

## Grammatical Relation: Subject Constructions in Batak Toba Language

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to delineate the grammatical relations within the Toba Batak language, explicitly focusing on characterizing the behavioral properties of subject construction. Employing a descriptive qualitative research approach, this study drew its data from 14 songs in the Toba Batak language retrieved from the social media platform YouTube, containing instances of grammatical relations, particularly those undergoing subject construction examination. The data collection process involved listening to and recording song lyrics in the Toba Batak language. Within these songs, the identified subject constructions undergoing testing include the Subject of quantifier float ("all") and relativization ("which"). Subject constructions such as non-obvious pronominal (PRO) and raising were also observed. Consequently, it is inferred that subject construction can be examined and scrutinized within the context of Toba Batak language songs.

## **INTRODUCTION (Start on new page, separated from title page above)**

Grammatical relations are important to grammatical elements that precede and follow concurrent grammatical elements in paradigms (Chaer, 2014). Grammatical relations include the meaning of phrases and sentences that have meaning (Wiriani, 2017). In general, (Kreidler, 2002) discusses grammatical relations referring to the syntactical relationships between elements in a sentence, including the relationships between subjects and predicates, between nouns and verbs, or between different types of phrases. Furthermore, (Farrell, 2005) states that grammatical relations are certain parts of language constructions called grammatical categories, such as Subject, Predicate, Object, and adjunct. In Halliday's view (Halliday & Webster, 2009), language structure reflects its communicative function. Therefore, grammatical relations in language must be understood in the context of its communicative function.

In natural language syntax, grammatical relations are related to many syntactic (grammatical) concepts and terms, such as Subject, Direct Object, and Indirect Object. The terms for grammatical relations in relational grammar are Subject, Direct Object, Indirect Object, and Oblique relation. To explain various aspects of clause structure and the universal principles governing the structure and organization of natural language syntax, (Moeliono, 2000) mentions grammatical relations. Kroeger (Kroeger, 2005) discusses the concept of grammatical relations in the context of grammar analysis. In his work, Kroeger discusses various aspects of grammatical relations, including the relationship between words in a sentence, phrase structure, and other constituents. The grammatical analysis taught by Kroeger involves understanding how the elements of a sentence interact to form meaning. This approach involves phrase structure, syntax trees, and grammatical relations between subjects, predicates, objects, and other grammatical elements. Kroeger views grammar as a complex system in which grammatical elements are interconnected to form sentences and convey meaning.

This research focuses on grammatical relations and the construction of subjects in the Toba Batak language as the object of research to be analyzed. One of the exciting things to study about grammatical relations is that every language has different grammatical relations, especially when experts examine from various points of view, such as semantic, typological, or syntactic. Therefore, this research is interesting to study, especially examining grammatical relations to the construction of Subject in the Toba Batak language. This study uses a syntactic approach to examine the construction of subject behavior in the Toba Batak language by applying the theory of (Moeliono, 2000) about subject construction, namely (1) non-obvious pronominal (PRO), (2) raising, (3) reflective, (4) quantifier float, (5) relativization. The research question in this study is what subject behaviors exist in Toba Batak. Some researchers have researched grammatical relations.

