



Phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ on the Syllable Pattern of 'kv' of South Nias Language: A Western Malayo-Polynesian Group of Austronesian Language

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Abstract. No one has investigated the syllable pattern of the Nias language. Thus, this study was designed to examine and describe the syllable pattern of KV in which there are consonant phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ in the South Nias language. The approach used to design this research is qualitative. The data collection method applied is the interview method with face-to-face techniques and recording and note-taking techniques. The data were analyzed using the distributional method. The novelty of this research, namely the syllable pattern of KV in which there are the phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ of the South Nias language found in the syllables of mba, mbe, mbö, mbo, mbu, mbi, kha, kho, khö, khu, and khi.

Keywords: South Nias Language · Syllables · KV Syllable patterns

1 Introduction

Vernacular are languages that are linguistically very interesting to study and discuss. Most of the linguistic phenomena are revealed from the vernacular. The uniqueness of languages, especially vernacular, has also been shown and is still being studied. Nevertheless, the study of vernacular never ends because there are so many aspects of the language that can still be studied and preserved.

Nias language is one of several vernaculars in North Sumatra. In simple terms, the Nias language is the vernacular used in Nias. Nias language is the language used by the people of Nias, of which there were 410,830 speakers in 1976 [1]. However, not so many speakers of the Nias language increased in 2001, around 700,000 people [2].

A syllable is a sound sequence unit which is characterized by one loudest sound unit, which may or may not be accompanied by other sounds, in front of it, behind it, or simultaneously in front and behind it [3]. In addition, syllables which are also commonly called syllables are the smallest rhythmic units in a speech stream or speech sound [4].

Syllable is a sequence unit of sound, for example the word [dan] which consists of sound [d], sound [a], and sound [n]. The sound [d] and sound [n] are consonants, while the sound [a] is a vowel sound. The sound [a] in the word becomes the peak of the syllabic and the peak of loudness because the vowel sound when produced has a larger

resonance space. One syllable usually involves one vowel sound, or one vowel and one or more consonants.

Syllables are divided into open syllables, such as to 'ke' and closed syllables, such as dan. In addition, syllables are also distinguished into simple syllables, namely syllables consisting of only one nucleus with zero or one consonant, such as di and yang, and complex syllables, namely syllables consisting of one core with multiple consonants, such as clotch 'pakaian' [5].

Pattern is a systematic arrangement or arrangement of language elements according to regularity in language [6]. The structure or pattern of syllables is the arrangement of vowels and consonants in syllable groups in word units. The arrangement of sounds consisting of vowels and consonants in syllable groups in word units is called a syllable structure. Thus, in the syllables it will be seen that there is a contoid-vocoid sound sequence [7]. The syllable pattern of KV is the syllable pattern of the South Nias language which consists of one consonant and one vowel.

A study cannot be separated from various previous studies that have been carried out. Although it has been mentioned that a similar study to the current study has never been carried out, these studies have contributed to the current research. The related research that has been studied previously is very supportive of the current study.

The previous and relevant research in question is research, one of which was conducted by Halawa (1983) describing an analysis of linguistics by prioritizing discussions on phonology, morphology, and even syntax [1]. In phonology, vocoid and contoid sounds are described, list of phonemes, distribution of phonemes and spelling of the Nias language. The Southern dialect of Nias grammar is a previous study conducted by Brown (2001) by analyzing one of them phonology. Research on the phonemes of the Southern dialect of Nias language is further research on phonology [8]. This relevant research provides an analysis of the sound system of the South Nias language. The sounds described in this study are the sounds of the South Nias language. Based on the latest related studies, syllable patterns are the main discussion in current research that has never been described.

This study proposes the formulation of the problem into how the syllable pattern of KV contains the consonant phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ in the South Nias language. Based on the formulation of the problem, this study aims to examine and describe the syllable pattern of KV in which there are consonant phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ in the South Nias language.

2 Research Method

Qualitative is the approach used in designing this research. The most important instrument in this research is the researcher himself. Creswell & Creswell (2018) say that the characteristics of qualitative research are the researcher as the key instrument [9]. The gadget is one of the other instruments that is intended so that interviews can be carried out without meeting or in other words face to face. The data collection method applied is the interview method with face-to-face techniques and recording and note-taking techniques. The data were analyzed using the distributional method [10]. The results of data analysis are presented formally and informally [11].

3 Result and Discussion

The syllable pattern of KV is the syllable pattern of the South Nias language which consists of one consonant and one vowel. K is a consonant phoneme of the South Nias language which in this study, namely the phonemes /mb/ and /kh/. Meanwhile, V is a vocal phoneme of the South Nias language. The syllable pattern of KV where the phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ are found in the pattern is found in the syllables of mba, mbe, mbö, mbo, mbu, mbi, kha, kho, khö, khu, and khi in the South Nias language. The mba syllable with a pattern of KV, such as the one in the word mbanua in sentence (1), can be explained with a tree diagram as shown below.

