DIRECT REPORTED SPEECH IN SPOKEN INDONESIAN:
VERBAL MARKERS AND DISCOURSE PRACTICES

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Abstract
The analysis of first, second and third-person reported speech in this paper reveal different uses of verbal markers and discourse practices surrounding direct reported speech in spoken Indonesian. The reporting verb and noun phrases bilang ‘to say,’ ngomong ‘to talk,’ and katanya ‘his/her word’ are the most frequently used. The mood-invoking reporting verbal markers are not frequently used in conversational Indonesian. Speech-signalling reporting verbs embody illocutionary forces and presuppose the performative modality of the projected reported speech. Furthermore, speakers of reported speech use different strategies to introduce or mark quoted speakers. Some of them are not specifically marked yet their existence can be interpreted by taking the underlying operations of the turn taking system into account.

Keywords: reported speech, verbal markers, discourse practices

INTRODUCTION
Reported speech, as previous studies have noted, involves more than grammatical markers and reporting verbs. It involves complex and intriguing discourse practices that can trigger an understanding of how an individual acts and is perceived in his or her social world. According to Bakhtin (1981), when quoting other people’s talk, speakers assert their own opinions, agreement, contestation and in other words their judgments about the original speakers. In Vološinov’s (1986) analysis of multiple voices in reported discourse, speakers display not only what was said by the original speakers but also their own perception and assessment of that speech. Clark and Gerrig (1990) also argue that quotations are demonstrations that depict selected aspects of speakers’ referents. In conformity with these notions, Wade and Clark’s
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(1993) work shows that quoted speech is independent of verbatim accuracy when storytellers’ main concern of quoting the speech is to entertain their listeners.

Mayes (1990) proposes that in reported speech speakers do not only convey what was said by the original speakers but also demonstrate the way in which it was said. Direct quoted speech according to Mayes certainly involves “saying and showing.” Holt (1996) indicates the ways in which reported speech is used to provide evidence of reported speakers’ state of knowledge and stance. M.H. Goodwin (1990) illustrates the ways in which children use reported speech to build arguments as well as to frame the next sequence in children’s playful utterances. Couper-Kuhlen (1998) shows how prosodic cues give different voices to speakers when animating the speech of others. Through prosodic cues, hearers perceive the utterances as reported speech.

Integrating Goffman’s notion of footing (1981), participation framework (Goffman, 1964, 1981; C. Goodwin, 1984, 1987, 1996; C. Goodwin & M.H. Goodwin, 1987; M.H. Goodwin, 1990), and conversational analysis framework (Sacks et al., 1974), this study shows the ways in which the characterization of the referents and the voice of speakers in reporting speech in Indonesia can be displayed through different discourse practices.

The use of reported speech in spoken discourse in Indonesian and the languages of Indonesia has been discussed extensively in the field of anthropology (Errington 1998, Kuipers 1998, Renoe 2002, and Webb 1997). These studies propose the notion that reported speech is largely constituted and shaped by the types of interactions between the speakers and their interlocutors and by the nature of the speech events.

Despite pervasive use of reported speech in conversations, Indonesian language textbooks and grammar reference books do not specifically or extensively cover reported speech (Mintz 1994; Quinn 2001; Sneddon 1996; Wolff et al., 1992). Quinn (2001), in his textbook for beginning Indonesian, mentions the use of the mechanics (such as quotation marks) and the reporting verbs in written discourse with some examples. To show how reported speech are produced and used in mundane conversations, this study, therefore, documents and analyzes the grammatical markers that are involved in forming direct reported speech in conversational Indonesian with the use of video-taped data from naturally-occurring conversations.

This study focuses on verbal constructions and discourse practices underlying direct reported speech in conversational Indonesian, especially the ways speakers verbally frame their reported speech. This study discusses speakers’ choices of lexicons and the elements of morphosyntax that dominate or frame Indonesian direct reported speech and the meanings they carry in naturally occurring conversations. It also discusses the person referents speakers use to mark the quoted speakers and the ways in which speakers change their footing when reporting their own or someone else’s speech.

