

**THE MORPHO-SYNTACTIC ASPECTS OF –AN SUFFIX: A
STUDY ON MENO-MENE DIALECT IN MARUNG, BUNUT
BAOK VILLAGE, CENTRAL LOMBOK**



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BAIQ LITA LAELA LARASATI

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Telp. (0370) 623873

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By:

BAIQ LITA LAELA LARASATI
E1D014011

Has been approved in Mataram on 8 September 2018, by:

First Consultant,

Drs. Priyono, MA., Ph.D.
NIP.19550310198403 1 002

Second Consultant,

Drs. Nur Ahmadi, M. Hum
NIP 19661231199802 1 002

**THE MORPHO-SYNTACTIC ASPECTS OF –AN SUFFIX: A STUDY ON
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By

BAIQ LITA LAELA LARASATI

Email: larasatilita@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims at describing the distributions and grammatical uses of –*an* suffix in Meno-mene dialect at Marung, Bunut Baok Village, Central Lombok. It is focused on describing the structural distribution and the grammatical functions of –*an* suffix as well as the meaning in this dialect. In the data collection, the data was gathered by recording and note taking the native speakers' spoken utterances. The sample of this research was taken from the native speakers' spoken utterances only because there was no written source available in this dialect. The result of the data analysis shows that the –*an* suffix in this dialect is found in word level. The –*an* suffix can attach to all word categories such as Verb, Noun, Adjective and Adverb. Based on the distributions of the –*an* suffix, this suffix serves seven functions in relation to derivational and inflectional morpheme. In derivational morpheme include nominalizer and verbalizer. While, in inflectional morpheme include causative, applicative, comparative, reduplication and plural marker.

Keywords: *function, morpheme, morphology, morphosyntax, structural distribution, suffix, suffixation*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is used as a means of communication and interaction in human's daily activity. As a means of communication, it expresses feelings, share ideas, emotion, and information. As a means of interaction, it is used by human being to build up social life. Through language we ask and answer questions, request help, give instructions, report problems, make jokes and explain who and what we are. Language is fundamental to everything that is done in social life –as members of society, we live our social lives by talking to and with others.

According to Sapir (1921), language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily symbols. Then, Crystal (1971) stated that Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Therefore, language has a tight relation to linguistics.

Linguistics as a scientific study of language has several branches namely: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Crystal (1971) reports that typological research done so far often combines morphology and syntax in a unit called morpho-syntax. This is due to the close inter-relationship between the two linguistic elements. Morphology is the study of the internal structure of words, and of the ways in which their structure reflects their relation to other words. Syntax involves inquiry into the rules of grammar which are used for ordering and connecting words to form phrases and sentence (Crystal, 1971).

One of morphological parts is suffixation that is the main concern of this study. The analysis of suffixation of a certain language will be broadly helpful in understanding the grammatical function of the language. Plag (2003) states that there are four kinds of suffixes: nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival suffixes, and adverbial suffixes. Nominal Suffixes are suffixes which are used to derive abstract noun form verbs, adjectives, and nouns. The kind of

nominal suffixes are *-age* (marri-age, cover-age), *-al* (deni-al, nation-al, refus-al), *-ance* (remember-ance, appear-ance, mainten-ance), *-ant* (claim-ant, defend-ant), *-ce/-cy* (frequen-cy, absen-ce), *-dom* (bore-dom, free-dom, king-dom), *-ee* (interview-ee, refug-ee), *-er* (teach-er, work-er, build-er), *-or* (creat-or, surviv-or, protect-or), *-(e)ry* (contra-ry, contempora-ry), *-ful* (help-ful, use-ful, truth-ful), *-hood* (brother-hood, neighbor-hood, child-hood), *-(i)an* (Arab-ian, Einstein-ian, Mennesot-an), *-ing* (shoot-ing, sleep-ing, watch-ing), *-ion* (celebrat-ion), *-ism* (commun-ism, narciss-ism, sceptic-ism), *-ist* (chem-ist, plagiary-ist, guitar-ist), *-ity* (inactive-ity, verac-ity, divers-ity), *-ment* (argu-ment, endorse-ment, punish-ment), *-ness* (happi-ness, sad-ness, rude-ness), *-ship* (fellow-ship, owner-ship, kin-ship).

