Affect Verb in Muna Language: Semantic and Syntactic Approach

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Abstract: Language is one of the fundamental devices of communication which cannot be separated in the whole of human activity. In study concerning a language (linguistics), the main point is the grammar and semantics. Regarding with the two terms, then a new semantics approach to English grammar has been proposed by Dixon [1]. However, the question arise whether the theory can be applied in others language in the context of culture. Thus, the aim of this study is to revisit the universality of Dixon's theoretical framework in one of local language (Muna language). This present study is focused on the verb. The data of this research focused on Muna language and were obtained from field research through process of observation and in-depth interview. Then, it analyzed with descriptive and qualitative analysis. The result of this research indicated that cultural background plays important role in determining the variants of the verbs. The data showed that there are there are twenty two Affect verbs in Muna language. Grammatically, Muna language has more extra construction than English. It indicates that the Dixon's theoretical framework do not cover such the extra construction in Muna language.

Introduction

Basically, the whole of human activity is very closely linked to the language since it becomes a fundamental device of communication which can not be separated in life. Language is the medium that people use to shape and express their thought. It may consist of a series of words, figures, or signs that arranged by the speaker and received by the hearer. In addition, language is not only used in communication between citizens, but also as a symbol of social civilization and the cultural community [2]. Furthermore, Susanto noted that every language has its uniqueness [3]. One of scientific study that delves the language and its uniqueness named Linguistics.

The study of language is implemented in the field of Linguistics. Lyons proposed that linguistics is usually defined as a science of language. In other words, a study of language used by human is linguistics. The development of linguistics itself is very rapidly along with the advance and civilization of the world community. Furthermore, studies on the language do not only covers one aspect but also has extended to fields or aspects outside the language associate with the employing of language in human existence [4].

In terms of branches of linguistics, there are syntax and semantics are intertwined and cannot be separated . Rowe and Levine stated that the level of grammar that specially refers to the arrangement of words and morphemes or the lexicon in the construction of structures such as phrase, clause, and sentence can be defined as syntax [5]. Meanwhile, Griffiths defined semantics as the study of word meaning and sentence meaning [6]. Thus, it can be inferred that structure plays important role in determining the meaning of word and sentence, and also meaning is an essential aspect in constructing a sentence.

Additionally, in concern with the importance of grammar and semantics, it is attracted some scholars to develop some approaches in learning and comprehending a language. R.M.W Dixon as one of the scholars who developed one approaches that takes meanings of words as its base to derive grammatical behaviors of the words, then it becomes well formed word combination. In other words, he constructed a new approach in describing the aspect of language by seeing grammar from a semantics point of view [7]

The important point in identifying the grammatical construction of a clause or sentence is its verb since it is one of the word classes that become the most central part of a clause or a sentence. Dixon divided types of verbs in English into two; the primary and secondary one. Affect verbs becomes one of part of primary verbs. The verbs commonly involve three basic semantic roles, *Agent, Manip* ,and *Target*. It is also a large type involves hundreds of verb and also divided into eight subtypes namely *touch, hit, stab, rub, wrap, stretch,*

build, and *break* subtype . The *build* subtype refers to manufacture and cooking. It also has different semantics roles from others Affect subtype; an *Agent* manipulating *Manip* so as to create something which is called the *Product* role. Moreover, *build* subtype consists of two construction; construction IV is mapped onto *Agent, Manip,* and *Product,* while the second construction or called as construction VII is mapped onto *Agent*, *Product,* and *Manip.* To be more specific, English has several Affect verbs of *build* subtype; *build, knit, tie, make, weave, sew, shape, form, stir, mix, knead, fry, bake,* and *cook* verb[8].

Based on the Dixon's theoretical framework above, it arouse a question: is the theory can be applied in others language in the context of culture?. Thus, this paper investigates the universality of Dixon's theoretical framework in English and one of local language (Muna language). Some scholars have been conducted about Muna language, however, the studies do not investigate in the Affect verb of Build Subtype using Dixon's theory.

Muna language is an Austronesian language which becomes one of languages which utter in Muna Regency, South East of Sulawesi. Berg explained that Muna dialect situation allows the following estimates of population figures (1) Standard Muna 150,000 (2) Tiworo dialect 10,000 (3) Southern dialects: a) Siompu 7,000, b) Gumas dialects 60,000. This study will concern in Sourthen dialect of Muna language [9].

As the result, this paper provides the knowledge about semantic types of verb especially the Affect verbs in Muna language. Besides, this study is slated for apply and develop the theory of semantic types of verb formulated by Dixon. Then, it is expected to give a better comprehending to readers about the connection of Semantics and grammar as a pure linguistics. Furthermore, this study can be used as a reference for a researcher who will conduct research relevant to this study.

