



Article

# Intransitive Verb Markers in Balinese

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## A B S T R A C T

This research investigated intransitive verb markers in Balinese. The objectives of the research were: 1) to identify various markers of intransitive verb construction, and 2) to identify the syntactic behaviours of the markers in marking the intransitive verb. The research was conducted in three stages: data collection, data analysis, and data display. The data were collected by applying interview method. The data were obtained from Balinese speakers, Balinese literature, as well as the researcher as a native speaker of Balinese. The data were analyzed by using the distributional method. The display of the results were done formally and informally. The results show that there are four intransitive verb markers consist of *ma-*, *N-* (*ny-*, *ng-*, and *m-*), *ma-an*, and *ma-in* markers. The occurrence of intransitive verb markers as in *ma-* and *N-* are located on the left of the verb while marker *ma-an* and *ma-in* are located on the left and right of the verb. The four markers categorize as bound morpheme and placed as a central marker. The marking direction of the entire markers is considered as markers of a central element that mark the verb itself in order to form intransitive verb construction.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Markers in syntactic structures serve to mark syntactic or grammatical constructions of the marked units. Markers have two forms, lexicon and affix. Lexicon as a marker can stand alone in syntactic structure, while affix is embedded in an independent element or constituent. Such markers in the form of affix bound together with grammatical categories in order to have its function. In Balinese (Austronesian language; more than 3 million speakers; majority spoke in Bali, Indonesia), this marker is encountered in various units and grammatical categories as in verb. Verb, like in Balinese, based on the occurrence of

arguments can be classified into an intransitive and transitive verb (Ramlan, 1991). In intransitive verb, there is only one argument appeared which takes a function as the subject (Verhaar, 2008). Intransitive verbs of Balinese have their own marker as in sentence (1), but may also occurs without marker or *zero* ( $\emptyset$ ) as in (2).

(1) Beli-ne I Ngurah *ma-*  
kecog di tukad-e.

Brother-POS ART Ngurah INTR-  
jump in river-DEF

*'His/her brother Ngurah is jumping  
in the river.'*

- (2) Nuju libur, liu ada anak kayeh di pasih.

During holiday many there people bath in beach

*'During the holiday, many people bathe in the beach.'*

In sentence (1), the marked marker is in the form of bound morpheme that marks verb *kecog* on the left in order to form intransitive verb *ma-kecog*. In sentence (2), the intransitive verb *kayeh* is not marked by any marker. Thus, it is naturally a basic-typed verb.

There are several other intransitive markers in the Balinese verbs that are interesting to trace as well as to acquire their syntactic behaviours. To be able to track the variety of markers and their syntactic behaviours hence this research was carried out.

In order to conduct research in intransitive verb markers of Balinese, problems of the research were drawn, consist of: 1) what are the intransitive verb markers in Balinese? 2) What are the syntactic behaviours of the intransitive verb markers? To answer the research problems, two objectives of the research were formulated, consist of: 1) to identify the markers of intransitive verbs in Balinese; and 2) to identify the syntactic behaviours of the markers in marking intransitive verbs. The syntactic behaviours of markers related to their location to the central element, the type/form of the marker, the place of the marker, and the direction of its marking system. Since the objects of this research were intransitive verb markers, therefore any unmarked-typed or so-called basic-typed intransitive verbs were excluded.

Several studies related to this research had been carried out (Artawa, 2013; Shibatani & Artawa, 2015). Artawa (2013) in his research on the basic construction of Balinese verb shows that intransitive verb only deals with two markers, namely *ma-* and *m-* (*N-*). While Shibatani and Artawa (2015) examined the verb valence patterns of Balinese that can be

divided into a one-valence verb (intransitive), two-valence verb (transitive), and three-valence verb (bitransitive). The discussion of intransitive verbs in their research (Shibatani & Artawa, 2015) were limited to the elaboration of the presence of arguments and patterns in expanding and reducing the number of arguments. Based on the two studies, it had not fully explained the intransitive verb markers in Balinese, regardless to the research of Artawa (2013) which has discussed both. Therefore in order to find another intransitive verb markers then this research was carried out.

