

Prefix *-ba* in Minangkabaunese: from which the study should start¹

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Abstract – The four layers of human language – form, meaning, function, and value – are systematically integrated in order to play the communicative functions of human interaction. It is not an easy job to explore and to explain the nature of human language as the four layers are systematically integrated in complex ways. Thus, the linguistic studies should be held in specific domains and topics by means of appropriate theoretical bases and frameworks.

This paper, which is mainly inspired by the grammatical-typological analysis on prefix *ba-* in Minangkabaunese, particularly discusses how the language features are linguistically analyzed in order to come to logic, valid, reliable findings and conclusion. The discussion presented in this paper aims at proposing logical and reasonable ways of doing linguistic analyses on available data of language. In short, this paper deals with how to begin and to do linguistic analyses toward a group of language data collected. In this paper, the prefix *ba-* of Minangkabaunese is used as the example of case. The discussion presented in this paper respectively answers two main questions; (i) What should be firstly analyzed dealing with the prefix *ba-* of Minangkabaunese?; and (ii) How are the linguistic analyses toward the prefix *ba-* of Minangkabaunese logically continued?

Keywords: prefix *ba-*, Minangkabaunese, linguistic analysis, nature of language, ordering works

1. Introduction

The development of linguistics, the branch of science that studies the linguistic matters, goes hand in hand with language development and human attention to the language. It may be that most people do not really care about the language and the phenomena that are in and around it, but the observers and language scientists are even "fascinated" with the natural language that is so interesting and challenging to be

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studied scientifically. Observers, scientists, and language learners are the ones who study one of human privileges. Allan (in Allan (ed.), 2016) and other experts (see eg Sudaryanto, 1985, 2015; Wray et al., 1998; Mahsun, 2005; Sharma and Podesva (in Podesva and Sharma (ed.), 2013) all languages and all kinds of languages and their attitudes attached to them are the main sources of linguistic studies and research data. The relationships and relationships between elements, structures, and other units that make up the language are fertile ground and the source of linguistic research problems that still require "Touch" of scientific scientists and observers of language.

Among the important notions of language is that language has four layers, namely forms, meanings, functions, and values, which are systematically and intricately interconnected. The layers of the human language form are verbal expressions in the form of sound (speech, intonation, tone pressure), words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in the form described as the language grammar. Layers of meaning (linguistic and contextual meanings), functions (as a means of communication, and values (the content of socio-cultural, psychological, etc.) are abstract layers attached to a certain form of language (see Finegan, 2004; Payne, 2006; Fromkin et al., 2011).

Some language scientists and researchers have concentrated their attention and study on one or more languages. Of the four layers of language, from which language studies of language must begin? This paper, inspired by the implementation and some of the results of research conducted from 2016 to 2017, discusses and conveys ideas from which a reasonable linguistic study begins by making a prefix study of Minangkabau (subsequently BM) as case examples. The discussion presented in this paper is based on two questions, namely:

- (i) Subject what should be reviewed first in relation to BM's prefix; and
- (ii) How is the linguistic analysis of the BM prefix going on logically?

This discussion of two key questions has significance as a contribution to the idea of where and how the linguistic study of the features and phenomena of language should be conducted. The presentations and ideas in this paper, at least, can be used as part of the research and analysis of acceptable data.

2. Method

The analysis and discussion of the data presented in this paper is part of a series of studies of grammatical typology on BM associated with the speakers' language culture (Jufrizal et al., 2013/2014; and Jufrizal et al., 2016/2017). Accordingly, the methods and techniques of research implementation that underlie the writing of this paper are descriptive-qualitative research methods implemented in the form of linguistic-field research and literature study. The data discussed in this paper is about the BM matrix prefix and how its linguistic study should begin and be done. The foundations of data analysis theory are grammatical typology-theory and related linguistic research theory. Data sources are native speakers of BM (informants and research respondents) and various sources of writing containing Minangkabau manuscripts. Data collection was done through observation, in-depth interviews with informants, questionnaires to respondents, and literature study. The results of data

analysis and discussion are presented in the form of descriptive-argumentative writing.

2.1 Research design

Limitations on languages that are completely complete and accommodate all language-behavioral traits are difficult to formulate because human language is manifested from a mixture of various elements and symptoms that touch each other in a complicated way to function as a means of communication. The definition of language is generally formulated based on a particular point of view and purpose. According to Bonvillain (1997: 6), for example, language is a communication system consisting of integrated units of form through a joint process. The elements of sounds, structures, and meanings are clearly related and expressed simultaneously, but they can be separated for analysis purposes. This definition has not yet clearly touched the language value layer which is also carried over in communication events. To meet the idea that language has four layers - form, meaning, function, and value - (see Finegan, 2004; Payne, 2006; Fromkin et al., 2011; Allan in Allan (ed.), 2016), language can be defined as a tool and a communication system consisting of integrated units of form through a process of incorporation containing communicative meanings and the socio-cultural value of the speaker's community.

