

# Word Order in Turiturian of Batak Toba Language

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## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** This research is aimed to investigate the word order in *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language

**Study design:** Qualitative research was applied in this research.

**Place and Duration of Study:** It is library research. So, it was completed in Universitas HKBP Nommensen and the research was conducted from February to June 2022.

**Methodology:** In this research data was taken from the folklore entitled 'Sigalegale'. The data in this research was clause or sentences found in the folklore. The data was analyzed by using Miles and Huberman analyses. Tree stages that used in analyzing the research, namely data reduction, data display, and data conclusion drawing/verification.

**Results:** The result of the research shows that the basic word order found in *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language consists of two types, namely VSO and SVO. The other pattern also found, namely SV and SVC

**Conclusion:** Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the structure of the clause patterns of *Turiturian* in Batak Toba language includes SV, SVC, SVO and VSO. The structure of SV and SVC patterns occurs in transitive clauses, namely sentences that do not require objects in the sentence but already had meaning. At the same time, the structure of SVO pattern occurs in the active sentence. In this case, a morphological process occurs which is marked by the prefix '-mam' in the 'verb'. Furthermore, the structure of VSO pattern occurs in passive sentence which is indicated by the addition of the prefix '-di' on the 'verb'. In addition, the VSO structure is also marked with a nominal modifier. From these findings, it can be said that the basic word order of Batak Toba language is SVO and VOS. The structure SV and SVC patterns exists if there is no object in the clause/sentence. This research is only limited to the word order in the clause/sentence. Therefore, it is necessary to do further research on the word order in phrases.

*Keywords: Batak Toba, Batak Toba Language, Turiturian, Word order*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is an equipment that used by human to communicate, both in the fields of education, health, tourism, economy and others. Through language, human can conduct their activities in their daily life. Every language in the world has different characteristics, forms and patterns. The science studies about the characteristics of language and patterns across languages is called typology<sup>1-4</sup>. Generally, language typology distinguishes two types of language<sup>5</sup>. Typology also explains a group of objects based on the similarity of basic properties. Through the study of typology, researchers can design processes and products of linguistic aspects, especially local languages in Indonesia<sup>6</sup>.

Local language is the language used by speakers of its language as a tool to communicate, for example Toba Batak language is used by Toba Batak speakers to do interaction with other speakers. Local language refers to the identity of the user of the

language. So it is necessary for speakers to preserve it by using the language in their daily life. In addition, it can also enrich the vocabulary, especially the local language that is in Indonesia towards Indonesian language. That's why, it is necessary for speakers of local language to know and understand the structure of the language patterns that speakers use, such as speakers of Batak Toba need to know the word order in Batak Toba language.

The word order is part of language typology. Word order has a long history. The research about word order is a basic part of typology and it is the main area of research in typology that relate to the word order of the elements contained in clauses and phrases<sup>3</sup>(Whaley, 1997:79-80)<sup>3</sup>. The word order can be analyzed both orally or written. In spoken language, the word order can not only be analyzed when someone has understood the language, but it can also be analyzed when the child's language acquisition<sup>7</sup>. It is caused the word order does not limit phonological activation in single word production<sup>8</sup>. The word order and case markers can be used to interpret simple and complex sentences<sup>9</sup>. So, it can be distinguished between lexical construction and lexical items from the sentences. The case markers will be found in the word order and the word order will mark cases and topics, for example in Mandarin language, the word order can mark mixed case markers which are characterized by nominative-accusative patterns coexist with ergative-absolutive patterns<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, the research about the word order is interesting and need to be investigated.

Word order is the study of the order of the syntactic constituents of a language, and how the different languages can use different orders. The word order is found in the transitive declarative main sentence. In word order, both subject and object involve noun phrases (not pronominal)<sup>11</sup>. Every language has basic word order. Every language has only one word order that is possible as grammatically or several word orders are possible if there is a difference in meaning and one of the word order can be considered neutral and there is no difference in meaning but there is one word order that is more frequent than the other<sup>11</sup>. The word order carries crucial information about syntax of the sentence and meaning in sentences and It occurs in many languages, especially English (Rayner, 2013)

Word order is a linear realization of the branches of syntax constituent which is one of the fundamental characteristics of language. Although some languages do not have default word order or not configuration, but in processing, it still has the opportunity to have a word order<sup>12</sup>. The order of basic words is also closely related to the prosodic order in a language<sup>13</sup>. In this case, a language whose syntax tree in the right side will produce VO word order while one that branches to the left will produce OV word order, like Japanese.

