

Verb Phrases and Adverbs in The Kaili Language, Rai Dialect

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses verb and adverbial phrases in the Kaili Rai Dialect Language, with the formulation of the problem in this study is how the structure of verb phrases, how is the form of adverb phrases and how is the function of adverb phrases in the Kaili Rai Dialect language, Sipeso Village, Sindue Tobata District, Donggala Regency. Based on the formulation of the problem, this research aims to describe how the structure, how it is formed, and how the function of the rai dialect kaili language. This research is a type of qualitative research. The data collection technique is carried out using the listening method, capable of data analysis which is used to match and distribute. The location of this research is in Sipeso Village, Sindue Tobata District, Donggala Regency. The data obtained is in the form of oral data obtained through data collection techniques. Furthermore, the data was analyzed using descriptive techniques. From the results of the study, it was found that in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect the Intransitive verb phrase and the modified type Adverb phrase are divided into three types, namely (1) intransitive verb phrase and H-H-type modative Adverb phrase, (2) intransitive verb phrase and H-T modifiative type Adverb phrase, (3) intransitive verb phrase and T-H-H modifiative type Adverb phrase, (4) intransitive verb phrase and T-H-T modative type adverb phrase. Likewise, monotransitive verb phrases in the Kaili Diaek Rai language, the structure of their functions is divided into three types, namely (1) monotransitive modifiative type verb phrase H-H, (2) monotransitive modifiative type verb phrase T-H, (3) monotransitive modifiative type verb phrase H-T, (4) monotransitive type verb phrase T-H-T. From the results of the study, it was also found that the function of adverb phrases is determined by variations in their structural patterns, namely in the patterns H-H, H-T, T-H, and T-H-T.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the main means used by humans to interact, convey ideas, express feelings, and build social relationships in social life. Through language, various forms of knowledge, cultural values, and intergenerational experiences can be inherited in a sustainable manner. Therefore, language functions not only as a means of communication, but also as a social and cultural identity of a society. In the development of modern linguistics, language is seen as a dynamic system that continues to change according to the needs of its speakers (Jing et al., 2021; Koplein et al., 2023). The linguistic diversity of a nation is an important cultural wealth to maintain its sustainability because language contains historical, social, and cultural values that reflect the identity of a community of speakers (Chiblow & Meighan, 2021; Wang & Hatoss, 2024).

Indonesia is known as one of the countries with the highest level of language diversity in the world. In addition to Indonesian as the national language, there are hundreds of regional languages that are still used in daily life by people in various regions of the archipelago. Regional languages function as a means of local communication as well as a symbol of the cultural identity of the speaking community. However, the development of globalization, urbanization, social mobility, and the dominance of national languages have caused a number of regional languages to face serious challenges in maintaining their existence (De Costa, 2021; Henne-Ochoa, 2022). Various studies show that the documentation and revitalization of regional languages is an important step in efforts to maintain the sustainability of local languages that are beginning to experience a decline in the number of speakers (Chiblow & Meighan, 2021; Wang & Hatoss, 2024). Therefore, the study of linguistics on regional languages not only has academic value, but also contributes to the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage.

One of the regional languages that is still actively used by the people of Central Sulawesi is the Kaili language. The Kaili language has several dialects that have developed according to the geographical area of its speakers, one of which is the Rai dialect which is used by people in the Sindue Tobata District area, Donggala Regency. As part of a regional language that lives and develops in society, the Kaili language has a unique linguistic system, both in terms of phonology, morphology, and syntax. The variations in language structure that appear in each dialect indicate the existence of linguistic peculiarities that need to be described systematically in order to be part of the scientific documentation of regional languages (Wang & Hatoss, 2024; Fernandez-Sabido & Peniche-Sabido, 2025).

In the study of linguistics, syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies how words are arranged and connected to form a larger and meaningful unit of language. Syntax has an important role in explaining the relationships between constituents in a sentence, including the formation of phrases, clauses, and sentences. Modern syntactic studies show that the complexity of language structure is greatly influenced by the patterns of relationships between elements that form a syntactic construct (Jing et al., 2021; Mansfield & Barth, 2021). In addition, research on syntactic complexity also shows that variations in word structure and relationships between phrases are one of the main characteristics that distinguish language systems from one language (Lan & Sun, 2023; Kim et al., 2023).

One of the important elements that is the object of syntactic study is the phrase. A phrase is a grammatical unit consisting of two or more words that do not exceed the function limits of the clause and function as a unit in a sentence. In sentence structure, phrases have a very important role because they are the elements that form clauses and sentences. The study of phrase structure allows researchers to understand the patterns of relationships between words that form certain meanings in a language (Abdurrachman et al., 2025). Among the different types of phrases, verb phrases and adverb phrases are two categories that have an important syntactic function in building sentence structure. Verb phrases are a group of words that are centered on verbs and function as a predicate or part of a predicate in a sentence. The structure of verb phrases can show various patterns of relationships between the core verb and its supporting elements, such as complements, objects, and descriptions. Recent syntactic research shows that the structure of verb phrases is one of the components that most influence the syntactic complexity of a language (Geiger & Xiang, 2026; Lan & Sun, 2023). Meanwhile, the adverb phrase serves to provide additional information about the time, place, method, purpose, frequency, and cause of an event. The presence of adverb phrases in sentences often indicates different distribution variations in each language or dialect (Overfelt, 2021; Larson, 2021). Therefore, the study of these two types of phrases is important to understand the syntactic characteristics of a language more deeply.