Modern linguistics coincides with the anthropology, psychology, and sociology that began in the late nineteenth century. In the mid-20th century to the present, linguistics continues to grow rapidly. The acceptance of linguistics as one of the fields of science is supported by the fulfillment of elements of scientific research methods and empirical evidence in its research and / or assessment of its data (see Dixon, 2010; Allan in Allan (ed.), 2016). Based on recent developments, linguistics is defined as a branch of science that studies the human ability to produce and interpret language in speaking, writing, and marking (for the deaf). Language scientists and researchers have the primary task of studying and describing the structure and composition of language and / or languages through meticulous methods and careful study (Allan in Allan (ed.), 2016: 1).

The quality of the linguistic data review results, scientifically, is determined by the acceptability of the research method used and the carefulness of the data review. Therefore, Dixon (2010) asserts that the linguistic research methodology must meet the terms and conditions of the performance of scientific methods as commonly used in natural sciences such as geology, physics, biology, and chemistry with some adjustments related to the existence of language as a socio-cultural phenomenon. The adjustment in question is the treatment of information and language data more dynamic and diverse when compared with information and data of natural sciences. But keep in mind that a researcher should still play a role as a researcher who "wins" the data (see also Sudaryanto, 1985; Allan in Allan (ed.), 2016; Sudaryanto, 2015).

In the linguistic study, the object of the study is the natural human language along with the various linguistic and linguistic features that accompany it. That language consists of layers of form, meaning, function and value should be "grip" with each researcher. The form layer is a place or outward construction in which the meanings, functions, and values of language are embedded. The form and construction of human language is not random or *manasuka*; they have a regularity that is conventionally followed by the language user in question. The rules and the

solubility of the language, both the order and the usage, can be explained by rules that form the grammar of a language (Finegan, 2004, Payne, 2006). It is, therefore, reasonable to argue that grammatical study is the basis of the study of the philosophy because grammar is the essence of every language (Dixon, 2010: 1). The results of linguistic studies are the points of information and ideas that shape the birth and enrich the linguistic theories to be able to explain the nature of human language.

If the study adopted a quantitative method, mention what statistic was used to analyze the data, preferably with the reasoning behind using such statistic. Any coding involved in the data analysis process should also clearly be described. The method section of the article should not exceed 30% of the total length of the entire article.

3. Results and Discussion

All languages, variations, and their relation to other phenomena outside the language that contributes to "something" to the language are language data in linguistic research. In other words, everything about the language that is possible and can be researched is the material (so) of research to find something about the language. According to Finegan (2004: 8), there are three layers of language which he calls the expression (meaning), meaning (meaning), and context (context). The outer layer, pronunciation, is the surface layer and the first one can be observed directly. This layer includes words, phrases, sentences, and pronunciations involving sound elements such as phonemes, intonations, and pitches. Meaning refers to the taste and reference of the expression layer. Context is the language layer that refers to the social atmosphere in which it is uttered and also includes what is called earlier in the situation. This layer also includes shared knowledge shared by speakers and listeners. Finegan (2004) asserts that the linking of grammar with interpretation is contextual.

When associated with the psychological and socio-cultural elements of language users, there is one more layer that needs to be put forward, namely value (value). The layers of context and value are already implied in the three language layers as proposed by Finegan (2004), but have not been explicitly stated. The last two layers, in fact, are linguistic-macro layers that cross the boundary of form / structure and the basic meaning of language. The psychological and sociocultural study of the language provides information on the extension of meaning and function of the language that can be called the value layer (see Bonvillain, 1997; Fromkin et al., 2011). Based on this idea, it is reasonable to argue that there are four layers of human language, namely form, meaning, function, and value.

The very wide and complex nature of human language to study makes language research impossible to do in a wide range. In other words, a linguistic study in one (period) time of implementation must have clear boundaries and scope. In addition to the ease of conducting the research, specific limits made by the researcher also to obtain the depth, accuracy, and acceptance of the results of his study. Therefore, it is no exaggeration to argue that the subject matter or foundation of the study is fragments of the four existing language layers. The direction and model of his

research may also be coupled by micro-linguistic and / or linguistic-macro theories; may be in one language or between languages.

