EVALUATING THE PRAGMATIC PARTICLE JÂ’ IN A MADURESE SPOKEN CORPUS

Irham
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Indonesia
irhamaladist@gmail.com

First received: 14 August 2017 Final proof received: 31 January 2017

Abstract

In verbal interaction and communication, speakers often employ communicative signals; verbal or non-verbal, special words or phrases, which can be regarded as pragmatic markers (Fraser, 1996; Foolen 2011). This paper aims to investigate the Madurese pragmatic particle jâ’: its position in the sentence and in sequences of interaction, and how it functions in conversation. To achieve the objectives of the present study, conversation analysis was employed to describe the particle’s position in interaction and to account for its pragmatic functions. The data of the present study were taken from recorded conversations among Madurese speakers. This study showed that the particle jâ’ predominantly occurred in turn-initial positions. In addition, the particle jâ’ also appeared in sentence-initial and sentence-middle positions but not in sentence-final positions. In terms of function, the particle jâ’ could function as topic shifts, prohibitive markers, and emphatic markers.

Keywords: pragmatic particles; Madurese; conversation analysis; turn

Language is the most noticeable tool that makes verbal interaction and communication possible. Communication, furthermore, is designed to gain mutual understanding, although the speakers do not always make their message explicit. Nonetheless, there are often subtle cues to interpret speakers’ utterances. Speakers often make use of communicative signals: verbal or non-verbal, particular words or phrases, which can be regarded as pragmatic markers (Fraser, 1996; Foolen 2011).

Until recently, there are many different terms referring to pragmatic markers; discourse markers (Schiffrin, 1987; Fraser, 1996, 2006), discourse particles (Aijmer, 2002), and pragmatic particles (Foolen, 2011; Wouk, 1999). Additionally, several terms, albeit less used, such as phatic connective were also proposed by Bazzanella (as cited in Foolen, 2011). Regardless of the confounding conditions, this paper will use the term “pragmatic particles” to refer to certain small words, monosyllabics such as ke’, la and jâ´ in Madurese, or sih, kug, and dong in bahasa Indonesia that often have no lexical meaning but rather a pragmatic or procedural meaning. Therefore, the term “particle” is more appropriate to use.

The study of pragmatic particles in conversation has been a poignant issue in the last decades. For instance, investigations of ‘well’ and ‘now’ (Fraser, 1990; Aijmer, 2002; Defour, 2007) have found that they carry pragmatic meanings as “interpersonal function” (Traugott, 1999: 180) or as “topic changer” (Aijmer, 2002: 57-58). Additionally, the study of the particle ‘oh’ and its position in the conversation has been exhaustively explained in several publications (Heritage, 1984, 1998, 2013; Schiffrin, 1987). Heritage (2013) observes that the particle ‘oh’ can occur in first (as opening), second (as a response), and a third position (as closing).

(1) (GJ:FN) ((Three people are walking together: someone passes them wearing a photograph tee-shirt))
1 N: -> Oh that tee-shirt reminded me [STORY]

(2)
1 Ann: How are you feeling Joyce.=
2 Joy: -> Oh fi:ne.
3 Ann: 'Cause- I think Doreen mentioned that you weren't so well?

(3) (HG:II:25)
1 N: .hhh Dz he 'av 'iz own apa:rt[mint?]
2 H: [.hhhh] Yea:h,= 
3 N: -> =Oh;
   (Heritage, 2013: 1-2)

Not only can the particle ‘oh’ appear in three different positions in the sequence of interaction, but it also can occur in turn-initial and turn-medial (James, 1972, 1974, as cited in Heritage, 2013). The
flexibility of the particle’s position in the conversation gives rise to its multifunctionality. The abovementioned studies show that pragmatic particles in spoken language are worth studying with regard to their positions, both sequence and turn, which leads to their pragmatic functions. The present study, therefore, aims to investigate the pragmatic particle jà’ in Madurese conversation, how it is used and functions.

The particle jà’ of Madurese was chosen in this study for the following reasons. First, Madurese is an understudied regional language of Indonesia and enriching studies on local languages can shed light on Indonesian linguistics research diversity because Indonesia is the country with the second highest number of languages in the world. Second, the particle jà’ displays an interesting feature of pragmatic particles, namely, multifunctionality/polyfunctionality which this current research is mostly concerned with. Third, it is to further argue that the particle jà’ not only functions as a demonstrative pronoun or equal in meaning to English “Don’t” as stated by Davies (2010). Fourth, having known that there are no extant studies on Madurese pragmatic particles, it is a good way to start with the particle that potentially has a multifunctionality feature as what current pragmatic and conversation analysts have done in the recent years. The earlier particles mentioned here and in Davies (2010) such as la and ke’ were only marking tenses and contrasts. Thus, they are less interesting and perhaps require a more robust corpus from either diachronic or synchronic data to examine their functions. Finally, studies on Indonesian pragmatic particles remain largely unexplored and local languages are far from being researched. Therefore, the present study enriches cross-linguistic research and enhances the study of Indonesian local languages in particular.

