

## Sibolga Coastal Nominal Phrases

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### Abstract

*This study discusses the structure of noun phrases in Pesisir Sibolga language. The main objective of the research is to find noun phrases in Pesisir Sibolga language which are used generally by the speaking community. The structure is analyzed based on X-bar theory, which is a theory that specifically discusses the problem of phrase structure. This study uses a qualitative research design with interview methods. The research data is primary data. Data presentation was carried out through interviews with native speakers of the Sibolga coastal language using in-depth interviews. The resource persons are people who live in the Barus sub-district and the city of Sibolga. In this study, seven patterns of noun phrases were found, namely: FN → N'; Spes, FN → N'; N, FN → N'; V, FN → N'; Adj, FN → N'; FP, FN → FNum; N, FN → N'; Kl Rail; Spes.*

### Keywords

Sibolga coastal language, noun phrase structure, X-bar theory



## I. Introduction

Phrases are the smallest syntactic elements, one of which is a noun phrase. A noun phrase is a phrase whose job is to describe an object, usually a subject or object in a sentence. This type of phrase is found in Indonesian and regional languages. The Sibolga Coastal Language is part of the regional languages that live in Indonesia. The Sibolga Coastal Language functions as a means of communication between individuals, between communities in the Sibolga – Central Tapanuli region. When viewed in terms of its position, Pesisir Sibolga language is a regional language that is maintained and fostered by its speakers. This is indicated by orthographic evidence in the form of a dictionary compiled in a simple way by Syafriwal Marbun from the Sibolga Tapanuli Tengah Pesisir Cultural Customary Foundation in 2019.

There are not many studies of Pesisir Sibolga language from the level of syntax, and there is no specific research on the structure of noun phrases using the x-bar theory. The source of the literature that contains noun phrases in the Sibolga coastal language is the result of a study by Setiana Simorangkir and friends (1986) entitled Structure of Sibolga Coastal Language. The basis used in this study is structural linguistics which provides an overview of the phonology, morphology and syntax of the Pesisir Sibolga language. The syntax section contains the types of phrases including noun phrases which have eight structures, namely KB+KB, KB+KS, KB+(Particle), KB+KK+(Particle), KBil+KB, KB+Particle+KK+(Particle), Particle X+KB, KB+Particle+KS+(Particle).

Previous research that can be found regarding noun phrases using the x-bar theory as part of generative grammar is Mulyadi's research (1998) on Indonesian noun phrases. In this study, Indonesian FN broadly has three rules based on the location of the core and the

function of the accompanying elements, namely Noun+Complement, Noun+Description, Specifier+Noun. Muskar (2002) examined Arabic noun phrases, where the results of the research found eight structures and rules of Arabic FN. Lexical categories that can be combined with nouns as the core of Arabic FN are nouns, adjectives, numerals, demonstrative pronouns, ayyu interrogatives, relative clauses, and nominal phrases.

Situmorang (2011) examined the noun phrases of the Toba Batak language. This study found that the internal structure of noun phrases in the Toba Batak language is formed by complements, adverbs, and specifiers. The FN structure rules in the Toba Batak language are 14 rules. Pujiono (2015) analyzes Japanese nominal phrases. From the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that the nominal structure of the Japanese language is (a).  $FN \rightarrow N'.N' \rightarrow NN$ , (b).  $FN \rightarrow N'.N' \rightarrow N.Adj$ , (c).  $FN \rightarrow N'.N' \rightarrow NumN$ , (d).  $FN \rightarrow N'.N' \rightarrow PronN$ , (e).  $FN \rightarrow N'.N' \rightarrow Adj N$ , (f).  $FN \rightarrow N'.N' \rightarrow ket N$ .

Furthermore, Wargain-Angin with a study of noun phrases in the Karo language. It was explained that the internal structure of noun phrases in the Karo language is formed by complements, adverbs and specifiers. There are 10 FN structure rules in Karo language based on form and meaning. Then there is a study of the structure of Minang language noun phrases (Nasution and Akmal, 2021). In the article there are six forms of noun phrases, namely noun phrases (Noun1 + Noun2; Noun1+ Verb; Noun1 + sa + Noun2; Noun (N) + Adjective; NP + Demonstrative; NP + Preposition Phrase). They have different meanings, especially in points 1 to 5 of Minang language noun phrases.

One of the foreign language studies related to the structure of noun phrases was conducted by Dansabo (2022) with the title of the article *The Structure of Basà Noun Phrase: An X-Bar Approach*. Basà is spoken in four states in Norway namely, Banue, Kogi, Nasarawa and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). This study reveals that the FN constituents of Basà are core nouns, determiners, adjectives and prepositional phrases. FN in Basà functions as the subject of the sentence, the object of the verb, the direct object, the indirect object, the subject and the object complement. The function of FN in a sentence is determined not by semantic considerations, but by the structural position of certain constituents in relation to FN.

