

# THE VOICE SYSTEM OF PAPUAN MALAY: A Typological Study

Sara Yulita Karubaba

sur-el: sarakarubaba@yahoo.com

Universitas Papua - Manokwari

## Abstract

Papuan Malay is an Austronesian language spoken in the two provinces constituting Papua. Papuan Malay has four varieties. The Serui Malay variety is the main point of the discussion. I will show that the voice system of this variety displays two main levels of linguistic aspect: (1) Semantic argument level and (2) syntactical function. Both exhibit various patterns in active, passive and causative sentences. Among these are constructions of the type “X:S;Y: DO”, i.e. the first semantic (macro) role X (Actor) is mapped onto grammatical relation of the Subject, while the second semantic (macro) role Y (undergoer) is mapped onto the grammatical relation of Direct Object. Particularly, an active sentence in this variety displays Semantic argument level (roles), and Syntactical function (S, O) in transitive sentences.

There are three ways to construct passivity: (1) promotion of the object to the subject position, i.e. the object of the active sentence is promoted to be the subject of the passive sentence; (2) passive sentences; either the default agentless use of passive; or the optional, less common construction of mentioning the agent in an oblique phrase headed by *dari* “from”, which may also occur in transitive sentences. (3), causative transitive ; i.e. the causer takes the Subject position, and if the embedded verb is intransitive, transitive, or bitransitive, the causee appears as Direct Object, Indirect Object or Oblique Object.

**Keywords:** *voice system, Papua Malay and typological*

## BACKGROUND

Papuan Malay is spoken as a first language of people belonging to every generation in two provinces in Papua. These two provinces are Papua and Irian Jaya Barat in eastern Indonesia. Nowadays, the term Irian Jaya Barat has been changed to Papua Barat. Papuan Malay is not only spoken by Papuan people but also by non-Papuan people who have grown up in these two provinces. Regarding non-Papuans who have not grown up in these provinces or are new comers in these provinces, they come for instance from *Java, Sumatera*, and other places in Indonesia, Papuan Malay will eventually be spoken naturally when they have contact with Papuan people or non-Papuan people living there without learning the language (Karubaba, 2014). Furthermore, Donohue (To appear) mentioned that Papuan Malay is divided into four varieties. These varieties are *South Coast, Serui Malay, Bird's Head* and *North Papua*. The following examples below will be based on the variety of Serui Malay. The aim of this paper is presenting the voice system of this variety of Papuan Malay.

## THEORETICAL CONTENT

Historically, “the category of voice goes back to the ancient Greek tradition where it appears under the name *diathesis* (diathesis) “disposition”” (Kulikov, 2011). Besides, diathesis is “the morphological opposition between two series of verbal inflectional suffixes” in active and middle terms. In fact, the term “diathesis”, according to Kulikov (2011), came into being as “Latin grammarians have adopted [it] to the opposition between active and passive verbal forms. Also, in the modern English and French grammatical traditions, there was a term *vox* that underlines “voice and voix” which are referred to active/passive forms. From explanation above, Kulikov (2011) wrote that “many languages of the world encode passive diathesis by means of special morpheme verbal morpheme which interpreted as marker of passive voice”. For example, (1) in Latin “the passive voices are expressed by means of a special series of endings passive, or deponent, inflection; cf. 3sg.pass. *-tur* ~ 3sg. Act. *-t*, (2) in



Semantic argument level (role)	X (Actor)	Y (Undergoer)
Syntactic function level (case)	S (NOM)	DO (Acc)
	(miles;raja)	hosten; rksam)

Hence, the most common pattern where the actor is mapped onto subject and undergoer into the direct object that mention above will also happen in active sentence of Papuan Malay. The following scheme below shows the pattern of mapping semantic arguments onto syntactical function.

## PAPUAN MALAY

### Active Sentence

The analysis in the tables below shows how Semantic argument level ( roles) and Syntactical function (S, O) occur in transitive sentence.

