

## Minor and Major Sentence Structure in Kaili Language Rai Dialect

Rifdah Nur Zahiidah<sup>1</sup>, Felicia Elsadora Moran<sup>2</sup>, Amelia Zahra<sup>3</sup>, Annisa Miftahul Rezky<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Tadulako University, Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

Language is an arbitrary, productive, dynamic, diverse, and used sound symbol system by humans as a means of communication. This study aims to describe the structure of minor and major sentences in the Kaili language Rai dialect. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. Data were collected using the observation method and the conversational method with involvement observation, recording techniques, face-to-face conversation, and note-taking techniques. Data analysis was conducted using the identity method with translational technique. The results show that minor sentences in the Kaili language Rai dialect are divided into two types: minor sentences in the form of words (5 data) which include exclamations, commands, and questions, as well as minor sentences in the form of phrases (5 data) which include greeting phrases, prohibitions, commands, hopes, and warnings. Meanwhile, major sentences are divided into three types: simple major sentences with S-P-Adv pattern (5 data), compound major sentences with Independent Clause 1 + Conjunction 'ante' + Independent Clause 2 pattern (5 data), and complex major sentences with independent clause + subordinating conjunction ('waktu' meaning 'when') + adverbial clause pattern (5 data).

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#### Corresponding Author:

Rifdah Nur Zahiidah

Tadulako University, Indonesia; [rifdahnurzahiidah@gmail.com](mailto:rifdahnurzahiidah@gmail.com)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is an arbitrary, productive, dynamic, diverse, and used sound symbol system by humans as a means of communication (Suwandi, 2021; Kusumaningsih et al., 2022). As social beings, humans need language to interact, convey ideas, feelings, and information to others (Nababan & Suryadi, 2021; Wibowo, 2023). The existence of language is very important because almost all human activities are inseparable from the use of language, both verbally and in writing (Pranowo, 2021). In Indonesia, in addition to Indonesian as the national language, there are also hundreds of regional languages spread across various regions of the archipelago (Language Development and Development Agency, 2023; Sahril et al., 2022). Each regional language has its own characteristics and uniqueness, both in terms of sound systems, vocabulary, and grammatical structure (Mahsun, 2022; Sibarani, 2023).

One of the important studies in linguistics that discusses the structure and relationship between language elements is syntax. According to Kridalaksana (1985, in Khairah & Ridwan, 2014), syntax is a grammatical subsystem that includes words and units that are larger than words and the relationships between them. In other words, syntax studies how words are arranged and connected so as to form

larger language units such as phrases, clauses, and sentences (Putrayasa, 2021; Mulyadi, 2022). In syntax studies, what is observed is not only the form of words, but also the relationships between words in an order that form a clear and meaningful structure (Khairah & Ridwan, 2021; Arifin, 2023).

Ramlan (1987, in Khairah & Ridwan, 2014) also states that syntax is a language science that discusses the intricacies of discourse, sentences, clauses, and phrases. Through syntactic studies, it can be known how these elements are arranged so that they form a clear structure (Putrayasa, 2021). Syntax does not only discuss small language units, but also larger units and the relationships between their elements in a sentence (Mulyadi, 2022). Therefore, syntactic studies are closely related to sentence structure analysis because sentences are one of the important units in syntax discussions (Arifin, 2023; Khairah & Ridwan, 2021).

In syntax studies, sentences are units of language that can relatively stand alone, have a final intonation pattern, and consist of clauses (Putrayasa, 2021). Based on the completeness of its syntactic function, sentences can be divided into two types, namely incomplete sentences called minor sentences and complete sentences called major sentences (Khairah & Ridwan, 2021). Major sentences and minor sentences are still important objects of study because they show variations in the syntactic structure used by speakers in daily communication (Sutrisno, 2022; Lestari & Hidayat, 2024). Kaili is one of the regional languages found in Central Sulawesi Province. This language is spoken by people who live in most areas of Donggala Regency, Sigi Regency, Palu City, and parts of Parigi Moutong Regency (Language Development and Development Agency, 2023). The Kaili language has several dialects, including the Ledo dialect, the Rai dialect, the Tara dialect, the Ado dialect, the Da'a dialect, the Inde dialect, the Edo dialect, and the Unde dialect (Mahsun, 2022; Rahman et al., 2023). Each dialect in a language can have differences in sentence structure, both in terms of word order patterns, the use of affixes, and other syntactic constructions (Sibarani, 2023; Yusri et al., 2024).