**Studies of pragmatic particles in Indonesia**

Indonesia has about 743 languages spread out from Sabang, in Western Indonesia, to Merauke in the East. However, there are not many studies investigating pragmatic particles or discourse markers in Indonesian vernacular languages. The possibilities of this ignorance can be explained as follows: Indonesian languages are too many to study, Indonesian linguists have a low interest to study them, or the Indonesian government has low support to do research on local languages. As a result, there have only been two main publications, and unfortunately they were written by non-Indonesian linguists, that have a major contribution to the present study of pragmatic particles or discourse markers in Indonesia. The first work was written by Ikranagara in 1975, while another publication was written by Wouk from 1998 to 2001.

Ikranagara’s (1975) study is the first work on Indonesian pragmatic particles. She based her research on a folk play in Betawi, a dialect spoken in Jakarta. In her investigation, she found eight most frequent uses of pragmatic particles in the play. They are kok, kek, ah, kan, ye (ya), sih, deh, and dong. In understanding the functions of those particles, Ikranagara (1975) used equivalent English translations for each use of particles. By so doing, it helps non-Indonesian readers understand the meanings of the pragmatic particles.

Additionally, the meanings of those pragmatic particles are intimately associated with the type of sentences they are embodied. The particle kok, for instance, expresses a speaker’s feeling of surprise when it is used in a declarative sentence. Conversely, kok in interrogative sentences indicates a speaker’s query, unbelievable state, so that the speaker requires further explanation. The English translation for the latter case is on par with “how come” (Ikranagara, 1975:96). In her description of the particles, she makes use of three types of sentences in which the mentioned pragmatic particles mostly occur. The declarative, imperative, and interrogative are the most common type of sentences that eight Indonesian pragmatic particles appear. However, it is only kek and ya that can be used in those three categories. The rest merely appear in either declarative or interrogative sentence such as kok and kan, in declarative or imperative sentence such as ah, deh, and dong, and the particle sih which naturally occurs in interrogative sentence. The present study has benefited from Ikranagara’s (1975) elaboration for understanding meaning in a way that type of sentence determines the pragmatic meaning. Therefore, this paper also addresses which types of sentence particle jà’ can be used and what pragmatic meaning it carries in each sentence.

The following works that are also important to note are Wouk’s (1998, 1999, 2001) investigations of Indonesian pragmatic particles, especially kan and ya. Unlike Ikranagara who based the study on a folk play, Wouk used data from informal dialogues among Indonesian speakers. She additionally describes the position of kan and ya and extends their meaning by stating that these particles build solidarity among the speakers (Wouk, 1999). This function is closely related to the fact that Indonesian speakers highly regard their culture and politeness system. On the other hand, the purpose of kan in final position, for instance, is to make a tag question that enacts conjoint knowledge between the speakers (Wouk, 1999) and to some extent marks solidarity building.

The latest study that is in line with the present paper is Yuniar, Sujatna, and Heriyanto (2013) on discourse markers in Sundanese oral narratives. They state that the particles teh, mah, da, and we used in an oral narrative are also very commonly used in everyday oral conversation. From their
analysis, those pragmatic particles indicate an emphatic marker to the sentences they embody. The limitation of this study, however, is in their methodological approach and presentation of the data, which is not glossed or translated.

The above studies investigate pragmatic particles in other Indonesian local languages. Linguists such as Ikranagara and Yuniar et al. use the term “discourse marker” in a way that they focus on investigating the functions of the particle in the discourse context. In addition, they employ the Schiffrin paradigm on discourse (markers). The present study, however, employs pragmatic particles in a way it will focus much on the pragmatic functions and incorporates conversation analysis within the investigation of the particle in conversation. Pragmatic particles in Madurese have never been explored except in a very short discussion in Davies (2010: 91-92, 185, & 240). This study can extend the discussion of pragmatic particles on local language, as what has been done by Ikranagara and Yuniar et al., and on spoken data like Wouk works.