- (3) *Simon de pukul sa pu ade*  
 Simon 3sg hit 1sg POSS young brother/sister  
 ‘Simon hits my young brother/sister’

#### Transitive

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<b>(Simon)</b>	<b>(ade)</b>

X (Actor) : *Simon*      Y (undergoer) : *ade*  
 S : *Simon*      DO : *ade*

- (4) *Nelvan de lempar sa pu kaka*  
 Nelvan 3sg throw 1sg my brother/sister  
 ‘Nelvan throws my brother/sister’

#### Transitive

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<b>(Nelvan)</b>	<b>(kaka)</b>

X (Actor) : *Nelvan*      Y (undergoer) : *kaka*  
 S : *Nelvan*      DO : *kaka*

- (5) *Simon de tendang de pu ade*  
 Simon 3sg kick 3sg POSS young brother/sister  
 ‘Simon kicks his young brother/sister’

#### Transitive

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<b>(Simon)</b>	<b>(ade)</b>

X ( Actor ) : *Simon*      Y (undergoer) : *ade*  
 S                    : *Simon*      DO                    : *ade*

Note that the active sentence has a transitive verb, and the verb has subject and object.

The analysis of passive sentence will also be discussed in this part. In order to analyze the Papuan Malay data in the passive sentences below I will also include the explanation of passive sentence by Kulikov (2011); “ A modification of diathesis can be described through changes in syntactic pattern.” It means that “the modification of the basic (neutral) transitive diathesis which results in the passive equivalent of a transitive clause which have two syntactic phenomena: (1) the promotion of the initial Direct Object to the subject position (the subject of the passive construction) and (2) the demotion of the initial Subject (usually, an Agent).

Another explanation of passive sentence is as follow “the demotion of the Subject may amount either to its degrading to an Oblique Object (passive Agent), or to its removal from the structure.” Thus, it applies in Sankrit example that presented by Kulikov (2011) below.

**Sankrit**

(6) rkso            rajna            han-ya-te  
 bear:NOMking:INS      kill-PRES.PASS-3SG.MED  
 ‘The bear is (being) killed by the king.’

X	Y
S (NOM)	DO (ACC)

X	Y
Obl (INS)	S (NOM)

**Passive Sentence**

The analysis in the tables below focus on ; (1) Passive: Promotion of the object to the subject position or the object of the active sentence is promoted to be the subject of the passive sentence; (2) There are two forms of passive construction; the first is the normal agentless use of the passive; the second construction features an optional, unusual mention of the agent in an oblique phrase headed by *dari* “from”, which can be seen in the scheme number (8,10 & 12) below.

Most significantly for agentless passive, Kulikov (2011) states that “probably all languages that have a canonical passive can also freely omit the passive agent’. Therefore, in the examples of Papuan Malay below, there is omitted of the passive agent, as can be seen below.

(7) *Sa pu ade dapa pukul*  
 1sg POSS young brother/sister suffer hit  
 ‘My young brother/sister was hit (by Simon).

**Transitive**

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Simon)</i>	<i>(ade)</i>

**Agentless passive**

Y (undergoer)	X (Actor)
Obj.	-
<i>(ade)</i>	<i>(-)</i>

- (8) *Sa pu ade dapa pukul dari Simon*  
 1sg POSS young brother/sister suffer hit from Simon  
 ‘My young brother/sister was hit by Simon’

**Transitive**

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Simon)</i>	<i>(ade)</i>

**Passive**

Y (undergoer)	X (Actor)
Obj.	Subj.
<i>(ade)</i>	<i>(Simon)</i>

- (9) *Sa pu kaka dapa lempar*  
 1sg POSS brother/sister suffer throw  
 My brother/sister was thrown (by Nelvan)

**Transitive**

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Nelvan)</i>	<i>(kaka)</i>

**Agentless passive**

Y (undergoer)	X (Actor)
Obj.	-
<i>(kaka)</i>	<i>(-)</i>

- (10) *Sa pu kaka dapa lempar dari Nelvan*  
 1sg POSS brother/sister suffer throw from Nelvan  
 ‘My brother/sister was thrown by Nelvan’

**Transitive**

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Nelvan)</i>	<i>(kaka)</i>

### Passive

Y (undergoer)	X (Actor)
Obj.	Subj.
<i>(kaka)</i>	<i>(Nelvan)</i>

- (11) *De pu ade dapa tendang*  
3sg POSS young brother/sister suffer kick  
His young brother/sister was kicked (by Simon)'

### Transitive

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Simon)</i>	<i>(ade)</i>

### Agentless passive

Y (undergoer)	X (Actor)
Obj.	-
<i>(ade)</i>	<i>(-)</i>

- (12) *De pu ade dapa tendang dari Simon*  
3sg POSS young brother/sister suffer kick from Simon  
His young brother/sister was kicked by Simon'