(1). Subject to Minangkabau Prefix

The BM matrix has a broad and distinctive grammatical and semantic behavior. This prefix can correct the intransitive clause of BM, as in the following examples:

(1) a. *Kambiang ba- lari kaliliang parak.*

goat PRE-runs around garden

'The goat runs around the garden'

b. *Amak alah ba- baliak dari ladang.*

Mother has PRE-comes from farm

'Ibu telah kembali dari ladang'

c. *Anak nagari ba- tagak pangulu.*

Nagari man PRE-tegak village leader

'Nagari man inaugurated the vilage leader'

The clause (1a, b) is an intransitive clause; in this clause there is only one core argument, namely FN *kambiang*, *amak* that functions grammatically as subject. In (1b) the *tagak* verbs that have the marker are also intransitive predicates, with the grammatical subject of the FN of the *nagari*. However, the FN *pangulu* is not an object argument but an oblique argument whose presence is mandatory. Aside from being a marker of the intransitive clause, the prefix becomes the marker to produce resultative clauses (tolls) in BM. The following are examples.

(2) a. *Pisang - tu ba- tabang.*

banana thatRES cut down

'The banana I cut down'

b. *Rumah baru - tu ba- jua.*

house new theRES sold

'The new house is sold'

c. *Karateh usang ba- timbang.*

paper scrypt RES wighed

'Paper scrypt weighed'

d. *Dindiang balakang ba- putih-an.*

wall back RES whitened

'The back wall is whitened'

In addition, one type of passive BM clause also advocated a *ba-* prefix. The following are examples.

(3) a. *Surek jau- bali ba- tulih (dek notaris).*

letter sale- purchase PAS-write (by notary)

'The sale and purchase letter is written (by notary)'

b. *Rumah runtuh ba- bangun baliak (dek pamarentah).*

Broken house PAS-build again (by government)

The broken house is built again (by government)'

Based on the above data, it turns out that the BM dye prefix is actually more than one. To distinguish it, each of the prefixes is marked as *ba1-*, *ba2-*, and *ba3-*. In this case, *ba1-* is the interpretive of the intransitive clause; *ba2-* is a marker of one kind of passive; and *ba3-* is the resultative clause marker. Next let's also look at the following prefixed clauses *ba* clauses.

(4) *Surek jua-bali ba- tulih.*

Letter sale-purchase PRE write

'The sale -purchase letter is written'

(5) *Rumah runtuh ba- bangun baliak.*

House broken PRE-built again'

'The broken house is built again'

(6) *Garobak ba- tundo lambek-lambek.*

cart PRE push slowly

'The cart is pushed slowly'

The clause as in (4) - (6) is the construction of an ergative clause in BM. The BM clause data presented above shows that grammatically and semantically the verbal prefixes of BM have a grammatical role-semantic and linguistic functions are numerous. The prefix is a marker in the intransitive, resultative, passive, and one other class clause which is semantically an ergative clause. In addition to the foregoing, the BM partial prefix exists in the fourth type, which is *ba* as an ergative clause marker.

(2). The Formation and Statistics of Minangkabau Prefixes

A brief exposure to the above BM matrix prefixes provides data and information of the preferences with respect to the formation that the lingual unit consists of two phonemes, / b / and / a /, whose interchanges form a higher lingual unit that is a morpheme. This morphem is always attached to other lingual units in the form of a basic word. In the above data, the lingual unit as the basic form / word where it is attached is running, baliak, tagak, tabang, jua, weigh, putiah, tulih, wake up, and tundo. Grammatically-semantic further analysis of the lingual unit of ba-, as has already been mentioned in the brief description above, proves that ba- is a verbal prefix in BM.

As a verbal prefix, lingual units have grammatical behaviors and semantic roles that have a linguistic impact on the grammar and the language of this region. This is common in languages that are morphologically agglutinative. The language data and the results of the study of the prefix are not only morphologically involved, but also with the grammatical-semantic process. Grammatical processes that give birth to intransitive, passive, resultative, and ergative clauses involve the involvement of the prefix. In the grammatical process, the prefix ba- has a semantic mood that varies depending on the accompanying grammatical process. That is why, the lingual unit ba- is actually an outward form for four different identities. To facilitate its linguistic marking, ba1-, ba2-, ba3-, and ba4- notations with grammatical-semantic functions and roles are mentioned in the above section.

(3). Communicative Functions and Values Minangkabau Prefixes

The linguistic study of the prefix based on the framework of micro-linguistic theory (grammatical-semantic) is the study of two layers of language, namely form and meaning. To further reveal the essence of the language of the prefix - a further study of the function and value layers can be performed. The lingual unit of ba-, as a bonded morpheme (prefix), is not just present without the charge of communicative functions and the value of language. The function layer is a language layer that contains communicative meaning that is influenced by various contexts that are gayut with language usage. Pragmatic-discourse analysis is a means of study to reveal the layers of communicative functions of the prefix (see Bonvillain 1997, Finegan, 2004, Huang in Allan (ed.), 2016, Skrip in Sharifian (ed.), 2015).

Functionally, the BM brick prefix brings a contextual-communicative meaning that does not feature the grammatical subject of the agent; the nuance of its functional meaning is not so important as to who does what (in the clause's construction). In other words, the projection of the agent subject becomes lower, but its modesty does not make the subject grammatical as a patient. This differs from the contextual-communicative meaning packaged by the construction of verb clauses with the active marker, which accentuates the role of grammatical subjects as agents, or di- or ta- (passives) that make the grammatical subject have a grammatical role as a patient (Jufriзал et al., 2013/2014; Jufriзал et al., 2015).

A more abstract and touching language-mentalist layer of the individual and / or group of people is the value layer. This layer has a close relationship with the meaning of contextual-communicative. The value of the language brought about by

verbal constructions of marriage has a high courtly value. This, socio-cultural and psychiatric general BM speakers, is caused by the low projection of the subject as an agent of action but not to place it as a patient. Minangkabau cultures that are indirect and tend to choose metaphorical expressions make clause marked by *blah* selected for the expression of polite (Jufrizal et al., 2013/2014; Jufrizal et al., 2015). Language is a part of the psyche and mood of its speakers, including part of the socio-cultural features in which it is spoken (see Leavitt in Sharifian (ed.), 2015; Brown in Sharifian (ed.), 2015).

(4). The Order of Language Studies on Minangkabau Prefixes

In line with the above explanations and explanations, linguistic studies of the BM matrix prefix require appropriate theoretical and operational-methodological notions. Of the four layers of language, the shape layer is a visible form of language and through which man begins an understanding of the meaning, function, and value of the message communicated. If the first "ladder" to be able to understand and use language is a form layer, then language analysis for human language must start from the form layer; linguistic study must stand on its (external) form of layer.

As for the prefix, for example in the case of this paper, the sequence of logical linguistic analysis begins with the analysis of formation. The undefined and grammatically limited study of the formation of prefixes complicates the analysis of the meaning, let alone to the disclosure of its functional layers and linguistic values. To be able to explain that the matrix of BM is a prefix with varying grammatical-semantic loads, of course, is based on the form of the lingual one. It is important to emphasize that linguistics is the study of the language, not the direct analysis of the meanings, functions, and values of language.

The second sequence in linguistic analysis is preferably the meaning (linguistic) that lies in the layers of meaning. Of the several sub-layers of meaning present in the language, an analysis of grammatical meanings of internal meanings of language should be done first. The analysis of the external meanings of the linguistic form may be performed as an accompaniment to the analysis of internal meanings (Newmeyer, 2000; Payne, 2006). The analysis of the internal (grammatical-denotative) and external (connotative) meanings packaged by lingual units (forms of language) becomes the basis for the analysis of functions and values that require macro-linguistic theory. An analysis of the BM matrix prefix is done in this order.

The next sequence of analysis is the analysis of the function layer followed by the value layer. For some cases, language function and language values may be analyzed simultaneously. But for the sharpness of the analysis and the validity of the results, the analysis of the good function precedes the value analysis. In this paper, the analysis of the function layer (pragmatic-communicative) prefixes precedes the analysis of values. Another thing to note is whether the analysis of functions and linguistic values are performed simultaneously or sequentially determined by the emphasis. If the study is focused on the communicative functions of the particular lingual unit examined, then the functional analysis takes precedence. Analysis of

functions and values can be done simultaneously or alternating if the preferred is the relationship of both.

4. Conclusion

Linguistic studies or linguistic analysis requires an understanding of linguistic concepts and / or theory relating to the linguistic phenomena studied. In addition, logical and open thinking in conducting research and data analysis also determine the quality of findings and research conclusions. Taking the case of a BM-prefix, this paper attempts to convey the idea of how data analysis in linguistic research should be conducted; from which "eloquent" linguistic data analysis begins. Of the four layers that make up the human language, a language researcher must conduct a logical and sequential data assessment so that the results of the analysis obtained are of good quality and value. Based on theoretical studies and experiments as researchers, the sequence of linguistic data analysis should start from the form layer, i.e. the outer structure of the language that is the earliest element of language to be noticed in the language event. Furthermore, analysis may be continued on the meaning layer, followed by function and language values. It is reasonable to say that a researcher makes one of the four layers of language as his focus, but language data analysis should not be "off" from the outer language form or structure under study. After that, then followed by an analysis of the layers of meaning, function, and value of language which in the event of verbal communication is packed in the form of language.

In this regard, it is advisable to researchers and language reviewers to begin the study of data from the form, the outer structure of a language. The sequence of data analysis suggested in this paper is intended to keep the scientific work of linguistics not into the study of communication science or semiotics which is more concerned with the function and value of the signs used in communication events. That language is the most important means of communication and also a use of sign in human life is no longer questionable. However, the meanings, functions, and values to be studied in linguistics are linguistic signs (linguistic signs) whose beings are known to form layers of a language.

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