan Sepucuk Angpau Merah/AKSAM*)

The existing data indicate that the word *akan* appearing in AKSAM only has one function, namely adverb to state future act or something that will happen. Based on the text published in this century, the word *akan* which functions as a preposition is not found. The excerpts below contain the one functioning as an adverb in the novel. The words in italics and bold indicate the adverb *akan*, meanwhile the underlined ones indicate the collocation words.

- (21) *Dalam situasi ini, kira-kira apa yang akan disarankan Pak Tua?*
‘In this situation, what will be recommended by the Old Man?’
- (22) *Definisi cinta sejati akan mengambil bentuk yang amat berbeda, amat menakjubkan.*
‘The definition of true love will take a very different form, it’s very amazing.’
- (23) *Aku berjanji akan terus menjadi guru yang baik.*
‘I promise I will keep on being a good teacher.’
- (24) *Percayalah, suatu saat kelak nama kau dan namaku akan terpampang besar-besar di banyak bengkel.*
‘Believe me, one day your name and my name will be displayed in a big size in many workshops.’
- (25) *Mungkin pada kesempatan berikutnya aku akan berani menyapa, bertanya siapa namanya.*
‘Maybe in other occasion I will be brave to greet and ask what her name is.’
- (26) *Akan kita lihat siapa peserta yang lolos ke babak 16 berikutnya.*
‘We will see who pass for the next round of 16.’

- (27) *Pesta pernikahan akan segera berakhir.*
‘The wedding party will end soon.’

Based on the excerpt above, it can be seen that *akan* as an adverb is still very much used in the text. The word has the same meaning as *will*. The result also shows that *akan* collocates with verbs (e.g. *disarankan, terpampang, and mengambil*), adjectives (e.g. *berani*), adverbs (e.g. *terus and segera*), and pronouns (e.g. *kita*). Thus, it can be concluded that the adverb *akan* it is still widely used in a text in the 21st century and collocates with at least four classes of words, namely: verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns.

E. Development of the Function of the Word ‘Akan’ From the 19th Century Until the 21st Century

The function of the word *akan* has developed in three centuries. Based on the three texts that are used as the data, one function survives and the other disappears. The Table III shows the occurrence of functions of *akan* in each period (the 19th, 20th, and 21st century).

TABLE III. OCCURRENCE OF FUNCTIONS OF THE WORD AKAN IN THREE PERIODS

Functions	Collocates with Word Classes	Hikayat Hang Tuah (19 th c.)	Siti Nurbaya (20 th c.)	Aku, Kau, dan Sepucuk Angpau Merah (21 st c.)
Adverbs	Noun	v		
	Pronoun		v	v
	Verb	v	v	v
	Adjective		v	v
	Adverb			v
	Particle	v	v	
Prepositions	Noun	v	v	
	Pronoun		v	
	Numeral	v		

The table above shows the development of the word *akan* which can be grouped based on their function as adverbs or prepositions, including their collocation words. It can be seen that word *akan* as an adverb appears in each period (from the 19th century until the 21st century). Whereas the word *akan* as a preposition only appears in the 19th until the 20th century and stops in the 21st century. This shows that the word *akan* survives as a word to express something that is about to happen, meanwhile its functions as a word to express the direction of destination or goal disappears over time.

It is also found that the word *akan* as an adverb can be collocates with different word classes in each period (from the 19th century to the 21st century). The word class that always appears in each period as the collocation is verbs, as in the excerpts *akan mendatangkan* ‘will bring’, *akan berlayar* ‘will sail’, serta *akan terpampang* ‘will be displayed’. On the other

hand, the word class namely nouns that collocate with the preposition *akan* appeared in two periods (from the 19th century to the 20th century) but is no longer found in the 21st century.

Besides the results above, this study also found that not all of the word *akan* that function as preposition is used to mark direction of destination/goal. In *Hikayat Hang Tuah* from the 19th century, the preposition *akan* can mark the relationship of things or problems. The excerpts can be found below.

- (28) *Sementara itu lagi bertapa di dalam bumi, tetapi ia sudah tahu akan kehendak Patih Gaja Mada itu memanggil dia.*
 ‘Meanwhile he meditates in the earth, but he already knows about Patih Gajah Mada calls him’

The preposition *akan* states the relationship of direction of destination (e.g. *kepada, ke, terhadap*; towards) in term of its semantic role (Chaer, 2003). However, the result above shows that the preposition *akan* can also imply the relationship of things or problems (e.g. *tentang, mengenai*; about). Not only in *Hikayat Hang Tuah*, some prepositions found in *Siti Nurbaya* from the 20th century also implies a relationship of things of problems as seen in number (19) and (20). Therefore, the aforementioned theory about the preposition *akan* can be rebutted based on the results found in the present study.

IV. CONCLUSION

The word *akan* has appeared from the 19th century until the 21st century with different functions in each period. As an adverb, *akan* always appears in each period, whereas as a preposition it only appears in the first two periods (the 19th

century until the 20th century) and disappears in the 21st century. The word *akan* as an adverb can collocate with six classes such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and particles. In this case, the word class of verb always appears as a collocation of the adverb *akan* in all periods. Meanwhile, the word *akan* as a preposition can collocate with classes of nouns, pronouns, and numeral. The word class of nouns always appears as a collocation of the preposition *akan* in the first two periods (in 19th century to 20th century). In addition, the preposition *akan* is not only functioned to mark a relationship of direction of destination but also a relationship of things or problems.

REFERENCES

- Chaer, A. (1990). *Penggunaan preposisi dan konjungsi bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Nusa Indah.
- Chaer, A. (2003). *Linguistik umum*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
- Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches* (4th ed.). London: SAGE Publications.
- Kridalaksana, H. (1990). *Kelas kata dalam bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia.
- Kridalaksana, H. (2005). *Kelas kata dalam bahasa Indonesia untuk perguruan tinggi*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia.
- Liye, T. (1990). *Kau, aku, dan sepucuk angpau merah*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia.
- Partikel. (n.d.). In *Kamus besar bahasa Indonesia daring*. Retrieved from <https://kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id/entri/partikel>
- Rusli, M. (1922). *Siti Nurbaya*. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
- Schap, B. G. (2010). *Hikayat Hang Tuah I*. Jakarta: Pusat Bahasa Kementerian Pendidikan Nasional.
- Tjardrasmita, U. (2006). *Kajian naskah-naskah klasik dan penerapannya bagi kajian sejarah Islam di Indonesia*. Jakarta: Puslitbang Lektur Keagamaan Badan Litbang dan Diklat Departemen Agama RI.