

# **REALIZATION OF VERBS IN AMBON MALAY**

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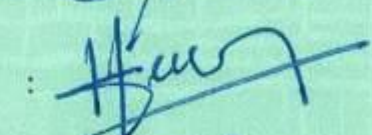
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## ABSTRACT

*Firdawati Thenu. 2022. Realization of Verbs in Ambon Malay*

**Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum.**

This study analyzed realization of verbs in Ambon Malay by using the theory of morphological typology. This research was conducted using the descriptive qualitative approach. The data were collected through questionnaire and elicitation techniques. Questionnaire was shared to 30 respondents, while interview was done with 6 informants. The two techniques were done by using three main instruments; interview guidelines, recording equipment, and writing equipment. An interactive model of data analysis was used to analyze the data. The collected and analyzed data in this study were 200 verbs in Ambon Malay. The data analysis shows that a small number of these verbs are inflected by four verb-formation affixes which are {meN-}, {baR-}, {taR-}, and {baku-}. Whilst, most verbs are realized without affixes. This typical structure show that there must be morpheme deletion of prefix {di-}, suffixes {-i}, and circumfixes {di-kan}, {di-i}, {meN-kan}, {meN-i}, {memper-kan}, {memper-i} in Ambon Malay. Thus, Ambon Malay is categorized into a semi-isolating language.

**Key words:** *Morphological Typology, affixation, Ambon Malay, verbs*

## ABSTRAK

*Firdawati Thenu. 2022. Realization of Verbs in Ambon Malay*

**Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum.**

Studi ini menganalisis realisasi kata kerja dalam bahasa Melayu Ambon dengan menggunakan teori Tipologi Morfologis. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan teknik kuesioner (daftar pertanyaan) dan elisitasi. Kuesioner dibagikan kepada 30 responden, sedangkan wawancara dilakukan dengan 6 orang informan. Kedua teknik tersebut direalisasikan dengan menggunakan tiga instrumen penelitian; pedoman wawancara, alat perekam, dan alat tulis. Data yang ditemukan dan dianalisis dalam penelitian ini adalah 200 kata kerja dalam bahasa Melayu Ambon. Data analisis menunjukkan bahwa sebagian kecil dari kata kerja tersebut terinfleksi oleh empat imbuhan pembentuk kata kerja, yaitu {meN-}, {baR-}, {taR-}, dan {baku-}. Sedangkan, sebagian besar kata kerja direalisasikan tanpa imbuhan. Struktur yang berbeda ini menunjukkan adanya penghilangan beberapa morpheme, seperti awalan {di-}, akhiran {-i}, dan konfiks {di-kan}, {di-i}, {meN-kan}, {meN-i}, {memper-kan}, {memper-i} dalam bahasa Melayu Ambon. Oleh karena itu, bahasa Melayu Ambon dikategorikan sebagai bahasa semi-isolasi.

**Kata kunci:** *Morphological Typology, affixation, Ambon Malay, verbs*

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## **DEDICATION**

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The researcher

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>ABSTRAK .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDMENT .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the Research Problem .....	1
1.2 Identification of the Problem .....	4
1.3 Limitation of the Problem .....	5
1.4 Formulation of the Research Problem .....	6
1.5 Research Questions .....	6
1.6 Purposes of the Research .....	6
1.7 Significance of the Research .....	6
1.8 Definition of the Key Terms .....	7
<b>CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Review of Related Theories .....	8
2.1.1 Morphology .....	8
2.1.2 Morpheme .....	9
2.1.3 Affixes .....	11
2.1.4 Verbal Inflection .....	14
2.1.5 Morphological typology and word-formation .....	16
2.1.6 Transparency of words-internal boundaries .....	18
2.1.7 Internal complexity of grammatical words .....	19
2.1.8 Integrating the two parameters .....	20
2.1.9 Morphological characteristics of verbs in Ambon Malay .....	22
2.2 Review of Relevant Studies .....	23
2.3 Conceptual Framework .....	25
<b>CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD .....</b>	<b>26</b>
3.1 Type of the Research .....	26
3.2 Data and Source of Data .....	27
3.3 Instruments of the Research .....	27
3.4. Techniques of Data Collection .....	28
3.5 Methods of Data Analysis .....	28
3.6 Location and Time of the Research .....	29
<b>CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>30</b>

4.1 Data Descriptions and Analysis .....	30
4.2 Findings .....	59
4.3 Discussion .....	63
<b>CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION .....</b>	<b>67</b>
5.1 Conclusion .....	67
5.2 Suggestion .....	68
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>73</b>

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Research Problem

Language is a form of human thought and behavior. Human as social and intellectual beings use language to communicate or convey thoughts, ideas, messages, purposes, and desires towards others through sound, gesture (Gleason, 1958: 10). Language is an identity for individual or each group (Edward, 2009). For instance, people who use Sundanese might be guessed that they are from Bandung, Sumedang, Bogor, or Tasik; people who use Javanese might be from Solo, Jogja, Malang, Surabaya; and people who use Ambon Malay might be from Ambon. These languages are actually formed, used, and realized in different ways. They have different structure and grammar, especially in word structure.