The phenomenon of the use of verb phrases and adverb phrases in the Rai dialect Kaili is interesting to study because the variations in structures used by speakers can indicate distinctive syntactic patterns. The difference in the distribution of phrase-forming elements, constituent positions, and relationships between words in a phrase has the potential to show different characteristics from other Kaili dialects. The study of phrase structure is also important because it can contribute to the

development of grammatical descriptions of the Kaili language, which until now are still relatively limited (Wang & Hatoss, 2024; Fernandez-Sabido & Peniche-Sabido, 2025). Various previous studies have examined the Kaili language from various linguistic aspects, such as verb reduplication, morphology, and verb phrase structure in certain dialects. However, research that specifically examined the structure of verb phrases and adverb phrases in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect in Sipeso Village, Sindue Tobata District, Donggala Regency, is still very limited. Most previous research has focused more on morphological and lexicon aspects so descriptions of syntactic structures, particularly verbal phrases and adverb phrases, are not yet comprehensively available. The limitations of the research show that there are research gaps that need to be filled through a more in-depth and systematic study.

This research offers novelty by describing in detail the form, structure, distribution, and function of verb phrases and adverb phrases in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect. The results of the research are expected not only to enrich the study of regional language syntax in Indonesia, but also contribute to efforts to document and preserve the Kaili language as part of the regional cultural heritage that needs to be maintained in the midst of the development of modern society (De Costa, 2021; Henne-Ochoa, 2022). Thus, this study aims to (1) describe and analyze the structure of verb phrases in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect in Sipeso Village, and (2) identify the form, distribution, and function of adverb phrases used by the Kaili dialect Rai speaking community.

2. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method, and a pandan method. According to Sudaryanto (1993), the matching method is a language analysis method whose determining tool is outside, detached, and not part of the language in question. The matching method used is a pragmatic method whose determining tool is the opponent or the partner of the speech. This pragmatic method is used to identify linguistic units according to the reaction or response that occurs to the interlocutor when speech is delivered. And according to Sudaryanto (1988: 62), the descriptive research method is research that is solely based on existing facts or phenomena that are empirically living in the speakers, so that the data produced or recorded is in the form of exposure as it is. Furthermore, descriptive research does not consider the correct use of language by its speakers, because it is its first and foremost characteristic. Qualitative research is chosen as an approach to understanding social phenomena and the perspectives of individuals being studied in depth. The main purpose of this study is to describe, study, and explain the phenomenon systematically and accurately regarding the structure of verb phrases in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect in Sipeso Village, Sindue District, Donggala Regency.

The location of the research was determined in Toaya Village, Sindue District, Donggala Regency, with the consideration that the people in the area are native speakers who use the Kaili language in their daily lives, making it easier for researchers to collect data. The research data came from two main sources: (1) oral data sources obtained from native Kaili speakers in Sindue Tobata District, and (2) written data sources in the form of relevant research documentation or supporting literature. The selection of informants is based on the criteria of authenticity of the speaker, honesty and accuracy in providing data, criteria for "non-car" (native or long-term resident at the location), and informants who are in the middle or advanced age range.

In this qualitative research, the main instrument is the researcher himself (human instrument). In addition, researchers use supporting tools such as notebooks, pens, and laptops to record data. Data collection techniques are carried out through literature studies and field research. Literature studies aim to collect written data on the results of previous research related to the problem being studied. Meanwhile, field research was carried out through the observation method and the cakap method. The listening method includes the ability to engage (participate directly in the conversation while listening) and the free listening technique (just observe), as well as the recording technique to document speech spontaneously or in a planned manner. The cakap method is carried out through direct dialogue

between the researcher and the informant, which includes face-to-face cakap techniques and fishing techniques so that the informant talks about topics related to the research.

The presentation of the results of data analysis was carried out using matching methods and distributional methods. The matching method is used to explain the meaning and meaning of the phrase being studied, while the distributional method is used to explain the distribution of phrases in lingual units. To support this analysis, the substitution technique is used to see the concrete form and status of the verb phrase in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect, as well as the extension technique to determine the upstream (core) and additional (explainer) elements in a sentence construction.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research and data analysis using matching and distribution methods, with data collection techniques using the listening and proficient techniques, various forms of structure were found using verb phrases and adverbial phrases, as well as several functions of adverb phrases determined from variations in their structural patterns.