- (1) *Toröi ndrao ba mbanua*
 Live IS PREP village
 'I live in the village'

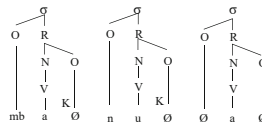


Chart 1
 Syllable pattern of KV 'mba'

In the tree diagram (chart 1) above, the word mbanua consists of three syllables, namely mba which has a KV syllable pattern, the syllable nu, and the syllable a. The mba syllable, the first syllable in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme at onset and one vowel phoneme at the nucleus. As can be seen in the diagram above, the consonant phoneme /mb/ is followed by the vowel phoneme /a/, so it has a syllable pattern of KV in the mba syllable.

Another syllable that has a consonant phoneme /mb/ in the pattern of KV is the mbö syllable which is shown in sentence (2) below.

- (2) *Ambö g-ö-gu*
 Less MUT-food-1SPOSS
 'My food is little'

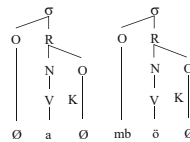


Chart 2
 Syllable pattern of KV 'mbö'

Based on the tree diagram (chart 2) above, it can be seen that the word ambö consists of two syllables, namely a and mbö which have a KV syllable pattern. The second syllable, mbö, in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme at onset and one vowel phoneme at the nucleus. As can be seen in the diagram above, the consonant phoneme /mb/ is followed by the vowel phoneme /ö/, so it has a syllable pattern of KV in the mbö syllable. Therefore, the consonant phoneme /mb/ in the syllable above can be followed by the vowel phoneme /ö/.

The next syllable with the consonant phoneme /mb/ in the syllable pattern of KV is the mbo syllable in sentence (3) below.

- (3) *Fagai ya ba mbombo*
 Fished 3S PREP creek
 'He fished in a creek'

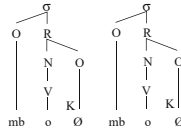


Chart 3
Syllable pattern of KV 'mbo'

As shown in the diagram (chart 3) above, the word mbombo in the South Nias language consists of two syllables, namely mbo and mbo with a syllable pattern of KV in both syllables. The syllable consists of one consonant phoneme at onset and one vowel phoneme at the nucleus. The consonant phonemes at onset are based on the diagram above, namely the phoneme /mb/ and the vowel phoneme in the nucleus, namely the phoneme /o/. Thus, the consonant phoneme /mb/ is followed by the vowel phoneme /o/.

The following syllables are syllables with a pattern of KV in which there is a consonant phoneme /mb/ in the mbi syllable as in sentence (4) below.

- (4) *Böi fambini mbini oturagö jefu khö ga'au*
 NEG cover up, tell all to sister-3SPOSS
 'Don't cover up, tell your sister everything'

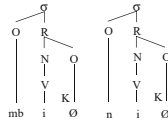


Chart 4
Syllable pattern of KV 'mbi'

In the tree diagram (chart 4) above, the word mbini consists of two syllables, namely mbi which has a KV syllable pattern, and the syllable ni. The mbi syllable, the first syllable in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme at onset and one vowel phoneme at the nucleus. As can be seen in the diagram above, the consonant phoneme /mb/ is followed by the vowel phoneme /i/, resulting in a syllable pattern of KV.

Another syllable that has a consonant phoneme /mb/ with a syllable pattern of KV is the mbu syllable which is shown in sentence (5) below.

- (5) *Alawa sibai mbumbu n-omo-ra*
 Tall very roof MUT-house-3POSS
 'They have a high roof of the house'

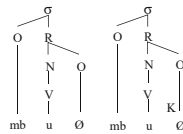


Chart 5
 Syllable pattern of KV 'mbu'

In the tree diagram (chart 5) above, the word *mbumbu* consists of two syllables, namely *mbu* and *mbu* which have a syllable pattern of KV. The *mbu* syllable above consists of one consonant phoneme at onset, namely the phoneme /mb/ and one vowel phoneme in the nucleus, namely the phoneme /u/.

Another syllable that has a consonant phoneme /mb/ in the syllable pattern of KV is the *mbe* syllable which is shown in sentence (6) below.

- (6) *Ebua mbetua-nia*
 Big stomach-3SPOSS
 'He has big belly'

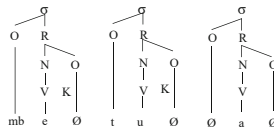


Chart 6
 Syllable pattern of KV 'mbe'

In the tree diagram (chart 6) above, the word *mbetua* consists of three syllables, namely *mbe* with a KV syllable pattern, the syllable *tu*, and the syllable *a*. The *mbe* syllable, the first syllable in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme at onset and one vowel phoneme at the nucleus. As seen in the diagram above, the consonant phoneme /mb/ is followed by the vowel phoneme /e/, so it has a syllable pattern of KV in the *mbe* syllable.