For example, (Susandhika et al., 2016) researched the function, category, role, and syntactic category tree diagram in a Talk Show. The results show that the syntactic functions involved in the discussion include Subject, predicate (core) or nucleus, and object; the categories of Subject and object are nouns, and the predicate (nucleus) is a verb or verb and adjective or adjective; the role of the Subject is as a doer, the object as a patient, and the predicate (nucleus) indicates activity or state. Furthermore, (Basaria, 2018) conducted research on the grammatical relation of the Subject of Pakpak Dairi Language. This research concluded that grammatical relations play an essential role in the syntax of natural languages because they relate to a number of syntactic (grammatical) concepts and terms such as Subject, Object, and Oblique. (Simanjuntak & Mulyadi, 2019) they examined grammatical relations in the Toba Batak language. The difference is that this study examines word order, case marking, and semantic roles in the Toba Batak language. Then, (Putri et al., 2020) researched Indonesian grammatical relations in a newspaper by describing the behavioral properties of Indonesian grammatical relations, including the Subject. The results showed that testing the nature of Indonesian grammatical subject behavior is based on the rules of (a) elevation, (b) development of the term, (c) unexplained pronominal (PRO), (d) relativization, and (e) reflexive. The test results show that the Subject is an agent with a basic SPO structure. Research on grammatical relations has also been carried out by (Dwipayana et al., n.d.), which discusses grammatical relations and the semantic role of arguments in specific argument structures. All grammatical relations were found in English verbs Subject, Object, Adjunct, and Complement. On the other hand, all semantic roles are found except stimulus, addressee, and accompaniment.

The equation of this research is that there are several previous studies on the object of research. In contrast, the difference of this research is in the analysis of research data, namely by taking data from the Toba Batak language song to test the construction of the Subject based on the theory of (Moeliono, 2000), namely the data analyzed based on (1) non-obvious pronominal (PRO), (2) raising, (3) reflexive, (4) quantifier float, (5) relativization. The focus of this research is not an attempt to introduce the structure of grammatical relations to readers. However, it explores the construction of subject behavior in the Toba Batak language. So, based on the background above, the formulation of this study is to answer the following questions: How is the analysis of subject behavior constructed in the Toba Batak language? From the research question, this study aims to describe and identify the construction of subject behavior in the Toba Batak language. By identifying grammatical relations, the urgency of this research helps in understanding the complexity of grammar and how elements in sentences are interconnected. In addition, this research can also help analyze differences in grammar between different languages. At the same time, the criteria for the function of grammatical relations can help classify and understand the role of grammatical relations in various grammatical contexts.

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

### **Grammatical Relations**

The basic concept of grammatical functions and relations is based on the opinion expressed by (Comrie, 2014), which states that grammatical functions (both according to traditional opinions and in recent writings) are parts or elements of sentences/clauses categorized as Subject (S), direct object (DO), and indirect object (IO). The three grammatical functions and relations are syntactic relations. Besides syntactic grammatical functions, there are semantic relational functions, namely locative, benefactive, and instrumental, which are collectively called oblique relations (Moeliono, 2000). Other scholars, such as (Farrell, 2005), contribute significantly to understanding grammatical relations in language. Farrell (Farrell, 2005) explains how grammatical relations are characterized in modern theories of grammar. He explains the historical and conceptual development of these theories of language by considering their advantages and limitations in different contexts. He examines their conceptions of relations such as Subject, object, indirect object, agent, patient, and actor. (Fillmore & others, 2006) developed the concept of "frame semantics," which includes understanding how words and language structures are related to conceptual frameworks that shape meaning. It helps us understand how language is used to describe and refer to the world around us and how grammatical relations play a role in this process.

Grammatical relations in sentences are organized in a hierarchy that is reflected in a variety of linguistic phenomena. In other words, grammatical relations are not only limited to theoretical aspects but also directly impact language applications in everyday life. This includes language learning, translation, teaching, and intercultural communication. David Perlmutter and Paul Postal developed relational grammar in 1977 on the principle that the three goals of linguistic theory are to formulate linguistic universals, characterize the class of grammatical constructions found in natural language, and form an adequate and characterizable grammar. The basic principle of relational grammar is that grammatical relations such as "subject of" and "object of" play an important role in the syntax of natural languages. These grammatical relations serve as a reference to provide various aspects of clause structure and universal principles that govern the structure and organization of natural language syntax. Grammatical relations cannot be constrained through other notions such as phrase structure configuration, case, constituent order, or semantic roles (Ba'dulu & Herman, 2005).

