

A Typology Linguistic Study: Is the Sibolga Coastal Dialect Ergative?

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the existence of ergative language features in the Sibolga Coastal dialect. Qualitative descriptive methods were used to analyze data obtained from nine folktale titles in Bunga Rampai Rakyat Tapanuli Tengah (The anthology of central Tapanuli folktales). Of the nine stories, ten clauses were found to show an ergative pattern, where the subject in the first clause acts as the object in the second clause. The findings show that the Sibolga Coastal dialect language has the characteristics of an ergative language in its structure, with a pattern where the subject of the first clause becomes the object of the following clause. These findings indicate a tendency to use ergative language features in the Sibolga Coastal dialect. This research concludes that the Sibolga Coastal dialect uses ergative language features, although in limited quantities. These findings contribute to understanding the syntactic structure of the Sibolga Coastal language and provide new insights into the phenomenon of ergative language in the local context. The implications of this research include supporting the development of linguistic studies and regional language studies and contributing to language teaching and translation in the region. Future research can be expanded to further investigate the features of ergative language in the Sibolga Coastal dialect and the context of its use in daily interactions.

INTRODUCTION

Ergative languages, a type of grammatical alliance that treats the patient argument (P) of the transitive predicate the same as the only argument of the intransitive predicate (S), and a different treatment is given to the agent argument (A) of the transitive predicate ($S = P \neq A$) and usually both are unmarked (Blake, 1988). In line with this, theoretically, a language is classified as a language with an absolutive ergative typology (abbreviated as ergative language) if there is an alliance system $S = P \neq A$ (Artawa, 2005; Comrie, 1989; Jufrizal et al., 2009, 2012). Ergative languages are included in the study of language typology, which generally aims to classify languages based on the structural patterns shown. The main goal of the study of language typology is to provide an answer to the question: What is language x like? Language typology has accusative, ergative, or active language associated with case markers at the syntactic level and grammatical alliance system (Artawa, 2004; Jufrizal et al., 2012; Mallinson & Blake, 1981). There are five theoretically possible grammatical alliance systems of human language(s), namely the nominative-accusative system: $S=A \neq P$ (mostly found), the ergative-absolutive system: $S=P \neq A$ (mostly found), the tripartite system: $S \neq A \neq P$ (rarely found), AP/S system: $A=P \neq S$ (not yet found) and neutral system: $S=A=P$ (rarely found) (Dixon, 1994; Payne, 1997; Song, 2014).

For example, the Australian Aboriginal language, Kaltatungu, is an ergative language (Blake, 1988).

(1) Kalpin (S) ingka.

The man leaves

'Lelaki itu pergi'

(2) Marapa-thu (A) nanya kalpin (P).

wanita-ERG melihat lelaki

'the woman saw the man'

In the example above, P and S are treated morphologically the same. Namely, they are both unmarked, while A is marked with the suffix -thu.

Examples of Indonesian ergatives (Hopper, 1979), for example:

(3) a. cake (S) is served

b. Dad (A) ate the cake (P)

The cake in sentence (3. a) functions as a subject with the semantic role of the patient (S). The father in sentence (3. b) functions as a subject with a semantic role as agent (A) of the verb eat, and the cake functions as an object with a semantic role as a patient (P) of the verb eat. In this case, S and P have the same behavior as the patients of the transitive clause, and A is different. This event is absolutive (S/P), while A is ergative (Hopper, 1979).

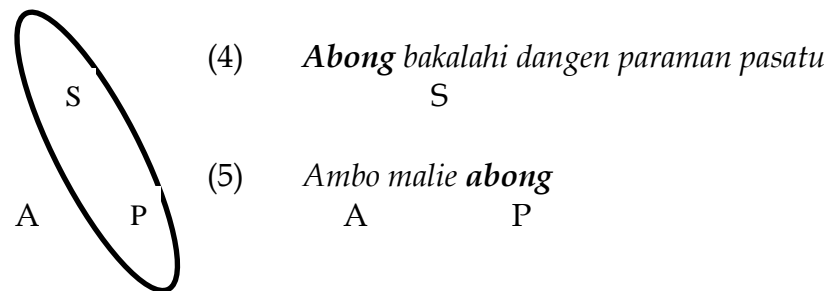
This research focuses on the phenomenon of the Sibolga coastal dialect language, whether it is a language with an ergative typology. The coastal language used by the Coastal Batak community in Sibolga has become the language of conversation in everyday interactions (Loebis, 2020). This coastal language is unique because it combines three languages: Batak Mandailing,

