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Batak Toba Language Structure as Inverted Language

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Abstract

Batak Toba Language (BTL) structure dominantly begins with predicate that is why BTL is called as inverted language. This research is descriptive-qualitative research. The data are taken from Batak's tales book written by Manguji Nababan titled "*Torsatorsa Hombung - Turiturian ni Halak Batak*" and from daily conversation. The data which consist of sentences are taken randomly and analysed based on its structure. From the research done, there are found that: (1) BTL uses some markers, like "*si*" (to mark subject if subject is the name of a person), "*do*" (to mark predicate), "*ma*" (to mark predicate); (2) there are two types of structure used in BTL, they are VOS (Verb - Object - Subject) and VSO (Verb - Subject - Object) type. In declarative sentence of BTL, VSO type is used in both active and passive voice but VOS is used in active voice. This research is aimed to describe the structure of BTL and globally help learners to learn basic structure of BTL easily.

Keywords: Batak Toba language (BTL), inverted language, language structure

Introduction

Batak Toba Language (BTL) is one from hundreds local languages in Indonesia. BTL is used by Bataknese in North Sumatra. Bataknese itself has six different local language, they are Batak Toba Language, Batak Karo Language, Batak Mandailing Language, Batak Pakpak Language, Batak Angkola Language and Batak Simalungun Language. They are differentiated by the geography. BTL structure dominantly in inversion type that is why it is called as inverted language. Inversion is a sentence which the order of subjects and verbs are exchanged. In the normal sentence structure, subject and verb is placed in sequence, but in inversion, the verb puts before the subject. BTL as the writer's mother tongue with the unusual sentence order has drawn attention of the writer to be discussed.

Kridalaksana (1993: 85) said that inversion is word order of a sentence that has been changed. In Greenberg's writing (1966: 76), linguists are, in general, familiar with the notion that certain languages tend consistently to put modifying or limiting elements before those modified or limited, while others just as consistently do the opposite. Turkish, an example of the former type, puts adjectives before the verb, the dependent genitive before the governing noun, adverbs before adjectives which they modify, etc. Such languages, moreover, tend to have postpositions concepts expressed by preposition in English. A language of the opposite type is Thai, in which adjectives follow the noun, the object follows the verb, the genitive follows the governing noun, and there are prepositions. The majority of languages, as for example English, are not as well marked in this respect. In English, as in Thai, there are prepositions, and the noun object follows the verb. On the other hand, English resembles Turkish in that the adjective precedes the noun. Moreover, in the genitive construction both orders exist: 'John's house' and 'the house of John'.

Some Indonesian linguists, Hadidjaja (1965: 107-108), Fokker (1972: 43-54), Soetarno (1980: 168), Ramlan (1987: 10), and Moeliono (1988: 283) in Sumadi et al (2009:

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17) said that inversion is a sentence that predicate precedes the subject. As the Indonesian linguists has said, the inversion that will be discussed in this paper is the inversion which the predicate precedes the subject. Inversion is also found in other languages. In English, inversion is found in interrogative sentence ‘Do you love me?’, direct speech ‘Thank you’, question tags ‘You are hungry, aren’t you?’, negative sentence ‘Never have I seen it’, conditional sentence ‘Had I been there, the car wouldn’t have broken’, etc. In some language such as Malagasi and Latin, inversion sometimes used in poetry. BTL structure – in this discussion, the writer specify verbal sentences as the data used – dominantly begins with ‘verb’.

Example

(1) *Marsiajar mangaloppa ibana* (BTL) – VOS

Learns cooking she (Eng)

‘She learns cooking’

(2) *Mangallang es krim si Butet* (BTL) – VOS

Eats ice cream Butet (Eng)

‘Butet eats ice cream’

(3) *Dipodai Inang na si Butet* (BTL) – VSO

Advised Mother Butet (Eng)

‘Butet was advised by her mother’

(4) *Diboan si Ucok do dekke sian tao* (BTL) – VSO

Taken Ucok fish from lake (Eng)

‘Fish are taken by Ucok from the lake’

These four sentences are inversion sentence. (1) and (2) are active sentences and (3) and (4) are passive sentences. In those sentence, there are some marks “*si*” and “*do*”. Based on explanations and examples above the researcher want to describe the BTL structure as inverted language in order to help the learners understand how to make simple sentence in BTL.