Grammatical relations serve as a reference to provide various aspects of clause structure and universal principles that govern the structure and syntactic organization of natural language. Grammatical functions and relations are needed to achieve the three goals of language theory, namely (1) formulating the universality of language; (2) determining the characteristics of each grammatical construction that exists in natural languages; (3) building an adequate grammar for each language. For this purpose, a grammatical theory must examine general language data, which applies to all languages, and language-specific data, which applies only to specific languages. Grammatical relations, in this case, provide a

precise concept of how language works in general and how to characterize particular target languages.

### **Subject Construction**

The grammatical relation that is the study of this research is subjectivity. The Subject is an element in a sentence that usually functions as an actor or recipient of the action, is often the main focus of the sentence, and gets special attention (Chomsky, 2014). In addition, (Verhaar & Alip, 1996) state that the Subject is a grammatical relation that fills one of the syntactic functions outwardly. Meanwhile (Comrie, 2014) states that the Subject is the relationship between the agent and the topic. Cross-linguistically, the Subject is the agent, and the topic is the argument that experiences the action expressed by the transitive verb. Thus, the Subject is a clause element that marks what is being discussed and can act as an agent in transitive clauses and grammatically functions to occupy the highest hierarchy in grammatical relations. Comrie (Comrie, 2004) mentions that the prototype (original nature) of the Subject is to show the interrelation between agent and topic. This means that the most apparent meaning of the Subject, cross-linguistically, is that the Subject is both agent and topic. However, in this study, testing the behavioral properties of the Subject will be based on the grammatical behavioral properties.

### **Subject Testing**

The behavioral properties of the Subject cross-linguistically are not absolute values. Some behavioral traits may not be suitable for certain language behaviors. Testing the nature of subject behavior based on grammatical behavior has been done by (Moeliono, 2000) on Balinese. According to him, because the Subject is a grammatical relation, the determination of the Subject in a language should be based on the nature of grammatical behavior. In this regard, the nature of subjectivity is seen based on the notion of (1) indefinite pronominal (PRO), (2) raising, (3) reflecting, (4) quantifier float, and (5) relativization.

### **Non-Obvious Pronominal (PRO)**

With his Government and Binding Theory, Chomsky states that the Subject of a clause with an indefinite verb as FN is not overt and is realized as PRO (Artawa, 2002). Non-obvious pronominal (PRO) refers to using pronominal or pronouns that do not explicitly mention who or what they refer to in the sentence. These pronominals are often used to avoid excessive repetition in conversation or writing.

Example, "*Dia pergi ke toko. PRO membeli makanan*"

In this clause, "PRO" is used as a substitute to avoid the repetition of the words "*Dia*," which means "*Dia pergi ke toko dan dia membeli makanan*," changed to "*Dia pergi ke toko. PRO membeli makanan*."

### Raising

The raising rule in a grammatical category raises an element previously not the Subject to the subject position. Raising is a grammatical stage that occurs in complemented clauses. A complement clause is a clause that consists of a parent clause consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an FN complement that forms an S-P-O pattern. The raising rule means that the FN that becomes the object in the parent clause grammatically rises to become the Subject in the complement clause.

For example, "*Ia meminta tim penanganan darurat bencana menentukan titik-titik pengeboran*" (Putri et al., 2020). The clause is a compound sentence consisting of one transitive parent clause and one transitive dependent clause. The Subject in the parent clause is the constituent "Ia," the predicate is the constituent "*meminta*," and the object is the team constituent "*disaster emergency management determines drilling points*."

To see the raising rule in the examples, see the following analysis:

(a) *Ia meminta tim penanganan darurat*

(b) *Tim penanganan darurat bencana menentukan titik-titik pengeboran*

Clauses (a) and (b) are realizations of the rule of raising the Subject of compound clauses. Furthermore, through the raising rule by separating the two clauses, the constituent "*tim penanganan darurat bencana*," which has the function of the object in the sentence (a), turns into the Subject in the transitive clause in (b).

