

## ATTITUDE OF ADJECTIVE SYNTAX OF GU- MAWASANGKA DIALECT OF MUNA LANGUAGE

**Zalili Sailan\***

### Abstract

#### Keywords:

Muna;  
Attitude;  
Morphology;  
Adjective Syntax;  
Gu-Mawasangka Dialect;

The study aims at finding out overall description about adjective syntax of Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language. The data collected through (1) observation method, (2) interview method, and (3) intuition method, namely the researcher as the native speaker of the language may verify the data. The result of this study are (1) based on the adjective semantic, Gu-Mawasangka dialect is grouped on (i) colour: kapute 'white', kadea 'red' kaito 'black', kangkuni 'yellow'; (ii) form: khete 'flat', khoko 'sharp', bungku 'humped', onu 'round'; (iii) size: a) range: komao 'near', kodoo 'far'; b) long: ubu 'short', wanta 'long'; c) high: panda 'low', langke 'high'; d) deepness: oci 'shallow', undalo 'deep'; e) thickness: nifi 'thin', kapa 'thick'; f) content: pono 'full', koso 'empty'; g) number: bhahi 'many', sendadi 'little'; h) time: sebantaha 'a moment', mpona 'long time'; i) heavy: sape 'light', bhie 'heavy'; j) large: ndiihdi 'small', bhala 'big'; k) age: khangku 'young', cua 'old'; (iv) taste: a) feling: tongo 'calm', bhidha 'happy', mahasai 'difficult'; b) indra: tembe 'tasteless', meko 'nice', kolo 'sour', sodho 'hot', khindi 'cold', (v) mental: tongo 'silent', bhokhe 'stupid', makidha 'clever' maende 'arrogant', sabakha 'patient', ambano 'shy'. (6) way: ricu 'dishonest', seonu 'cooperatively', mau 'slowly', kadhehe-dhehe 'uncarefully'. (2) In morphology aspect, adjective of Gu-Mawasangka dialect signed by the present of base form that has affix with pattern **noka (N) + adjektive + R**, either a part or whole with the meaning is 'very or rather'. Related to adjective syntax of Gu-Mawasangka dialect may (1) function as predicate, (2) as attribute, (3) may be put at left of word **mpu 'right, mpeuhi 'very, and sepalia 'very or too'**, and (4) may be put on the right of word **noanga 'very, notolau 'very, noula 'rather, and nokuha 'less'**.

Copyright © 2016 International Journals of Multidisciplinary Research Academy. All rights reserved.

#### Author correspondence:

Maulid Taembo,  
English Letters Study Program  
Halu Oleo University, Jalan H.E.A. Mokodompit, Kendari-Indonesia  
Email: [maulid.taembo@rocketmail.com](mailto:maulid.taembo@rocketmail.com)

\*English Letters Study Program, Halu Oleo University, Jalan H.E.A. Mokodompit, Kendari-Indonesia

**1. Introduction**

Local languages in Indonesia are many. Based on UNESCO count, Indonesia has about 726 local languages from 5700 languages in the world. It means that Indonesia is a country with a very rich local languages. It is one of the richness of the country to be developed.

One of the local languages that still used and kept is Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language. The user of this language is people who live at Muna island of Southeast Sulawesi including Buton island about 887 KM with in the amount of 50.579 people (Mulya, 1990). The use of Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language found in six districts, namely Gu, Mawasangka, East Mawasangka, Center Mawasangka, Sangiawambulu, and Lakudo districts.

For the need of linguistics study, the study of Gu-Mawasangka dialects is not much or still less if compared to other local languages in the Indonesia. There are several studies that have investigated the Gu-Mawasangka of Muna language, are Nurdin Yatim (1977) with his study entitled “*Struktur Bahasa Muna*”, “*The Structure of Muna*”, Nurdin Yatim, et. al. (1991) in their study entitled “*Morfologi Kata Kerja Bahasa Muna*” “*The Verbal Morphology of Muna*”. Other studies are Abdul Kadir Mulya, et al. (1990) with their study entitled, “*Morfologi dan Sintaksis Bahasa Mawasangka*”, “*Morphology and Syntax of Mawasangka*”; Abdul Kadir Mulya, et. al. (1994) in their other study entitled “*Sistem Morfologi Verba Bahasa Mawasangka*”, “*The Verbal Morphology System of Mawasangka*”; Said Mursalin, et.al. (1983) entitled “*Struktur Bahasa Mawasangka*” “*The Structure of Mawasangka*”. Besides, other linguists, like van den Berg (1989) has a book entitled “*A Grammar of the Muna Language*”.

