

GRAMMATICAL-SEMANTIC PROPERTIES OF VERB-PHRASE WITH “bae” and “kanai” in MINANGKABAUNESE¹

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Abstract

The lexicons *bae* and *kanai* in Minangkabau can be combined with other verbs to form a serial verb construction, such as: *bae lari* ‘get running’, *bae makan* ‘get eating’, *kanai tanyo* ‘get asked’, and *kanai bao* ‘get brought’. The serial verb constructions *bae* or *kanai* + *V* in this local language bring about particular grammatical-semantic properties which need further analyses and discussion. This article, which is derived from a part of the results of a research entitled “Kemasan Makna Gramatikal dan Makna Sosial-Budaya Bahasa Minangkabau: Penyelidikan atas Tatamakna dan Fungsi Komunikatifnya”² discusses the grammatical-semantic properties of verbal predicates in verb-phrase *bae* or *kanai* + *V* in the form of serial verb construction. The main question as the basis of analysis and discussion presented in this paper is ‘what are the grammatical-semantic properties of clause constructions with the predicate in verb-phrase *bae* or *kanai* + *V* in Minangkabau?’ The analysis and discussion are to explore and to explain the grammatical-typological and semantic properties of the serial verb constructions in Minangkabau. The data and information presented in this paper were obtained through a library and linguistic field research conducted in 2016. The analysis and discussion on the data are based on relevant theories of linguistic typology, especially the grammatical typology dealing with grammatical constructions and active-passive voice.

Keywords: voice, active, passive, grammatical, semantic, verb-phrase, verbal clause

Abstrak

Leksikon *bae* dan *kanai* dalam bahasa Minangkabau dapat bergabung dengan verba lain untuk membentuk konstruksi verba beruntun, seperti: *bae lari* ‘berlari’, *bae makan* ‘memakan’, *kanai tanyo* ‘ditanya’, dan *kanai bao* ‘dibawa’. Konstruksi verba beruntun *bae* atau *kanai* + *V* dalam bahasa daerah ini mengandung sifat-perilaku gramatikal-semantic tertentu yang memerlukan kajian dan telaah lebih jauh. Artikel ini, yang diturunkan dari sebagian hasil penelitian yang berjudul “Kemasan Makna Gramatikal dan Makna Sosial-Budaya Bahasa Minangkabau: Penyelidikan atas Tatamakna dan Fungsi Komunikatifnya”, membahas sifat-perilaku gramatikal-semantic predikat verbal dalam bentuk frasa verbal *bae* atau *kanai* + *V* yang membentuk konstruksi verba beruntun. Pertanyaan utama sebagai dasar kajian telaah data adalah: apa sifat-perilaku gramatikal-semantic konstruksi klausa dengan predikat frasa verba *bae* atau *kanai* + *V* dalam bahasa Minangkabau? Kajian dan pembahasan yang disajikan pada artikel ini adalah untuk menyelidiki dan menjelaskan sifat-perilaku tipologi gramatikal dan semantic konstruksi verba beruntun dalam bahasa Minangkabau. Data dan informasi kebahasaan pada artikel ini diperoleh melalui kajian kepustakaan dan penelitian lapangan yang dilakukan pada tahun 2016. Analisis data dan pembahasan didasarkan pada teori tipologi linguistik yang sesuai, terutama teori tipologi gramatikal yang berkaitan dengan konstruksi gramatikal dan diatesis aktif-pasif.

Kata kunci: aktif, pasif, gramatikal, semantik, frasa verbal, klausa verbal

INTRODUCTION

To study the forms and function of language means to come to linguistics in particular fields and/or sub-fields which can be classified as micro and macro-linguistics. In micro-linguistics, grammar is a specific term which has several meanings. To linguists, however, grammar is something to be discovered, described, and explained, rather than something to be invented and enforced. It includes a good portion of the mental habit patterns and categories that allow people in a community to communicate with one another. Grammar is internal to the human mind, but allows the mind to “connect” to other minds that have similar grammatical patterns (see Payne, 2006, p. 7). The term grammar, in simple idea, refers to linguistic studies which can be classified into phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. In the studies on language typology, such as in agglutinative languages, the studies of grammar mostly deal with morphology and syntax (morphosyntax).