Parameters are used to find out the type of word order of a language.<sup>14</sup> Word order parameters are classified into two binaries, namely OV vs VO and SV vs VO. From these two parameters, 4 types are produced, namely VS &VO, SV&VO, SV&OV, and VS&OV. VS&VO refers to 2 types, namely VSO and VOS. While SV&VO refers to the type of SVO. Next, SV&OV produce SOV and OSV types. Lastly VS &OV produces an OVS type. It can be concluded that there are six types of word order, namely VSO, VSO, SOV, VOS, OSV and OVS<sup>14-16</sup>.

Furthermore,<sup>15</sup> the parameter used to determine the word order, namely the word order of constituent on the clause consisting of the subject (S), verb (V) and object (O). And this is the main parameter in determining the type of word order in a language. This parameter may be applied if the language has a subject-object grammatical relationship. In addition, parameters may apply if the language has an order that is determined by the grammatical relationship to the verb, at least in part. The next parameter in determining the word order of noun phrases can be seen from the relationship of the word order of relative adjectives (A) and nouns (N). And produce two possible word order, namely AN and NA. This parameter may apply if the language does not have prepositions and the auxiliary verb always precedes the main verb. In this study, the writer will use the parameters proposed by Comrie in determining the word order in the clauses contained in *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language.

There have been many studies on word order, such as <sup>17-24</sup>. <sup>22</sup>Jufrizal (2007) discusses word order of Minangkabau language. In this case, the researcher looks at the variation of word order and its acceptance in the Minangkabau language. Based on the findings, it shows that the Minangkabau language has basic grammatical constructions SVO word order with variations of VOS and OSV. Furthermore, word order of SVO is the highest level of acceptance in formal language. Then, the word order of VOS is acceptable in classical-stylistic construction. And the last, OSV is only used in topical construction.

<sup>19</sup>The word order in Iliung, Tugung dialect was discussed by Maunareng. His research result shows that the word order in the Iliung language, the Tugung dialect, refers to the predicate in the verb category. Morphologically, it was not formed from the affixation process. So that the verbs used are basic verbs and verb undergo a morphosyntactic process. Generally, the order of the Tugung dialect is SVO. Furthermore, research on word order was also discussed by Mavis. In this case, Mavis discusses the understanding of word order in the Turkic Apasia language. The results showed that Apasias performed less well than NBDs overall, and that while fluent Apasias showed no difference in conditions at all, non-fluent Apasias performed worse in sentences that started Object at first sentence (OVS/OSV) than sentence is started by subject on first sentences. first (SOV/SVO), and no further difference in conditions was found <sup>21</sup>.

The next research was conducted by Norcliffe. <sup>24</sup>Norcliffe et al., (2015) in their research which discusses Word order affects the time course of sentence formulation in Tzeltal said that the structure of clause patterns in Tzeltal language is VOS. Furthermore, <sup>20</sup>Panggabean also discusses word order in his research. The word order is discussed in his research entitled 'Construction of Syntactic Typology in the Batak Toba Language'. In her research, <sup>20</sup>She said that the basic and acceptable structure of the clause pattern in Batak Toba language is VOS. Furthermore, Panggabean also said that there are other sentence structure structures in Batak Toba language, namely SV and SVA. In this case, there is no object in the sentence.

The next study that discussed the same thing regarding word order was carried out by Rizki & Pujiati. <sup>23</sup>They discusses word order in Arabic. In their research, Rizki & Pujiati said that the dominant word order in Arabic was built by the VSO pattern. In addition to this pattern, there are also other patterns, namely SVO, OVS and VOS. Then <sup>17</sup>Soukkonen also discusses word order in Finnish. The result of his research shows that Finnish is an accusative language with SVO order. Lastly, Surbakti also contributed to the discussion of word order patterns when <sup>18</sup>Surbakti discussed the syntactic typology of Karo language. In this case she said that the structure of the Karo language is VSO pattern.

In this study the writers want to investigate the 'Word Order in *Turiturian* of Batak Toba Language. Batak Toba language is the regional language used by Batak Toba people. Typologically, Batak Toba language belongs to the accusative language. The speakers use it to interact both orally or written. In addition, Toba people also have their own culture and literature. One of them is *Turiturian*. *Turiturian* is a legend or culture of Batak Toba people. Because *Turiturian* is one of the cultures of Batak Toba people, so it is necessary for speakers of Batak Toba language to know what type of word order is contained in *Turiturian*. As an example:

- 1) Anggina                      digoar    Datu Manggelang  
    Sister-POSS      PASS-named    Datu Manggelang  
    'Her sister is named Datu Manggelang'

The clause/sentence above shows a passive clause. This is indicated by the addition of the prefix 'di' to the verb 'goar'. And the structure of clause above is SVO, where the subject in the clause is 'anggina', 'digoar' as 'verb' in the clause and 'Datu Magelang' as 'object' in the clause.