Based on the description above, there has not been any study of adjective syntax of Gu-Mawasangka. However, other studies above are used as the references of this study, mainly in data collecting. Moreover, the main problem of this study is how are the attitudes of adjective syntax of Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language. The study thus aims at finding out overall description about adjective syntax of Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language

**2. Research Method**

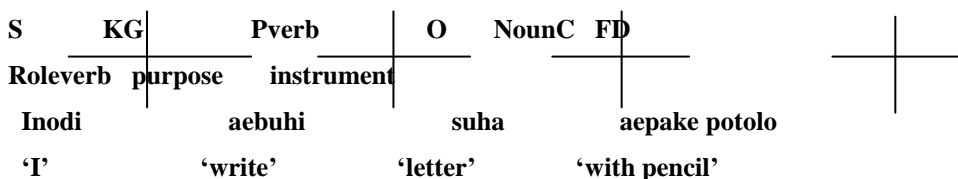
This study discusses the attitude of adjective syntax of Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language. The attitude of adjective syntax means the linguistics event to determine the word category, so it is known verb, noun, adjective, pronoun, numeral, and other categories. This study try to answer the question about the position of adjective in Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language. The theory used in this study is structural linguistic theory. This theory analyzes the language by involving the lingual aspects that have meanings. Since the main discussion on just syntax and morphology, so the phonology aspects is ignored because the morpheme as word formation and syntax constituent as sentence element that has meaning. The phoneme as word element in phonology has not meaning.

Based on the structural theory, syntax that lead the morphology. So in the analysis, morphology is still lead by syntax. In Muna language, verbs used to support their auxiliary verb in the sentence. For example, *nopakhaso* ‘sell’ may be formed as *neaso* ‘sell’. Those are word formation or polymorphemic with the base form is *aso* ‘sell’ with affix *no+pakha-* and *ne-*, and other forms like *asoe* ‘sold’, *taa asomo* ‘please sell’. Those are always lines to verb to support other syntax constituent differences in the forms of word or phrase.

According *Kenneth L. Pike*, in analyzing the sentence is not only based on function, Subject + Predicate + Object, and not to the form or category like nominal phrase, verbal phrase, adjective phrase, and others, but also role and meaning analysis, and even to cohesion. *Kenneth L. Pike* is known with its four element analysis as follow:

Function	Category
Role	Cohesion

Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language is just analyzed with three elements, namely category, function, and role, since cohesion aspect is not found in Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language. This study focuses on more to adjective as a part of category. Clearly, it can be seen from the example below:



In general, adjective has rather similar attitude to verb. In single sentence, adjective as verb can function as predicate, and in phrase aspect, it may function as attribute. For example, in Muna language, *anai ndiidi*

'smallman', in which *ndiidi* 'small' become attribute from the word *anai* 'child'. Likewise, in the word *miina* 'not' in Muna language becomes verb characteristics as Indonesia language, so the word *miina* also can be as adjective. Clearly, in the sentences of Muna (1) *miina naosuhea* 'not beautiful'; (2) *miina naekadiua* 'don't take a bath'; the first stating adjective and the second stating verb.

Although adjective and verb have rather similar attitude, they have several differences. Based on the linguists' view, the adjective can be investigated through semantic aspect and syntax attitude. Based on the statement, adjective semantic is kind of word that explain the condition or characteristics of certain object.

The statement above can be receipt semantically but nos syntactically. In Muna language, phrase of *pagala uci* 'iron fence' and *mieno wuna* 'Muna people', in which either the word *uci* 'iron' or *wuna* 'Muna' may called as adjective since it modifies noun. However, if it is investigated further, it is not true. Those two words modify the kinds of *pagala* 'fence' and *mieno* 'people'. So, it is clear that *uci* 'iron' in *pagala uci* 'iron fence' modifies the source of *pagala* 'fence' and not the condition of fence. Likewise, the phrase of *mieno wuna* 'Muna people' that *wuna* 'Muna' modifies the source and not condition of *mieno* 'people'. Thus, those two words are attribute from the words in the front. So, relying on semantic only is not enough because in phrase, the word in behind does not always modifies the word in the front.

