

The Valency Changing Strategy through the Composition of the Verbs *Ame*, *Kasiand* *Buangin* Malay Kupang Language

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Abstract: MalayKupang Language (MKL) is spoken by around 500,000 people who inhabit in Kupang city and several districts on Timor Island, East Nusa Tenggara (ENT) Province, Indonesia. MKL is actually a part of Malay-creole language. In general, MKL shows a special similarity in terms of grammar that leads to the theory of universal grammar. Even MKL is one of the local language in Indonesia, but MKL is also difference with Indonesian in the syntactic level, especially in valency changing strategy. Valency itself means the ability of one verb to bind the core argument to the verb itself. In other word, the valency is the verb ability to require a particular argument, which approves certain semantic functions in a sentence. In MKL the valency changing strategy can be proceed through the composition of some verbs. In MKL the verbs formation composition is applied by combining three static verbs. Those verbs are the verbs *ame* "take", *buang* "throw", and *kasi* "give". In MKL some verbs will change the valency of that verbs by combining them with those three verbs. Those verbs are both the intransitive and transitive verbs.

Keywords: Malay Kupang Language, Valency Changing Strategy, Oblique, Core Arguments, Adjunct, Verb Composition.

1. INTRODUCTION

MalayKupang Language (MKL) is spoken by around 500,000 people who inhabit in Kupang city and several districts on Timor Island, East Nusa Tenggara (ENT) Province, Indonesia. In the daily communication process the residents of Kupang city use MKL as a lingua franca in speech events among fellow citizens. As the capital city of ENT, Kupang is a place for various speech communities from various languages, ethnicities and cultures. Therefore Kupang becomes multilingual, multi-ethnic, and multicultural city.

MKL is actually a part of Malay-creole language. In general, MKL shows a special similarity in terms of grammar that leads to the theory of universal grammar. MKL has several characteristics that are different in micro-linguistic aspect with Indonesian language, for example in the sound system (phonology), Indonesian has six vocal sounds /a/, /i/, /o/, /u/, and two kinds of /e/: the first /e/ is pure /é/ (in the word /énak/ "delicious") and the second /e/ is schwa /è/ (in bèsar "big"). While MKL only has five vowels /a/, /i/, /o/, /u/, and one pure /é/.

MKL is also difference with Indonesian in the syntactic level, especially in valency changing strategy. Valency itself means the ability of one verb to bind the core argument to the verb itself. Van Valin Jr., and LaPolla (1999: 147-150) stated that, valency is the numbers of arguments bound by verbs. Aisen (in Hopper and Thompson, ed., 1982: 8) suggests that valence is used to refer to the number of nominal arguments in a clause. Katamba (1993: 266) mentions that valence is the number of arguments in the syntactic framework associated with verbs caused by grammatical functions. In other word, the valency is the verb ability to require a particular argument, which approves certain semantic functions in a sentence.

In the Indonesian language, the process of valency changing happens in some ways, such as through the affixation process, the reduplication process and also the composition process. For example in the clause (1) the verb *masak* "cooked" in Indonesian has two core arguments, the first is *beta* "I" as the subject and *nasi* "rice" as the object. The verb *masak* "cooked" will need more than two core arguments, if we add the prefix *me-* and suffix *-ito* the verb *masak* "cooked" than the verb *masak* "cooked" will require three core arguments. They are *saya* "I" as the subject, *ibu* "mother" as the object 1 and *nasi* "rice" as the object 2.

- (1) *sayamasak nasi*
1SG cooked rice
"I cooked rice"
- (2) *Sayamemasakiibunasi*
1SG Pref-cooked-Suf mother rice
"I cooked rice to my mother"

However, the valency changing process through the affixation process does not apply within MKL. MKL only has five prefixes, namely prefixes *ba-*, *ma-*, *ta-*, *sa-* and *pa-*. So suppose that the prefixes *ba-* is attached to the verb *masak* "cooked" in the clause (3) and (4), even the verb *masak* "cooked" has been attached with prefix *ba-* but it does not change the numbers of core arguments in that clause, the clause (3) and the clause

(4) showed that the verb *masak* “cooked” needed *beta* “I” as the core arguments which has a function as the subject and *nasi* “rice” as the next core arguments that has a function as the object, while *di dapur* “in the kitchen” is the adjunct for both clauses.

(3) *Beta masak nasi di dapur*
1SG cooked rice PREP kitchen
I cooked rice in the kitchen

(4) *Beta ba-masak nasi di dapur*
1SG PREF cooked rice PREP kitchen
I cooked rice in the kitchen

Based on the example above, it showed that MKL has a different valency strategy than Indonesia language. Therefore the researcher is interested to study about the valency changing strategy in MKL that use the verb *ame, buang and bekin*.