In addition, there are four suffixes which create verbs from other categories (mostly adjectives and nouns): *-ate* (activ-ate, captive-ate, eradic-ate), *-en* (enlight-en, awak-en, strength-en), *-ify, -fy* (terri-fy, satis-fy, rect-ify, exempli-fy), and *-ize* (civil-ize, human-ize, social-ize).

The English adjectival suffixes can be divided into two groups. The first is relational adjective. It is adjectival suffix whose role is to relate the noun the adjective qualifies to the base word of derived adjective. For example, algebraic mind means, a mind having to do with algebra, referring algebra, characterized by algebra. The second group is qualitative adjective. This adjective can adopt qualitative meanings as in she is a grammatical genius and it can adopt a qualitative sense. Adjective sentences are *-able/-ible* (fix-able, present-able, ed-ible, cred-ible) *-al* (region-al, grammatic-al, emotion-al, coast-al), *-ed* (fad-ed, fix-ed), *-ful* (faith-ful, hope-ful, dread-ful), *-ic/-ical* (cub-ic/cub-ical, optimist-ic, moron-ic), *-ing* (the sleep-ing giant, a blaz-ing fire), *-ish* (fiend-ish, child-ish, snobb-ish), *-ive* (creat-ive, punit-ive, divis-ive, decis-ive), *-less* (end-less, age-less, law-less, effort-less), *-ious/-ous* (nutrit-ious, portent-ous, studi-ous).

Furthermore, adverbs are words used to provide more information about the actions and events. Adverbial sentences are –ly (quiet-ly, slow-ly, carefully), and –wise (other-wise, like-wise).

By looking at the connectedness of one morpheme with other morphemes, it can help us understanding a meaning. Since the study of suffixation is necessary, there have been many researches that study about suffixation in many languages. One of the studies is the study of suffixation in Sasak language.

Sasak is a Western-Malayo-Polynesian language. It is spoken in Lombok island, West Nusa Tenggara province in eastern Indonesia. This language has around 2.7 million speakers or 85% of the population of Lombok. Sasak is closely related to Samawa and Balinese, as members of Western Austronesian languages (Austin, 2003).

The uniqueness of Sasak is that most of the suffix in Sasak language on *Meno-mene* dialect is in the form of –*an* suffix. It is due to the flexibility of –*an* suffix which can attach in any word category in Sasak. For instance, –*an* suffix can be preceded with verb in the word *tegel* ‘hold’ becomes *tegelan* ‘to ask someone to hold’. It also can be preceded with adjective *inges* ‘pretty’ becomes *ingesan* ‘prettier’, and can be preceded with noun *lolo* ‘tree’ becomes *loloan* ‘trees’, and so on.

Based on the elaboration above, I would like to conduct the research related to suffixation in Sasak especially the structural distributions and functions of –*an* suffix as well as its meaning.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. The data of this research are sentences drawn from Sasak native speakers of *Meno-mene* dialect in Marung, Bunut Baok village, Praya. In order to investigate the structural distributions, functions and meaning of –*an* suffix in Sasak language

on *Meno-mene* dialect, I collected and transcribed natural conversation and utterances that were produced by the speaker related to *-an* suffix. Thus, the data in this study were collected through observation, cross-check, recording and note-taking. In this study I perform some steps in analyzing the data such as transcribing the record of all the conversations related to *-an* suffix, identifying the data and explaining the structural distributions, grammatical functions and meaning of *-an* suffix on *Meno-mene* dialect.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the objective of the study, there are two purposes. The first is to describe the structural distributions of *-an* suffix, and the second is to describe the grammatical functions and the meaning of *-an* suffix in Marung *Meno-mene* dialect. In Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, the distributions of *-an* suffix are found in word level. In word level, it occurs as a bound morpheme in Verb, Adjective, Noun and Adverb. Furthermore, Based on the distribution in word level, that is in Verb, Adjective, Noun, and Adverb, the *-an* suffix serves seven functions in relation to inflectional and derivational morpheme. In inflectional morpheme, the *-an* suffix functions as Causative, Applicative, Comparative, Reduplicative and Plural Marker. While in derivational morpheme, the *-an* suffix functions as Nominalizer and Verbalizer.

A. Structural Distribution of *-an* Suffix

The data indicates that *-an* suffix in Marung *Meno-meno* dialect can be found in word level, those are in Verb, Adjective, Noun, and Adverb. The *-an* suffix in this dialect stands as a bound morpheme in the word level. Based on the data collected, most of the *-an* suffix attaches to Verb. Consider the following examples.