The differences can be viewed by how substantial morpheme is in a language (Croft, 2003). For instance, English requires the additional suffix *-s* to the verb *donate* in the sentence *Arif donates a lot of money to the elementary school* to identify three grammatical properties: TENSE (present), NUMBER (singular), and PERSON (3<sup>rd</sup>). The bare infinitive *donate* is inflected into *donates* as there is the adverb of time “nowadays” showing an ongoing activity. However, when the sentence is translated into Indonesian Language, it will be “Arif menyumbangkan banyak uang ke sekolah SD tersebut”. The verb *menyumbangkan* “donate” does not change even though it is done in past, present, or future. Further, when the

sentence is translated into Ambon Malay, it will be “Arif sumbang uang banya par skola SD tu”. The verb is realized as *sumbang* without affix(es) anymore.

This case may be due to the morphological typology. Morphological typology usually recognizes three canonical types of language: isolating, agglutinating, and fusion (Comrie, 1989:42). In an agglutinating language, a word may consist of more than one morpheme, and the boundaries between morphemes in the word are always clear-cut. Similarly, in fusion language, a word may also consist of more than one morpheme, but there is no such clear-cut boundary between morphemes. The expression of different categories within the same word is fused to gather to give a single, unsegmentable morph. Unlike agglutinating and fusion, an isolating language is one which has no morphology.

Morphological typology shows that language is unique. In other words, each language has its typical characteristics and systems that are different from other languages. In this case, morphological rules are not applied in equal portions in every language for its written or spoken form. Some languages use morphology prominently and some may be less prominent. Ambon Malay is an example of semi-isolating language. As previously explained, the structure of Ambon Malay is different from other languages, especially in verbs. Most verbs are realized without affix(es). The following are the examples:

**Verb *minta* ‘ask’**

- (1) *Rini minta aer satu galas dari Siska*  
 ‘3SG ask water a glass to Siska’  
 ‘Rini asked Siska for a glass of water’, or ‘Rini asks Siska for a glass of water,  
 or ‘Rini is asking Siska for a glass of water’.
- (2) *Aer satu galas tu Rini minta akang dari Siska*  
 ‘3SG the Rini asked it by Siska’

‘A glass of water was asked by Rini to Siska’, or ‘A glass of water is asked by Rini to Siska’.

**Verb *kunci* ‘lock’**

- (3) *Rini kunci Siska di kamar*  
‘3SG lock Siska in room’  
‘Rini locked Siska in the room’, or ‘Rini locks Siska in the room, or ‘Rini is locking Siska in the room’.
- (4) *Siska dapa kunci dari Rini di kamar*  
‘3SG AUX locked by Rini in room’  
‘Siska was locked by Rini in the room’, or ‘Siska is locked by Rini in the room’.

The examples above show that English verbs are inflected based on the tenses. The additional affixes *-e(d)/-en*, *-s/-es*, *-ing* to English verbs identifies when an activity takes place. On the contrary, Ambon Malay does not use morphology at all. The verbs are not inflected. The verb *minta* “ask” and *kunci* “lock” are not inflected anymore. They do not change even though the action is done in past, present, or future. And there is no any grammatical information such as, person, number, and tense are expressed in the sentence. As one of Indonesian languages, the verb *minta* in Ambon Malay should be inflected to ‘meminta’ in the term of active action or ‘diminta’ in the term of passive action. Similarly, the verb *kunci* should be inflected to ‘mengunci’, or ‘dikunci’.

In addition, there are additional morphemes such as, *dapa* and *kasi* which function as classifiers. These morphemes are used separately with the verb. They must still have meaning when stand away of verbs. This typical structure shows the degree of fusion between morphemes in Ambon Malay. Therefore, Ambon Malay can actually be categorized as a semi-isolating language which in which each basic grammatical unit (morpheme) tends to form a separate word. Lieber (2009:132) declares that it is a language in which each word form consists

typically of a single morpheme. The case of typical structure of verbs in Ambon Malay is encouraged the writer to do this research morphologically.