**Madurese language and pragmatic particles**

The Madurese language belongs to the Austronesian language family, specifically Western Malayo-Polynesian (Adelaar, 2005 as cited in Davies, 2010). It is the fifth most-spoken language in Indonesia (Ethnologue, 2015). The population, according to Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia (Statistics Indonesia), is about 3.5 million spread throughout Madura Island, ranging from Bangkalan in the west to Sumenep in the East. Madurese is not only spoken in Madura Island but also in some parts of East Java such as Probolinggo, Lumajang, Jember, Sitobondo, Bondowoso, and northern part of Banyuwangi (Davies, 2010).

The lexical categories of Madurese language comprise open class and closed class words (Davies 2010). Nonetheless, several lexical items do not have a rigid word level. He further exemplified the so-called particles, namely já’, bu’, keng, and coma that are extensively used as complementizer, question marker, and degree of modifier (Davies, 2010: 240, 396, & 465). However, it is evident that from the present findings, the word já’ is not always used in such a way.

Besides its polyfunctionality as it is going to be discussed in the discussion part, the particle já’ is interesting because it is said to be grammatically derived from the word enjá’ which literally means “not” (Parwitra, 2009) and is often used to make a disclaimer or sense of denial. The following example below may give you an illustration how it is used. AX is asking BK whether or not BK has eaten. BK responds that he has not eaten yet by using enjá’.

**Example 1**

1. **AX** kakeh mareh ngakan
   You PM eat
   Have you eaten?

2. **BK** enjá’
   PM
   No, I have not

Here, enjá’, as the former form of já’, takes place as a complete turn. In such an exchange, AX’s initiating sequence leads BK to respond in the second turn. BK’s response is answering the preceding illocutionary act of questioning. Enjá’, therefore, functions as the second pair part of the talk, and as a complete turn. Nonetheless, not all meanings of já’ in the talks are “not”. Some other meanings and functions of the particle are described in the findings and discussion sections.

**METHOD**

The data were utterances consisting pragmatic particles as already mentioned in the previous parts. The data source of the present study was tape-recorded conversations. The conversations were in Madurese in which four participants were involved. All of the participants were native speakers of Madurese (speakers whose first language was Madurese) aged between 18 to 25 years old. The recording was made via an application on the phone and was started as soon as the speakers spoke.
were written in courier new with size 9, left-aligned vertically word by word, the English equivalent translation were written in TNR 12. In addition, the Conversation Analysis approach was incorporated to achieve the intended goal, namely to figure out pragmatic meanings of the particle jâ’i. Thus, I closely examined the positions and the sequences of the interactions and turns of the conversation (cf. Heritage, 1998, 2013). Additionally, Fraser’s (1990, 1996) framework was also employed to give a sufficient picture on the functions of the particle. It was initiated by describing the form (position in the interaction) of the particle and followed by giving sufficient elaboration of the pragmatic functions.

Table 1. Description of the recording

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Recording code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rec 1</td>
<td>00:03:52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rec 2</td>
<td>00:04:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rec 3</td>
<td>00:30:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rec 4</td>
<td>00:08:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rec 5</td>
<td>00:04:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rec 6</td>
<td>00:10:53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rec 7</td>
<td>00:01:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rec 8</td>
<td>00:02:09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rec 9</td>
<td>00:04:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rec 10</td>
<td>00:07:48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rec 11</td>
<td>00:05:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rec 12</td>
<td>00:00:35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDINGS

From the observed data, the particle jâ’i did not appear in all recordings. I offer ten excerpts of data where the participants made use of jâ’i in their conversations. The meaning of jâ’i in the conversations may, at least, depend on the position in the turn and the sequence in the conversations and type of sentence where jâ’i appeared.

Additionally, before analysing its pragmatic functions, the particle jâ’i is clustered based on its position in the interaction how the particle jâ’i appears in sequence and turn, and sentence type; whether it occurs in declarative, interrogative, or imperative sentence.

The data showed that the particle jâ’i only occurred in either initial or middle position of the turn. It did not appear in sentence final position. It is noticeably different from the syllabic particle ya/kan that can appear in all positions (Wouk, 1999, 2001) where both jâ’i and ya/kan belong to the same language family, which is an Austronesian language. It can be expected that they may have similar characteristics in terms of turns in conversation.

From the corpora, there are ten occurrences of jâ’i, most of them are in turn-initial positions. Nine of them appear as second pair part as a response. The particle jâ’i also occurs in the first and second position. It seems to be equivalent to oh as to open and response the sequence interaction (Heritage, 2013). Both jâ’i and oh are comparable in a way that there are monosyllabic and thus we may expect them to share the similar characteristics. In terms of sentence type, the particle jâ’i is abundantly used in declarative sentences. Some speakers in the data, likewise, use the particle in interrogative and imperative sentences. The meanings are varied across sentences.

