

## The Form, Function, and Meaning of the Suffix -an in Indonesian

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### ABSTRACT

This research examines the suffix *-an* in Indonesian to formulate its rules of form, function, and meaning in forming polymorphemic words. Data were collected from the 2023 online edition of the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, national newspaper articles (February–May 2025), and introspective data from the researcher's competence as an Indonesian speaker. The data were analyzed using the distributional method with the immediate constituent analysis technique and paraphrasing techniques, and the identity method. The results reveal three main findings. First, regarding form, the suffix *-an* attached to base forms ending in vowels /i/, /u/, /a/, and diphthongs /ay/, /au/ undergoes morphophonemic processes with the addition of sounds [y], [w], and [ʔ], while attachment to consonant-ending base forms causes no change. Second, regarding function, the suffix *-an* forms nouns when attached to verb and noun base forms, and forms numerals when attached to numeral base forms. Third, regarding meaning, the suffix *-an* conveys 18 grammatical meanings, including tool, place, result, container, unit, and collective meanings. This research provides a comprehensive reference for teaching, learning, and further studies in Indonesian morphology.

### INTRODUCTION

From the perspective of structural language typology, Indonesian is an agglutinative language, which is a type of language that uses affixes as one of the elements in forming polymorphemic words (Febrian et al., 2022; Marlim, 2024; Nugraha, 2024). The Indonesian language has at least five types of affixes, namely prefixes, suffixes, infixes, confixes, and combinations of affixes (Fauziah & Wahyudi, 2023; Natalia & Wulandari, 2017; Rorimpandey, 2021). Each type of affix also has several subcategories.

The object of this research is the suffix *-an* (Xiaoqi et al., 2020). The suffix *-an* is an affix attached to the end of a base form to form polymorphemic words (Stacy et al., 2022; Taft, 2023). The suffix *-an* was chosen as the object of this research because this affix is productive, meaning it has a high potential to attach to various base forms to form polymorphemic words (Sukying, 2018; Yusuf et al., 2025). In addition, this suffix *-an* is discussed in almost every Indonesian grammar book, both traditional and modern Indonesian grammar (Andriani et al., 2021; Nasution, 2023). Although discussed in almost every Indonesian grammar book, the rules for using the suffix *-an* in Indonesian have not yet been formulated comprehensively. To formulate the rules for using the suffix *-an* thoroughly, at least three things need to be further studied. First, the issue of the suffix *-an* when attached to a base form to form a polymorphemic word. The attachment of the suffix *-an* to a base form to form a polymorphemic word can undergo a change in form or may not undergo a change in form. The following are examples of polymorphemic words formed from the attachment of the suffix *-an* to a base form.

(1) *puji*+*-an* → *pujian* [*pujiyan*] ‘praise’

- (2) *satu*+*-an* → *satuan* [*satuwan*] ‘unit’  
 (3) *angkat*+*-an* → *angkatan* [*angkatan*] ‘cohort’  
 (4) *atas*+*-an* → *atasan* [*atasan*] ‘boss’

Example (1) shows that the combination of the root form *puji* with the suffix *-an* which forms the word *pujian* [*pujiyan*] undergoes a change in form, namely the addition of the sound [y] between the [i] sound at the end of the root form *puji* and the [a] sound at the beginning of the suffix *-an*, and in writing, the [y] sound is not represented in letters. Similarly, in example (2), the suffix *-an* in the word *satuan* [*satuwan*] undergoes a change in form, namely the addition of the sound [w] between the sound [u] at the end of the base form *satuan* and the sound [a] at the beginning of the suffix *-an*, and in writing, the sound [w] is not represented in letters. Unlike examples (1) and (2), examples (3) and (4) are instances of attaching the suffix *-an* to a base form that does not undergo any changes. In example (3), the suffix *-an* is attached to the base form *angkat* to become *angkatan*, and in example (4), the suffix *-an* is attached to the base form *atas* to form the word *atasan*.