### 3. Results and Analysis

The result of this study shows that based on the adjective semantic, Gu-Mawasangka dialect is grouped on (1) colour: *kapute* 'white', *kadea* 'red' *kaito* 'black', *kangkuni* 'yellow'; (2) form: *khete* 'flat', *khoko* 'sharp', *bungku* 'humped', *onu* 'round'; (3) size: a) range: *komao* 'near', *kodoo* 'far'; b) long: *ubu* 'short', *wanta* 'long'; c) high: *panda* 'low', *langke* 'high'; d) deepness: *oci* 'shallow', *undalo* 'deep'; e) thickness: *nifi* 'thin', *kapa* 'thick'; f) content: *pono* 'full', *koso* 'empty'; g) number: *bhahi* 'many', *sendadi* 'little'; h) time: *sebantaha* 'a moment', *mpona* 'long time'; i) heavy: *sape* 'light', *bhie* 'heavy'; j) large: *ndiidhi* 'small', *bhala* 'big'; k) age: *khangku* 'young', *cua* 'old'; (4) taste : a) *feling*: *tongo* 'calm', *bhidha* 'happy', *mahasai* 'difficult'; b) *indra* : *tembe* 'tasteless', *meko* 'nice', *kolo* 'sour', *sodho* 'hot', *khindi* 'cold', (5) mental: *tongo* 'silent'; *bhokhe* 'stupid', *makidha* 'clever' *maende* 'arrogant', *sabakha* 'patient', *ambano* 'shy'; (6) way: *ricu* 'dishonest', *seonu* 'cooperatively', *mau* 'slowly', *kadhehe-dhehe* 'uncarefully'.

In morphology aspect, adjective of Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language is signed by the present of base form that has affix pattern *noka (N) + adjective + R*, either all or part with the meaning 'very or rather' Examples:

*noka (N) + ndiidhi* 'small' → *nokandii-ndiidhi* 'very small'  
*noka (N) + bhala* 'big' → *nokabhla-bhala* 'rather big'  
*noka (N) + komao* 'near' → *nokakoma-komao* 'very near'  
*noka (N) + pai* 'bitter' → *nokapai-pai* 'rather bitter'  
*noka (N) + ompona* 'old' → *nokaompo-ompona* 'rather old'

If we look at the examples above, it appears the adjective morphology before inserted with affix to the base form. It differs to verb, in which the category of verb has been known after it is inserted to one of affixes on the base form.

Related to attitude of adjective syntax, it will be explained below the classification test of adjective in Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language, with the note that every word can be categorized as adjective if fulfill the criteria below:

1. Can function as predicate;
2. Can function as attribute;
3. Can be put in the left of words *mpu* 'right', *mpeuhi* 'very', dan *sepalia* 'very or too';
4. Can be put in the right of words *noanga* 'very', *notolau* 'very', *noula* 'rather', *nokuha* 'less'

Table 1 Classification of Adjective in Gu-Mawasangka Dialect of Muna Language Syntactically

Adjective	predicate	attribute	mpu 'right'	mpeuhi 'very'	sepalia 'too'	noanga 'very'	notolau 'very'	noula 'rather'	nokuha 'less'
Sanaa 'happy'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kele 'dry'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
kadoho- doho 'ceroboh'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kodhoo 'far'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Meko 'nice'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

hombu 'firm'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ali 'expensive'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
kokaoha 'jealous'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ntuhu 'often'	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-

Information:

- + : adjective that be able to become predicate and attribute, and can be combined with the words above it.
- : adjective that can not be combined to the words above it.
- ? : adjective which is hesitated to become predicate and be hesitated to be combined to the words above it.

Based on the table above can be explained that *sanaa* 'happy' on the construction:

(1) *Inodhi asanaa a poawa bhe hintua*

'I am happy to meet you' is adjective which function as predicate since the base form can be combined to *mpu* 'right/really', *mpeuhi* 'very', *sepalia* 'too', *noanga* 'very', *notolau* 'very', *noula* 'rather', *nokuha* 'less'.