Frase Verba Intransitive

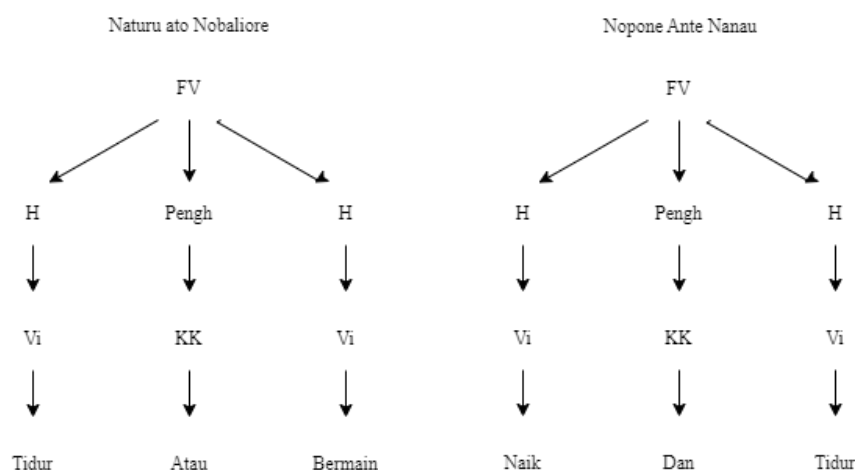
Intransitive verb phrases are verb phrases that have an intransitive verb (Vint) and additions that recognize the verb as adverbial. The existence of upstream and additional due to the analysis of intransitive verb phrases. From the sequence of functions, this intransitive verb phrase is divided into three types, namely (1) intransitive verb phrase H-H, (2) intransitive verb phrase H-T, (3) intransitive verb phrase T-H, (4) intransitive verb phrase T-H-T. The following is presented in the Kaili Rai dialect.

Intransitive Verb Phrases Modification Type

A modified phrase of an intransitive verb is a verb phrase that is upstream of an intransitive verb (V.int) and an addition that follows the verb is adverbial.

Intransitive Verb Phrases of Modified Type H-H

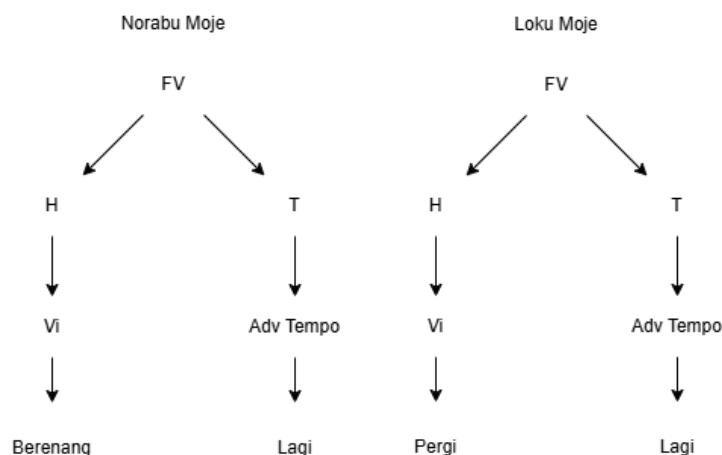
The intransitive verb phrase of the modified type H-H is a construction consisting of two intransitive verbs that have an equivalent position as upstream (core). The two elements do not explain each other subordinatively, but are related in a coordinated manner. Each element can stand on its own without the need for an object, so there are no elements that serve as additions. Therefore, both verbs play a role as the core in forming the overall meaning of the phrase. Wine + Vin=H-H.



In this phrase the word *Naturu ato Nobaliore*, *Nopone ante Nanau*, serves as an addition. Therefore, both verbs play a role as the core in forming the overall meaning of the phrase. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are united into a modified intransitive verb phrase H-H.

Intransitive Verb Phrases Modified Type H-T

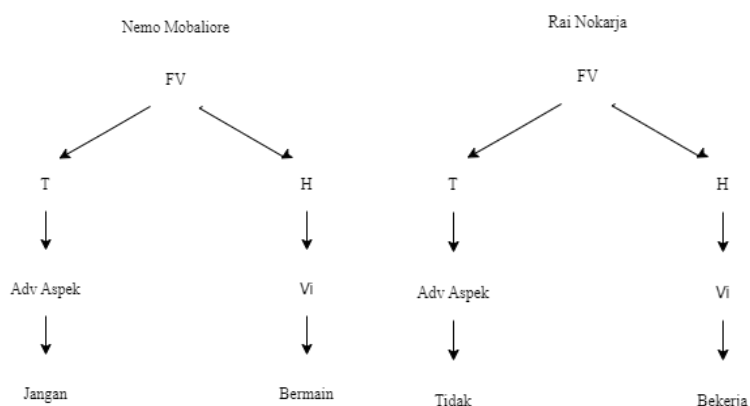
In this phrase, the intransitive verb of the modifiative type is upstream and followed by the adverbial as an addition, because the upstream as the center or core in the intransitive verb phrase of the modifiative type can stand alone and that which cannot occupy the core function of a phrase in the sentence is called an addition. Vin+Adv=H-T.



In this phrase, the word *norabu*, *loku*, functions as an upstream because the words can stand alone as a center or core, while the word *moje*, serves as an addition that cannot occupy the core function of a phrase. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are united into a modified intransitive verb phrase H-T.

