

CONSTRUCTION OF RECIPROCAL VERBS IN ANGKOLA BATAK LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the syntactic aspects of reciprocal verb construction in the Angkola Batak language (ABL) using binding theory. A qualitative method with a descriptive approach is used in this research. Data were collected through literature study and the author's intuition as a native speaker, then analyzed by agih method and presented informally and formally. The result of the research identifies the formation process of reciprocal verbs in ABL through affixation, affixation+reduplication, and affixation+the word "saling". The characteristics of reciprocal verbs in ABL include intransitive nature, can be followed by the constituent "each other", requires the presence of subject-filling nouns or human complements, and belongs to the category of telic verbs. This study concludes that the binding theory can be applied to analyze the construction of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language, showing the validity of this theory in the analysis of regional languages. The contribution of this research lies in the documentation and understanding of the grammatical aspects of the Angkola Batak language.

Keywords: Reciprocal verbs, Angkola Batak language, binding theory, syntax, morphology

INTRODUCTION

The Angkola Batak language is one of the regional languages that is still actively spoken in the North Sumatra region, especially in the South Tapanuli area, including Padangsidempuan, Batang Toru, Sipirok, and its surroundings. As part of Indonesia's linguistic wealth, this language has unique structures and characteristics that are interesting to study. One aspect that is the focus of this research is the construction of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language. Reciprocal verbs, which express reciprocal or mutual actions, are an important element in the grammatical structure of many languages. In the context of the Angkola Batak language, an in-depth understanding of the construction of reciprocal verbs is not only important for linguistic documentation, but also for understanding the way of thinking and social interaction of the speaking community.

According to Kridalaksana (Kridalaksana, 1985) defines reciprocal diathesis as a diathesis that shows the pluralist subject acting reciprocally with the compliment. Sudaryanto (Sudaryanto, 2023) Reciprocity is an action that expresses reciprocity of action or mutual or reciprocal action performed alternately verbs. Richards (Richards & Schmidt, 2013) states that "a verb is called reciprocal when it suggests that the people or things represented by the subject of the sentence are doing something to one another". Edi Subroto (Subroto, 2007) Reciprocal verbs are actions or actions performed by two parties alternately or in reverse, at least there is a situation that shows that the two parties involved in the reciprocal action include animate groups, especially humans. Nedjalkov defines reciprocal constructions as those that express a

reciprocal relationship between two or more participants who perform the same action on each other at the same time or in sequence.

From these definitions, it can be concluded that reciprocal verbs are generally understood as verbs that indicate reciprocal or mutual action between two or more subjects, where the subjects perform the same action as each other. This research seeks to answer the question of how the construction of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language is formed and how binding theory can be applied to analyze the construction.

Several previous studies have been conducted on various aspects of the Angkola Batak language. Nasution (2001) conducted a semantic analysis of Mandailing language, while Lubis (2002), studied question sentences in Mandailing language from a syntactic perspective. Irwan (2009) examined the affixation process in Mandailing Angkola language. Although these studies provide valuable contributions to the understanding of the Angkola Batak language, no one has specifically discussed the construction of reciprocal verbs.

In a broader context, studies on reciprocal verbs have been conducted in various languages. Handayani (2011) examined verb reciprocity in Javanese, while Hutapea (2008) studied diathesis in Toba Batak. Both studies provide valuable insights into how reciprocal verbs operate in regional languages in Indonesia. Meanwhile, at the international level, Nedjalkov (2007) has compiled a cross-language typology of reciprocals, providing a valuable comparative framework for the study of reciprocal verbs.

Although these studies have made significant contributions, there are still some problems and gaps that need to be addressed. First, the majority of research on the Angkola Batak language focuses on general aspects such as semantics, syntax, and affixation, without giving special attention to reciprocal verb constructions. Second, existing studies on reciprocal verbs tend to be descriptive and lack the application of modern linguistic theories such as binding theory.

This gap becomes even more apparent when we consider recent developments in linguistic theory. Binding theory, developed by Chomsky and extended by linguists such as Haegeman and Lasnik (2006), has proven to be effective in analyzing noun phrases for syntactic and semantic purposes across a wide variety of languages even though human languages differ based on universal principles and simple parameters determined by language learners from simple evidence. However, its application to local languages in Indonesia, especially the Angkola Batak language, is still very limited.

Moreover, there is a gap between contemporary research and empirical and theoretical emphases in the study of Indonesian regional languages. While much research focuses on documentation and description, there is less effort to integrate

these findings with modern linguistic theory. This creates a gap between the study of regional languages and the development of global linguistic theory.