Research on sentence structure in the Kaili dialect of Rai is still very limited. The majority of research on the Kaili language focuses more on morphological or lexical aspects, while the study of syntax, especially related to minor sentences and major sentences, has not been widely done. In fact, understanding the sentence structure is very important to document and preserve the regional language in the midst of globalization and the dominance of the Indonesian language (Sahril et al., 2022; Sibarani, 2023). Language documentation is one of the strategic efforts to maintain the sustainability of regional languages that are threatened with intergenerational language shifts (Haryono, 2021; Nurhayati et al., 2024). Without adequate documentation, it is feared that the Kaili dialect of Rai will be further marginalized and lose its native speakers (Rahman et al., 2023; Yusri et al., 2024).

## 2. METHODS

This research is included in qualitative descriptive research (Sudaryanto, 2015, in Sri et al., 2016). Descriptive methods are used to describe and describe data systematically, factually, and accurately according to the data found in the field. The qualitative approach is used because the data analyzed is in the form of linguistic data, not statistical or numerical data. This research is also a field research because the data source was obtained directly from informants at the research location, namely Sipeso Village, Sindue Tobata District, Donggala Regency. The data in this study are sentences in the Kaili dialect of Rai obtained from informants. These sentences include minor sentences and major sentences obtained through informants' responses to the list of Indonesian sentences that have been prepared by the researcher before going to the field. The data source in this study is the native residents of Sipeso Village, Sindue Tobata District, Donggala Regency who use the Kaili language of the Rai dialect in their daily lives. The selection of informants from among the indigenous villagers was based on the consideration that they were people who naturally mastered the Kaili language of the Rai dialect, so that the data obtained could reflect the actual use of sentences.

Data collection was carried out using the *simak* method and the *cakap* method (Sudaryanto, 1993). The method of listening is carried out by listening to the use of informant language to obtain data in the form of sentences in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect. The *cakap* method is carried out in

conversations between researchers and speakers as resource persons to provoke the emergence of sentences in the Kaili dialect of Rai. The method of listening is carried out with the technique of involvement, proficiency and recording technique. The cakap method is carried out with face-to-face cakap techniques and note-taking techniques. The instrument in this study is the researcher himself (human instrument) who plays a direct role in collecting data through observation, screening, and interviewing informants. In addition, this study also uses supporting instruments, namely a list of questions as an interview guide, a mobile phone as a voice recording device, and stationery in the form of notebooks and pens.

The data analysis in this study uses a matching method with translational techniques (Sudaryanto, 1993). The matching method is an analysis method whose determining tool is outside and is not part of the language being studied. Translational techniques are part of the matching method that uses other languages as a determining tool in analyzing the linguistic data being studied. In this case, Indonesian acts as a determining tool to assist researchers in identifying and proving the sentence structure contained in the Kaili dialect of Rai, so that the analysis carried out can produce systematic and accurate descriptions

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research obtained from informants in Sipeso Village, Sindue Tobata District, Donggala Regency, minor sentences and major sentences were found in the Kaili dialect of Rai. Minor sentences are sentences that have an incomplete pattern, both in the form of words and phrases, whose meaning can be understood based on the context of the conversation. Based on their form, minor sentences found in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect are divided into two types, namely minor sentences in the form of words (5 data) and minor sentences in the form of phrases (5 data). The major sentences in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect are divided into three types, namely simple/single major sentences with the structure S-P-Aj which is realized by the noun phrase (FN) as the subject, the intransitive verb (FVi) as the predicate, and the prepositional phrase (Fprep) as the adjunct (5 data), the plural major sentence with the structure of Independent KL 1 + Ante link + Independent KL 2 which connects two equivalent free clauses through a coordinating conjunction (5 data), and a complex major sentence with an independent clause structure + time subordinative conjunction + adverb clause stating the time relationship between two events (5 data). Thus, the total data obtained and analyzed in this study amounted to 25 data.

