Article

The Variation of Numeral Form Mean ‘one’ in Numeral Classifiers of the Batak Angkola Language

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to explain the variation of the numeral form, which means ‘one’ in the numeral classifier of the Batak Angkola language of Pintu Padang isolect and to describe the pattern of use of each of these forms. Data was collected by using observation and interview methods. Observation is done by listening to speakers communicate with each other. Interviews were conducted by directly asking three informants who met specific requirements and with several other sources. Data analysis was carried out using segmenting immediate constituents technique by dividing the lingual unit into numerals and classifiers. Based on the study results, it can be concluded that in the Batak Angkola language of Pintu Padang isolect found, ten variations of the numeral form, which means ‘one’ followed by a numeral classifier. The variation of the numeral form, which means ‘one’, is determined by the initial phoneme of the numeral classifier it follows in this case, the addition of a phoneme similar to or the same as the following phoneme. However, it is still limited to specific numeral classifiers. The numeral form still dominantly used is the form that has not experienced the addition of a phoneme.

KEYWORDS

Batak Angkola language; numeral classifier, numeral means ‘one’, phoneme, variation

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1. INTRODUCTION

This research has two main purposes those are to define the bound numeral classifier form variations meaning ‘one’ and the use of each form in Batak Angkola language. The Batak Angkola language is one of the regional languages in Indonesia spoken in the region of Angkola, South Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra Province. This research is urgent to do as one attempt to identify both language universality and particularity in order to learn the existence of the numeral classifier.

The numeral classifier is a post-posed word of numeral by it conforming to a phrase numeral phrase (Ramlan, 1993). It always appears with the numeral. This is accordingly to Mizuguchi’s statement (2004:26) that “numeral classifiers are the classifiers that occur with a numeral or a quantifier”. Likewise, Miho (2004) said that the numeral classifier is one of the post-posed words following numbers showing both nature and type of object based upon both form and meaning. The numeral classifier functions to group, and to count the objects. Of course, both grouping and counting deal with the objects concerned. So many are the object types measured, that a number of researchers divided numeral classifiers into various categories.

The research on numeral classifiers was already done in many languages across the globe among other by Hopper (1986) investigating numeral classifier in Malay, Huang and Ahren (2003) did a research in Chinese, Yamamato and Keil (2000), and Miho (2006) did it in Japanese. Prihantoro (2012), did a research over mankind’s classifier in Korean with several comparisons to Indonesian, Lambisa (2018) conducted a research on numeral classifier in Siamese and its use, and the last one is Park (2022) did a research on two types of plural and numeral classifier in languages, mainly, in Korean. In Indonesia, the study in numeral classifier is still quite limited. This was ever done among others by Marnita (1996), Wahyuni

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(2006), Maryani and Wijana (2011), Nadra cs. (2014), Nadra and Wahyuni (2015), and Wahyuni cs. (2017a, 2017b, and 2018), Oktariantika (2019), and Kasih (2021). Compared to the languages existing, the research on numeral classifier is quite a few let alone compared to the number of languages available in Indonesia, it goes to the second rank of the most languages across the world next to Papua New Guinean (Eberhard dkk. (2022).

This paper focuses on the bound numeral form variations meaning ‘one’ in numeral classifier of Batak Angkola language, particularly spoken at Pintu Padang isolec, South Tapanuli Regency. This is interesting to investigate for there are many bound numeral form variations meaning ‘one’ as it attached to the numeral classifier.

2. METHODS

The type of this research is field one. The data of this research is obtained from the informants originating from the area of Pintu Padang namely one of the Batak Angkola speech areas populated by indigenous Batak Angkola native speakers living in South Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra Province.

The method used in data collection is participant observational and interviews. The observation is done by listening to Batak Angkola language speakers communicating among them (observational method). The results observed are bugged by taking-note and whose techniques are called note-taking and bagging techniques. The interviewing technique is structurally done by raising direct questions to the already selected informants under a conditioned requirement such as the native speaker of the language concerned, s/he is not highly educated, s/he has perfect speech organs/apparatus (Nadra and Reniwati, 2009). A number of questionnaires are prepared earlier in order to facilitate the data collection in the field, the eliciting technique is also used in interviewing method. The questionnaire previously prepared is in form of conversational material in order to elicit the informants to speak the data expected (Sudaryanto, 2015). The informant’s answer is recorded on the note prepared earlier. Besides, the interview is done not in a structured way with some other speakers in order to recheck the data validity already obtained.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The naming of a numeral is bound to the meaning ‘one’ in a numeral classifier based upon the fact that numeral itself does not appear alone but it always joins the numeral classifier it follows. The bound numeral form depends upon the classifier it follows. The free numeral to mean ‘one’ in Pintu Padang isolec is sada. Never is it used together with the numeral classifier. Thus, the phrasal form of *sada batu tarutung ‘one fruit of durian’ is not recognized so is the phrasal form *sada ikur manuk ‘one tail of chicken’ not recognized. As to refer to the same phrase, thus, sambatu tarutung ‘one seed of durian’ and saikur manuk ‘one tail of chicken’ are used.

