

## Analysis of Verbs in the Asilulu Language

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### Abstract

This study seeks to examine and elucidate the verb lexicon of the Asilulu language utilised by the community in Ureng Village, Leihitu District, and Central Maluku Regency. This research employs a descriptive qualitative methodology, utilising data-gathering techniques such as observation, interviewing, recording, and documentation. This study's informants comprise six individuals who hold significant positions in the community: the village head, youth leader, education leader, religious leader, customary leader, and trader. The research tools comprise observation sheets, interview protocols, recording equipment, and written documentation. The research findings indicate that verbs in the Asilulu language can be classified into two primary categories: root verbs and derived verbs. Fundamental verbs like *keu*, *rana*, *lawa*, *take*, and *rosak* possess several meanings contingent upon their contextual application. The verb *keu* can signify to command, to meet, to go, or to depart. Meanwhile, derivative verbs like "sahaka" experience morphological transformations that yield more intricate meanings, such as slapping or threatening. This study shows how complicated the morphology and semantics are in the Asilulu language. It also shows how the Ureng community's culture and way of thinking are reflected in the verb structure.

**Keywords:** *Asilulu Language; Lexicon; Verbs*



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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a crucial instrument for human communication, facilitating exchanges and relationships among persons. Language serves not merely to communicate facts but also to articulate emotions, concepts, and aspirations (Mart, 2019). Language is integral to cognition, enabling individuals to structure and express their thoughts and emotions (Vygotsky, 1986). Kridalaksana (2008) asserts that language is an arbitrary system of auditory symbols employed by societal members for communication, collaboration, and self-identification. Consequently, language facilitates efficient communication and fortifies interpersonal bonds within society.

Regional languages constitute a significant asset of a nation. Nonetheless, the 21st-century societal paradigm regards foreign languages as possessing greater prestige than national and regional languages (Tonkin & Reagan 2003). The community assigns regional languages a tertiary priority in usage, placing them behind the national language and foreign languages. The community favors utilizing the national language and foreign languages for communication (Widianto, 2018).

A comparable assertion was articulated by Gumperz (1982). In a specific region, multiple language varieties might coexist, resulting in interactions sometimes marked by code-switching and code-mixing. This transpires due to the multilingual nature of the speech community. A similar occurrence transpires in Maluku Province. Harlin (2021) research indicates, that the status of regional languages, particularly in Negeri Laha, Ambon City, is at risk of extinction. This signifies that numerous regional languages are beginning to face endangerment. The subsequent study was carried out by Erniati (2019), who analyzed the segmental phonemes of the Indonesian language in comparison to those of the Hitu language in Negeri Hitu Lama. The research findings indicate the existence of 24 segmental phonemes. The research indicates that considerable study need to be conducted on the Hitu language.

The Asilulu language, an indigenous tongue, is one of the regional dialects currently maintained by the people in Central Maluku, particularly in the village of Ureng, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency. Collins (2018) did research on the Asilulu language, revealing that a regional language is spoken in Asilulu, Ureng, and Henalima on the northern coast of the Leihitu peninsula, characterized by minimal dialectal variants. The Asilulu language possesses a distinctive linguistic richness, particularly seen in its verb structure. In this language, verbs are classified into two primary categories: root verbs and derivative verbs. Base verbs are independent verbs that lack affixes, whereas derived verbs are created through morphological processes like affixation, reduction, or compounding. The investigation of verbs in the Asilulu language of Ureng Village is crucial for enhancing our comprehension of morphological changes in regional languages and for advancing linguistic research in Indonesia. Linguists assert that analyzing verb morphology in regional languages like Asilulu offers profound insights into the roles of affixation and word formation in generating complex meanings.

This study intends to examine the utilization of verb forms in the Asilulu language within Ureng Village, concentrating on two classifications of verbs: root verbs and derived verbs. This research aims to enhance the understanding of morphology and syntax in regional languages and to further illuminate the linguistic diversity of Indonesia, especially in the Maluku region.

## METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative methodology to examine verb forms in the Asilulu language within Ureng Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency (Sugiyono, 2019). The research data comprises verb words collected from six informants: the village head,

youth leader, education figure, religious figure, customary figure, and a trader. Data-collecting methodologies encompass observation, interviews, recording, and documenting, utilizing equipment such as observation sheets, interview protocols, recording devices, and supplementary papers (Miles & Huberman, 1994). Data analysis employs a flow analysis paradigm encompassing the phases of data gathering, data reduction, data display, and conclusion formulation. This research employs triangulation techniques to validate the data by comparing diverse sources and methods of data collection.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study identified multiple verb forms in the Asilulu language spoken in Ureng Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency. Presented are instances of verb lexicon in the Asilulu language from Ureng village.

