Word Order Typology

by Agis Andriani

WORD ORDER TYPOLOGY OF LANGUAGES IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the word order typology of languages in Indonesia. This typology is based on fifty nine languages sample taken from the three areas of Indonesia consisting northern Austronesia, western Austronesia, and east Indonesia (Donohue, 2007). The Greenberg's universal word order becomes the foundation for analyzing the data (Comrie, 1989). The result shows that generally the typology of word order in languages is VO. The VO is specified by preposition, NG, and NA and it is in western Austronesia. Meanwhile, the OV is specified by postposition, GN, and AN, and it is in eastern Indonesia. Finally, this finding supports *Greenberg's 45 Universals* (Howe, 2014).
Keywords: *typology, Austronesia, word order, Greenberg's universals*

INTRODUCTION

Language typology categorises the languages based on their grammatical relations, semantic and pragmatic roles. The researches (Durie, 1985; Artawa, 1998; Soriente, 2013) found that the languages in Indonesia including Aceh, Bali, and languages in Borneo island (Penan, Kenyah, Kayan, and Punan) have the these parts. The other findings (Klamer & Ewing, 2009; Yembise, 2013; Nagaya, 2013; Gau, 2011; Sukerti, 2013; Mulae, 2012; Arsai, 2014; Westrum, 1988; Travis, 1990; Engelenhoven, 1997; Arka, 2009) are from languages in the east of Indonesia.
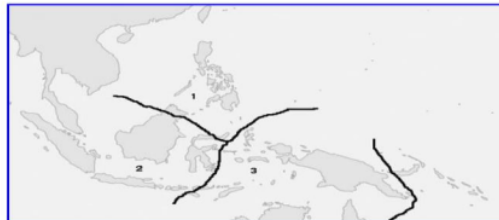
This research is about the word order typology of Austronesian languages from the north to south and from the west to the east. This description is with the explanation of language representation from each area (Donohue, 2007). Therefore, the identification for each language explained is based on the geographical area of Indonesia islands (Taber, 1993; Klamer, 2002; Musgrave, 2008).

THEORY & METHODOLOGY

Language typology is from the Greenberg's idea that there is a certain prototype of languages in the world. This gives the implication that the prototypes can universal, implicational or as tendency represented by the specific parameters. These parameters are identified by *Greenberg's 45 Universals* (Howe, 2014). One of these ideas is the word order typology.

Donohue (2007) divided languages in Indonesia into three areas. These areas are north Austronesia, west Austronesia, and east Austronesia. In addition, Blust (2013) identified that Austronesian languages consist of ten groups. One of this is malayo-polinesia which is in the west, middle and east. The east area are South Halmahera, and West New Guinea and Oceanic.

Language Area in Indonesia

Key: 1: northern Austronesian; 2: western Austronesian (sometimes 1+2); 3: eastern "Indonesian"; 2+3: southern Austronesian. Note: area 3 includes many languages not genetically related to the Austronesian languages ("Papuan" languages).

(Donohue, 2007:352)

Word order typology in Austronesian languages in the West of Indonesia has the SVO pattern. The group of the languages are Acehnese, Indonesian, Balinese, Sasak, Muna, Bima, Keo, Tetun, Leti and Taba. The division arises the generalization of word order based on Greenberg's. The claim states that Austronesian language has SVO word order. However, there is SOV form in some languages in this area, for example Abui and Berik languages in Papua. The pattern of this word order are as follow:

(a) VSO/Pr/NG/NA
(b) SVO/Pr/NG/NA
(c) SOV/Po/GN/AN
(d) SOV/Po/GN/NA

(Comrie, 1989:95)

From the four variation of the patterns, the word order typology summarises into two patterns. The patterns are VO and OV for the order. The VO language has the other possibilities to be VOS or VSO with the Pr, NG, and NA. The OV variation is OVS and OSV with Po, GN, and AN.

(e) **VO, Pr, NG, NA**

(f) **OV, Po, GN, AN**   (Comrie, 1989:95)

The pattern of word orders are supported by secondary data taken from the references published. These data are from fifty nine languages existed in Indonesia. The data are sentences and phrases as the representation of word order typology.

FINDING & DISCUSSION

The language universal taken from the data are described based on islands. These islands are Sumatera, Java, Madura, Borneo, Sulawesi, Bali, NTB, NTT, Moluccas, and Papua.

The universal is from the pattern of SVO and SOV in Greenberg's Universal. Based on the data, the word order of languages in Indonesia is dominantly with SVO. The word order universal are from the west and east area of languages.

Languages		Word Order					
		VO			OV		
		SVO	VSO	VOS	SOV	OVS	OSV
1.	Sundanese	v					
2.	Javanese	v					
3.	Madurese	v					
4.	Indonesian	v					

Sundanese

Paul	neukteukan	kai.
S	V	O
Paul	memotong	kayu

Paul memotong kayu.

(Randriamasimanana, 2014:266)

Indonesian

saya	memeluk	dia
S	V	O
saya	memeluk	dia

Saya memeluk dia.

(Stassen, 2014:324)

However, there is an exception from some languages which have SOV order. These languages are Berik, Abui, Kayu Pulau, Ormu, and Lani.

Word Order Typology of Languages in Papua

Languages		Word Order					
		VO			OV		
		svo	vso	vos	sov	ovs	Osv
1.	Abui				v		
2.	Berik				v		
3.	Hatam	v					
4.	Melayu Papua	v					
5.	Biak	v					
6.	Kowiai	v					
7.	Wandamen	v					
8.	Kayupulau				v		
9.	Ormu				v		
10.	Lani				v		

Kayupulau

Nye   hova   cnia.

S   O   V

Dia   sagu   makan

Dia makan sagu.

(Purba et.al (1990) dalam Yembise, 2013)

Ormu

Nsa   mhara   rarai.

S   O   V

Mereka   ubi   masak

Mereka masak ubi.

(Purba et.al (1996) dalam Yembise, 2013)

Abui

Fan Ata   de-kaai   nuku   faring   bol

S   O   V

Fan Ata   anjing-anjing   satu   banyak   memukul

Fan Ata sering memukul salah satu anjingnya.

(Kratochvil, 2007:122)

Berik

Je	twena	ginem	tana.
dia	babi	dengan panah	membunuh
S	O		V

Kami membunuh babi dengan panah.

(Westrum, 1988:142)

Lani

At	towe	kege.
S	O	V
dia	burung	melihat

Dia melihat burung.

(Donohue, 2007:356)

If the word order is SVO, it will be with Pr, NG, and NA. Moreover, the SOV is with Po, GN, and AN. The examples of the pattern are as follow:

SVO Languages
Preposition in Lamaholot

Rhatu metu mbana-mbana	Rheka	tembok.
Ada semut berjalan	di	tembok

(McDonnell, 2014:1)

NG in Kei

yama-	-d
ayah	milik mereka
N	G

Ayah mereka

(Travis, 1990:8)

SOV Languages
Postposition in Ormu
Ormu

fekwa	na
N	postposition
hutan	di

Di hutan

(Purba et.al (1996), dalam Yembise, 2013)

GN in SOV language

Abui

Na-	min
G	N
saya	hidung

Hidung saya

(Kratochvil, 2007:13)

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

SOV dominance of languages in Indonesia is as the proof of Greenberg's Universal. The universal word order is shown by the language prototype in these languages. The difference of the order in some languages is from the difference of language family. This fact supports that the word order in some languages in east of Indonesia have the SOV order. To find more universal of word order typology in Indonesian , the more data are needed to enrich and add the finding.

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