Morphological System of the Simalungun Batak Language: A Study of Generative Transformation

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to study the morphological structure of the Toba Batak language from the perspective of generative transformation studies. The primary issue in this microlinguistic research is the process of word formation through the mechanisms of affixation, reduplication, and composition. Previous research on word forms in the Simalungun Batak language has been based on structural morphological theory, which only examines linguistic phenomena superficially. Therefore, linguistic phenomena that actually occur in the field are often overlooked because the theories used are unable to fully explain them. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. This approach was chosen because it aims to describe in depth and structure phenomena related to word structure in the Simalungun Batak language (BBS) from the perspective of Generative Morphology Theory. The results of this study indicate that the morphological system of the Simalungun Batak language describes in depth and structure phenomena related to word structure in the Simalungun Batak language (BBS) from the perspective of Generative Morphology Theory. The first issue in this research is the process of word formation through the mechanisms of affixation, reduplication, and composition, which only examines linguistic phenomena superficially.

Keywords: morphology system, Simalungun Batak language, generative transformation

Sistem Morfologi Bahasa Batak Simalungun: Kajian Transformasi Generatif

ABSTRAK

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mempelajari struktur morfologi Bahasa Batak Toba dari perspektif kajian transformasi generatif. Isu utama dalam penelitian mikrolinguistik ini adalah proses pembentukan kata melalui mekanisme afiksasi, reduplikasi, dan komposisi. Penelitian tentang bentuk kata dalam bahasa Batak Simalungun sebelumnya berlandaskan pada teori struktural morfologi yang hanya melihat fenomena bahasa secara permukaan. Karena itu, gejala kebahasaan yang benar-benar terjadi di lapangan sering kali tidak diperhatikan, karena teori yang dipakai tidak mampu menjelaskan fenomena tersebut secara lengkap. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Pendekatan ini dipilih karena bertujuan untuk menggambarkan secara dalam dan terstruktur fenomena terkait struktur kata dalam Bahasa Batak Simalungun (BBS) dari perspektif Teori Morfologi Generatif. Adapun alat pengumpulan data dakam penelitian ini yaitu, dokumen/ literatur bahasa Batak Simalungun. Dimana melibatkan pengumpulan data tertulis yang sudah ada yaitu buku, cerita rakyat, artikel jurnal yang membahas bahasa Batak Simalungun. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan sistem morfologi bahasa Batak Simalungun menggambarkan secara dalam dan terstruktur fenomena terkait struktur kata dalam Bahasa Batak Simalungun (BBS) dari perspektif Teori Morfologi Generatif. Yang dimana isu pertama dalam penelitian ini adalah proses pembentukan kata melalui mekanisme afiksasi, reduplikasi, dan komposisi yang hanya melihat fenomena bahasa secara permukaan.

Kata Kunci : sistem morfologi, bahasa Batak Simalungun, transformasi generatif

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesians, as speakers of regional languages, are bilingual (Rahmi & Syukur, 2023). In local family life, they use their regional languages, but when communicating officially and nationally, they use Indonesian. Decree of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 40 of 2007, Article 1, paragraph 7, explains that Regional Languages are languages ??used as a means of communication and interaction between members of a particular tribe or ethnic group within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Indonesia as a Cultural Product and Part of the Austronesian Languages et al., 2024).

Linguistically, all languages have equal status and function (Putri et al., 2023). No language is considered inferior or more primitive, even if it is a regional language. This means that no one language is better or superior than another, nor is any language considered inferior. Morphologically, every language, including BBS languages, has distinct vocabulary and grammatical forms (Luh & Beratha, 2022). Bauer, in Sukri (2008), states that language has various distinct aspects. Things that can be expressed in one language can also be expressed in another. Conceptually, generative morphology (Halle, 197; Dardjowidjojo, 1988) states that native speakers of a language possess the ability, called intuition, to understand not only the words in that language but also how those words are formed.

Dardjowidjojo (1988) states that in terms of meaning, native speakers of a language understand the intricacies of each word in their language (Eka Pradita, 2024). For example, native Indonesian speakers naturally understand that the sentence "disakiti" means someone has committed an action against another person that causes that person pain. Another example is that native English speakers intuitively know that the word "table" refers to an object commonly used to hold books, study lamps, and other objects. However, the word "table" can also have another meaning, namely as a place to record data such as serial numbers, names, gender, and other categories.

Sibarani (1994) states that regardless of how simple or impoverished a society's living conditions are, it remains rich in language as a means of communication. Even if a society is considered primitive, it still possesses a developed language. The number of speakers of a language may be small, but they certainly possess sufficient words to convey their various concepts and thoughts.