Intransitive Verb Phrases Modified Type T-H

The addition cannot stand alone occupies the core function of a phrase in a sentence and the upstream as the center or core in a phrase can stand alone in the sentence. So in the intransitive verb phrase this modifiative type consists of an adverb in addition to being in front of the intransitive which functions as an upstream. Adv Vin=T-H.+

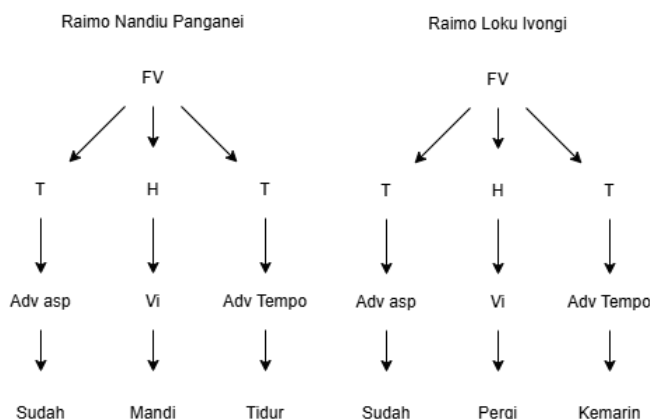


In this phrase the word *nemo*, *rai*, serves as an adjunct that cannot stand alone occupying the core function of a phrase, while the word *mobaliore*, *nokarja*, serves as the upstream or core in a phrase that can stand alone in a sentence. So, in order to form a modified intransitive verb phrase T-H.

Intransitive Verb Phrases of Modified Type T-H-T

In this phrase, the adverbial functions as an addition in front of the verb is also located behind the modifiative-type intransitive verb that functions upstream, because the upstream in this modified

intransitive verb phrase is in the middle of the addition. The upstream which is also the center or core of the phrase can stand alone in a sentence and the two additions in this intransitive verb phrase are in front and behind the intransitive verb of the modifiative type, because the addition cannot stand alone occupying the core function of the phrase in a sentence. Adv + Wine + Adv=T-H-T



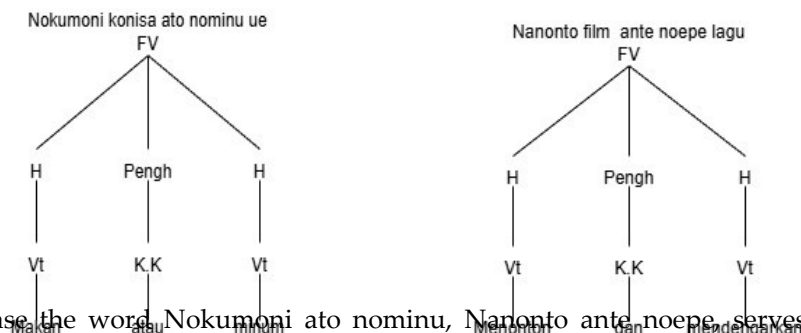
In this phrase the word Raimo Panganei, Raimo Ivongi, functions as an addition that is in front of the verb as well as behind the verb that cannot stand alone occupies the core function of a phrase in a sentence, while the word nandiu, loku functions as an upstream that is in the middle of the additional sa. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are put together into a modified intransitive verb phrase T-H-T.

Frase Verba transitive

Transitive verb phrase is a verb that is followed by a transitive verb followed by an adverb in addition. This transitive verb is a verb that requires an obick, therefore this phrase is inseparable from the object. This verb phrase consists of various forms, namely (1) the transitive verb phrase H-T. (2) transitive verb phrase T-H. (3) Transitive verb phrase T-H-T. The following is presented in the Kaili Rai dialect.

Monotransient Modification Type Verb Phrase H-H

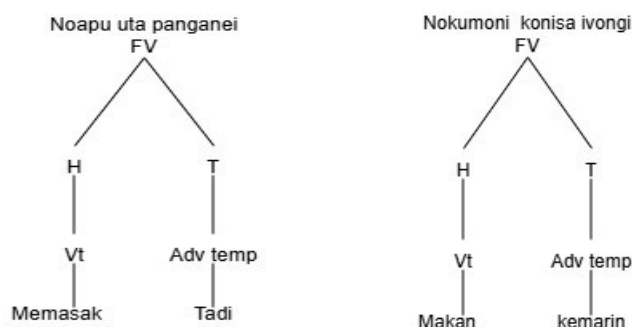
The monotransitive modifiative type verb phrase H-H is a construction consisting of two monotransitive verbs that are equivalent to upstream (core). The two elements are related in a coordinated manner, not subordinately. Each element stands The monotransitive modifiative type verb phrase H-H is a construction consisting of two monotransitive verbs that are equivalent to upstream (core). The two elements are related in a coordinated manner, not subordinately. Each element stands alone, so there are no elements that function as additions. Therefore, both verbs both play a role as the core in forming the overall meaning of the phrase. Vt + Vt = H-H



In this phrase the word Nokumoni ato nominu, Nanonto ante noepe serves as an addition. Therefore, both verbs both play a role as the core in forming the overall meaning of the phrase. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are united into a modified transitive verb phrase H-H.