#### Minor sentences in the form of words

A minor sentence in the form of a word is a minor sentence that consists of only one word and already has a complete meaning based on the context (Gorys Keraf, 1984:156). The following is the data of minor sentences in the form of words found in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect.

Data (1)

Natidampu!  
'Ouch!'

Data (1) is a minor sentence in the form of a word. Based on the translation matching technique, *natidampu* in the Kaili dialect of Rai is equivalent to the word *aduh* in Indonesian. The word "ouch" is an interjection that expresses pain, surprise, or shock. This sentence consists of only one word and does not have a complete subject-predicate structure, but its meaning can be understood based on the context of the speech situation. Therefore, *natidampu* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a word.

Data (2)

Natebika!  
'Oh my gosh!'

Data (2) is a minor sentence in the form of a word. Based on the translation matching technique, *natebika* in the Kaili dialect of Rai is equivalent to the word *astaga* in Indonesian. The word *astaga* is an interjection that expresses surprise or surprise at an event. This sentence consists of only one word and

does not have a complete subject-predicate structure, but its meaning can be understood through the context of the conversation. Thus, *natebika* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a word.

Data (3)

Nadoli.

'Great.'

Data (3) is a minor sentence in the form of a word. Based on the translation matching technique, *nadoli* in the Kaili dialect of Rai is equivalent to *the word hebat* in Indonesian. The word *great* is an expression of admiration for something extraordinary. This sentence consists of only one word and does not form a complete sentence structure, but its meaning can be understood based on the context. Therefore, *nadoli* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a word.

Data (4)

Nesu!

'Come in!'

Data (4) is a minor sentence in the form of a word. Based on the translational matching technique, *nesua* in the Kaili dialect of Rai corresponds to *the entry* word in Indonesian. The word *enter* is a command word that is spoken to ask or tell someone to enter a place. This sentence consists of only one word and is not explicitly accompanied by the subject, but its meaning is clear based on the context of the speech situation. Thus, *nesua* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a word.

Data (5)

Squirrels?

'Why?'

Data (5) is a minor sentence in the form of a word. Based on the translation matching technique, *nakuya* in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect corresponds to *the word why* in Indonesian. The word *why* is a question word used to ask the cause or reason of an event. This sentence consists of only one word and does not have a complete sentence structure, but its meaning can be understood based on the context of the conversation. Therefore, *nakuya* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a word.

### Minor sentences in the form of phrases

A minor sentence in the form of a phrase is a minor sentence consisting of a combination of two or more words that have not yet formed a complete subject-predicate structure, but their meaning can be understood from the context of the conversation (Gorys Keraf, 1984:157). The following is the data of minor sentences in the form of phrases found in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect.

Data (6)

Masalama dumondo.

'Good morning.'

Data (6) is a minor sentence in the form of a phrase. Based on the translation matching technique, *masalama dumondo* in the Kaili dialect of Rai corresponds to the phrase *good morning* in Indonesian. The phrase *good morning* is a greeting phrase that is commonly used as a greeting in the morning. This sentence consists of two words that make up a phrase, but it does not have a complete subject-predicate structure. The meaning can be understood based on the context of the speech situation. Therefore, *masalama dumondo* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a phrase.

Data (7)

Nemo moroko!

'Dilarang merokok!'