Minangkabau, and Malay. So, the Coastal tribe is a Batak people who speak Malay (Aini & Akmal, 2022). Examples of Coastal Language of the Central Sibolga Tapanuli dialect:

- (4) Abong bakalahi dangen paraman pasatu
3TG berkelahi dengan preman pasar itu'
'My brother fought with the market thugs.'
- (5) Ambo malie abong
1TG melihat 3TG
'I saw a brother'

In clause (4), abong functions as the subject (S). Meanwhile, ambo in clause five functions as a subject with semantics as the agent (A) of the verb malie. Abong functions as an object with a semantic role as the patient (P) of the verb malie. In this case, S and P have the same behavior, which has the same role as the patient of the transitive clause, and A is different. This event is called absolutive (S/P), while A is ergative. The same treatment between S and P in the Coastal language of the Central Sibolga Tapanuli dialect can be described as follows:

Treatment



The treatment of the subject of an intransitive clause in the Pesisir language of the Sibolga dialect is the same as that of the patient of a transitive clause, indicating that this language exhibits an ergative typology. This research is important for several reasons. First, it provides a more in-depth understanding of the language structure of the Sibolga coastal dialect. If this language is found to use an ergative structure, it will provide new insights into the complexity and uniqueness of language structures in that region. Second, it contributes to linguistic diversity by adding to the list of languages in Indonesia that use the ergative pattern, which is unusual in Indonesian languages. Third, it contributes significantly to typological linguistics by offering important data for theories related to syntactic structure and case morphology in ergative languages.

Several researchers have investigated ergative languages. Arkadiev (2017) examined ergatives from allomorphs to differential agent marking, finding implications for the typology of ergativity and case marking. Bjorkman (2018) explored the ergative as an oblique perfect, discovering that the oblique marks a perfect or perfective subject. Jufrizal (2018) studied whether the Minangkabau language is accusative, ergative, or mixed, finding that the standard written variety is syntactically accusative, while the less formal spoken varieties tend to be ergative. Maria and Mulyadi (Maria Ulfa, n.d.) analyzed grammatical alliances in daily newspaper editorial texts, determining that the Indonesian language in

Kompas editorials exhibits accusative and ergative typologies. Brahmana and Mulyadi (2022) found that Mandarin in daily newspapers falls into the accusative and ergative typologies, with basic alliance systems of $S = P$ where A is different and $S = A$ where P is different. Arfianti and Mulyadi (Arfianti & Mulyadi, n.d.) researched ergativity in Indonesian and Japanese, finding that Indonesian ergativity is implicated in various verb types, while Japanese ergativity is shown in potential (spontaneous) verbs. The lacuna in existing research is evident in the dearth of studies specifically investigating the presence of ergative structures in smaller dialects like the Sibolga coastal dialect. This research also diverges from previous studies that have primarily focused on languages with larger populations or well-established written standards, thereby filling a crucial gap in the literature.

This research's novelty lies in exploring ergative features in the Sibolga coastal dialect, an area previously under-researched. While ergative languages have been extensively studied globally, their existence in regional Indonesian languages like the Sibolga coastal dialect still needs to be explored. This research enhances our understanding of the syntactic structure of the Sibolga coastal language and contributes new knowledge about linguistic features in regional contexts. The presence of ergative features in the Sibolga coastal language highlights the richness and uniqueness of Indonesian regional languages and their relevance in linguistic studies. By delving deeper into the ergative features of the Sibolga coastal dialect, this research provides new insights into an understudied variety of Indonesians. This can also aid in efforts to preserve and understand Indonesia's diverse cultural and linguistic heritage. At the heart of this study is a pivotal question: Does the Sibolga coastal dialect embody an ergative typology? This research is driven by the aim to delve into the potential ergative features of the Sibolga coastal dialect.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Ergativity Typology

Theoretically, a language is classified as an absolutive-ergative language (abbreviated as ergative language) if an alignment system occurs where $S = P \neq A$. Ergative systems treat the patient's argument (P) of the transitive predicate the same as the sole argument (S) of the intransitive predicate, and differently from the agent's argument (A) of the transitive predicate ($S = P \neq A$) (Blake, 1988).

