

## CATEGORY OF COMPLEMENT AND SEMANTIC ROLE OF SINGLE ARGUMENT IN BALINESE SYNTACTIC CONSTRUCTIONS

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**Abstract**

*This study aims to analyze and describe the word category of complement and semantic roles of single argument found in syntactic constructions with complement in Balinese language. Data of this study was collected from Balinese speaking informants living in the city of Denpasar, Bali. The data was supported by those obtained from Balinese story books. The data was collected by observation method completed with recording and note taking techniques. The collected data was analyzed based on theory of semantic role proposed by Van Valin and LaPollla, 1997 and by I Saeed, 1997. The result shows that complement in Balinese can be filled in by noun, adjective, numeral, and verb. The verb predicate of constructions with complement are mostly intransitive verb with ma- but in few data of intransitive verb with N- are also found. Then, the semantic roles of single argument in constructions with complement are agent, experiencer, patient, and recipient.*

**Keywords:** *complement, semantic role, argument, intransitive, transitive.*

**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis dan menjelaskan kategori kata pelengkap dan peran semantik argumen tunggal dalam konstruksi sintaksis berpelengkap dalam bahasa Bali. Data penelitian ini diambil dari informan pengguna bahasa Bali yang tinggal di kota Denpasar, Bali. Data yang telah dikumpulkan didukung oleh data yang didapatkan dari buku cerita bahasa Bali. Data dikumpulkan dengan metode observasi yang disertai dengan teknik rekam dan teknik catat. Data yang telah dikumpulkan dianalisis berdasarkan teori peran semantik yang dikemukakan oleh Van Valin dan LaPollla 1997 dan I Saeed, 1997. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan pelengkap dalam bahasa Bali dapat diisi dengan kata benda, kata sifat, numeralia, dan verba. Konstruksi predikat verba dengan pelengkap sebagian besar adalah verba intransitif dengan ma- namun dalam beberapa data verba intransitif dengan N- juga ditemukan. Lalu, peran semantik argumen tunggal dalam konstruksi berpelengkap ditemukan berperan sebagai *agent, experiencer, patient, dan recipient.*

**Kata Kunci:** pelengkap, peran semantik, argument, intransitif, transitif

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Balinese language is one of the biggest local languages in Indonesia. It is the only local language spoken by Balinese people living in the island of Bali. It is also used by Balinese people who live in other parts of Indonesia when they communicate among

Balinese people. As a part of the greatest archipelago of Indonesia, the island of Bali is very popular in the world as one of tourist destinations in Indonesia. Balinese language is obliged and commonly used for formal meeting and activities regarding with religion of Hindu, Balinese traditional

and custom affairs. It is also used as a means for daily communication. Recently a bit problem raising dealing with the existence of Balinese. The young people, especially who live in the cities they prefer using Indonesian language (national language) and English or other foreign languages to using Balinese. This happens because of at least two reasons, (1) they have less understanding and ability in using Balinese (particularly for polite Balinese), (2) they often interact to and communicate with others from different ethnics, islands and beliefs in Indonesian and even they often speak with foreigners staying in Bali in English. However, the Balinese people living in country sides (young or adult) they mostly use Balinese in various situations and places.

As other languages, Balinese also has phenomenon in relation to its structure and function in social and cultural uses. The phenomenon needs observing in order to give clear and deep explanation to the young people to make them easy to study the language. To prepare material for learning, observation in the field of structure becomes very important to do. One of the problems often creating confusion to those who want to study Balinese structure is about the difference between object and complement. Related to this rationale, this study aims at finding and describing one aspect of syntactic problems in Balinese. It is related to the forms of complements and the role of the single arguments in Balinese

construction with complement.

In order to give a clear description for the problem proposed above, data of this study is classified into written and spoken data. Written data was taken from a famous novel written in Balinese and the spoken one was obtained from Balinese speaking informants living in Bali. Data of this study was collected through observation and interview method. Some techniques, like recording and note taking techniques were applied to complete the methods in collecting complete data to achieve satisfaction result (Sudaryanto, 1993:133). Then the collected data was analyzed in some steps. Data was classified and analyzed based on the form of the complement and the roles of single arguments of the constructions with complement in Balinese. Thus, in this study descriptive method is applied in order to make a systematic and accurate description on the data, characteristic, and phenomenon in relation to the observed data (Djajasudarma,1993:8).

