

A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ON AFFIXES IN TOMBULU LANGUAGE

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Abstract : This study aimed to reveal affixes' form and meaning in Tombulu language tenses, especially on past, present, and future tenses. Descriptive qualitative method used with applying Arikunto's procedure of collecting data which were interview and documentation. While, in analyzing data used Miles & Huberman which consisted of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. This study showed that there were different functions of Affixes in the tenses of Tombulu language and English. The simple past tense was Infix *-im-* and *-in-*, which were placed after vocal or consonant phonemes. Simple present tense with Prefix *mah-* which was located to the beginning of the word. Simple future tense with Infix *-um-*, which was placed after vocal or consonant phonemes. Especially for the Infix *-um-* and *-im-*, if it was combined with a root word that begins with the consonant phonemes /p/ and /w/, then there was a change where the Infix *-um-* → (u)m and the infix *-im-* → nim. Affixes in Tombulu language tenses had different functions of affixes in English.

Keywords: *Affix, Tense, Tombulu, English.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the media for people to communicate/recognize each other. It has been becoming a part of human beings. As Lumendang et al., in an Analysis of Slang Geek Charming Movie (2020), said, "language is an instrument to interact with others. People have their own knowledge and perception about

language". Mawuntu et al., in their journal, *An Analysis on Code Mixing Used by Youth in Kiniar* (2020), stated, "there are many languages spread around the world, either local languages or national languages". In language, there is something that makes it unique, like universal and specific. In syntactical difference, some languages have the same basic order (SVO) and systematics tenses. In contrast, others do not have the change of tenses (such as Indonesia) or the order of sentence which is more different or complex (SOV, OVS, etc.).

Rorimpandey et al., in their journal, *Prefixes in Tontemboan Language* (2019), stated, "language is essential in human life, and therefore, it cannot be separated from men. Moreover, it seems to be a partner of human beings which has never been left from morning till evening even when someone is sleeping at night. People use it as a tool for communication. In all their activities, language is used as a medium of interaction". Furthermore, Kamagi et al., in their journal, *a Study on Verbal Phrases in Tagulandang Dialect of Sangirese* (2018), mentioned that "language has a function as a tool of communication by humans to express their thoughts, feelings, desires, and action. It constitutes a natural means of communication possessed by every human".

According to Marlina, in her journal, *Bilingualism and Bilingual Experiences: a Case of Two Southeast Asian Female Students at Deakin University* (2016), "bilingualism has become inseparable from humans' existence in the globalization era." Additionally, Baker, in his book, *Bilingualism: Definitions and Distinctions*. In *Book Foundation of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* (2011), "bilingualism is typically used to describe someone who speaks two languages. When two languages interact with each other, similarities and differences can be seen among them".

Tombulu, according to Wikipedia (accessed 2019), is an "Austronesian language of North Sulawesi. It is a Minahasan language and a sub-group of the Philippine languages. It is a local language of the Minahasa people tribe". This topic

is very interesting to be studied, yet, there are limitations in time and costs. The research only focuses on affixes. Affixes in Tombulu have many functions. Some of them have a function to form the tenses. All functions will not be discussed since this is included in the comparative analysis of two languages' tenses. Only affixes related to tenses will be described and analyzed by using contrastive analysis.

According to Jacek Fisiak, in his book *Contrastive Linguistics and the Language Teacher* (1981), he roughly defined "Contrastive Analysis (C.A.) as a sub-discipline of linguistics that deals with comparing two or more languages in order to determine both the differences and similarities that hold between them." While, Tarigan, in his book, *Pengajaran Analisis Konstrastif Bahasa* (1989), "Contrastive Analysis referred to an activity that tries to compare two languages structures to identify the differences between both languages and their similarities. C.A. is a work procedure of language activities comparing the structure of L1 and L2 or any languages and identifying their differences from the two languages". In this case, the C.A. focuses on two languages, Tombulu and English.

In *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (1980), Procter stated that "an affix is a group of letters or sounds added to a word's beginning or the end." While, in their book, *Language Files* (1980), Dawson and Phelan stated that "an affix is a bound morpheme that attaches to a stem." Stageberg, in his book, *An Introductory English Grammar* (1981), mentioned that "affixes consist of three-part, Prefix, Infix, and suffix."