The particle jâ’i in turn-initial position

As previously mentioned, the present data showed that the particle jâ’i occurred in turn-initial position in most occurrences. However, this does not necessarily mean that it cannot occur in middle position. In section 1, jâ’i possible occurrence has been exhaustively elaborated. Based on the data, some examples of jâ’i in initial positions are presented Excerpt 1 and Excerpt 2.

In the spoken corpus, the particle jâ’i appears turn-initial. The present data have not revealed any occurrence of the particle in turn-final nor in turn middle position. This finding may add to the particle’s uniqueness or speciality.

The particle jâ’i and the sequence in conversations

The present data show that the particle jâ’i can occur in the first (opening) and second position (response).
Irham, Evaluating the pragmatic particle jâ’ in a Madurese spoken corpus

2 aduh cek ngellonah ro deiyeh  
HRT FP complain-DEF FP that  
Complain (indeed about the price)

3 “adu mbak gimanana aku gimana mbak()”  
HRT sister how I how sister  
How I am sister

4 Ati Engkok ngejjid pertamanah mak cek benyakeng.  
I surprised first-DEF FP FP many-DEF  
I also surprised at first why so expensive

5 kan engkok andik datanah Kabbih joh?  
P I have data-DEF all FP  
I have all the data

6 (0.2)

Excerpt 4
1 Rai ade’ UKT se pa’ratos ruah  
Nothing UKT REL four hundreds FP  
There is no UKT that is four hundreds

2 Muz Jâ’treng b[enya’ praktegeh mbak]  
PRT many practice-DEF sister  
Many (laboratory) practices sister (Rai)

3 Ati [se pa’ratos jeh] olleh diddi’ sapah yeh pole  
REL four hundreds FP get little who P again  
(that who het four hundreds) only little

4 keng lakar lok lok apa () ongghu mbak  
FP really not not what really sister  
Really sister (.) (Rai)

For the sequence of the interaction, the particle jâ’ can appear in the first and second position. The function then varies from opening the talk to giving a response.

The particle jâ’ and sentence types
The particle jâ’ can appear in various types of sentences such as in declarative sentences (excerpt 5), interrogative (excerpt 6), or imperative sentences (excerpt 7). The data show that eight out of ten hits, the particle jâ’ occurred in declarative sentence.

Excerpt 5
1 Muz Jâ’? engkok lo’ parlo deiye-na mbak  
PRT I not need like this-DEF sister (Rai)  
I don’t need this sister (Rai)

Excerpt 6
1 Muz Jâ’ saintek jeh arapah ye mbak ye=  
PRT sci. and tech FP why P sister P  
What goes wrong with science and technology department

Excerpt 7
1 Muz ja’ re’~cerre’ terro e-rayu kush  
PRT RED-stingy want OV tease FP  
(say to him/the lecturer) Don’t be stingy otherwise he will be teased

DISCUSSION
In this section, the multiple functions of the particle jâ’ are elaborated. Its old meaning (not-derived from enjâ’) and its canonical translation in Davies’ (2010) works are maybe only a few functions of the particle in natural language use. The particle jâ’ not only can explain the previous proposition (like that as noun clause in English) but also can function as a topic shift, a prohibitive marker, and an emphatic marker.

In addition, the present corpus shows that the particle jâ’ never occurs in a single turn as a complete turn nor as a single response for a question. It has received a new meaning that can be traced from the context where the particle appears in the conversation.

Jâ’ as a topic shift
Aijmer (2002) proposes frame functions of discourse
particles. In her investigation of *now*, Aijmer (2002) calls *now* as “topic-changer” (p. 57). She distinguishes different uses of *now* as “S-use” and as “D-use”. The former refers to *now* that has a temporal function, whereas the latter refers *now* use as a discourse function (Aijmer, 2002: 58-59). Having noted Aijmer’s work on the particle *now*, Corcu (2006) investigates the particle *zaten* and *ya* in Turkish dialogues. The particle *ya* in final position functions as an internal topic shit, an external topic shift, and, to some extent, as introducing a new topic” (Corcu, 2006:4-5).

Similarly, the present particle in this paper seems to share similar pragmatic functions of topic shift. Unlike *ya* in Turkish that occurs in final position, the particle *jâ’* in initial position that prefaces question is used to shift the topic of the conversation. In the following example, excerpt 8, Muz and Ati discuss about the tuition fee in their university. In the beginning of the talk, Muz expresses her worries about paying the tuition fee. Ati confirms that she has not paid the tuition fee either. After a short gap, Muz initiates a new topic to discuss (line 7).