### Reflexive

Reflexives are pronominal pronouns expressed in the form of self. In general, languages of the world place the agent (doer) as the controller of the reflexive FN and become the controller of the reflexive (Artawa, 2002).

Example:

a. *Idrus Marham mengundurkan diri dari jabatannya*

b. *Jojo memastikan diri sebagai kampiun*

Clauses (a) and (b) are transitive clauses with nasal-affixed verbs. The agent's self-control characterizes the reflexive forms in data (a) and (b). The agent controls the reflexive in transitive clauses with nasal-affixed verbs.

### Quantifier Float

According to (Jufriзал, 2007), Qualifiers are generally used in expressing uncertain quantities (few, many, various), distributional quantities (every, each), collective quantities (all, all, all, as many, all, enough, more).

Example, "*sejumlah warga harus mendapatkan perawatan*"

The quantifier "*sejumlah*" is located in the pre-verbal preposition that describes the subject "*warga*" in the clause. Syntactically, the quantifier functions as an explanatory element of the Subject. It is an explanatory pre-verbal FN that acts as the patient in the clause.

## Relativization

Comrie (Comrie, 2004) argues that relativization describes a pronominal used to introduce a post-modifying clause in a noun clause and extends to the whole clause. Givón (Givón, 2001) states that a relativization is a clause-sized grammatical unit attached to a noun phrase. This means that relativizing constructions refer back to or connect a noun phrase with a clause that provides additional information about that noun phrase. A relativizing construction generally consists of a clause containing a relative clause that refers to or describes the noun phrase. This construction is widely used in various languages to clarify or add information about the noun in the sentence. In line with that, (Kridalaksana, 2002) defines relativization in Indonesian as a bound clause preceded by a relative pronoun. Such as "*yang saya sukai*" in the following sentence:

Example: "*anak yang saya sukai terpilih*".

However, not all languages can relativize their grammatical relations because there are languages that can only relativize the Subject or only the object, and there are even languages that can relativize both grammatical relations.

Example:

a. *Prabowo naik mobil*

S      P      DO

b. *Prabowo yang naik mobil*

S      P

Clause (a) is an unmarked verb transitive clause. Based on example (b), it can relativize the pre-verbal FN (Subject) Prabowo. The verb "*naik*" is a transitive verb that can occur without affixes.

## METHODOLOGY

The research method applied is a descriptive approach. The selection of qualitative research methods through a descriptive approach is considered an appropriate choice in this context because the method is used to describe phenomena using verbal information (Moleong, 2012). The main focus of this research is on the issue under study. It is descriptive, intending to provide a comprehensive picture of the collected data. This research explicitly describes grammatical relations towards subject construction in the Toba Batak language. The type of data used in this research is qualitative, which means that the data is collected in words or pictures, not in the form of numbers (Emzir, 2011). The primary data source of this research comes from the Batak song album found on the YouTube Toba social media platform, with the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtSRkD9WyPU>, uploaded on April 23, 2021, and consists of 14 songs. The data in this study involves words, phrases, or sentences taken from the lyrics of Toba Batak songs. As the main instrument, the researcher can observe, read, and record relevant data for this study. This approach is in line with the view of (Santoso, 2014), which states that data sources can be documents, places, participants, events, and objects.

The data collection method in this study uses the listening technique, followed by the note-taking technique, which refers to listening to the use of language in the object of research (Sugiyono, 2013). Listening is done to the

language or song lyrics related to the grammatical relations of the Subject. Since the object of this research is related to YouTube social media, the listening technique is used to listen to Toba Batak's songs on the platform. After that, I continued with the note-taking technique, which involves recording the data on the data tabulation using specific stationery or instruments (Sudaryanto, 2015). The data collection process begins with listening to Toba Batak songs on YouTube using the listening technique, followed by the note-taking technique, which records data containing words, phrases, or sentences related to subject construction in the lyrics of the songs. After finding data in words, phrases, or sentences related to the construction of subject through the listening technique, the data was recorded using the note-taking technique and arranged in the form of data tabulation. In this research, a directed observation of the grammatical relations of subject construction used in the Toba Batak language songs is carried out, and the existing lingual data is so that it is known which ones are data in this research or which are not.

