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# The Balinese Serial Verb Construction and Their Equivalences in English

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#### **Abstract**

Serial Verb Construction (SVC) is a construction where more than one verbs occur in a clause without any overt markers of subordinator or coordinator. This research attempts to analyse SVC involved in the *Tales from Bali* and their equivalence in English.The theories adopted in this research are the theory of language typology, the theory of translation proposed by Larson (1998:3) and Molina and Albir (2002:509).

This research applies decriptive-qualitative approach, the data were taken from *Tales from Bali* and was collected by using observation method. The result shows that SVCs in the *Tales from Bali* are translated into complex clause construction, construction with bare infinitive, construction with to Infinitive, Present Participle, compound Sentence construction, perfective, and verb with adverb of manner. The techniques applied in transferring the meanings of SVCs in the SL to the English TL are established equivalence, description, and transposition.

**Key words:** Balinese SVCs, types, English equivalence.

#### 1. Introduction

Translation is an activity of transferring the meaning from one language, a sourcelanguage (SL) to another language or what is called as the target language (TL) by way of semantic structure (Larson, 1984). It can not only transfer the meaning linguistically but the culture is also important.

The translators need to have the knowledge in linguistics and culture in both languages when translating the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). The linguistic knowledge consists of the smallest unit: lexicons, phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs. In a clause, a verb is usually in the form of verb phrase as the predicate of the sentence and it occurs after the subject in SVO languages. However in a language which has serial verb construction (SVC) the predicate can be occupied by more than one verbs which are fully inflected and behaves like main verbs. In Balinese there is also a phenomenon usingmore than one verbs in a clause structure without any subordinator or coordinator and the verbs are fully inflected or SVC. Meanwhile in English, the predicate of a clause can be clearly analyzed since there is no use of SVC in a clause structure. Only the main verb is fully inflected in the use of double verbs in a single clause structure.

There are some former studies which are relevant to this research. They are described as follows: The first study reviewed is entitled "Serial Verb Constructions in a Linguistic Area" by Van Staden and Ger Reesink (Senft, ed., 2008). This research investigates the phenomenon of verb serialization in the context of genealogical and areal relationships between some Papuan and Austronesian languages of Eastern Indonesia. They diffine serial verb constructions (SVCs) as constructions in which two or more verbs occur in a single clause and none of the verbs is apparently formally subordinated to the other. Based on the criteria, they distinguish four main types of SVC for the East Nusantara area, they are: independent, dependent, co-dependent and complex. Viewed from the meanings of SVC they found: motion, direction, state change, commutative, instrument, manner, aspect, and mood. In their study of the languages, it was found that component serialization is found more frequently in the Papuan language of East Nusantara, but it also occurs in the Austronesian languages. Whereas narrative serialization is typically Papuan. This research inspired the writers to do research in SVCs.

The second study is a Ph.D thesis by Mas Indrawati (2012) entitled Konstruksi Verba Beruntun Bahasa Bali (Kajian Sintaktik dan Semantik). She found that Typologically, SVCs in Balinese have phonological, morphosyntactic, and semantic characteristics. Phonologically, the Balinese SVCs have single intonations. Morphosyntactically, they can be classified into independent and co-dependent SVCs. Semantically, SVCs in Balinese express: motions, directions, manner, permition, purpose, instrument, commutative, aspectual, modality, cause-effect, causatives, orientation, commitment, and influence. Based on the conceptual packaging of the Balinese SVCs, they can be proved to express single macro-events and are classified into component SVCs and narrative SVCs. Constituent merging in the Balinese SVCs shows that they are bi-clausal, mono-clausal, and clause chaining constructions. This research gives us more understanding on SVCs in Balinese therefore it was used as a reference.

The third study is conducted by Sutthichatchawanwong and Luksaneeyanawin (2007) entitled A Study of The Translation of Thai Serial Verb Constructions with Directional Verbs. They discussed the translation of Thai Serial

Verb Constructions (SVCs) with six Directional Verbs (DVs) such as *go, come, enter, exit, ascend* and *descend* in terms of their syntactic and semantic aspects and their English translation. They found that Thai SVCs with DVs totally denote seven concepts i.e. directional, purposive, aspectual, time, sequential, resultative, and success. In their study, they used the KWIC Concordance Program (Key Word in Context) as a tool to collect, compare, and analyze the data. However, they did not give a clear and detail analysis of the translation of Thai serial verb constructions into English. They only categorized and grouped the Thai serial verb constructions and their equivalents in English syntactically and semantically and put them in the table without any explanation of their categories. This study focused on the SVCs with directions while our study on Balinese SVCs involved in *Tales from Bali*. In terms of the theories applied in both studies are different, however both studies discussed the translation of SVCs.