Criteria to determine informants is important to consider to obtain good data, such as (1) adult native speaker of Balinese, (2) not too much influenced by other languages, (3) be smart and have competence to speak good Balinese, (4) have enough time to be interviewed, (5) be ready to be good informant, and (6) have normal/good articulation tools (Samarin, 1988:65--70; Bawa, 1992:7). The author as a native speaker of Balinese has great chance to create data and the data he created will be re-

checked to the selected informants to obtain the appropriate data (see Kardana, 2010:126; Kardana and Satyawati, 2014:2).

## 2. CONCEPTS AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Some concepts related to the topic and problems discussed in this study will be briefly described. The concepts are used to support the analysis of the problems. Theories of complement and semantic role of argument are also important to study to get a satisfaction result.

### CONCEPTS

#### Object and Complement in Balinese

Object and complement are two different sentence elements that have important role to make a complete sentence. They both follow the verb of a sentence. The differences between object and complement can be seen from some theories proposed by some scholars. Murthy (2003) states that when the verb in the predicate is a transitive verb, it must have an object to give complete meaning. And a word or a group of words that is used after a transitive verb is called object. In English, words used as object are noun, pronoun, an adjective used as noun, to infinitive, gerund, a phrase. Meanwhile, when the predicate contains verbs of incomplete predication, it requires a word to complete the meaning. So the word which completes the meaning of the verb is called a complement. The main verbs of incomplete predication are be, seem, appear, look, become, grow, and feel. Thus, a

word required to complete the meaning of an intransitive verb is called a complement. Complement can be classified into subject and object complement. A complement used to refer to or describe the subject is called a subject complement and a complement used to refer to or describe the object is called object complement. Then Alwi, et al (1993:370) and Granoka, et al (1996) determine object and complement as below:

- Object and complement are entities that come directly after the verb predicate.
- Objects is commonly filled in by nouns, but words used to fill in syntactic function of complement could be noun, verb, adjective, and verb.
- Object usually follows transitive active verb, but complement only follows the intransitive verb.
- Object may function as subject but complement may not when the sentence is paraphrased into passive voice.
- Object can not be preceded by preposition, but complement can be in the form of prepositional phrase.

However, Moeliono, et al (1988:32) mentioned that complement looks like adverb and they both are binding the reference of the structure where they are. The differences are (1) a complement is obligatory in a construction but an adverb is optional, (2) complement directly follows the verb but adverb can be in the beginning or the end of the construction.

### Argument and Semantic role.

Based on theory of proposition, argument is a noun phrase or a referring expression as a part of proposition beside a predicate. The predicate of the proposition may be a verb, a noun phrase, an adjective, and a preposition (Kreidler, 1996:66). I Saeed (1997) classifies the semantic role (he names the term as thematic role) into several types, such as: (1) agent, patient, theme, experiencer, beneficiary, instrument, location, goal, and source. Van Valin and LaPolla (1997:85) classify the common participant roles such as (1) agent: a willful, purposeful instigator of an action or event; (2) effector: the doer of an action, which may or may not be willful or purposeful; (3) experience: sentient beings that experience internal states; (4) instrument: normally inanimate entities manipulated by an agent in the carrying out of an action; (5) force: somewhat like instruments, but they cannot be manipulated; (6) patient: things that are in a state or condition, or undergo a change of state or condition; (7) theme: things which are located or are undergoing a change of location; (8) benefactive: the participant for whose benefit some action is performed.

## 3. DISCUSSION

### A. Construction with verb *Ma-* and *N-*

In Balinese there many verbs deriving from affixation. Some affixes found in Balinese are prefixes *ma-*, *N-*, *pa-*, and *sa-*. Prefixes *ma-* and *N-* are two affixes that are

very productive to produce derived verbs. In Balinese there are many constructions with verb *ma-* and *N-*. Verb *ma-* is categorized as intransitive verb and verb *N-* is determined as transitive active. Elements that follow verb *ma-* are called complement but those that come directly after verb *N-* are called object. This phenomenon can be seen in the following discussion.

1) *I Bapa macapil klangсах*

DEF father *ma-*balinese hat coconut leaf  
'Father used Balinese hat made from coconut leaves'

2) *I Meme mabaju kebaya*

DEF mother *ma-*clothes traditional clothes  
'Mother wore traditional clothes (for woman)'

3) *I dadong maboreh baas cekuh*

DEF grand mother *ma-*cream rice galin-gale  
'The grand mother used rice and galin-gale as cream for her body'

The constructions with verb *ma-* above do not have any objects and the elements that follow the verbs cannot be used as subject because the constructions cannot be paraphrased into passive. Thus, the elements coming after the verbs are called complement.

Intransitive verbs *ma-* above derive from prefix *ma-* with noun base *capil* 'Balinese traditional hat' à *macapil* 'use a hat' in (1), with noun base *baju* 'shirt' à *mabaju* 'wear a shirt' in (2), and noun base *boreh* 'cream' --> *maboreh* 'use cream for body' in (3).

When we change the intransitive verbs into transitive, the noun bases of the intransitive verbs *ma-* above will become the object of the verbs as seen in the following examples.

a) *Bapa nganggo capil klangсах*

faher N-use Balinese hat coconut leaf

'Father used Balinese hat made from coconut leafs'

b) *Meme nganggo baju kebaya*

mother N-use clothes traditional clothes

'Mother wore traditional clothes (for woman)'

c) *I dadong nganggo boreh baas cekuh.*

DEF grand mother N-use cream rice galingale

'The grand mother used rice and galingale as the cream for her body' Objects of verb *N-* in the examples above are *capil klangсах* 'Balinese hat made from coconut leafs', *baju kebaya* 'traditional shirt for woman', and *boreh baas cekuh* 'body cream made from rice and galingale'. The noun phrase objects are composed by the bases of the intransitive *ma-* of (1-3) and the complements of those constructions. The complement elements of (1-3) function to modify the noun bases of intransitive verbs *ma-*, and here they are together with the noun bases to become the object of the transitive verbs with *N-*.

### B. Word Category of Complement in Balinese

In Balinese, the fillers of complement can be noun, adjective, and other word classes. As mentioned above when a word functions as complement it means that its con-

struction cannot be changed into passive since the complement can not be used as subject of its paraphrased passive. It will be analyzed in the following discussion.

### Noun as complement

Complements are mostly filled in by noun or noun phrase. Nouns that function as complement can be analyzed based on the following examples.

1) *Ia madagang be celeng*

S3P ma-sell meat pig

'He sells pork'

2) *I meme mapayung don biyu*

DEF mother ma-umbrella leaf banana

'Mother used banana's leaf as an umbrella'

3) *I dadong maboreh baas cekuh*

DEF grand mother ma-cream rice galingale

'Grand mother used rice and galingale as cream for her body'

4) *Bantene mawadah ngiyu*

Offering-DEF ma-place tray

'The offering was on a tray'

The elements *be celeng* 'pork' in (1), *don biu* 'banana's leaf' in (2), *baas cekuh* 'rice and galingale in (3) dan *ngiyu* 'tray' in (2) belong to noun. All the nouns are called complement since the nouns are not probably to be the subject of the passive sentence. The verbs *ma-* of all the examples above are intransitive verbs which may not be changed into passive. From their forms, the complements above may be in the form of word (noun) as in (4) and phrase (noun

phrase) as in (1-3).

### Adjective as complement

Beside noun, an adjective is also possible used as complement. This case can be seen based on the following examples.

- 1) *Kopine sing marasa manis*  
Coffee not ma-taste sweet  
'The coffee is sweet'
- 2) *Bli Gotra mabok putih*  
Brother Gotra ma-hair white  
'Brother Gotra has grey hair'
- 3) *Memenne makamen selem*  
Mother-POSS ma-clothe black  
'His mother used black clothes'
- 4) *Bungane ento moba miik*  
Flower-DEF that ma-smell fragrant  
'The flower smelled fragrant'

All syntactic constructions above contain complement. The complements directly come after intransitive verb *ma-*. The elements of complement are filled in by adjective *manis* 'sweet' in (1), *putih* 'white' in (2), *selem* 'black' in (3), and *miik* 'fragrant' in (4). Although the position of the adjectives is directly after verbs, they are not object because the verbs they follow are intransitive verbs.

### Numeral as complement.

Category of numeral is also possibly used as complement in Balinese syntactic constructions. The examples used to support this analysis are as follows.

- 1) *Siape manakan lelima*  
Chicken ma-children five

The hen has five chickens'

- 2) *Ia manyama (ajak) telu*  
3SP ma-brother/sister (with) three  
'He/She has three blood brothers/sisters'
- 3) *Bebekne suba mataluh kutus*  
Duck-POSS already ma-egg eight  
'His ducks have produced eight eggs'
- 4) *Nyuhe payu dasa*  
Coconut-DET sold ten'  
'Ten coconuts have been sold

Data (1-4) above show that elements that directly come after the verbs are numeral. The verbs of the constructions vary and intransitive verbs in (1-3) derive from prefix *ma-* with base *panak* 'child' in (1), *nyama* 'sister/brother' in (2), *taluh* 'egg' in (3). Meanwhile, the verbs in (4) belongs to base verb *payu* 'sold'. Elements *lelima*, *telu*, *kutus*, and *dasa*, are number that are absolutely called complement as they are not possibly used as subject of the paraphrased passive although they are directly follow the verbs. '

### Verb as Complement

The last word category that can fill in the position of complement in Balinese is verb. The following data show a verb as the complement of the syntactic constructions.

- 1) *Panak tiange malajah magending*  
Child 1SP-DEF ma-learn sing  
'My child learns to sing'
- 2) *Cucunne suba malajah madaar*  
Grand child already ma-learn eat  
'His/her grand child has learned to eat'
- 3) *Ia sedek malajah ngelanggi*

3SP being ma-learn swim  
 ‘He/she is learning to swim’

4) *Ia ngipi malaib di lapangan Renon*

3SP dream run at square Renon  
 ‘He dreamed running at Renon square’

5) *Ia ngeling maguyang*

3SP cry move in lay down  
 ‘He was crying and moving in the floor’

Elements that follow the verb predicate in constructions (1-5) above are category of verb. They are verb *ma-* like *magending* ‘sing’ in (1), *madaar* ‘eat’ in (2), *malaib* ‘run’ in (4), and *maguyang* ‘move in the floor’ in (5). Verb *ngelangi* ‘swim’ in (3) is intransitive verb with prefix N-. The verbs coming after the verb predicate are called complement. Based on collected data, verbs that are possible used as complement are mostly intransitive verbs with *ma-*. However, there are also few transitive verbs that can be used as complement as in the following examples. When complement is filled in by transitive verbs, the complement can be in a clause as well. Please look at the following examples.

1) *Ia malajah ngambar*

3SP ma-learn draw  
 ‘He is learning to draw’

2) *Adin tiange malajah nyakan*

Younger sister/brother 1SP-DEF ma-learn cook  
 ‘My younger sister/brother learns to cook’

Complement verbs *ngambar* ‘drawp’ and *nyakan* ‘cook’ above belong to transitive verb. However, when they function as complement they can be present without object. When we complete the verbs with object,

the complement will be in a clause, as in the following examples.

a) *Ia malajah ngambar bunga*

3SP ma-learn draw flower  
 ‘He is learning to draw flower’

b) *Adin tiange malajah nyakan nasi*

Younger sister/brother 1SP-DEF ma-learn cook rice  
 ‘My younger sister/brother learns to cook rice’

Noun *bunga* ‘flower’ and *nasi* ‘rice’ in (1a-2a) are object of the verbs functioning as complement and the verb predicate is *malajah* ‘learn’. Thus, the complement elements of the above sentences are filled in by a clause.

### C. Semantic Role of the Single Argument (Subject)

Based on semantic analysis, every obligatory entity of verb has each semantic role. This also happens to the single entity (argument) of the construction with complement in Balinese. The following examples show the semantic role of subject based on theory proposed by Van Valin and Foley, 1984; Van Valin and LaPolla, 1997:85—86; and John I Saeed, 1997:140—145).

#### Subject as Agent

as mentioned in theory of semantic role, agent is the initiator of some action, capable of acting with volition. Subject as agent in a construction with complement can be seen in the following examples.

- 1) *Ia malajah magending*  
3SP ma-learn sing  
'He/she is learning to sing'
  - 2) *Iwa man madagang kucit di peken*  
Uncle nyoman ma-sell pig in market  
'Uncle Nyoman sells pigs in the market'
  - 3) *I kaki mapayung don biyu ke pura*  
DEF-grand father ma-umbrella leaf banana to temple  
'The grand father used banana's leaf as an umbrella to the the temple'
  - 4) *I Bapa mabaju kaos*  
DEF father ma-shirt T-shirt  
'Father used T-shirt'
  - 5) *I meme ajak I Bapa suba mapitungan pipis*  
DEF mother and DEF father already ma-count money  
'Mother and father have discussed about money'
- Subject of the examples above are noun *ia* 'he' in (1), *I meme* 'mother' in (2), *I kaki* 'the grand father' in (3), *I Bapa* 'father' in (4), and *I meme ajak I bapa* 'mother and father' in (5). All the noun subjects above have semantic role as agent since they are the initiator of of the action stated by the verbs with *ma-*. For construction (5), Kardana (2014:7) also called it as reciprocal construction since the plural subject did together the activity stated by the verb *mapitungan* 'discuss something for themselves'.