Data (7) is a minor sentence in the form of a phrase. Based on the translation matching technique, *nemo moroko* in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect corresponds to the phrase *prohibition of smoking* in Indonesian. The phrase *no smoking* is a prohibition expression that informs that an activity is not allowed in a place. This sentence consists of two words that form a prohibited phrase, without explicitly having a subject. The meaning can be understood based on the context. Thus, *nemo moroko* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a phrase.

Data (8)

Burn it down!  
'Close the door!'

Data (8) is a minor sentence in the form of a phrase. Based on the translation matching technique, *tutui boboka* in the Kaili dialect of Rai corresponds to the phrase *closing the door* in Indonesian. The phrase *close the door* is an expression of a command that asks someone to close the door. This sentence consists of two words that form a command phrase without an explicit subject. The meaning can still be understood through the context of the speech situation. Therefore, *tutui boboka* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a phrase.

Data (9)

Doa malompe.  
'Good luck.'

Data (9) is a minor sentence in the form of a phrase. Based on the translational matching technique, *the malompe prayer* in the Kaili dialect of Rai corresponds to the phrase *good luck* in Indonesian. The phrase *good luck* is an expression of hope that is spoken to others in order to achieve success. This sentence consists of two words that form the expectation phrase and does not have a complete subject-predicate structure. The meaning can be understood based on the context of the conversation. Thus, *malompe prayer* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a phrase.

Data (10)

Nemo mesua!  
'Don't go in!'

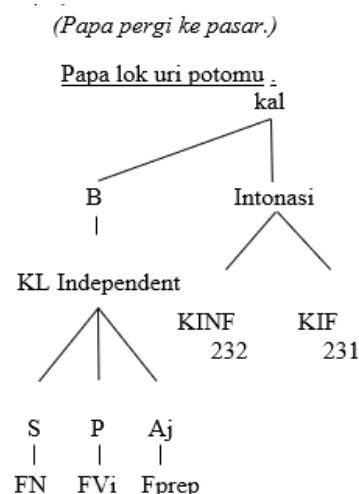
Data (10) is a minor sentence in the form of a phrase. Based on the translation matching technique, *nemo mesua* in the Kaili dialect of Rai is equivalent to the phrase *do not enter* in Indonesian. The phrase *do not enter* is a prohibition expression that prohibits a person from entering a place. This sentence consists of two words that form a prohibition phrase without being accompanied by an explicit subject. Its meaning can be understood through the context of the situation. Therefore, *nemo mesua* is classified as a minor sentence in the form of a phrase.

### Major Sentence Types

#### Simple/Single Sentences

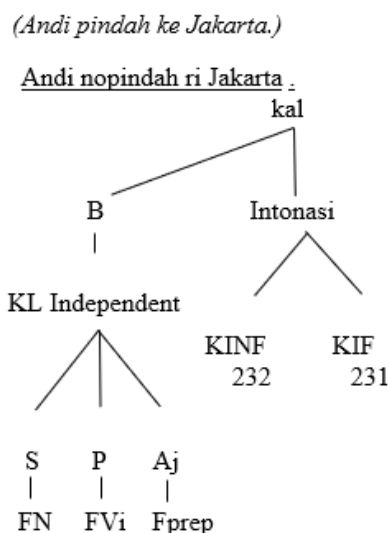
A simple major sentence or single sentence is a sentence that consists of only one free clause with a subject structure (S), predicate (P), and adjunct (Aj) without connecting elements between clauses (Cook, 1971; Elson and Pickett, 1969, in Putrayasa, 2017). In the Kaili language of the Rai dialect, the major simple/singular sentence is structured S-P-Aj, where the subject is realized by a noun phrase (FN), predicate by an intransitive verb phrase (FVi), and adjunct by a prepositional phrase (Fprep). The following is the data of simple major sentences found in the Kaili dialect of Rai.