Monotransitive Modification Type Verb Phrase H-T

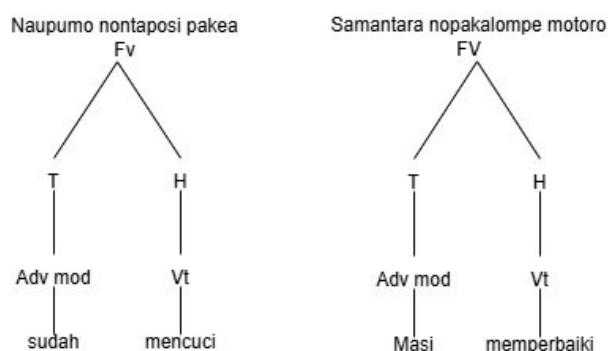
In this phrase, the adverbial that serves as an adjunct is behind the monotransitive verb that serves as an upstream. The upstream as the center or core in the monotransitive verb phrase can stand alone and those that cannot occupy the core function of a phrase in a sentence are called additional. Vt-Adv=H-T.



In this phrase, the word Noapu, Nokunmoni functions as the upstream or core in the phrase can stand alone and can occupy the function of the essence of a phrase in a sentence, while the words, panganei, ivongi function as an addition that cannot stand alone occupying the core function of a phrase in a sentence. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are united into a monotransitive verb phrase H-T.

Monotransient Modification Type Verb Phrase T-H

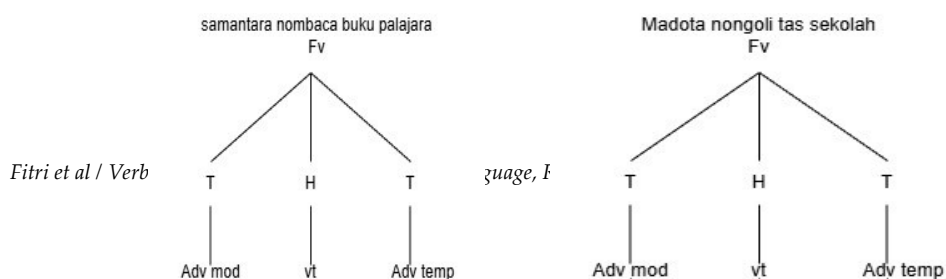
In addition, it cannot stand alone, occupying the core function of a phrase in a sentence and the upstream which as the center or core in a phrase can stand alone in the sentence. In this phrase, the adverbial serves as an addition to being in front of the verb which serves as an upstream. Adv Vt-T-H



In this phrase, the word Naupumo, Samantara functions as a feather or core in the phrase can stand alone and can occupy the function of the essence of a phrase in a sentence, while the word nantaposi, nompakalompe functions as an addition that cannot stand alone occupying the core function of a phrase in a sentence. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are united into a monotransitive verb phrase H-T.

Intransitive Verb Phrases of Modified Type T-H-T

In this phrase, the adverbial functions as an addition in front of the verb is also located behind the modificative-type intransitive verb that functions upstream, because the upstream in this modified intransitive verb phrase is in the middle of the addition. The upstream which is also the center or core of the phrase can stand alone in a sentence and the two additions in this intransitive verb phrase are in front and behind the intransitive verb of the modificative type, because the addition cannot stand alone occupying the core function of the phrase in a sentence.



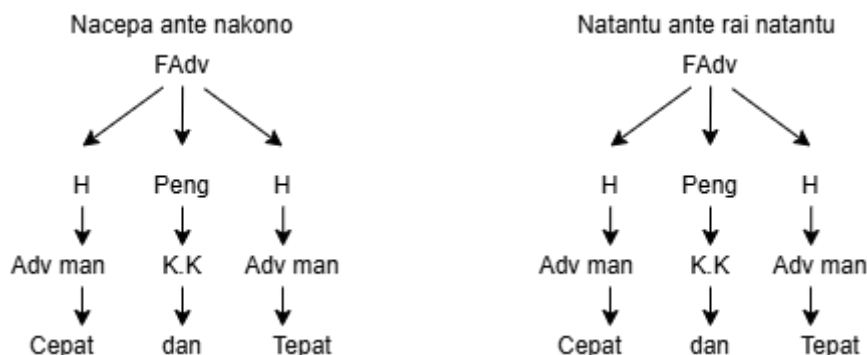
In this phrase, the word *Samantara*, *Madota*, functions as an addition that is in front also behind the verb *monotransitif*, while the word *book noun*, *nongoli tas* functions as an upstream in the middle of the addition. So, in order to form a phrase, the words are united into monotransitive verb phrases.