Gap of the Study

This research intends to carry out a study of *build* verb subtype in Muna languange. The reason for conducting the study is based on the researcher preliminary study that there are some gaps which refer to the differences and equivalences between the two languages. For instance, the construction of *build* verb subtype, e.g *sew* verb is not limited only in construction VI and VII.

Besides, semantically the equivalence of *cook* verb in English has three verbs in Muna language. Those are *toofi* which means to cook rice or carbohydrate food such as cassava, corn, etc,

fongkoha which means to cook some dishes such as fish and meat, and *da'da* which means to cook any vegetables. There are specific items or NP must be followed after those verbs. However, English do not cover it since it has only *cook* verb which means to cook everything. The construction of verb *cook* is also more varied with the addition of a variation of construction VI which is not covered by Dixon.

For instance, in English, when someone cooks the vegetable, it is *I cook the vegetable.* While in Muna language it becomes *ae-*(1Sg) *dada palola* (cook eggplant), where prefix *ae-* becomes pronoun*, dada* as the verb of the sentence, and *palola* as the noun phrase. There is no specifying product because the verb itself has specified it in its meaning. Moreover, in Muna language, the verb of *dada* can be forming a variation of construction VI such ae-(1sg) *da'da palola* (cook eggplant) inodia (1Sg), which prefix *ae-* as an *Agent, da'da palola* refers to the *Manip,* and *Inodia* as more an additional *Agent.*

Beside some gaps that found in the preliminary research, the researcher intends to conduct this research in order to know the universality of Dixon's theory in local language particularly in Muna language. This research is intended to find out whether the Dixon's theory covered in Muna language or not.

Objective of the Study

To identify the Affect verbs in Muna language based on the *build* subtype divided by Dixon.

Method

The researcher used descriptive qualitative method in conducting this research.

Source of Data

The data of this research focused in Muna language gained from observation by recording and note taking and also in depth interview with people using Muna language

Data Analysis

The researcher used some techniques of analyzing data as follows:
1. The collected data transcribed.
   The data from Muna language which gained from observation and in-depth interview transcribed.
2. The transcribed data reduced
   Muna language data which are collected reduced by selecting data which could representative others.
3. The reduced data presented

The data based on Build subtype which divided by Dixon presented. Presentation of example of each Affect verb was in the form of clause.

4. The data then analyzed
    The presented data analyzed using Dixon's semantic principles. The meaning of Muna language of Affect verbs concluded based on the information gained.

5. Make some conclusions
    After doing the analysis, in the last paragraph the researcher made some conclusions which could reflect the main points of the analysis.

Result and Discussion

Table 1. Affect verb of build subtype in English and Muna Language

English	Muna language
1. build	1. foni
	2. foehe
	3 fowanu
2. knit	-
3. tie	4. obho
4. make	5. habu
5. weave	6. kini
6. sew	7. sapu
	8. tampoli
7. shape	9. modele
8. form	10. fekangkonu,
9. stir	11. gehu
10 mix	12. campuru
	13. dhalo
11. knead	14. kuso
12. fry	15. hole
	16 sanggara
13. bake	17. cunu
	18. kancunu
14. cook	19. toofi
	20.fongkoha
	21. parende
	22. dada

From the table above, it can be seen that there are fourteen Affect verb of build subtype in English, while in Muna language there are twenty two Affect verb of build subtype. The interesting point here, for instance, semantically the equivalence of *sew* verb in Muna language are *sapu dan tampoli*. The different is on the tool that is used and the way to make stitches in cloth. *Sapu* usually uses machine while *tampoli* uses a needle and thread in traditional way in making the stitches in the cloth. The most salient verb is *cook* verb in English 'to prepare food by heating it for example by boiling, baking or frying it'. There are four verbs in Muna language that has similar meaning to this verb; *toofi, fongkoha,*

parende, and *dada.* The different thing of all of the verbs is on the object that cooked; *Toofi* refers to 'to cook yams, rice, and fruits'; *Fongkoha* refers to' to cook side dish such as fish, chicken, meat, etc; *Parende* refers to 'to cook quickly such fish, chicken, vegetable not using any flavorings; and *Dada* refers to 'to cook vegetable in water'. The verb *parende* and *dada* is derived from nounIt in. Such these case do not occur English. It indicates that cultural background plays important role in determining the variants of the verbs.