The last study reviewed in this paper is Indonesian V-V Constructions in "Laskar Pelangi" And Their Translations in "The Rainbow Troops", a thesis done by Liswahyuningsih (2011). This study discusses the type of V-V constructions found in "Laskar Pelangi" and its translation "The Rainbow Troops"? shifts employed in the translation and the factors determine the choice of the shifts made by the translator.

The data were taken from Indonesian novel "Laskar Pelangi" and its translation "The Rainbow Troops" and the theories applied are linguistic theory by Durie (1997:291) and translation theories by Catford (1965:73) and Newmark (1978:89)

Based on the semantic meaning of the verbs, she found eight categories of Indonesian V-V constructions found in the data source. They are (1) cause-effect, (2) motion, (3) direction that can be divided into (a) intransitive and (b) transitive, (4) instrumental, (5) coincidence motion or posture, (6) manner, (7) synonymic, and (8) aspect. Since, there is no V-V construction in English, the translation of Indonesian V-V construction causes shifts in the grammatical categories and point of view. Transposition in the translation of Indonesian V-V construction comes from the verb into various grammatical structures. Category shift found in the novel can be verb-verb construction to verb-adjective, verb-noun, verb-preposition or verb-adverb. Unit shift can be verb-verb construction to verb-noun phrase, verb-adjective phrase, verb-prepositional phrase or verb-clause. Structure shift can be from active sentence into passive. Meanwhile, modulation can be lexical loose and lexical dense. The occurrence of shifts is influenced by three factors, such as linguistic differences, cultural differences and translator preferences.

This paper was aimed at identifying the types of SVCs found in the folklores in *Tales from Bali*, analyzing how they are translated into English and what techniques are applied by the translator in translating them into English.Balinese is a major regional language in Indonesia. It is used by approximatelythree million people. Balinese is grouped into Western Malayo-Polynesian family, a sub-group of Austronesian languages (see, Blust, 1999:68; Artawa, 2004:2). Mas Indrawati (2012) states that SVC is a common fenomenon in isolative languages which lack morphological markers for syntactic processes, however, in the use of Balinese, which is rich in morphological markers, SVC are common fenomena.

The translation of the Balinese SVC into English is an interesting topic to be studied since both languages are typologically categorized differently that is, English is classified into a satelite framing language, which is claimed as having no SVC, as apposed to verb framing language which is rich in SVC.

This study is descriptive qualitative, the data were taken from the translation of *Tales from Bali* which consists of some titles like "*Pan Ketumpit Lan I Lutung*" (abriviated as PKLIL), "*Nyoman Jater*" (NJ), "*Tuwung Kuning*" (TK), "*Bulan Kuning*" (BK) and "*Siap Badeng*" (SP) into English. The data were analyzed based on the theory of typology applied by Van Staden and Reesink (Senft, ed., 2008). The translation theories adopted in analyzing the translation of the Balinese SVCs are the theories proposed by Larson (1998:3) and Molina and Albir (2002:509). The research problems can be formulated as the followings.

- 1. What types of SVCs are involved in the *Tales from Bali*?
- 2. How are SVCs in Tales from Bali translated into English?
- 3. What techniques are applied by the translator in translating SVCs in *Tales from Bali* into English?

#### 2. Discussion

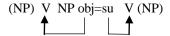
# Types of SVC found in the Tales from Bali

The theory employed in analyzing the types of SVCs which occur in the *Tales from Bali* is language typology. According to Van Staden and Ger Reesink (Senft, ed., 2008) all constructions consisting of more than one verbs, and none of the verbs is apparently formally subordinated to the other are referred to as serial verb construction (SVC). Morphosyntactically, Van Staden and Ger Reesink classify SVC into four groups, they are:

*Independent SVC*: in this type of SVC all the verbs in the construction have the complete range of verbal inflectional morphology that single verbs in simple clauses would have.

Dependent SVC is defined as a construction in which only one of the verbs carries all the inflections, while the others are given either in their bare forms or in a stripped down form.

Co-dependent SVC is characterized by a shared argument and as such the parts of the construction depend on each other. The object of the first clause is the subject of the second, schematically, the co-dependent construction is as follows:



Van Staden states that in east Nusantara languages co-dependent constructions are fully inflected verbs.

Complex SVC: in this type of SVC two or more verbs have one set of affixes; prefixes attached to the first and suffixes to the last verb in sequence. The following is the analysis of the two types of SVC found in the *Tales from Bali*.

#### **Independent SVC**

Independent SVC is an SVC in which the verbs in the SVCs have morphological markers similar to the markers of the verbs when they occur in monoverbal clauses (or what is also reffered to as simple clauses). This can be seen in the following examples.

1a. Kai luas ngalih jagal...

