Aspectual Demension Of Balinese Modal Verbs: Syntactic and Semantic Analysis

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Abstract: This paper accounts for the Balinese modals. It focuses on their syntactic and semantic representation. Analyzing them by using modal theory proposed by Quirk (1985) and RRG theory proposed by Van Valin (1999) with the data taken from Balinese novels, and applying a descriptive method, it was found out that syntactically, the Balinese modals specify aspectual dimensions and have a wide range of functions. They can also modify adjectives, statives, and adverbs as well as transitive and intransitive verbs. Besides, they can be used independently or as the heads of constructions. Semantically, the Balinese modals can bring various semantic basis according to degree or mode of accomplishment and they appear in high and low registers.
Keywords: *modals, syntactic and semantic analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Balinese is one of the larger regional languages in Indonesia. This language is spoken by around 3,247,283 speakers, about 77% of the population of Bali, which was recorded as 4.2 million. Balinese language is mainly spoken by Balinese people living in Bali and those living in other parts of Indonesia, like Lombok, Sulawesi, and other islands in Indonesia. We can see that Balinese is used in daily activities, especially those living in the villages, particularly in religious activities, ceremonies and other customary events. There is an indication that Balinese is not characterized as the language of full of consistency. The speaker expresses his idea as much as he feels to be relevant at that moment. He may use two or three verbs to express certainty, futurity, or indefiniteness. He can make any repetition he wants, but at the same time he can use only few words and omit the subject, object, and arks of tense (Barber, 1974).

In relation to the Balinese constructions, we can see that Balinese has a two-way morphological opposition marked by the presence and absence of nasal verbal prefix. This morphological contrast correlates with the structural opposition between Agent-subject and Patient-subject constructions. One of the Balinese constructions is a morphologically unmarked 'basic' verb form, and the others are 'nasal' verb constructions (Artawa, 2013). This means that the Balinese applies the morphosyntax in its sentence structures.

Artawa (2013) stated that Balinese sentence constructions involve morphological unmarked basic verbs and nasal verb forms. It was stated that the one with the word order of the basic verb form is Patient-Verb-Agent oriented, while the nasal construction is Agent-Verb-Patient. In relation to verb forms, Wechsler and Arka (1998) stated that Balinese has nasal and basic verb forms. They also stated that its complex variation of verb forms shows morphological distinct kinds of prefixes and suffixes which bring various constructions with various semantic representations.

Balinese morphology involves the modification of initial part of the verb, by nasalization, or by prefix, and the post modification by the attachment of *-ang* or *-in* to the end of the verb or leaving it unsuffixed. This condition brings various meanings: for example *sentana* 'son' *nyentana* to become a family's son' *nyentanaang* 'make someone to be a family's son, *nyentanain* 'to become a son of a family'. There is also the addition of suffix *-a* that makes the expressions more complicated: *sentanaanga* 'be made the son of a family by someone'. *-a* in this case expresses a third person singular.

In relation to Balinese temporal adverbs, tense and aspect are not marked categories of the Balinese verbal system although syntactic arrangement may have aspectual consequences (Thomas,

1988). Balinese makes heavy use of adverbs in establishing the temporal coordinates of the clause, while aspectual dimensions can be specified with a set of modal verbs which have a wide range of functions.

As far as I know, in recent years a number of scholars have conducted researches about Balinese verbs. Arka (2005), for example, discussed about speech levels, social predicates and pragmatic structure in Balinese, Indrawati (2011) has made a research on Balinese serial verbs construction, Artawa (2013) discussed about the basic verb constructions of Balinese, Kardana (2014) talked about Morphosyntax of Balinese Reciprocal Constructions. Bagus (2018) made a research on Intransitive verb makers in Balinese, and Eka (2018) studied about meanings of Balinese benefactive verbs entitled On The Situated Socio Cultural Meaning Of Benefactives In Balinese, and many more. Actually, the researchers mentioned above have talked about Balinese syntax, the constructions of Balinese seen from the syntactic analysis which theoretically cannot be separated from semantic representation. They explained how the morphosyntax works. They mostly discussed the grammar Balinese syntactically and semantically. However, they have not discussed about the aspectual dimensions that can be specified with a set of modal verbs. They haven't talked about the Balinese modals seen from their syntactic structures and semantic representations.

The focus of this study is about the syntactic and semantic analysis of Balinese modal verbs. The goal of this paper is to determine the functions of Balinese modal verbs. The data used in this study are Balinese novels. I also used informants for this research. For the analysis, I used the notion of morphosyntactic structure that I quoted from Van Valin and Randy (1999). Van Valin and Randy state that it is necessary to look at morphosyntax if we are to capture linguistic regularities, not just syntax or morphology.

This research is organized in five sections. Section one is the introduction, section two talks about the theoretical frame work, in three I mention the research method, in four I mention the main discussion, that is about the result and discussion of this research, and in five it is the conclusion.

METHOD

This paper applies a descriptive qualitative method using a Balinese novel of 125 pages entitled *Sing Jodoh* written by I Made Sugianto (2013). The Balinese used in the novel is mix Balinese (low and high). To support the data I also used informants I myself as a native speaker of Balinese.

The analysis was done through applying the RRG conception, that was analyzing the syntactic structure and semantic representation. The analysis was to show how the morphosyntax works on the constructions of the modal verbs seen from accomplishment dimensions. It also tried to see the categories used as the modal verbs. By applying this method and using the macrorole theory of Van Valin and Randy (1999), we would see the syntactic and semantic properties of the Balinese modal verbs.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In English modality refers to a word which is used in many different senses in literature on verbal semantics. It is used to refer to what is called the root, or deontic, sense of modal verbs. This category includes such things as strong obligation, ability permission and weak obligation. In other words, modality concerns the relationship between the referent of the subject NP and the action if the referent has ability, if the referent permitted to do something, if the referent has an obligation.

