



# A Portrait of Haloban Language Morphosyntactic as an Approach to Language Typology

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**Abstract.** This article describes two important aspects of the Haloban Language, namely Syntax and Morphology. It tries to identify the language's introductory sentence and describes its marking system. The data of this article are taken from the utterances spoken by the speakers of the Haloban Language in a natural setting that is considered grammatical. The observation method is used to collect the data along with the recording, besides the interview, to get valid data. Meanwhile, the analysis method used is the distribution method using permutation, deletion, and substitution. The result shows that the introductory sentence operates SVO and VS(PRO)O word order with various predicates, which verbs and nonverbs can take. Based on the analysis of the revaluation of the sentence structure in the Haloban Language, from the causative constructions and application construction (transitivizing) and passivization (intransitivity), it is found that causality is done by making use of suffix {-i} and prefix {pa-} which is used to derive transitive from intransitive verbs and the nonverbal categories. Meanwhile, the application makes use of the suffix {-ken}. On the other hand, passivation in the Haloban Language is done by fronting the object of actives before predicates (verbs) and prefixing the verbs with {ni-}

**Keywords:** Haloban Language, Morphology, Syntax.

## 1 Introduction

Haloban is a sub-ethnic group in Aceh Province that occupies an archipelago south of Singkil District, Aceh province. Historically, the Haloban sub-ethnic group has been identified as a collection of several tribes that joined to form a community consisting of the Mandailing tribe with the surname Nasution, Minang, Acehnese, and Malay who are part of the mainland Singkil sub-ethnic, which occupies an island called Haloban Island in the south of Singkil Regency. These four sub-ethnicities have many things in common: beliefs and habits, even languages that are relatively different from other Acehnese sub-ethnicities.

The Haloban sub-ethnic inhabits an island called Pulau Haloban which consists of two villages, namely Haloban village and Asantola village, which are in the Pulau Banyak District, Singkil district, Aceh Province. Based on the Aceh BPS census (2022), the Haloban community totals 3104 people [1]. The current rapid flow of modernization

and the accessibility of the community both from Haloban and to Haloban is so relatively high that it influenced the culture, customs, and language of the Haloban itself.

As a community with relatively high mobility, the Haloban community is spread to almost all areas in the Singkil district. On the one hand, this situation can provide positive benefits for the life of the Haloban people. However, on the other hand, this situation also affects the socio-cultural structure of the Haloban people. Language is affected by the swift currents of modernization because language is an element of culture that cannot be separated from the cultural influence of its speakers [2], [3]. Haloban Language (in the future abbreviated as BHL) is currently alarming. The use of the Indonesian language increasingly marginalizes BHL. BHL is only used in formal speech situations, such as in official customary events with speakers aged forty years and over. On the other hand, in a formal academic speech situation, BHL is confronted with using Indonesian. With this situation, it is predicted that in the not-too-distant future (approximately twenty years), BHL will become an extinct language.

Each language usually has a system different from other language systems, including the verb system. The researcher is interested in examining the Morphosyntax of BHL verbs because it refers to Langendoen's opinion in Tampubolon [4], which states that verbs are a central element and have a decisive role in every language. Starting from that opinion, it is possible that the Haloban language, as one of the regional languages in Indonesia, also has verbs that have a dominant role in sentences of that language. Verbs can be identified morphologically by observing their morphological characteristics through the various forms produced after a morphological process (affixation, reduplication, composition (combination), and zero derivation. Syntactic characteristics can also be identified through their distribution in the structure of phrases, clauses, or sentences. Kridalaksana[5] It can even be identified morphosyntactically, which is the intersection of the two fields above Nida [6]; identifying the Morphosyntax of Haloban language verbs cannot be separated from observations of their morphological processes, especially their inflectional affixation and also their syntactic behavior.

One of the prominent morphosyntactic features in Haloban is the use of affixes to mark the grammatical functions of words in sentences. BHL has prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and confixes. Examples of prefixes {ma-} mark transitive or intransitive verbs, and prefix affixes {ni-} mark passive verbs. An example of a suffix is {-ken}, which marks a specific noun. An example of a confix affix is {ma-...-ken}, which marks an abstract noun.