Based on the data, it shows that there is a research gap between previous studies and the data displayed. Previous research has said that there is only one basic word order in Batak Toba language, namely VOS. However, based on the data found, there is another

basic pattern in Batak Toba language, namely SVO. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct further research on the clause patterns of the Toba Batak language to find out the patterns in the Toba Batak language. In this case, the author only takes data from *Turiturian*.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the research objective, namely finding word pattern (order) in clauses in the Toba Batak language *Turiturian*, the author used a descriptive qualitative approach in the research. Furthermore, the data was taken from *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language. The *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language that was taken and became the data source in the research entitled 'Sigalegale'. After the data was collected, then the data was analyzed. The Data were analyzed by using Miles and Huberman's analysis. Miles and Huberman's analysis consists of 3 stages, namely data reduction, data display, and data conclusion drawing/verification. First, in the 'data reduction' stage, the data that has been collected and analyzed was reduced based on the type of word order found in the Toba Batak language *Turiturian*. Next is the 'data display' stage. In this case the data was displayed based on the type of word order and then the type of word order in the clause was presented and the last stage is the "data conclusion drawing" stage. In this case, the writers concluded the types were found in the *Turiturian* Batak Toba language.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research discussed the word order of the clause that found in *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language. Word order is study of constituent order of syntax in a language. There are six types of word order, namely VSO, VSO, SOV, VOS, OSV and OVS (Comrie, 1981; Dryer, 1997; Song, 2018)<sup>14-16</sup>

Based on the data analysis on *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language, the description of the word order that found in *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language as following:

- 2) Lao      ma      ibana rap      dohot sada naposona  
went    PART dia-3SG      with      together a      man  
'She went with a man'

Based on the sentence above shown that the sentence has word order, namely VSC. In this case, 'ibana' is as "subject" in the sentence. While 'lao' is as 'verb' and 'dohot sada naposona' has a role as 'complement'. The sentence above is intransitive sentence and it is indicated by the absence of direct object in the sentence, but it has meaning.

The word order VSC in this research dose not find yet by the previous research especially in Batak Toba language. And Based on the Comrie that word order VSC is not categorized as the basic word order. So, it is a new finding.

- 3) langgo ulaonna      disi      mambarbar      hau do.  
If      work-POSS      there    ACT-cut      wood  
'her work was cutting the wood there'

Based on the sentence above shown that the sentence was categorized into active sentence that is indicated by the changes of the morphological on its verb, namely 'mam'. And syntactically, the sentence has direct object, namely 'hau'. So, the kind of word order of the sentence is SVO. The clause above shown that 'ulaonna' is as 'subject' in the clause. While 'mambarbar' has a role as 'verb' and 'hau' is as object in the sentence.

The structure of the sentence pattern on the data 3 has the same pattern with previous research that was conducted by Maunareng.<sup>19</sup> Maunareng (2014) said that the structure of sentence pattern SVO also was found in Illiung language, Tugung dialect. In Illiung language, Tugung dialect was not formed by affixation process. While Batak Toba language the verb was formed from morphological process that can be seen from the adding affix on the verb. The structure of Batak Toba pattern is a novelty in this research. This is

caused the previous researcher just said that the structure of Batak Toba pattern that is acceptance, namely VOS<sup>20</sup>.

- 4) Dipauba        halak    do muse goarni        Si raja Deang        I  
 PASS-change people again    name-GEN the King of Deang that  
 'The name of the king of Deang was changed by people'

Based on the sentence above that the sentence is passive sentence that is shown by the change of the morphological on the verb, namely adding affix 'di' on the basic verb 'uba'. In other hand, there is nominal modifier on the sentence, namely 'Genetive' with the pattern N+G. So, the pattern of language structure is said VO. And it can be concluded that the word order of the sentence VSO, where 'dipauba' is as 'verb' in the sentence while 'halak' is as 'subject and 'si raja Deang' is as 'object' in the sentence.

The word order on the sentence above is same with the previous research that have been conducted by<sup>18,23</sup>. Rizki dan Pujiati found the pattern in Arab language. While Surbakti foun the pattern SVO in Karo language. The result of the research is categorized as the novelty. It is caused that the previous research has been conducted by Panggabean said that Batak Toba language has the word order VOS.