The second issue concerns the function of the suffix *-an* in forming polymorphemic words. The function of the suffix *-an* is related to two things: first, the suffix *-an* can attach to a base form of any category, and second, it can form polymorphemic words of any category. The following examples show the suffix *-an* attached to base forms of the verb and noun categories, functioning to form nouns.

- (5) *cetak* + *-an* → *cetakan* ‘mold’  
 (6) *kaleng* + *-an* → *kalengan* ‘canned’

In example (5), the suffix *-an* attaches to the base form *cetak*, which is categorized as a verb, functioning to form *cetakan*, which is categorized as a noun. In example (6), the suffix *-an* attaches to the base form *kaleng*, which is categorized as a noun, functioning to form the word *kalengan*, which is categorized as a noun. Based on these examples, it can be asked what kinds of base forms the suffix *-an* can attach to and what kinds of polymorphemic words it functions to form.

The third issue concerns the meaning that arises from the attachment of the suffix *-an* to the root form. The attachment of the suffix *-an* to the root form will create a certain meaning. The following are some examples.

- (7) *ukur*+*-an* → *ukuran* ‘alat untuk mengukur’ ‘tool for measuring’  
 (8) *landas*+*-an* → *landasan* ‘yang melandasi’ ‘which underlies’  
 (9) *bangun*+*-an* → *bangunan* ‘hasil membangun’ ‘result of building’  
 (10) *hari*+*-an* → *harian* ‘setiap hari’ ‘every day’

Examples (7) to (10) show that the suffix *-an* attached to the base form can convey various meanings. The suffix *-an* in *ukuran* (7) indicates the meaning ‘alat untuk mengukur’ (a tool for measuring’ in example). The suffix *-an* in *landasan* in example (8) means ‘yang melandasi’ (that which forms the base). The suffix *-an* in *bangunan* the result of building in example (9) carries the meaning ‘hasil membangun’ (the result of building). The suffix *-an* in *harian* in example (10) conveys the meaning ‘setiap hari’ (every day).

There have been a number of Indonesian grammar books that discuss the suffix *-an* in the Indonesian language. These grammar books include works by Ramlan (1983: 139--143), Chaer (1989: 30--35), Kridalaksana (1989: 64, 66--67, 81, 83), Arifin and Junaiyah (2007: 50-

-51), and Muslich (2008: 78--80). These books predominantly discuss the function and meaning of the suffix *-an*. The discussion of the suffix *-an* form is only carried out by Setiyadi (2022) in discussing morphophonemics. The discussion of the function of the suffix *-an* relates to the fact that the suffix *-an* can attach to base forms that are verbs, nouns, and adjectives, forming polymorphemic words that are categorized as nouns (Pulatova & Khamitov, 2025). In those grammar books, it has also been explained that the suffix *-an* expresses several meanings, but the types of meanings are not yet complete. Since the discussion of the suffix *-an* is incomplete and there is no specific research on the suffix *-an*, this article presents the results of research on the form, function, and meaning of the suffix *-an* in the Indonesian language.

This research aims to describe and formulate the rules of form changes that occur when the suffix *-an* is attached to various base forms in Indonesian, including morphophonemic processes that produce sound additions [y], [w], and [ʔ] as well as cases where no form changes occur. Furthermore, this research seeks to identify and explain the functions of the suffix *-an* in forming polymorphemic words, including the categories of base forms that can be attached to the suffix *-an* such as verbs, nouns, and numerals, as well as the categories of derived words formed, namely nouns and numerals. Additionally, this research aims to inventory and analyze the grammatical meanings conveyed by the suffix *-an* when attached to base forms, and to classify these meanings comprehensively based on the category and lexical meaning of the base forms.