The study pursues the following research goals:

1. To explore and formulate grammatical constructs that frame direct reported speech in conversational Indonesian.
2. To investigate discourse practices involved in the formation of direct reported speech.
3. To examine the functions and implications of direct reported speech in conversational Indonesian.
DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The data used in this study consist of video-taped everyday conversations carried out by Indonesians who live in the United States (California, Michigan and Wisconsin) and in Indonesia (Sidoarjo and Banyuwangi, East Java). The multi-party interactions took place at parties, dinnertime, and family gatherings. The data were collected from the year 2000 to 2002. The available corpus for data analysis consists of 10 hours of video-taped naturally-occurring conversations.\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Data Title</th>
<th>Numbers of Transcribed Reported Sequence</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Numbers and Gender of Coparticipants</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Banyuwangi, East Java, Indonesia</td>
<td>6 (1 M &amp; 5 F)</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SDJ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia</td>
<td>5 (1 M &amp; 4 F)</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia</td>
<td>2 interactions: 1. (2 M &amp; 2 F) 2. (1 M &amp; 2 F)</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MNK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>4 (2 M &amp; 2 F)</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>EY</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
<td>5 (2 M &amp; 3 F)</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>4 (2 M &amp; 2 F)</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>STE1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Fullerton, CA</td>
<td>3 interactions: 1. 5 (1 M &amp; 5 F) 2. 4 (4 M) 3. 6 (4 M &amp; 2 F)</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>STE2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fullerton, CA</td>
<td>5 (5 M)</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 65 Reported Sequences

With the use of modified conversational analysis transcribing style, sixty five sequences relevant to reported discourse have been transcribed for the investigation of grammatical constructs of conversational reported speech and surrounding embodied discourse practices.

REPORTING PHRASES IN CONVERSATIONAL INDONESIAN

The formation of direct reported speech in written standard Indonesian\(^2\) involves reporting phrases that precede or subsequently follow the quotes. We can see in the following invented sentences the ways in which direct reported speech are formulated in written discourse.
(1) Direct Reported Speech in Written Standard Indonesian

a. Dia **berkata**, “Aku melihat anak itu di sana.”
   3SG ber-word 1SG meN-see child that at there
   S/he says/said, “I saw/see that child there.”

b. “Aku melihat anak itu di sana,” **katanya**.
   1SG meN-see child that at there word-3SG
   “I see/saw that child there,” S/he said.

c. Ani **bertanya**, “Apakah dia sudah tiba?”
   Ani ber-ask Q 3SG already arrive
   Ani asked, “Has s/he arrived yet?”

d. “Apakah dia sudah tiba?” **tanya** Ani.
   Q 3SG already arrive ask Ani
   Has s/he arrived yet?” asked Ani.

In these examples, direct reported speech is framed by quotation marks and different reporting verbs such as *berkata* ‘to say,’ and *bertanya* ‘to ask,’ and a reporting noun *katanya* ‘his/her word.’ When reporting verbs precede direct reported speech, most of the time the verbs take the *ber-* prefix – an intransitive-verb prefix that “refer(s) to an action that does not affect or devolve on something else” (Wolff et al., 1992, p. 283). When the reporting phrases are placed after the reported speech, the base of the verb or noun for example *tanya* ‘to ask’ or *kata* ‘word’ is used. These reporting phrases are then followed by the noun phrases that mark the quoted speakers.

The word *kata* that means ‘word’ or ‘to say’ in a reported speech context and its synonyms such as *ujar, tutur, papar, ucap,* and *ungkap* are often used in formal written discourse such as newspaper articles, as shown in the following examples.

(2) Suara Pembaruan On-line:

   world 3PL COP study NEG ber-politic say Baedhowi
   “Their world is about studying not engaging in politics,” Baedhowi said.

b. "Saya tidak setuju manggung itu disebut foya-foy,” *ucapnya*.
   1SG NEG agree perform that PASS-mention lavish
   “I don’t agree if (he called) performing as a lavish act.
   Bagi saya itu tanggung-jawab moral dan bukan main-main,” ucapnya.
   for 1SG that responsible moral and NEG play-PL say-3SG
   For me, it is a moral responsibility and it’s not just for fun,” she said.

c. "Kami punya data konkret, kerusakan sudah parah,” *ungkap*nya.
   1PL have data conceal damage already bad say-3SG
   “We have real data (that show that) the damage was terrible,” he said.