In Balinese, the modals have a wide range of functions and are found modifying adjectives, statives, and adverbs as well as transitive and intransitive verbs they can also be used independently or as the head of a construction. The Balinese modals can be differentiated on a semantic basis according to degree or mode of accomplishment. The Balinese modals also involve *biasa* 'low' and *alus* high registers and they are used to refer accomplishment, not yet accomplishment, process of being, and intention to accomplish.

Accomplishment

Most Balinese modals found in the story belong to accomplished modals, particularly *sube* already', the low register. Some belong to high register like *sampun* 'already'. These can be explained in the following.

a. *Putu Damayanti **suba** sadar* (Sugianto, 2013: 25)
   Putu Damayanti already conscious
   'Putu Damayanti was already conscious'
b. *Suksma **sampun** madué galah ma-temu* (Sugianto, 2013: 4)
   Thanks already have time PASS-RESS-meet
   'Thanks for having time to meet'
c. *Marasa tusing nyidang N-tanggeh-ang sakit,*
   Feel not able Trans.-endure-APPL pain
   *Wayan Purna ngaku **suba** malaksana jaruh* (Sugianto, 2013: 39)
   Wayan Purna admit already behave dirty
   'Feeling not able to endure pain, Wayan Purna admitted that he had done dirty thing'.

In a above, we can see that the accomplished Balinese modal is represented by the word *suba* already' which syntactically preceding the adjective *sadar* 'conscious'. This modal expresses the state of being conscious of the referent subject was accomplished. *Sampun* in b shows that the accomplished modal is in high register. This modal precedes the transitive verb *madué* 'have'. Indeed there is the meaning of accomplishment expressed. In c, as we can see the accomplished modal is expressed by low register modal *suba*, like in a. however this modal precedes the intransitive verb *malaksana* 'to behave'.

Not yet accomplishment

Not yet accomplishment, as the opposite of being accomplished is also found in the data. This can be seen in the following.

a. *Durusang ma-gatra **sadurung** tembang-é ma-puter* (Sugianto 2013: 1)
   Please PassRess-say before song-DEF Pass-Res-play
   'Please say something before the song is played'
b. *Iraga **tondén** seken N-tawang kénkén sujati-né Madé Arimbaswa* (Sugianto, 2013: 51)
   1st not yet serious Trans.-know how real-DEF Madé Arimbawa.
   'We have not yet seriously known who Madé Arimbawa is'

In a, as we can see, there is the modal *sadurung* expressing not yet accomplishment. This modal appears before passive transitive *maputer* which is preceded by the noun phrase *tembang-é* 'the song'. The word *tondén* 'not yet' in b also belongs to not yet accomplishment modal. In Balinese the word *tondén* belongs to low Balinese which in daily activity Balinese also use *tondén* instead.

Process of being

For the modal expressing the process of being we can learn the following data. Like other modals, they can also belong to high register or low register.

a. *Ia **enu** sibuk. **Enu** N-pupul-ang bahan siaran* (Sugianto, 2013: 4)
   3SG still busy Still Trans.-collect-APPL material broadcast
   'She was still busy. She was still collecting broadcast material'
b. *Nanging ia kimud N-pesu-ang mapan **sedeng** siaran* (Sugianto, 2013: 7)
   But 3SG shy Trans.-show-APPL because still on air
   However, she was shy showing it she was still on air'
c. *Suba seken-seken ma-laksana jelé **enu** masi sing N-aku* (Sugianto, 2013: 38)
   Alaready serious Pass-Ress-act bad still still not confess
   'He has already done something wron, yet he did not confess to doing it'

In a, *enu* 'process of being' in the first clause and second clause belongs to modal of process of being in low Balinese. *Enu* in the first clause is followed with the adjective *sibuk* 'busy' while in the second clause is followed with transitive verb *mupulang* 'collect'. In b, the other modal of process of being which is also in low Balinese is expressed with the word *sedeng*. In this example the modal is

followed with a transitive verb *malaksana* ‘behave’. *Enu* in c is like those in a. however this one is followed with an intransitive verb *ngaku* ‘plead’.

Intention to accomplish

The dimension to accomplish can also be expressed with the Balinese modal *lakar, jagi/jaga* ‘will’. This will be clearly illustrated in the following discussion.

a. *Iraga **lakar** énggal dadi mémé lan bapa* (Sugianto, 2013: 11)
   1SG will soon become mother and father
   ‘ We will soon become parents’
b. *Pejalan hidup-né ané **lakar** teka sinah pait* (Sugianto, 2013: 18)
   Walk life-DEF that will come sure bitter
   ‘His future life will be bad’
c. *Tiang **jagi** ka pasar*
   1SG will to market
   ‘I will go do the market’

Lakar ‘will’ in a and b belongs to modal expressing intention to accomplish. This modal is in low Balinese register. We can see that in a *lakar* is followed with adverb *énggal* ‘soon’. In c, however, the modal of intention to accomplish is expressed with the word of high register *jagi*’will’ which semantically expresses the same meaning.

CONCLUSION

This paper analysis the Balinese modal verbs seen from the aspectual dimension. It is to know their syntactic and semantic properties applied in the text. It was found out that the Balinese modal verbs have a wide range of functions and can modify adjectives, statives and adverbs as well as transitive and intransitive verbs. It can also be seen that they can be used independently as the heads of constructions. If we do not know the dimensions of the Balinese modal verbs, it is hard to recognize the real meaning of a sentence, moreover the Balinese has registers. More research and study of that kind are very much needed, at least for the conservation of this traditional language.

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