Balinese Process Verbs in Lontar Usada Taru Pramana: A Natural Semantic Metalanguage Approach

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Abstract

This study aimed in analyzing the Balinese process verb found in Lontar Usada Taru Pramana. This study is a documentational research with qualitative approach. The data was collected from Lontar Usada Taru Pramana which has been translated by Drs. I Ketut Sukanthajaya into the latin script. The observation and documentation methods were applied in collecting the data. The theories used in this study are the classification of verb and Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory. The result analysis showed that there are two types of Balinese process verbs which are HAPPEN and MOVEMENT. Each type has subtype, as follows; (i) type of HAPPEN with subtype the process is done by other agents and the process is caused by the self-agents, (ii) type of MOVEMENT with subtype direction and quality of movement. Based on the analysis, it turns out that each type provides the data concerned. The result of the analysis is presented using the formal methods and informal methods.

Keywords: NSM; Balinese process verb; Lontar Usada Taru Pramana

1. Introduction

Language is a communication tool for people to share information or deliver their messages and opinions among humans in a group of community which is related to events happening around them. Indonesia is known as a multilingual population which has various languages. Balinese language is one of local language used by the Balinese people in their daily life. Balinese language divided into two, those are the Old Balinese and Modern Balinese. Beratha (1992) mentioned that the Old Balinese Language is only known from inscriptions. The number of lines may suggest that those inscriptions used to be written on the palm leaves then copied to bronze or copper plate. However, in the course of its history, Balinese vocabulary was greatly influenced by the Old Javanese language. The evidence can be seen from a lontar. Lontar is a text that exist in Bali that are used as guidelines to guide behaviour in the society. One of the lontar called Lontar Usada Taru Pramana. The meaning of 'Taru' means tree and 'Pramana' means power/sovereignty. Literally, Taru Pramana is a tree or plant that have medicinal power (Adnyana, 2019). Lontar Usada Taru Pramana is a text which contains the use of traditional medicine that explain by the group of plants. Sujarwo (2019) added that the term 'Usada' comes from a Sanskrit word 'ausadhi' which means the plants that are used for medicinal purposes. The story in the script told that all the plants are invited by Mpu Kuturan to introduce themselves and explain their functions in medicine. The parts of plant used are the leaves, flower, stem, fruit, seed, tuber,

and root. All the plants are prepared in the various ways.

The Lontar Usada Taru Pramana is the data source of this research. The reason of choosing lontar as the data source of the research because the information in Lontar Usada Taru Pramana is not widely known by public. Nowadays, it is rare to find a person that able to read a lontar. By conducting this research, all forms of information and knowledge that are set in the lontar can be learned and applied in the future by the next generation of Balinese people. In addition, this lontar consists of the verbs that are used as the main object in this research. Givon (1984) divided the verb into three categories, namely; state verb, process verb, and action verb. The differences can be seen from the verbal movement and the scale of time stability. The process verbs are the object of the research because it appears in the process of making the medicine. The Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory proposed by Wierzbicka (1996) is the constructing theory in this research. It is used to analyze the semantic structure by using the explication of semantic primes. This research aims to analyse the semantic structure of Balinese process verbs found in Lontar Usada Taru Pramana. Every process verb has different semantic components such as the manner of taking, the tools used, or some of them occurring due to the verbalization of the instrument used. That is why the research regarding process verbs is even more interesting to be studied.

2. Theoretical Framework

The theory is indispensable in a research to solve the problem formulation. The theories used are classification of verb and Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory by using the explication.

2.1 Classification of verb

Givon (1984:64) state that the classification of verb is based on verbal movement and the scale of time stability. There are three categories of verbs: (1) state verbs has stable of time, the verb does not have time changes, if there is a change it takes very slowly, (2) process verbs has less stable of time because the verb is moves from one situation to other situation, (3) action verbs has unstable time because there is the change happen because of something. The verbs discussed in this paper are the process verbs found in Lontar Usada Taru Pramana because they have specific semantic features and characteristics.