I went to look for a butcher...

b. ..., lantas ia malipetan ngalih-alihin Sang Kakua.

..., he then returned to look for SK.

The data above show that both verbs in the SVC; *luas ngalih* (1a), *malipetan ngalih-ngalihin* (1b) are fully inflected. Each verb can occur in a single clause as shown in the following examples:

(2a) Kai luas ke peken.

I go to the market.

(2b) kai **ngalih** jagal.

I look for a butcher.

(2a) Ia malipetan.

He returned

(2b) Ia **ngalih-alihin** Sang Kakua.

He looked for Sang Kakua.

#### Co- dependent SVC

Co-dependent SVCs are characterized by argument sharing. The object of verb one (V1) is the subject of the second verb (V2). This type of SVC is described by Van Staden and Reesink as (3a) and exemplified in (3b).



Example (3b) shows that the Object of V1 is the Subject of V2. This type of construction is referred to as Object sharing by Baker (1998) and in the literature this type of construction is also called causative or result, construction in which the first verb expresses the cause and the second one expresses the result. This type of SVC in Balinese can be seen in the following examples.

4a ...ditu lantas pianakne **ngajakin** memene **mulih** (SB,5).

...at that time her chicks asked her to go back home.

b. Jani Sang Lutung mare **nota** bantalne **telah.** (SPKL, 5)

When he saw the cakes were gone.

Data (4a) shows that *memene* 'her mother' is the object of the verb **ngajakin** and is also the subject of the second verb **mulih**. Seen from the inflection of the verb, **ngajakin** is fully inflected. It is derived from the base **ajak** with the active causative marker {N--in}, while **mulih** is derived from the root **ulih** with the intransitive maker {me-}. Data (4b) shows the same thing. The object of the first verb **nota**, *bantalne*, is also the subject of the second verb **telah**. **Nota** is in the spoken style while the written one is actually **ngenot** which is derived from the base **not** with the active marker {N-}. The SVC in data (4a-b) involves object sharing therefore they are categorized as co-dependent SVC. It is in line with what is mentioned by Mas Indrawati (2012) that Balinese co-dependent SVCs also belong to independent SVCs since they are fully inflected.

## The Translation of SVC in Tales from Bali

Larson (1998:3) has proposed various definitions on translation. He states that translation consists of transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language. This is done by going from the form of the first language to the form of the second language by way of semantic structure. It is meaning which is being transferred and must be held constant; only the form changes. The form from which the translation is made will be called the Source Language (SL) and the form into which it is to be changed will be called the Receptor Language (RL). Translation, then, consists of studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine the meaning, and then reconstructing this same meaning using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context.

There are twenty techniques of translation proposed by Molina and Albir (2002:509), but there are fifteen techniques used in written translation, they are: adaptation, amplification, calque, borrowing, compensation, description, discursive, creation, established equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, transposition. From the techniques of translation offered, it can be seen that some are oriented toward the source language culture, some are oriented toward the target language culture, and some are partially oriented to the source language and target language cultures. The techniques of translation which are considered source language oriented techniques are borrowing; pure borrowing, calque, and literal translation. Target language oriented techniques are naturalized borrowing, adaptation, compensation, description, discursive creation, established equivalent, generalization, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, variation. In addition, some techniques can also be considered techniques partially oriented toward the source language and target language cultures such as amplification and combinations of source language oriented and target language oriented techniques of translation.

#### SVC is translated into complex clause construction

The SVCs found in *Tales from Bali* are translated into complex construction as shown in the following (5)

5.SL:...munyine ngejer magegetoran tur ngruhguh...(SINJ, 5)

TL: ... her voice **trembled**, like one who was shivering and stuttered

The SVC **ngejer magegetoran**in (5) belongs to independent SVC, it is translated into complex clause. The first verb **ngejer** is translated into main verb **trembled** while the second verb **magegetoran** is translated into **was shivering** in the subordinate clause. The techniques involved in translating the SVC are description and transposition. The translator replaced the SVC by describing the meaning of **ngejer magegetoran** in a complex sentence since there is no SVC in English this result in transposition in which SVC is translated into non-SVC that is complex clause construction.

## SVC is translated into construction with bare infinitive

Some of the SVCs found in *Tales from Bali* are translated into construction with bare infinitive as shown in the following data:

6.SL:... nah jani jalan ngae basa. (SINJ, 28)

TL:... now let's prepare the spices.

Data (6) shows that *jalan ngae* is also an independent SVC, the first verb, *jalan* is translated into **let's** while the second verb **ngae** in the construction is translated into the bare infinitive, **prepare**, since the verb **let** as the main verb followed by objective pronoun **us** contracted into 's and it requires bare infinitive. The second verb, **ngae** is translated into bare infinitive **prepare**. The meaning expressed by the SVC is asking somebody to do something so the translator used the expression with similar meaning that is **let** + **object** + **bare infinitive**, this leads to the application of established equivalent and also transposition since the SVC in the SL is translated into non-SVC.