This research was conducted bearing in mind that there was no study of noun phrases in Pesisir Sibolga language with the X-Bar theory. In this study, the structure of noun phrase formation in Pesisir Sibolga will be described. This study uses the X-Bar theory in the analysis of the Generative Grammar model because the X-Bar theory makes the analysis clearer and simpler.

## II. Review of Literature

A noun phrase is something that is built around a noun. Pronouns because of their ability to represent nouns and relative clauses together with their noun core, can be said and can be called noun phrases (FN). This applies to the other four phrases. Noun phrases can consist of nouns and prepositional phrases, and prepositional phrases consist of prepositions and other noun phrases, which consist of specifiers and nouns. Noun phrases can be one word or more than one noun (Japan Sarage, 2014).

Mastery and binding theory (Government and Binding Theory) departs from the assumption that most of the grammar of a particular language is common to all languages, and therefore is part of the Universal Grammar (Black, 1999). Government and Binding Theory (GB Theory) pioneered by Chomsky (1980, 1986, 1990 in Muskar: 2002) is an advanced theory of Generative Grammar Transformation theory, aims to provide a

systematic description of sentences by proposing a universal grammar so that can explain every language phenomenon as a whole.

One of the subsystems of mastery and binding theory (GB Theory) is the X-Bar theory, which is a theory of phrase structure which aims to show the common elements of different syntactic constituents such as nominal phrases, verbal phrases, adjectival phrases and so on. This theory can be applied to the constituents of phrases and clauses (Haegeman, 1992: 83).

According to the X-Bar theory, every phrase is in an endocentric form, that is, it has a head or core and a light. The phrase is a projection from the core, if the point is a noun then the phrase is a noun phrase (FN). In X-bar theory, all phrases have a lexical core. The core is the final node that dominates the word, or the lexical projection of a word category (Haegeman, 1992: 95). The core has the following properties. First, the core marks its categorical characteristics, for example, the core of FN is N, the core of FA is A, the core of FV is V, and so on. Second, the core is located one level lower in the X-bar hierarchy than the constituents that make up the core. So, in the X-bar hierarchy, let's say N as the core of FN is located one level lower than the phrase.

In general, the rules of phrase structure according to the X-bar theory are:

$X'' \rightarrow \text{Spec}; X'$

$X' \rightarrow X'; Y.P$

$X' \rightarrow X; Y.P$

This structure is presented using rewriting rules, namely phrase structure rules that can be used in addition to tree diagram rules (Robert and Green, 1999).

Phrase structure can be described using a tree diagram, as the easiest way to show the constituent structure of a sentence (Daly and Rhodes, 1981). In a tree diagram, it is depicted from the lowest level, from bottom to top.

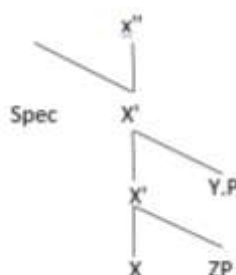


Chart description:

$X''$  is the maximum projection of a phrase consisting of a Specifier (determinant/delimiter) combined with  $X'$  (top projection).

$X'$  is a top projection combined with Adjunct (description), namely  $Y.P$ .

$X'$  is a projection consisting of  $X$  (lexical category of phrase) combined with a Complement, namely  $ZP$ .

### III. Research Method

This study uses a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research deals with the collection and interpretation of non-numeric data primarily for the purpose of understanding the human and social environment in the realities of life (Adedoyin, 2020). Qualitative research aims to gain insight into the construction of reality, that is, to uncover the nature of the world as experienced, structured and interpreted by people in their daily lives.

The method used to obtain/provide data is the interview method. In this study, in-depth interviews were used to obtain data from people who really understand Pesisir Sibolga language based on the structure of Pesisir Sibolga language, especially noun phrases. The researcher asks questions based on the research problem, what are the noun phrases and how the noun phrases formed in the language structure of Pesisir Sibolga are. Researchers store information from informants as data findings and used as material for discussion that will produce research answers. The informants or informants in this study were people living in Sibolga city and Barus sub-district, Central Tapanuli district, totaling six people.

## IV. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Results

In this study, researchers have obtained data on noun phrases in the Sibolga Coastal language sentences based on the phrase structure rules according to the X-bar theory as follows.