The followings are the research results on the bound numeral form variations meaning ‘one’.

1) Form sam- ‘one’

These forms are found in classifier such as:

a. sambatu

Example: (1) sambatu arambir
one-Cl coconut
‘one fruit of coconut’

(2) sambatu tarutung
one-Cl durian
‘one fruit of durian’

(3) sambatu mangua
one-Cl mango
‘one seed of mango’

b. sambola

Example: (1) sambola botik
one-Cl papaya
‘one fruit of papaya’

(2) sambola piri
one-Cl durian
‘one fruit of petai’

(3) sambola arambir
one-Cl coconut
‘a fruit of coconut’

c. sambuhu

Example: (1) sambuhu jari
one-Cl finger
‘a node of finger’

d. sampagul

Example: sampagul salak
one-Cl salak
‘a bunch of salak’
Based upon the data shown above, the form *sam- ‘one’* attaches to the numeral classifier to /p/ and /b/ phonemes initial. However, it does not applies for classifier such as *batang ‘tree’, bunbun ‘stack (paddy), bukkus ‘pack’, pastak ‘area’ (18 x 18 m)*, and *pasang ‘pair’*. Those forms take the use of form *sa- ‘one’*.

Example: *(1)* *sabatang sigaret* one-Cl cigarette

‘a piece of cigarette’

*(2)* *sabunbun eme* one-Cl paddy

‘a stack of paddy’

*(3)* *sabukkus indahan* one-Cl rice

‘a pack of rice’

*(4)* *sapastak saba (18 x 18 m)* one-Cl rice field

‘a portion of (18 x 18 m) rice field’

*(5)* *sapasang sipatu* one-Cl shoe

‘a pair of shoes’

2) Form *san- ‘one’*

These forms are found in numeral classifier such as follows.

a. **sangulas**

Example: *(1)* *sangulas ute* one-Cl orange

‘a slice of orange’

b. **sangaum**

Example: *(1)* *sanggaum indahan* one-Cl rice

‘a sap of rice’

c. **sanggolom**

Example: *(1)* *sanggolom indahan* one-Cl rice

‘a grab of rice’

The form of *sang- as in the example above is attached to the numeral classifier that begins with the vowels *u, a*, and consonant *g*.

4) Form *sat- ‘satu’*

The form are found in numeral classifier as follows.

a. **sattalbu**

Example: *(1)* *sattalbu jaung* one-Cl corn

‘a cob of corn’

b. **satciat**

Example: *(1)* *satciat pisang* one-Cl banana

‘a bunch of banana’

c. **sattakkil**

Example: *(1)* *sattakkil burangir* one-Cl betel

‘a stalk of betel’

*(2)* *sattakkil parira* one-Cl petai

‘a sprig of petai’

*(3)* *sattakkil ancat* one-Cl lansium fruit

‘a stalk of lansium fruit’

d. **sattupak**

Example: *(1)* *sattupak eme* one-Cl paddy

‘a stack of paddy’

The form *sat- ‘one’* attaches to numeral classifier of phonemes /t/ and /c/ initial. Besides, form *sa- ‘one’* is also found in numeral classifier of phoneme /t/ initial as follows.
e. satabung
Example: sattalbu jaung
one-Cl corn
‘a cob of corn’

Note: satabung danon ‘a tube of rice’ in a count of this isolect equals to 16 takar ‘calibration’, and one takar of rice equals to one tin sweetened condensed milk.

f. satumba
Example: satumba lomang
one-Cl bamboo rice
‘a stick of bamboo rice’

The numeral classifier of tumba is the particular one for lemang.

5) Bentuk sar- ‘one’

Those forms are found in numeral classifier as follows.

a. sarruang
Example: sarruang tarutung
one-Cl durian
‘a segment of durian’

b. sarruas
Example: sarruas tobu
one-Cl sugar cane
‘a node of sugar cane’

c. sarratting
Example: sarratting laksiaklamod
one-Cl little chili
‘a twig of little chili’

Example: The form sar- ‘one’ attaches to numeral classifier of phoneme /r/ initial.

6) Form sak- ‘one’

These forms are found in numeral classifier as follows.

a. sakkodong
Example: (1) sakkodong bulung arambir
one-Cl coconut leaf
‘a piece of coconut leaf’
(2) sakkodong baju
one-Cl shirt
‘a piece of shirt’

b. sakkaut
Example: sakkaut rimbang
one-Cl rimbang
‘a grab of rimbang’

c. sakkamata
Example: sakkamata botik
one-Cl papaya
‘a fruit of papaya’

The form sak- ‘one’ attaches to numeral classifier of phoneme /k/ initial. Other than that, sa- is also found in the numeral classifier of phoneme /k/ initial as follows.

