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The Argument Structure and Its Semantic Role of Reporting Verbs in Balinese Language

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Abstract

Verbs can determine the type and number of arguments that must be present in a clause. The more complex the structure of a verb, the more linguistic problems that arise and need to be studied. Reporting verbs in Balinese which have a complex clause structure because the argument can be filled by either a noun phrase unit or a clause. This research aims to determine the argument structure and the semantic role of the reporting verbs in Balinese. The written data was obtained from stories in Balinese and the Spoken data were obtained from Balinese language teachers. The results showed that the argument structure of reporting verbs that is filled by noun phrase unit, namely: 1) noun phrase-verb phrase-noun phrase, 2) noun phrase-verb phrase-noun phrase-preposition phrase, and 3) noun phrase-verb phrase-preposition phrase-noun phrase. Second, the arguments' structure that is filled by clause unit: 1) noun phrase-verb phrase-clause, 2) noun phrase-verb phrase-clause-noun phrase, and 3) noun phrase-verb phrase-preposition phrase-clause. The semantic role associated with the reporting verb in Balinese are speaker, message, addressee, and medium.

1. Introduction

Verbs are the central category of words in a clause. This is because the presence of a verb argument is determined by the verb itself (Adawiyah, 2021; Oeinada et al., 2021). The number of arguments of a verb both semantically and syntactically is also determined by the type of verb that

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binds it in a clause. Verbs link meaning and sentence structure, and it is the argument structure of verbs which represents this link (Stamp, 2021). One type of verb is reporting verb. The reporting verbs are verbs that refer to the manner in which information is brought to someone (Dixon, 2005: 152). Each verb has its own argument structure with a certain structural complexity. Reporting verbs, for example, have a certain complexity when compared to the other verbs. The reporting verb is typologically a universal verb because they are found in all languages. However, that every language has a tendency to be different from other languages, therefore the reporting verbs need to be analyzed.

A reporting verb has more than one argument and each argument has different characteristics so that this verb is interesting to study further. In addition, the argument slot of reporting verb can be filled by different units, namely phrases and clauses (Candrawati et al., 2021). However, how the structure of the argument of the reporting verb is a case that really needs to be explained, especially on how the pattern of the sequence of noun phrases or clauses is contained in a sentence whose verb is a reporting verb. How each argument is realized in phrase units or clauses certainly has a different role. The structure of the argument between the reporting verbs may be the same, but they may have different semantic roles.

The reporting verb in Balinese, especially in terms of the argument structure, has never been studied through Dixon's theory. For this reason, a study of the argument structure of reporting verbs in Balinese is needed to be studied more deeply. As a limitation of the study of reporting verbs in Balinese, the verb construction chosen in this case is the nasal construction. Nasal construction is a verb construction that is marked by the prefix nasal in the verb form. The grammatical function pattern used in this reporting verb pattern is Agent (A)-Verb (V) -Object (O) and not O-V-A. The limitation of verb construction in Balinese language is done because Balinese language has two verb constructions, namely nasal construction and basic construction (Artawa: 2013). The purpose of this study in general is to preserve the Balinese language and, in particular, to analyze the argument structure and the semantic role of reporting verbs in Balinese.

2. Materials and Methods

This research applied descriptive qualitative approach. Linguistic data about the argument structure and the semantic role of the reporting verb is described in depth through natural data. The argument structure of reporting verbs covers argument structure, semantic roles, and mapping of grammatical functions by Dixon. Data sources used in this study is primary data with two types of data, namely written and spoken data. The written data was obtained from stories in Balinese. The spoken data were obtained from teachers of Balinese language in Bali Province. There are two data collection methods used, namely the observation method and the interview method. The collection of written data was carried out through the interview method with the note-taking technique (Mahsun, 2005:92). The writer read the clauses that contain reporting verbs on the stories in Balinese and then note them in the worksheets provided. The interview method assisted by the elicitation technique was carried out to collect spoken data on Balinese language teachers. In carrying out the conversation, the writer uses a list of reporting verbs as an inducement. To obtain reliable data in Balinese, this method is assisted by elicitation techniques, such as the researcher directly asks the informant by preparing a number of questions, both spoken and written, to obtain data that is in accordance with the desired target (Aridawati, 2022).