Theoretically, this research contributes to Indonesian linguistics by providing a comprehensive description of the suffix *-an*, enriching morphophonemic theory regarding sound addition processes, and presenting 18 grammatical meanings of the suffix *-an* that are more complete than previous studies. This research also serves as reference material for further studies on other affixes in Indonesian. Practically, this research benefits Indonesian language teachers and lecturers as a teaching reference in morphology courses, helps native speakers and foreign learners (BIPA) understand the use of suffix *-an*, and provides a basis for linguists and researchers to conduct comparative studies with other affixes or languages. Additionally, it contributes to Indonesian language standardization efforts, assists dictionary compilers in creating more accurate entries, and helps translators and language practitioners improve accuracy in translation and language use, ultimately supporting the development and preservation of the Indonesian language.

## METHOD

The object of this research is the suffix *-an* in the Indonesian language. The data collected were polymorphemic words with the suffix *-an*, phrases containing polymorphemic words with the suffix *-an*, and sentences containing polymorphemic words with the suffix *-an*. The data were collected from three sources. The first source is the 2023 edition of the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (Indonesian Dictionary) online version. The second source consists of news articles from national newspapers, both offline and online, published from February to May 2025. Data from third-party sources is the data that Botha refers to as introspective data. This introspective data are words with the affix *-an* in Indonesian, which are not found in the first and second sources.

Data collection from the first and second sources was conducted using the observation method. Data collection from the third source was conducted using the intuitive method, which involves eliciting the language competence possessed by the researcher as an Indonesian speaker. In this case, according to Robins, the researcher holds the position of an internalist, meaning the researcher is also a speaker of the language being studied.

The collected data was then classified based on the form, function, and meaning of the suffix *-an*. The classified data was then analyzed using the direct element analysis method. Next, the data was analyzed using the identity method to prove the form and function of the suffix *-an*. The meaning of the suffix *-an* was proven using the paraphrasing method.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the research results in the form of rules regarding the form, function, and meaning of the suffix *-an* attached to base forms.

### The Form of Suffix *-an*

The form of suffix *-an* is related to morphophonemic processes in the base forms to which the suffix *-an* is attached. Attaching the suffix *-an* to a base form can undergo morphophonemic processes or may not undergo any morphophonemic processes. The morphophonemic rules for attaching the suffix *-an* to base forms can be formulated as follows. First, the suffix *-an* attached to base forms ending in the phonemes /i/ and /ay/ will produce the sound [y]. In writing, the sound [y] is not represented by a letter. Here are some examples.

- (11) *puji* + *-an* → *pujian* [*pujiyan*] ‘praise’
- (12) *cuci* + *-an* → *cucian* [*cuciyán*] ‘laundry’
- (13) *maki* + *-an* → *makian* [*makiyan*] ‘scolding’
- (14) *hari* + *-an* → *harian* [*hariyan*] ‘daily’
- (15) *gali* + *-an* → *galian* [*galiyan*] ‘excavation’
- (16) *pakai* + *-an* → *pakaian* [*pakaiyan*] ‘clothing’
- (17) *urai* + *-an* → *uraian* [*uraiyan*] ‘description’
- (18) *untai* + *-an* → *untaian* [*untaiyan*] ‘string’
- (19) *buai* + *-an* → *buaian* [*buaiyan*] ‘cradle’
- (20) *belai* + *-an* → *belaian* [*belaiyan*] ‘caress’

Second, the suffix *-an* attached to a base form ending with the phoneme /u/ and the diphthong /au/ will produce the sound [w] between the phoneme /u/ and /au/ at the end of the base form and the phoneme /a/ at the beginning of the suffix *-an*. In writing, the sound [w] is not represented by a letter. Here are some examples.