**Excerpt 8**

1. **Muz**
   
   **Engkok deremmah se nitibeh (.) spp**  
   I how REL entrust tuition fee

2. **Ce’ lo’ parcaja-na (hh) ((laugh)) ka nak-kanak**  
   FF not believe-DEF to RED-child
   I don’t believe in (hh) ((laugh)) students

3. **(0.1)**

4. **Ati**
   
   **Engkok gitak majer, [mager bileh] gitak taoh**  
   I yet pay pay when yet know
   I (have) not pay, I don’t know when to pay

5. **Muz**
   
   **[Iyeh mbak] padeh mbak**  
   Yes sister same sister
   Yes me too sister (Ati)

6. **(0.2)**

7. **Muz**
   
   **Jâ’ saintek jeh arapah ye mbak ye=**  
   PRT sci. and tech FF why P sister P
   What goes wrong with science and technology department?

8. **Ati**  
   
   **=Mateh saintek dujutah pa’ratos**  
   Die sci. and tech. two mill. four hundreds
   Science and technology is two million and four

9. **tello [polo]**  
   three ten hundreds thirty

10. **Muz**
    
    **[Aduuuh pa’ratos]**  
    HRT four hundreds
    Four hundreds

11. **Ati**
    
    **.hh ((laugh)) engkok engkok pa ngejjit (.)**  
    I I TM surprised
    .hh ((laugh)) I am then surprised

12. **duh mak cek benya’(hh)eng ye ((laugh))**  
    HRT FF FF many-DEF P
    why it is too much ((laugh))

13. **cak-en engkok hhh ((laugh))**  
    say-DEF I
    I say hhh (laugh)

14. **Rai**
    
    **Iyeh anuhi’i kategori berempah beeng**  
    P FIL category what you
    What category are you

15. **Ati**
    
    **Kabbi mbak ratah mbak**  
    All sister same sister
    All the same sister (Rai)

16. **Muz**
    
    **Enjek mbak adek kategorinah [mun saintek]**  
    Not sister nothing category-DEF if sci. and tech. department
    No sister (Rai) sci. and tech. dept. student has no category

17. **Ati**
    
    **[ratah mbak]**  
    Same sister
    The same sister (Rai)
In the conversation, Muz agrees with Ati’s statement that they have not paid the tuition fee (line 4-5). After Muz’s turn in line 4, there is no one taking the floor. Instead, there is a short gap that is about 0.2 milliseconds. To this end, Muz, as the latest speaker who takes the turn, has her right to continue her turn and take the floor (Sacks et al., 1974). Having this chance, Muz initiated her other first floor by addressing a question about how the condition science and technology student is concerning the tuition that they have to pay. She used jâ’ in that prefaces question and it is in initial position (line 7). She said “jâ’ saintek jeh arapah ye mbak ye” that means what happens with science and technology students.

This topic that she addresses is a different topic in which she wants to discuss. The use of jâ’ in the conversation above is then to shift the topic from discussing how to pay the tuition to a new one that is how science and technology students deal with the tuition fee. The question in which jâ’ is embodied is not to ask for confirmation. However, as Muz is not a student of Science and Technology, she wants to seek information. The present of jâ’ thus also generates a pragmatic meaning of information seeking in the sense that Muz does not have the knowledge for the case she addresses.

In responding to this case, Ati who is a student of Science and Technology directly answers that it is terrible for science and technology students because they have to pay about two million and four hundred thirty something (line 8-9). Her response directly occurs without a gap (line 8) after Muz’ turn (line 7). It could be understood that Ati has more knowledge to tell Muz pertaining to this case.

Accordingly, jâ’ that takes place in an initial position can also function as to addressing a new topic in which the speakers do not intend to seek information but to give new information. It usually appears when the speakers want to begin to tell their story of personal experience. In the following example, Muz opens the talk by telling the story of her roommate. She tells Ati how her roommate feels about having to pay much more compared to students of other departments.