Morphology

According to Nina Hyam et al., in their book, *An Introduction to Language* 9th Edition (2003), "Morphology is the study of the structure of words, the component of the grammar that includes the rules of word-formation." In his book, *Language and Linguistics* (1981), John Lyons stated that "Morphology includes inflection and derivation. It handles both inflection and derivation by means of rules

operating upon the same basic units morphemes". In addition, in her journal, *Derivational Affixes in Tontemboan Language* (2021), Rorimpandey stated that "Morphology is part of linguistics that analyzes the intricacies of the word. The process of forming words can affect changes in the form of words and the class and meaning of words. Morphology is inseparable from the name morpheme and word".

Tense

In Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1989), Cowie stated that "tense is any of the forms of a verb that may be used to indicate the time of the action or state expressed by the verb." In their book, *An Introduction to English Grammar* (2002), Greenbaum and Nelson declared that "Tenses as a grammatical category referring to the time of the situation. The form of the verb indicates the tense. The plural of tenses means a form taken by a verb to show when the action or state has occurred". In their journal, *Time Markers in Mongondow Language* (2018), Olii et al. stated that "Tenses indicate when the action happens, such as now, recently, past time, long time ago, will/going to, and so on."

Tombulu

In their journal, *The Reconstruction of Cultural Values and Local Wisdom of the Tombulu Sub-Ethnic of Minahasa Community in the Walian Village of Tomohon City* (2019), Lobja et al. stated that "Tombulu is one of the sub-ethnic groups of the Minahasa tribe who inhabit the middle area of Minahasa, namely in the Tomohon City area and Tombulu Sub-District, Minahasa Regency." Tombulu people use the Tombulu language as their mother tongue. The word Tombulu comes from: "Tou Un Wuluk". "Tou" means Person; "Un" is a pronoun, and "Wuluk" means Bamboo. Also, Sambeka et al., in their journal, *An Analysis of Regional Language Expressions in Tondanonese Community Ritual Prayers* (2018),

mentioned, "in Minahasa, there are various ethnic groups with their language: Tountemboan, Tombulu, Tonsea, Tonsawang, and Toulour group."

RESEARCH METHOD

According to Littosseliti, cited by Kumayas in her journal, Tontemboan Affixes Notes in Teaching English Tenses (2021), stated: "qualitative research is considered structure and patterns. The descriptive method is applied as a means to describe and analyze the study based on the data". There are three steps used to collect the data. The first step is preparation, in which some books are read to collect the data. The second step is listing the affixes in Tombulu and English, which will be used as data. The last step is identifying, analyzing, and describing the data. The data were taken from sentences of both Tombulu and English language tense. This study focused on three main tenses, simple past, simple present, and simple future. The data were analyzed to determine the similarities and differences of affixes in Tombulu related to English tenses.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Simple Past Tense

According to Betty Azar in her book, Understanding and Using English Grammar (1981), "simple past tense is used to talk about the past. At one particular time in the past, this happened. It began and ended in the past". The affix in this Tombulu tense, according to Danie et al.'s book, Tata Bahasa Tombulu (2000), was the Infix *-im-* and *-in-*. Infix *-im-* was used as an active sentence in the simple past tense. In contrast, Infix *-in-* was used as a passive voice in the simple past tense. Both infixes were put after the first character of a verb.

Simple Past Tense (with Infix -im-)

S + V (combined with infix -im-) + O

e.g.:	Past Tense (Active Sentence)	
	<i>Ulin limutu kan.</i>	Ulin cooked rice.
	<i>Nyaku kimedor' koko.</i>	I cut chicken.
	<i>Utu timanem tandei.</i>	Utu planted corn.

To form a sentence from this tense, the tense followed this structure.

Simple Past Tense (with Infix -in-)

S + V (combined with infix -in-) + O

e.g.:	Past Tense (Passive Voice)	
	<i>Buku tineles ni inaku.</i>	The book was bought by my mom.
	<i>Nyaku tinuzu ni tumutuzu.</i>	I was taught by the teacher.
	<i>Sera kiniit ni asu.</i>	They were cashed by a dog.

This Tombulu tense was the only one that had a passive voice. Infix **-in-** emphasized it as a passive voice.

Simple Present Tense

According to Betty Azar in her book, Understanding and Using English Grammar (1981), simple present tense is used to denote something that is fixed,

habitual, or an essential truth. Those exist now, have existed in the past, and probably will exist in the future. The affix in this Tombulu tense, according to Danie et al.'s book, Tata Bahasa Tombulu (2000), was the Prefix *mah-*. This Prefix was put after the first character of a verb.