Date:



Data (11) is a simple / single major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Papa lok uri potomu* in Kaili dialect Rai corresponds to *Papa going to the market* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of one free clause with the structure S-P-Aj. *Papa* as the subject (FN), *lok* as the predicate (FVi), and *uri potomu* as adjung/description realized by Fprep. This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (231). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a simple major/single sentence.

Date:



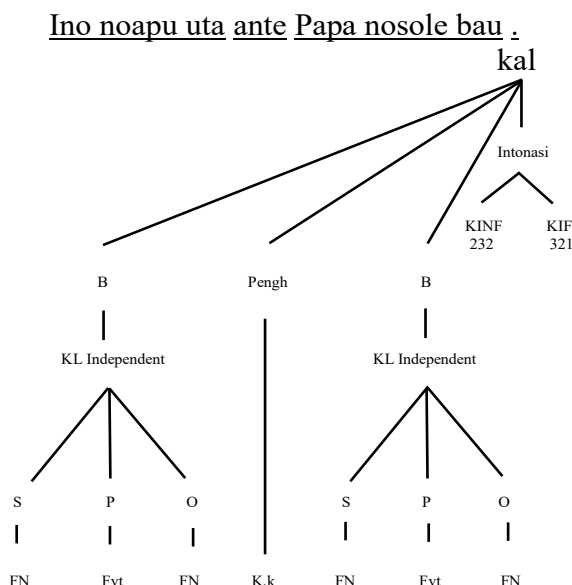
Data (12) is a simple / single major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Andi moved to Jakarta* in Kaili the Rai dialect corresponds to *Andi moving to Jakarta* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of one free clause with the structure S-P-Aj. *Andi* as the subject (FN), *nomove* as the predicate (FVi), and *ri jakarta* as the adjutant/information realized by Fprep. This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (231). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a simple major/single sentence.

**Compound Sentences**

A compound major sentence is a sentence consisting of two independent clauses of equal position connected by a coordinating conjunction (Ramlan, 1987, in Khairah & Ridwan, 2014). In the Kaili dialect of Rai, the compound major sentence is structured KL Independent 1 + Connecting *ante* + KL Independent 2, where *ante* corresponds to *and* in Indonesian. The following is the data of compound major sentences found in the Kaili dialect of Rai.

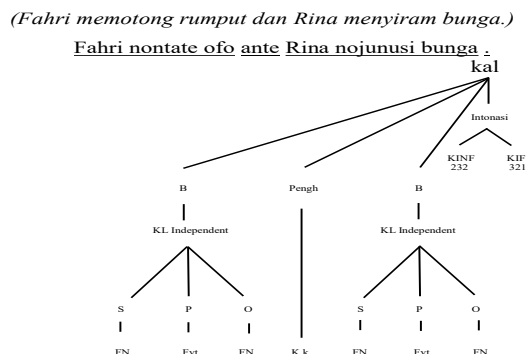
Date:

(Ibu memasak sayur dan Ayah menggoreng ikan.)



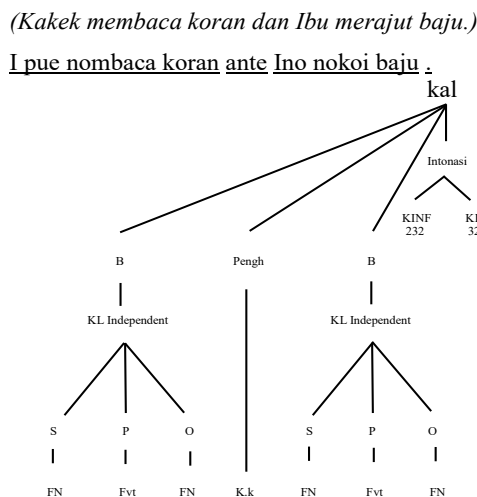
Data (16) is a compound major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Ino noapu uta ante papa nosole bau* in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect corresponds to *Mother cooking vegetables and Father frying fish* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of two equal free clauses. The first clause: *Ino* as a subject (FN), *noapu* as a predicate (FVt), *uta* as an object (FN). The word *ante* as a link (k.k). The second clause: *papa* as subject (FN), *nosole* as predicate (FVt), *smell* as object (FN). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a compound major sentence.