(1) sakilo
Example: sakilo lasiak
one-Cl chili
‘a kg of chilli’

(2) sakodi
Example: sakodi seng
one-Cl roofing
‘one score (the normal quantity of wholesale purchase of clothing or roofing) roofing’

(3) sakubik
Example: sakubik pasir
one-Cl sand
‘a cubic (meter) of sand’

(4) sakumpulan
Example: sakumpulan alak
one-Cl people
‘a group of people’

7) Form sal- ‘one’

These forms are found in numeral classifier as follows.

a. sallambar
Example: (1) sallambar bulung
one-Cl leaf
‘a piece of leaf’
(2) sallambar karote
one-Cl paper
‘a piece of paper’
(3) sallambar papan
one-Cl board
‘a sheet of board’

b. sallobong
Example: sallobong arambir
one-Cl coconut
‘a half of coconut’

The form sal- ‘one’ attaches to numeral classifier of phoneme /l/ initial. However, the form
sa- ‘one’ of numeral classifier of phoneme /l/ initial as follows.

(1) salupak
Example: salupak saba
one-Cl rice field
‘a portion of rice field’

(2) salappis
Example: salappis tire
one-Cl curtain
‘a piece of the curtain’

8) Form sas- ‘one’

These forms are found in numeral classifier as follows.

sassusuk
Example: (1) sassusuk sate
one-Cl sate
‘a stick of sate’
(2) sassusuk cenel
one-Cl cenel
‘a stick of cenel (a kind of snack)’

The form sas- ‘one’ attaches to numeral classifier of phoneme /s/ initial.

9) Form sap- ‘one’

These forms are found in numeral classifier as follows.

a. sappoul
Example: sappoul indahan
one-Cl rice
‘a bunch of rice’

b. sappipil
Example: sappipil jaung
one-Cl corn
‘a grain of corn’

Example: The form sap- attaches to numeral classifier of phoneme /p/ initial. Hence, the bound numeral meaning ‘one’ as it attaches to the numeral classifier of /p/ initial having three variations as well namely sam-, sap-, and sa-.

10) Form sa- ‘one’

The form sa- ‘one’ is not only found in the numeral classifier such as already described in the previous analysis and there was found in the numeral classifier of phonemes /m/ and /g/. The following items are the examples of numeral classifier phoneme /m/.

Example: (1) samayang pisang
one-Cl banana
‘a bunch of banana’
(2) samakkuk bubur
one-Cl porridge
‘a bowl of porridge’
(3) samotor pasir
one-Cl sand
‘a truck of sand’

The next one is the example of numeral classifier of phoneme /g/ initial.

Example: (1) sagalas aek
one-Cl water
‘a glass of water’
(2) sagalendong bonang
one-Cl thread
‘a roll of thread’
(3) sagonggam danon
one-Cl rice
‘a grain of rice’
(4) sagarombolan bodat
one-Cl monkey
‘a group of monkey’
(5) sagandeng arambil
one-Cl coconut
‘a splice (consisting of two) coconut’

The other numeral classifiers also use sa-.

Example: (1) saikur manuk
one-Cl chiken
‘a chicken’
(2) sadorngok aek
one-Cl water
‘a sip of water’
(3) saippal sira
one-Cl salt
‘a lump of salt’

Example: Based upon the description above, there are found ten variations of bound numeral form meaning ‘one’ in the isolect of Batak Angkola language at Pintu Padang. All the ten forms are (1) sam-, (2) san-, (3) sang-, (4) sat-, (5) sar-, (6) sak-, (7) sal-, (8) sas-, (9) sap-, and (10) sa- such variations are influenced by the numeral classifier following the bound numeral meaning ‘one’. The form sam- is found when it is followed by both of /p/ and /b/ phonemes initial. The form
san- is found as the numeral classifier following it is phoneme /j/ initial. The form sat- is found is found when it is followed by /t/ and /c/ phonemes initial. Next one is the forms sar-, sak-, sal-, sas-, and sap- are found accordingly to the same phoneme as the numeral classifier they follow namely sar- is found if it is followed by the numeral classifier of phoneme /r/ initial, the form sak- is found if it is found with numeral classifier of phoneme /k/ initial, the form sal- is found if it starts with phoneme /l/, the form sas- is found if it is followed with the numeral classifier of phoneme /s/ initial, and the one of sap is found if it is followed with the numeral classifier initially starts with phoneme /p/.

The last form is sa-. The form sa- is the most general one. Although it is said that the form variations from (1) to (9) is found suitable with the initial phoneme of numeral classifier following it, in fact, such a thing does not applies to all numeral classifier if follows. They are found in the data mentioned above and the form sa- is used for other numeral classifier.

4. CONCLUSION

Based upon the bound numeral form analysis meaning ‘one’ in Batak Angkola language at Pintu Padang, there are found ten variations. The appearance of such variations is due to the initial phoneme of the numeral classifier it follows. It is caused by the phonemic addition in the bound numeral. The additional phoneme meant is in the form of assimilation or modification to the initial of the numeral classifier so that it falls into homorganic phoneme resembling the initial phoneme of the numeral classifier it follows. However, such an addition does not occur at the all bound numeral classifiers. Hence, it is necessary to conduct a further research in order to elaborate more deeply the numeral classifier forms such as what causes the change of form to happen in the bound numeral classifier.

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