Adverbial Phrase

A modifiative-type adverb phrase is a phrase that describes a way or an adverb. In the adverbial phrase fills the Upstream (H) which is filled by the adverbial maner and the additional (T) which is filled by the adverbs modal, negative, aspect, quality, and prequel. Modified-type adverbial phrases consist of:

Adverbial phrases of type H-H

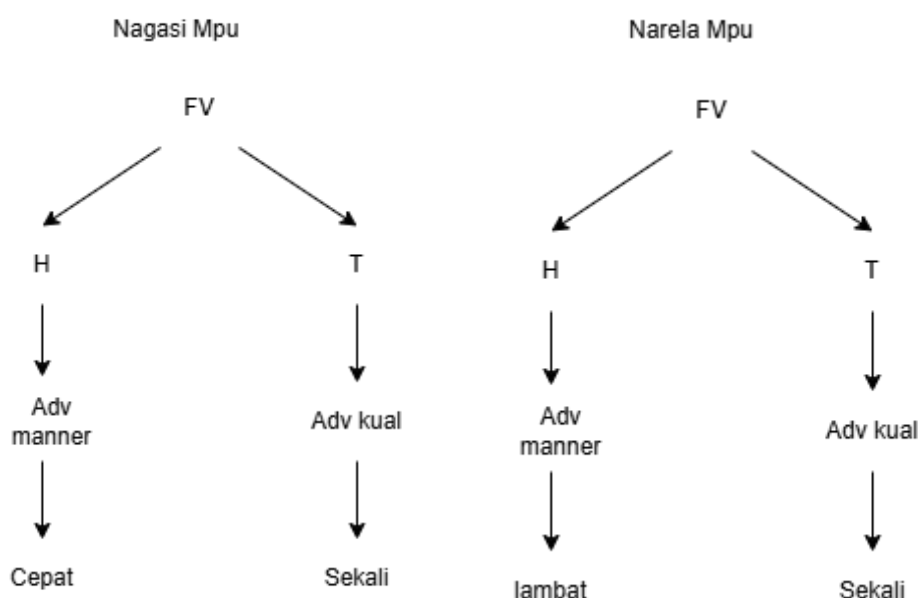
In this phrase it consists of the upstream slot (H) which contains the manner, the connecting slot (*pengh*) which is filled with a coordinating conjunction, and the upstream slot (H) which contains the manner, because the upstream is the center or core that can stand alone in the sentence. Here is an advebia phrase with an H-H pattern in the Rai dialect *kaili*. **FAdv = H: Adv manner + *pengh* (K.K) + H:Adv manner**



The explanation from the example above shows the H-H pattern whose structure functions to explain two different things or ways in parallel with the coordinating conjunction that acts as a link between the two.

Adverbial phrases of type H-T

In this phrase, it shows that the H-T structure consists of the upstream (H) which contains the manner and the additional slot (T) which contains quality, because the upstream (H) as the center or core that can stand alone in the sentence, while the additional (T) cannot occupy the function of the core of the adverbial phrase. The following is an advebia phrase with the H-T pattern in the Rai dialect language **FAdv = H:Adv manner + T:Adv qual**

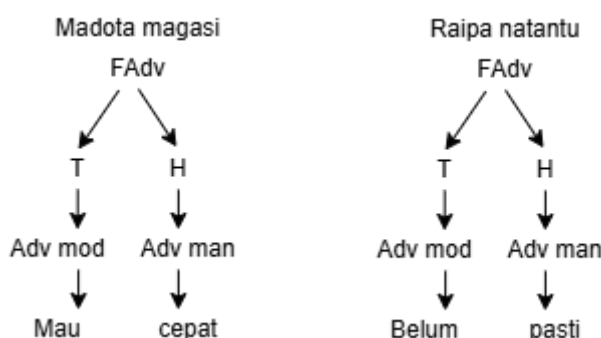


The explanation from the example above, shows the H-T pattern where the H (Upstream) slot which is the manner adverb functions to explain the action performed, while the T (Bound) slot behind it is in charge of clarifying the level or intensity of the method.

T-H type adverb phrases

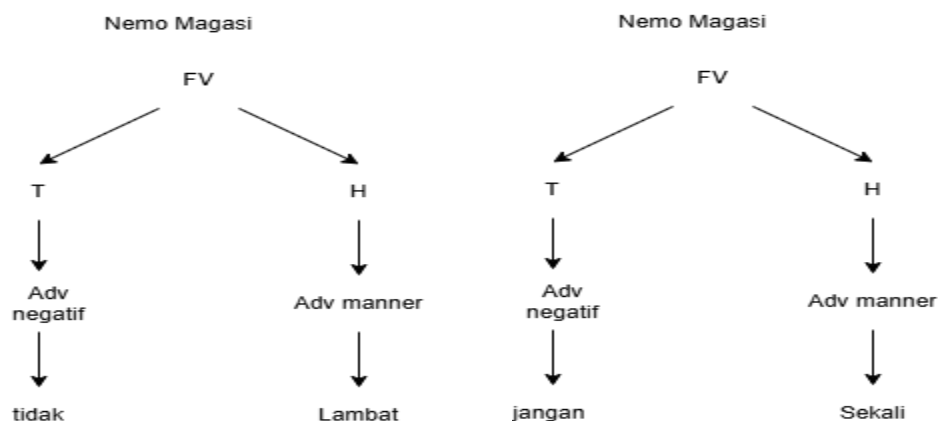
In this study, it shows that the structure of T-H consists of an additional slot (T) and an upstream slot (H), the addition is in the front position because the additional (T) cannot stand alone, requiring the upstream (H) to complement it. while the upstream (H) as the center or core can stand alone in a sentence. Here is an advebia phrase with a T-H pattern in the Rai dialect kaili.