Objective

The objective of this study is to describe BTL structure of declarative sentences and the markers used.

Research Question

The research question of this study is: how does the structure of BTL as inverted language?

The Significance of the Study

This research is expected as one of the material in terms of typology research of BTL and relevant research. This research is also expected as an input for BTL speakers to remain using and preserving BTL. Since the geography of BTL area is in tourism resort, by this research or relevant research of BTL structure, they will help the learners to learn BTL. BTL and other local languages are part of Indonesian culture so by this research, the writer is trying to preserve local language of Indonesia.

Theory

Greenberg Typology

Greenberg typology is the development of what Lepsius and Schmidt has explained. Greenberg tried to develop a new systemic considering three element (type and system) that then called basic order that involve: the relative order between subject, verb, object, apposition, and adjective attribute in noun. In his writings titled “Some Universals of

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Grammar with particular reference to the Order of Meaningful Elements” (in book Universals of Language, 1966), J. H. Greenberg propose a typology called basic order typology. In his writing, he said that there are six possible orders: SVO, SOV, VSO, VOS, OSV, and OVS. Of these six, however, only three normally occur as dominant orders. The three which do not occur at all, or at least are excessively rare, are VOS, OSV, and OVS. These all have in common that the object precedes the subject. This gives him some universals related to the basic order typology, they are:

Universal 1. In declarative sentences with nominal subject and object, the dominant order is almost always one in which the subject precedes the object.

Universal 2. In languages with prepositions, the genitive almost always follows the governing noun, while in languages with postpositions it almost always precedes.

Universal 3. Languages with dominant VSO order are always prepositional.

Universal 4. With overwhelmingly greater than chance frequency, languages with normal SOV orders are postpositional.

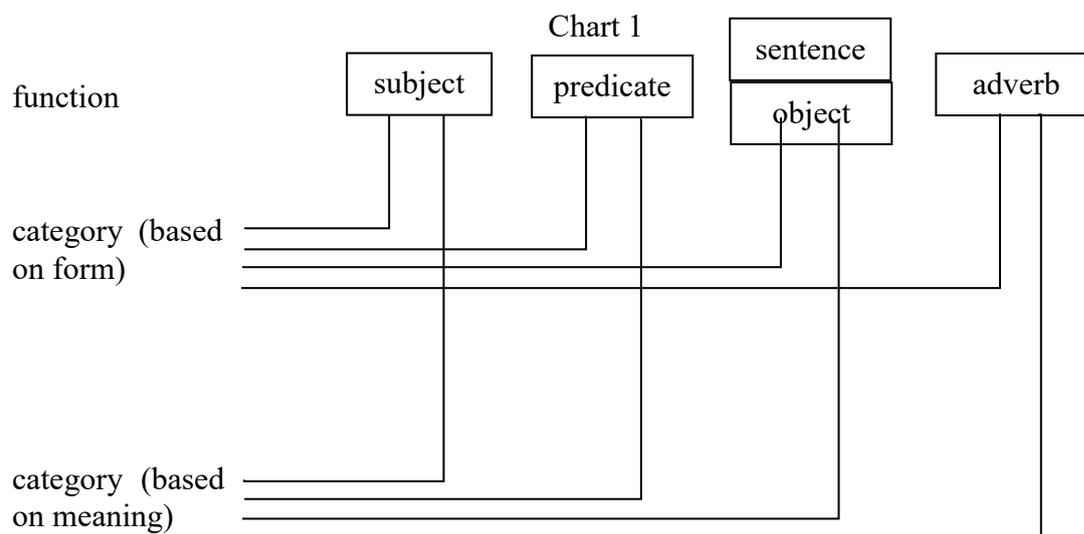
Universal 5. If a language has dominant SOV order and the genitive follows the governing noun, then the adjective likewise follows the noun.

Universal 6. All languages with dominant VSO order have SVO as an alternative or as the only alternative basic order.