These expressions are commonly used for declarative mood whereas a reporting verb such as *tanya* ‘to ask’ is used for the interrogative mood. Different use of reporting verbs can index emotion, mood and modality (Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman, 1999). In addition, speakers’ use of declarative, emotional-state or interrogative reporting verbs can capture their
cognitive state, affective state and truth proposition respectively. The reporting verbs *sesal* ‘to regret’, *tegas* ‘to be firm’, and *tukas* ‘to say accusingly,’ which are usually used to frame direct reported speech in formal written discourse, convey quoted speakers’ emotional and affective states captured and encoded by the writers.

In conversational Indonesian different reporting verbs are used by speakers to frame their reported speech in their face-to-face interactions. The informal conversational reporting verbs; however, do not vary greatly. The most common reporting verbs found in the corpus are *bilang* ‘to consider/to take into account’, *ngomong*, from the verb base *omong* ‘to talk’, *kata* ‘word’ and *tanya* ‘to ask.’ Although the last reporting verbs *kata* ‘word’ and *tanya* ‘to ask’ share the same word bases as the ones used in formal discourse, their syntactic formations differ considerably when they occur in informal discourse.

**Reporting Verb: Bilang**

The word *bilang* has multiple meanings via different derivatives and inflections: for example, *terbilang* ‘to be calculated/to be regarded as’, *dibilang* ‘to consider/to take into account’ and *bilangan* ‘number.’ In formal discourse, *bilang* does not stand alone. In informal discourse such as in naturally occurring conversation, on the other hand, *bilang* is often used without any derivatives or inflections.

Standing as the base alone, *bilang* used in conversational Indonesian carries the meaning of “(I) said,” or “(s/he) said.” We can see the ways in which *bilang* is used to frame direct reported speech in informal conversation in the following excerpt.

(3) Finding a Roommate (FL)

In this sequence the speaker Fina tells her coparticipants how her friend Dian became her roommate. Her information takes the form of a reported speech in which Fina recounts how she asked Dian to be her roommate, as indicated in lines 1–5 in (4).

(4) Fina

1. *Udah* *gitu* aku (.*) *bilang* ke dia
   
   *already like.that 1SG say to 3SG
   Then, I said to her,

2. *ya* lagi nyari *roommate* *nih*
   
   *well PROG find roommate PRT
   “Well, (**I’m**) looking for a roommate, you know.

   
   *How interested NEG
   What do you think? Will you be interested?”

4. *dia* *bilang* (.*) *boleh* akum tanya dulu (*.)
   
   *3SG say may 1SG ask first
   She said, “Fine/okay. Let me ask

5. *orang* tua dulu *gitu*
   
   *person old first like.that
   my parents first.” (**It happened**) like that.

*Note: The inward pointing arrows are used to draw attention to the focal lines.*
In line 1, Fina launches the reported speech with *aku bilang ke dia* ‘I say/said to her.’ She frames the reported speech with the reporting verb *bilang* ‘to say,’ and she marks the quoted speaker with *aku* ‘I,’ indicating that Fina is the speaker as well as the author of the speech. She continues with a verb phrase *bilang ke dia* ‘to say to her.’ Her reported clause is then embedded to this verb phrase. This reported speech consists of two parts. The first part is an announcement that the speaker is looking for a roommate (line 2), and the second one is an invitation (line 3) for the addressed participant to become the speaker’s roommate. In lines 2–3 the speaker reports what she said to her friend whereas in lines 4–5 she reports her friend’s response to her invitation.

When reporting her friend’s speech, Fina frames the reported speech with *dia bilang* ‘she said’ (line 5). She marks the original speaker of the speech with *dia*, conveying that Fina is no longer the author of the speech like her prior reported speech in lines 1–3. Instead, she becomes what Goffman’s (1981) calls the sounding box or animator of somebody else’s speech. Again, the informal conversational reporting verb *bilang* ‘to say’ is used. However, unlike the framing of the reported speech in line 1, which has both the *aku* ‘I’ and the recipient *dia* ‘her,’ the framing of the reported speech in line 4 only has the *dia* ‘she’ but not the recipient marked. Fina then ends the reported speech sequence with a coda or closure *gitu* ‘like that’ (line 5). *Gitu* is used many times to conclude a story or reported speech in conversations. It basically encodes the meaning of “that is what happened,” or “that is the way it was.”