- a. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow N'$ ; Spes
  - 1) bukku ko  
*Bukku ko* ambo bali dari toko Batubara.
  - 2) motor tu  
Kami mandorong *motor tu* kalua dari banda.
  - 3) anak tu  
*Anak tu* manangi karano ditinggakan umaknyo.
- b. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow N'$ ; N
  - 1) kabun karambi  
Angku ambo punyo *kabun karambi* di Kampung Mudik.
  - 2) tiang basi  
Inyo mangkabekkan kabonyo di *tiang basi*.
  - 3) kade kopi  
Saban hari inyo di *kade kopi* sajo.
- c. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow N'$ ; V
  - 1) kawan bamain  
Kamano pun ambo pai pasti ado *kawan bamain*.
  - 2) tampek mangai  
Di Barus ko banyak bana *tampek mangai*.
  - 3) Guru mangaji  
Kami sedang mencari *guru mangaji*.
- d. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow N'$ ; Adj
  - 1) ai jani  
Ambikkan *ai jani* samo ambo.
  - 2) kaba elok  
O Mamak, ambo dapek *kaba elok*.
  - 3) lauk busuk  
Jangon pulo kau bali *lauk busuk* di onan tu
- e. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow N'$ ; FP
  - 1) pajaga di onan  
Pangulu sedang mangagi penyuluhan ka *pajaga di onan*.
  - 2) bareh untuk sumbangan  
*Bareh untuk sumbangan* hilang pulo dari gudang.
  - 3) angin dari barat

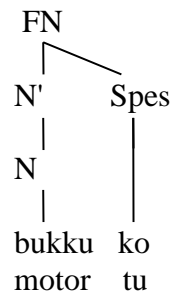
- Tutupkan jendela tu, kancang bana *angin dari barat*.
- f. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow FNum; N$
- 1) sabuah ruma  
Inyo dapek warisan *sabuah ruma* dari angkunyo.
  - 2) tigo iku ayam  
Umak mambali *tigo iku ayam*.
  - 3) saincek manga  
Diambiknyo *saincek mangga* dari karanjang..
- g. Noun Phrases with structure:  $FN \rightarrow N'; Kl Rail; Spes$
- 1) kade nan ado di pangka jumbatan nin  
*Kade nan ado di pangka jumbatan nin* baru sajo dijualnyo.
  - 2) Datuk nan sadang kahausan tu  
*Datuk nan sadang kehausan tu* capek-capek manghabiskan ai minumnyo.
  - 3) *Anak gadi nan baru manikah tu*  
Anak gadi nan baru manikah tu diupa-upa umaknyo.

## 4.2 Discussion

Based on the research results that have been obtained, it can be explained the forms of noun phrases based on the structure of their formation according to the X-bar theory and illustrated with a tree diagram.

### 1. $FN \rightarrow N'; Spes$

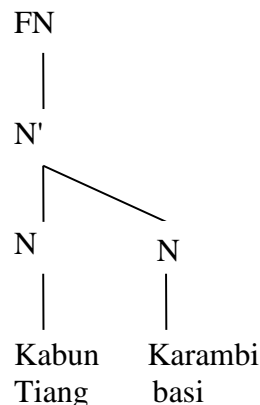
- (1) bukku ko (this book)
- (2) motor tu e (that car)



From the example above, the core of the phrase is only accompanied by a specifier without explanations and complements. The structure of the phrase shows that FN as the highest projection lowers the nouns *bukku* (1) and *motor* (2) along with the 'ko' and 'tu' specifiers.

### 2. $FN \rightarrow N'; N$

- (3) Kabun karambi (coconut grove)
- (4) Tiang basi (iron pole)

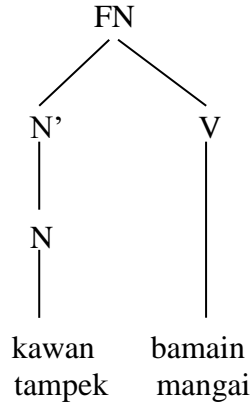


The FN structure based on examples number 3 and 4 is built by a noun plus noun elements as well.

3.  $FN \rightarrow N'; V$

(5) Kawan bamain (playmates)

(6) Tampek mangai (fishing area)

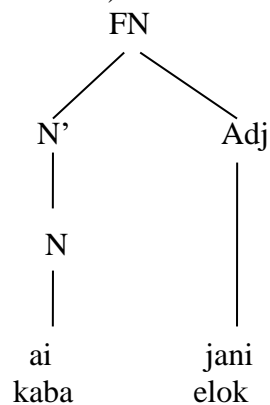


The FN structure based on the example above (data 5-6) is built by a noun as the core plus a verb element.