The current development of BBS has been mixed with other languages such as Indonesian and the influence of English. If this phenomenon continues, there are concerns that it could negatively impact efforts to maintain and preserve BBS. Conversely, as citizens, we hope and take positive actions to enrich the vocabulary of our unifying language, Indonesian, through the preservation of regional languages.

Regarding language as a tool for communication, Chaer (2007) explains that language consists of several smaller components: the morphological subsystem, the phonological subsystem, the syntactic subsystem, and the semantic subsystem. Kridalaksana (1996) explains that the morphological subsystem includes words, word parts, and how words are formed. This means that each language has its own way of forming words. For example, in the process of word addition, both Indonesian and BBS have the following characteristics:

1) Indonesian has five types of word additions: [-em-, -en-, -in, -el-, -er-], according to Kridalaksana (1996).
2) BBS has four types of word additions: [-in, -um-, -ar, -al], according to Sinaga (2002).

The research questions discussed in this study are: 1) What morphological processes occur in Batak-Simalungun words? 2) How can the mechanisms of generative transformation rules be used to explain the changes in form and meaning that occur during morphological processes in Batak-Simalungun?

Furthermore, the objectives of this study are: 1) To identify and classify the various morphological processes (affixation, reduplication, com-

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position) that are dominant in Batak-Simalungun word formation. 2) To formulate systematic generative transformation rules to explain and predict changes in word form during morphological processes in Batak-Simalungun.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. This approach was chosen because it aims to describe in depth and in a structured manner the phenomena related to word structure in the Batak Simalungun Language from the perspective of Generative Morphology Theory (Astawan & Sadwika, 2020).

A qualitative approach allows researchers to understand the ways and rules of word formation as they occur naturally in the context of the language [e1]. The data collection tools in this research include Batak Simalungun language documents/literature, which involve collecting existing written materials, such as books, folklores, and journal articles, that discuss the Batak Simalungun language. Thus, the morphological research of the Simalungun Batak language does not use primary data, but rather this research uses secondary data.

The data contained in the morphological research of the Simalungun Batak language was analyzed using generative morphological analysis as a linguistic method as a data analysis technique.

This records all basic morphemes and bound morphemes (affixation, reduplication, composition) that are productive in the Batak Simalungun Language. Furthermore, formulating formal rules that show how these morphemes are combined to form actual and potential words (words that may exist, but have not been recorded).

RESULT

1. Main Afiks

The Batak Simalungun language has several main affixes. The main affixes are listed in the table below.

Table 1
Main Affixes in the Simalungun Batak Language

Process	Basic Word	Prefixed Forms	Meaning
man + tulis	tulis	menulis	menulis
man + suling	suling	manuling	meniup
m + potuk	potuk	momotuk	memukul
pan + surat	surat	panurat	penulis
na + botuh	botuh	nabotuh	tahu

2. The Word Formation Process

The word formation process most frequently used in the formation of new words (derived words) in the Batak Simalungun language. The table below contains the word formation process in the Batak Simalungun language.

Table 2
The Word Formation Process

Afix	Examples	Process	Function
man	man + duda (manduda)	activity	active verb
mar	mar + baju (marbaju)	stativization	state verb
i	i + buat (ibuat)	passivization	passive verb

DISCUSSION

1. List of Batak Simalungun Morphemes

The list of morphemes contains two types of members: base words and affixes, including inflectional and derivational affixes (Prihapsari, 2021). Base words are further divided into two parts: free base words and bound base words. All types of base words are categorized into main lexical groups: base nouns (NP), base verbs (VP), base adjectives (AD), base adverbs (ADV), and base numerals (NUMERAL).

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Base words have affixes consisting of prefixes, infixes, and suffixes (Rohmawati et al., 2024). All base words and affixes are listed in the morpheme list using parentheses labeled with the category name. For example, in the Indonesian language (DM) there are [buku] (Noun), [belajar] (Vun), [senang] (Adj.p.), [depan] (Adv.p.), [lima] (Num.p.), [me] (prefix), [-er-] (infix), and [-kan] (suffix).

1.1 Basic Morphemes (Radicals)

Basic morphemes (radicals): Indonesian (BBS) has free basic morphemes, such as the word "rumah" (house) and "mandare" (bath). In addition, Indonesian (BBS) also has bound basic morphemes such as "juang" (fight) and "temu (meet). Although these types of bound morphemes appear less frequently in Indonesian (BBS) compared to other cognate languages, their presence has been proven through word formation analysis.