S + V (combined with prefix *mah-*) + O

	Present Tense
	<i>Sia mahsake po'po.</i> He/she climbs a coconut tree.
e.g.:	<i>Nyaku mahkantar.</i> I sing.
	<i>Kai mahseza sapun.</i> We eat shrimps.

To form a sentence from this tense, the tense followed this structure.

	Present Continuous Tense
	<i>Sia mahsake po'po.</i> He/she is climbing a coconut tree.
e.g.:	<i>Nyaku mahkantar.</i> I am singing.
	<i>Kai mahseza sapun.</i> We are eating shrimp.

Indirectly, this form of tense could have a similar role as the present continuous tense.

S + V (prefix *mah-* was combined with suffix *-o/-mo*) + O

e.g.:	Full Present Continuous Tense	
	<i>Nyaku mahlampango.</i>	I am walking.
	<i>Nyaku mahsezamo.</i>	I am eating (fish).
	<i>Nyaku mahtepimo.</i>	I am sweeping.

However, emphasizing which one referred to present or continuous tense could be recognized using the suffix *-o/-mo* into the verb.

Simple Future Tense

According to Betty Azar in her book, *Understanding and Using English Grammar* (1981), simple future tense is used to express an action that will be done. It is often called will because the modal auxiliary verb in this sentence is will/shall. At one particular time in the future, this will happen. The affix in this Tombulu tense, according to Danie et al.'s book, *Tata Bahasa Tombulu* (2000), was the Infix *-um-*. This Infix was put after the first character of a verb.

S + V (combined with infix *-um-*) + O

e.g.:	Future Tense	
	<i>Alex tumalinga u nuwu ni kapala.</i>	Alex will hear the announcement of the village chief.
	<i>Ko sumogel kawilei.</i>	You will gouge mango.
	<i>Kai sumeza sapun.</i>	We will eat shrimp.

To form a sentence from this tense, the tense followed this structure.

Findings

The affixes on Tombulu tenses, in Danie et al.'s book, Tata Bahasa Tombulu (2000), consist of Prefix *mah-*, infix *-im-*, *-in-*, and *-um-*. Those were divided into three main tenses, such as: (a) simple past tense with Infix *-im-* and *-in-*; (b) simple present tense with Prefix *mah-*; and (c) simple future tense with Infix *-um-*.

The Form of Affixes in Tombulu and English Tenses

Affix	Tombulu Tenses			English Tenses		
	Past	Present	Future	Past	Present	Future
Prefix	-	<i>mah-</i>	-	V2 + (ed or irregular)	V1 + (es or s)	will + V1
Infix	<i>im-</i> <i>in-</i>	-	<i>-um-</i>			
Suffix	-	-	-			

Prefix *mah-*

Prefix *mah-* in Tombulu morphologically was located at the beginning of the word, whether vocal or consonant. Infix *mah-* was equal to English present tense, which was marked with simple present tense form (V1). For example:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Nyaku mahe lep lépen. | I drink palm juice. |
| (2) Johny mah ketor kapaya. | Johny cuts pawpaw. |
| (3) Kai mah ento kakaria. | We wait for a friend. |
| (4) Sia mah apus lungu. | He/she tie firewood. |
| (5) Sera mah kiar parigi. | They dig a well. |
| (6) Asu mah kara. | Dog runs. |

Infix *-im-* and *-in-*

(a) Infix *-im-*

This Infix morphologically, if the word was started with a consonant, then Infix *-im-* was placed after that consonant. While, if the word was started with vocal,

then Infix **-im-** was located in front of the word with additional phoneme /n/ as an anaptyxis, so it became **nim-**. Also, this Infix was declared as a past tense, active sentence. Infix **-im-** was equal to English past tense, active sentence, which was marked with active simple past tense form (V2). For example:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Sia timekél . | He/she slept. |
| (2) Kai kimemes u'u'les. | We washed blankets. |
| (3) Ina nimimek karai. | Mother arranged clothes. |
| (4) Sera nimelep zano. | They drank water. |

(b) Infix **-in-**

This Infix morphologically, if the word was started with a consonant, then Infix **-in-** was placed after that consonant. While, if the word was started with vocal, then infix **-in-**, which was located in front of the word with experiencing metathesis process, become **ni-**. In pronouncing, phoneme /i/ experienced a gliding [y]. Also, this Infix was declared as a past tense passive voice. Infix **-in-** was equal to English past tense passive voice, marked with passive voice in simple past tense form (to be + V2). For example:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Kawílei nyendo nera. | The mango was taken by them. |
| (2) Punti nyálei tuariku. | The banana was asked by my little (brother/sister). |
| (3) Nyaku kiniki ni peret. | I was bitten by rat. |
| (4) Sia tinawa ni kakaria. | He/she was called by a friend. |