To be able to carry out systematic analysis, adequate theories were needed to create profound exploration. The marker that marks construction of intransitive verbs has several forms. According to Kridalaksana (2008: 180), markers are tools such as affixes, conjunctions, prepositions, and articles that express grammatical features, word functions, or constructs. Specifically, the marker can be in the form of an affix or word according to Kesuma (2007). The marker of intransitive verb toward verb causes the verb not to be followed by the object. Carnie (2013) and Schachter (1985) stated that intransitive verbs are a type of verb that is only followed by the subject's functional argument. Hence, the object-functioning argument is not included in the syntax function (Kridalaksana, 2008; Sofyan, 2012). Givon (2013) added that intransitive-grade verbs are generally verbs that express statements, events, and actions. Verbs that functionally occupy predicate positions become central elements in Balinese (Winaya, 2016), especially in the construction of intransitive verbs. Therefore, the location, place, and direction of the marker are determined by the position of the verb.

## II. METHODS

This research was conducted into three steps: data collection, data analysis, and data display. The data were collected by implementing the observational method through tapping, note-taking, and recording techniques (Kesuma, 2007). The data were in the form of sentences that contain intransitive

verbs. The main data were obtained from tapping conversations between researchers and Balinese informants, meanwhile supporting data were collected from Balinese literatures and intuition of the researcher as a Balinese native speaker. The research was conducted in the standard Balinese-speaking region of Bali Province that included the whole lowland of Bali, excluded the plateau region. Such classification are based on the categorization of Balinese dialects by Denes (1982) and Bawa (1983).

The data were analyzed by applying the distributional method by means of dividing-key factors, marker-reading, and deletion techniques (Kesuma, 2007). Dividing-key factors technique is useful to divide sentences into several constituents in order to find constituents of intransitive verbs. Intransitive verbs were then analyzed by using the marker-reading technique in order to determine the form of its marker. This technique was run by reading the mark (affix or word) that marks a particular verb which constructs an intransitive verb. To further reinforce that the marker is an intransitive verb marker, then deletion technique was applied. It was applied in order to determine the degree of insight of the marker in the construction of intransitive verb, so that if the marker is deleted from the verb which caused the construction to be ungrammatical and unacceptable, then it is ensured that the marker is a marker for intransitive construction.

Furthermore, the analysis results were displayed formally and informally. Informal results display was conducted through descriptions by using words that can be readily understood when it is being read, while in formal way, the descriptions were included with table (Kesuma, 2007). Furthermore, in order to facilitate per-gloss translation of data, codifications covering the analysis were included, i.e., intransitive (INTR), definite (DEF), possessive (POS), and masculine (MAS), first person singular (1SG), second person singular (2SG), and third person singular (3SG)

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the objectives, this section is divided into two parts, i.e., intransitive verb markers and syntactic behaviours of the markers.

#### *Intransitive Verb Markers*

Four markers were found in Balinese intransitive verb markers, i.e., *ma-*, *N-*, *ma-an*, and *ma-in*.

#### *Marker ma-*

This marker, *ma-*, is a bound morpheme-typed marker attached to the verb in constructing intransitive verbs. Such a marker is contained in the following data (3) and (4).

- (3) Ketut *ma-kaik*.  
Ketut INTR-shout  
'Ketut shouts.'
- (4) Cicing ci-ne *ma-laib*.  
Dog 2SG-POS INTR-run  
'Your dog runs.'

The marker is a bound morpheme that appeared on the left of verbs *kaik* and *laib*. Since the location of the marker is attached to the verb, it is clear that this marker marks the central element. The marking direction of the marker is the center for the central element itself or verb. If intransitive verb markers above are excluded, hence construction (5) and (6) may result in the loss of intransitive verb construction and the structure of the sentence becomes ungrammatical and unacceptable. Other examples of intransitive verbs marks by *ma-* are *ma-mucu* 'cornering', *ma-canda* 'joking', *ma-gending* 'singing', and the like.