Look at the use in the sentence (1a) to (1h) below:

- (1a) *Inodhi asanaa mpu apoawa bhe hintua*. 'I am really happy to meet you'
- (1b) *Inodho asanaa mpeuhi a poawa bhe hintua*. 'I am happy very much to meet you'.
- (1c) *Inodhi asanaa sepalia a poawa bhe hintua*. 'I am too happy to meet you'
- (1d) *Inodhi noanga kasanaakua a poawa bhe hintua*. 'I am very happy to meet you'
- (1e) *Inodhi notolau kasanaakua a poawa bhe hintua*. 'I am very happy to meet you'
- (1f) *Inodhi noula asanaa a poawa bhe hintua*. 'I am rather happy to meet you'.
- (1g) *Inodhi nokuha kasanaakua a poawa bhe hintua*. 'I am less happy to meet you'.

Based on the examples above, it lines to the attitude of adjective in Muna language which always polymorphemic (double morpheme), so in the examples (1a), (1b), (1c) and (1f), adjective appears altogether with clitic *'T'* and in the examples (1d), (1e), and (1g), adjective appears altogether with prefix *ka-* and clitic *kua 'T'*. So, it has pattern *ka + adjective + kua*.

In its position as predicate, adjective *sanaa* 'happy' can be put in the front before subject, as particular characteristics of predicate as the example:

(2) *Nosanaa apoawa bhe hintua*. 'Is very happy to meet you.'

However, in the example (3) *Anaino sampe nosanaa nowoha inano nofotaa* 'The child is very (become) happy to see her mother laugh.'

The construction of *sampe nosanaa 'menjadi senang'* on the sentence above seems is not head, and the head is *sampe 'become'*, but in semantic view, the head is *nosanaa 'happy'*, and not *sampe 'become'*. Look at the sentence (3a) *Anaino nosanaa nowoha inano nofotaa* 'The child is happy to see her mother laugh.'

Compare to sentence (3b) \**Anaino sampe φ nowohainano nofotaa*. 'The child *become φ* to see her mother laugh). It is clear that sentence (3b) is ungrammatical. The sentence (3a), *sampe 'become'* is not obligated, except *nosanaa 'happy'* which is obligated. Look at the sentence (4) *Galuno nofeome wulano oleo inia* 'Her garden is dried in the dry season.'

The word of *nofeome 'dry'* above is adjective that function as predicate since it can be combined to the words above it, like *mpu* 'right', *mpeuhi* 'really', *sepalia* 'too', *noanga* 'very', *tolau* 'very', *noula* 'rather', *kuha* 'less'. Look at the examples in the sentences (4a) to (4g) below.

- (4a) *Galuno nofeome mpu wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is really dried in the dry season.'
- (4b) *Galuno nofeome mpeuhi wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is really dried in the dry season.'
- (4c) *Galuno nofeome sepalia wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is too dried in the dry season.'
- (4d) *Galuno noanga kafeomea wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is dried very much in the dry season'
- (4e) *Galuno notolau kafeomea wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is dried very much in the dry season'
- (4f) *Galuno noula kafeomea wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is rather dried in the dry season'
- (4g) *Galuno nokuha kafeomea wulano oleo inia*. 'Her garden is less dried in the dry season'

The data above shows that the word *feome 'dried'* becomes *nofeome* with affix *no-* if it is followed by adjective marker (look at the sentence 4a to 4c), and become *kafeomea* with affix *ka-* if it is preceded by adjective marker (look at 4d to 4g). It shows the unique of morphology process in Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language.

The form of *feome 'dried'* in the following sentence still function as predicate.

