MORPHOLOGY AND SEMANTICS OF BASIC VERBS IN THE TALAUD LANGUAGE

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THE TALAUD LANGUAGE

- The Talaud language is an Austronesian language, West Malayo-Polynesian, Philippine language group, Sangir micro-group (Sneddon 1993)
- Spoken in the Talaud Islands, some 200 km north of North Sulawesi Peninsula
- Three big islands, Karakelang, Salibabu, Kabaruan, and Nanusa Islands
- The number of speakers is around 40,000
- Younger people are switching from Talaud to Manado Malay; it is endangered
- It is said to have seven dialects (Salibabu, Kabaruan, Nanusa, Beo, Rainis, Esang, Niampak): The set of consonants vary from dialect to dialect
THE AIM OF THIS STUDY

• To present basic semantic features of each voice form
• To describe what semantic role is selected by a subject NP of each voice form
• To show correlations between the semantic roles of a subject NP and the voice form
• To describe that semantics of subject NPs correlates with the paradigm of basic verbs
NOUN MARKERS

• Noun marker \(i\)-
  • marks a subject (of every voice form)
  • \(i\)- for singular human NPs, \(\emptyset\) for other NPs

• Noun marker \(si\/-su\)-
  • \(si\)- for singular human NPs, \(su\)- for other NPs
  • It does not appear when an NP is PATIENT and non-human
  • Marks \(su\)- object (one of the arguments of a verb)
    • LOCATION, GOAL, PATIENT
  • Marks \textcolor{red}{adjuncts} with semantic roles of LOCATION or GOAL

• Noun marker \(ni\/-nu\)-
  • \(Ni\)- for singular human NPs, \(nu\)- for other NPs
  • Marks \(nu\)- object (one of the arguments of a verb)
    • CONVEYED THEME, INSTRUMENT, THEME, CAUSEE
  • Marks \textcolor{red}{AGENT} in undergoer voice constructions
GOAL VOICE AND SEMANTIC ROLE OF ITS SUBJECT NP

• GOAL
(1) *i-ani anğill-an ni-nay=ku m-buke* GV, non-past
  I-Annie give-ANNA NI-mother=NI.1sg NU-book
  “Annie will be given a book by my mother.”

• PATIENT
(2) *niukka udde anu-an ni-tou* GV, non-past
  coconut that take-ANNA NI-3sg
  “That coconut will be taken by her/him.”

• LOCATION
(3) *urinna addo-ŋ=ku m-bohassa* GV, MAN- verb
  pan put-ANNA=NI.1sg NU-rice
  “In the pan, I put rice.”
COVEYANCE VOICE AND SEMANTIC ROLE OF ITS SUBJECT

- CONVEYED THEME, INSTRUMENT

(4) buke udde i-aŋgill i-nay=ku si-ani CV, non-past
   book that I-give I-mother=Nl.1sg Sl-Annie
   “That book will be given by my mother to Annie.”

- CAUSEE

(5) anaʔa udde i-rarisikk i-ani CV, non-past
   child that I-stand NI-Annie
   “That child will be made to stand by Annie.”

- THEME (Abstract entity)

(6) i-harun i-lindaʔ i-maria CV, non-past/past
   I-Harun I-avoid NI-maria
   “Harun will be avoided by Maria.”

- PATIENT

(7) niukka udde n-i-anu ni-tou CV, past
   coconut that NI-I-take NI-3sg
   “That coconut was taken by him/her”
TALAUD VERBS

• Rich verbal morphology
• Basic verbs and derivational verbs
  • All the verbs have one of the voice-indicating affixes
  • Derivational verbs take one or two of the derivational affixes. Ex. Reciprocal, causative, potential, etc.
    • *ma-pa-malli* ‘cause so to buy’, *ma-ʔa-saggo* ‘to be able to breathe’
• Three grammatical voices
  • Actor Voice
  • Goal Voice
  • Conveyance Voice
  • the latter two are undergoer voices
THREE TYPES OF VOICE-INDICATING AFFIXES

• The infix –um-
  • s-um-aggo ‘to breathe (non-past)’, na-s-um-aggo ‘to breathe (past)’

• The prefix ma-/na-
  • ma-ʔellega ‘to see (non-past)’, na-ʔellega ‘to see (past)’

• The prefix maN-/naN- (/N/ indicates nasalization)
  • man-dona ‘to get angry (non-past)’, nan-dona ‘to get angry (past)’
  • ma-malli ‘to buy (non-past), na-malli ‘to buy (past)’

• Goal Voice suffix
  • saggo-anna ‘to breathe (non-past)’, ni-saggo-anna ‘to breathe (past)’

• Conveyance Voice prefix
  • i-saggo ‘to breathe (non-past)’, n-i-saggo ‘to breathe (past)’
### VOICE-INDICATING AFFIXES

Table 1: Voice-indicating affixes and paradigm of verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AV</th>
<th>GV</th>
<th>CV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-past Form</strong></td>
<td>-um- + BASE l-um-agge ‘laugh’</td>
<td>Base + -anna lagge-anna ‘laugh’</td>
<td>i- + BASE i-l-um-agge ‘laugh’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ma- + BASE ma-saraĩŋga ‘dance’</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>maN- + BASE man-dona ‘to get angry’</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Past Form</strong></td>
<td>na-um- + BASE na-l-um-agge ‘laugh’</td>
<td>ni- + BASE + -anna (-in- + BASE + -anna) ni-lagge-anna ‘laugh’</td>
<td>n-+ i- + BASE ni-l-um-agge ‘laugh’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ni-um- + BASE, -in- + -um- + BASE) na- + BASE na-saraĩŋga ‘dance’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>naN- + BASE nan-dona ‘to get angry’</td>
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VERB TYPES AND THE NUMBER OF VOICES

- Talaud verbs can be divided into three categories by the number of voices they can take
  - Single-voiced verbs
    - Actor Voice only
  - Double-voiced verbs
    - Actor Voice, Goal Voice (non-past and past)
    - Actor Voice, Conveyance Voice (non-past and past)
    - Actor Voice, non-past Goal Voice and past Conveyance Voice
  - Triple-voiced verbs
    - Actor Voice, Goal Voice, and Conveyance Voice
Out of 100 verbs, following percentages of each type of verbs are found:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Single-voiced</th>
<th>Double-voiced</th>
<th>Triple-Voiced</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-um- verbs</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma- verbs</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maN- verbs</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>