4.  $FN \rightarrow N'; Adj$

(7) Ai Jani (clear water)

(8) Kaba elok (good news)

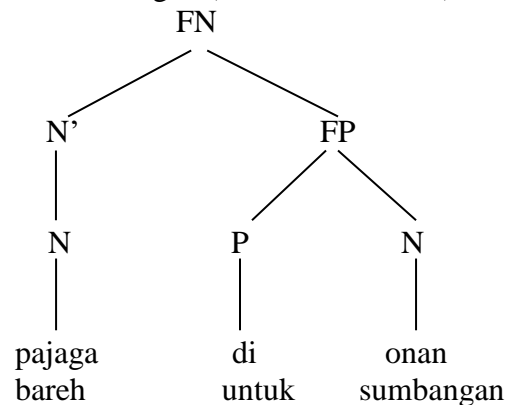


The FN structure based on the example above (data 7-8) is built by a noun as the core plus an adjective element.

5.  $FN \rightarrow N'; FP$

(9) Pajaga di onan (traders in the market)

(10) Bareh untuk sumbangan (rice for donations)

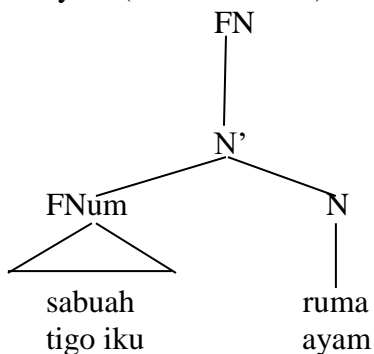


The FN structure based on data 9-10 above is built by a noun as the core plus a prepositional phrase (di onan, untuk sumbangan) where the FP element is a preposition with a noun.

6. FN → FNum; N

(11) Sabuh ruma (a house)

(12) Tigo iku ayam (three chickens)

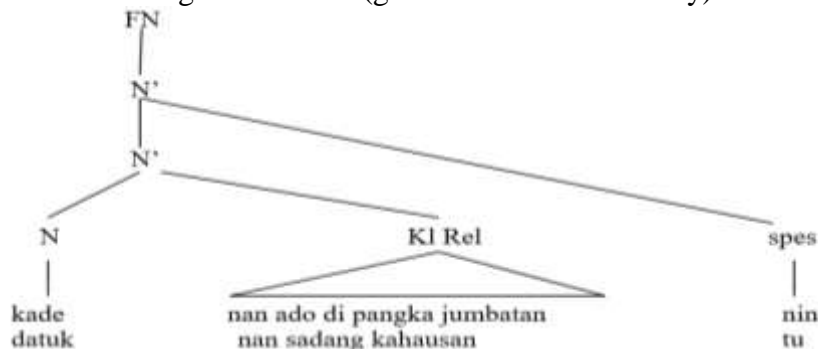


The essence of the above phrases are the nouns *ruma* (11) and *ayam* (12) which are expanded to the left by adding the numeralia *sebuah* (11) and *tigo iku* (12) which consist of a numeralia plus a classifier.

7. FN → N'; Kl Rail; spec

(13) Kade nan talatak di pangka jumbatan nin (the shop located at the base of the bridge)

(14) Datuk nan sedang kahausan tu (grandfather who is thirsty)



The FN structure above consists of a core noun which is expanded by adding a clause that starts with the word *yang* (*nan*) such as data number 13 and 14 which are given the delimiter or specifier (*nin*, *tu*). Additional forms like this are called relative clauses, so the pattern is N; Kl Rail; spec. Theoretically, the FN structure with this pattern can always be extended as long as the clause ends in a noun.

## IV. Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion of noun phrases in Pesisir Sibolga, it can be concluded that the internal structure of noun phrases in Pesisir Sibolga is formed by complements, adverbs, and specifiers. To produce the maximum projection (FN), nouns as the core can be added with elements in the category of numerals, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositional phrases. The FN structure can also be expanded with relative clauses. Complements and adverbs are generally located to the right of the lexical core which can be described in the X-bar schema. The noun phrase structure of the Pesisir Sibolga



language is formed in the following pattern: a) FN →N'; Spes, b) FN→N'; N, c) FN→N'; V, d) FN→N'; Adj, e) FN→N'; FP, f) FN→FNum; N, g) FN→N'; Kl Rail; spec.

This research is an initial step in examining noun phrases in Pesisir Sibolga language so that more in-depth research is needed. This paper also examines one aspect of the language syntax of Pesisir Sibolga. Thus research from other aspects still needs to be carried out so that it can be seen further and in detail regarding the syntax of the Sibolga Coastal language.

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