(5) *Nofeome* galunoa wulano oleo inia. 'Her garden is dried in the dry season'. Look at the sentence (6) Galuno mina natumabhaiea, ulanomo *sampe nofeome* sungku dhamani 'Her garden is not given fertilizer, so it is dried forever'

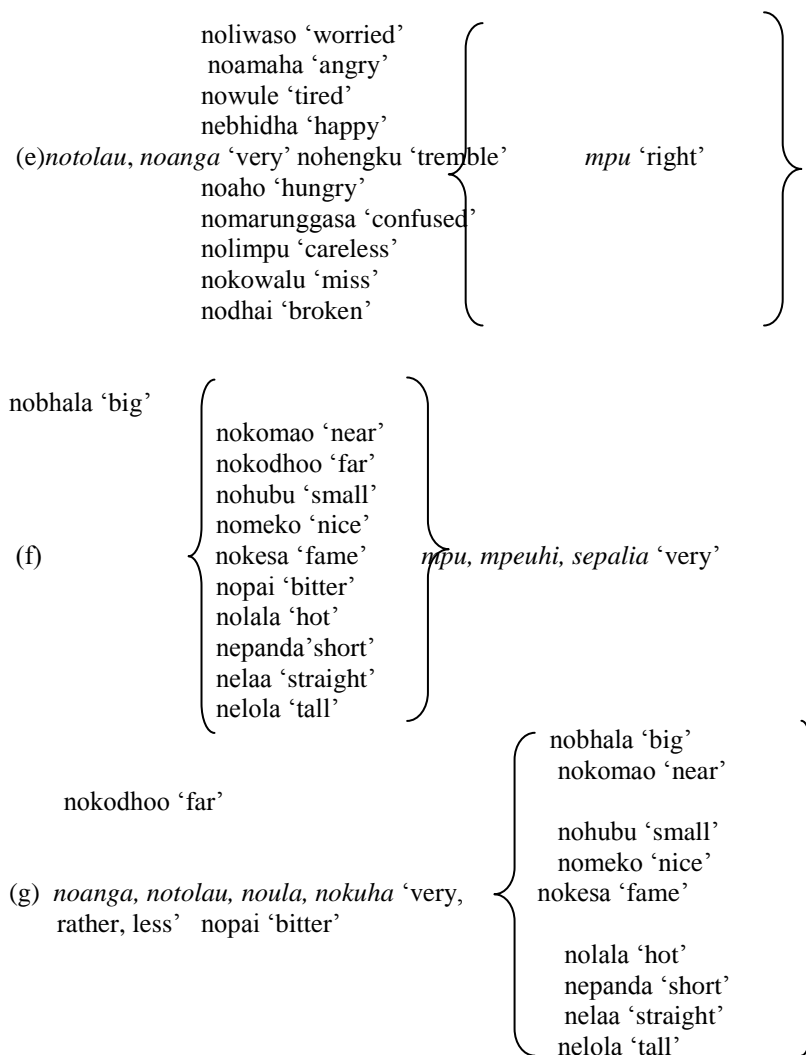
Similar to the previous illustration, the word of *nofeome* 'dried' syntactically like the attribute of *sampe* 'become', but semantically, the head of phrase *sampe nofeome* 'become dried' is *nofeome* 'dried'.

All the adjective marker as illustration above can be compared to other forms *kadhoho-dhoho* 'uncarefull', *kodhoo* 'far', *meko* 'nice', *hombu* 'firm', *ali* 'expensive', dan *kokaoha* 'jealous'. It thus those words are adjective.

Besides, to determine the adjective in Gu-Mawasangka dialect can use the verb marker, namely *tangasano* 'continous'. If the verb marker *tangasano* 'continous' combined to certain words, so the words are adjective.

For more clearly, look at the examples below.

- (a) *tangasano* 'continous' {  
 noliwaso 'worried'  
 noamaha 'angry'  
 nowule 'tired'  
 nebhidha 'happy'  
 nohengku 'tremble'  
 noaho 'hungry'  
 nomarunggasas 'confused'  
 nolimpu 'careless'  
 nokowalu 'miss'  
 nodhai 'broken' }
- (b) {  
 noliwaso 'worried'  
 noamaha 'angry'  
 nowule 'tired'  
 nebhidha 'happy'  
 nohengku 'tremble'  
 noaho 'hungry'  
 nomarunggasas 'confused'  
 nolimpu 'careless'  
 nokowalu 'miss'  
 nodhai 'broken' } *mpu* 'right'
- (c) {  
 noliwaso 'worried'  
 noamaha 'angry'  
 nowule 'tired'  
 nebhidha 'happy'  
 nohengku 'tremble'  
 noaho 'hungry'  
 nomarunggasas 'confused'  
 nolimpu 'careless'  
 nokowalu 'miss'  
 nodhai 'broken' } *mpuhi* 'really'
- (d) {  
 noliwaso 'worried'  
 noamaha 'angry'  
 nowule 'tired'  
 nebhidha 'happy'  
 nohengku 'tremble'  
 noaho 'hungry'  
 nomarunggasas 'confused'  
 nolimpu 'careless'  
 nokowalu 'miss'  
 nodhai 'broken' } *segaliha* 'too'



