

## The Nonverbal Clause in Lamaholot Language of Lamalera Dialect

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### Abstract

A nonverbal clause is a simple syntactic construction consisting of a subject and a prediction (complement). If it is observed, a nonverbal clause is an intransitive clause. The intransitive clause, however, is a predefined verb clause that does not require an object, whereas the nonverbal clause is a predefined categorical clause (nouns, adverbs and adjectives). Agglutinative languages call nonverbal clauses as copula clauses. The copula clause has syntactic functions such as the subject of the copula clause and the predictor of the copula clause (complement of the copula clause). The predicted marker of the copula clause is the copula verb (auxiliary verb). The copula verb becomes the only characteristic of the copula clause. Non-agglutinative languages such as Lamaholot Language of Lamalera Dialect (hereinafter abbreviated and referred to as LLLD) refer to the construction of a copula clause as a nonverbal clause. Nonverbal clauses are similar to copula clauses in terms of syntactic functions such as clause subject functions, predictions and complement clauses. The verbal predictor (auxiliary verb) clause is the only marker in agglutinative language. If so then LLLD is not an agglutinative language group using a syntactical strategy as the syntactic function of non-verbal syntax. Lamaholot Language of Lamalera Dialect utilizes supra segmental elements such as pauses and intonations as the functional markers in nonverbal clauses.

**Keywords:** copula clause, nonverbal clause, phonological strategy

### INTRODUCTION

The basic clause is a simple syntactic construct that expresses one's thoughts or feelings about something. The simplicity of syntactic construction is reflected in the rules of clauses, syntactic functions and argument structures. The rules are related to the order of arguments, functions are related to the presence of core functions and the structure of arguments are related to the relation of the order. Based on the aspects of rules, the functions and structure of basic clause arguments can be grouped into basic verbal and copula clauses. The verbal base clause refers to the verbal predicate clause of either

intransitive, transitive or ditransitive verbs. Copulaclause refers to predicate clause instead of verbs (nouns, adjectives, numerals, adverbs and others).

The basic clause refers to the most common, most frequent, and most dominant pattern used in every day speech acts. According to Erawaty (2014, p. 84), Putrayasa (2014, p. 25), Sukendra (2012, p. 122), Jufrizal (2004, p. 96), and Alwi et al. (2003, p. 313) the basic clauses in languages with SVO systems, for example, have characteristics such as (1) consisting of one clause, (2) the elements are complete, (3) arrangement of their elements is the most common order, and (4) not contain questions or denial. Stockwell (in Alwi, et al, 2003) states that the basic clause of the clause is (1) having a verb, (2) being not connected by the conjunct, (3) subject, object, and predicate of the basic clause having minimum specification; and (4) not contain secondary operators, such as negations, orders, questions, and modalities.

Borsley (2007) noticed that VSO languages such as Welsh (Celtic, Irish, Scots Gaelic, Breton) have the same characteristics as (1) word order and agreement, (2) preverbal particle, and (3) presubject position (p.32-38). The order of words in the most common basic clause of verb predictors always precedes the subject (presubject position). This allows the verb predictor to adapt to the subject that follows it (agreement). If there are particles then the particle will also be located preverbal. The characteristics of such clauses also apply to SOV, VOS, OSV, and OVS languages or languages that recognize suprasegmental features as the clause marker.

Referring to the difference of the language system and a number of opinions as already advanced, it can be argued that the basic clause of the LLLD clause is (1) having one of the most common patterns, (2) having a verb predictor with one or more core arguments as the valence of the verb / or verbless clauses, and (3) in the form of statements (affirmative and declarative). Based on the predictions in the basic clause, the LLLD basic clauses differ from the basic clause of the verb predictor and the predicated with out the verb (verbless clauses) such as nouns, adjectives and others. This article only examines the basic clause of not-verb predictors (verbless clauses) or copula clauses in the LLLD.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Basic Nonverbal with the Nonverbal Predicate (verbless clauses)**

A basic clause is distinguished from the basic clause of the verb predictor and the predicated without the verb (verbless clauses) based on the predictive element. The predicated base clause instead of the verb is often called the intransitive clause or the copula clause. However, intransitive clauses and copulaclauses are two distinct clauses. Dixon (2011) suggested that examines the differences between copula clauses and verbless clauses (p.159-188). The copula clause is part of the intransitive clause. In languages that have copula verbs like English, the copula clause has a copula predictor with two arguments; the subject of copula (copula subject) and the copula complement (copula complement).