Data 17:



Data (17) is a compound major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Fahri nontate ofo ante Rina nojunusi flowers* in Kaili dialect Rai corresponds to *Fahri mowing the grass and Rina watering flowers* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of two equal free clauses. The first clause: *Fahri* as the subject (FN), *nontate* as the predicate (FVt), *ofo* as the object (FN). The word *ante* as a link (k.k). The second clause: *Rina* as the subject (FN), *the nojunusi* as the predicate (FVt), *the flower* as the object (FN). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a compound major sentence.

Data (18)

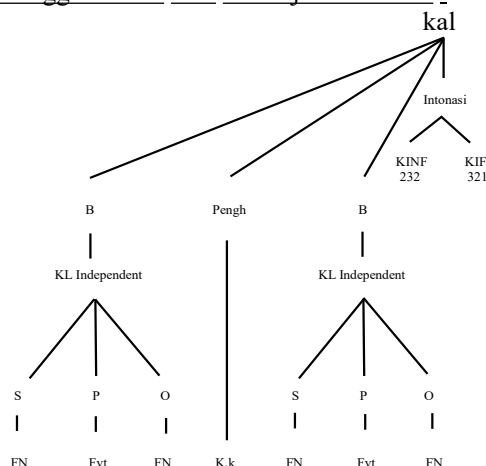


Data (18) is a compound major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *I pue nombaca the newspaper ante Ino nokoi baju* in the Kaili language of the Rai dialect is equivalent to *Grandpa reading the newspaper and Mother knitting clothes* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of two equal free clauses. The first clause: *I pue* as the subject (FN), *the noun read* as a predicate (FVt), *the newspaper* as the object (FN). The word *ante* as a link (k.k). The second clause: *Ino* as the subject (FN), *nokoi* as the predicate (FVt), *the clothes* as the object (FN). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a compound major sentence.

Data (19)

(Ayah mencuci mobil dan Ibu menyiram tanaman.)

Papa nonggovisi oto ante Ino nojunusi nituda .

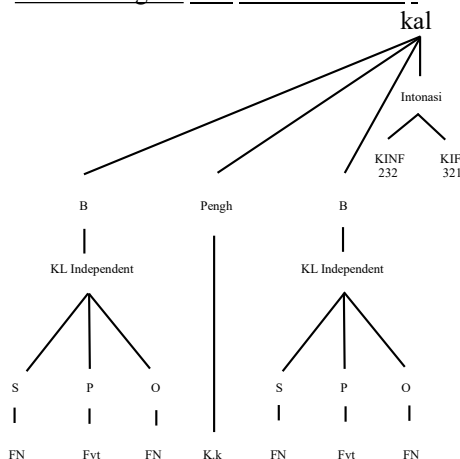


Data (19) is a compound major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Papa nonggovisi oto ante Ino nojunusi nituda* in Kaili dialect Rai corresponds to *Dad washing the car and Mom watering plants* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of two equal free clauses. The first clause: *Papa* as a subject (FN), *nonggovisi* as a predicate (FVt), *oto* as an object (FN). The word *ante* as a link (k.k). Second clause: *Ino* as subject (FN), *nojunusi* as predicate (FVt), *nituda* as object (FN). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a compound major sentence.

Data (20)

(Dina membuat kue dan Rifa menyeduh teh.)

Dina novia gade ante Rifa notulali tee .



Data (20) is a compound major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Dina novia gade ante Rifa notulali tee* in Kaili dialect Rai corresponds to *Dina making a cake and Rifa brewing tea* in Indonesian. This sentence consists of two equal free clauses. The first clause: *Dina* as the subject (FN), *the novia* as the predicate (FVt), *the gade* as the object (FN). The word *ante* as a link (k.k). Second clause: *Rifa* as subject (FN), *notulate* as predicate (FVt), *tee* as object (FN). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a compound major sentence.

