

Time Markers in Mongondow Language

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Abstract— The research objective is to give in-detailed description on the time markers for tenses in Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow) particularly on their types and meaning. The research applies qualitative descriptive method. Main data are taken from 2 or 3 native speakers in Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow). The data collected by using teknik cakap semuka (face to face conversation technique). The data are analyzed by using matching and distributional techniques, with the replacement and expansion techniques. The results of the research are (1) the time markers in Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow) are future= ain, continuous = koyogot, perfect = novalut, (2) Future tense time marker ain and Present Continuous time marker koyogot must be present before the verb with prefix mo-. Meanwhile, Perfect tense time marker novalut (sudah/has or has been) is optional because the morphological change from mo- to no- indicates perfect tense, (3) Time markers in Mongondow language can be marked lexically and morphemically. Mongondow language needs to be improved continuously as an effort to characterize regional languages as national assets and in addition this research can be a reference for teaching local languages as an option for schools in applying local content-based learning.

Keywords—Time Markers, Mongondow Language

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is not Everything in Education, but without Language, Everything is nothing in Education.[1]. The extinction of 'death language' requires more serious attention from all related parties in order to provide the best solution. The increasingly rapid flow of information due to the worldwide advance of science and technology becomes the main cause of the endangered language. Children and teenagers do not speak in their mother tongue; instead, they prefer speaking in English to speaking in Bahasa Indonesia or even in their mother tongue. Moreover, parents do not show their objection on their children's language behavior; and so on.

Due to these important matters, the description of the local language must be carried out. The 1945 Constitution has stated that the government is going to preserve local languages which have been preserved by the people. This indicates that the government regards the local languages as the priority. The government will maintain and preserve the local languages if the natives of these languages keep using them.

In addition to the 1945 Constitution, local languages also have a very important position and function in Indonesia. One of the local languages which still has an important position in Indonesia is Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow). This language still has a wide range of users

from adults to teenagers. Of the 746 surviving local languages, 169 languages are prone to extinction[2].

Mongondow language is the Filipino family language used by the Mongondow Tribe in North Sulawesi, which was originally the Mongondow language used by the inhabitants of Bolaang Mongondow Kingdom, which later became Bolaang Mongondow Regency, the Mongondow Tribe is now scattered in Bolaang Mongondow Regency, Kotamobagu City, Bolaang Regency Mongondow Timur, North Bolaang Mongondow Regency and South Bolaang Mongondow Regency and partly in the cities of Manado and Gorontalo as well as other cities in Indonesia.

Mongondow language is classified as an agglutinative language in which there is a vocabulary benefit system that functions to state Kala (Tense), Aspect, and Moda (Capital), also for Nominalization or Verbalization and determine the Role of Grammatics from the Nominal marked Absolutive. It can be said that the grammar is "very Filipino". But now with many Mongondow speakers adopting Manado Malay, Mongondow grammar has been quite influenced by Malay grammar.

Like other Filipino clusters, Mongondow has a syntax inclined towards Head-Predicate (ie PSO or POS) with 3 (three) types of Case Markers for Nominal: Absolute, Ergative-Genitive, and Oblique. Cases can be determined by Prepositional Particles or by prefix sound changes. But the influence of the Malay language allows the pattern of SPO to be formed. Also often the Absolute-marked Nominal is omitted from the sentence if the Nominal can be understood from the context.

Even though the Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow) is still widely spoken, the description of this language still has to be carried out, so this language is continuously maintained by its speakers. The descriptions of the Mongondow language grammatical structure must be conducted in the learning of local language as the local content in schools. One of the interesting structures of Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow) is time markers.