- (5) \*Ketut *kaik*.  
Ketut shout
- (6) \*Cicing ci-ne *laib*.  
Dog 2SG-DEF run

The status of marker *ma-*, in order to indicate the emergence of intransitive verb, as in (3) and (4), since Balinese adopted typologically belong to SVO word order, therefore, it can be tested by putting post-verbal object arguments on both of the data as can be seen on the following constructions (7) and (8).

- (7) \*Ketut ma-kaik munyi.  
Ketut INTR-shout voice
- (8) \*Cicing ci-ne ma-laib umah.  
Dog 2SG-POS INTR-run house

Both constructions of (7) and (8) are unaccepted grammatically in Balinese.

### Marker *N-*

Marker *N-* (nasal) is an affix that has four allomorphs, i.e., *n-*, *m-*, *ng-*, and *ny-* (Gitananda, 2017). Since it is an affix, therefore it is considered as a bound morpheme that inherited in the construction of intransitive verbs. Based on the data, this marker has three variations whose appearance depends on the initial sounds of the verb, including *ny-* (9), *ng-* (10), and *m-* (11).

- (9) Ada anak ny-[s]ilem.  
There people INTR-drown  
'There is someone drowned.'
- (10) Adi-ne ng-eling.  
Young brother/sister-POS INTR-cry  
'His/her young brother/sister cries.'
- (11) Tiang m-uruk apang dueg.  
1SG INTR-learn for clever  
'I learn in order to be clever.'

As the preceding explanation that *N-* marker is a bound morpheme that is located to the left of the central element or verb *silem*, *eling*, and *uruk*. Due to the location and the type that marks the verb, marker *N-* is classified into a central marker. Clearly, the presence of the *N-* marker marks the center for the central element *per se*. It can be evidenced by the deletion of the markers, respectively as in (12) - (14), which causes the intransitive

construction to be lost, thus also causing the construction of the sentence unacceptable in grammar. There are other examples of intransitive verbs marked by *N-* such as *ny-[s]ampat* 'sweeping', *m-[p]edem* 'sleeping', *ng[a]-roko* 'smoking', and so on.

- (12) \*Ada anak silem.  
There people drown
- (13) \*Adi-ne eling.  
Young brother/sister-POS cry
- (14) \*Tiang uruk apang dueg.  
1SG learn for smart

To strengthen the status of intransitive verb marked by *N-*, the data (9) - (11) are inserted by post-verbal object arguments. Hence, it made the constructions are ungrammatical and unacceptable as can be seen on the following constructions (15) - (17).

- (15) \*Ada anak ny-[s]ilem tukad.  
There people INTR-drown river
- (16) \*Adi-ne ng-eling yeh.  
Young brother/sister-POS INTR-cry water
- (17) \*Tiang m-uruk igel apang dueg.  
1SG INTR-learn dance for clever

### Marker *ma-an*

Marker *ma-an* is a marker in the form of bound morpheme which consists of two separated markers which mark the construction of intransitive verbs simultaneously at the initial and final position. The appearance of the marker can be seen in the following sentences (18) and (19).

- (18) Di suba-ne kelih, ia mara ma-pangen-an.  
When already-DEF grown up 3SG just INTR-reflect-INTR  
'When grown up, (s)he is sorry for him/herself.'
- (19) Made ma-sesel-an sabilang peteng.

Made INTR-sorry-INTR every night  
 ‘Made feels sorry for himself every night.’

Made INTR-sorry-INTR child every night

Since this marker attached simultaneously to the initial and final positions of the verb, it can be classified as a marker located on the left and right, and the type of marker is a bound morpheme. It also makes this marker is located in the central element due to marking the verb. The direction of the marker classified as a central marker for the center because it marks the verb *per se*. If one or both of the markers are wiped out, the status of these intransitive verbs are also disappeared which also causes the two sentences (18) and (19) to be ungrammatical. It is shown by the sentence (18) that each one of the marker of the intransitive verb is wiped, as in the following deletion of *-an* (20), *ma-* (21), and both *ma-* and *-an* (22).

(20) \*Di suba-ne kelih, ia mara  
*ma-pangen*.

When already-DEF grown up 3SG just  
 INTR-reflect

(21) \*Di suba-ne kelih, ia mara  
*pangen-an*.

When already-DEF grown up 3SG just  
 reflect-INTR

(22) \*Di suba-ne kelih, ia mara  
*pangen*.

When already-DEF grown up 3SG just  
 reflect

When sentences (18) and (19) are inserted by object arguments, it caused the sentences ungrammatical as in (23) and (24). It proved by the impassibility of intransitive verb followed by object argument (Kridalaksana, 2008; Sofyan, 2012).

(23) \*Di suba-ne kelih, ia mara  
*ma-pangen-an panak*.

When already-DEF grown up 3SG just  
 INTR-reflect-INTR child

(24) \*Made ma-sesel-an *panak* sabilang  
 peteng.

### Marker *ma-in*

This marker marks the construction of intransitive verbs as in the data (25) and (26) below.

(25) Uli ibi, Pa-n Kaler  
*ma-ririh-in* teken gae.

Since yesterday father-POS Kaler  
 INTR-smart-INTR with work.

‘Since yesterday, Kaler’s father  
 thinks of being smart with the work.’

(26) Sari nagih *ma-orah-in* dogen  
 indik punika.

Sari want INTR-tell-INTR just  
 about that

‘Sari wanted to be told about that.’

Regarding to its position, marker *ma-in* is a bound morpheme attached on the both sides of the center element or verb as in *ririh* and *orah*. Since the location of the marker marks verbs, therefore, it becomes a central marker. It is clear that the presence of marker *ma-in* is a central marker for the centre itself. It can be proven through the deletion of the marker so that the construction of its intransitive verbs disappeared as well as the following sentences (27) and (28) are ungrammatical.

(27) \*Uli ibi, Pa-n Kaler  
*ririh* teken gae.

Since yesterday father-POS Kaler  
*smarts* with work.

(28) \*Sari nagih *orah* dogen indik  
 punika.

Sari want tell just about  
 that

As in previous tests on intransitive verb marker status, data (25) and (26) cannot be inserted by post-verbal object arguments. The

objects placement caused their constructions ungrammatical as in (29) and (30).

- (29) \*Uli ibi, Pa-n Kaler  
 ma-ririh-in                      gae.  
 Since yesterday father-POS Kaler  
 INTR-smart-INTR work.
- (30) \*Sari nagih ma-orah-in gae.  
 Sari want INTR-tell-INTR work

were placed in the centre in which become the marker for the central element (verb). Marker *ma-* and *N-* are positioned on the left or prefixes meanwhile marker *ma-an* and *ma-in* placed on both left and right or conffix.

For additional explanation, an intransitive sentence is unable to be derived into passive construction. If such construction is attempted, then it is not grammatical nor acceptable. It is due to argument object in the basic sentence construction (active sentence) that is not available which function as a subject when it is being derived into a passive sentence.

**Syntactic Behaviors of Intransitive Verb Markers**

To facilitate the exploration of various Balinese intransitive verb markers, this section provides their syntactic behaviours of the markers as the overall exploration which can be summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Balinese Intransitive Verb Markers and Their Syntactic Behaviors**

Marker	Position of marker	Type of marker	Place of marker	Direction of marker
<i>ma-</i>	Left	Bound morpheme	Center	Center for center
<i>N-</i>	Left	Bound morpheme	Center	Center for centre
<i>ma-an</i>	Left & right	Bound morpheme	Center	Center for centre
<i>ma-in</i>	Left & right	Bound morpheme	Center	Center for centre

The table presents that the entire markers were type bound morpheme or affixes. They

**IV. CONCLUSION**

The exploration above answer the objectives of the study by illustrating a variety of markers that mark the construction of intransitive verbs and their syntactic behaviours in marking the elements of intransitive verbs. There are four intransitive verb markers found, i.e., *ma-*, *N-* (*ny-*, *ng-*, and *m-*), *ma-an*, and *ma-in*. As for the syntactic behaviours of the intransitive verb markers, it can be specified that markers *ma-* and *N-* are located on the left of the central element while on the other hand marker *ma-an* and *ma-in* are located on the left and right of the centre. The four markers are bound morpheme and placed as a central marker. The direction of the intransitive verb marker is a marker of the verb or central element that marks the central element itself.

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