1.2 Bound Morphemes (Affixes)

Bound morphemes (affixes): Several affixes are used in the process of forming new words and grammatical changes. The most frequently used affixes include:

prefixes: ma, mar, and tar
suffixes: um, ul, and ur
confixes: -i, -hon, and -on

2. Word Formation Rules (Words)

Affixation is seen as a rule that operates on base morphemes to create new words (word formation) or new grammatical forms (word modification) (Agustina et al., 2023).

For example:
ma + nuan --> manuan (to plant)
mar + sahap --> marsahap (to speak)
tar + sipak --> tarsipak (to be kicked)

3. Word Formation Rules (Words)

Reduplication is the process of forming words by repeating the base form (in whole or in part) to create new meanings, such as various, many, or a stronger level, similar to the way words are formed in Indonesian (Rofiq & Ayatuna Nuzula, 2021). For example:

1) Mandoruh-doruh: 'roaring, roaring' is repeated from the root word doruh, meaning 'roar'.
2) Mardalan-dalan: 'walking, walking' is repeated from the root word dalan, meaning 'road'.
3) Rara-rara: 'red-red' is repeated from the root word bata, meaning 'red'.
4) Juma-juma: 'gardens, gardens' is repeated from the root word juma, meaning 'garden'.
5) Margurow-gurow: 'playing, playing' is repeated from the root word gurow, meaning 'play'.

4. Composition (Compounding)

Composition is the combination of two or more basic morphemes to create a new lexeme (Indonesian Language Education et al., 2020). In BBS, examples of composition demonstrate a dominant endocentric structure, where one element is the core part.

For example:
mangan (eat) + minum (drink) --> Makan minum "activities related to the consumption of food and drink in general."

5. Morpheme Adjustment Rules (ARP)/ Morphophonology

ARP explains the sound changes that occur when words are formed. This is an important part of the generative approach, distinguishing it from structural analysis methods (Ambarita, n.d.). ARP can predict or generate the final form of a word.

5.1 Nasalization Rule (Nasal Melting)

The most common phenomenon is the nasalization of the prefix "mang-" (or its alternative forms such as "mang"/"man-"/"mam-"). This rule states that the nasal morpheme at the beginning of a word will change (assimilate) to match the pronunciation point of the hard sound (plosive) that follows it.

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For example:

1) an + mulus --> "mamulus"
2) man + nulis --> "manulis"
3) mang + kata --> "mangkata"

5.2 Basic Phenomenon Melting Rule

In the Batak Simalungun language, there is a rule for melting basic phonemes. This rule applies when a root word that begins with a certain consonant is added to a prefix that ends with a nasal consonant, such as m, n, or p. The initial phoneme of the root word will disappear or change, and be replaced by the nasal sound at the end. prefixes. This rule is similar to the consonant decay of K, P, S, and T in Indonesian, but its application differs in Batak Simalungun.

6. Theoretical Implications

This research demonstrates that the theory of generative transformation morphology successfully constructs a clear and predictable BBS morphological system. The established rules and principles are able to explain not only existing words but also predict the formation of new words that are grammatically acceptable to speakers, even if they have never been used before. The results of this research enrich the study of Batak Simalungun linguistics, which has previously relied primarily on a structural approach, by providing a deeper understanding of the morphological abilities of native BBS speakers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussion described, it can be concluded that Indonesians, as speakers of regional languages, have the ability to speak two languages. Linguistically, all languages have the same status and function. No language is considered inferior or more primitive, even if it is a regional language.

Morphologically, every language, including BBS languages, has a distinct vocabulary and grammatical forms. Conceptually, generative morphology states that speakers Native speakers of a language possess the ability, called intuition, to understand not only the words in the language but also how those words are formed. This approach was chosen because it aims to describe in-depth and structured phenomena related to word structure in the Batak Simalungun language (BBS) from the perspective of Generative Morphology Theory. Batak Simalungun morphemes are further divided into two parts: free root words and bound root words. All types of root words are categorized into main lexical groups such as basic nouns (Np), basic verbs (Vp), basic adjectives (Adj.p), basic adverbs (Adv.p), and basic numerals (Num.p). Root words have members in the form of affixes consisting of prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. All root words and affixes are listed in the DL using brackets labeled with the category name. For example, in the DL there are [book] Np, [study] Vp, [happy] Adj.p, [front] Adv.p, [five] Num.p, [me] prefix, [-er-] infix, and [-kan] suffix.

Thus, it can be concluded that the Batak Simalungun language morphology system is carried out through the processes of affixation, reduplication, and composition, as the central issues in this research. The morphological process or word formation in generative morphology requires four steps or components: (1) a list of morphemes (DM), (2) word formation rules (KPK).

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