

The many meanings of *rasa*: Indonesian perception verb used for ‘taste’ and ‘touch’ which also means ‘to think’ and ‘to feel’

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Keywords: perception verb, polysemy, semantic extensions, collocation analysis

Perception verbs can have intrafield or transfield extensions (Viberg 1983; San Roque et al. 2018). The former refers to the extension within the domain of perception, whereas the latter refers to the extension to the domain outside of perception, e.g. cognition. The paper deals with the Indonesian perception verb used for taste and touch which also has semantic extensions to the domains of thinking and feeling. The basic meaning of the root *rasa* is ‘taste’ (Stevens & Schmidgall-Tellings 2008; KBBI 2016). *Rasa* can also refer to the perception of touch in a broad sense (Winter 2019: 14–15). Additionally, the Indonesian perception verb *rasa* ‘to taste’ or ‘to touch’ can have semantic extensions to the domain of cognition ‘to feel’ (1) and ‘to think’ (2); not *lihat* ‘to see’ as in English (Sweetser 1990) or *dengar* ‘to hear’ as in Australian languages (Evans & Wilkins 2000).

1	<i>Tapi</i>	<i>Izzah</i>	<i>rasa</i>	<i>selamat</i>	<i>dan</i>	<i>damai</i>
	but	Izzah	<i>rasa</i>	safe	and	peace
	<i>dengan</i>	<i>rangkulan</i>	<i>erat</i>	<i>Haris.</i>		
	with	embrace	tight	Haris.		

‘But Izzah **feels** safe and peaceful in Haris’s tight embrace.’

2	<i>Karena</i>	<i>jujur</i>	<i>saja</i>	<i>saya</i>	<i>rasa</i>	<i>yang</i>
	because	honest	only	1SG	<i>rasa</i>	REL
	<i>nama=nya</i>	<i>Badan</i>	<i>Anggaran</i>	<i>ada</i>	<i>otak-otak=nya.</i>	
	name=3SG	agency	budget	EXIST	RED-brain=3SG	

‘Because to be honest, I **think** that there are stooges (lit. brains) in the Budget Committee.’

The roughly synonymous meanings of ‘to feel’ and ‘to think’ conveyed in the Indonesian sensory perception verb *rasa* ‘to taste’ or ‘to touch’ is grounded on the Indonesian cultural model which sees *rasa* as the cognitive faculty used to describe the “intuitive aspects of reality” (Stange 1984: 114). Utilizing the Indonesian corpus from Leipzig Corpora Collection (Goldhahn et al. 2012), we analyze the distribution of the semantic domains of different forms of verbs based on *rasa*: COGNITION (including the sub-domains ‘to feel’ and ‘to think’) and PERCEPTION (including the sub-domains ‘to taste’ and ‘to touch’). The paper will discuss the results of multiple distinctive collexeme analysis (Stefanowitsch & Gries 2003; Gries & Stefanowitsch 2004; Gries & David 2007) that reveal certain semantic (sub-)domains which can be strongly attracted to certain verb forms. Overall, the verb forms are significantly used in their semantic extension to COGNITION compared to PERCEPTION. While there is no significant difference found between the use of the verb forms for ‘to feel’ and ‘to think’ (sub-domains of COGNITION), the distribution of the verb forms in the PERCEPTION domain is significantly predominant for the ‘touch’ reading than for ‘taste’.

The paper aims to contribute empirically to the research on polysemy in general and the ongoing research on semantic extensions of perception verbs in particular.

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