Complements to ber-verbs are pseudo-incorporated

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In Indonesian, the prefix ber-blocks extraction of complements (Soh (1998)):

- (1) Siapa t_i ber-main gitar who BER-play guitar 'Who plays the guitar?'
- (2) Apa_i Ali (*ber-)main t_i ? what Ali BER-play 'What does Ali play?'

Proposal: complements to ber- are pseudo-incorporated (Massam (2001)). ber-: ber- derives intransitive verbs, in opposition to transitive meN-. With V bases, ber- alternates with meN- to yield intransitive vs transitive verbs. Some verbs take complements despite ber-; these specify habitual action on an indefinite object, in contrast to their transitive meN- variant:

- (3) Ali ber-main gitar
 Ali BER-play guitar

 'Ali plays the guitar'
 (habitual action, indef. O)
- (4) Ali me-main gitar

 Ali MEN-play guitar

 'Ali is playing the guitar'

 (specific action, def. O)

Analysis: P(seudo) N(oun) I(ncor-poration) (Massam (2001)) involves the juxtaposition of V and NP. PNI properties include: (i) valency reduction (intransitive ber- vs transitive meN-); (ii) N is adjacent to V, (iii) can't be a DP, (iv) is indefinite and non-referential, and (v) has obligatory low scope. Since only adjectives may modify the object, it is an NP. In the meN-variant, these properties are absent. A PNIed nominal is derived via head movement and PF constraints (Baker (2014)). Objects may extract when ber- is absent as bare verbs are ambiguous as to whether their object is PNIed or not. I discuss how PNI can be extended to (i) clausal complements, which also cannot be extracted from, and (ii) the more well-known blocking effect of meN-, which has been linked to - seemingly non-PNI-related - Agreement (Cole et al. (2008)) and CED (Fortin (2006)) effects.

References: • Baker, M. (2014): PNI as covert NI. • Cole et al. (2008): Voice in Malay. • Fortin, C. (2006): Reconciling meng- and NP movement. • Massam, D. (2001): PNI in Niuean. • Soh, H.L. (1998): Certain restrictions on A-bar movement in Malay.