Excerpt 9

1 Muz Jâ’ tang kamar saintek mbak. PRT my   room sci. and tech. sister
   My roommate sister (Ati)
2 aduh cek ngellonah ro deliyeh HRT FF complain-DEF FP that
   Complain (indeed about the price)
3 “adu mbak gimana aku gimana mbak()” HRT sister how I how sister
   How, how I am sister?
4 Ati Engkok ngeljjid pertamanah mak cek benyakeng. I      surprised first-DEF FP FP many-DEF
   I also surprised at first why it is so expensive
5 kan engkok andik datanah kabbih joh? P I have data-DEF all FP
   I have all the data
6 (0.2)
7 Rai Dujutah pa’ratos berempah? Two     million how
   How much did say, two million?
8 Ati tello poloan ghek bede cek-recekenah (hh) [e budinah]
      Thirty teen FP exist RED-small at back-DEF
   Thirties, there is small number (hh) added
9 Muz       [iyot pasti] Yes sure
10 iyot {(laugh)} .hhh yes
   Yes sure {(laugh)} .hhh

The excerpt above, jâ’ prefaces a statement in which Muz begins to tell about her roommate’s feeling. It also occurs in initial position as the previous excerpt. However, in this case, the use of jâ’ is not to ask for an explanation as it appears in wh-question. It introduces new information that the speaker wants to share with other participants. This new information is in line with the topic they
discuss earlier where science and technology students have to pay the tuition fee in different amount of money.

Therefore, Muz’ new information about how her roommate’s feeling is slightly a different topic. More importantly, it is new information for other participants which can be traced from Ati’ response in line 4-5. Although she is a student in science and technology department, she is still surprised facing the fact that she has to pay that cost. Thus, this response subtly shows that she agrees and accepts the new information given by Muz.

Jā’ as prohibitive marker

Unlike a filler that merely fills in the blank a talk to, for instance, give the speakers time to project the following utterance, jā’ can function as the core element in the sentence. When it is used in the imperative sentence, jā’ becomes a semantic element that gives a negative meaning. Thus, the sentence can be understood as either a warning or a prohibition. Chondrogianni (2011) investigates the prohibitive marker in Modern Greek. Particularly, she sheds light the particle μην and its environment in syntactic structure. Particle μην introduces a prohibitive marker when it is not preceded by subjunctive particle νά. Consequently, such a prohibition can be understood as “preventive and negative warnings”; the former uses a perfective verb while the later uses an imperfective verb (Chondrogianni, 2011:138)

The particle jā’ in Madurese in the imperative sentence complies with a similar function that is as a prohibitive marker. It expresses an act of warning, or to some extent, a prohibition to the hearer not to do something. To illustrate, following is an example from a Madurese oral narrative collected by IOWA digital library.

Example 10

1 Mon se tak gellem maso’ agama anyar jiya
   If REL not want convert religion new this
   If they don’t want to convert to the new religion

2 lo’ olle paksa, jā’’ paksa
   not allow force PRT force
   don’t force, don’t force (them)

Here the speaker tells about the king that finds his guardian converting to a new religion. The guardian then asks permission to the King that he wants to tell the society of Arosbaya about his new belief. The king was angry at first because converting to a new religion without his permission is a breach of the kingdom’s rules. However, the King lets the guardian exercise his new religion and even allows him to tell (invite) the society about his new religion.

The King warns the guardian not to force the society who does not want to convert to this new religion. The King says “Mon se tak gellem maso’ agama anyar jiya lo’ olle paksa, jā’’ paksa” which means “if they don’t want to convert to the new religion you bring, don’t force, don’t force them”. The jā’’-prefaced warning (line 2) eventually indicates a degree of action that should not be done by the hearer. Hence, regardless of King’s disagreement to his guardian’s new religion, he still allows the guardian to invite the society but with the condition of no force.

The particle jā’ attached to the word paksa “force” in line 2 gives a stronger negative meaning. The earlier literal meaning of “not” from the word lo’ expresses speaker’s state to warn. Thus, particle jā’ emphasizes the degree of warning. Here, the meaning of jā’ is equivalent to English “don’t”. To this case, I conclude that jā’ gives a negative meaning to the command it embodies. As a matter of fact, the negative meaning of jā’ remains there although the preceding proposition “lo’ olle paksa” is omitted. The word lo’ indeed gives a negative meaning to this proposition. However, it is not a precondition that entails a negative meaning of jā’ itself. To exemplify, the sentence can still be understood and accepted by Madurese speakers although it is presented in a way where “lo’ olle paksa” is omitted such as in the following example:

1 Mon se tak gellem maso’ agama anyar jiya jā’’ paksa
   If REL not want convert religion new this PRT force
   If they don’t want to convert to the new religion, don’t force (them)

This type of jā’ usage is also common in Madurese daily informal talk. From the audio-taped dialogues, Ati and Rai is talking about a young lecturer. According to Ati, a young lecturer tends to be stingy in giving a grade because the lecturer is not married yet. Rai agrees with Ati’s statement. In closing the sequence, Muz makes a warning with jā’ in initial position.