**Basic Verbs *Keu*.** The root verb "keu" in the Asilulu language has four meanings. The meanings intended to construct the elements of the sentence are: [1] to command, [2] to meet, [3] to go, and [4] to depart.

1. *Au keu hatu aupapaku rahe auku lapun helu*  
It means: I asked my father to buy new clothes.
2. *Au keu kamee inaku lia bandara*  
It means: I met my mother at the airport.
3. *Ale taha keu peknik loke sini?*  
It means: you didn't go on a picnic with them?
4. *Sini sesi keu rake tanei*  
It means: they have already left for work.

**Basic Verbs *rana*.** The root verb "rana" in the Asilulu language has the meanings of "to seize" and "to take." This can be seen in the speech of the Ureng village community as follows:

1. *Ale ole rana mansia ri barang takaruang*  
It means: You shouldn't take other people's belongings carelessly.
2. *Inaku e tolong rana kamanan waku au*  
It means: Mother, please take the food for

**Basic Verbs *Lawa*.** The basic verb "lawa" in the Asilulu language in Ureng village has two meanings among others. [1] run, and [2] escape. The use of sentences in the speech of the Ureng village community is as follows.

1. *Rawa dele au lawa lia kota loke motor te rana paket*  
It means. Tomorrow I will ride my motorcycle to the city to pick up a package.
2. *Anan mani imatau na papan hau pa sesikeu lawa hele luma*  
It means. The child was afraid of being beaten by his father, so he ran away from home.

**Basic Verbs *Take*.** The base verb "take" has three meanings in the Asilulu language in Ureng village, namely [1] hold, [2] touch, and [3] grip.

1. *Anan mani salalu take na lepa*

It means. That child always keeps their word.

2. *Tolong akeu **take** akuana na ulun mani putu pi taha*

It means. Please go and feel my child's forehead to see if he has a fever or not.

3. *Nike a'ukupapa **take** akuliman pa ite loke langgar lalan*

It means. Just now my father held my hand because we were about to cross the street.

**Basic Verbs *Rosak*.** The base verb "rosak" has three meanings: [1] to brush, [2] to scrub, and [3] to consume. This can be seen in the use of sentences in the speech of the Ureng village community as follows.

1. *Akuana mani setiap ipahoi mani rosak nirin salalu*

It means. My child always brushes his teeth every time he takes a bath.

2. *Tolong arana kualo painoson mani maa te au **rosak** loke sabong, pa nawakanulu talalu amiten lain*

Meaning. Please get me that dirty pan so I can scrub it with soap, because the bottom of the pan is too black.

3. *A'uku lalahan sesi **rosak** kamanan pakapeak*

It means. My friends have eaten all the food.

**Derived Verbs *Sahaka*.** Derived verb *sahaka* in the Asilulu language in Ureng village has two meanings [1] to slap, [2] to threaten. This can be seen in the usage of sentences in the speech of the Ureng village community as follows.

1. *A'u **sahaka** anan mani pa na hihin paraci tenala*

It means. I slapped the child because his mouth was too insolent.

2. *Nike a'u kame'e anan mani **sahaka** na lalahan hatu na lalahan tah rewa na diri*

It means. I just saw that kid threatening his friend and saying his friend doesn't know his place.

## CONCLUSION

It is clear from this study how verb forms are used in Ureng Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency when speaking the Asilulu language. The research findings classify verbs in the Asilulu language into two primary categories: root verbs and derived verbs. Fundamental verbs like *keu*, *rana*, *lawa*, *take*, and *rosak* possess multiple meanings that fluctuate based on their contextual use; for instance, *keu* can signify to command, to meet, to travel, or to depart. Meanwhile, derivative verbs such as *sahaka* illustrate the morphological processes in the Asilulu language, conveying more intricate meanings, including slapping and threatening. This discovery exemplifies the complexity of morphology and semantics in the Asilulu language, mirroring the culture and mentality of the Ureng Village community. This research significantly contributes to linguistic studies, especially concerning regional languages in Indonesia, by emphasizing the variability and distinctiveness of verb forms. This research underscores the need to safeguard regional languages as integral components of cultural heritage and local identity within a community.

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