Syntactic Function

Dik (1981:13) said that there are three types of function, they are: (1) syntactic function, (2) semantic function, (3) pragmatic function. In this study, the writer will discuss about syntactic function. Syntactic function specify the perspective from which that state of affair is presented in the linguistic expression.

Syntactic function is also known as function (Verharr, 1982 and Ramlan, 1987). Verhaar (1982:72) explain that syntactic function is an “empty” space that should be filled with two elements, namely as categorical (form) and as semantics (function). Syntactic function means subject (S), predicate (P), object (O), complement (Comp), adverb (Adv).



Methodology

This research follows the language research steps by Sudaryanto (1988: 57), they are collecting the data, analysing data, and presenting the research result. These three steps was done sequentially. Data collection generates classified data. The classified data were then analysed. Analysing the data generates rules of language usage which is going to be

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formulated. The Data was collected from Batak's tales book written by Manguji Nababan titled "*Torsatorsa Hombung - Turiturian ni Halak Batak*" (2015) and the daily conversation. The data were taken from a book to keep the sentences used natural. The limitation of the data is only use declarative verbal sentence that usually use in daily conversation of Bataknese. The writer chose some sentences needed randomly and analysed them. Descriptive methods used in analysing the data. Descriptive method is able to describe the data systematically, actually, and accurately which ultimately produces a picture of scientific data (Djajasudarma, 1993: 8). The data was presented in informal method. Informal method is description with words.

Literature Review

Based on the problem research in this paper, some literatures that relevant with this research because of the pattern, direction and corresponding goal are going to be discussed. Greenberg (1966), said that languages can be divided based on basic order, they are subject, object, and verb. Greenberg show a typology called basic order typology that concluded six types of sentence structure, they are SVO, SOV, VSO, VOS, OSV, OVS. This basic order has been so important because it can be used as typology parameter. Of these six, however, only three are normally occur as dominant orders. The three which do not occur at all, or at least are excessively rare, are VOS, OSV, and OVS. Panggabean (2013), in her dissertation discussed about Batak Toba Language (BTL) typology. She found that the prototype of word order in BTL has one congruent type that is VOS. Her dissertation tries to describe the characteristic of syntax construction in BTL and to interpret the typology of BTL based on syntax characteristic. Typologically analysis of data brought the research finding that syntactically, BTL treats Subject (S) with the same ways as Agent (A), and different treatment is given to Patient (P). The topicalization belongs that clause structure is marked in BTL which is also the same as left-localization. The predicate-subject construction constitutes unmarked clause structure in BTL. BTL constitutes language with neither subject prominent not topic prominence. Based on theoretical framework of pivot test, the omission of Noun Phrase (NP) can be done directly if NP functions as S or A, but if NP functions as P, then the omission cannot be done directly. The omission can be allowed if one of the clauses is changed into passive. This means that BTL works as S/Z pivot as a language which has syntactically accusative typology.

Sumadi, et al (2009), in their book discuss about inversion in Javanese. As inversion is still avoided to be discuss in Javanese, Sumadi et al interest to explore it. In Javanese, inversion is not the dominant sentence used. They explore inversion in Javanese by analysing using three function, they are semantic function, syntactic function, and pragmatic function. Based on its syntactic function, inversion can be divided into (1) inversion that has predicate and subject, (2) inversion that has predicate, object, and subject, (3) inversion that has predicate, complement, and subject, (4) inversion that has predicate, object, complement, and subject, and (5) inversion that has predicate, adverb, and subject. Based on the form and syntactic category, inversion in Javanese can be distinguished on: (1) declarative inversion, (2) imperative inversion, (3) interrogative inversion. Sumadi also conclude that there are some background of using inversion in Javanese, they are: (1) topicalization, (2) focusing, (3) introduction of new information, (4) extension of subject constituent, and (5) emphasis on instructional aspects.

