The present study aims at elucidating the phenomenon of Balinese-Indonesian (BI) codemixing, which is extremely important in understanding the contemporary Balinese linguistic community. The BI codemixing discussed in this work refers to codemixing by native Balinese speakers, in which Balinese is predominant over Indonesian and which I consider typical in the Balinese linguistic community. To analyze this type of Balinese-dominated, asymmetrical BI codemixing, a corpus was constituted of selected utterances in which elements of the two languages rival each other for dominance or Balinese elements are superior to Indonesian elements, in terms of their frequency. Texts with BI codemixing found in the corpus were represented by using a newly adopted formalism, and analyzed from three different perspectives, i.e. syntax, discourse, and pragmatics of honorifics. Findings are summarized below.

To analyze the phenomenon of BI codemixing, the concepts of “switching
domain” and “non-switching domain” were adopted, thereby proposing a framework in which hierarchical structures found in constituent elements of BI codemixing utterances are represented by formalism. By employing this new method of representation, I described BI codemixing texts, and examined them in order to answer the following three important questions:

(1) What syntactic regularity does BI codemixing show?
(2) What discourse function does BI codemixing perform?
(3) How does BI codemixing influence the use of Balinese honorifics?

Observations are summarized below.

First, we examined how syntax and the distribution of BI codemixing are related. The sentence constituent elements, i.e. subject, predicate and adjunct show no consistent distribution in the frequency of BI codemixing. With regard to BI codemixing occurring to adjuncts, a remarkably large number of instances of BI codemixing were observed in adverbial phrases comprising a head part only. Many of these adverbial phrases were conjunctions or sentence adverbs, serving as discourse markers. Thus, the question as to why BI codemixing occurs in these discourse markers had to be addressed. To this question, Hara (2000), Hara (2001) and Hara (2002), studies conducted from the viewpoint of discourse analysis, explain that BI codemixing occurring to conjunctions and conjunction-like adverbs serves to highlight these discourse markers, considering that, in general, discourse markers are characterizedly highlighted by a certain prosodic feature, such as a pause or intonation. With a critical reference to the argument of Azuma (1997), this work reexamines this explanation and demonstrates its applicability to expanded cases.

Next, in determining the matrix language (ML) of BI codemixing utterances, to overcome the difficulty attributable to the great similarity of Balinese and Indonesian in their morpho-syntactic structures, BI codemixing utterances containing passive
construction were examined, since the passive construction constitutes a grammatical
domain in which the morpho-syntactic rules of the two languages differ exceptionally.
It was found that BI codemixing that occurs to utterances containing passive
construction can be considered codeswitching as defined by Myers-Scotton. In other
words, BI codemixing utterances containing passive construction reveal their ML
through the morpho-syntactic difference between the two languages, and BI codemixing
can be redefined as codeswitching from Balinese to Indonesian or from Indonesian to
Balinese.

This study shows that the frequency of passive construction with Balinese
regarded as ML is overwhelmingly higher than that with Indonesian regarded as ML.
Assuming that the passive construction serves as indicator of the ML and the embedded
language (EL) of BI codemixing, the above observations indicate that Balinese tends to
be the ML, while Indonesian tends to be the EL, in the Balinese-dominated BI
codemixing utterances analyzed in this study. In constituting the corpus for the study,
the predominance of one code over the other was determined by the number of elements.
The asymmetry between Balinese and Indonesian thus identified corresponds to that
revealed in the analysis of utterances containing passive construction. This is indicative
of the possibility of recognizing ML and EL in the conventional theoretical sense, even
in BI codemixing. As well, the observation that the corpus of the study contained an
overwhelmingly larger number of utterances whose ML can be determined to be
Balinese than utterances whose EL can be determined to be Balinese corresponds to the
asymmetry of Balinese predominance over Indonesian.

BI code-mixing was also examined in terms of its function with regard to the
structural difference of lexicon between the two languages: Balinese has a system of
honorifics expressing respect, whereas Indonesian does not. Hara (1999) argued that
when change from the traditional practice (in which commoners [jaba] use the high
word class and gentry [triwangsa] use the low word class) to the new practice (in which both use the high word class to each other) is considered “excessive expansion” by gentry, neutral Indonesian is often used instead of high word class-Balinese to attenuate this excessiveness and move the speakers slightly back toward the traditional practice. In addition to expansion in the direction of respect expressed by both commoners and gentry using high words to each other, as examined in Hara (1999), this study also considered expansion in the other direction brought about by the new practice, i.e., the expansion of friendliness mutually expressed by commoners and gentry addressing each other in the low word class. As a result, it was found that the two changes from the traditional practice, in the directions of respect and of friendliness, can be explained by an identical principle. The study suggests that in both cases, speakers who switch to the other word class in the new practice find it excessive and revert to Indonesian, which is neutral in the expression of respect and friendliness, thereby attenuating the excessiveness of respect or friendliness and shifting themselves slightly back toward the traditional practice. Thus, this study supports the argument of Hara (1999) and extends its applicability.