- (21) *tuju* + *-an* → *tujuan* [*tujuwan*] ‘goal’
- (22) *ribu* + *-an* → *ribuan* [*ribuwan*] ‘thousands’
- (23) *buru* + *-an* → *buruan* [*buruwan*] ‘prey’
- (24) *tipu* + *-an* → *tipuan* [*tipuwan*] ‘deception’
- (25) *pacu* + *-an* → *pacuan* [*pacuwan*] ‘racing’
- (26) *imbau* + *-an* → *imbauan* [*imbauwan*] ‘appeal’
- (27) *kicau* + *-an* → *kicauan* [*kicauwan*] ‘chirping’
- (28) *pantau* + *-an* → *pantauan* [*pantauwan*] ‘monitoring’
- (29) *gurau* + *-an* → *gurauan* [*gurauwan*] ‘jocking’

(30) *tinjau* + *-an* → *tinjauan* [tinjauwan] ‘review’

Third, the suffix *-an* attached to a base form ending with the phoneme /a/ will produce the sound [ʔ] between the /a/ at the end of the base form and the /a/ at the beginning of the suffix *-an*. In writing, the sound [ʔ] is not represented by a letter. Here are some examples.

(31) *baca* + *-an* → *bacaan* [bacaʔan] ‘reading’

(32) *juta* + *-an* → *jutaan* [jutaʔan] ‘millions’

(33) *raba* + *-an* → *rabaan* [rabaʔan] ‘palpation’

(34) *apa* + *-an* → *apaan* [apaʔan] ‘what’

(35) *goda* + *-an* → *godaan* [godaʔan] ‘temptation’

Fourth, the suffix *-an* attached to a base form ending with a consonant phoneme does not undergo any change in form. Here are some examples.

(36) *arah* + *-an* → *arahan* [arahan] ‘directions’

(37) *sasar* + *-an* → *sasaran* [sasaran] ‘target’

(38) *susun* + *-an* → *susunan* [susunan] ‘arrangement’

(39) *bantal* + *-an* → *bantalan* [bantalan] ‘bearing’

(40) *tuntut* + *-an* → *tuntutan* [tuntutan] ‘demands’

(41) *turun* + *-an* → *turunan* [turunan] ‘derivative’

(42) *pinjam* + *-an* → *pinjaman* [pinjaman] ‘loan’

(43) *jilid* + *-an* → *jilidan* [jilidan] ‘binding’

(44) *bujuk* + *-an* → *bujukan* [bujukan] ‘persuasion’

(45) *ingus* + *-an* → *ingusan* [ingusan] ‘snotty’

(46) *sayur* + *-an* → *sayuran* [sayuran] ‘vegetables’

(47) *pandang* + *-an* → *pandangan* [pandangan] ‘view’

(48) *pilih* + *-an* → *pilihan* [pilihan] ‘choice’

(49) *ratus* + *-an* → *ratusan* [ratusan] ‘hundreds’

(50) *catat* + *-an* → *catatan* [catatan] ‘notes’

(51) *ancam* + *-an* → *ancaman* [ancaman] ‘threat’

### The Function of Suffix *-an*

The function of the suffix *-an* relates to the attachment of the suffix *-an* to base forms of certain categories, which will serve to form polymorphemic words of specific categories as well. Therefore, the discussion of the function of the suffix *-an* covers two things: the category of base forms that can be attached to the suffix *-an* and the category of polymorphemic words that carry the suffix *-an*.

The base forms that can take the suffix *-an* include verbs, nouns, and numerals. The base forms categorized as verbs that can take the suffix *-an* are verb base forms that can also take the suffix *Me(N)-/(-kan)*. The suffix *-an* attached to verb base forms functions to form nouns. Below is a presentation of the categories of verb base forms that can take the suffix *-an* to form nouns.