Findings

BTL Typology based on Word Order

VSO type

(1) *Disuru inana i ma ibana asa laho manghail* (p88)

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- V_{passive} S ma O Adv
 Asked his wife he going fishing
 'He was asked by his wife going fishing'
- (2) Dialusi si Pogospogos hata ni amana i (p125)
 V_{passive} si S O
 Replied Pogospogos his father's
 order
 'His father's order was replied by Pogospogos'
- (3) Disungkun na mora i ma si Pogospogos (p126)
 V_{passive} S ma si O
 Asked the rich man Pogospogos
 'Pogospogos was asked by the rich man'
- (4) Dipaboa ibana ma nipina i (p164)
 V_{passive} S ma O
 Told he the dream
 'The dream was told by him'
- (5) Dijou raja i ma boruna na pitu i (p165)
 V_{passive} S ma O
 Called the king the seven daughters
 'The seven daughters was called by the king'
- (6) Dioloi amana i ma pangidoan ni boru na i (p175)
 V_{passive} S ma O
 Obeyed the father his daughter's request
 His
- (7) Dipeakkon amana i ma pira ni pidong i (p209)
 V_{passive} S ma O
 Put the father the bird's egg
 'The bird's egg was put by the father'
- (8) Dibodil sahalak sian nasida ma pidong i (p211)
 V_{passive} S ma O
 Shot one of them the bird
 'The bird was shot by one of them'
- (9) Diboan nasida ma boruna i (p211)
 V_{passive} S ma O
 Taken they the lady
 'The lady was taken by them'
- (10) Dibuat raja i ma sian bagasna abit na opat rupa (p187)
 V_{passive} S ma Adv O
 Taken the king from the house four pieces of fabric
 'Four pieces of fabric was taken by the king from the house'

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- (11) Mulak ma nasida tu hutana (p39)
 V_{active} ma S Adv
 Went home they to their village
 They went home to their village

- (12) Ro ma anak ni Natukbaenon mangaririt boru ni Nagonan Tabun (p185)
 V_{active} ma S Adv
 Came Natukbaenon's son propose Nagonan Tabun's
 daughter

Natukbaenon's son came to propose Nagonan Tabun's daughter

Description:

The sentence (1) - (10) are VSO type in passive voice and the sentence (11) and (12) are VSO type in active voice. From the data took randomly found that VSO type of BTL structure is dominantly in passive form. Passive voice in BTL structure is known from the verb used. The verb in passive voice of BTL structure is prefixed by "di-" and the verb in active voice can be either without prefix or with prefix "ma(N)-". In (11) and (12) the verbs used are without prefix.

VOS type

- (13) Mangendehon buku ende do nasida
 V_{active} O do S
 Sing hymn They
 'They sing the hymn'

- (14) Mangaloppa indahan do si Butet
 V_{active} O do si S
 Cook rice Butet
 'Butet cooks the rice'

- (15) Manaruhon surat do pak pos i
 V_{active} O do S
 Deliver letter postman
 'The postman deliver the letter'

- (16) Manucci abit do si Butet tu tao
 V_{active} O do si S Adv
 Rinse clothes Butet to lake
 'Butet rinses the clothes to the lake'

- (17) Manjaha buku do oppung boru
 V_{active} O do S
 Read book grandmother
 'Grandmother reads the book'

Description:

The sentence (13) - (17) are VOS type in active voice. From the data took randomly found that VOS type of BTL structure is dominantly in active form. From the VSO type description, the verb in active voice can be either without prefix or with prefix "ma(N)-". In sentence (13) - (17), the verbs used are with prefix "ma(N)-".

Markers used

There are some markers found in the sentences above, they are: 'ma', 'do', and 'si'. These

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three markers that found in simple declarative sentence of BTL are functioned to mark a word before or after the markers. In Japanese (Carnie, 2011: 11), there are found the suffixes ‘-ga’, ‘-o’ and ‘-ni’. ‘-ga’ is the marking associated with subjects, ‘-o’ is the marking associated with direct objects, and ‘-ga’ is the marking (often) associated with indirect objects and nouns marking the location of the event. These three Japanese markers are called suffix because they stick with word they associated with. On this study, the writer called ‘*ma*’, ‘*do*’, and ‘*si*’ as markers because they do not stick directly with the word they associated with.

Description:

‘*ma*’

In sentence (8)

(8) Dibodil sahalak sian nasida ma pidong i (p211)
V_{passive} S ma O
Shot one of them the bird

‘The bird was shot by one of them’

Before ‘*ma*’ is subject and after ‘*ma*’ is object, but ‘*ma*’ is associated to verb. ‘*ma*’ is the marking associated with verbs. This happen in sentence (1), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13).

‘*do*’

In sentence (13)

(13) Mangendehon buku ende do nasida
V_{active} O do S
Sing hymn They

‘They sing the hymn’

Before ‘*do*’ is object and after ‘*do*’ is subject, but ‘*do*’ is associated to verb. ‘*do*’ is the marking associated with verbs. This happen in sentence (13), (14), (15), (16), and (17).

‘*si*’

In sentence (2)

(2) Dialusi si Pogospogos hata ni amana i (p125)
V_{passive} si S O
Replied Pogospogos his father’s
order

‘His father’s order was replied by Pogospogos’

Before ‘*si*’ is verb and after ‘*si*’ is subject, but ‘*s*’ is associated to subject. ‘*si*’ is the marking associated with subject. But, not all subject associate with ‘*si*’. Subject that associates with ‘*si*’ is the name of a person. Marker ‘*si*’ is not associated to pronouns (in English I, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, its, us, them), the name of professions (doctor, teacher, linguist, etc.), titles (doctor, professor, king, ect.) , animal (dog, cat, horse, monkey, etc.), ect. Simply, ‘*si*’ is only associated with a name of a person. This happen in sentence (2), (3), (14), and (16).

Discussion

The inversion sentence structured by Verb-Subject-Object

VSO type of BTL structure is found both in active and passive voice. VSO type of BTL structure is dominantly in passive form. Passive voce in BTL structure is known from the verb used. The verb in passive voice of BTL structure is prefixed by “*di-*” and the verb in active voice can be either without prefix or with prefix “*ma(N)-*”.

The inversion sentence structured by Verb-Object-Subject

VOS type of BTL structure is dominantly in active form. From the VSO type description, the

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verb in active voice can be either without prefix or with prefix “*ma(N)-*”.

Markers used

There are some markers found in the sentences above, they are: ‘*ma*’, ‘*do*’, and ‘*si*’. These three markers that found in simple declarative sentence of BTL are functioned to mark a word before or after the markers. On this study, the writer called ‘*ma*’, ‘*do*’, and ‘*si*’ as markers because they do not stick directly with the word they associated with. Marker ‘*ma*’ is associated to verb. ‘*ma*’ is the marking associated with verbs, ‘*do*’ is associated to verb, and ‘*si*’ is only associated with a name of a person in subject.

Limitations

This research is trying to show the readers and the learners how the structure of the simple sentence in Batak Toba Language (BTL) is. Due to limited time in doing research, the writer limit the data research that were only declarative verbal sentence.

Recommendation

Since the data research was only limited on declarative verbal sentence the recommendation of the writer for more accurate findings, it can be discussed from all sentence form, like interrogative sentence and imperative sentence and it can be discussed by using more complex sentence. And since it is only discussed from syntactic function. It can be explored more from semantic and pragmatic function.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis done, there re found that BTL structure type dominantly is in passive voice and the structure can be VSO (Verb-Subject-Object) and VOS (Verb-Object-Subject). VSO type of BTL structure is found both in active and passive voice. VSO type of BTL structure is dominantly in passive form. Passive voice in BTL structure is known from the verb used. The verb in passive voice of BTL structure is prefixed by “*di-*” and the verb in active voice can be either without prefix or with prefix “*ma(N)-*”. VOS type of BTL structure is dominantly in active form. From the VSO type description, the verb in active voice can be either without prefix or with prefix “*ma(N)-*”. There are some markers found in the sentences discussed, they are: ‘*ma*’, ‘*do*’, and ‘*si*’. These three markers that found in simple declarative sentence of BTL are functioned to mark a word before or after the markers. On this study, the writer called ‘*ma*’, ‘*do*’, and ‘*si*’ as markers because they do not stick directly with the word they associated with. Marker ‘*ma*’ is associated to verb. ‘*ma*’ is the marking associated with verbs, ‘*do*’ is associated to verb, and ‘*si*’ is only associated with a name of a person in subject.

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