**Reporting Verb: Ngomong (apa)**

The following is an example of the ways in which other informal reporting verb phrases *ngomong* ‘to talk’ or in this case *ngomong apa* ‘to talk about something/to say something’ are used in reporting somebody else’s speech. I will further argue that the last form *ngomong apa* allows for more excitement or less-expected reported speech.

(5) Reported Speech Sequence of Marco Polo (STE1)

In this sequence, Beni reports what Marco Polo said to the Europeans about Chinese high civilization before he died. Beni had previously read a book about Marco Polo, so when his coparticipants were talking about the progress that China has made recently, Beni shares with them the information on how China has a long history of very high civilization by quoting what Marco Polo said to the Europeans many centuries ago.

(6) Beni

1. Terus Marco Polo sebelum mati ngomong apa (.2)

   then Marco Polo before die say what

   Then, Marco Polo, before *(he)* died, *(you know)*

   what *(he)* said?

2. saya cuma ngomong (.2) nggak ada

   1SG only say NEG exist

3. separohnya itu yang saya ngomong itu (.)

   half-TOP that LK 1SG say that

   “I just said, “What I mentioned *(=about China)*

   doesn’t include even half

   Rian

   4. oh h.
According to Beni in prior sequences, Marco Polo, after visiting China, informed the Europeans all about the amazing products of Chinese high civilization he saw during his visit. However, the Europeans did not believe him, and they even thought Marco Polo was either insane, or he was simply lying to them. Beni frames his reported speech with a rhetorical question *Marco Polo sebelum mati ngomong apa ‘Marco Polo, before ((he)) died, ((you know)) what ((he)) said?’* (line 1 in (6)).

As commonly perceived, rhetorical questions are constructed by speakers in a way not to be answered. Their uses oftentimes hold suspense for the coming actions or stories. Similarly, rhetorical questions used to frame reported speech are not intended to invite the coparticipants to take the next turn with an answer or any other type of response. Instead, they signal to the coparticipants the upcoming reported speech. They motivate the coparticipants to wait and expect something interesting or exciting to happen and invoke different types of responses from the coparticipants.

The use of rhetorical questions is more marked than the use of the other reporting verb phrases. The rhetorical question used in the *Marco Polo* sequence is followed by interesting and unexpected responses, illustrated by the ways the coparticipants respond to the speakers of the reported speech. They are responding with an agreement and assessment.

By choosing rhetorical questions over regular reporting verbs, speakers of reported speech index their stances to the quoted speakers and the contents of their speech. Although reported speech following rhetorical questions may also be informative and declarative, it can also carry substantial affective states and index either positive or negative stances of the speakers or animators towards the quoted speakers or authors of the speech and the content of their speech. I will further argue that the use of a rhetorical question in framing reported speech adds a new dimension to Vološinov’s (1986) and Bakthin’s (1981) notion of multiple voices or polyphony. With a rhetorical question pre-posted to other people’s speech, the speakers or the animators embody the reported speech with the display of their own perception and preliminary assessment of the quoted speakers’ speech.

**Reporting Noun: Kata**

As I mentioned previously, *kata* ‘word’ or ‘to say’ in reported speech context is also a possible reporting noun used many times in informal conversational Indonesian. While *bilang* ‘to say’ and *ngomong* ‘to talk’ are used to frame reported speech only in informal conversation, *kata* is used both in informal and formal spoken and written discourse. Although *kata* can be used for first and second person reported speech, the corpus shows that in informal conversations *kata* collocates with third person reported speech. For first and second person reported speech, as seen in the previous and the upcoming discussion, the speakers tend to use *bilang* and *ngomong*.