- (1) Aloh, endeng-an ninik ape-ape lek ibuq=m
 Go ask-APPL grandmother what-RED in
 mother=2SG.POSS
 ‘Ask me anything to your mother, please.’

Sentence (1) consists of *-an* suffix that attaches to Verb *endeng-an*. The *-an* suffix attaches to the base Verb *endeng* and *jauq*, and when the *-an* suffix attaches to the base verb, become *endengan*, it does not change the word category, the word category is still Verb although the *-an* suffix is added. However, there are also some cases in which the word category can change when the *-an* suffix is added to Verb. Consider the examples below.

- (2) a. Sempait Sabrang ni lek Kake Suri=m
 Entrust Sabrang this to Aunt Suri=2SG.POSS
 ‘Entrust this Sabrang to your Aunt Suri’
- b. Sempait-an Kake Suri=m Sabrang ni
 Entrust-APPL Aunt Suri=2SG.POSS Sabrang this
 ‘Entrusted this Sabrang to your Aunt Suri’
- c. Niki sempait-an lengan ibuq=k
 This entrust-NOM from mother=1SG.POSS
 ‘This is the entrusted goods from my mother’

In example (2) the *-an* suffix attaches to the base Verb *sempait* ‘to entrusted’ (in (2a)). In the examples above, the *-an* suffix has different distributions although it attaches to the same word category. In (2b), the *-an* suffix that appears as the word *sempaitan* has the word category as a Verb which means ‘to entrust something for’. Whereas, in (2c) it belongs to Noun and serves the meaning ‘entrusted goods’, the thing that is entrusted.

In addition, beside Verb, the *-an* suffix also mostly attaches to Adjective. When the *-an* suffix attaches to the base Adjective word, it can change the word level of the base word and it also can only change the meaning of the base word without changing the word category. Consider the following example for illustration.

- (3) Penoq-an bak tie
 Fulfill-CAUS bath-tub DEF
 ‘Fulfill that bath-tub’
- (4) Beleq-an siq ni beruqaq te lek daye
 Big-COMP than this beruqaq there in north
 ‘Beruqaq in the north is bigger than this one’

Both in the examples above the *-an* suffix attach to the base word *penoq* ‘full’ and *beleq* ‘big’. Those base word are added with suffix *-an* that makes the meaning of those words change. In example (3), the *-an* suffix attaches to the base word *penoq* ‘full’ becomes *penoqan* ‘to fulfill’. In this case, the addition of *-an* suffix change the word category in which the base word *penoq* ‘fulfil’ that has the category of Adjective changes into *penoqan* ‘to fulfill’ which has the category of Verb. Meanwhile, in the example (4), although the *-an* suffix is attached to Adjective *beleq* ‘big’ into *beleqan* ‘bigger’, it does not change the word category but only change the meaning.

The data also show that the *-an* suffix is rarely attached to Noun and Adverb. There are only few data that serves *-an* suffix that attaches in Noun or Adverb. The following examples are illustration in which the *-an* suffix attaches in Noun and Adverb.

- (5) Leq Sukarara jaq lime ratus-an aji=n
 At Sukarara DISC five hundred-NOM price=3SG

‘The price in Sukarara is about five-hundreds’

- (6) Bareh-an=k yaq lalo be-tengak
Later-COMP=1SG FUT go ACT-central

‘I will go to the central (Lombok) later’

From the examples above, in (5), the *-an* suffix attaches to Noun *ratus* which means ‘hundred’, and when the *-an* suffix attaches to the base word *ratus* becomes *ratusan*, the meaning changes becomes ‘hundreds/around hundreds’. However, the addition of *-an* suffix after the base word does not make the word category change. In addition, in example (6), the *-an* suffix attaches to Adverb *bareh* ‘later’ becomes *barehan* ‘later on’. The addition of *-an* suffix on the base word *bareh* also does not change the word category of the base word, it only changes the meaning slightly.

Furthermore, it is found that the *-an* suffix also occurs in Noun in the case of Reduplication. The followings are examples to be considered.

- (7) Lain-lain benang, lain-lain sek-sek-an=n
Other-RED thread, other-RED weave=3SG

‘The different thread is, the different weave will be’

- (8) Ni kan Manda kedek kedit-kedit-an
This TAG Manda play bird-RED-RES

‘Here it is Manda who plays (something like) bird’

The above examples show that the *-an* suffix also occurs in Noun in the case of Reduplication. In example (7), the *-an* suffix attach to Noun *sek-sek* becomes *sek-sekan*. Whether it is *sek-sek* or *sek-sekan*, it has the same meaning ‘weave’ and the same category as Noun. In example (8), the *-an* suffix attach to reduplication of the word *kedit-kedit* ‘birds’ becomes *kedit-keditan* ‘resemble bird’.