The written and spoken data obtained were analyzed using the distributional method. This method is assisted by several techniques such as deletion and substitution (Sudaryanto, 2015). The writer analyzes the argument structure of reporting verbs by eliminating arguments to determine whether an argument is a core argument or an optional argument. Next, the writer replaces the

argument in the noun phrase unit with a clause to specify that an argument can be filled in both the noun phrase unit and the clause unit. The theoretical reference used to analyze the structure of the argument and the semantic role of reporting verbs in Balinese is the theory of linguistic typology by Dixon (1998, 2005, 2010, and 2012). Data analysis is presented informally through descriptions or explanations.

3. Results and Discussions

Reporting verb is a verb that shows the manner of the speaker conveys a message (Dixon, 2005). Reporting verbs are part of speaking verbs (Dixon, 2005: 152). Based on their semantic role, reporting verbs in Balinese have several subtypes, namely: *nyaduang* ' to report', *ngorahang* 'to say', *ngorahin* 'to tell', *negesang* 'to affirm', *ngesahang* 'to confirm', *nyambatang* 'to mention', *nyatet* 'to note', *nyeselin* 'to regret', *ngopag* 'grumble', *ngrengkengang* 'to complain', *ngakuin* 'to admit', *nanjenin* 'to offer', *nyanjiang* 'to promise', *ngerak* 'to threaten', and *ngabarin* 'to inform'.

There are four semantic roles associated with this verb, namely speaker, addressee, message, and medium. The roles of the speaker, addressee, and medium are always realized with noun phrases (Dixon, 2005). However, the message can be realized with noun phrases or complementary clauses. The role of the speaker always fills the function of the subject of the transitive verb (A) while the other three roles adjust to the presence of the reporting verb type.

Argument is a unit filling grammatical elements of a verb. The number of arguments determines whether a verb requires one, two, or three arguments. Based on its relationship with verbs, arguments can be divided into two, namely internal arguments and external arguments (Ausensi, 2021, Liu, 2020). The speaker role as the sentential subject is interpreted as external argument (Bigolin & Ausensi, 2021). Based on the unit filling the argument slot, the reporting verb can be filled by a noun phrase or clause unit. The noun phrase can fill in all the main arguments of the reporting verb, while the unit of clause can only fill in certain argument of the reporting verb.

To map the units filling the the argument of reporting verbs with grammatical function, the Dixon's terminologies (S,A, and O) is used. In general, the languages of the world have three primitive premise relationships.

S: subject intransitive verb
A: transitive verb subject
O: object transitive verb

Dixon (2010) assumes that all languages have intransitive and transitive clause structures. The reporting verbs are transitive verbs.

3.1 Argument Filled by Noun Phrase

Each reporting verb slot can be filled by a noun phrase, each of which carries a specific semantic role. However, there are some phrases that associate with the reporting verbs in the clause structure, like noun phrase (NP), Verb Phrase (VP), and Preposition phrase (PP). The characteristics of noun phrases (NP) that can fill this argument are concrete and some abstract noun. The role of the speaker and addressee is always filled by pronouns or concrete noun phrases. The role of the message can be filled by concrete and abstract noun phrases. The role of the medium is always filled by concrete noun phrases. At the argument level filled by the NP unit, the reporting verb has a core argument structure as follows: 1) NP-VP-NP, 2) NP-VP-NP-PP, and 3) NP-VP-PP-NP.

a) NP-VP-NP

Reporting verbs that can occupy this argument structure are *ngerengkengang* ' to complain', *nyetujuin* ' to agree', and so on. Here is an example of a reporting verb with the argument structure NP-VP-NP.

(1) a. ***Adin tiange*** *ngerengkengang* ***unduke ento***.
Younger brother 1.POSS complain about matter.DEF ART
'My younger brother complained about the matter.

b. ***Pak Bupati*** *nyetujuin* ***usulane ento.***
ART regent agree to proposal.DEF ART
'The regent agreed to the proposal.'