*Kata* can be pre-posted or post-posted to the reported speech. In formal Indonesian, when pre-posted to the reported speech, *kata* usually takes the *ber-* prefix forming a verb *berkata* ‘to say.’ When post-posted to the reporting verb, instead of taking the *ber-* prefix, *kata* occurs independently as the base only. It is then followed by a noun (i.e. a possessor) that can be either a
pronoun or a proper name that makes reference to the quoted speaker. Instead of having a pronoun or a proper name, *kata* can have a genitive suffix –*ny* (third person), –*ku* (first person singular) or –*mu* (second person) attached to it. The use of *kata* in framing reported speech varies in informal conversational Indonesian but *berkata* has never been used, indicating the formal nuance the *ber-* prefix carries. When the reporting noun phrase *katanya* is used to frame reported speech, the corpus shows that the speakers tend to place it subsequent to the reported speech.

(7) Tiger’s Dad (STE1)

In this segment, Beni recalls from what he had read how Tiger Wood’s father was terribly hard on Tiger when he was little. When practicing his flop shot, Tiger did not hit the golf ball correctly so his father made him hit it again. To get Tiger to focus and correct his swing his father stood right in front of him so Tiger would have had to hit the ball in such a way that it would not strike his father.

(8) 1* bapaknya  berdiri malah di sini
father-3SG.POSS stand even at here
His father even stood here.

2*((lifts hand right in front of his face,
showing Tiger’s father’s facing his son.))

3* ayo  pukul katanya  ←
come.on hit  word-3SG.POSS
“Come on, hit ((the ball)),” he said.

4* nanti  kena katanya  ←
later  touch word-3SG.POSS
“((But I)) might hit ((you)),” he said.

When reporting Tiger and his father’s speech Beni uses the reporting noun phrases *katanya* ‘his word’ placed in the final position, confirming speakers’ preference of post-posting *katanya* to their reported speech. The suffix –*nya* obviously refers to the previously mentioned third person speakers. However, since Beni uses the same possessive pronoun –*nya* in reporting both Tiger’s and his father’s speech (lines 3–4 in (8)), his coparticipants need a well-established context in order to associate each –*nya* with the right person referent. This context has been built prior to the reported speech so enough information of the person referents is accessible to the coparticipants.

Although as seen in this segment, the reporting noun phrase *katanya* tends to follow the reported speech because of its suffix –*nya*, an anaphora that refers back to the previously mentioned antecedent, the corpus shows that *katanya* can occasionally precede the reported speech without an antecedent. However, initially placed *katanya* differs considerably from the one placed subsequent to the reported speech. Pre-posted to the reported speech, when no person referents or antecedents have been established in the previous discourse, the suffix –*nya* in *katanya* becomes non-referential or generic (Givón, 1984). It does not refer to anybody in particular or any persons mentioned in the previous discourse. *Katanya* used in this context is equivalent to the expressions ‘people say’ or ‘I heard’ in English. We can see the ways in which a speaker uses a pre-posted non-referential *katanya* in the following segment.

(9) Bank Mega (STE2)
In line 1 of this segment, Rian initiates a new topic about a bank in Indonesia called Bank Mega (lines 1–2 in (10)). He mentions the existence of what he thought was a new bank in Indonesia, and he asks for a confirmation of the bank’s name from his coparticipants.

(10) Rian 1 [Ada bank baru ya bank itu >apa< Mega exist bank new yes bank that what Mega There is a new bank, right? What is it called? Mega? 2 [(looks at Rudi)] 3 (.4) [Lines deleted] Rian 10 Katanya maju banget /barb2left word-GEN progress very People say ((it’s been)) doing very well.

The noun phrase katanya is pre-posted to Rian’s reported speech but he does not place any antecedent that co-references with the possessive suffix –nya in the discourse. In the previous discussion, katanya coreferences with recognizable person referents established in the previous discourse (excerpt 5). In this segment; however, Rian’s mentioning of the proper names invoking an embedded sequence prior to the reported speech is intended for confirming the name of the bank owner (lines 1–3 in (10)). In the absence of antecedents in the discourse, -nya in the initially positioned reporting noun phrase katanya becomes non-referential or generic. It is used to cite people’s general assessment or opinions without claiming ownership or taking responsibility for the assessment. In this segment the generic reported speech invokes a different kind of participation and pursues the initially introduced topic.