- 5) Tarbarita        ma        ibana        antong  
 famous PART    3SG-dia        too  
 'she is famous'

Data 5 is an intransitive sentence. The prefix '-tar' adhered to the word 'barita' was shown. In other side, the object cannot be added on the intransitive sentence. Furthermore the pattern of sentence structure on the sentence above is VS, where the verb in the sentence is 'tarbarita' while the subject is 'ibana'

- 6) dibahen        halak ma Sigalegale molo adong halak mate        pupur  
 PASS-make people Sigalegale if    there people dead        without descendant  
 'Sigalegale was made if there is someone dies without descendant'

The first clausa on the sentence above shown passive clause. It was shown by affix 'di' that adhered on the verb 'bahen'. While in the second clause shown active clause. The structure of the sentence pattern on the first clause is VSO where 'dibahen' is as 'verb', 'halak' is as subject, dan Sigalegale is as 'object' in the clause. While in the second clause, the subject is 'halak' and the verb is 'mate'. Thus, the structure of the sentence pattern is SV.

The word order of the sentence above is the same as the previous research conducted by Rizki & Pujiati and Surbakti<sup>18,23</sup>. Rizki dan Pujiati found the pattern in Arab language while Surbakti found the pattern of VSO in Karo language. The result of the research was categorized as the novelty of the research. It is caused the previous research that has been conducted by Panggabean said that Batak Toba language has basic word order VOS. But for the structure NV are also found in the previous research that has been conducted by Panggabean. It can be concluded that the word order SV in this research is still relevant to the previous research.

- 7) alai        ianggo angina        I        tung        so olo mambuat boru.  
 But    if        sister-POSS-her that however        not want take        daughter  
 But her sister did not want to take a daughter.

The structure of the sentence pattern above is SVO. In this case, 'angina i' has fuction as the 'subject' of the sentence, 'mambuat' is as 'verb', and 'boru' is as the object in the sentence. The sentence above is categorized as the relative sentence that was indicated with 'so'. The result of this research is accordance with the previous research that have been done by the previous researchers<sup>19,21,22</sup>.

Based on the result of the research, it can be concluded that the structure of the sentence pattern on *Turiturian* of Batak Toba language such as SV, SVC, SVO and VSO. The structure of pattern SV and SVC occurred in transitive sentence, namely sentence is not needed object in the sentence but it has a meaning. Whereas the structure of pattern SVO occurred in the active sentence. In his case, there is a morphological process that was indicated with prefix 'mam' on the 'verb'. Furthermore, the word order VSO occurred in the

passive sentence and it was indicated by adding prefix 'di' on the 'verb'. In other side, the structure of VSO also was indicated by *nominal modifier* (see data 4)

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Word order is the study of the order of the syntactic constituents of a language, and how different languages may use different orders. There are six types of word order, namely VSO, VSO, SOV, VOS, OSV and OVS (Comrie, 1981; Dryer, 1997; Song, 2018)<sup>14-16</sup>.

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the structure of the clause patterns of *Turiturian* in Batak Toba language includes SV, SVC, SVO and VSO. The structure of SV and SVC patterns occurs in transitive clauses, namely sentences that do not require objects in the sentence but already have meaning. While the structure of SVO pattern occurs in the active sentence. In this case, a morphological process occurs which is marked by the prefix '-mam' in the 'verb'. Furthermore, VSO pattern structure occurs in passive sentences, sentence which is indicated by the addition of the prefix 'di' on the 'verb'. In addition, the VSO structure is also marked with a nominal modifier. From these findings, it can be said that the basic word order of Batak Toba language is SVO and VOS. While the structure of SV and SVC patterns exists if there is no object in the clause/sentence. This research is only limited to the word order in the clause/sentence. Therefore, it is necessary to do further research on the word order in phrases.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

The writers had declared that no competing interest exist.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

In this research the first writer designed the research, performed the analysis technique, and write the first draft of manuscript. The second writer managed the literature searches. All writer read and approved the final manuscript.

## ACRONYMS

S	: Subject
O	: Object
V	: Verb
VO	: Verb Object
OV	: Object Verb
VSO	: Verb Subject Object
VSO	: Verb Subject Object
SOV	: Subject Object Verb
VOS	: Verb Object Subject
OSV	: Object Subject Verb
OVS	: Object Verb Subject
PART	: Particle
3SG	: Third Singular Person
PASS	: Passive Sentence
GEN	: Genitive
ACT	: Active Sentence

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