Concerning he grammatical structure of Muna language, some verbs that applied in the construction VI are *kini, sapu, modele* and *kuso,* The semantic roles that involve in the syntactic relations are **Agent + Manip + Product.** The example can be seen as follow:

Muna Language:
Mama La Elen ne (**Agent**) *-kuso tarigu bhe untelino* (**Manip**) *nembali roti* (**Product**)

*Mama La Elen ne- **kuso** tarigu*
Mother Mas Elen 3sg knead wheat
bhe untelino nembali roti
and egg Prep bread

'Elen's mother knead the wheat flour and the egg into bread'

Meanwhile, *,foni, foehe, fowanu, habu, kini, sapu, tampoli, modele, dhalo* are verbs that also applied in construction VII. The example as follows:

Muna Language
Amaku ne- (**Agent**) *modele kuhusi* (**Product**) *nomai we sau* (**Manip**)

Ama -ku ne- modele kuhusi nomai we sau
Father Poss 3sg shape chair Prep Prep wood

'My father shaped the chair from wood'

In terms of applying Agent and other semantic role, in Muna language, the Agent can be filled by two Agent; the first is Pronoun that refers to Proper noun and the Prefix that attached to the VP. Most of the VP in Muna language consists of prefix which reflects the subject pronoun of the clause. They are *a-, ae-, ne-, no-, do-* as as the prefix and *–e* as the suffix. Prefix *a-* and *ao-* reflects to the first singular pronoun; prefix *ne-* and *no-* reflects to the third person singular pronoun.; and prefix *do-* reflects to third plural pronoun. Meanwhile, the suffix *–e* is as the particle.

Not only in the verb of the clause, suffix –*ku* and -*no* also found in the NP (object) which reflects possession.. It can be shown in the sentence below:

Bapa   La   Elen **no**- *fowanu* *lambu*   **-no**
Father Mas Elen **3sg** build   house   **Poss**
                               PREF   SUFF
bhe bata amaicu
with bricks Dem

Ae- **tampoli** *sala* **-ku**   *bhe   kae sigaono*
1sg sew   pants **Poss** with NP another
PREF   SUFF

Regarding with the Affect verb of Build subtype, the most salient finding based on the data is there are some extra construction occurs in Muna language and do not occur in English. Since in Muna language also the Peripheral is permissible to come in the Initial position in syntactic role, the verbs construct various semantic roles as well as the extra constructions. The semantic role that formed in each construction are; extra construction Ib is **Agent(Pref)+ Target+ Agent (Proper)**, extra construction Ib is **Manip+ Agent (Pref)+ Target+ Agent (Proper),** extra construction VIa is **Agent (Pref)+ MAnip+ Agent (Proper),** extra construction VIIa is **Agent (Proper)+ MAnip+ Agent (Pref)+ Product,** extra construction VIIb is **Agent(Pref)+ Product+ Agent (Proper)+ Manip,** extra construction VIIc is **Agent (Pref)+ Product+ Manip+ Agent,** extra construction VIId is **Manip+ Agent (Pref)+ Agent (Pro)**, extra construction VIIe is **[Product+ Agent(Pref)]+ Manip,** extra construction VIIf is **Manip+ [Product+ Agent(Pro)],** extra construction VIIg is **Manip+ Agent(Pref)+ Product**, extra construction VIIh is **[Product+ Agent(Pref)]+ Agent(Pro)+ Manip,** extra construction VIIi is **Manip+ [Product+ Agent(Pref)]+ Agent,** and extra construction VIIj is **[Product+ Agent(Pref)+ Manip+ Agent.** The example can be seen as follow:

Muna language
Bhe   golano (**Manip**) *Mama La Uzan* (**Agent**) *ne***dhalo** *wadhe* (**Product**)

Bhe golano (**Manip**) *ne*- (Agent) ***dhalo* *wadhe***(**Product**) *Mama La Uzan* (**Agent**)

Bhe   golano Mama La   Uzan ne- ***dhalo***
With   sugar   Mother Mas Uzan 3sg mix
wadhe
wajik

'With brown sugar, Uzan's mother mixed wajik'

Some of verbs in Muna language are applied in those extra constructions. Based on the main

differences, it can be inferred that Dixon's theory can't cover such extra construction in Muna language

Based on the findings, it can be inferred that semantics and syntax have to be considered in comprehending a language. In other words, in determining the meaning of a language, it also must consider the syntax, vice versa. Frense and Bennet also proposed that there is a relation between syntax and semantics concerning the extent to which a word's syntactic behavior follows form its meaning. In addition, there are links between syntax and semantic in lexical items, however specifying the nature of these links is by no means straightforward [10].

Conclusion

As has been mentioned before, language is one of the fundamental devices of communication which cannot be separated in the whole of human activity. In study concerning a language (linguistics), the main point is the grammar and semantics. Then, one of an expert (Dixon) developed a new semantics approach to study grammar. However, the question arise whether the theory can be applied in others language in the context of culture. Based on the finding of this study, it can be concluded that cultural background plays important role in determining the variants of the verbs. The data showed that there are twenty two Affect verb of Build subtype. Grammatically, Muna language has more extra construction than English. It indicates that the Dixon's theoretical framework do not cover such the extra construction in Muna language.

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