**Reporting Verb: Tanya**

So far the analysis of the conversational reporting phrases has focused on the ones that state declarative mood. As discussed in the beginning of the study, in written discourse speakers can use varieties of reporting phrases to signal different moods including imperative and interrogative moods. It is important to mark the moods of the reported speech verbally in written discourse because most markers are done through words.

In spoken discourse, on the other hand, different resources can be used to signal the moods. The use of prosody, for instance, intonation, emphatic stress and pitch, can be maximized to frame the reported speech so speakers do not have to use reporting phrases such as bertanya ‘to ask’ or berseru ‘to call/shout out.’ They may use declarative reporting phrases such as the ones discussed earlier to mark the reported speech and other resources to signal mood or they may not use any verbal markers at all and merely embody their reported speech with prosody, facial expressions and gestures to denote mood.

In the collected data, very limited use of mood denoting reporting phrases has been found. The only one occurring in the corpus is the reporting verb phrase signaling interrogative mood – tanya ‘to ask,’ demonstrated in the following segment.

(11) Sonya and Soni (EY)

When reporting Yuni’s question to her, Lola frames her speech with an interrogative reporting verb phrase tanya ‘to ask’ pre-posted to the reported speech.
Although the reporting verb phrase *tanya* is placed in the initial position, it does not have the *ber-* prefix -- the way it occurs in written discourse, confirming the claim that speakers prefer to drop prefixes in informal spoken discourse (Wolff et al., 1992). The dropping of *ber-* in *bertanya* ‘to ask’ works in a similar way to the initially positioned *kata* ‘word’ discussed earlier, in which the *ber-* prefix in *berkata* ‘to say’ is also dropped. The reporting verb phrase *tanya* ‘to ask’ signals the interrogative mood of the upcoming reported speech.

**Speech-Signalling Verbs**

Besides the commonly used reporting verbs such as *bilang* ‘to say’ and *ngomong* ‘to talk’ and reporting noun phrase such as *katanya* ‘his/her word’s discussed earlier, speakers of reported speech in the corpus also use some other verbal markers such as the verbs *telpon* ‘to telephone’, *terangin* ‘to explain’, *panggil* ‘to call’, *komentar* ‘to comment’, *konsultasi* ‘to consult,’ and *janji* ‘to promise’ to frame their reported speech. However, these latter verbs (except *telpon* ‘to telephone’) are not as widely used. I would argue that these reporting phrases do not occur as frequently in framing reported speech because they are more situated. I would further argue that these types of verbs normally call for a speech-related action thus reported speech may be signalled when speakers make use of these verbs. Therefore, I will call these types of verbs speech-signalling verbs.

Furthermore, the default reporting verbs such as *bilang* ‘to say’, *ngomong* ‘to talk’, and the reporting noun phrase *katanya* ‘his/her word’ are frequently used to frame different types of reported speech because they simply denote a speakers’ intention to report personal and other people’s speech for different purposes. However, these default reporting verbs most likely do not embody the illocutionary forces (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985) such as assertion, assessment, promise, accusation, inquiry, order, etc., and presuppose the performative modality of a reported speech that follows. On the other hand, the speech-signalling verbs such as *konsultasi* ‘to consult’ and *janji* ‘to promise,’ which are normally positioned initial to the reported speech, carry the illocutionary forces and already presuppose the performative modality of upcoming reported speech.
The reporting verb *janji* ‘to promise,’ for example, embodies the illocutionary force in the form of a commitment that the quoted speakers of the projected reported speech make to their addressed recipients and presupposes the ways in which the promise is performed, as depicted in the following segment.

(13) The Guerrillas’ Promise (Vst-EST)⁸

In this sequence Vivi told her coparticipant about her leaving Jogja, the Republic capital city of Indonesia, in 1949 after the Dutch second police action on December 19, 1948.⁹ In this segment, Vivi reports that the guerrillas promised her father that nothing bad would happen to her father’s children (lines 1–8 in (14)).