Ergative typology is a linguistic concept used to describe how different languages mark the relationship between subjects and verbs. This mainly concerns how a language treats the subject of intransitive verbs (S) and the agents (A) and patients (P) of transitive verbs (McGregor, 2009).

In ergative-absolutive languages, the subject of intransitive verbs (S) is treated the same way as the object of transitive verbs (P). In contrast, transitive verb (A) agents are treated differently. This contrasts with nominative-accusative languages, such as English, where the subject of both transitive and intransitive verbs is treated the same (nominative case), and the objects of transitive verbs are treated differently (accusative case) (Stojan, 2013). In ergative languages, the ergative case (ERG) marks the agent of transitive verbs (A), while the absolutive case (ABS) marks the subject of intransitive verbs (S) and the object of transitive

verbs (P). Consider the following sentences in a hypothetical ergative-absolutive language:

- Intransitive: "The woman (ABS) sleeps."
- Transitive: "The woman (ERG) reads a book (ABS)."

In these examples, the intransitive subject "the woman" and the transitive object "the book" are both in the absolutive case, while the transitive subject "the woman" is in the ergative case. The ergative typology provides insight into how languages can organize syntactic roles. By studying ergative-absolutive structures, linguists gain a deeper understanding of the flexibility and variation in human languages. This typology highlights that what may seem intuitive in one language can be structured differently in another, offering a broader perspective on how meaning and grammar interact across cultures and time (Haspelmath, 2005; Heaton et al., 2016).

Understanding ergative typology is crucial for appreciating the diversity and complexity of language structures worldwide. By examining how languages mark grammatical relationships differently, linguists can uncover profound insights into the nature of human language, cognitive processes, and cultural diversity. This typological perspective challenges traditional ideas about syntactic alignment and enriches our understanding of linguistic variation and universality.

Sibolga Coastal Language

The Coastal Sibolga language is a dialect spoken in the Sibolga coastal area, a city on the west coast of North Sumatra, Indonesia. This language's linguistic characteristics and sociocultural context present an intriguing case for linguistic studies (Abdelfattah & Ritt-Benmimoun, 2022; Loebis, 2020). Sibolga, situated on the west coast of North Sumatra, has a unique linguistic landscape. Its coastal location, fostering trade and interaction with diverse communities, has played a significant role in shaping the linguistic diversity of the area. The residents, hailing from various ethnic groups like Batak, Malay, and Minangkabau, have contributed to this linguistic tapestry (Andriani, 2018).

The phonological system of the Coastal Sibolga language may exhibit characteristics typical of coastal and maritime languages in Indonesia, such as the preservation of certain phonemes or the influence of the Malay language and other regional languages. Like most Indonesian languages, this dialect likely shows agglutinative features, where words are formed in linear sequences of morphemes. The sentence structure typically follows the subject-verb-object (SVO) order, which is common in many Indonesian languages (Clynes & Deterding, 2011). The Coastal Sibolga language, a product of unique linguistic elements and cultural influences, is a testament to the region's coastal geography and historical interactions. Its preservation is about maintaining the cultural heritage and identity of the Sibolga community and safeguarding a linguistic richness that future generations can cherish. This underscores the importance of further research and documentation.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a unique qualitative descriptive research design, which aims to understand complex phenomena in their context by exploring the perspectives, understandings, and experiences of people involved in the phenomenon (Meyer & Mayrhofer, 2022). This qualitative approach seeks to grasp the meanings people attribute to the phenomena they encounter in their daily lives (Creswell & Poth, 2016; Glaser & Strauss, 2017; Yin, 2018). Qualitative research methods are procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of words, useful for social, cultural, and philosophical research (Flick, 2022; Taylor et al., 2015).

Data and Data Source

Data serve as the essential information selected for analysis (Saldaña, 2021; Siswantoro, 2004). The primary data for this research is the ergative type found in the Sibolga Coastal dialect. The source of this data, the book *Bunga Rampai Cerita Rakyat Tapanuli Tengah*, is a reputable and comprehensive collection, comprising nine folktales in the Sibolga Coastal language.