In sentences (1) a and b the reporting verb requires two arguments. The first argument is realized by NP *adin tiange* in clause (1) a, and *Pak Bupati* in clause (1) b. These arguments act as speakers and function as A. The second argument is the NP *unduke ento* in clause (1) a and *usulane ento* in clause (1) b. These arguments act as *messages* and serve as O.

b) NP-VP-NP-PP

In this NP-VP-NP-PP structure, the reporting verb has three arguments. The first argument is realized by the NP unit through a pronoun or concrete noun phrase. Verbs that can fill this structure are *nyaduang* 'to report', *ngorahang* 'to say', and others. The second argument can be filled by either pronouns, concrete or abstract noun phrases. The third argument is filled by the preposition phrase. The preposition filling this PP unit is *teken* 'to', or *ngajak* 'to'. The following is an example of the reporting verb structure with the argument structure NP-VP-NP-PP.

(2) a. ***Anake luh ento*** *nyaduang* ***unduk*** *teken* ***pengacarane.***
Person.DEF woman ART report matter PREP lawyer.POSS
'The woman reported the matter to the lawyer.'

b. ***Iya*** *ngorahang* ***ajin tabia*** *teken* ***I Made***.
3 tell /say price chilli PREP ART person's name
'He told the chili price to Made.'

Verbs *nyaduang* and *ngorahang* in sentence (2) require three arguments. The first argument is filled by NP *anake eluh ento* in clause (2) a, and *iya* in clause (2) b. These arguments act as speakers and function as A. The second argument is filled by NP *unduk* under clause (2) a, and *ajin tabia* in clause (2) b. These arguments function as messages and function as O. The third argument is filled in by the PP unit, namely *teken pengacarane* in clause (2) a and the *teken I Made* in clause (2) b. The role of the nouns contained in the complement of this PP is addressee and has perriferral function.

In this argument structure, the arguments can undergo structural alternation in a clause. The position alternation of this structure is that the NP-VP-NP-PP structure can be changed to the NP-VP-PP-NP structure. In clause (2) a and b, for example, it can be changed to a clause such as clause (3) a and b.

(3) a. ***Anake luh ento*** *nyaduang teken* ***pengacarane unduke.***

person.DEF woman ART report PREP lawyer.POSS matter.DEF
' The woman reported the matter to the lawyer.'

c. ***Iya*** *ngorahang teken* ***I Made ajin tabiane*** .
3 tell PREP ART person's name price chili.DEF
'He told the price of chili to Made.'

Clause (2) a has the same meaning as clause (3) a, and clause (2) b has the same structure as clause (b) b. The difference is that when the NP-VP-NP-PP structure is changed to the NP-VP-PP-NP structure, the NP in the last argument must be definite so that there is a change from indifinite to definite NP.

Indefinite	**Definite**
Unduk 'matter'	*unduke* 'the matter'
Ajin tabia 'chili price '	*ajin tabiane* 'the chili price'

c) NP-VP-NP-NP

In this argument structure pattern, the root of the verb is still the same as the reporting verbs with the structure of NP-VP-NP-NP. The affixation in this argument structure is sufix {-in} like *nyaduin* 'to report to', *nyambatin* 'to tell/say to', and *ngakuin* 'to claim'.

(4) a. *Ia nyaduin tiang unduke ento*.
3 report 1 matter.DEF ART
'He told me the matter.'

b. *I Bapa nyambatin tiang pejalane ene*.
ART father state 1 journey.DEF ART
'Father stated the jurney to me.'

c. *Ia ngakuin tiang nyama*.
3 claim 1 brother
'He claimed me a brother.'

In clause (4) the reporting verb requires three arguments, each of which is filled by an NP unit. The first argument is *iya* in clause (4) a, *I Bapa* (4) b, and *iya* in clause (5) c. These arguments act as speakers and function as A. The second argument is filled by the NP *tiang* in clause (4) a, b, and c. These arguments act as adressee and function as O. The third argument is filled by unif NP *unduke ento* in clause (4) a, *pejalane ene* in clause (4) b, and *nyama* in clause (5) c. These arguments act as messages and serve as perriferal functions.