Morphosyntax is not the study of two branches of linguistics, each of which stands alone, as discussed in the paragraph above, since sentence formation (syntactical study) is influenced by morphology. The process of forming syntax is inseparable from the form of the word (word form), which will be seen in the concept of function, category, and role of the sentence. For example, in Indonesia, the word /pergi/ (go) as a base word for the verb category is the predicate in the sentence: Ayah pergi ke kantor (father goes to office). However, when /pergi/ (verb) changes to /kepergian/ (derivative noun), then /kepergian/ (departure) cannot function as a predicate, as in the sentence: Ayah kepergian ke kantor (father departure to office). The sentence 'Ayah kepergian ke kantor' differs from one that follows the Indonesian language system. According to the

Indonesian language system, the correct sentence is *Kepergian ayah ke kantor diantar oleh ibu di depan pintu*: 'Father's departure to the office accompanied by mother at the door'.

The original word /*kepergian*/ (derivative noun) changes its function to become a subject. Alternatively, become an object, as in the sentence: *KPK mencegah kepergiannya ke luar negeri* (the Corruption Eradication Commission prevented him from going abroad), (*kepergian* as an object). Sentences of *Jalan itu besar*, 'the road is large,' based on a study of the function of sentences with the pattern S and P with the categories KB and KS and their role as the subject of discussion and description. When the word *besar* (big/ large) is changed to a derived word to *membesarkan* (enlarge), the sentence that can be constructed is *Masyarakat membesarkan jalan itu*: 'The community enlarged that road.' The word *raise* has changed to a causative verb, no longer an adjective, and means to make big. Changes in sentence construction are caused by changes in words or morphological processes that enlarge to enlarge. Based on the description, the results of the morphological process and the determination of sentence structure that explain functions, categories, and roles interplay. The study of morphology and syntax, which influence each other and serve as one field of discussion, is called Morphosyntax.

Morphosyntax is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between morphology and syntax in a language. Morphosyntax of the BHL in the approach of language typology is an exciting topic to study because the BHL is one of the languages with distinctive morphosyntactic characteristics and is different from other languages.

## 2 Method

This morphosyntax study tries to reveal the typology of word order in the introductory clauses of BHL and examine the grammatical constructions speakers speak. Concerning the natural phenomena studied, this research is a type of qualitative descriptive research that uses a qualitative phenomenological approach [7], [8], [9].

The research data are words, clauses, and general BHL utterances. This type of research is also called field research, meaning that the linguistic data used is natural and comes directly from speakers. Other research data are the opinions and ideas of informants and research respondents regarding the state or reality of language prevalent in the BHL-speaking community.

In this study, the researcher became one of the instruments. It is based on the consideration that the researcher is not a BHL speaker, so the researcher plays a role in data collection, such as data recording and direct interviews in the field. The researcher also used several texts and examples of clauses/clauses and the behavior of BHL speakers obtained from previous research sources as initial material in the interviews. In addition, a voice recorder (tape recorder) is also used. This recorder is used in audio data documentation as cross-check material when analyzing data. Other tools also used in this study were writing instruments, which helped record or describe recorded data.

By paying attention to the nature and type of data needed, this study collected data by applying the listening and speaking methods. The basic techniques used in the listening method are tapping techniques with advanced techniques of skilled engagement viewing (SLC), proficient free viewing (SBLC), recording techniques, and note-taking

techniques. The basic techniques used in the experienced method are fishing techniques with advanced techniques in the form of all-encompassing techniques, recording techniques, and note-taking techniques [10] [11]

In analyzing the data, the high method is considered appropriate, an analytical method that makes part of the language under study a determining tool [10]. The basic technique of this method is the technique for direct elements (BUL), namely dividing the lingual unit of data into several parts or elements, which are seen as parts that directly form the linguistic unit in question. This basic technique is followed by vanishing, replacement, extension, insert, and shape-changing techniques [10]. Considering that the researcher is also a native BHL speaker, another method used in the analysis phase is the reflexive introspective method [10].

### 3 Findings and Discussion

#### 3.1 The Basic Clause Of BHL

Structure: Generally, the basic structure of the BHL clauses can be divided into two parts: the basic verbal structure and the basic nonverbal structure. The basic verbal structure is a structure that uses a verb as a predicate, while the basic nonverbal structure is a structure that does not use a verb as a predicate. This phenomenon can be found in many languages worldwide [12], [13].