Technique of Data Collection

This study uses a rigorous text analysis technique to collect data, involving a deep understanding of the text to explore meanings and emerging patterns (Creswell & Poth, 2016; Gibbs, 2018; Silverman, 2021). The specific technique employed is thematic analysis, a widely accepted and effective method that identifies the main themes within the text and understands their meanings. In this research, the texts from *Bunga Rampai Rakyat Tapanuli Tengah* (The Anthology of Central Tapanuli Folktales) are analyzed to identify patterns or themes related to the ergative type in the coastal Sibolga dialect. This process includes observing language usage in folklore texts and noting unique patterns or linguistic features indicative of the ergative type. The results of this thematic analysis will offer a deeper understanding of language use within the cultural and narrative context of Central Tapanuli folklore.

Data Analysis

The stages of data analysis in this research are as follows:

1. **Data Collection**

The initial stage involves collecting data from *Bunga Rampai Sekolah Rakyat Tapanuli Tengah* (The Anthology of Central Tapanuli Folktales) by reading and analyzing the contained folktales. Researchers note language patterns and linguistic features that indicate the presence of an ergative type in the coastal Sibolga dialect

2. **Data Preparation**

Data are arranged and grouped based on relevant themes or concepts, organized according to the analyzed folklore.

3. **Data Analysis**

Using thematic analysis, researchers identify and formulate introductory clauses, dividing clause elements by

categorizing each word based on its argument (S = subject argument of intransitive sentences, A = agent argument of transitive sentences, P = patient argument of transitive sentences). This analysis determines whether the Sibolga Coastal dialect exhibits an ergative typology.

4. Data Interpretation

Researchers interpret the findings from the analysis, linking them to the research question and the broader study context.

5. Drawing Conclusions

Based on the analysis and interpretation, researchers conclude whether the Sibolga Coastal dialect has ergative language features. These conclusions are grounded in the findings from the data analysis.

RESEARCH RESULT

Based on the results of data analysis found from the story text *Bunga Rampai Cerita Rakyat Tapanuli Tengah*, it was found that the coastal language of the Sibolga dialect is of the ergative type. Following are the data and data analysis:

a. Story title: Putri Runduk

Paragraph 13, page 14

Putri Runduk mahampok Rajo Janggi jongon tungkeknyo nan tabuek dari akar bahar sahinggo Rajo Janggi menjadi batu dan Putri Runduk manyilam ka dasar lawik dan indak kembali lai.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(1) *Putri Runduk mahampok Rajo Janggi jongon tungkeknyo nan tabuek dari akar bahar sahinggo Rajo Janggi menjadi batu*

*Putri Runduk mahampok Rajo Janggi jongon
Putri Runduk memukul Rajo Janggi dengan*

*tungkeknyo nan tabuek dari akar bahar
tongkatnya yang terbuat dari pohon bakau*

*sahinggo Rajo Janggi menjadi batu
sehingga Rajo Janggi menjadi batu*

'Putri Runduk hit Raja Janggi with her stick made from bahar roots so that Raja Janggi became stone'

Putri Runduk mahampok Rajo Janggi jongon tungkeknyo nan tabuek dari akar bahar
S1 P1

sahinggo Rajo Janggi menjadi batu
S2 P2

Tuanku Rajo Mudo tak dapek lolos dari marabahayo, baliau jo para punggawa mati dibunuh setan garudo. Konon baritanya makam sang rajo talatak di Lobu Tuo. Kini Lobu.

Tuo jadi kosong, ndak ado nan barani tingga di sinin.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(3) *baliau jo para punggawa mati dibunuh setan garudo.*

baliau jo para punggawa mati
Ia dan para pengawal mati

dibunuh setan garudo
dibunuh setan garuda

'He and his bodyguard were killed by the demon Garuda'

baliau jo para punggawa mati dibunuh setan garudo
S/P A

This sentence illustrates an ergative pattern, where the agent (the demon Garuda) performs the act of killing the patient (he and his bodyguard). Therefore, this sentence can be identified as an ergative sentence, following the pattern $S = P \neq A$.

d. Story title: Legenda Bukit Batara

Paragraph 3, page 25

Pangeran balum menampakkan diri masih mengintai, dalam hal iko pulanglah inyo babalik ka Pulau Tungkus.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(4) *Pangeran balum menampakkan diri masih mengintai*

Pangeran balum menampakkan diri masih
Pangeran belum menampakkan diri masih

mengintai
mengintai

'The prince has not yet shown himself still lurking'

Pangeran balum menampakkan diri masih mengintai
S P

This clause follows the ergative pattern $S = P$.