Because this research adopts a qualitative approach, this indicates that the instrument used is the researcher himself. In accordance with the explanation (Sugiyono, 2013), in the context of qualitative research, the researcher plays a direct role as an instrument or tool for collecting linguistic data. The method used to analyze the data in this research is the distributional method, which applies the primary technique for direct elements. This method relies on determining tools from the studied language, where elements such as phrases, words, or clauses become part of the determining tool. This research analyzes song lyrics according to the grammatical relations of subject construction in Toba Batak language songs. The analysis starts with listening to the song lyrics and then recording words, phrases, or sentences containing grammatical relations of subjects in the album. Data analysis techniques are adjusted to the problems set, involving steps such as searching and identifying words that have subject grammatical relations in song lyrics and describing words, phrases, or sentences in Toba Batak language song lyrics.

In this study, data analysis techniques were adjusted based on the predetermined problem, namely how to construct subject in the Toba Batak language. The first steps can be made to search and find words that belong to the category of subject testing, then classify and describe the construction of the Subject based on the theory (Moeliono, 2000) of testing subject in grammatical relations, namely unexplained pronominal (PRO), raising, reflection, quantifier float, and relativization.

## RESULTS

The data findings of Toba Batak subjugation in this study were analyzed based on grammatical testing. The following is an analysis of subject construction data in Toba Batak language songs:

### Quantifier Float Subject Test

The following is the data analysis of quantifier subject construction in Toba Batak language songs:

Data 1

Song title: *Didia Ho Amang*

*Sude bius umboto i* (All the villages know it)

The data analysis in the song excerpt above shows the use of the word quantifier float as a quantifier that functions as a determinant of quantity. The quantifier "all" is located in the pre-verbal preposition that explains the subject "village" in the clause because syntactically, the quantifier functions as an explanatory element of the Subject. In the context of this song's lyrics, emphasis is placed on the fact that the whole village knows or has knowledge of something, which is conveyed through the word "all." Its placement in front of the initial verb indicates its role as a number determiner that quantitatively specializes in the Subject of the clause. This analysis helps further understand this word's contribution to the meaning and sentence structure in the song lyrics.

Data 2

Song title: *Hirim Marianakhon*

*Tondong nang akka sisolhot Nunga sude manukkuni* (All the family and close people are wondering)

The data analysis in the excerpt explains the use of the word "all" as a qualifier placed in front of a pre-verbal verbal phrase. Its function is to explain the subject "family and close people" in the clause, where syntactically, the parenthetical qualifier acts as an explanatory element for the Subject. In other words, the qualifier "all" is located in the front position of the pre-verbal that explains the subject "family and close people" in the clause because syntactically, the qualifier functions as an explanatory element of the Subject. In the context of *Hirim Marianakhon's* song lyrics, the word "all" emphasizes the family and close people who are the Subject of the clause, implying that all the family and close people are wondering or curious. The analysis further explains the role and function of the word "all" in the sentence.

Data 3

Song title: *Hirim Marianakhon*

*Asa tung salpu akka na lungun Tu joloan on* (So that all sorrows pass in the future)

The data analysis on the excerpt of the song lyrics "*Hirim Marianakhon*" shows the use of the word "all" as a quantifier. This word is placed in the front position of the pre-verbal and functions as a subject-explanatory element, explaining the subject "sadness" in the clause. In other words, the parenthetical qualifier "all" is located in the pre-verbal front position that explains the subject "sadness" in the clause because syntactically, the parenthetical qualifier functions as a subject-explanatory element. In the context of this song's lyrics, the word "all" emphasizes that it is hoped that all sadness will pass in the future. Its position in front of the pre-verbal shows its role as a number determiner that quantitatively details the Subject of the clause. This analysis provides a further understanding of how this word contributes to the meaning and sentence structure of the song lyrics.

