

Reciprocals in Begak (Ida'an)

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Begak (Ida'an) is a Western Malayo-Polynesian language spoken on the east coast of Sabah, Malaysia, Borneo and belongs to the North Borneo subgroup (Blust 1998). This paper will concentrate on the Begak dialect and is based on spontaneous and elicited data gathered in the field.

In this paper, I will discuss the forms and functions of the reciprocal in Begak (Ida'an). As for the form, there are two morphological processes that derive reciprocal verbs from a verbal stem, both of which are productive. Stems starting with a non-liquid consonant are infixed with *-ər-*, as in (1), whereas vowel-initial stems and stems starting with a liquid form reciprocals by *Cə*-reduplication of the prefixed stem, as in (2).

(1)	root	AV-form	gloss	<i>-ər-</i> infixation	gloss
	<i>kədtut</i>	<i>bə-kədtut</i>	'pinch'	<i>k-ər-ədtut</i>	'pinch each other'
	<i>tadtas</i>	<i>mənadtas</i>	'chase'	<i>t-ər-adtas</i>	'chase each other'
(2)	stem	AV-form	gloss	<i>gə</i> - prefixation and <i>Cə</i> -reduplication	gloss
	<i>lapas</i>	<i>lopas</i> (<i>l-u-apas</i>)	'DEP-pass'	<i>gəgəlapas</i>	'pass each other by'
	<i>usur</i>	<i>bəgusur</i>	'tell'	<i>gəgusur</i>	'talk with each other'

The reciprocal infix and the *Cə*-reduplication of a prefixed stem have several functions, of which the reciprocal is the primary one. Reciprocal morphology is valency-reducing; it detransitivizes transitive verbs:

(3)	a.	<i>Elvin bəkati nong Mimi.</i>	b.	<i>Elvin bio Mimi kərati.</i>
		Elvin bə-kati nong Mimi		Elvin bio Mimi -ər-kati
		Elvin AV-tease OBL Mimi		Elvin and Mimi -REC-tease
		'Elvin teases Mimi.'		'Elvin and Mimi tease each other.'

Several other functions of the reciprocal will be described, based on Lichtenberk (2000), including reciprocals based on intransitive verbal roots. An attempt will be made to predict the effect of reciprocal morphology on several semantic verbal classes.

Unlike most other languages of Sabah, which have at least four voices, Begak has only two voices: Active Voice (AV) and Undergoer Voice (UV). When the reciprocal appears in the UV, the undergoer-subject is the plural entity and the clause is transitive, as in (4). (Please note that the double Completive Aspect marking is only a phonological phenomenon).

(4)	<i>Nnong</i>	<i>kəkait sənərimbang</i>	<i>ku</i>
	<i>nnong</i>	<i>kəkait -ən--ər--i-səmbung</i>	<i>ku</i>

here pole -COM--REC--COM-continue.UV 1SG.GEN
'Here are the poles (that) I joined together.' [conversation kokol
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The interaction of reciprocals with the voice system will be presented in more detail, as well as other effects on transitivity.