Excerpt 11

1 Atik Ghik ngudeh dosena lok andik binih ((laugh))
   FP young lecturer-DEF not have wife
   The lecturer is still young and doesn’t have wife (laugh)
Muz’s response produces an imperative sentence prefaced by particle jâ’ . It enacts a command or an order to the hearer not to do something. Thus, the speaker has a commitment to warn the hearer not to do something. Such a type of sentence belongs to commissives in Austin’s category (Austin, 1962). Nonetheless, this jâ’ meaning appearing in the imperative sentence is not necessarily restricted to a warning per se. It could also be understood as an order, a request, or perhaps advice. What is interesting from this function is that jâ’ can only be used in a negative imperative sentence since it carries a negative meaning. The reason I could argue for this case is that jâ’ is a grammaticalized form of enjâ’ which means “not”. Jâ’ preserves its old meaning whenever it is used in a command or an imperative sentence.

Jâ’ as emphatic marker
Besides the two mentioned functions, the particle jâ’ also enacts an emphatic marker that is to emphasize a basic intended message (Fraser, 1996). Some English discourse markers within this category are really, indeed, and definitely. As the nature of pragmatic particles, they do not have a clear semantic meaning but does bring a pragmatic meaning (Foolen, 2011; Aijmer, 2002; Fraser, 1990). Particle jâ’ in this sense also performs an illocutionary act of giving emphasis to sentence it is embodied. In so doing, the speakers deem a statement to be fervently crucial. Han (2011) notes some usages of emphatic markers in public speeches. Their function is that to fill a communicative feature and to arouse hearer’s attention. She elaborates that the use of emphatic markers, such as definitely, indeed, and really in public speeches, plays a significant role to achieve speakers’ communicative goal (Han, 2011).

Having discovered that fact, the particle jâ’ that occurs in the initial position does emanate an emphatic marker. In most of the data, it appeared in declarative sentences and occurred in the second position as a response. In the following example, Rai initiates the conversation by addressing a question. Accordingly, Muz responds by answering the question. Muz uses the particle jâ’ that prefaces a response. The presence of jâ’ here gives an emphasis to Muz’s statement.
In line 2, Muz gives a response that emphasizes the fact that there are many laboratory practices in the Science and Technology Department. Therefore, there are not many students in this department who have a subsidy and pay four hundred rupiahs for the tuition fee. This knowledge is even strengthened by Ati’s response in line 3-4 and line 6-9. Hence, the particle jâ’ in Muz’s turn is equivalent to “indeed, the fact that”.

**The particle jâ’, enjâ’, and Indonesian ya**

From the above discussion, it is worth noticing that the particle jâ’ cannot perform a complete turn in the talk but is able to enact as a second pair part in the sequence. The enjâ’, and Indonesian ya on the other hand, can appear in a complete turn and third position as closing (see example 1; Wouk 2001). The position of (en)jâ’ in the second position is closely comparable to Raclaw’s (2013) study on ‘no’-prefaces in English conversation. In this position, ‘no’-prefaces can function as a response of a prior turn and shift marking (Raclaw, 2013). On the contrary, ‘no’ in turn-initial position functions as a transition marker (Schegloff, 2001). Interestingly, Madurese speakers use the particle jâ’ merely in two positions, namely in turn-initial position (excerpt 1 & 2) as in example 3 or turn-medial as in example 4. It cannot occur in a final position such as in example 5.

**Example 3**

1  AX  Jâ’ e-kala’ kabbih engkok taoh
     PRT OV-take all I know
     That all is taken I know

In this example, particle jâ’ occurs in turn-initial position. It pragmatically functions as an emphatic marker. For the fact that it is a declarative sentence, the presence of particle jâ’ prefaces declarative sentence emphasis the statement that the speaker expresses. In the next example, jâ’ is in a turn-medial position.

**Example 4**

1  AX  Engkok taoh jâ’ e-kala’ kabbih
     I know PRT OV-take all
     I know that all is taken

When particle jâ’ is in turn-medial, its functions is equivalent to “that” in noun clause that explains the verb taoh “know”. I categorize this type of function as a complemetizer. In the following example is position of jâ’ that cannot occur.

**Example 5**

1  AX  engkok taoh e-kala’ kabbih jâ’
     I know PRT OV-take all
     I know that all is taken

The use of the particle jâ’ in turn-final position is not accepted in Madurese and it cannot appear in such position in the sense that it does not bring any pragmatic function.