2.2 Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM)

In 1972, NSM theory was introduced by Anna Werzbicka. NSM theory is the combination between the philosophical and logical tradition in the study of meaning. The theory is a system of meaning representation based on universal semantic primes (Weirzbicka, 1996:23). There are four basic concepts of the theory;

original meaning, non-compositional polysemy, allocation, and syntactic of universal meaning. According to Sudipa (2022), the analysis of NSM applies two models at once, there are (i) mapping the meaning configuration based upon the entity, process, instrument and result, (ii) explication using the semantic primes. This research utilizes the models and uses the 65 of semantic primes as the following table:

Table 1. Description of 65 semantic primes (Goddard & Weirzbicka, 2014)

No.	Categories	Primes
1.	Substantives	I-ME, YOU, SOMEONE, SOMETHING- THING, PEOPLE, BODY
2.	Relational Substantives	KIND, PART
3.	Determiners	THIS, THE SAME, OTHER-ELSE
4.	Quantifiers	ONE, TWO, SOME, ALL, MUCH-MANY, LITTLE-FEW
5.	Evaluators	GOOD, BAD
6.	Descriptors	BIG, SMALL
7.	Mental Predicates	KNOW, THINK, WANT, DON'T WANT, FEEL, SEE, HEAR
8.	Speech	SAY, WORDS, TRUE
9.	Actions, Events, Movement, Contact	DO, HAPPEN, MOVE, TOUCH
10.	Existence, Possession,	BE (SOMEWHERE), THERE IS, BE (SOMEONE/SOMETHING), (IS) MINE
11.	Life and Death	LIVE, DIE
12.	Time	WHEN-TIME, NOW, BEFORE, AFTER, A LONG TIME, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, MOMENT
13.	Space	WHERE-PLACE, HERE, ABOVE, BELOW, FAR, NEAR, SIDE, INSIDE,
14.	Logical Concepts	NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF
15.	Intensifier, Augmentor	VERY, MORE
16.	Similarity	LIKE-WAY-AS

Specifically, process verbs are composed of two semantic primes which are HAPPEN and MOVEMENT. The semantic primes of HAPPEN can be discussed within two behaviors those are (1) The process is done by other agents and (2) The process is caused by the self-agents. Meanwhile, MOVEMENT is divided into (1) Direction and (2) Quality of Movement.

3. Methods

The data source of this research is the manuscript text of Lontar Usada Taru Pramana. The lontar is the

library collection of Bali Government Cultural Office. According to Sudewa (2003), the Balinese language is written in two different script; the Balinese script and the Latin script. The original lontar uses the Balinese script. However, this research uses the Latin script which has been translated by Drs. I Ketut Sukanthajaya on 12 April 1995. This research aims to describe the Balinese process verbs by applying the Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory. This theory is supported by 65 of semantic primes. Sudipa (2010) added that semantic primes is the core of NSM theory. The method of collecting the data was observation and documentation. The observation method was used to observe the variety of data and the documentation method was applied to take a note of all the Balinese process verbs. The data were analyzed by applying the qualitative method. Sudaryanto (1993) said that formal presentation method is describe to make the result more effective by using the symbols or abbreviation. Meanwhile, informal presentation method is detail in form of long description by using the words and sentences. The formal and informal methods were applied in presenting the result of the data analysis.

4. Result and Discussion

In this subchapter, the result of the data analysis is presented. This research intends to reveal the process verbs in Lontar Usada Taru Pramana through the theory of NSM. The Balinese process verbs were categorized through the classification of verb theory proposed by Givon (1984). The main point of the following issues is dealing with two categories namely HAPPEN and MOVEMENT. The analysis of process verbs is as follows:

4.1 Happen

This type has two branches, (1) The process is done by other agents and (2) The process is caused by the self-agents. Below is further discussion by providing the data concerned.

4.1.1 The verb process is done by other agents.

This category has the semantic exponent which can be mapped into "X does something to Y" with certain way. Then, the 'entity, someone, or something will change of condition. The letter 'X' means the other agent and 'Y' means the entity, someone, or something. One sample of data as follows:

(4-1) Titiang wit pilet, daging dumelada, daun anget, akah tis, engketé panes, tamba **beseh** ring jariji, akah titiangé urapang. (LUTP, 7a-23)

Translation:

My name is 'pilet' tree, my substance is neutral, my leaf is warm, my root is cool and my sap is hot. My root can be used to treat the **swollen** fingers by rubbing my root to the swollen fingers.

