

# The System of Tense and Aspect in the Bantik Language

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## 1. Overview of Bantik Morphology concerning tense and aspect

### 1.1. Non-past and Past tense forms

Bantik verbs have either non-past or past tense forms which are expressed by voice-indicating affixes<sup>1</sup>. Table 1 shows the paradigm of Bantik verbs. They are morphologically categorized into three groups according to the affix attached to its Actor Voice form. The first group of verbs take the infix *-um-/-im-*, the second ones take the prefix *ma-/na-*, and the third ones take *maN-/naN-*<sup>2</sup>. The ones on the left indicate non-past tense and those on the right indicate past tense. As for the two Undergoer Voice forms in Bantik, all the verbs behave similarly. There are no specific affixes for non-past tense, but for past tense, the prefix *ni-* should be attached.

Table 1

	Base	Actor Voice	Goal Voice	Conveyance Voice	Meaning
Non-past Past	<i>tontoŋ</i>	<i>t-um-ontoŋ</i> <i>t-im-ontoŋ</i>	<i>tontoŋ-an</i> <i>ni-tontoŋ-an</i>	* *	to watch
Non-past Past	<i>kiso</i>	<i>ma-kiso</i> <i>na-kiso</i>	<i>kiso-n</i> *	* <i>ni-kiso</i>	to rub
Non-past Past	<i>bihei</i>	<i>ma-mihei</i> <i>na-mihei</i>	<i>bih-an</i> <i>ni-bih-an</i>	<i>bihei</i> <i>ni-bihei</i>	to give

In Bantik, non-past tense is considered to be a more unmarked tense because of the following reasons. First, generic sentences are expressed in non-past tense. Second, verbs in habitual aspect is always in non-past tense. Third, verbs in iterative aspect and abilitative verbs are overwhelmingly in non-past tense whereas there are cases where past tense is required for these verbs, which will be treated later.

The reference point for tense selection is, in principle, the point of utterance. As for complex sentence, the time of the main clause is usually the reference point of subordinate clauses. This will be dealt with in section 4.

Negative sentences can both be in non-past and past tenses.

### 1.2. Progressive forms

Progressive aspect can be expressed in three different ways in Bantik. One of them is used for every verb: basic<sup>3</sup> or derivational, Actor Voice or Undergoer Voice. It is formed by *kahagasa*, which means ‘now’ if used alone, plus the linker *nu* and a verb (NOT a base).

<sup>1</sup> The Bantik verbs are, by definition, have tense opposition. Adjectives and verbs are distinguished by this factor; adjectives do not have tense opposition.

<sup>2</sup> /N/ in *maN-/naN-* (and *kapaN-* which appear in section 1.2) stands for nasalization or insertion of a homo-organic nasal which is widely observed in West Malayo-Polynesian languages.

<sup>3</sup> I use ‘basic verbs’ to refer to verbs which have no derivational affixes attached.



