In this clause, the prince acts as the subject who carries out the act of "lurking" directed at himself. Although the agent is not explicitly mentioned, the

actions performed by the prince (acting as both subject and patient) exhibit an ergative pattern, where the subject and patient assume equal roles.

e. Story title: Legenda Bukit Batara

Pragraph 10, page 28

Batara tu samo, ado rajonyo ado menterinyo, samo. Macam di alam nyata itulah. Memang masa-masa dulu waktu masa anak-anak, masyarakat tu mambilang tiba-tiba dipinjam bahasonyo oleh orang bunian.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(5) *Masyarakat tu mambilang tiba-tiba dipinjam bahasonyo oleh orang bunian.*

Masyarakat tu mambilang tiba-tiba dipinjam

Masyarakat itu menghitung tiba-tiba dipinjam

bahasonyo oleh orang bunian

bahasanya oleh orang bunian

'The people suddenly used their language, which was borrowed by the Bunian people'

Masyarakat tu mambilang tiba-tiba dipinjam bahasonyo oleh orang bunian.
S P A

The clause illustrates an ergative pattern, $S = P \neq A$. In this context, the subject (the people) and the patient (their language) receive the same treatment, while the agent (the Bunian people) is treated differently. This reflects an ergative construction, where attention is focused on changes in the patient's status caused by the agent.

f. Story title: Sonar Paku Bugis

Paragraph 6, page 43

Dengan bahaso nan santun dibujuknyo nan punyo gubuk ko tadi supayo inyo mau manjua gubuk ko kadinyo. Singkek carito dibayinyolah gubuk ko tadi jongon hago nan tenggi bana. Kini hatinyo babinar-binar mambayangkan basi nan bacahayo tu akan manjadi miliknya.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(6) *Dengan bahaso nan santun dibujuknyo nan punyo gubuk ko tadi supayo inyo mau manjua gubuk ko kadinyo.*

Dengan bahasa nan santun dibujuknyo

Dengan bahasa yang sopan dibujuknya

Nan punyo gubuk ko tadi

yang memiliki rumah itu sebelumnya

<i>supayo</i>	<i>inyo</i>	<i>mau</i>	<i>manjua</i>	<i>gubuk</i>
<i>supaya</i>	<i>anda</i>	<i>mau</i>	<i>membeli</i>	<i>rumah</i>
<i>ko</i>	<i>kadinya</i>			
<i>itu</i>	<i>miliknya</i>			

'Using polite language, he persuaded the house owner to want to buy the house from him.'

Dengan bahaso nan santun dibujuknyo nan punyo gubuk ko tadi supayo inyo mau manjua
P1 S2

gubuk ko kadinyo.

This clause has the ergative patter P1 = S2.

In this clause, the "owner of the hut" acts as the patient in the first clause who receives the action of "persuading" or "inviting" from the subject. Meanwhile, in the second clause, the word "inyo" as the subject refers to "the owner of the hut." Therefore, the ergative pattern is P1 = S2, where the patient and subject are related in the same action.

g. Story title: Sonar Paku Bugis

Paragraph 12, page 45

Walau pun curito ko ala baratus tahun nan lalu, konon basi paku karamat saudagar Bugis ba pincalang sikunar tu pado malam-malam tertentu acok juo nampak para nelayan dan juru mudi mangaluakan cahayo di antaro duo muaro Sungai Badiri dan muaro Sungai Lumut pas di muko Kampung Jagojago.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(7) *Basi paku karamat saudagar Bugis ba pincalang sikunar tu acok muncul mangaluakan cahayo bakiro kelap-kelip lampu suar.*

<i>Basi</i>	<i>paku</i>	<i>keramat</i>	<i>saudagar</i>	<i>Bugis</i>
<i>besi</i>	<i>paku</i>	<i>keramat</i>	<i>pedagang</i>	<i>Bugis</i>

<i>ba</i>	<i>pincalang</i>	<i>sikunar</i>	<i>tu</i>	<i>acok</i>
<i>yang</i>	<i>membeli</i>	<i>berharga</i>	<i>itu</i>	<i>dia</i>

<i>muncul</i>	<i>mangaluakan</i>	<i>cahayo bakiro</i>	<i>kelap-kelip</i>
<i>muncul</i>	<i>menyinar</i>	<i>cahaya</i>	<i>Seperti berkedip-kedip</i>

<i>lampu</i>	<i>suar</i>
<i>lampu</i>	<i>mercusuar</i>

'The sacred iron nails of Bugis traders suddenly appeared emitting a sparkling light like a lighthouse'

Basi paku karamat saudagar Bugis ba pincalang sikunar tu acok muncul mangaluakan

S

cahayo bakiro kelap-kelip lampu suar.