3.2 Argument Filled by Clause

In certain argument slots, the arguments filled by noun phrase units can also be filled by clause units. Based on the role that the reporting verb can have, only the message role can be filled by the clause unit. The clause that fills the argument of the reporting verb does not occupy on A function but occupies the internal argument of a verb. If it is connected with the internal argument of a verb, then this clause is a complement clause (CC) of a reporting verb because the clause can function as an O.

There are two types of complement clauses that can fill it, namely declarative and interrogative clauses. The following are examples of verbs filled with declarative and interrogative clauses.

(5) a. *Iya nyambatang* ***dewekne tusing ngelah nyama braya*** *teken* ***tiang*****.**
3 say 3 NEG have family PREP 1
' He said that he doesn't have any family'.

b. *I Bapa ngorahang teken anake ento* ***ia taen dadi satpam*****.**
Father say PREP man ART 3 ever become security
'My father said to that man that he had ever become a security'.

The complement clause in sentence (5) a is a positive declarative clause, and clause (5) b is a negative declarative clause. In addition to being filled by a declarative, clause unit in the reporting verb, one of the arguments can also be filled by an interrogative clause unit as in the example sentences (6) a and b.

(6) a. *Tiang ngorahin I Agus* ***dije iya megae***?
1 tell ART I Agus where 3 work
'I told Agus where he worked'.

b. *Iya ngorahang teken anake ento* ***apa adan obatne*****?**
3 say PREP man ART what name medicine
'He said to the man what medicine's name is'.

The interrogative clause units that filling this clause can be marked by *apa* 'what', *ngudiang* 'why', *dija* 'where', *encen* 'which one', *pidan* 'when', *nyen* 'who', *kenken* 'how', and *kuda* 'how many'. Meanwhile, based on the arguments being filled by the clause, the reporting verbs have the following structures: 1) NP-VP-CC, 2) NP-VP-CC-PP, and 3) NP-VP-NP-CC. The following is an explanation of the structure of each of these arguments.

a) NP-VP-CC

Verbs that can have this structure are *ngrengkengang '*to complain', *nyetujuin '*to agree', and the others.

(7) a. ***Pak bos*** *nyetujuin* ***tiang dadi sopir***.
ART boss agree 1 be driver
'The boss agreed that I would be the driver.

b. ***Ia*** *ngrengkengang* ***dewekne tusing ngelah pipis***.
3 complain 3 NEG have money
'He complains that he does not have any money.'

c. ***I meme*** *ngopag* ***pianakne tusing masuk***.
ART mother grumble child.POSS NEG go to school
'Mother grumble about her child is not in school.'

The verbs on the examples above have two arguments with the role of speaker and message. The speaker is filled by the NP unit, namely *Pak boss* (7) a, *iya* (7) b, and *I meme* (7) c. The clause unit that completes this argument structure serves as the message.

b) NP-VP-CC-PP

In the argument structure NP-VP-CC-PP where the clause unit is the main argument of a verb. The verbs can fill this argument structure are *ngorahang* 'to say', *nyanjiang* 'to promise', and the others. Here is an example of this argument structure.

(8) a. ***Anake eluh ento*** *ngorahang*
person.DEF woman ART say
dewekne *tusing nawang* ***pipise ento*** *teken* ***Pak Polisi***
3 NEG know money.DEF ART PREP ART policeman
'The woman stated that she did not know about the money to the policeman.'

b. ***Iya*** *ngorahang* ***ada linuh*** *teken* ***I Bapa***.
3 say there is gempa PREP ART ayah
'He said that there was an earthquake to father.'

The reporting verb in this structure has three arguments. The first argument is filled by the NP unit which acts as a speaker, namely *anake eluh ento* in clause (8) a and *iya* in clause (8) b. The second argument is filled by a clause that acts as a message, namely *dewekne tusing nawang pipise ento* in clause (8) a and *ada linuh* in clause (8) b. The third argument is filled by the addressee, namely PP *teken Pak Polisi* in clause (8) a and *teken I Bapa* in clause (8) b. The argument structure of this reporting verb has a structural alternation with NP-VP-NP-CC.

c) NP -VP-NP-CC

Reporting verbs that have an argument structure NP-VP-NP-CC can be filled by the verb *nyanjiang* 'to promise', *ngorahin* 'to tell to', and so on. The following is an example of the argument structure of the reporting verb with the structure NP-VP-NP-CC.