B. The Grammatical Functions and Meaning of *-an* Suffix

Based on the distribution of *-an* suffix in word level; Verb, Adjective, Noun and Adverb, this suffix shares seven functions both in relation to inflectional morpheme and derivational morpheme. In inflectional morpheme, the *-an* suffix functions as Applicative, Causative, Comparative, Reduplicative and Plurality marker. Whereas, derivational morpheme includes Nominalizer and Verbalizer. Further explanation will be presented as follows.

a. Inflectional morpheme

➤ Applicative

Applicative is a process of valency mechanism to add an argument of a verb in which the verb is marked with affixes (Spencer 1995 and Trask 1993, in Hanafi 2013). The added argument usually represents an oblique recipient, beneficiary, instrument, associate, or location. In Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, Applicative is marked with *-an* suffix. Consider the following examples. Note that (10) is the base of the sentence.

(9) Piran jage yaq=n atong-an anak=n KTP

When maybe FUT=3SG bring-APPL child=3SG.POSS identity card

‘We don’t know when he will bring his child the identity card’

(10) Piran jage yaq=n atong KTP jok anak=n

When maybe FUT=3SG bring identity-card to child=3SG.POSS

‘We don’t know when he will bring the identity card to his sister’

The above example is the promotion of goal oblique or oblique of destination to O position. The promotion of oblique of destination to O position in (9) is marked with *-an* applicative suffix on the verb *atong* and the PP *jok* is omitted. In addition, example (10) is the basic sentence of example (9) in which it demonstrates that the NP *anakn* is an oblique of destination.

➤ **Causative**

Koch (1996) stated in her paper that in Sasak language, the morphological causative is formed through the affixation of the prefix *pe-* and the suffix *-q*. in rare cases the suffix *-an* is also used. Interestingly, the *-an* suffix is used to form the morphological causative verbs in Marung *Meno-mene* dialect. The *-an* suffix is added to adjectives and verbs (both transitive and intransitive) to form (transitive or ditransitive) causative verbs. Consider the following example for illustration.

- (11) a. Sangkok tie bersi
Living room that clean
‘The living room is clean’
- b. Aku bersi-an sangkok tie
1SG clean-CAUS living room DEF first
‘I clean up the living room’

The examples above show causativeness in Marung *Meno-mene* dialect and both are derived from adjectives. The *-an* suffix attaches to the base Adjective *bersi* ‘clean’ (in (11b)) to mark the causative form. In (11b), the *-an* suffix is attached to the base Adjective *bersi* ‘clean’ becomes a Verb *bersian* which means ‘to make clean’. The Verb *bersian* ‘to make clean’ is followed by the direct object *sangkok* ‘living room’ in which causes example (11b) as causative sentence. So, it is considered as causative since the subject cause/make the *sangkok* ‘living room’ becomes *bersi* ‘clean’. Note that (11a) is the base sentence and (11b) is its causative counterparts.

➤ **Comparative**

The *-an* suffix in Marung *Meno-mene* dialect is also used to mark comparativeness. The attachment of the *-an* suffix to Adjective words in Sasak makes the *-an* suffix functions as the *-er* suffix or ‘more’ in English in which

it shows a comparative. Attaching the *-an* suffix to Adjective words in Sasak language, Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, forming comparative adjectives that are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify. Look at these following examples.

- (12) Muq=k paran berugaq saq dalem-an
 AUX=1SG presume berugak REL inner-COMP
 ‘I presume it is berugaq which locates in the more inner place’
- (13) Iye maiq teh saq anget-an no
 3SG delicious tea REL warm-COMP DEF
 ‘The tea which is warmer is delicious’

Both in the example above, the *-an* suffix attach to Adjective *dalem* ‘inner’ and *anget* ‘warm’. When the *-an* suffix is attached, the words turn to *daleman* ‘more inner’ and *angetan* ‘warmer’, the *-an* suffix functions as comparative degree in which they are used in the sentences where two nouns are compared.