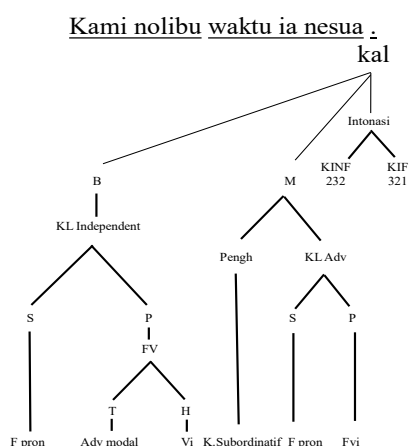
### Complex Sentences

A complex major sentence is a sentence consisting of one independent clause and one dependent clause connected by a subordinate conjunction (Ramlan, 1987, in Putrayasa, 2017). In the Kaili language of the Rai dialect, the complex major sentence is patterned with independent clauses + subordinative conjunctions of *time* + adverb clauses, where *time* corresponds to *when* in Indonesian which states the

relationship of time. The following is the data of complex major sentences found in the Kaili dialect of Rai.

Data (21)

(*Kami sedang berdiskusi ketika dia masuk.*)

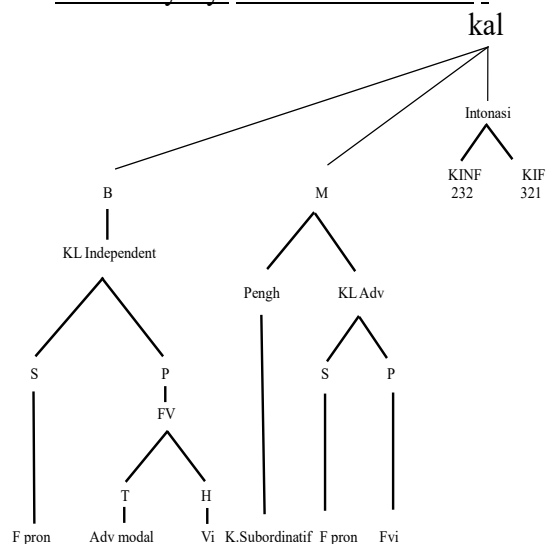


Data (21) is a complex major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Kami zeroed the time he was in* the Kaili language of the Rai dialect corresponding to *Kami was discussing when he entered* the Indonesian language. Independent clause: *We* as the subject (Fpron), *zero* as the predicate (FV) with the addition of (T) modal adverb and upstream/core (H) intransitive verb (Vi). The tense word is the connecting of subordinative conjunctions (M). Adverb clause: *it* as the subject (Fpron), *nesua* as the predicate (FVi). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a complex major sentence.

Data (22)

(*Dia sedang bernyanyi ketika kami datang.*)

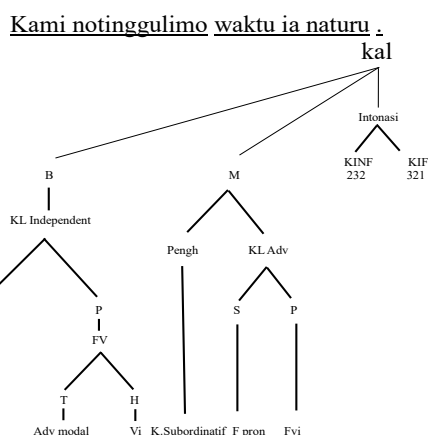
Ia nomanyanyi waktu kami nasonda .