a) F Adv = T :Adv modal + H :Adv manner



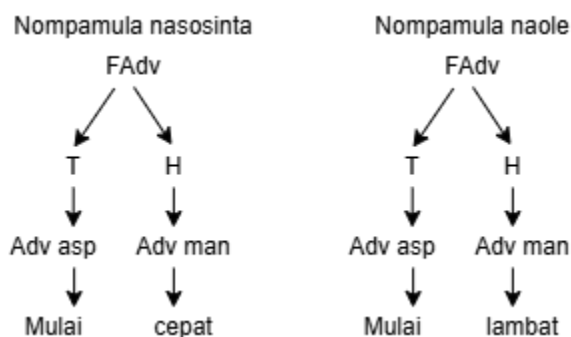
The explanation from the example above, shows the structure of T-H. Where modal adverbs function to reveal the speaker's certainty about a way of implementation. Either way it must have happened, it was likely to happen, or it should have been done that way. The manner adverb acts as a center that conveys real information about how an action is carried out. If the modal adverb (T) in front of it does not exist, the modal adverb (T) in front of it will lose the object that needs to be explained in the adverbial phrase.

b) F Adv = T :Adv negative + H :Adv man



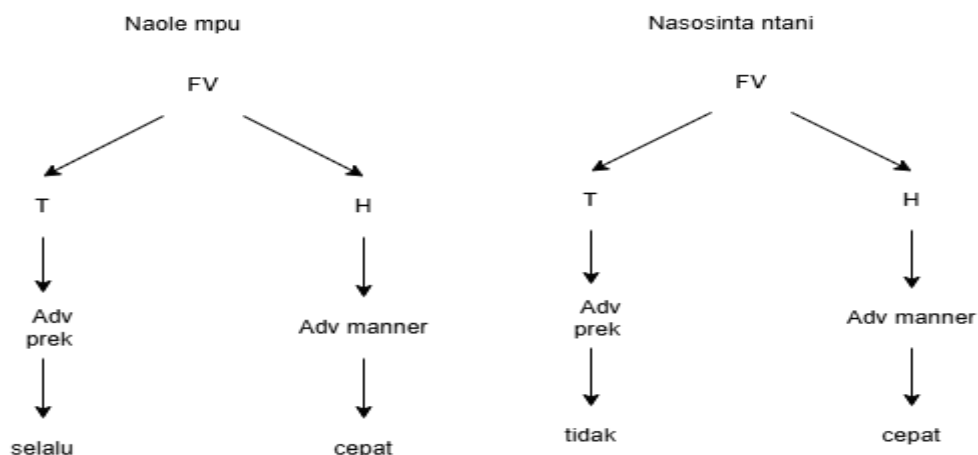
The explanation from the example above, shows the structure of T-H. In this pattern, negative adverbs serve as a limiting element that is useful for affirming, canceling, or rejecting the way described by the manner adverb behind it. The manner adverb itself has a role as the center of meaning whose task is to present substantial information about the way in which the action that is being denied or prohibited is carried out.

a) F Adv = T :Adv asp+ H :Adv man



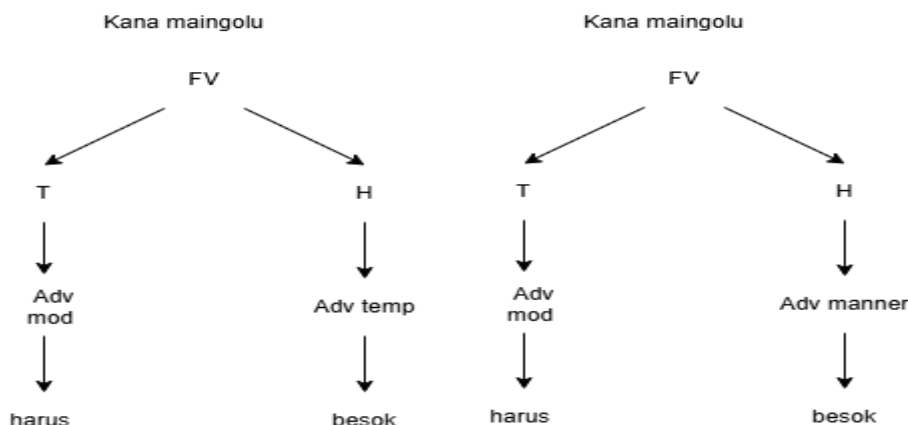
The explanation from the example above, shows the structure of T-H, the Adverb aspect acts as a constraint whose function is to affirm the stage of time or the state of continuity of the way it is done (whether the way is ongoing, will happen, has happened, or has just happened). Meanwhile, the manner adverb acts as the center of meaning whose job is to convey concrete information about how the action is carried out at the stage of time in question.

b) F Adv = T :Adv prek + H :Adv man



The explanation from the example above, shows the structure of T-H. The frequency adverb functions as a delimiter whose task is to determine how often or the frequency of the manner conveyed by the manner adverb that is behind it. Meanwhile, the manner adverb serves as a center of meaning whose job is to provide concrete information about how the action is carried out whenever it occurs.