(52) *baca* + *-an* → *bacaan* ‘reading’

(53) *bawa* + *-an* → *bawaan* ‘default’

(54) *cetak* + *-an* → *cetakan* ‘mold’

(55) *giling* + *-an* → *gilingan* ‘mill’

(56) *tulis* + *-an* → *tulisan* ‘writing’

- (57) *undang* + *-an* → *undangan* ‘invitation’  
 (58) *ucap* + *-an* → *ucapan* ‘saying’  
 (59) *susun* + *-an* → *susunan* ‘arrangement’  
 (60) *tindak* + *-an* → *tindakan* ‘action’  
 (61) *anjur* + *-an* → *anjuran* ‘recommendation’  
 (62) *pandang* + *-an* → *pandangan* ‘view’  
 (63) *ulas* + *-an* → *ulasan* ‘review’  
 (64) *pijak* + *-an* → *pijakan* ‘footing’  
 (65) *panggil* + *-an* → *panggilan* ‘calling’  
 (66) *tuduh* + *-an* → *tuduhan* ‘accusation’

A base form categorized as a noun that is attached with the suffix *-an* will form a polymorphemic word with the suffix *-an*, which is also categorized as a noun. In this case, the base form and the polymorphemic word with the suffix *-an* belong to the same category. The following are examples of the data.

- (67) *batang* + *-an* → *batangan* ‘baras’  
 (68) *bulan* + *-an* → *bulanan* ‘monthly’  
 (69) *bungkus* + *-an* → *bungkusan* ‘package’  
 (70) *darat* + *-an* → *daratan* ‘mainland’  
 (71) *kaleng* + *-an* → *kalengan* ‘canned’  
 (72) *lembar* + *-an* → *lembaran* ‘sheet’  
 (73) *hari* + *-an* → *harian* ‘daily’  
 (74) *minggu* + *-an* → *mingguan* ‘weekly’  
 (75) *laut* + *-an* → *lautan* ‘ocean’  
 (76) *atas* + *-an* → *atasan* ‘superior’  
 (77) *bawah* + *-an* → *bawahan* ‘subordinate’  
 (78) *gunting* + *-an* → *guntingan* ‘cutout’  
 (79) *pukul* + *-an* → *pukulan* ‘blow’  
 (80) *tahun* + *-an* → *tahunan* ‘annual’  
 (81) *bantal* + *-an* → *bantalan* ‘help’

A basic form categorized as a numeral attached with the suffix *-an* will form a polymorphemic word with the suffix *-an* that is also categorized as a numeral. The following examples are presented.

- (82) *satu* + *-an* → *satuan* ‘unit’  
 (83) *puluh* + *-an* → *puluhan* ‘dozens’  
 (84) *dua puluh* + *-an* → *dua puluhan* ‘twenties’  
 (85) *lima puluh* → *lima puluhan* ‘fifties’  
 (86) *ratus* + *-an* → *ratusan* ‘hundreds’  
 (87) *ribu* + *-an* → *ribuan* ‘thousands’  
 (88) *juta* + *-an* → *jutaan* ‘millions’  
 (89) *milyard* + *-an* → *milyardan* ‘billionand’  
 (90) *trilyun* + *-an* → *trilyunan* ‘trillions’  
 (91) *dosin* + *-an* → *dosinan* ‘dozen’  
 (92) *meter* + *-an* → *meteran* ‘meter’

(93) *kilo* + *-an* → *kiloan* 'kilos'

From these various examples, it appears that the suffix *-an* functions to form nouns when attached to a base form that belongs to the verb and noun categories. The suffix *-an* also functions to form numerals when attached to a base form that belongs to the numeral category.

### The Meaning of Suffix *-an*

The suffix *-an* attached to a root form expresses various grammatical meanings. The different grammatical meanings of the suffix *-an* are influenced by the category and lexical meaning of the root form to which it is attached.

1. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*hasil perbuatan me(N)-+verba+(-kan)*' (the result of the action of *me(N)- + verb + (-kan)*). The data is presented below.
  - (94) *susunan kursi* '*hasil menyusun kursi*' (the result of arranging chairs)
  - (95) *tulisan tangan* '*hasil menulis dengan tangan*' (the results of writing by hand)
  - (96) *galian tanah* '*hasil menggali tanah*' (the results of digging the ground)
2. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*alat untuk me(N)- + verba + -an*' (a tool for *me(N)-+verb+(-kan)*). Here are some examples.
  - (94) *undangan rapat* '*alat untuk mengundang rapat*'. (tool for inviting meetings')
  - (95) *timbangan bayi* '*alat untuk menimbang bayi*' (tool for weighing babies)
  - (96) *ukuran berat badan* '*alat untuk mengukur berat badan*' (tool for measuring body weight)
3. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*yang di-*' (which was done). The following are examples of its data.
  - (94) *buku bacaan* '*buku yang dibaca*' (book read)
  - (95) *barang bawaan* '*barang yang dibawa*' (items carried)
  - (96) *tamu undangan* '*tamu yang diundang*' (invited guests)
4. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*tempat untuk me(N)- + verb + (-kan)*' (place for *me(N)-+verb + (-kan)*). The data are presented below in phrases.
  - (94) *buangan sampah* '*tempat untuk membuang sampah*' (a place to throw rubbish)
  - (95) *landasan kapal* '*tempat untuk melandasi kapal*' (a place to moor a ship)
  - (96) *kuburan masal* '*tempat untuk mengubur secara masal*' (place for mass burial')
5. The suffix *-an* conveys the meaning '*perbuatan dari (me(N)- + verb + (-kan))*'. (the actions from *me(N)- + verb + (-kan)*). Here are some examples in sentences.
  - (94) *Belaian ibunya menenangkan hati anak itu* '*perbuatan membelai dari ibunya menenangkan hati anak itu*' (the caressing action of the mother calms the child's heart')
  - (95) *Sangkuriang tertimpa kutukan dewa* '*Sangkuriang tertimpa perbuatan mengutuk dari dewa*'. (Sangkuriang was cursed by the gods).
6. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*mengandung*' (contain). Here are some examples of the data.

- (94) *Baru berumur 20 tahun, kakak saya sudah ubanan 'baru berumur 20 tahun, kakak saya sudah beruban'.* (Only 20 years old, my brother is already gray)
- (95) *Anak masih ingusan sudah merokok 'anak masih beringus sudah merokok'.* (Children who are still young are already smoking)
7. The suffix *-an* conveys the meaning '*tempat untuk me(N)- + verb*' (place for *me(N)* + *-kan*). The following are examples of its data.
- (94) *Kapal itu menuju ke daratan 'kapal itu menuju ke tempat mendarat'.* (the ship is heading towards the landing place)
- (95) *Mereka mengarungi lautan 'mereka mengarungi tempat melaut'.* (they sail the sea)
- (96) *Berakit-rakit ke hulu berenang-renang ke tepian 'berakit-rakit ke hulu berenang-renang ke tempat menepi'.* (raft upstream, swim to shore)
8. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*tempat tinggal*' (place of residence). The example data is as follows.
- (94) *Dia tinggal di daerah Kauman 'Dia tinggal di daerah tempat tinggal para kaum'.* (He lives in an area where worship leaders in the Islamic religion live)
- (95) *Saya akan pergi Pasturan 'Saya akan pergi ke tempat tinggal para pastur'.* (I will go to the priests' residence)
- (96) *Rumahnya dekan dengan susteran 'rumahnya dekat dengan tempat tinggal para suster'.* (Her house is close to where the sisters live).
9. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*tempat yang bersifat*' (a place that has the nature of). Here is an example of the data.
- (94) *di dataran 'tempat yang datar'.* (on a plate place)
- (95) *ke lapangan 'ke tempat yang lapang'.* (to a spacious place)
10. The suffix *-an* expresses the meaning '*yang peristiwa*' (that even). The examples are as follows.
- (94) *lulusan SMA 'yang lulus SMA'.* (who graduated from high school)
- (95) *masukan 'yang masuk'.* (input)
- (96) *luaran 'yang luar'.* (output)
11. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*memakai*' (to use). Here are some examples of the data.
- (94) *Dia sedang bedakan 'dia sedang memakai bedak'.* (she is putting on powder)
- (95) *Saya sudah sabukan 'saya sudah memakai sabuk'.* (I already wear a belt)
12. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning '*terkena penyakit*' (affected by an illness). Here are some examples of the data.
- (94) *Orang itu kudisan 'orang itu terkena penyakit kudis'.* (the person has scabies)
- (95) *Anak itu cacingan 'anak itu terkena penyakit cacing'.* (the child has worms)