In the following are provided some previous studies that the writer used in order to support this new current research. The first study is conducted by Dina Permatasari (2016). She analyzed about the valency changing strategy in Dutch Verbs. The aims of her research is to identify the types of Dutch verbs and how do the verbs can experience the changes in valency symptoms of change, and the semantic role of the verbs. The next study was conducted by Asridayani (2018). The purposes of this research are: (1) to describe the verbal construction of Batak Toba Language and (2) to explain verb valency changing mechanism of Batak Toba Language. In collecting the data, the researcher used conversational and listening method.

2. Literature Review

The valency term refers to the number of different types of elements that associated with verbs (Talmy, in Kosmas 2000: 37). Thus, the valence is used to refer to the number of argument in noun clauses at any level (Aissen, in Kosmas 2000: 37). Valence consists of semantic valence and syntactic valence. Semantic valence refers to the number of participants that must be express by the verb demands, while syntactic valency (also called grammatical valency) refers to the number of the real arguments for a particular clause (Payne and Haspelmath, in Kosmas 2000: 37). Therefore, it can be said that the concept of valency is very closely related to the concept of the transitivity verb at the morphosyntactic level. Transitivity is the verb as a pivot (head) in a clause or sentence to present a number of arguments, (Kosmas, 2000: 37).

Arguments are syntactic elements that is needed by verbs. Kroeger, in Binti (2011: 13), provides a limitation that arguments are participants who show an inseparable relationship with verbs, for example in the sentence “*Lukas hits Markus*” and “*Markus hits Lukas*,” we can see that the arguments or participants must be presented or inseparable, because they are needed by verb “hits”. Sometimes the speaker adds other elements that are not directly related to the meaning contained in the predicate, but it is important for the listener to understand for example the adverb of place, the adverb of time and the adverb of manner. However those elements in this category are not included as the core argument, they are called as adjuncts. The adjunct are not mandatory present in a clause or sentence, their presents are optional, as we can see this following example:

(5) I bought a bag at Ramayana Mall

(6) Luke gives Dorcas a bunch of flowers

In contrast to adjunct, oblique ‘oblique’ is a non-core argument whose presence is not a subject or object, but it shows a close grammatical relationship with the verb and its subject and object. This grammatical relationship is more important than the elements besides other arguments. An indicator that states oblique is through the presence of a preposition as can be seen in several examples:

(7) He keeps his money in the ENT bank (location)

(8) Peter opens the door with a key. (Instruments / tools)

(9) My mother makes me a cup of tea (Beneficiary)

Based on the explanation above, the argument is the elements contained in the structure of the clause which have a close semantic relationship with the verb as their predicate. The term argument is used to show the participant's relationship and semantic role in verbs (Kroeger, in Binti 2011: 13).

The concept of the argument intended in this study is core participants (one, two or more) that show an inseparable relationship with verbs whose presence is required in a clause

3. Methodology

In accordance with the character of the problem examined, this study was included in a descriptive-qualitative study. Descriptive method is able to provide a systematic, accurate, and factual explanation of the data, the characteristics and relationships of the phenomena under study (Djajasudarma, 1993: 8). To get the data in this study, the observation method was used. The researcher observed when a speech event had been occurred without any attempt to control or determine the event. The basic technique used to obtain data is tapping. This technique is carried out in conjunction with the use of a competent, free listening technique. This research used the method of equivalent analysis and the method of distribution. The matching method is a method used in an effort to find a rule in the data analysis stage where the deciding tool is outside, detached, and not part of the language (langue) concerned. The following method used in this research is the distribution method, (Sudaryanto, 1993: 15).

4. Results and Discussion

In MKL the valency changing strategy can be proceeded through the composition of some verbs. In MKL the verbs formation composition is applied by combining three static verbs. Those verbs are the verbs *ame* "take", *buang* "throw", and *kasi* "give". In MKL some verbs will change the valency of that verbs by combining them with those three verbs. In the following is the discussion of valency changing strategy through the composition of the verbs *ame* "take", *buang* "throw", and *kasi* "give".

1. Valency Changing Strategy by composing the verb *ame* "take."

Here is the discussion that the composition of the verb *ame* "take" can change the valency of some verbs. For instance in the clause (10) an active verb *duduk* "sit" is an intransitive verb or a verb that has only one core argument *beta* "I" which has a function as a subject, while *di kursi* "on the chair" is an oblique, whereas *di kamar* "in the room" serves as an adjunct or an adverb of place. However, the clause (11) showed that if we added the verb *ame* "take" after the verb *duduk* "sit" then the verb *duduk* "sit" will experience a change in valency by needing two core arguments, the first core argument is *beta* "I" which has a function as a subject and the second argument is *beta pungsempat* "my place or position," which has a function as an object, while *di kantor* "in the office" is the adjunct. *Duduk* "sit" and *duduk ame* "sit on" have different meaning *duduk* "sit" means to rest on the buttocks or haunches, while *duduk ame* "sit on" means to occupy or to reside or to have one's place.