Infix -um-

This Infix morphologically, if the word was started with a consonant, then Infix **-um-** was placed after that consonant. While, if the word was started with vocal, then Infix **-um-**, which was located in front of the word, experienced phoneme dissipation with /u/. Also, if the word were started with the phoneme /p/ and /w/, then both would experience phoneme dissipation together with the

phoneme /u/ from Infix *-um-*. Infix *-um-* was equal to English future tense marked with simple future tense form (will + V1). For example:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Ulin íum utu kan. | Ulin will cook rice. |
| (2) Kai kum antar. | We will sing. |
| (3) Utu m endo tandei. | Utu will take the corn. |
| (4) Arie ma léi sapun. | Arie will ask for shrimp. |
| (5) Sia moh poh po'po'. | He/she will split the coconut. |
| (6) Sera ma ras uma. | They will cut the field. |
| (7) Ko ma ngker sende'en. | You will sell vegetables. |
| (8) Sia me rit watu. | He/she will throw a stone. |

Discussion

Based on data analysis, the Tombulu tenses consisted of Prefix *mah-*, Infix *-im-*, *-in-*, and *-um-*. These four affixes were included as productive affixes in using the Tombulu language. Infix *-im-* and *-in-* stated as simple past tense. It shows action or situation which has been done or finished at the time of the conversation. Prefix *mah-* stated as simple present tense. It shows action or situation which goes on at the time of the conversation. Infix *-um-* was stated as simple future tense. It shows an action or situation which is about to happen at the time of the conversation.

The affixes, which were used for Tombulu tenses, had different functions to affixes in English. In determining the tenses of the Tombulu language, the verb got affixes according to the rules. Meanwhile, English tenses were determined by paying attention to the form of sentence patterns based on their grammar.

Affixes in Tombulu tenses had their specificity, especially the three infixes. In his thesis entitled, *Implikasi Infiksasi Bahasa Tombulu dalam Pengajaran Bahasa Daerah* (1982), Senduk mentioned that "these three kinds of Tombulu language tenses infixes had similar morphological processes that showed morphophonemic

processes because certain phonemes appeared as a result of phonological processes due to morphological processes." Therefore, this process in the Tombulu language was not available in English.

If Infix *-im-* were attached to a word that began with a consonant phoneme, then it would be changed into *nim* (e.g., *élep*→*nimelep*, *imek*→*nimimek*). If Infix *-in-* were attached to a word that began with a consonant phoneme, it would be changed into *ny* (e.g., *endo*→*nyendo*, *álei*→*nyálei*). If Infix *-um-* were attached to a word that began with a consonant phoneme, then it would be changed into *(u)m* (e.g., *endo*→*mendo*, *pohpoh*→*mohpoh*).

CONCLUSION

Tombulu language as one of the local languages in North Sulawesi, spread in Tomohon, Minahasa, Tombariri, Pineleng. Paralinguistic elements distinguished the area of using the Tombulu language. What was more prominent was the suprasegmental elements, especially pronunciation and intonation.

Tombulu language affixes consisted of four kinds in three different tenses, namely (a) simple past tense with Infix *-im-* and *-in-*; (b) simple present tense with Prefix *mah-*; and (c) simple future tense with Infix *-um-*. These affixes, especially the three kinds of Tombulu language tenses infixes, showed morphophonemic processes because certain phonemes appeared as a result of phonological processes due to morphological processes. The three infixes had similar morphological processes.

Tombulu language affixes had their specificity. In reality, if these three infixes were attached to a word that began with a consonant phoneme, a change would occur. Infix *-um-* → *(u)m*, infix *-im-* → *nim*, and infix *-in-* → *ny*. Furthermore, the three Tombulu language tenses infixes would be placed after the initial phoneme if the root word began with a consonant phoneme.

Especially for the Infix *-um-* and *-im-*, if it was combined with a root word that begins with the consonant phonemes /p/ and /w/, then there was a change where the Infix *-um-* → (u)m and the infix *-im-* → nim. Affixes in Tombulu language tenses had different functions of affixes in English.

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