In fact, there have been several previous linguistic studies on Ambon Malay as examples, but there has been no previous studies which discuss morphological typology of verbs in Ambon Malay such as, *Between Perfect and Perfective The Meaning and Function of Ambonese Malay su and suda* conducted by Minde & Tjia (2002), *no stress, no pitch accent, no prosodic focus: the case of Ambonese Malay* by Essed (2016), *Morphologi Bahasa Hitu di Maluku Selatan* by Astuti (2018) and three last studies conducted by Erniati: (1) *Characteristics of Segmental Phonemes of Ambonese Malay* (2017), (2) *The Phonology of the Malay with Ambon's Dialect Language* (2019), (3) *Personal Pronouns of Ambon Malay in Ambon City* (2019). Unlike these previous studies, this current study discusses the typical structure of verbs in Ambon Malay by using morphological theory. This study is important to be conducted because the researcher can guarantee that there have been no previous studies which discuss morphological typology in Ambon Malay, especially in verb.

## **1.2 Identification of Research Problem**

The criteria used for dividing languages into types depend to some extent on the purpose of the classification, since a typology based on sound structure does not necessarily correlate with one based on word order. The most common classificatory criteria are morphological (word structure), syntactic (word order), and phonological (sound patterns). First, morphologically, the commonly deleted morphemes in verbs of Ambon Malay can be analyzed by using the theory of

morphological typology. There are therefore two morphological scales, one which measures degree of fusion (isolating- agglutinating- fusional), the other degree of synthesis (analytic- inflected- polysynthetic). Therefore, Ambon Malay can be classified based on its typical structure of verbs.

Another aspect of morphology which is often subjected to typological work is syntax. In this case, the relationship between word order and the order of affixes is the focus. For instance, it has been noted that there is a preference for suffixation in languages in general (Sapir 1921: 67, Greenberg 1957, Song 2001a: 119). In particular, for languages which have SOV order and/or Noun Postposition order (e.g., Turkish), there is a strong preference for suffixes (Hawkins and Gilligan 1988).

Furthermore, phonologically, the typical realization of verbs in Ambon Malay is actually influenced by number of syllables. A language may have no morphology but where each word may consist of any number of syllables. Conversely, it may consist of some morphology but where the morphology was restricted to change in consonants and tone, without affecting the monosyllabic nature of the word (Comrie, 1989). Similarly, Gray (1939: 146) presented his own definition of word as a complex of sounds which in itself possesses a meaning fixed and accepted by convention. This means that the formation and realization of a word in every language must be affected by sound systems.

### **1.3 Limitation of Research Problem**

This study is limited to the study of morphological typology which can be categorized by two distinct parameters: the index of synthesis (how many

morphemes there are per word), and the index of fusion between morphemes (how separable words' inflectional morphemes are according to units of meaning represented).

#### **1.4 Formulation of Research Problem**

Based on the limitation of the research above, formulation of the problem is stated into the following question: How are verbs morphologically realized in Ambon Malay?

#### **1.5 Research Question**

The formulation of the problem above produces several related research questions which strengthen the results of this study. The research questions are as follow:

1. How are verbs morphologically realized in Ambon Malay?
2. What are morphemes commonly deleted in a verb of Ambon Malay?
3. Is Ambon Malay an agglutinative, a fusional, or an isolating language?

#### **1.6 Purpose of Research**

1. To find out realization of verbs morphologically in Ambon Malay
2. To find commonly deleted morphemes in a verb of Ambon Malay
3. To substantiate whether Ambon Malay is an isolating, agglutinating, or fusional language

#### **1.7 Significance of Research**

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to give contribution at the development of a proper language typology, especially morphological typology.

2. Practically, this study can be used by the next researchers as a supporting reference, especially for those who do the research on morphological typology.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

1. Ambon Malay: Bahasa Ambon Malay (BMA) is one variant of Malay languages which lives and develops in Eastern Indonesia, especially in Maluku Province, on Ambon Island, or Lease Islands and even coastal areas. BMA is communicated as a lingua franca by all people of Maluku Province. It is a variety of Market Malay combined with regional languages or dialects existed in each local area.
2. Verb: verb is a class of words that serve to indicate the occurrence or performance of an action, or the existence of a state or condition. It is the only one part of speech which has other grammatical properties such as tense, voice, mood, and aspect. (Frank 1972: 47).
3. Morphological typology: the study of the typical internal structure of words in every language in the world. There are two traditional parameters used: (1) the transparency of morphological boundaries between the morphemes within a grammatical word; (2) the degree of internal complexity of words (Sapir, 1921).