

Chapter 5

VERBAL AFFIXES

Affixes refer to word-like particles that are attached to words. There are two basic affixes, called prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes are particles which are attached to the front of a word. An example of a prefix in English is *re-* which means "again". This can be attached to the verb *fill* to produce *refill* which means "to fill again".

An example of a suffix in English is *-er* which shows the agent or doer of the action. This can be attached to the verb *sing* to produce *singer* meaning "one who sings".

Malay and Indonesian have a number of prefixes and suffixes which are added to the basic form of the verb, the verb root. The form and function of each of these affixes is discussed in the following sections.

5.1 *Meng-*

Discussed in this section is the form and function of the prefix *meng-*, its changes or omission in conversational speech and its use in imperative utterances.

5.1.1 The various forms of *Meng-*

The prefix *meng-* has five forms which are determined by the initial sound of the root word. Words with an asterisk (*) are intermediate forms and do not exist as independent words.

Meng- retains its full form when affixed to roots beginning with vowels, and the consonants *h*, *g*, and *k*. The *k*, however, is deleted after *meng-* is prefixed to the root. There are also two consonant combinations, *kh* and *gh* which function as single sounds. *Meng-* retains its full form when affixed to roots beginning with these sounds. Words in Indonesian beginning with *gh* are rare, these having been changed quite regularly to just *g*. Malaysia, however, uses both *kh* and *gh* in its spelling system

<i>atur</i>	<i>mengatur</i>	to arrange
<i>erang</i>	<i>mengerang</i>	to groan
<i>ingat</i>	<i>mengingat</i>	to remember
<i>orak</i>	<i>mengorak</i>	to unfasten
<i>undi</i>	<i>mengundi</i>	to vote
<i>gigil</i>	<i>menggigil</i>	to shiver
<i>hafal</i>	<i>menghafal</i>	to memorise