P

This clause has the ergative pattern S = P.

The subject (*basi paku karamat saudagar Bugis*) becomes the object of the action (*muncul mangaluakan cahayo bakiro kelap-kelip lampu suar*). Therefore, the ergative patterns is S = P. No agent is performing the action in this sentence.

h. Story title: Asal usul Makam Mahligai

Paragraph 1, page 47

Pado zaman dahulu di kawasan makam Mahligai ko ado sabuah kampung nan banamo Kampung Mahligai. Kampung ko sangat terkenal dek di kampung ko ado surang guru gadang yang mempunya ilmu agama yang sangat tinggi. Banyak urang datang baguru ka inyo.

The clause that demonstrates the ergative construction is:

(8) Ado sabuah kampung nan banamo Kampung Mahligai. Kampung ko sangat terkenal dek di kampung ko.

<i>ado</i>	<i>sabuah</i>	<i>kampung</i>	<i>nan</i>	<i>banamo</i>
<i>ada</i>	<i>sebuah</i>	<i>desa</i>	<i>yang</i>	<i>disebut</i>

<i>kampung</i>	<i>Mahligai</i>
<i>kampung</i>	<i>Mahligai</i>

<i>Kampung</i>	<i>ko</i>	<i>sangat</i>	<i>terkenal</i>	<i>dek</i>
<i>Kampung</i>	<i>itu</i>	<i>sangat</i>	<i>terkenal</i>	<i>oleh</i>

<i>di</i>	<i>kampung</i>	<i>ko</i>
<i>di</i>	<i>desa</i>	<i>itu</i>

‘There is a village called Kampung Mahligai. This village is very famous.’

Ado sabuah kampung nan banamo Kampung Mahligai. Kampung ko sangat terkenal

S1

P1

S2

The clause has the ergative pattern P1 = S2.

The first subject (*sabuah kampung*) becomes the object of the action (*kampung ko sangat terkenal*). Therefore, the ergative pattern is P1 = S2. No agent is performing the action.

i. Story title: Tantang Siboga

Paragraph 6, page 53

Ada beberapa versi lain mengatakan bahwasanya Sibolga itu tadi berasal dari pohon boga-boga. Boga-boga ko jadi karena dulu sejarah Sibolga bakau. Bakau-bakau jadi

(10) *Makanyo kalo dari barang siko dikenal dengan adat simando. Simando dari bahasa Minang kalo di Karo, semenda*

Makanyo kalo dari barang siko
Karena itu jika dari barang sini

dikenal dengan adat Simando
dikenal dengan adat Simando

Simandodari bahasa Minang kalo
Simandodari bahasa Minang jika

di Karo Semenda
di Karo Semenda

'So from here, it is known as the Simando custom. Simando from the Minang language, if in Karo, is called semenda'.

Makanyo kalo dari barang siko dikenal dengan adat simando. Simando dari bahasa
S1 P1 S2
Minang kalo di Karo, semenda

The ergative pattern in this clause is P1 = S2, where "Simando custom" (subject) is known as "adat Simando" (patient) originating from the Minang language, with the equivalent term "semenda" (agent) in the Karo language.

DISCUSSION

Ergative language is a linguistic phenomenon characterized by a sentence construction pattern in which the subject of a transitive clause becomes the object in an intransitive sentence. Due to its intriguing syntactic and semantic characteristics, this phenomenon has become a focal point in linguistic research. This research explores whether the Sibolga Coastal dialect exhibits ergative language features. The data for this study were derived from nine stories in the Central Tapanuli folklore anthology. Ten sentences with ergative patterns were identified and analyzed from this dataset. Data collection involved reading the story texts and identifying clauses that exhibited ergative patterns. Subsequently, an analysis of the identified structures and sentence patterns was conducted.

