

A significant number of texts belonging to the Javanese-Balinese Śaiva religious literature contain “translation dyads” consisting in Sanskrit verses provided with Old Javanese prose glosses. My presentation will focus on a Śaiva Tantric text, the *Bhuvanakośa* (currently being edited and translated by the present author), consisting of over 500 such “translation dyads”. My talk will present various examples of non-standard Sanskrit, analyzed in the light of the non-Pāṇinian “Tantric grammar” documented in Śaiva texts preserved in South Asian manuscripts, and address the question of the South Asian or Javanese/Balinese origin of such verses. Systematic study of the non-standard features of the Sanskrit of the *Bhuvanakośa* and other texts of the same genre reveals that many of these features respond to “rules” and tendencies already present in South Asian manuscripts, while others seem rather to derive from local dynamics related to linguistic processes of vernacularization or scribal practices that were prevalent in the Balinese context. My analysis suggests that Sanskrit is a more flexible and productive language than is widely believed: far from remaining chained to unchanging grammatical and lexical structures, it was productively adapted to the vernacular contexts of the various regions of the “Sanskrit Cosmpolis” during the medieval period.