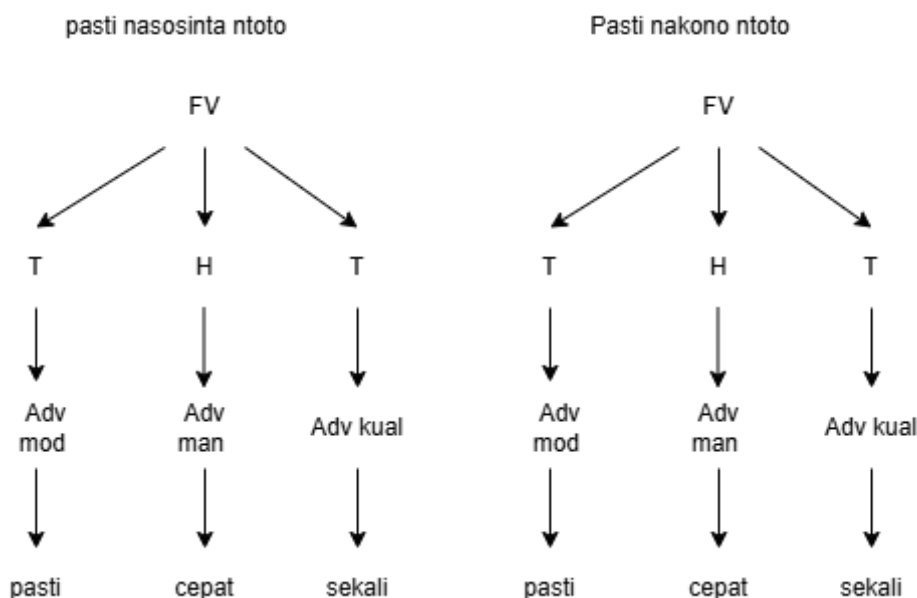
c) F Adv = T :Adv Mod + H :Adv Temp



The explanation from the example above, shows that the structure of the modal adverb T-H functions as a determinant whose task is to measure or ensure the speaker's level of confidence in the timeliness conveyed by the temporal adverb behind it. As the center of meaning, temporal adverbs function to provide basic information about the point in time (when) the event occurred.

Modifiative Adverb Phrase T-H-T

In this study, it is shown that the structure of T-H-T consists of an additional slot (T) which is in front because it contains the word pewatas to set the limit of meaning from the beginning, the upstream (H) is in the middle in the middle because of its role as the core of information or a axis surrounded by two explanatory elements, the additional slot (T) which is behind because it contains an affirmative word that is naturally obliged to follow the word described in order to provide reinforcement or final conclusion to the phrase. **F Adv = T :Adv mod + H :Adv man + T : Adv qual**



Modal adverbs serve as determinants whose job is to measure the speaker's level of certainty, belief, or subjective attitude towards the entire set of means expressed behind it. The manner adverb acts as the center of meaning or anchor of information that is in charge of conveying the main substance of how the concrete action is carried out. Meanwhile, qualitative adverbs serve to emphasize the level, intensity, or quality of the way in which the adverb manner is done.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussion of the structure of minor and major sentences in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect, it can be concluded as follows. First, minor sentences in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect are divided into two types. The first type is a minor sentence in the form of a word (5 data), which includes exclamatory expressions such as *natidampu* 'ouch' and *natebika* 'oh', expressions of awe such as *nadoli* 'great', command words such as *nesua* 'enter', and question words such as *nakuya* 'why'. The second type is minor sentences in the form of phrases (5 data), which include greeting phrases such as *masalama dumondo* 'good morning', prohibition phrases such as *nemo moroko* 'no smoking' and *nemo mesua* 'do not enter', command phrases such as *tutui boboka* 'close the door', as well as phrases of hope such as the *malompe* prayer 'good luck'. All of these minor sentences do not have a complete subject-predicate structure, but their meaning can still be understood based on the context of the speech situation. Second, major sentences in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect are divided into three types. The first type is a single major sentence (5 data) with the S-P-Aj pattern, in which the subject is realized by a noun phrase (FN), a predicate by an intransitive verb (FVi), and adjunct by a prepositional phrase (Fprep). The second type is a compound major sentence (5 data) with the pattern KL Independent 1 + Connecting ante + KL Independent 2, where two equivalent free clauses are connected by the coordinating conjunction ante 'and'. The third type is a complex major sentence (5 data) with an independent clause pattern + a subordinate conjunction of time 'when' + an adverb clause, which shows the time relationship between two events expressed in the sentence

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