

Chapter 6

NOMINAL AFFIXES

Malay and Indonesian have a number of affixes which are used to derive nouns from what are mainly verbal and adjectival roots. The term "nominal" refers to nouns which are derived in this way. The form and function of these affixes are discussed in the following sections.

6.1 *Peng-* and *Pe-* (i) **Indicating the agent of the action**

The prefixes *peng-* and *pe-* are nominal affixes indicating, respectively, the agent and patient in an utterance. The agent may be defined as one who carries out an action directed toward some other constituent in the utterance, and the patient as one carrying out or experiencing an action which is directed toward itself. *Peng-* is related to the verbal affix *meng-*, and *pe-* to *ber-*.

English has no formal distinction between agent and patient, and consequently both of these roles are shown by variant spellings of the same suffix, most commonly *-er* or *-or*.

Examples of agents in English are "singer (sing + er)", one who sings, and "narrator (narrate + or)", one who narrates. The agent, however, need not be animate, but may also be inanimate. A "lawn-mower (lawn-mow + er)" usually refers to a piece of equipment. The word "cleaner (clean + er)" may refer both to "a person who cleans" and to a particular type of solvent which has the ability to clean.

6.1 *Peng-* and *Pe-* (ii) **The various forms**

Peng- has five forms: *peng-*, *pem-*, *pen-*, *peny-* and *pe-*, the correct form being determined by the initial sound of the root. The rules which apply to *peng-* are the same as those which apply to the verbal prefix *meng-* (see Section 5.1).

Peng- retains its full form when affixed to roots beginning with the vowels, *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, or *u*, the consonants *h*, *g*, *k* and the consonant combinations *gh* and *kh*. The *k*, is deleted after *peng-* is prefixed to the root except when it is part of the *kh* combination.