Based on the data (a) to (g), adjective in Gu-Mawasangka dialect of Muna language uses both adjective marker and verbal marker, either put in the right or in the left. Besides, the adjective is polymorphemic which always present altogether with affix. The most presented frequency affixes is *no-*, or *ne-*, except the marker *nokuha* 'less' as in the example (g) if it appears altogether with adjective, it uses prefix *ka-*, such as *nokuha kabhala* 'less big', *nokuha kakesa* 'less nice', *nokuha kalala* 'less hot', *nokuha kalaa* 'less straight'.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on findings in this research, the researcher found that (1) based on the syntax attitude, adjective of Gu-Mawasangka dialect is a word category that parallel to other categories, verb, noun, and others categories, (2) adjective of Gu-Mawasangka dialect can be determined with using adjective marker or verb marker, (3) the markers may be put either on right or left, (4) the adjective marker covers forms of *mpu* 'right', *mpeuhi* 'very', *sepalia* 'too', *anga* 'very', *tolau* 'very', *ula* 'rather', *kuha* 'less', (5) it is polymorphemic either as affix or reduplication, (6) it is predicate or attribute, and (7) and it is put in the front of inversion sentence.

#### References

- Alwi, Hasan. et.al. 1993. *Tata Bahasa Baku Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Depdiknas.  
 Alwasila, Chaedar. 1984. *Linguistik Suatu Pengantar*. Bandung : Angkasa.  
 Alwasila, Chaedar. 1985. *Beberapa Mazab dan Dikotomi Teori Linguistik*. Bandung Angkasa.  
 Anceaux, J.C. 1952. *The Wolio Language. Outline of Grammatical Description and*

- Texts*. S'Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff.
- Anceaux, J.C. 1987. *Wolio Dictionary (Wolio-English-Indonesia)*. Dardrecht Holland : Foris Publications Holland.
- Ba'dulu, Muis. 2000. *Morfosintaksis*. Makassar: UNM.
- Berg, R. van. Den. 1989. *A Grammar of the Muna Language*. Dordrecht- Holland: Foris Publications.
- Bloomfield, Leonard. 1933. *Language*. New York: Henry Holt S Company.
- Brown, H. Douglas. 1987. *Principle of Language Learning and Teaching*. EnglewoodCliffe, New York: Princtice-Hall.
- Elson, Benyamin and Elma Pickett. 1969. *An Introduction to Morphology and Sintax*. Santa Anna: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- Gleason, H.A. 1961. *An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics (Revised Edition)*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, Ins.
- Halim, Amran. (ed.). 1976. *Politik Bahasa Nasional*. Jilid 2. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa.
- Halliday, M.A.K. 1978. *Language as Social Semiotic: The Social Interpretation of Language and Meaning*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Hockett, Ch.F. 1959. *A Course in Modern Linguistics*. New York: The Ronald Press Company.
- Kaseng, Syahrudin. Et.al. 1987. *Pemetaan Bahasa di Sulawesi Tenggara*. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa.
- Kridalaksana, Harimurti. 1989. *Pembentukan Kata dalam Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Kridalaksana, Harimurti. 1990. *Kelas Kata dalam Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Gramedia'
- Nida, EugeneA. 1976. *Morphology, The Descriptive Analysis of Word*. Second Edition, Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
- Pike, Kenneth L. & Evelyn G Pike. 1977. *Grammatical Analysis*. Dallas Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL)
- Rusyana, Yus. & Samsuri (Ed.). 1976. *Pedoman Penulisan Tata Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa Depdikbud.
- Sailan, Zalili. et.al. 1999. *Sistem Morfologi Nomina Bahasa Mawasangka*. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa Depdiknas.
- Sudaryanto, 1993. *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa: Pengantar Penelitian Wahana Kebudayaan secara Linguistik*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Yatim, Nurdin. 1981. *Struktur Bahasa Wuna*. Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa.