The definite marker in Balinese

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The presence of the definite suffix *-é* (*-né* after a vowel) is a distinctive feature of Balinese among the languages in the Malayo-Sumbawan subgroup of the Austronesian languages (Adelaar 2012); Javanese and Malay, for example, lack an independent grammatical category of 'definiteness', although the third person possessive suffix (*-(n)é* in Javanese and *-nya* in Malay, respectively) covers some related role in each language, presumably a result of semantic extension and differentiation that the forms underwent. This study aims to give an exhaustive observation of the suffix *-é*.

As Barber (1977) suggests, the suffix *-é* functions as an equivalent of the English definite article *the*. Lyons (1999: 3) listed the uses of the English definite article, most of which are shared by *-é*. It has both a situational use, as in (5), and an anaphoric use, as in (6).

(5) *jemakang*   ***uyah-é***!
    take   salt-É   'Take **the salt** (e.g., on the table).'

(6) *I Raksasa*   *ngelah* ***manik***   ***sakti***   ***telung***….
    ART witch   have   gemstone   magic power three
    Sawiréh   *ia* *sayangang-a,* *orahin-a* *ia*   *kagunan* ***manik-é***….
    Because   3   love-3   tell-3   3   use   gemstone-É
    'The witch had **three gemstones with magic power**…. Because she (the witch) loved her (the girl), she (the witch) told her (the girl) to use **the gemstone**….'

Suffix *-é* also shares a use that Lyons (1999: 7) calls 'associative' with the English definite article. In example (7) below, the referent of the NP *kapal-é* 'the ship' has not been introduced in the previous discourse; the suffix *-é* occurs here presumably because the referent of the NP is identifiable from the information given by the previous sentence (7).

(7) *Ia* *ajak*   *tetelu*   *mara*   *san*   *teka*   *uli*   *New York.*
    3   with   three   newly   just   come   from   New York.
    kapal-é   *lambat* *limang* *jam*

plane-É	late	five	hour

'They've just got in from New York. The plane was five hours late.' (Lyons: 3).

However, unlike the English definite article, the suffix *-é* does not indicate 'uniqueness'. In example (8), the NP referring to the president of Ghana, which is marked by the definite article in the English gloss because of its uniqueness, does not occur with the suffix *–é*; native Balinese speakers do not accept the presence of the suffix *-é* in this clause.

(8) *Presiden*(*-*é*) *Ghana lakar teka mani*
president(*-É) Ghana will come tomorrow.
'The president of Ghana is visiting tomorrow.' (Lyons: 3)

Another difference between definite markers in Balinese and English is caused by the presence of the third person genitive suffix *-né* in Balinese, which is a counterpart of *-nya* in Malay and *-(n)é* in Javanese. This pronominal suffix occurs instead of *-é* when the referent can be related to an already mentioned entity, and is therefore definite. For instance, the pronominal suffix *-né* cannot be replaced by the definite suffix *-é* in example (9).

(9) *Umah icang-é resem. Kakus-**né** (*-é) uwug, raab-**né** (*-é) bolong*
house 1SG-É shabby. toilet-3GEN broken, roof-3GEN have a hole
'My house is shabby. The (lit. its) toilet is broken and the (lit. its) roof has a hole.'

On the basis of the facts observed so far, we will examine how this suffix occurs in narrative text in order to investigate in more the conditions in which the suffix *-é* is used.

References
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