Data 4

Song title: *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au*

*Sude na pinangido ni roham sian au* (All your wishes for me I reject)

Data analysis on the excerpt of *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au* song lyrics shows the use of the word "all" as a qualifier. This word is placed in the front position of the pre-verbal and functions as an explanatory element of the Subject, explaining the subject "your wishes" in the clause. In other words, the qualifier "all" is located in the pre-verbal preposition that explains the subject "your wish" in the clause because syntactically, the qualifier functions as a subject explanatory element. In the context of this song's lyrics, the word "all" emphasizes that all your wishes for me are rejected. Its position in front of the pre-verbal indicates its role as a quantifier specifier that quantitatively details the Subject of the clause. This analysis further explains how this word contributes to the meaning and sentence structure of the song lyrics.

Data 5

Song title: *Marangan-angan*

*Sai husolsoli ma sude ai aha do na hurang. Dipambahenanki saleleng on* (Everything I regret doing all this time)

Data analysis of the *Marangan-angan* song lyric quote shows the use of the word "all" as a quantifier. This word is placed in the front position of the pre-verbal and functions as an explanatory element of the Subject, explaining the subject "that I regret" in the clause. In other words, the parenthetical qualifier "all" is located in the pre-verbal front position that explains the subject "that I regret" in the clause because syntactically, the parenthetical qualifier functions as a subject-explanatory element. In the context of this song's lyrics, "all" emphasizes that everything the writer regrets is related to his actions. Its position in front of the pre-verbal shows its role as a quantifier specifier that quantitatively details the Subject of the clause. This analysis further explains how this word contributes to the meaning and sentence structure of the song lyrics.

### Subject test with relativization

The following is a data analysis of subject relativization constructions in Toba Batak language songs:

Data 1

Song title: *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au*

*Alai nungnga tung dihandang-handangi. Bunga nauli na pinarsintami*

(Now gone is the flower you dreamed of)

Data analysis on the excerpt of the song lyrics *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au* shows the use of a relative clause to detail or relativize the subject "that flower" with the phrase "that you dreamed of". Therefore, the sentence becomes "the flower you dreamed of." Based on the data, the subject "the flower" is relativized with "the one you dream of" so that the sentence becomes "the flower you dream of." In the context of this song lyric, the relative clause provides additional information about the subject "the flower," namely that the flower is the flower you dream of. This analysis helps us understand how sentence structure is used to convey more specific information in song lyrics.

Data 2

Song title: *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au*

*Holong na ias na di bagasan rohami, Lehon ma ito tu si boru naulian*

The love [REL sincere] in your heart gives to a better woman

Sincere love in your heart gives to a better woman

Data analysis on the excerpt of the song lyrics *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au* shows the use of a relative clause to specify or relativize the subject "love in your heart" with the phrase "sincere ."Therefore, the sentence becomes "sincere love in your heart ."Based on the data, the subject "love in your heart" is relativized with "sincere" so that the sentence becomes "sincere love in your heart." In the context of these song lyrics, the relative clause provides additional information about the subject "love in your heart," namely that the love is sincere. This analysis helps us understand how sentence structure conveys information, specifically in song lyrics.

Data 3

Song title: *Hirim Marianakhon*

*Tudos tu hau na marbunga, Marmutik alai dang sampit*

Like a tree [REL flowering] germinates but never becomes

Like a flowering tree that germinates but never becomes

Data analysis on the excerpt of *Hirim Marianakhon's* song lyrics shows the use of relative clauses to detail or relativize the subject "tree" with the phrase "flowering." Therefore, the sentence becomes "flowering trees ."Based on the data, the subject "tree" is relativized with "the flowering one" so that the sentence becomes "the flowering tree." In the context of these song lyrics, the relative clause provides additional information about the subject "tree," namely that the tree is flowering. This analysis helps to understand how sentence structure is used to convey information more specifically in the song lyrics