**CONCLUSION**

To recapitulate, the particle jâ’ in the conversation are diverse in terms of its sequences and turns. The particle jâ’ can occur in either first (initiating) or second (responsive) position (Excerpt 3 and 4). Unlike the particle oh that can be used in first, second, and third position (Heritage, 2013), the present data show that the particle jâ’ cannot be used as sequence closing. Furthermore, the present particle is predominant in turn-initial positions (Excerpt 1 and 2). Compared to the particle ya or kan (Wouk, 1998, 1999, 2001), the latter particles can appear in turn-initial, turn-medial, and turn-final positions and pragmatically vary very considerably.

The present study also takes a look at the sentence types in which the particle appears. Besides the sequence and turn position, the types of sentences can bring a significant portrayal of
pragmatic function because the type of sentence can show the type of speech acts of the particle. For instance, the use of the particle kan in interrogative sentence may evoke to show a “confirmation” (Wouk, 1998). As a results, the data show an interesting fact that the particle já’ can appear in declarative (Excerpt 5), interrogative (Excerpt 6), and imperative sentence (Excerpt 7).

In section 4, the distribution of the particle já’ in sentence types, sequences, and turns of conversation has been shown thoroughly. Based on those results, the pragmatic functions of the particle já’ are formulated as follows: as topic shift, as prohibitive marker, and as emphatic marker. The particle já’ can be used to change to the topic of conversation as it is exemplified in excerpt 8 and to address a new topic as in excerpt 9. In this function, the particle appears in initial position. The similar function can also be found in English particle now (Aijmer, 2002) or Turkish particle ya (Corcu, 2006) which occurs in turn final position.

In accordance with the previous function, the particle já’ is worth to have the function as a prohibitive marker. It works like prohibitive marker jangan in bahasa Indonesia. The speech acts that are enacted from this function may vary depending on the context. It may be used to make a warn, command, or order. Research on prohibitive markers has also been done in Greek particle μη(ν) (Chondrogianni, 2011). It introduces a prohibitive marker when it is not preceded by subjunctive particle vê. The meaning can be understood as “preventive and negative warnings” (Chondrogianni, 2011:138). The particle já’ in the present data can be used to give a warn (excerpt 10 and 11).

The last function of the particle já’ in the present study is that it functions as an emphatic marker. As in Fraser’s (1990, 1996) elaboration, the English expressions really, indeed, or definitely fall into this function category. Thus, the standard English translation for the particle já’ in this category may be best represented by really, indeed, or definitely. The speaker may use this particle as an emphasis in a ways that he or she aims to gain the audience’s attention and achieve the communicative goal (Han, 2011). The particle já’ therefore has provided a salient picture on how a particular pragmatic particle in one language may have diverse functions depending on the position it occurs.

Intriguingly, the particle já’ emanates various pragmatic meanings across those positions. Furthermore, sentence types where já’ occupies enrich its illocutionary acts that enable speakers to “do thing with words” (Austin 1962, as cited in Kendrick & Torreira, 2016). It shows a topic shift when it is used in an interrogative sentence. It gives an act of warning or prohibition for imperative sentences, and an emphasis to the importance of the statement in declarative sentences.

In addition to the above mentioned conclusion, the present study may also make a significant contribution to Madurese linguists to further extend the category and meaning possibilities of the particle já’ in both Madurese dictionary and Madurese book. Besides, non-Madurese speakers who are willing to communicate with Madurese can be more aware of using the most appropriate já’. Misuse of such particle may lead to miscommunication or ambiguity. Of course, the last proposition needs more thorough investigation whether or not it may bring about such a serious effect in communication.

Future researchers can further examine the relations of particles with preferred or dispreferred responses. In several occurrences, there is always a gap before the speaker initiates then sequences. The particle já’ prefaces in Madurese conversation tends to enact the a similar pragmatic function to “no” prefaces in English (see Raclaw, 2013). Besides, the politeness factor can also be considered for further research on how it is used among differences social classes of interlocutors. As a matter of fact, Madurese speakers highly regard the politeness system in their speaking. Hence, they may use different types of particles to convey the same pragmatic meaning.

REFERENCES
Fraser, B. (1990). An approach to discourse


---

1 *Uang Kuliah Tunggal*, the tuition fee policy where students get subsidy from the university so that they only pay four hundreds rupiah instead of 2 million something rupiahs.

2 I think this is a filler, it has no meaning. FIL: Filler

3 Category here refers to students’ financial category when they first enroll to the university. They are divided into three main categories; category one is for financially disadvantage students, category two is for cannot be able to pay above average, and category three is for students who can pay above the average

4 ungrammatical