1. a. *Mae ao mek pasa*  
AKT-go 1TG Pre market  
'I go to the market'
- b. *Akhi menuawa wakdu sewalu ek Mamak*  
sister AKT-order clothe new Prep uncle  
'Sister ordered new clothes from uncle'.
- c. *manok eda mangabe? anak-ne an*  
bird ART MaNg +bring chickPOS3TG food  
'The bird brings its chicks food'.
2. a. *Mamak eda ale apak*  
uncle ART friend father  
'Uncle is father's friend'
- b. *silawe eda mareen*  
girl ART pretty  
'The girl is pretty'.
- c. *Disira ek bakha welak*  
they Prep in room  
'They're in the room'
- d. *Nat ek eda sakhalek*  
fish Pre ART few  
'There are few fish'.

The data above shows that the basic structure of the BHL clauses can be transitive and intransitive verbs. In (1a) above, the subject of the first singular (1T) intransitive verb mae 'to go' has

one argument: deo/ao 'me,' which functions as the subject. Meanwhile, in (1b), the verb menuawa 'orders' requires two arguments, namely achi 'sister' as the subject and wakdu sewalu 'new clothes' as the object, whereas in the example data (1c) above the transitive verb mangabe? 'brings' takes the arguments manok eda 'the bird,' its children 'cubs,' and a 'food' as core arguments function as subject, OL, and OTL respectively.

Meanwhile, the noun ale apak 'father's friend' in (2a), the adjective mareen 'beautiful' in (2b), the adverbial ek bakha welak 'in the room' in (2c), the numeralia sakhalek 'a little' in (2d), are nonverbal predicates that share one core argument, namely mamak 'uncle' in (2a), silawe eda 'the woman' in (2b), desira 'they' in (2c), and nat ek eda 'fish in situ' in (2d).

### 3.2 BHL Marking System

The discussion on the BHL marking system is grouped into transitivity and intransitivity to mark changes in clause construction can be observed and appropriately explained.

### 3.3 Transitivity

BHL transitivity rules are the same as the rules shown by BHL. This transitivity rule can be seen from the process of application and authorization. Consider the following sample data.

3. a. mak- o        *ngang mamelli    sao wakdu*  
          mother POS1TG had maM-buy a dress  
          'my mother bought a dress.'
- b. mak- o        *ngang mamellikén    sao wakdu ek Alfi*  
          mother POS1TG had maM-buy a dress Prep Alfi  
          'my mother bought a shirt for Alfi.'
- c. mak- o        *ngang mamellikén    ek Alfi    sao wakdu*  
          mother POS1TG had maM-buy-KAU Prep Alfi a dress  
          'my mother bought Alfi a shirt.'
- d. \*mak- o        *ngang mamellikén    ek Alfi*  
          mother POS1TG had maM-buy-KAU Prep Alfi.  
          'my mother bought Alfi.'

Based on the sample data above, it can be explained that the application of clause (3a) to (3b) is made by using the ken particle, namely the verb 'buy' previously had two core arguments, mak-o 'my mother' and sao wakdu 'a piece of clothes' and one non-core argument, namely ek Alfi 'for Alfi.' Acceptability (3b) above proves that Alfi's oak 'for Alfi' is a non-core argument. In other words, his absence does not make clause (3b) unacceptable. In contrast, if sao wakdu 'a shirt' in (3c) is omitted, it will cause an intolerable clause like in (3d) because sao wakdu 'a shirt' is the core argument.

As with application, the process of BHL authorization is also a transitive construction. In BHL, there are three main types: (1) the suffix {-ken}, (2) the prefix {pa-}, and (3) the suffix {-i}.