This process verb of 'beseh' swollen refers to an animate entity that is a human body. The event is done by agent to the entity in such a way (bitting). The agent like spiders, bees, scorpions does it to the entity. The result is that the entity (human body) becomes bigger. Below is the explication of the process verb of 'beseh'.

Explication:

At that time, something happened to Y

Because X did something to Y

Y becomes bigger

Y happen like this

4.1.2 The verb process is caused by the self-agent.

This type is categorized as semantic primes of HAPPEN. The process verbs that belongs to this group are the activity which happened by him or herself as the agent. The event occur might be something good or something bad. This category can be mapped into "something good/bad happen to Y". Below is the sample of data:

(4-2)   Titiang paya, daging dumlada, don anget, akah tis, dados anggen tamba anake **limuh**, ambil daun titiange 21 bidang. (LUTP, 9b-35)

Translation:

My name is 'paya' tree, my substance is neutral, my leaf is warm, and my root is cool. My leaf can be used to treat **unconscious** person. Take my 21 leaves for threating the unconscious person.

The process verb of 'limuh' unconscious represents bad condition happens to someone. The semantic exponent can be mapped as "Something bad happen to Y". The process verb of 'limuh' occur due to the agent did something bad such as he/she did not take a rest after working hard or he/she did not regularly eaten. The condition is not expected by the agent "Y does not like it". Below is the mapping.

Explication:

At that time, something bad happen to Y

Because Y did something bad

Y feel something bad

Y does not like this

Y happen like this

4.2 Movement

The type of this semantic primes shows that there is a changing process from one condition to the other. They are subdivided into (1) direction and (2) quality of movement. The further discussion is complemented by the sample of data.

4.2.1 Direction

The characterization of this type is presence unintentional movement. The exponent can be mapped into "X move…., because Y do something to X". Then, X might be undergoing change or displacement. The sample data as follows:

(4-3) Titiang taru wut-awut, daging panes tamban **labuh**, don titiange anggen nguapin. Akah kulit tis, bawang

adas, yeh kayu sane ring gebehe anggen nyiramin lung punika, raris urapin. (LUTP, 16a-74)

Translation:

My name is 'wut-awut' tree, my substance is hot. It can be used to treat someone who has fallen. Rub

my leaf, my cool root, and shallot to the fracture and flush it with stored water from the jug.

This process verb of 'labuh' fall down indicates that changing process from upward to downward direction. The entities possibly animate or non-animate. Specifically, for data above, it happens to animate entity (human). The activity is done by someone or something else. The process of moving is uncontrollable and probably affected by an unsuitable environment. Below is the detail of explication.

Explication:

At that time, something happen to Y

Y move somewhere (downward direction)

Because X do something to Y

Y move to Z (ground, floor)

Y does not like this

Y move like this

4.2.2 Quality of Movement

The quality of movement state an event that occurs because the thing undergoes a change of

circumstance and does not control the action. The mapping can be mapped into "Y become something". The sample of data can be seen as follows:

(4-4) Titiang tingkih, daging dumlada, don dayuh, babakan dumelada, akah engket panes, tamban rare

sadurunge **kepus** pungsed. (LUTP, 14a-64)

Translation:

My name is candlenut tree, my substance is neutral, my leaf is warm, my bark is neutral, my root and my sap are hot. I can be used to treat a baby before the umbilical cord is released.

This process verb of 'kepus' released is used only to explain the meaning of released for umbilical cord as the entity. The process occurs naturally due to a certain age of the baby. This verb expresses the entity is moving from one position to another. The result is the entity becomes released. For further explanation is used the explication below.

Explication:

At that time, something happen to Y

Because X do something to Y

Y become released (position changed)

Y happen like this

5. Conclusion

There are some points to be drawn as conclusions. Balinese process verbs contain two types of semantic primes which are HAPPEN and MOVEMENT. Based on the result of data concerned, this article found that all the data regarding with the category. The semantic primes of HAPPEN represent by the process verbs 'beseh' which means swollen and 'limuh' which means unconscious. The semantic primes of MOVEMENT represent by the process verbs 'labuh' which means fall down and 'kepus' which means released. The striking finding of this article is that the verb 'kepus' released. This verb is only used to represent the meaning of something (umbilical cord) is already apart because of natural way.

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