(14) Viviⁱ Padahal papa itu sudah di:-
actually father that already PASS-

vivid: janjiin sama (.)
already PROMISE-in by

gerilya-gerilya ya,
guerrilla-PL yes

In fact, the guerrillas had already promised my dad,

Erni⁴ huh uh

Vivi⁵ ( ) ya,
( ) yes
( ) right?

Erni⁶ huh uh

Vivi⁷ ndak papa om, (.2) ndak,
NEG okay uncle NEG

ndak sampe ada apa-apa,
NEG until exist something

“Don’t you worry, nothing ((bad)) will happen
((to you and your children)).”

In reporting the guerrilla’s speech, Vivi does not use any default reporting verb or noun phrases discussed earlier. Instead, she frames her reported speech with a speech-signalling verb *janji* ‘to promise’ in *padahal papa itu sudah di:- sudah di(. ) janjiin sama (. ) gerilya-gerilya ya,* ‘in fact, the guerrillas already promised my dad’ (lines 1–3 in (14)). The verb *janji* ‘to promise’ used by the speaker embodies the illocutionary force – a promise itself, and at the same time also foreshadows the possibility that the upcoming reported speech will be formulated as a commitment, in this case, the quoted speakers’ commitment to ensure safety for the addressed recipient and his children (lines 7–8 in (14)).

CONCLUSION

The reporting verb and noun phrases *bilang* ‘to say,’ *ngomong* ‘to talk,’ and *katanya* ‘his/her word’ have been identified as default verbal markers framing reported speech in conversational Indonesian. The mood-invoking reporting verbal markers are not frequently used in
conversational Indonesian. *Tanya* ‘to ask,’ is the only one that occurs in the collected data. It denotes the interrogative mode of the reported speech.

Furthermore, the collected data also show that speakers of reported speech make use of what I call speech-signalling verbs such as *janji* ‘to promise’ to foreshadow the coming of the reported speech. In contrast to default reporting phrases mentioned earlier, these types of reporting verbs embody illocutionary forces and presuppose the performative modality of the projected reported speech. The discourse-oriented examinations of reported speech in the data reveal the complexity of footing (Goffman, 1981) and polyphony or multiple voices (Vološinov, 1986) in reported speech. The analysis of discourse practices surrounding reported speech shows the ways in which speakers of reported speech take multiple roles when reporting personal and others’ speech. By examining reported speech embedded in story-telling activities and other speech events and how reported speech patterns with particular configurations of interaction, the study contributes to current understanding of the dynamics of reported speech in conversations.

NOTES

* The authors would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments on the earlier version of this paper.
1 One sequence is taken from Kuntjara’s taped and transcribed interviews for her study of Chinese Indonesian women and politeness (2001b).
2 Standard Indonesian refers to Bahasa Indonesia used in formal written discourse such as the one found in media.
3 The expressions mentioned in this study *ujar, tutur, papar, ucap*, and *ungkap*, which basically mean “to say” or “to express” derive from my observations of the reporting verb phrases used in twelve articles on different topics in an Indonesian national on-line newspaper *Suara Pembaruan Daily*. A deeper corpus linguistic study is needed to see if there are any differences of the usage of these expressions.
4 Indonesian verbs are not marked for tenses. Therefore, the interpretation of tenses is gathered from adverbs or contexts.
5 The Indonesian third person singular pronoun is genderless. The pronoun *dia* or *ia* is used for both male or female. The gender relation is then established through references or contexts.
6 Coda is a linguistic device used to indicate closure in a narrative. In Labov (1972), coda emerges in formatted speech events such as interviews. In this study, however, coda appears in naturally occurring conversations such as the dinner-time conversation in this section.
7 *Gitu* can also be considered as a deictic expression used to refer to the preceding statement.
8 EST data is an interview Erni conducted for her study of gender in language use. That is why Erni responded mostly with back channeling ‘uh um’ during the interaction.
9 The Dutch launched the second police action that captured the Indonesian Republic capital Jogjakarta on December 19, 1948. What was called “the second police action” in the Netherlands was regarded as “the second military aggression” by the Royal Netherlands Indies Army or KNIL (*Koninklijk Nederlands Indische Leger*) in Indonesia. During the war, the Indonesian republican armies retreated to the mountainous regions, more conducive to guerrilla warfare.

REFERENCES