4. a. Wokge-ne malunggep ek luan  
boatPOS3TG sank Prep river  
'His boat sank in the river.'
- b. *Herlin malunggepken wokge-ne ek luan*  
Herlin AKT-sank-KAU boatPOS3TG Pre river  
'Herlin sank his boat in the river.'
- c. *wokge-ne Herlin malunggepken ek luan*  
boatPOS3TG Herlin AKT-sink-KAU Pre river  
'Herlin caused his boat to sink in the river.'
5. a. *Ucap-ne jale*  
wordPOS3TG clear  
'His words were clear.'
- b. *pa-jale dise Ucapne*  
AKT clear his wordPOS3TG  
'He made his point clear.'
- c. *(mam) pa-jale ia ucapne*  
AKT clear PRO3TG wordPOS3TG  
'He made his point clear.'
6. a. *Chae apak waelen*  
leg father hurts  
'Father's leg hurts'
- b. *chae apak mawaelen- i*  
leg father AKT-hurt-KAU  
'Father's leg is injured'
- c. \* *apak aroni waelen ek chae-ne*  
father treat +KAU wound Pre leg-POS3TG  
'Father treated the wound on his leg.'
- d. *Apak mangaron-i waelen ek chae-ne*  
father maNG+ treat +KAU wound Pre leg-POS3TG  
'He's treating the wound on his leg.'
- e. *Mangaron-i ia waelen ek chae-ne*  
maNG+ treat +KAU PRO3TG wound Pre leg-POS3TG  
'He's treating the wound on his leg.'

The accentuating in (4b) and (4c) above is indicated by the presence of the suffix {-ken} in the intransitive verb in clause (4a) *malunggep* 'drowned' to become a transitive verb *malungepken* 'drowned.' As a result, the argument that originally numbered one, namely the *wokge-ne* 'the boat' in (4a), changes to two, as in (4b). Meanwhile, in (5b), accentuating is done by adding the prefix {pa-} to the base form of the adjective *jale* 'clear' (5a), forming the causative verb *pa-jale/(mam) pa-jale* 'clear/clarify' so that it requires causative arguments. Di 'he' (5b) and *ia* 'he' (5c).

The clause (6a) above is a clause with a non-causative condition predicate. Clause (6b) above is a clause with an action verb predicate and a causative clause with a morphological marker (*ma-i*). For example, clause (6c) is a causative clause with a morphological marker of the suffix {-i}. However, in the BHL system, the structure of clause (6c) above needs to be revised and even tends to be unacceptable. The clause predicate, an action verb, is only marked with the suffix {-i}. In the use of everyday language by Haloban speakers, causative with the suffix marker {-i} alone is an ungrammatical qualifier and is rarely used in spoken and written language. The predicate in clause (6c) must be marked with *confits* (*maNG-i*) to become an acceptable clause in the BHL system, as in the example, data clause (6d) above, and or if the word *apak* 'father' is replaced

with the pronoun *dis/ia* 'he' will then change the word order of the clause like the example data clause (6e).

### 3.4 Intransitive

*Intransitive construction* is a construction that reduces the number of arguments in a construction. Intransitive in BHL can be seen from the passivity in passive constructions that include aspect information (perfective and progressive). The following data shows the passivity of BHL in clauses that use transitive verbs in examples (7a),(7b), and (7d)) and the construction of progressive aspects in examples (7c)).

7. a. *Apak antaeng ek kurisi era*  
father sits Pre chair ART  
'Father sits on this chair'.
- b. *Apak antaengi kurisi era*  
father sits +APL chair ART  
'Father sits on this chair'
- c. *apak mangantaeng i kurisi era*  
father AKT- occupy –APL kursi ART  
'Father occupies this chair'.
- d. *Niantaengi apak kurisi era*  
PAS-duduk +APL ayah kursi ART  
'Father sits on this chair'

Based on data (7) above, it can be explained that the intransitive verb *antaeng* 'sit,' before being passive, has one core argument, namely *apak* 'father' and one non-core argument, namely *ek kurisi era* 'on this chair' as shown in (7a). After going through the process of affixation and passivation, by adding the prefix [ni-] and confix {maNg-i}, the clause which originally had one core argument changed to have two core arguments, namely *apak* 'father' and chair of the era 'this chair' which originally a non-core argument turns into a core argument, as in examples (7b), (7c) and (7d). Next, let us observe the following clause (8) data.