Humans conceive of time in terms of space, as shown by the language that we use to talk about temporal relations: we habitually speak of stretching out or compressing an activity, heading toward the future, returning to the past and so on (1)[3]. When describing the meanings of the tenses, linguists have relied on a specific instance of the space-time analogy: the timeline. The timeline is a line (or, equivalently, an ordered set of points) that is unbounded at both ends and segmented into three parts: the past, the present, and the future. The points on the timeline may be times by themselves or times paired with events. While we

can describe various relations among points on the timeline, only one type of relation counts as a tense relation: that which includes the time at which the linguistic act is occurring. As Lyons states [4], “the crucial fact about tense [. . .] is that it is a deictic category. A tensed proposition, therefore, will not merely be time-bound [. . .] it will contain a reference to some point or period of time which cannot be identified except in terms of the zero-point of the utterance.”

Tenses indicate when the action happens such as now, recently, past time, long time ago, will/going to, and so on. In Bahasa Indonesia, tenses have lexical markers such as sudah for past tense, sedang for continuous tense, and akan for future tense [5]. Similarly, tenses in Mongondow has lexical markers, for example, Ki Ani modungu don ('Ani will cook') Ki Tuti monga don ('Tuti will eat').

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. According to Moleong [6], "the qualitative description method is a research procedure that presents description data in the form of written words, people, and observed behavior". Data sources for this research are 2 or 3 informants who are experts in Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow). These informants must meet following requirements: 1. Native speakers of Mongondow language (Bahasa Mongondow). 2. Having comprehensive knowledge on Mongondow culture. 3. Having complete organ of speech. 4. Aged between 50 – 70 years old. 5. Residing in Mongondow since they were children 6. Having good physical and spiritual health. The data collection in this study is carried by using teknik cakap semuka (face to face conversation technique). In performing this technique, the researcher comes to the areas of observation and has an interview (by using a list of questions) with the informants [7]. The data serve as the primary data because researcher has a face to face interview with the informants. The researcher collects data by conducting direct and oral conversations. The steps taken in this study include three stages, (1) data collection, (2) data analysis, (3) presentation of the results of data analysis. The collected data were analyzed using two methods, the matching and distribution methods, with the replacement and expansion techniques.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Time markers (some linguists refer them as aspect) in Bahasa Mongondow (BM) can be classified into : ‘ akan (will) ‘ = ain, ‘ sedang (continuous) ‘ = koyogot, ‘ perfect ‘ = novalut. Similar to English language, Bahasa Mongondow is characterized by flexi which means that it uses morphology elements to indicate perfect tense.

See following examples :

FUTURE TENSE ‘WILL’ (AKAN)

<i>Bahasa Mongondow (Mongondow Language)</i>	<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i>
<i>Ain mogaan</i>	<i>Akan makan (will eat)</i>
<i>Ain monginu</i>	<i>Akan minum (will drink)</i>
<i>Ain mosiung</i>	<i>Akan tidur (will sleep)</i>

<i>Ain molatih</i>	<i>Akan berlatih (will have an exercise)</i>
<i>Ain modungu</i>	<i>Akan memasak (will cook)</i>
<i>Ain mogogitog</i>	<i>Akan bermain (will play)</i>
<i>Ain momanyanyi</i>	<i>Akan bernyanyi (will sing)</i>
<i>Ain mogaid</i>	<i>Akan bekerja (will work)</i>
<i>Ain mobaca</i>	<i>Akan membaca (will read)</i>
<i>Ain monulis</i>	<i>Akan menulis (will write)</i>
<i>Ain moinggu</i>	<i>Akan mandi (will take a bath)</i>
<i>Koyogot</i>	<i>Sedang minum (is drinking)</i>
<i>Koyogot mosiung</i>	<i>Sedang tidur (is sleeping)</i>
<i>Koyogot molatih</i>	<i>Sedang berlatih (is taking an exercise)</i>
<i>Koyogot momata</i>	<i>Sedang mencuci (is washing)</i>
<i>Koyogot mogambar</i>	<i>Sedang menggambar (is drawing)</i>
<i>Koyogot momake</i>	<i>Sedang memakai (is wearing)</i>
<i>Novalut nogaan</i>	<i>Sudah makan (has eaten)</i>
<i>Novalut nonginu</i>	<i>Sudah minum (has drunk)</i>
<i>Novalut nosiung</i>	<i>Sudah tidur (has slept)</i>
<i>Novalut nolatih</i>	<i>Sudah berlatih (has had an exercise)</i>
<i>Novalud nogait</i>	<i>Sudah bekerja (has worked)</i>
<i>Novalut noibadah</i>	<i>Sudah beribadah (has prayed)</i>
<i>Novalut nolaguy</i>	<i>Sudah berlari (has run)</i>
<i>Novalut nomake</i>	<i>Sudah memakai (has worn)</i>