The syllable pattern of KV of the South Nias language is also found in the *khi* syllable of *sökhi* and several other words. The syllable pattern of KV in the *khi* syllable is described below.

- (7) *Sökhi g-amuata-nia*
 Good MUT-attitude -3SPOSS
 'He has a good attitude'

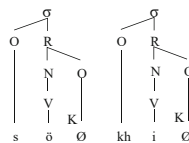


Chart 7
 Syllable pattern of KV 'khi'

In the tree diagram (chart 7) above, the word *sökhi* consists of two syllables, namely *sö* and *khi*, both of which have a KV syllable pattern. The syllable *khi*, the second syllable in the above word, consists of a consonant phoneme called onset and a vowel phoneme called nucleus. As can be seen in the diagram above, the consonant phoneme /kh/ is followed by the vowel phoneme /i/, resulting in a syllable pattern of KV.

Syllables of KV in which there is a consonant phoneme /kh/ in the South Nias language, namely the *kha* syllable in the word *khai* as shown in sentence (8) below.

- (8) *La-khai gitö menewi*
 3P- tapped (tree) rubber yesterday
 'They tapped rubber yesterday'

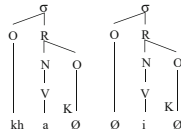


Chart 8
 Syllable pattern of KV 'kha'

In the tree diagram (chart 8) above, the word *khai* consists of two syllables, namely *kha* which has a KV syllable pattern and the *i* syllable. The syllable *kha*, the first syllable in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme called onset, namely the phoneme /kh/ and a vowel phoneme called nucleus, namely the phoneme /i/, so that the above syllable has a KV syllable pattern.

In addition to the syllables described above, there are also other syllables that contain the phoneme /kh/, such as the syllable *kho* in the word *khoi* in sentence (9) below.

- (9) *I-khoi guli-nia*
 3S-scratch the skin-3SPOSS
 'He scratched his skin'

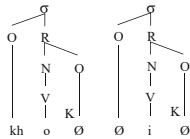


Chart 9
 Syllable pattern of KV 'kho'

Based on the tree diagram (chart 9) above, the word *khoi* consists of two syllables, namely *kho* which has a KV syllable pattern and the *i* syllable. The syllable *kho*, the first syllable in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme called onset, namely the phoneme /kh/ and a vowel phoneme called nucleus, namely the phoneme /i/, so that it can be stated that the above syllable has a syllable pattern of KV.

Besides the syllables described above, there are also other syllables that contain the phoneme /kh/, such as the syllable *khö* in the word *khöma* in sentence (10) below.

- (10) *So khöma laja sawolo*
 There is 3POSS rice field large
 'We have a large rice field'

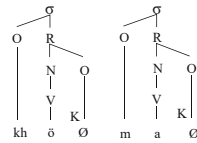


Chart 10
 Syllable pattern of KV 'khö'

Based on the tree diagram (chart 10) above, the word *khöma* consists of two syllables, namely the syllables *khö* and *ma*, both of which have a KV syllable pattern. The syllable *khö*, the first syllable in the word above, consists of one consonant phoneme called onset, namely the phoneme /kh/ and a vowel phoneme called nucleus, namely the phoneme /ö/, so that it can be stated that the *khö* syllable above has a syllable pattern of KV.

The syllable pattern of KV in which the sound /kh/ is also found in the *khu* syllable in the word *khukhu* which is shown in the following sentence (11).

- (11) *I- khukhu mbawa ina- gu*
 3S- slicing onions mother-1TPOSS
 'My mom is slicing onions'

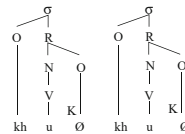


Chart 11
 Syllable pattern of KV 'khu'

In the tree diagram (chart 11) above, the word *khukhu* consists of two syllables, namely *khu* and *khu* which have a KV syllable pattern. The *khu* syllable, the first syllable and the second syllable in the above word, consists of one consonant phoneme called onset, namely the phoneme /kh/ and a vowel phoneme called the nucleus, namely the phoneme /u/, therefore the *khu* syllable above has a KV syllable pattern.

4 Conclusion

The sequence of sounds from vowels and consonants in the South Nias language, as in other languages, forms a patterned syllable. The syllable pattern of the South Nias language with a pattern consists of KV of various consonant and vowel phonemes. Through the analysis above, the researcher found that every syllable of the South Nias language always ends with a vowel sound. Thus, based on these findings, the consonant phonemes /mb/ and /kh/ in the syllable pattern of KV are found in the syllables of *mba*, *mbe*, *mbö*, *mbo*, *mbu*, *mbi*, *kha*, *kho*, *khö*, *khu*, and *khi* in South Nias language.

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