8. a. *Mamak mamelli wokge sewalu senga apok*  
uncle ma-buy perahu baru REL besar  
'Uncle bought a big new boat'
- b. *wokge sewalu (senga ni-welli mamak ) apok*  
boat new REL PAS-buy uncle big  
'A new boat bought (by) uncle was big'
- c. *wokge sewalu senga mamak melli apok*  
boat new REL uncle buy big  
'The new boat that uncle bought is big'
- d. *\*Wokge sewalu senga mamak mamelli apok*  
boat new REL uncle AKT-buy big  
'The new boat that uncle bought is big'

The same thing can be seen in (8) above. In this case, the verb 'buy' in (8a) has two core arguments, namely *mamak* 'uncle' and *wokge sewalu senga apok* 'a big new boat' changes only have one argument. The core after passivity is done by changing the prefix {ma-} to prefix {ni-

} and adding the relative word 'yang' as in (8b). Clause (8c) proves that the absence of a passive prefix {ni-} marker does not make the relevant clause invalid. On the contrary, the unacceptability of clause (8d) above is caused by the appearance of the active marker prefix {ma-} in the basic form *ma + melli* 'to buy.'

9. a. *Manok eda mangabek an mek anak-ne*  
bird ART maNg +bring food Pre chicks POS3TG  
'The bird brings food for its chicks'
- b. *Manok eda mangabek mek anak-ne an*  
bird ART maNg +bring Pre chicksPOS3TG food  
'The bird brought its chicks'
- c. *Mangabek anak-ne an manok eda*  
maNg+bring chicksPOS3TG food bird ART  
'The child was brought food (by) the bird.'
- d. \* *an niabek mek anak-ne manok eda*  
food PAS +bring Pre chicksPOS3TG bird ART  
'Food was brought for the chicks (by) the bird'
- e. *an niabekkén manok eda mek anak-ne*  
food PAS +bring bird ART Pre chickPOS3TG  
'The bird brought food for its chicks'.

An exciting thing shown in (9) above is that the reduction of the argument in (9a) is not made by marking the verb *mangabek* 'bring' with the passive marker {ni-}, but only by changing the order of the arguments, namely the arguments of *anak-ne* 'its chick' which occupy an oblique position in (9a) to be shifted occupies the position of the object in (9b). Conversely, an 'food' that previously occupied the object's position is brought forward to an oblique position. The argument of *manok eda* 'the bird' in (9c) is non-core, so its absence does not cause a clause to be unacceptable. The clause in (9d) is an intolerable form of the passive clause. It is because the verb *mangabek* 'to bring' is not done by marking the compound affix markers {ni-ken} as in (9e).

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis results, it was found that BHL has a basic clause structure that uses a verb as a predicate and a basic clause structure that does not use a verb as a predicate. Intransitive, transitive, and ditransitive verbs can fill the basic structure of a clause with a verb predicate. In this study, the number of clauses with a ditransitive predicate is minimal. Meanwhile, the predicate of the introductory clause that does not use a verb can be filled with categories of nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

According to the morphosyntactic analysis, it was found that in the transitivization rule (adding the number of arguments), two constructions can explain the marking system: applicative and causative. In the applicative construction, the *ken* particle is the marker used, while in the causative construction, the prefixes {pa-} and {-i} are used. Meanwhile, the rule of intransitivism (reducing the number of arguments) is found in passive constructions. BHL passivation, apart from being marked by the prefix {ni- }, is also marked by the shift in the position of the subject and object in active and passive constructions. However, in passive, the construction of perfective and progressive



aspects is only done by changing the position of the subject and object, without being followed by a marking on the verb like the passive in general.

Based on these morphosyntactic characteristics, BHL can be categorized as an agglutinative language, namely, a language that forms words by combining basic morphemes and affixes. Agglutinative language usually has many affixes, each with a clear and specific grammatical function. Agglutinative language also tends to have flexible word order and congruence between sentence elements. The Morphosyntax of the BHL in the language typology approach can be examined using morphological or syntactic criteria. Morphological criteria can include the type of affix, the process of word formation, or the complexity of the morpheme. Syntactic criteria include word order, grammatical functions, sentence types, and clause relationships. Research on the Morphosyntax of the BHL in a language typology approach can benefit the development of linguistics in general and specifically. This research can contribute to knowledge about the world's variety and universality of languages. In particular, this research can provide information about the structure and function of the BHL, which is one of the regional languages that needs to be preserved and developed.

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