

Indirect modification in Javanese: Evidence from attributive comparatives

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This paper presents evidence from attributive comparatives to argue that Javanese has only indirect adjectival modification. Adjectival modification in Javanese seems consistent with both direct (true attributive) and indirect (relative clause) nominal modification. However, by using the degree morpheme as a probe into the structure of direct vs. indirect modifiers, data from Javanese attributive comparatives suggest that the scope of the comparative operator cannot reach beyond the modifier. Such scope island effects of the than-clause complement will be taken to indicate that post-nominal modification is syntactically realized as a relative clause, and suggests that only indirect modification is available in Javanese.