The data analysis revealed ten sentences demonstrating ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language. An example is clause (1) "Putri Runduk mahampok Rajo Janggi jongon tungkeknyo nan tabuek dari akar bahar sahinggo Rajo Janggi menjadi batu" where the subject "Putri Runduk" acts as the agent performing actions against the object "Rajo Janggi," which then becomes the subject in the subsequent clause. Another example of an ergative clause includes (2) "Sang putri sangat disayang satiok penduduk nagari"; (3) "baliau jo para punggawa mati dibunuh setan garudo"; (4) "Pangeran balum menampakkan diri masih mengintai"; (5) "Masyarakat tu mambilang tiba-tiba dipinjam bahasonyo oleh orang bunian"; (6) "Dengan bahaso nan santun dibujuknyo nan punyo

gubuk ko tadi supayo inyo mau manjua gubuk ko kadinyo"; (7) "Basi paku karamat saudagar Bugis ba pincalang sikunar tu acok muncul mangaluakan cahaya bakiro kelap-kelip lampu suar"; (8) "Ado sabuah kampuang nan banamo Kampung Mahligai. Kampung ko sangat terkenal dek di kampung ko"; (9) "Sibolga itu tadi berasal dari pohon boga-boga. Boga-boga ko jadi karena dulu sejarah Sibolga bakau"; and (10) "Makanyo kalo dari barang siko dikenal dengan adat simando. Simando dari bahasa Minang kalo di Karo, semenda."

The analysis demonstrates that the Sibolga Coastal language contains identifiable ergative patterns in folklore sentences from the anthology "Bunga Rampai Folklore of Central Tapanuli." These ergative patterns highlight a shift in roles between the subject and object in transitive clauses, where the subject in one sentence becomes the object in the following intransitive sentence. These findings suggest complex syntactic structures in the Sibolga Coastal language, influencing sentence construction and comprehension within the context of folklore.

This finding aligns with ergative language theory, which posits that languages with ergative patterns feature distinct roles for the subject and object in transitive clauses. In the Sibolga Coastal language, the roles of subjects and objects vary depending on the sentence structure. Moreover, the results corroborate linguistic theories of ergative languages, highlighting the variation and complexity of regional languages. These findings indicate that the Sibolga Coastal language possesses ergative features, which may affect sentence structure and comprehension. This insight enriches the understanding of linguistic variations in regional languages and can serve as educational material in language and literature studies. The research successfully supports its objective of identifying ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language, providing ten examples of sentences with ergative patterns.

The initial hypothesis of this research posited that the Sibolga Coastal language exhibits ergative patterns in sentence construction. The findings confirm this hypothesis, identifying ten sentences exemplifying the ergative pattern. Social, cultural, and historical factors can influence using ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language. Factors such as contact with other regional languages or specific communication contexts can impact this use. Internal factors, such as language structure complexity and speaker preferences, may also play a role. The practical implications of these findings include an enhanced understanding of the Sibolga Coastal language's sentence structure, which can inform language and literature education. Additionally, understanding linguistic variations can aid in preserving and developing regional culture.

Limitations of this research include the small sample size, with only ten ergative sentences analyzed from nine-story titles. This limited sample may only partially represent the ergative phenomena in the Sibolga Coastal language. Additionally, the study focused solely on written folklore texts, excluding oral contexts or daily interactions, which may show more significant variation in ergative patterns. Future research could involve a more extensive data set and include oral language use to provide a more comprehensive understanding.

Further research should expand the data scope by collecting more examples from various sources and contexts. Investigating ergative patterns in spoken conversation and daily interactions and exploring social and cultural influences would provide deeper insights into the use of ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language.

In conclusion, this research successfully identified and analyzed ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language, highlighting intriguing linguistic phenomena in sentence structure. These findings contribute to understanding regional languages and linguistic variation, with practical implications for education and cultural preservation. This study underscores the significance of researching minority languages within multilingual societies.