Based on the gap analysis, this study aims to: (1) Identify and describe the formation process of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language. (2) Analyze the characteristics of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language. (3) Apply binding theory to analyze the construction of reciprocal verbs in Angkola Batak language. (4) Comparing the construction of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language with other regional languages in Indonesia. To achieve these objectives, this study poses several research questions: (1) What is the morphological process of reciprocal verb formation in Angkola Batak language? (2) What are the syntactic and semantic features of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language? (3) How can binding theory be applied to analyze the construction of reciprocal verbs in Angkola Batak language? (4) How does the construction of reciprocal verbs in Angkola Batak language compare with other regional languages in Indonesia?

The novelty of this study lies in several aspects. First, it is the first comprehensive study of reciprocal verb construction in the Angkola Batak language. Second, this study applies binding theory to analyze the construction of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language, an approach that has never been done before. Third, this research seeks to integrate local language analysis with modern linguistic theory, bridging the gap between local language studies and the development of global linguistic theory.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in this study adopts a qualitative approach using descriptive methods. Data collection involved conducting a literature review, interviews with native speakers, and analyzing a corpus of the Angkola Batak language. Data analysis was carried out using a combined approach involving the agih method (Sudaryanto, 2015) and analysis rooted in binding theory. The anticipated results of this research are poised to offer substantial contributions to the field of linguistics, particularly in enhancing our understanding of the grammatical structures found in regional languages of Indonesia. Moreover, this study can potentially serve as a blueprint for similar analyses in other regional languages and provide fresh insights into the application of binding theory across different linguistic contexts.

From a practical standpoint, a deeper comprehension of the grammatical intricacies of the Angkola Batak language holds promise for the development of language learning materials, compilation of dictionaries, and efforts aimed at language preservation. Additionally, this research stands to enrich broader conversations surrounding language policy and initiatives geared towards safeguarding Indonesia's linguistic diversity.

1. Research Approach and Methods:

This research uses a qualitative approach with an analytic descriptive method. The qualitative approach was chosen because this research aims to understand linguistic phenomena in depth in their natural context. The analytic descriptive method is used to describe and analyze the construction of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language systematically, factually, and accurately.

2. Population and Sample

The population under study comprises all instances of Angkola Batak language utterances that include reciprocal verbs. Due to the population's scope, this research employs a purposive sampling technique to select representative samples. These samples consist of utterances containing reciprocal verbs sourced from a variety of sources, including written texts such as folklore and traditional texts, as well as oral recordings from native speakers. The research focuses on three main aspects: a) the morphological processes involved in forming reciprocal verbs, b) the syntactic and semantic characteristics of reciprocal verbs, and c) the application of binding theory in the construction of reciprocal verbs within the Angkola Batak language.

3. Data Collection

Data were gathered through various methods: Firstly, a literature study involved reviewing written sources like dictionaries, grammars, folklores, and traditional texts in the Angkola Batak language. Secondly, semi-structured interviews were conducted with native speakers of the Angkola Batak language, particularly local linguists and cultural experts, to gather insights into the natural use of reciprocal verbs. Thirdly, participatory observation involved the researcher actively engaging in the social interactions of the Angkola Batak-speaking community to observe firsthand the utilization of reciprocal verbs in daily conversations. Fourthly, elicitation techniques were employed, using pictures or specific situations to prompt native speakers to use reciprocal verbs. Finally, natural conversations containing reciprocal verbs were recorded for further analysis.

4. Data Analysis

The data analysis process encompassed several stages: Firstly, oral recordings were transcribed into written format. Secondly, data containing reciprocal verbs were identified and categorized based on their morphological, syntactic, and semantic attributes. Thirdly, a morphosyntactic analysis was conducted using the *agih* method (Sudaryanto, 2015) to examine the internal structure of reciprocal verbs and their functional roles within sentences. Fourthly, binding theory principles were applied to analyze how reciprocal verbs relate to their arguments in sentences. Fifthly, a comparative analysis compared the construction of reciprocal verbs in Angkola Batak with similar constructions in other regional languages in Indonesia. Sixthly, results were interpreted within the socio-cultural context of the Angkola Batak community. Seventhly, data triangulation validated findings by comparing results across different

sources and methods. Finally, conclusions were drawn to articulate the research's implications for understanding the grammatical structure of Angkola Batak and broader linguistic theory. This methodological approach ensures a thorough and valid analysis, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of reciprocal verb usage in the Angkola Batak language.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The findings of the research based on the formulation of the problems are;

a) Morphological Process of Reciprocal Verb Formation

This study found that reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language are formed through three main processes:

- Affixation: The use of the prefix *mar-* and the confix *marsi-/-an*.
Example: *mar-* + *suo* = *marsuo* (to meet)
marsi- + *kaol* + *-an* = *marsikalukan* (to hug)
- Affixation + Reduplication:
Example: *marsi-* + *jalang-jalang* + *-an* = *marsijalang-jalangan* (to shake hands)
- Affixation + "saling": The use of the affix *marsi-* which is equivalent to the word "saling" in Indonesian.
Example: *marsi-* + *potuk* + *-an* = *marsiipotukan* (hitting each other)

b) Syntactic and semantic features of reciprocal verbs

- Intransitive
- Can be followed by the constituent "*samo-samo halai*" (one another)
- Demands the presence of a subject-filling noun or a human complement
- Belongs to the category of telis verbs (describing a completed action)

c) Application of Binding Theory

The binding theory can be applied to reciprocal verb constructions in the Angkola Batak language. Reciprocal verbs in this language behave as anaphors, which must be bound in the category that controls them (Yule, 2020).

Example: Anna[i] dohot Atep[j] *marsibantu-bantuan samo-samo halai*[i/j]

(Anna and Atep help each other)

The indices [i] and [j] show that the reciprocal verb "*marsibantu-bantuan*" is bound by the plural subject "*Anna dohot Atep*".

d) Comparative analysis shows the uniqueness of the Angkola Batak language in using the *marsi-/-an* confix to form reciprocal verbs, compared to other regional languages in Indonesia.

2. Discussion

These findings were achieved through systematic analysis of data collected from various sources. Morphological processes were identified through analysis of word structure and comparison with base forms. Syntactic and semantic features were discovered through analyzing the distribution of reciprocal verbs in sentences and their context of use. The application of binding theory is done by analyzing the relationship between reciprocal verbs and their arguments in sentences.

These findings show that the Angkola Batak language has a complex and structured system in the formation and use of reciprocal verbs. The morphological processes found show the productivity of this language in forming reciprocal verbs. The syntactic and semantic features found indicate that reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language have consistent and predictable behavior.

The application of binding theory to Angkola Batak reciprocal verbs shows that this theory, which was originally developed for Indo-European languages, can be applied well to Austronesian languages. This reinforces the universality of binding theory and demonstrates the structural relatedness between genetically distinct languages.

These findings expand our understanding of cross-language reciprocal verb typology. Compared to other regional languages in Indonesia, such as Javanese (Handayani, 2011) and Toba Batak (Hutapea, 2008), Angkola Batak shows uniqueness in the use of the *marsi-/-an* confix to form reciprocal verbs.

The results of this study also contribute to the study of the relationship between grammatical structure and culture. The productivity of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language may reflect the importance of the concept of reciprocity and togetherness in the culture of the Angkola Batak people. While this study did not generate any new theories, the findings suggest some modifications or extensions to existing theories: a) Expansion of Binding Theory: This study shows that binding theory can be extended to cover reciprocal verb behavior in Austronesian languages. This may require adjustments in the definition and criteria of binding to accommodate the grammatical structures of other languages. b) Revision of Reciprocal Typology: The findings on reciprocal verb formation in Batak Angkola suggest the need for a revision of the cross-language reciprocal typology proposed by Nedjalkov Nedjalkov, (2007). In particular, new categories may be needed to accommodate systems such as those found in Batak Angkola. c) Integration of Morphosyntactic and Semantic Analysis: This research shows the importance of integrating morphosyntactic and semantic analysis in the study of reciprocal verbs. This might lead to the development of a more holistic approach in the analysis of the grammatical structure of language.

CONCLUSION

1. The formation process of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language involves three main methods: affixation (prefix *mar-* and confix *marsi-/-an*), affixation + reduplication, and affixation + the word "saling" (*marsi-*). Morphological

Productivity: The Angkola Batak language shows a high level of morphological productivity in the formation of reciprocal verbs, which may reflect the importance of the concept of reciprocity in the Angkola Batak culture. This opens up opportunities for further studies on the relationship between grammatical structures and cultural values.

2. Reciprocal verbs in Angkola Batak have distinctive syntactic and semantic features, including intransitive nature, the use of the constituent "*samo-samo halai*", and the need for a human subject or complement.

3. Binding theory can be applied to reciprocal verb constructions in Angkola Batak, with reciprocal verbs behaving as anaphors bound by plural subjects. Extension of Binding Theory: The application of binding theory to Angkola Batak reciprocal verbs shows the potential for extending this theory to other languages. This may encourage the development of more inclusive theoretical models in linguistics.

4. Comparative analysis shows the uniqueness of the Angkola Batak language in the use of the *marsi/-an* confix to form reciprocal verbs, compared to other regional languages in Indonesia. this has implications for Language Preservation: An in-depth understanding of the structure of reciprocal verbs in the Angkola Batak language can contribute to the preservation and revitalization efforts of this language. This paves the way for the development of more effective and contextualized language learning materials.

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