- (96) *Dia sudah lama jantungan 'dia sudah lama terkena penyakit jantung.'*  
(he has had heart disease for a long time)
13. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning 'banyak' (many). The following are examples of the data.
- (94) *Ribuan hektar tanah pertanian tidak ditanami 'beribu-ribu hektar tanah pertanian tidak ditanami.'* (thousands of hectares of uncultivated land)
- (95) *Jutaan rakyat menderita kelaparan 'berjuta-juta rakyat menderita kelaparan.'* (millions of people suffer from hunger)
14. The suffix *-an* expresses the meaning 'kira-kira' (approximately). The example data are as follows.
- (94) *Buku itu terbit pertama kali tahun lima puluhan 'buku itu terbit kira-kira tahun lima puluh.'* (the book was first published around the years 50)
- (95) *Panjang ular itu dua meteran 'panjang ular itu kira-kira dua meter.'* (the length of the snake was approximately two meters)
15. The suffix *-an* indicates the meaning 'setiap' (each). The following are examples of the data.
- (94) *koran harian 'koran yang terbit setiap hari'* (daily newspaper)
- (95) *upah mingguan 'upah setiap minggu'* (weekly wages)
- (96) *rapat tahunan 'rapat setiap tahun'* (annual meeting)
16. The suffix *-an* expresses the meaning 'lebih' (more). The following are examples of the data.
- (94) *Anda berangkat duluan saja 'Anda berangkat lebih dulu saja.'* (You just go ahead)
- (95) *Dia berangkat belakangan 'Dia berangkat lebih belakang.'* (He left later)
17. The suffix *-an* expresses the meaning 'dalam satuan' (in units of). The examples are as follows.
- (94) *sabun batangan 'sabun dalam satuan batang'* (bar soap)
- (95) *kecap botolan 'kecap dalam satuan botol'* (soy sauce in bottles)
18. The suffix *-an* expresses the meaning 'yang berada di' (that which is located at). Here are some examples.
- (94) *akhiran 'yang berada di akhir'* (suffix)
- (95) *awalan 'yang berada di awal'* (prefix)

## CONCLUSION

The suffix *-an* in Indonesian exhibits several morphophonemic patterns when attached to a base form: it triggers the addition of [y] after base forms ending in [i] or the diphthong [ay], the addition of [w] after base forms ending in [u] or the diphthong [au], and the addition of [ʔ] after base forms ending in [a], while base forms ending in a consonant undergo no phonological change. Functionally, *-an* derives two word classes — nouns, when attached to verbal or nominal base forms, and numerals, when attached to numeral base forms. Semantically, the suffix carries at least 18 grammatical meanings, ranging from concrete relational meanings such as *hasil perbuatan me(N)-+verba+(-kan)* 'the result of an action', *alat untuk me(N)-+verba+(-kan)* 'a tool for an action', *tempat untuk me(N)-+verba+(-kan)* 'a

place for an action', and *tempat tinggal* 'place of residence', to more abstract or quantificational meanings such as *kira-kira* 'approximately', *setiap* 'each', *lebih* 'more', and *dalam satuan* 'in units of'. Future research could build on these findings by investigating the suffix -an in regional varieties of Indonesian or in contact with regional languages such as Javanese and Sundanese, to examine whether its morphophonemic behaviour, functional scope, and range of grammatical meanings remain stable or show systematic variation across different sociolinguistic contexts.

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