An ergative system is a grammatical system in which the subject of a transitive verb is treated differently from the subject of an intransitive verb and the object of a transitive verb. In languages with an ergative system, the subject of a transitive verb is often marked with the ergative case, while the subject of an intransitive verb and the object of a transitive verb are often marked with the absolutive case. This is in contrast to the more common nominative-accusative system, in which the subjects of transitive and intransitive verbs are marked in the same way. Ergativity has historically been a topic of much study in typological linguistics, especially since this phenomenon is found in many languages around the world, including languages in the Pacific, the Caucasus, and some Native American languages. The study of the Sibolga Coastal Dialect, spoken by people on the west coast of North Sumatra, especially in the city of Sibolga and its surrounding areas, has interesting linguistic characteristics to study in a typological context. This dialect, like many other Malay dialects, is part of the Austronesian language family. One interesting question that arises in this study is whether this dialect shows an ergative pattern or not. The study of this dialect can be focused on morphological and syntactic aspects to see how the roles of actors (subject, object, and agent) are treated in transitive and intransitive sentences. Analysis of grammatical cases, such as how the subject or object is marked, will help determine whether this dialect belongs to the ergative, nominative-accusative, or even a mixed system called "split ergativity." Several studies on ergativity in Austronesian languages have been conducted, one of which is a study by Himmelmann (2005) which states that several Austronesian languages show ergative patterns, although overall the majority of languages in this family are nominative-accusative. However, there are several Austronesian languages in eastern Indonesia, such as in Nusa Tenggara and Maluku, which have been confirmed to have ergative features in their grammatical systems. More specific research on ergativity in Indonesia has also been conducted by Donohue (2008), who mapped various languages in Indonesia and found a grammatical system that shows split ergativity. This system occurs when ergativity appears only in certain contexts, for example in certain tenses or aspects in the language. This finding provides a basis for the possibility that the Sibolga Coastal dialect may have ergative patterns, at least in certain situations.

CONCLUSIONS

Research on the use of ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language has deepened our understanding of sentence structure in the language. Based on the analysis of ten examples of ergative sentences from nine folklore titles, we can conclude that the Sibolga Coastal language exhibits typical characteristics of ergative syntax, wherein the subject in the first clause becomes the object in the second clause. In this study, we explored various aspects related to the use of ergative language, including interpretation of results, connection to research objectives, hypothesis testing, theoretical context, practical implications, research limitations, and suggestions for further research. The interpretation of the research results indicates that the Sibolga Coastal language displays typical ergative syntax, which is evident in the sentence structure pattern where the subject in the first clause functions as the object in the second clause. These findings significantly contribute to our understanding of the Sibolga Coastal language and affirm the presence of ergative patterns in this language. The alignment with the research objectives demonstrates that the research results uphold the initial hypothesis, successfully achieving the research objective of identifying ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language.

Hypothesis testing reveals consistency between research findings and previously proposed hypotheses, thereby establishing trustworthiness and reliability in the results of this research. The theoretical context suggests that these findings are congruent with existing literature on ergative patterns in language, augmenting our comprehension of this phenomenon. The practical implication of this research lies in the understanding that familiarity with ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language can aid in language and linguistics teaching in the region, as well as in translation and interpreting. In conclusion, this research contributes significantly to our comprehension of the Sibolga Coastal language and the phenomenon of ergative languages in general. These findings furnish concrete evidence regarding the utilization of ergative patterns in the Sibolga Coastal language, laying the groundwork for further research in linguistics. By broadening the sample scope and considering the broader context of language use, future research can furnish a more comprehensive understanding of the structure of the Sibolga Coastal language and its ramifications in social, cultural, and linguistic contexts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this research's findings, several recommendations can be made for implementing and further applying these results in academic and practical contexts. In the academic context, teaching the ergative patterns found in the Sibolga coastal language can facilitate a deeper understanding of local dialects and unique syntactic structures. Incorporating these patterns into linguistic curricula can enhance the study of regional languages and contribute to the broader field of syntactic theory. In the practical context, continuing and expanding documentation projects focusing on the Sibolga coastal language is crucial. This includes recording oral traditions, preparing dictionaries, and creating written text databases. Ensuring these resources are accessible to

researchers and local communities is essential for preserving the language and supporting ongoing linguistic research. Overall, these efforts will enrich academic knowledge and help maintain the cultural heritage and linguistic diversity of the Sibolga coastal area.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

This study has limitations that warrant acknowledgment. One limitation is the restricted number of samples, comprising only ten examples of ergative sentences from nine folklore titles. These limitations may impact the generalizability of the study findings. Furthermore, the analysis was solely conducted on written folklore texts, excluding language use in oral contexts or daily interactions. For future research, gathering more data from diverse sources and obtaining a more representative sample is recommended.

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