Data (22) is a complex major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *He was singing when we were nasonda* in the Kaili dialect of Rai as matched to *He was singing when we came in Indonesian*. Independent clause: *He* as the subject (Fpron), *the nomasang* as a predicate (FV) with the addition of (T) modal adverb and upstream/core (H) intransitive verb (Vi). The tense word is the connecting of subordinative conjunctions (M). Adverb clauses: *we* as the subject (Fpron), *nasonda* as predicate (FVi). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a complex major sentence.

Data (23)

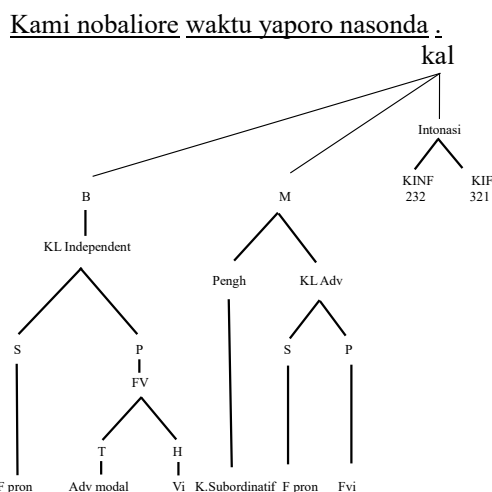
(Kami sudah pulang ketika dia tidur.)



Data (23) is a complex major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *we note that when he naturu* in Kaili the Rai dialect corresponds to *Kami has gone home when he sleeps* in Indonesian. Independent clause: *We* as the subject (Fpron), *notinggulimo* as predicate (FV) with the addition (T) of modal adverbs and upstream/core (H) of intransitive verbs (Vi). The tense word is the connecting of subordinative conjunctions (M). Adverb clause: *he* as the subject (Fpron), *naturu* as predicate (FVi). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a complex major sentence.

Data (24)

(Kami sedang bermain ketika mereka datang.)

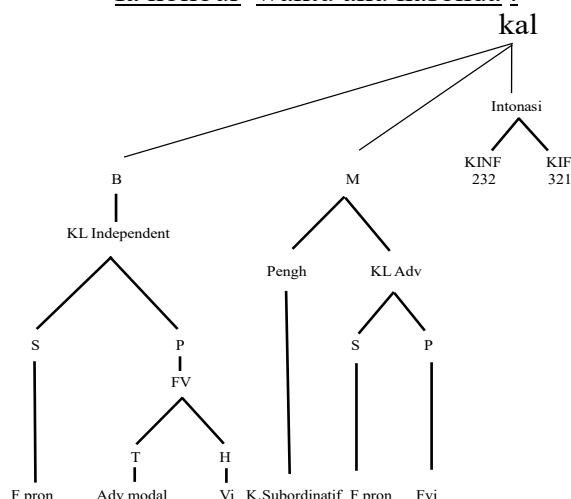


Data (24) is a complex major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *Kami nobaliore the time yaporo nasonda* in Kaili Rai dialect corresponds to *Kami is playing when they come* in Indonesian. Independent clause: *We* as the subject (Fpron), *nobaliore* as predicate (FV) with the addition of (T) modal adverb and upstream/core (H) intransitive verb (Vi). The tense word is the connecting of subordinative conjunctions (M). Adverb clauses: *yaporo* as subject (Fpron), *nasonda* as predicate (FVi). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a complex major sentence.

Data (25)

(Dia sedang berlibur ketika aku datang.)

Ia nolibur waktu aku nasonda .



Data (25) is a complex major sentence. Based on the translation matching technique, *he noticed when I was nasonda* in the Kaili dialect of Rai which corresponded to *him on vacation when I came* in Indonesian. Independent clause: *He* as the subject (Fpron), *nolibur* as predicate (FV) with the addition of (T) modal adverb and upstream/core (H) intransitive verb (Vi). The tense word is the connecting of subordinative conjunctions (M). Adverb clause: *I* as the subject (Fpron), *nasonda* as the predicate (FVi). This sentence has KINF (232) and KIF (321). Therefore, this sentence is classified as a complex major sentence.

#### 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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