Unlike the case with languages that do not have copula verbs. Herat (2005) advised that the languages of this type of verb slot are declared empty zero (p.182). This does not

mean that these languages do not have a copula clause or zero copula. Copulation clauses in such languages are known as verbless clauses 'nonverbal clauses'. Nonverbal clauses have similarities with copula clauses. Copulation clauses are known only in languages that have copula verbs, whereas languages that do not have copula verbs such as LLLD are known as verbless clauses 'nonverbal clauses'.

Verbless clauses also have two arguments called verbless clauses subject (VCS) 'non-verbal clause subject' and verbless clauses complement (VCC) 'complement non-verbal clause'. So, languages like LLLD do not have a copula clause. Nonetheless, the semantic relation states that there is a link between the non-verbal clause subject and the non-verbal clause predicator. The connections are like (a) declaring identity (A1), (2) expressing attribute (A2), (3) expressing possessive (A3), (4) declaring benefactive (A4), and (5) expressing location (A5). This paper uses the concept of a nominal clause to refer to verbless clauses. Arnold (2004, p. 164) and Casas (2007, p. 222) declared that the basic nonverbal predictive clause (verbless clauses) states that the predicate clause is not a verb, but other word categories such as noun (pronoun), numeralia, adjectives, adverbial, and prepositional phrases. The types of nonverbal basic clauses (verbless clauses) with other word categories in LLLD can be observed in the following description.

### **1) Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Nominal Predicate**

The basic clause of a noun predator is a verbless clause whose predictions are nouns (pronouns) or nominal phrases (nouns, pronouns, demonstratives, numerals). According to Alwi et al. (2003) the two nominations or nominal phrases that constitute the argument in this clause are laid down and may form a clause if the conditions for the subject and predicate are met (350). Demon (2006) provided the Lamaholot Language of Lamalera Dialect has a verbless base clause with the noun predicator as shown in the following example.

1a) *Rae leva aləp*

3P laut milik

'Mereka pelaut'

1b) *Bape=ə tukə kajo*

bapak=POSS3SG tukang kayu

'Bapaknya tukang kayu' (p.53)

1c) *Bapa Laba kpala tukə kajo*

bapak nama kepala tukang kayu

'Bapak Laba kepala tukang kayu' (p.53)

Clause (1a) consists of three words, (1b) three words, and (1c) five words. Despite having three words or five words, the clauses consist of two nominal phrases namely a subject non-verbal clause (SNC) and a predicate nonverbal clause (PNC). Each nominal phrase becomes the basic frame or argument of a syntactic structure. The clause (1a-1c) states

that 'rae "they',  $\text{bap}\emptyset=\emptyset$  'his/her father', *bapa laba* 'Laba is the name of that father', as the subject of the nonverbal clause (SNC) and *leva alap* 'fisherman', *tukəkajo* 'carpenter' and *kpala tukə* 'carpenter head' categorized nouns as nonverbal cluster predicators (PNC). The semantic relation between the nonverbal clause (SNC) subject and the predicate nonverbal clause (PNC) specifies the identity (A1) of the non-verbal clause subject.

The slot marker verbless clauses in LLDL is intonation or pause. Pause is the only copula clause slot marker. So LLDL uses suprasegmental devices as a copula clause marker strategy. If this suprasegmental strategy is not used then the lingual units are considered long phrases.

## 2) Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Possessive Predicate

The possessive pronoun may also serve as a predicator in the nominal clause (verbless clause). The Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Possessive Predicate, Demon (2017) gave the following sample.

(2a) *Nae // ana goe*

3SG // anak POSS1SG

'Dia//anaksaya' (p.80)

(2b) *Lango vato meən=awe // Gori langu=∅*

Rumah batu merah TG=itu // Goris rumah=POSS3SG (p. 114)

'Rumah batu merah itu // rumahnya Goris'

(2c) *Nae // ana kbaravae goe*

3SG // anak perempuan POSS1SG

'Dia//putri saya'

The semantic relation of predicator of nonverbal clause (PNC) *ana goe* 'my son' (2a), *Gori langu = ∅* 'Goris house' (2b), and *ana kbaravae go?E* 'my daughter' (2c) with the subject of nonverbal clause (SNC) *nae* '(s)he' (1a), *Lango vato meən=awe* (2b) and *nae* '(s)he' (1c) denote ownership or (A3).

An interesting phenomenon that can be observed in these examples is that possessive forms in LLDL can also be expressed clitically. The use of possessive clitic forms can be observed in the following example.