(10) *beta duduk di kursi di dalam kamar*
 1SG sit PREP chair PREP bedroom
 "I sit on the chair in the bedroom"

(11) *dia duduk ame beta pungsempat di kantor*
 3SG sits take I POSS place PREP OFFICE
 "She/he takes my position/my place in the office"

(12) *Itunyong tidur di pinggir jalan*
 DET boy slept PREP side road
 "That boy slept at the side of the road"

(13) *Itunyong tidur ame itunon sampe hamil*
 DET boy slept took DET girl until pregnant
 "That boy had slept with that girl so the girl got pregnant"

Another evidence can be seen in the clause (12), the verb *tidur* "slept" is an intransitive verb or a verb that required only one core argument, in the clause (12) the core arguments for the verb *tidur* "slept" is *itunyong* "that boy" which has the function as the subject, while the phrase *di pinggir jalan* "at side of the road," is the adjunct. However, for the clause (13) the verb *tidur* "slept" required two core arguments because of the composition of the verb *ame* "took" after the verb *tidur* "slept." The two arguments for that serial verb *tidur ame* "slept took" are *itunyong* "that boy," which has the function as the subject and *itunona* "that girl," which has function as the object, while *sampe hamil* "until pregnant" is only a complement.

(2) Valency Changing Strategy by composing the verb *kasi* "give."

Furthermore, the valency changing strategy can also occur when a verb is composed with the verb *kasi* "give." For example, the verb *be kin* "made" is a transitive verb that has two core arguments, namely subject and object. The verb *be kin* "make" in (14) demands the presence of *lu* "you" as the subject and *roti* "bread" as the object. However, in the clause (15) showed that the verb *be kin* "made" required three core arguments when it composed with the verb *kasi* "give." In the clause (15) the first core argument is *lu* "you" which has the function as the subject, the second argument is the word *beta* "I"

which has the function as the object1 and the word *roti* “bread” which has the function as the object2. In MKL the verb *bekin* “made” and the serial verb *bekinkasi* “made give” have different meaning, the meaning of the verb *bekin* “made” is to create or to produce something, but the meaning of the serial verb *bekinkasi* “made gave” is to cause (something) to happen.

(14) *Lu bekin roti*
2SG made bread
“you made a bread for me”

(15) *Lubekinkasi beta roti*
2SG made gave 1SG bread
“you made a bread for me”

The next clause (16) showed that the verb *tarik* “pulled” has two core argument, they are *Adi* “a proper name” which has the function as the subject and *talitambang* “rope” that has the function as the object, while *di harikemerdekaan Indonesia* “in Indonesia Independence day,” is the complement in that clause. However, when the verb *tarik* “pull” is composed to the verb *kasi* “give,” then the verb *tarik* “pull” needed three core arguments, the first is *Adi* “a proper name” as the subject, *beta* “I” as the object1 and *itutali* “that rope” as object2.

(16) *Adi tarik talitambang di lombaharikemerdekaan Indonesia*
NAME pulled ropemine PREP competition day independence Indonesia
“Adi pulled the rope in the tug-of-war competition to celebrate Indonesia Independence day”

(17) *Adi tarikkasi betaitutali do!*
NAME pull give I DET rope please
“Adi pull the rope to me please!”

(3) Valency Changing Strategy by composing the verb *buang* “throw”.

The another valency changing strategy can also happen by adding the verb *buang* “throw” to a verb *tinggal* “live”. The clause (15) showed that the verb *tinggal* “live” is an intransitive verb, which needs one core arguments, the the argument is *katongpungtanta* “our aunt,” which has the function as the subject, whereas the phrase *di Oebufu* “in Oebufu” is an oblique. For the next clause (16) the verb *tinggal* “live” has been composed with the verb *buang* “throw,” so it needed more than one core arguments, the first argument is *mama* “mother” as the subject of that clause and the second argument is *itujerukbusuk* “that rotten orange,” whereas *sa to!* “only” is particle which doesn’t have any meaning.

(15) *Katongpungtantatinggal di Oebufu*
1PL POSS aunt live PREP (LOCATION)
“Our aunt live in Oebufu”

(16) *Mama tinggal buang itujerukbusuksa to!*
Mother live throw DET orange rotten only PART
“My mother just threw the rotten orange”

5. Conclusion

Valency changing strategy in MKL can be proceed through the composition of the verbs *ame* “take,” *kasi* “give,” and *buang* “throw.” the valency changing can be proceed by composing the verb intransitive *duduk* “sit,” and *tidu* “sleep,” and the verb *tinggal* “live” with the verb *ame* “take”, beside that the verb *kasi* “give” can also change the valency of the transitive verb, such as the verb *bekin* “make” and the verb *tarik* “pull.”

Based on this analysis, we can conclude that the composition verbs *ame*, *kasi*, and *buang* can form a serial verbs that can add the numbers of the core arguments of some verbs in Malay Kupang Language.

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