





My magic grammar rule:

Passive 1:           O di-V S

Passive 2:           O S baseVerb.

In the P2 syntax, if the active *me*-verb has a *-kan* or *-i* suffix, then this suffix also inflects in the base verb.

For example

Active:   *Sukarno mendeklarasi**kan** kemerdekaan Indonesia.*

P2:       *Kemerdekaan Indonesia saya deklarasi**kan**.*

## Nominative sentence

Before we discuss nominative sentences, we need to change our terminology for this next discussion. Instead of talking about subjects and objects, we will talk about *noun phrases* (NP) as *arguments*.

A noun phrase can be:

i. a noun;

e.g. '*kucing*'

ii. a noun with an adjective;

e.g. '*kucing lucu*'

iii. or a noun with an adjective phrase;

e.g. '*kucing yang lucu itu*'.

Arguments are the noun phrases that pertain to the predicate of a clause. In the active sentence example below, the subject NP1 and object NP2 are arguments of the predicate *membaca*.

*Mickey Mouse membaca buku.*

NP1

predicate

NP2

We are using the argument-NP terminology because in a nominative sentence, there is no subject doing something to an object.

A nominative sentence is a subject focused sentence. The two arguments are different noun phrases and different descriptions of the same constant (NP1 = NP2). The copula *adalah* functions like an '=' sign:

*Mickey Mouse adalah temanku.*

NP1                    =                    NP2

Let's go back to our sentence;

*Sukarno mendeklarasikan kemerdekaan Indonesia.*

We have learnt how to turn this active sentence into a passive sentence. We can also do something interesting and turn it into a nominative sentence. But obviously we can't just change the predicate with the copula *adalah*;

*Sukarno **adalah** kemerdekaan Indonesia.*

This would mean that ‘*Sukarno is the Indonesian independence*’. So what gives? Well, the trick is to change the predicate base word into an agentive *pe-* noun. The base word of the predicate *mendeklarasikan* is *deklarasi*. In Indonesian, an agentive *pe-* noun turns a base word into a ‘doer’:

<i>beli</i> - buy	<i>pembeli</i> - buyer
<i>jual</i> - sell	<i>penjual</i> - seller
<i>deklarasi</i> - declare	<i>pendeklarasi</i> - declarator

My magic grammar rule:

To transpose an active sentence into a nominative sentence, convert the **predicate base word** into an **agentive *pe-* noun** and phrase it together with the object to form the NP1-argument.

Pe-X + object = NP1

NP1 adalah NP2

Our original subject in the active sentence becomes the NP2.



The *yang me-x* phrase as alternative to agentive *Pe-* noun.

Sometimes the agentive *pe-* noun can be awkward in everyday speech. The following sentence sounds stilted in both the Indonesian and English:

*Pembeli buah-buahan itu adalah Ibu Merta.*

The buyer of those fruit is Ibu Merta.

To get around this, we can use the ***yang + me-x*** phrase instead of the ***Pe-x*** noun.

*Yang membeli buah-buahan itu adalah Ibu Merta.*

The one who bought those fruit is Ibu Merta.

**Modal verbs** and **tense adverbs** will also block the use of the *Pe-x* noun in the nominative.

This is when ***yang+VP*** (in this case VP is modal/tense auxiliary+verb) is very useful:

*Yang mau membeli buah-buahan itu adalah Ibu Merta.*

yang+VP

NP1

copula

NP2

When composing, you will need to decide whether to use the *pe-x* noun, the *yang me-x* or the *yang+VP* phrase. Everyday mundane sentences will probably sound awkward using the *pe-x* noun. If it sounds strange in English then it would probably be strange in the Indonesian too - then use the *yang me-* / *yang+VP* phrase instead.



**P2** *Pendeklarasian kemerdekaan Indonesia dilakukan oleh Sukarno.*

Object

di-Verb prep Subject

**P1** *Pendeklarasian kemerdekaan Indonesia saya lakukan.*

Object

Subject baseVerb

There are many different verbs that would be more eloquent for different contexts. You will learn these in your further studies as you encounter them in context. For now, we will use the safety net of *(di)lakukan*.

My magic grammar rule:

Similar to the nominative syntax, to transpose an active sentence into an abstract noun passive sentence, convert the **predicate base word** into an **abstract *pe-X-an* noun** and phrase it together with the original object to form the NP1-argument, and the subject in the active sentence becomes the NP2.

Pe-X-an + object = NP1

NP1 dilakukan oleh NP2