➤ **Reduplicative**

Process of partial reduplication often relates to affixation. In Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, this partial reduplication is marked with the existence of *-an* suffix. Partial reduplication in this dialect with the *-an* suffix marker can occur in all word classes (Adjective, Adverb, Verb and Noun) with both monosyllabic and disyllabic words. Consider the following examples.

- (14) Ni kan Manda kedek kedit-kedit-an
 This TAG Manda play bird-RED-RES
 ‘Here it is Manda who plays (something like) bird’

The example above show that when the *-an* suffix is attached to the full reduplication words, the *-an* suffix functions to give a ‘resemblance/imitation’ marker. In example (14), the *-an* suffix appears in

the word *ke-dit-ke-dit* ‘birds’, the plural form of *ke-dit* ‘bird’. When the *-an* suffix is added to that word becomes *ke-dit-ke-ditan*, it changes the meaning into ‘something like bird/the resemblance of the bird’ but that is not the real bird, it is just the imitation of the bird.

➤ **Plural Marker**

In Sasak language, Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, the *-an* suffix is also used as the plural marker. Thus, the *-an* suffix in Sasak language has the same function as the *-s* suffix in English. Look at the following examples.

- (15) Luek lolo-an to lek kebon=n ninik
 Many tree-s there in garden=3SG.POSS grandma
 ‘There are many trees in grandmother’s house’

The *-an* suffix in example (26) functions as plural marker. It attaches to the Noun *lolo* ‘tree’ becomes *loloan* which means ‘trees’. However, not all Noun that is attached to *-an* suffix shows that the word is plural. It is found that the *-an* suffix will function as the plural marker if it is only attached to the word *lolo*. For instances, it is not allowed to say *bukuan* to say *books*, *galengan* to say *pillows* or *sidutan* to say *spoons*. Rather than to function as plurality, the *-an* suffix that occurs on those words is used to mark applicative or causative depends on the context.

b. Derivational Morpheme

➤ **Nominalizer**

In Sasak language, Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, the *-an* suffix functions as Nominalizer. It is said as Nominalizer because the addition of *-an* suffix to the word categories which is not Noun resulting the

conversion or the changing of the word categories into Noun. Consider the examples below.

- (16) Mbe sorok-an=m?
 Where net-NOM=2SG.POSS
 ‘Where is your net?’

In (16) above, the *-an* suffix attaches to word category of Verb *sorok* ‘to net (V)’ becomes *sorokan* ‘net (N)’. The base word *sorok* in Sasak which is translated into net (V) in English has the meaning of the action of catching fish by means of a net. Meanwhile, although the addition of *-an* suffix becomes *sorokan* also has the same translation in English as ‘net (N)’, the meaning is different, *sorokan* ‘net (N)’ serves the meaning of a device made from such mesh that is used for catching fish.

➤ **Verbalizer**

The *-an* suffix is also used as verbalizer in Sasak language, Marung *Meno-mene* dialect. It is considered Verbalizer since the addition of *-an* suffix in any word category except Verb resulting in the alternation of that word category into Verb. However, the use of *-an* suffix as Verbalizer is so rare. There is only one data shows the use of *-an* suffix as Verbalizer, as follows.

- (17) Iye=k sedi-an kaken-an, kupi, gule,
 That=1Sg edge-V eat-NOM coffee sugar
 te taoq=n
 there place-3SG
 ‘I keep food, coffee and sugar away for him in here’

In (17), the *-an* suffix is added to Adjective *sedi* ‘edge’. The base word is attached with the *-an* suffix become *sedian*, and in this case the *-an* suffix function as Verbalizer in which the *-an* suffix changes the word

category of the base word *sedi* from Adjective to Verb. The Verb *sedian* in (17) has the meaning ‘to put something in the place that is close to the edge’.

4. CONCLUSION

The discussion on distributions, grammatical functions and the meaning of *-an* suffix in Marung *Meno-mene* dialect, presented in chapter four and five, conclude that:

- A. The *-an* suffix occurs in word level, that is in Adjective, Adverb, Noun and Verb. Most of the *-an* suffix attaches to Verb and Adjective base, and rarely found attaches to Noun and Adverb base. Although *-an* suffix in this dialect appears in the same word category, there is possibility that it may have different distributions.
- B. Based on the distribution in word level, the *-an* suffix in this dialect has both inflectional and derivational functions. Inflectional functions as: Applicative, Causative, Comparative, Reduplicative and Plural Marker. Whereas, derivational functions as: Nominalizer and Verbalizer.

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