#### SVC is translated into construction with to Infinitive.

The SVCs found in *Tales from Bali* are also translated into construction with bare infinitives as shown in the following data.

7. SL:....ia nagih nyilih payuk tekenang pisaga-pisagane...(SINJ, 7).

TL:...she **tried to borrow** a pot from her neighbours...

The SVC in data (7) is classified as independent SVC. The first verb **nagih** is derived from the base **tagih** with active marker {N-}. Both verbs share the t subject argument **ia** in the target language, the first verb is translated into the verb *tried* which requires *to infinitive* and the second verb, **nyilih** is transferred into to infinitive, **to borrow**. The technique applied by the translator is transposition. The translator transferred the meaning implied by the SVC in the SL by using construction with to infinitive and this construction is not considered as SVC since to infinitive cannot occur as a main verb in a clause so this leads to the application of transposition in which SVC in the SL is translated into non-SVC in the TL.

# SVC is translated into construction with Present Participle

The SVCs found in *Tales from Bali* are also translated into construction with Present Participle as shown in the following data.

8. SL: I Nyoman Jater mare jani suud matekap... (SINJ, 2)

TL: I Nyoman Jater had just finished ploughing...

Data (8) shows that the SVC **suud matekap** is translated into construction with present participle, **had finished ploughing**. The V1in the SVC in the SL, **suud** is translated into **finished** and this verb needs present participle so the V2 **matekap** is transferred into **ploughing**. The verb had finished ploughing is not categorized as an SVC since present participle cannot stand by itself in a clause as a requirement to be considered as SVC. The translator conveyed the meaning expressed by the SVC in the SL by using non-SVC, this involved the technique of transposition.

## SVC is translated into compound sentence construction.

The SVCs in *Tales from Bali* are also translated into compound Sentence constructions as shown in the following data.

9. SL: ... I Belonjo laut bah ngaseksek... (SINJ, 20).

TL: ... I Belonjo fell down and fluttered....

The SL consists of one clause and the TL consists of two clauses. The SVC **bah ngaseksek** in the SL belongs to independent SVC. The first verb in the SL is transferred into the verb phrase **fell down** in the first clause in the compound sentence in the TL, while the second verb in the SL is translated into the verb **fluttered** in the second clause in the sentence. The verb **bah** is in the base form and **ngaseksek** is in the derived form since its base form is **seksek**. The translator applied transposition technique to deliver the message from SL into TL.

#### SVC is translated into perfective

The SVCs in *Tales from Bali* are also translated into perfective as presented in the following data.

10. SL: ... malahan buka ada anak maan ngangkid (SPKL, 5).

TL: .... he suspected someone had opened them.

The SVC maan ngangkid in the data consists of the verb maan 'get' and ngangkid 'open'. The verb ngangkid is derived from the base angkid with active marker {N-}. Maan ngangkid is translated into 'had opened' which belongs to past perfect. The techniques applied by the translator in translating the SVC in the SL into perfect form in the TL respectively the established equivalence and the technique of transposition in order to deliver the meaning and message from the SL into the TL.

#### SVC is translated into verb with adverb of manner

The SVCs in *Tales from Bali* are also translated into verb with adverb of manner as presented in the following lata.

11. SL: Ngikgik kedek Sang Kakua,... (SPKL, 15)

TL: He laughed loudly...

The above data (11) of the Balinese SVC*ngikgik kedek* is equivalent as verb with adverb of manner **laughed loudly**. In the text of the tales the SVC *ngikgik kedek* implied the meaning of the turtle which is laughing very loudly and its equivalent is **laughed loudly**. The equivalent is still retaining the message of the Balinese SVC in the SL *ngikgik kedek* indicating the same message. The Balinese SVC *ngikgik kedek* is translated into verb with adverb of manner **laughed loudly** which has the same meaning as the SL. The techniques applied by the translator on the translation of the Balinese SVC *ngikgik kedek* are techniques of equivalent and transpotition since the verb *ngikgik* is translated into adverb **loudly**. It belongs to the change of grammatical category.

#### 3. Conclusion

After analyzing the data on SVCs in *Tales from Bali and their* equivalences in English, it can be concluded that SVCs in *Tales from Bali* can be classified into independent and co-dependent SVCs. The Balinese SVCs in *Tales from Bali* are translated into complex clause construction, construction with bare infinitive, construction with to Infinitive, Present Participle, compound Sentence construction, perfective, verb with adverb of manner. The techniques applied in transferring the meanings of SVCs in the SL to the English TL are establish equivalence, description, and transposition.

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## Note-

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