(9) a. *Iya nyanjiang pianakne iya lakar meliang sepeda gayung*.
3 promise child.POSS 3 will buy bycicle
'He promises that he will buys his child a bycicle.'

b. *Cai ngorahin awake cai tusing teka kema*.
2 tell 1 2 NEG come there
'You told me that you didi not come there.'

In clause (9) the reporting verb is realized with the verb *nyanjiang* and *ngorahin*. Both of these verbs require three arguments. The first argument is filled by the NP unit *iya* in clause (9) a, and *cai* in clause (9) b. This argument acts as a speaker. The second argument is filled by NP *pianakne* in clause (9) a, and *awake* in clause (9) b. This argument acts as an addressee. The clause unit is filled in by *iya lakar meliang sepeda gayung* in clause (9) a and *cai tusing tema kema* in clause (9) b. This argument acts as a message.

3.3 Medium as an Optional Role

The medium role is the media used by the speaker to convey the message to the addressee. The media that is meant in this case is language itself. The role of the medium is filled by the NP and it is an optional role. That is, in reporting verbs the argument of the medium, its existence is not a core argument so that the absence of medium role is not an obstacle for a claim to be accepted.

(10) a. *Iya nyaduang unduke ento teken Pak Polisi aji Bahasa Indonesia*.
3 report case .DEF ART PREP ART police PREP Language Indonesian
'He reported the case to the police in Indonesian language.

b. Cai ngorahang cai tusing masuk teken gurune aji Bahasa Inggris.
2 say 2 NEG go to school PREP teacher.DEF PREP language English
'You said that you didn't go to your teacher in English.'

In sentence (10) a the verb *nyaduang* has an argument structure NP-VP-NP-PP-PP, while in sentence (10) the verb *ngorahang* has an argument structure NP-VP-CC-PP-PP. The roles of these two verbs are speaker-message-addressee-medium. The role of the medium is realized through PP *aji Bahasa Indonesia* in (10) a and *aji Bahasa Inggris* in (10) b. As an optional role, this role can be at the end of a sentence or the beginning of a sentence such as sentences (11) a and b. But it should not be in the middle position in a sentence.

(11) a. *Aji Bahasa Indonesia iya nyaduang unduke ento teken Pak Polisi*.
PREP language Indonesian 3 report case.DEF ART PREP ART polisi
'In Indonesian language he reported the case to the police.

b. *Aji Bahasa Inggris cai ngorahang cai tusing masuk teken gurune*.
PREP language English 2 say 2 NEG go to school PREP teacher.DEF
'In English you said that you didn't go to your teacher.'

4. Conclusion

Based on the presentation of the results and discussion, there are several things that can be concluded regarding the argument structure and semantic role of the reporting verb in Balinese. Reporting verbs have an argument structure that can be filled by noun phrase units and clauses. The argument structure of predicates can be represented by thematic roles (Browne, 2021). Semantic roles that can be associated with reporting verbs in Balinese are speaker, addressee, message, and medium. Only the medium is an optional role.

The arguments filled by NP, the argument structure is divided into three, namely: 1) NP-VP-NP with *speaker-message* semantic roles, 2) NP-V-VP-PP with speaker-message-addressee semantic roles, and 3) NP-VP-NP-NP with speaker-addressee-message semantic roles. In the arguments that can be filled by CC, the argument structure is divided into 1) NP-VP-CC with a message-speaker semantic role, 2) NP-VP-CC-PP with a speaker-message-addressee semantic role, and 3) NP-VP-NP-CC with speaker-addressee-speaker semantic role order. In the argument structure filled with message-addressee roles, these two roles can alternate positions.

Abbreviation

1	: First Person
2	: Second Person
3	: Third person
A	: Transitive Verb Subject
ART	: Article
CC	: Complement Clause
DEF	: Definitive
NEG	: Negator
NP	: Noun Phrase
O	: Object Transitive Verb
POSS	: Possessive
PP	: Prepositional Phrases
PREP	: Preposition
S	: Subject Intransitive Verb
VP	: Verb Phrase

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