### **Subject test with raising rules**

The following is a data analysis of the subject construction of raising in Toba Batak language songs:

Data 1

Song title: *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au.*

*Alai nungnga tung dihandang-handangi. Bunga nauli na pinarsintami*

Now the flower you dreamed of is gone

Data analysis on the excerpt of the song lyrics *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au* there is a change in focus from the constituent "the flower you dreamed of," which previously functioned as an object, to the Subject of the sentence in the following sentence, "Now gone is the flower you dreamed of." In other words, the above data is a realization of the clause subject-raising rule. Furthermore, through the raising rule, the constituent "the flower you dreamed of," which has the object's function in the sentence, turns into the Subject. This data reflects a language technique often used, namely changing the focus or emphasizing certain information in a sentence. By moving the constituent from the object position to the subject position, the writer can highlight or emphasize "the flower you dream of" in the context of the story or narrative being described in the song.

### **Subject test of the Unexplained Pronominal Rule (PRO)**

The following is a data analysis of the construction of the Subject of unexposed pronominal (PRO) in Toba Batak language songs:

Data 1

Song title: *Nunga Adong Nampuna Au*

*Pos roham ito godang dope nauli. Na lobi umburju sian au*

Rest assured, there are many beautiful PROs who are better than me

In this clause, "PRO" is used as a substitute for the word "woman." "Be sure there are many beautiful ones who are better than me" is replaced by "Be sure there are many beautiful PROs who are better than me." In the context of the clause, "PRO" is used as an abbreviation or replacement for the word "woman." So, the clause "Rest assured there are many beautiful ones who are better than me" is replaced with "Rest assured there are many beautiful PROs who are better than me." Abbreviations or acronyms such as "PRO" are often used to provide variety or style in the use of words. In this case, they are used to replace the word "woman." Your analysis provides an appropriate interpretation of the substitution in the context of the song lyrics.

## DISCUSSION

In grammar analysis, the concept of grammatical relations is the main focus. In his work, Kroeger (Kroeger, 2005) discusses various aspects of grammatical relations, including the interaction between words in a sentence, phrase structure, and other constituent elements. The approach to grammar analysis introduced by Kroeger (Kroeger, 2005) includes an understanding of how sentence elements interact with each other to form meaning. Within this framework, concepts such as phrase structure, syntax trees, and grammatical relations between subjects, predicates, objects, and other grammatical elements are central to his thinking. Kroeger views grammar as a complex system in which grammatical elements are interrelated to form sentences and convey meaning.

This research focuses on grammatical relations on the structure of subject construction in the Toba Batak language, which is used as a research object to be analyzed. An interesting aspect to investigate regarding grammatical relations is the variation in every language, especially when researchers approach it from a semantic, typological, or syntactic point of view. Therefore, this research is interesting to explore, especially in examining grammatical relations on subject constructions in the Toba Batak language. The method used in this research is a syntactic approach, which explores the construction of Toba Batak's subject construction by applying the theory (Moeliono, 2000). This theory includes proverbial pronominal (PRO), raising, reflecting, quantifier float, and relativization. The research question posed in this study focuses on what subject construction can be identified in Toba Batak.

From the results of the study, there are four constructions of subject in the Toba Batak language song, namely:

1. Quantifier float subject test.

In this subject, data was found for example in the songs "*Didia Ho Amang, Hirim, Marianakhon, Nunga adong nampuna au, and marangan-angan.*" The word found is the word "all," such as *Sude bius umboto i* (All the village knows about it), "*Tondong nang akka sisolhot Nunga sude manukkuni*" (All family and close people wonder), (So that all sorrow will pass in the future), *Sude na pinangido ni roham sian au* (All your wishes for me I reject) and "*Sai husolsoli ma sude ai aha do na hurang Dipambahenanki saleleng*" on (All that I regret what I have done so far). This analysis provides a further understanding of how this word contributes to the meaning and sentence structure of the song lyrics.