CONTINUOUS TENSE ‘ING (SEDANG)

<i>Bahasa Mongondow (Mongondow Language)</i>	<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i>
<i>Iyaku koyogot monulis ta'iya</i>	Saya sedang menulis (I am writing now)
<i>Iyaku koyogot balajaro ta'iya</i>	Saya sedang belajar sekarang (I am studying now)
<i>Iyaku koyogot Mogaid ta'iya</i>	Saya sedang bekerja sekarang (I am working now)
<i>Iyaku koyogot mogaan ta'iya</i>	Saya sedang makan sekarang

	(I am eating now)
<i>Iko koyogot modungu ta'iya</i>	Kamu sedang memasak sekaranag (You are cooking now)
<i>Iko koyogot monginu ta'iya</i>	Kamu sedang minum sekarang (You are drinking now)
<i>Iko koyogot momata ta'iya</i>	Kamu sedang mencuci mata sekarang (You are washing eyes now)

PERFECT TENSE HAVE/HAS (TELAH)

<i>Bahasa Mongondow (Mongondow Language)</i>	<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i>
<i>Iko novalut monulis</i>	Dia sudah pergi (She has gone)
<i>Ki papaku novalut nosiug</i>	Ayah saya sudah tidur (My Father has slept)
<i>Ki Papaku novalut nogaid</i>	Ayah saya sudah bekerja (My Father has worked)

FUTURE TENSE

<i>Bahasa Mongondow (Mongondow Language)</i>	<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i>
<i>Iko ain mogogitog bola kon kintal</i>	Saya akan bermain bola di halaman (I will play foot ball at the yard)
<i>Iko ain motawi salana</i>	Saya akan membeli Celana (I Will Buy Pants)
<i>Iko ain momata sandal</i>	Saya akan mencuci sandal (I will wash flip)

PAST TENSE

<i>Bahasa Mongondow (Mongondow Language)</i>	<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i>
<i>Ki papaku nosali no oto ta'iya taong kolabu</i>	Ayah saya membeli mobil ini tahun lalu

In English, the paradigm of the verb which states time markers can be morphologically expressed in the following examples:

Continuous = I am eating
Past = I ate
Will = I will eat

Perfect = I have eaten

The lexical marker (auxiliary word) at the above example states that the event has occurred in the past. This pattern has similarity in BM particularly in past tense time marker *akuoy nongaan*. However, the lexical past tense time marker in BM is optional unless the sentence uses *have*. If *have* presents in the sentence, the verb must be changed into past participle *eat-eaten* which means 'sudah' (the action has been completed).

The time markers *ain* and *koyogot* must be preceded the verb with prefix *mo-*. A verb having prefix *mo-* needs to be emphasized to distinguish it from Indonesian. Example: *Akuoy ain mongonum* 'saya akan minum' *I will drink*
Akuoy ain mongaan 'saya akan makan' *I will eat*

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of this research about Time Markers in Mongondow Language can be concluded as follows:

- Time markers in Bahasa Mongondow are :
Future tense = ain
Continuous tense = koyogot
Perfect tense = novalut
 - Future tense time marker *ain* and Present Continuous time marker *koyogot* must be present before the verb with prefix *mo-*. Meanwhile, Perfect tense time marker *novalut* (sudah/has or has been) is optional because the morphological change from *mo-* to *no-* indicates perfect tense.
 - Time markers in Bahasa Mongondow can be
 - marked lexically and morphemically.
- Mongondow language needs to be improved continuously as an effort to characterize regional languages as national assets and in addition this research can be a reference for teaching local languages as an option for schools in applying local content-based learning.

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