(2d) *Nae ana kbalake goe*

3SG anak laki-laki POSS1TG

Dia anak laki-laki saya

(2d<sub>1</sub>) *Nae // ana=k kbalake*

3SG // anak=POSS1SG laki-laki

Dia anakku laki-laki

(2e) *Rae pe // ana kbaravae nee*

3P itu// anak perempuan POSS3SG

Mereka itu anak perempuannya

(2e<sub>1</sub>) *Rae pe // ənə kbaravae*

3P itu // anak=POSS3SG perempuan

Mereka itu anak perempuannya

Example (2d) indicates that to declare possessive forms in LLDL usually the possessive form is located after the noun followed. Example (2d<sub>1</sub>) proves that there is an alternative form where possessives can occupy positions before the noun followed. Although both stated possessive but the order of words became the differentiator between these two alternative forms. This can also be observed in example (2e) the possessive form is located after the noun or follows the noun or the right location of the *ana kbaravae nee* noun 'his (her) daughter' but there are also those that are located before or following or the left noun position as shown in the example *ənə kbaravae* (2e<sub>1</sub>). Interestingly, there is a phonological change in lingual form *ana* to *ənə* or a vowel sound /a/ converted to sound /ə/. The / a / at the end of the word *ana* becomes /ə/ indicates that there is an assimilation phenomenon that is the sound /ə/ will affect the sound /a/ so that it becomes /ə/. Sound /ə/ is a concise form or a third-person clitic form.

### **3) Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Demonstrativa Predicate**

The predicator of the noun clause can also be demonstrative as Demon (2017) said, as seen in the following example.

(3a) *Ana go?e // n=aw(p)e*

ana POSS1SG // 3SG=itu

'Anakku // itu'

(3b) *Gori lang=u // n=aw(p)e*

Goris rumah-POSS3SG //3SG=itu

'Rumah Goris // itu'

(3c) *Ana kbaravae go?e //n=api-pe*

3SG anak perempuan POSS1SG //3SG=ini-itu

'Anak perempuan saya // ini' (p. 116)

At a glance, literally, a clause (3a-3c) is seen as a phrase rather than as a clause. The use of demonstrative as a determinant determines that the sentential units are more like a phrase. Nonetheless, in languages that do not have cognate verbs of phonological (supra segmental) aspects such as pauses, they are very important. Thus, if using the pause element then the three sentential units are the nonverbal basic clauses.

In addition to using the element of pause, intonation also plays a very important role. If the sentential units (3a-3c) are pronounced in one unity of time with intonation ascending in the second syllable of the last word the construct is a phrase. Conversely, if the sentential units (3a-3c) are pronounced with a slow accentuation on the syllables of the last two words with the descending intonation then the constructs will become clause constructions. Thus in languages that do not have copula verbs such as LLLD, the suprasegmental aspects such as pause and intonation that become markers and indicators of groupings of sentential units are clauses. The semantic relation between subject of nonverbal clause (SNC) and nonverbal clause predicate (PNC) states possessive (A3).

#### 4) Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Numeralia Predicate

The basic clause predicted numeric category in LLLD suggested by Demon (2017) can be considered in the following example.

(4a) *Goe ana=k // tɔlo*

1SG anak-POSS1SG // tiga

'Anak saya tiga orang'

(4b) *Doi nɛ // ribu rua ratu lema*

uang POSS3SG // ribu dua ratus lima

'Uangnya dua ribu lima ratus'

(4c) *Ikə tena lema r=aw(p)e // tou*

ikan perahu lima 3P=itu // satu

'Lima perahu itu satu ekor ikan' (p. 117)

The clause predicator (4a-4c) is a numerical category which states the number of *telo* 'three', *ribu rua ratu lema* 'two thousand and five hundred', and *tou* 'one' (tail). The semantic relationship between the subject of non-verbal clause (SNC) and the predicate of nonverbal clause (PNC) expresses ownership or ownership (A3).

Observing the example (4a-4c) it can be said that supra segmental markers play a major role in determining the copula clause slot. In order of words, it can be said that the predicate slot of the four clauses is filled by numerals located to the right. However, there are also other alternative forms such as numerals can be positioned in front of or occupying the left position as shown in the following example.

(4a<sub>1</sub>) *Təlo // goe ana=k*

Tiga // 1SG anak-POSS.1SG

'Tiga orang // anak saya'

(4b<sub>1</sub>) *Ribu rua ratu lema // doi næ*

ribu dua ratus lima uang // POSS3SG

'Dua ribu lima ratus // uangnya'

(4c<sub>1</sub>) *tou // ikə tena lema r=aw(p)e*

satu // ikan perahu lima 3P=itu

'Satu ekor ikan, lima perahu itu'

Semantically the displacement of a place does not affect the meaning of the sentence. The meaning of the sentences remains the same even though the order of words is changed. What differentiates meaning between sentences is intensity. If in the example (4a<sub>1</sub>-4c<sub>1</sub>) has the order of the subject's location on the left then the intensity is the subject but if the numerals are left or occupy the subject position as in the example (4a<sub>1</sub>-4c<sub>1</sub>) then the amount is intensity.