2. Test Subject with relativization.

In this subject, data was found such as "*Alai nungnga tung dihandanghandangi. Bunga nauli na pinarsintami*" (Now gone is the flower [REL you dreamed of]. Now gone is the flower you dreamed of), "*Holong na ias na di bagasan rohami, Lehon ma ito tu si boru naulian*" (The [REL sincere] love in your heart give to a better woman. Sincere love in your heart give to a better woman). "*Tudos tu hau na marbunga, Marmutik alai dang sampit*" (Like a [REL flowering] tree germinates but never becomes like a flowering tree germinates but never becomes).

3. Test the Subject with the raising rule.

In this subject, we find data such as “*Alai nungnga tung dihandang-handangi Bunga nauli na pinarsintami*” (Now gone is the flower you dreamed of). This data reflects the application of a common language technique, which changes the focus or emphasizes certain information in a sentence. By moving the constituent from the object position to the subject position, the writer can highlight or emphasize "the flower you dream of" in the context of the story or narrative described in the song.

4. Test the Subject of the Unexplained Pronominal Rule (PRO).

In this Subject, data such as “*pos roham ito godang dope nauli, Na lobi umburju sian au*” (rest assured there are still many beautiful PROs who are better than me). Abbreviations or acronyms such as "PRO" are often used to provide variety or a touch of style in the choice of words, and in this situation, it was chosen to replace the word "woman." Your analysis accurately interprets the substitution in the context of the song's lyrics.

From the results of the research that has been conducted and obtained, this research is in line with previous research that examines grammatical relations. (Susandhika et al., 2016) conducted research related to the function, category, role, and syntactic category tree diagram in Talk Show. The findings showed that the syntactic functions involved in the discussion involved Subject, predicate (core) or nucleus, and object, with the subject and object categories recognized as nouns and the predicate (nucleus) consisting of verbs or verbs and adjectives or adjectives. The subject role is identified as the perpetrator, the object as the patient, and the predicate (nucleus) indicates the activity or state. Research by (Basaria, 2018) on grammatical relations of *Pakpak Dairi* language subjects concluded that grammatical relations play a significant role in natural language syntax, especially concerning syntactic (grammatical) concepts and terminology such as S (Subject) and oblique. Another study by (Putri et al., 2020) discusses Indonesian grammatical relations in a newspaper by describing the behavioral properties of Indonesian grammatical relations that include subjects. The results show that the test of the nature of the behavior of Indonesian grammatical subjects is based on the rules of (a) elevation, (b) development of frames, (c) unexplained pronominal (PRO), (d) relativization, and (e) reflexive. The test results show that the subject functions as an agent and has a basic SPO structure. Dwipayana (Dwipayana et al., n.d.) also researched grammatical relations, discussing the grammatical relations and semantic roles of arguments in specific argument structures. They found all grammatical relations in English verbs, such as Subject, Object, Complement, and Remarks. However, the semantic roles of stimulus, addressee, and accompaniment were not found in those contexts.

The difference between this study and the previous studies lies in the focus on the object and the data source. This research chooses to use data from Toba Batak language songs to examine the behavior of its subjects by referring to the theory proposed by Moeliono (Moeliono, 2000). Through the identification of grammatical relations, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of grammar and how sentence elements interact. In addition, this research also has the potential to support the analysis of differences in grammar

between different languages. The function criteria of grammatical relations used in this study can contribute to classifying and understanding the role of grammatical relations in various grammatical contexts.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By grammatically testing the grammatical relations of the Toba Batak language, it is concluded that the subject constructions found in Toba Batak language songs are quantifier float subjects, subjects with relativization, subjects with raising rules, and subjects with unexplained pronominal rules (PRO). While the Subject of reflexive is not found in the Toba language data in this study.

## FURTHER STUDY

Still conducting further research to find out more about Grammatical Relations: Subject Constructions in Batak Toba Language.

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