

ASPECTUAL VERBS IN BALINESE

Ni Luh Ketut Mas Indrawati¹

Abstract

Aspect refers to completion and incompleteness of the event encoded by verbs. Languages express aspectual meanings in different ways. English, for instance, conveys these meanings syntactically through the use of auxiliary 'have and past participle' for perfective aspect, and 'be and verb in -ing' for progressive aspect.

Balinese encoded aspectual meaning lexically that was through the use of aspectual verbs. This article was aimed at analyzing aspectual verbs in Balinese. The theory adopted in analyzing Balinese aspectual verbs was the theory of aspect by Givon (1984).

This study was descriptive qualitative and the data source was in the form of Balinese short stories and intuitive data. The data was collected through note-taking and the findings showed that the Balinese aspectual verbs expressed the completion and incompleteness of the events encoded in the following verbs at the time axis.

Keywords: *Balinese, aspectual verbs, perfective, imperfective*

¹ Udayana University, Bali-Indonesia

I. Introduction

Aspect illustrates the internal temporal constituency of a situation, it refers to completion and incompleteness of the event encoded by the verb. Languages express aspectual meanings in different ways. English, for example, encodes these meanings grammatically through the use of auxiliary, 'have and past participle form of the verb' (e.g. He *has found* his book, he *had found* the book before I came) for perfective aspect and 'auxiliary be and verb-ing' (e.g. they *are watching* TV, they *were watching* TV when I arrived) for imperfective aspect.

Other languages codify aspectual meanings lexically through the use of adverbials or aspectual verbs. Balinese, for example, expresses these meanings through adverbs (e.g. *sedek* 'in the middle of', *enu* 'still') and verbs of posture (e.g. *negak* 'sit', *mejujuk* 'stand') for progressive aspect, and the perfective aspects are expressed using adverbs (*suba* 'already') and verbs (e.g. *maan* 'get', *bakat* 'find/get'), this is supported by Danawaty's statement (1987:72-164) that aspects in Balinese can be represented by *taen* 'ever', *suba* 'already' (for perfective aspect), and *sedek* 'in the middle of' and *enu* 'still' for imperfective/progressive aspects. Besides using such adverbial markers, aspectual meaning can also be stated using verbs such as: *maan* 'get', *bakat* 'find/get' for perfective, and posture verb such as: '*negak* 'sit', *masila* 'sit down cross-legged', *mejujuk* 'stand up', *nyongkok* 'squat' for imperfective aspects.

Balinese is one of major regional languages in Indonesia. It is spoken mainly by Balinese people in Bali and in the western part of Lombok. It belongs to Western Malayo-Polynesian family, a sub group of Austronesian languages (see, Blust, 1999:68; Artawa, 2004:2).

Balinese is often claimed as having different speech levels but these speech levels are lexically expressed and the grammar of the language does not play an important role on them. Balinese is also claimed as having no tense marker on the verb and there is no agreement system between verb and tense. Besides verbal sentences, Balinese also has nonverbal sentences or sentences with non-verbal predicates, such as: I Bapa *gelem* 'father is sick' (*gelemis* an adjective); I memedi *carike* 'Mother is in the rice field' (*di carike* is a prepositional phrase); Taluh siape *tetelu* 'the chicken eggs are three' (*tetelu* belongs to number).

The active transitive verbs in Balinese is generally formed by {N-} (nasal prefix) e.g. *Ia meli buku* (*meli* 'membeli' is derived from the base form *beli* prefixed by {N-}. and the passive is commonly marked by suffixing {-a} to the base form, e.g. *I Ketutbeliang-asepatu baru* 'Ketut was bought new shoes' (the verb *belianga* is formed by applying suffix {-a} to the base *beli*).

Meanwhile, the intransitive verb is commonly formed by applying prefix {*ma-*} to the base i.e. *Iamalaibke tukade*. 'he/she ran to the river'. The intransitive verb, *malaib* is derived from the pre-categorical base *laib* prefixed by {*ma-*}.

The Balinese aspectual verbs behave uniquely, as aspectual markers they are fully inflected like main verbs this distinguishes them from auxiliaries in which they cannot be occurred by themselves in mono-verbal clauses. The occurrence of aspectual verbs in Balinese composes serial verb constructions (SVC) (see Mas Indrawati, 2012), therefore this paper intends to analyze aspectual verbs in Balinese and discuss their restrictions. The theory was applied in analyzing the data was adopted from Givon (1984).

This research can be classified into descriptive-qualitative. The data sources were written Balinese texts (Balinese short stories in the Bali Post newspaper) which were obtained by applying direct observation and documentation technique, and intuitive data were produced by the researcher through introspective technique since the writer is also the native speaker of the language. The data was descriptive-analytically analyzed by applying deductive-inductive-deductive approach.

II. Theoretical Framework

The theory applied in analyzing the aspectual verbs in Balinese is the theory of aspect by Givon (1984:272). Givon considers that tense, aspect, and modality denotes three different points of departure in our knowledge of time. Tense concerns with our concept of time as points in a sequence, and hence the notions of precedence and subsequence. Aspects of various types involve our notion of the boundedness of time-spans, implies various configurations of beginning, ending and middle points. But in the semantic space of aspect, it is nearly always some element of tense is also concerned with in terms of establishing a point-of-reference along sequential time. (Givon, 1984:272)

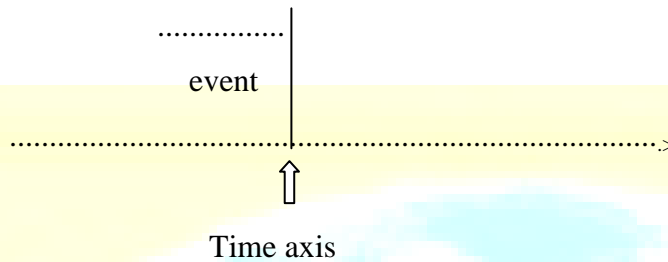
Givon (1984:276) states that the difference between perfective and imperfective involves terminal boundary of events, as well as its relationship to the time-axis. The interaction of these two features can be illustrated in the following ways:

- a. Termination: an event is considered to be perfective if at the time axis it has been *completed, terminated, accomplished*. That it has a terminal boundary at the time axis. However, an even is imperfective when no terminal boundary is present at the time axis

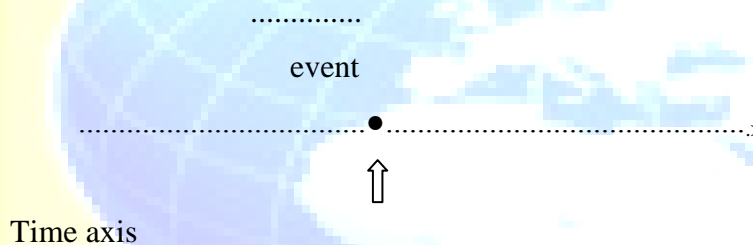
- b. Point of reference: the time-axis pertains to the end point of a perfective event, or where the end point would be construed if the events were bounded, for an imperfective event.

The diagrammed of the perfection contrast can be represented as:

Perfective/completive



Imperfective/incompletive



III. Analysis

3.1 Aspectual verbs in Balinese

The Balinese Aspectual Verbs occurs in the forms of serial verb construction (SVC) as mentioned by Indrawati (2012). These verbs always precede other verbs and it is claimed that they are not auxiliaries since these verbs can stand by themselves in mono-verbal clauses, and when they occur as aspectual verbs they are also fully inflected. The behavior of aspectual verbs are discussed below.

3.2 Verbs denoting perfective aspect.

The Balinese aspectual verbs represent perfective/completive actions can be presented in the followings:

Maan ‘get’

The lexical meaning of the verb *maan* is ‘to get’ or ‘to have’. The verb *maan* represents perfective aspect when it precedes other verbs, hence it forms SVC. The verb *maan* in SVC can precede intransitive, transitive and passive verbs. It can be shown in the following data.

- (1) awak tiang sakit krana uli semengan tusing *maan* mereren.
 body 1sing sick because since morning neg. get. trans. stop.Int.
 My body is painful since I have not had a rest.
- (2) Dadong Senggol metakon “*maan* nengokin I Made?”
 Grandma.Name ask.trans get.trans visit.trans Def.Name
 Dadong Senggol asked: “have you visited Made?”
- (3) Ia *maan* tepuk-a teken I Ketut
 3sing get.trans see.pass by Def.Name
 He/she has ever be seen by I Ketut.

Data (1) shows that the verb *maan* precedes intransitive verb *mereren* of which base is pre-categorical word *reren* prefixed by intransitive marker {*ma-*} to form *mareren*. In data (2) the verb *maan* precedes transitive verb *nengokin* of which base is *dengok* prefixed by active transitive marker {*N-*} and suffix {*-in*}. Data (3) indicates that *maan* is followed by passive verb *tepuka*, of which base is *tepuke* suffixed by passive marker {*-a*}. Aspectual verb in (3) also shares argument subject. The subject of the verb *maan* is also the subject of the verb *tepuka*, the semantic role of the subject shared is patient of the passive verb *tepuka*.

As an expression of perfective aspect the verb *maan* involves notion of the boundedness of time-spans, it shows that the event encoded by the following verb has been completed at the time axis. The occurrence of *maan* as aspectual verbs not only shows the completion of the event encoded by the following verbs, but also implies that actually the events are not urgently carried out but due to the availability of time the events were done.

If the clauses with the verb *maan* are negated, the negation marker *tusing* ‘not’ will precede it (see data 1), and it is applied to both verbs in the construction. However, in daily practice of Balinese, the use of negation marker is also found when the speaker wants to focus the negation of the information encoded in the second verb in the clause.

- (4) Ia *maan* *tusing* *nengokin* memene
3sing. get.trans Neg. See.pass Mother.poss
He has not seen his mother.

The clause above implies that at the time axis the negative event of ‘see’ has been asserted. The verb *maan* with the meaning of ‘get’ can also stand by itself in mono-verbal clauses. This can be seen in the following data:

- (5) I Meme *maan* pipis
Def.mother get Money
Mother got some money.

Data (5) shows that *maan* is a transitive verb, it requires two arguments that is *I meme* as argument subject and *pipis* as an argument object. The clause with the verb *maan* cannot be passivized, as shown in data (6);

- (6) pipis *baan-a* taken I meme.
Money Get.pass by Def.mother
Money was obtained by mother

However, in daily practice, the Balinese SVC also involves *maan* in the passive form, this can be presented in the following data;

- (7) Umah-e ene *baan-a* meli
House-Def this get-pass buy.trans
This house was owned by buying

Data (7) shows that *baana* is the passive form of *maan* followed by transitive verb *meli* of which base is *beli* ‘buy’ prefixed by {N-} to become *meli*. The aspectual verb in this clause also forms SVC and can be analyzed as having the meaning of manner that is ‘get it by buying and not for free’.

In data (8), it is shown that the verb *maan* in mono-verbal clause can be negated. The negation marker precedes the verb *maan*.

- (8) I Meme *tusing* *maan* pipis
Def.mother did not get money
Mother did not get any money.

Bakat ‘get’/find’

The verb *bakat* ‘get’ in Balinese can be used to express perfective aspect. As an aspectual verb, it is similar to the verb *maan* in that it cannot be passivized. The data containing aspectual verb *bakat* can be seen in data (9)

- (9) Tiang *bakat* mulih malunan
1sing. get go home. Int. ealier
I have gone home earlier.

- (10) ... Magenep raose *bakat*dingeh-a
....various news get heard. Pass.
.... various news have been heard.

- (11) Tiang *bakat* meli jaja.
1.sing. get buy.trans cakes
I have bought some cakes.

Data (9) shows that the verb *bakat* followed by intransitive verb *mulih* derived from pre-categorical prefixed by {N-}. *Bakat* takes the position of V1 (the first verb) and *mulih* takes the position of V2 (the second verb), hence both verbs form an SVC. They shared subject argument that is the subject of V1, *bakat* is also the subject of V2, *mulih*. In data (10) the verb *bakat* is followed by the passive verb *dingeha* of which the base form is *dingeh* ‘hear’ suffixed by the passive marker {-a}. Both verbs share argument subject, the subjek of V1 is also the subject of V2, but unlike data (9) the semantic role of the subject is patient not the agent of the event. However in data (11) the verb *bakat* precedes transitive verb, *meli*. Both verbs also share argument subject, and similar to data (9), the semantic role of the shared argument subject is agent.

As an expression of perfective aspect the verb *bakat* not only involves notion of the boundedness of time-spans and shows that the event encoded by the following verb has been completed at the time axis, but also implies sense of regret to the speaker.

Similar to the verb *maan*, the verb *bakat* can also stand by itself in mono-verbal clauses. This can be presented in the following data.

- (12) I Rai *makatang* pipis di jalane
Def. Name Find.trans money on the street
Rai found some money on the street.

- (13) Pipis-e *bakat-a* di jalane baan I Rai
 Money.Def find-pass. on the street by Name
 The money was found on the street by Rai

In contrast with the verb *maan* which always occur in active form, the verb *bakat* when used in a monoverbal clause it can be passivized (see data 13)

Suud ‘finish’

The Balinese aspectual verb *suud* ‘finish’ can be followed by intransitive, transitive, and passive verbs as shown in the following data:

- (14) Ia *suud* *melali* kema
 3sing finish. go.intr. there
 He stopped going there
- 15 "Tiang mara *suudngateh* tamu *dinner.*"
 1Sing just finish . take.trans guest *dinner.*"
 "I have just taken guests to *dinner*".
- 16 I Made *suud* *ateh-a* ke sekolah
 Def. Name finish take.pass to school
 Made finished being taken to school

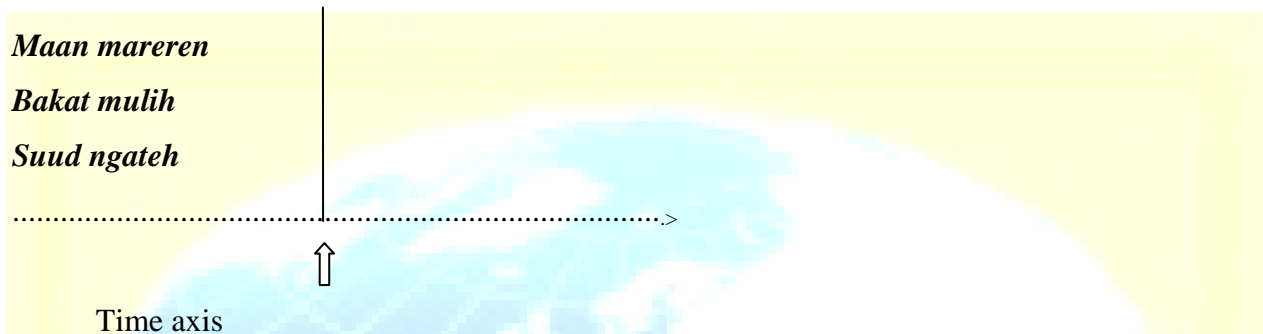
Data (14) shows that the verb *suud* ‘finish’ precedes the intransitive verb *melali* of which base is precatatorial *lali* suffixed with {me-} to become *melali*. In data (15), the verb *suud* is followed by the transitive verb *ngateh* (*ngateh* is derived from the base *ateh* prefixed by {N-} to become transitive verb). *Suud* in data (16) is followed by *ateh* ‘take’ suffixed by passive marker {-a} to become passive verb *ateha* ‘be taken’.

Unlike the aspectual verbs, *maan* and *bakat*, which can stand by themselves in monoverbal clauses, the verb *suud* cannot occur by itself. It is always followed by another verb as its complement. This can be shown in data (17);

- (17)* I Made *suud*
 Def. Name finish
 Made finished

As an expression of perfective aspect the verb *suud* involves the notion of the boundedness of time-spans and shows that the event encoded by the following verb has been completed at the time axis. The boundedness of time-spans of the perfective aspect in Balinese can be described in the following diagramme;

Perfective/completive



3.3 Progressive aspect in Balinese.

Besides using adverbs, such as; *sedek* 'in the middle of', *enu* 'still', and *pas* 'happento', progressive aspect in Balinese can be expressed by Verbs of posture, hence, verbs of postures can be considered as progressive aspectual verbs. As aspectual verbs, the verbs of posture normally precede intransitive, transitive and passive verbs. This can be seen in the following data.

(18) I Nyoman {N-} *jongkok* {N-} *daar* nasi
 Def. Nama Intr. squat trans.eat rice
 Nyoman is squatting eating rice..

(19) I Raka (N-) *tegak* *ma-gending*
 Def. Name Intr.sit Intr. sing
 Raka is sitting singing

(20) I Sari *Ma-jujuk* Jeritin-a baan bapa-ne
 Def.Name Stand up.trans Call. pass prep father-poss
 Sari was standing when called by his father.

Data (18) shows that the verb *nyongkok* 'squat' is derived from the base *jongkok* prefixed by {N-} to form intransitive verb *nyongkok*. The verb *nyongkok* is classified as

verb of posture or verb of body position which according to Arka (2003:34) are expressed by {N-} or {ma-}.

The verb of posture in data (19) is followed by intransitive verb *megending*. The verb *negak* is derived from the base *tegak* which is a precatatorial base, prefixed with {N-} and *megending* is derived from noun base *gending* ‘song’ prefixed by {ma-} to become *megending* ‘sing’. Data (20) shows that the posture verb *majujuk* ‘stand up’ followed by passive verb, *jeritina* ‘being called’, in this clause there is also a shared argument. *I Sari*, the subject argument of the verb *majujuk* is also the subject of the verb, *jeritina*, however, the semantic role it plays is different. As the subject of *majujuk I Sari* is the agent, but as the subject of the verb *jeritina, I Sari* is the patient. Since the verbs of posture are intransitive verbs, as the aspectual verbs they never occur in negative forms.

As expressions of progressive aspects, the verbs *nyongkok* and *negak* imply the notion of no terminal boundary at the time axis and seen from the point of reference there is no set endpoint. Some Balinese verbs of postures are exemplified below;

medem ‘sleep’

metajuh ‘sit with straight legs forwards’

mesila ‘sit down crossed- legged’

nyeleleg ‘lean on somethint’

nengkul ‘lie down with the body bending like a circle’

nungging ‘stand with bottom up and head down’

nengkayak ‘bend the body backward with front-side up’

metimpuh ‘sit on folded legs

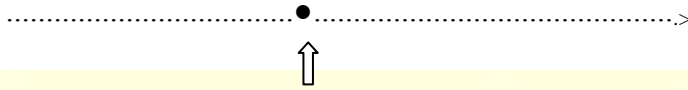
mejujuk ‘stand up’

nyengking ‘berkacak pingang’

melingeb ‘tengkurep’, *nungkalik* ‘berjungkir’

Imperfective/incompletive

nyongkok naar
negak magending
majujuk jeritina



Time axis

IV. Conclusion

The discussion on the Balinese aspectual verbs leads to the conclusion that aspects in Balinese are lexically expressed through the use of aspectual verbs, such as *maan*, *bakat*, *suud* for perfective aspect and *verbs of postures* such as *nyongkok*, *mejujuk*, *negak* for progressive aspects. The perfective aspect refers to the completion of the event at the axis time, while the progressive aspect express the incompleteness of the event at the axis time. These aspectual verbs normally precede other verbs therefore they form serial verb constructions.

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