

## Voice selection of in Indonesian: the case of the Bali dialect

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This paper examines the voice selection observed in the Bali dialect of Indonesian. Indonesian is sometimes said to have two grammatical voices, Actor and Patient voices, but sometimes to have three voices: Actor, Patient and Object voices. This paper takes the view that Indonesian has two voices. Verbs are categorized according to the prefix they have: verbs that have the prefixes *ber-* and *meN-* are categorized as Actor voice, and those with the prefix *di-* are categorized as Patient voice. Verbs that do not have any prefixes are also categorized as Actor Voice. Two kinds of data that are taken in 2016 were used for the analysis: free conversation and video description, both by bilingual speakers who speak Balinese and Indonesian. The former consists of spontaneous speeches in which speakers tell about their occupation, everyday life, Balinese customs, religions, family, and so on. In these data, voice selection in free speeches is observed. The latter consists of the oral and written descriptions of three short video films in which a girl performs a sequence of actions. Speakers are asked to orally describe and then write down what they said. These data are expected to tell us how voice selection is made when sequential events are described.

As a result, a considerable difference is observed between the two genres. In free conversation, speakers tend to use Actor voice much more often (70 to 80 % of the transitive verbs) than in video description (35 to 60% of the transitive verbs). The preference of Actor voice should have connections with the following two facts. First, speakers tend to talk about themselves and the subject NPs are mostly first person. It is cross-linguistically widely observed that the first person subject strongly prefers Actor voice. Second, sequential events are rarely described in free conversation; most of the sentences have only one VP, or no verbs at all but have adjectives or nominal predicates instead.

In video descriptions, many Patient voice verbs appear. In a typical speech, an Actor voice verb is selected to describe the first action, but Patient voice verbs are used for the actions that follow. Some speakers, mostly born after 1980, prefer to use Actor voice verbs for second or third actions as well, but not constantly. When oral and written descriptions are compared, written versions tend to contain more Patient voice verbs. In Malay/Indonesian, it is often observed that the first of the sequential actions is introduced by an Actor voice verb, followed by Patient voice verbs (Cumming 1991). Also, it is observed that the agent of the Patient voice is restricted to the third person (Nomoto, 2015). These tendency is also the case in Indonesian spoken in Bali in description of sequential actions where almost all the clauses have the third person subject. In addition to the tendency already mentioned in other literatures, it is claimed in this paper that the genre of the text and the style (whether oral or written) also influence the choice of voice to a great extent.

To conclude, this paper discusses that three factors influence the selection of grammatical voice in Indonesian in Bali: the person of a subject NP, oral or written style, and whether a verb is the first one in the sequential action or those that follow.

Cumming, Susanna. 1991. *Functional Change*. Berlin-Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.

Nomoto, Hiroki. 2015. Person Restriction on Passive agents in Malay and givenness. *Proceedings*