### **5) Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Adverbial Predicate**

Nonverbal clauses can also predicate adverbial as seen in the following example.

(5a) *Bele=k rae vəli vutung lolo*

nenek=POSS1SG 3P di.sana Vutunglolo

'Nenekku (keluarga lain) di Vutunglolo'

(5b) *Ari=k rae teti mə*

adik=POSS1SG 3P di.atas kebun

'Adikku (dan yang lain) di kebun'

(5c) *Kame lali vata*

1PINC di.bawah pantai

'Kami di pantai'

(5d) *Tata=k                    rae                    lavo                    lolo*

kakak=POSS1SG di.atas sana kampung atas

'Kakakku di kampung'

(5e) *Rae lau                    tai                    lolo*

3P di.bawah sana laut atas

'Mereka di tengah laut'

The adverbs are *veli* 'east, there' , *teti* 'above (vertical)' , *lali* 'west, below', *rae* 'north', and southern *lau* '. The use of adverbs of the locations mentioned above is an analogy to the concept of the four directions of the wind. Speakers have sufficient knowledge of the four directions of the eye of the good place and position (vertical-horizontal) so that speakers can use these four adverbs according to the interests of communication. Semantically, the predicators *veli vutunglolo* 'in Vutunglolo', *teti me* 'in the garden' , *lali vate* 'in (bottom) beach' , *levo lolo* 'the village in a high land', and *tai lolo* 'at the sea' state the location (A5) phrase by phrase.

### 6) Basic Non-Verbal Clause with the Adjective Predicate

Nonverbal base clauses other than predicate, (possessive, demonstrative, and number) predicators, adverbs can also be predictive of adjectives. Demon (2017) shown the adjective predicator states the subject of the sentence or subject line in the state is indicated in the predicator as shown as in the following example.

(6a) *Nae s-n-are-ng henə*

3SG baik-Inf--Suf. saja

'Dia baik-baik saja'

(6b) *Ana n=aw(p)e keni va*

anak 3SG=itu kecil belum

'Anak itu masih kecil'

(6c) *Nae ktərək=a                    viapnəe*

3SG marah=3SG kemarin

'Dia marah kemarin'

(6d) *Lei blarə=∅                    vau=ka*

Kaki luka=POSS3SG bau=3SG

'Luka kakinya bau' (p. 118)

Predictions of clauses (6a-6d) *s-n-are-ng* 'good', *keni* 'small', *ktərək=a* 'angry', and *vau=ka* 'smell' state the subject of the nonverbal clause. The adjective predicator in the nonverbal

clause (6c) has the mark =*a* and nonverbal clause (6d) has the mark = $\emptyset$  while the nonverbal clause (63a-63b) does not have any mark. This indicates that non-verbal clauses may have and may not have a mark. Nonverbal clauses include nouns, possessives, demonstratives, numerals, adverbs, and adjectives are categories of words that have modifying characteristics of nouns. Thus, the argument structure of these nonverbal clauses is S-P or FN-FN (nouns, possessives, demonstratives, numerals, adverbs, and adjectives). Semantically, the nominal clause of the adjective predicator states the attribute (A2), as shown in the clause (6a-6d).

## CONCLUSION

From the analysis of a number of LLLD language data it can be concluded that LLLD has no copula verbs or time of copula. Based on the opinion of Wahlberg (2010) which states that languages that don't have copula verbs and time of copula as forming elements (p.267). However, it does not mean that LLLD does not have any copula clause. Lamaholot Language of Lamalera Dialect has a number of clauses referred to as nonverbal clauses or verbless clauses. According to Herat (2005) the nonverba clause or verbless clauses is also called zero copula (p.182).

Nonverbal clauses are the equivalent clause of the copula clause. These nonverbal clauses have non-verb predicators such as noun predicators (nouns, possessives and numerals), adverbs and adjectives. Thus the nonverbal clause functions as the subject of the nonverbal clause (SNC) and the non-verbal clause predicate (PNC). Both of these functions can be in the forms of word or phrase and categorized nouns, adverbs or adjectives. Semantically, the links between nonverbal clause subjects (SNC) and predicates of nonverbal clause (PNC) are stated as identification (A1), ownership (A2), attribute (A3), and location (A5).

The attractiveness of the LLLD nonverbal clause is the use of phonological strategies as interfunctional marker. The markers between subjects of nonverbal clause (SNC) and predicators of nonverbal clause (PNC) use suprasegmental elements of pause and intonation. Both of these elements are instrumental in improving the syntactic function of the nonverb-based LLLD clause.

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