### Subject as Experiencer

It is stated in the theories mentioned

above that experiencer is the entity which is aware of the action or state stated by the verb predicate but which is not in control of the action or the state. The examples of subject as experiencer are as bellow.

- 1) *Siape mataluh akutus*  
Hen ma-egg eight  
'The hen had eight eggs'
- 2) *Sampine manakan aukud dibi sanja*  
Cow-DEF ma-child one last night  
'The caw gave birth one cow baby last night'
- 3) *Ia ngipi melali ke jawa*  
3SP dream go to java  
'He/she dreamed traveling to Java'

The three examples above show that the subject of verb are as experiencer. They did the actions stated by the verb predicates not in control. This is the way to distinguish experiencer from agent as have been discussed in former examples.

Other examples of subject as experiencer in different kinds of predicate are as below.

- 1) *Tiang marasa liang*  
1SP ma-fell happy  
'I fell happy'
- 2) *Meme marasa sebet*  
Mother ma-fell sad  
'Mother fells sad'
- 3) *Ia kedek ngakak*  
3SP N-laugh loudly  
'He was laughing loudly'
- 4) *Bungane moba miik*  
Flower=DEF ma-smell fragrant  
'The flower smells fragrant'

Subject of verb in examples above are



first pronoun *tiang* ‘I’ in (1), noun *meme* ‘mother’ in (2), third singular pronoun *ia* ‘he’ in (3) and noun *bungane* ‘the flower’ in (5). The only argument in the examples (subject) is as patient because the subject belongs to entity undergoing some change in state as shown by the verb predicates. The verbs of the constructions above vary, they are intransitive verb *ma-* as in (1-2, 5), transitive verb *N-* in (3), and base verb in (4). All entities coming directly after the verbs are called complement. The complements of the examples above are filled in by adjective *liang* ‘happy’ in (1), *sebet* ‘sad’ in (2), *miik* ‘fragrant’ in (5), verb *maguyang* ‘move in the floor’ in (3), and adverb *ngakak* ‘loudly’ in (4).

### Subject as Patient

Subject of verb in construction with complement can be as patient as well. Patient is the entity undergoing the effect of some action, often undergoing some change in state. The examples of subject as patients are as below.

- 1) *Ia matatu baongne*  
3SP ma-wound neck-POSS  
'His neck was wound'
  - 2) *Nang Lodra lung batisne*  
Father lodra broken leg-POSS  
'Father Lodra's leag was broken'
  - 3) *Siape puun kapidne*  
Chicken-DEF on fire wing-POSS  
'The chicken's wing was on fire'
- Subject of the examples above are *Ia* ‘he/she’ in (1), *Nang Lodra* ‘Father Lodra’ in

(2), and *siape* ‘the chicken’ in (3). The subject of those examples undergo the effect of some action stated by the verb predicate. Thus, in this case the subject is called to have semantic role as patient.

### Subject as Recipient

Recipient is one of semantic roles that is also possibly for the subject of construction with complement in Balinese. It means that the subjects of the sentences receive direct impact from the action stated by verbs. The impact can be noun or not noun. The examples used to support the analysis are as below.

- 1) *I Bagus madaar nasi goring*  
DEF bagus ma-eat fried rice  
'Bagus ate fried rice'
- 2) *I dadong maboreh baas cekuh*  
DEF grand mother ma-cream rice  
'Th grand mother used rice and as her body cream'
- 3) *I Bapa masaput poleng*  
DEF father ma-clothes black and white  
'Father used black- white clothe'

The constructions above show that the actions are volitionally done so that the single argument of the sentences can be determined as agent. However, in the constructions beside being an agent, the subjects also receive directly the result of the action stated by the verbs so that the subject is called recipient.

### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis on the collected

data the result of this study shows that words that are possibly become complement are be noun, adjective, numeral, and verb. The most word class found as the complement of the intransitive verbs is noun and adjective. Verb predicates of construction with complement are mostly intransitive verb with *ma-* and only a few intransitive verbs with *N-* are found.

Semantic roles of subject, as the only argument of the construction with complement in Balinese may be agent, experiencer, patient, and recipient. The various roles of subject depend on the semantic types of verb precedes the complements.

#### ABBREVIATION

DEFà Definite article

POSSà Possesive marker

3SPà Third singular pronoun

1SPà First singular pronoun

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