### Transitive

X (Actor)	Y (undergoer)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Simon)</i>	<i>(ade)</i>

### Passive

Y (undergoer)	X (Actor)
Obj.	Subj.
<i>(ade)</i>	<i>(Simon)</i>

## Causative Sentence

According to Kulikov (2011) "Causatives can be defined as verbs which refer to a *causative situation*, that is, to a causal relation between two events, one of which believed by the speaker to be caused by another". Similar to this definition, Kulikov (2011) states that a causative is a verb or verbal construction meaning 'cause to Vo', 'make Vo' (where Vo stands for the embedded base verb). Hence, the causative derivation adds the meaning 'to cause' to the base proposition and a new actor, viz, Cuaser, to the set of semantic roles." Primarily, the causer obligatorily takes the Subject position. In contrast with the causer, the cause is demoted down the hierarchy of grammatical relations : Subject>Direct Object>Indirect Object>Oblique object. In his explanation of this hierarchy based on Comrie (1976) he emphasized that "one may expect that it occupies the highest (=leftmost) free position, means if the

embedded verb is intransitive, transitive, or bitransitive, the causee appears as Direct Object, Indirect Object or Oblique Object. For further information of Causative see, Payne (1997) & Comrie (1976) as cited in Kulikov (2011). Most significantly, the following scheme by Kulikov (2011) deals with causative of transitive that will be used for my data analysis of Papuan Malay.

#### Causative of Transitive

X	Y
S	DO

=>

Causer	X (Causee)	Y
S	IO	DO

#### Causative Sentences of Papuan Malay

The analysis in the table below is based on Causative of transitive sentences as presented in number (13) and (14). In addition to the analysis in the table below, it is therefore due to highlight two main points mentioned by Kulikov (2011) and Comrie (1976) in Kulikov (2011) ; (1) the causer obligatorily takes the Subject position, (2) if the embedded verb is intransitive, transitive, or bitransitive, the causee appears as Direct Object, Indirect Object Object or Oblique Object. Consequently, in (13) and (14) the causer obligatorily takes the Subject position and if the embedded verb is transitive, the cause appears as Direct Object that presented in the following scheme below. More importantly, the following scheme uses *Causative of Transitive* by Comrie (1976) as cited in Kulikov (2011) as explained above. In addition to causative constructions, the causative words in Papuan Malay – *kasi*, *kase*, *kas-* can be used in transitive sentences. There are no distinctions between these three forms in the context of sentences below.

- (13) *Salmon de kas/kase bangun de pu ade*  
 Salmon 3sg caus wake.up 3sg POSS young brother/sister  
 “Salmon woke up his young sister/ brother up”

#### Causative transitive

Causer	Y (Causee)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Salmon)</i>	<i>(ade)</i>

- (14) *Salmon de kas/kase makan de pu ade*  
 Salmon 3sg caus eat 3sg Poss young brother/sister  
 “Salmon feed his young brother/sister”

#### Causative transitive

Causer	Y (Causee)
Subj.	Obj.
<i>(Salmon)</i>	<i>(ade)</i>

## CONCLUSION

The main point of this paper's discussion of voice system in Papuan Malay is to see diathesis and valency patterns in relation with two main levels of presentation of linguistics structure. The level of semantic argument, or semantic roles (Agent, Patient, Experiences, etc); and the level of grammatical relation, or syntactic functions (Subject [S], Direct Object [DO], Indirect Object [IO], oblique object [Obl]) are the two main levels of presentation in linguistics structure. In addition, *Diathesis* is a pattern of mapping of semantic arguments onto syntactic functions (grammatical relations). Thus, particularly an active sentence in Papuan Malay shows how Semantic argument level (roles), and Syntactical function (S, O) occur in transitive sentence. Finally, there are three patterns to construct passive sentence (1) in passive sentence; it was explained that Promotion of the object to the subject position or the object of the active sentence is promoted to be the subject of the passive sentence; (2), in passive sentence there are two forms of passive construction; the first is the normal agentless use of passive; in second construction there appears an optional unusual mention of the agent in an oblique phrase headed by *dari* "from" which are also happened in transitive sentence. (3), in causative transitive it shows two forms those are the causer obligatorily takes the Subject position, and if the embedded verb is intransitive, transitive, or bitransitive, the causee appears as Direct Object, Indirect Object or Oblique Object.

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