In the studies of morphological typology, typologists differentiate three canonical types of world languages: isolating, agglutinating, and inflecting (fusional), and one more additional type, polysynthetic (or incorporating). In an agglutinating (agglutinative) language, a word may consist of more than one morpheme, but the boundaries between morphemes in the word are always clear-cut. Moreover, a given morpheme has at least a reasonably invariant shape, so that the identification of morphemes in terms of their phonetic shape is also straightforward (see Comrie, 1989, p. 43). Most languages which belong to Malay language family are morphologically agglutinative language in various specific characteristics. Minangkabaunese, a local language originally spoken in the main land of West-Sumatra, can be morphologically assigned as an agglutinative language.

In agglutinative languages, the semantic-grammatical functions of affixes play important roles in clausal/sentential constructions. In this type of languages, the phenomena of *verb phrase* in the form of *serial verb* (or *verb serialization*) are not common. The cross-linguistic studies on the verb phrase in the form of serial verb constructions, however, are common in isolative languages, languages with no affixes, or in pidgins and creoles (see Durie in Alsina et al. (eds.), 1997, p. 289). In fact, however, the serial verb constructions are also found in some agglutinative languages of Malay families, such as in Minangkabaunese, although such grammatical properties are not dominant. That Minangkabaunese has serial verb constructions is typologically and grammatically interesting and challenging as the constructions are assumed to have unique and specific grammatical characteristics, because the grammatical constructions are not dominant in this local language. The linguistic data and information, dealing with the minority constructions, may give significant contributions to the studies on grammatical typology and semantics.

It is not highly debatable anymore that it is easy to agree that meaning is the heart of language. In fact, meaning is what language is for. In accordance with this, only the sequences of sounds or letters have a meaning they qualify as language; they are all in particular constructions which are simply called as grammatical constructions by human being “capsulate” or “package” the meaning (see Riemer, 2010, p. 3). Therefore, it is meaningful to study how the grammatical constructions bring about language meanings and other semantic-pragmatic properties communicated by speakers. The linguistic features and characteristics existing in various grammatical constructions are believed to bring particular meanings as the “heart” of language.

This paper, which is derived from a part of research conducted in 2016, typologically discusses the grammatical-semantic properties of verb phrase in the form of serial verb (verb serialization) constructions with *bae* ‘get’ and *kanai* ‘get’ in Minangkabaunese. The grammatical-semantic properties are brought by grammatical constructions in the form of clauses. In this article, the basic clause constructions are the basis for analysis. The following clause constructions may be used as the preliminary data to see the verb phrases which are assumed as the serial verb constructions which are relatively common and productive in Minangkabaunese.

- (1) *Dek wakatu masih lamo, kami bae lalok baliak.*
 due to time still long 1PL get sleep again
 ‘Due to longer time, we got sleeping again’
- (2) *Dari tadi, inyo bae ma-nangih taruih.*
 since just now 3SG get ACT-cry continuously
 ‘Since just know, she has been (getting) crying continuously’
- (3) *Sajak malam patang, ambo bae ma-nulih makalah ko capek-capek.*
 since night yesterday, 1SG get ACT-write paper this quickly
 ‘Since yesterday night, I have been (getting) writing this paper quickly’
- (4) *Cubo lah, waang pasti kanai tanyo dek polisi bisuak.*
 try PART 2SG sure get ask by policeman tomorrow
 ‘Let’s see, you will surely get asked by policeman tomorrow’
- (5) *Kok takah itu, Amin bisa kanai bao dek polisi malam ko.*
 if like that Amin can get bring by policemen night this
 ‘If it is so, Amin can get brought by policemen tonight’

In the examples above, there are verb phrases which can be assigned as the serial verb constructions with *bae* and *kanai*, namely: *bae lalok* ‘get sleeping’, *bae ma-nangih* ‘get crying’, *bae ma-nulih* ‘get writing’, *kanai tanyo* ‘get asked’ and *kanai bao* ‘get brought’. The serial verb constructions can be simply formulated as *bae / kanai + V*. The serial verb constructions with *bae* ‘get’ and *kanai* ‘get’ in the clausal (simple sentential) constructions are supposed to have specific grammatical-semantic properties in Minangkabaunese. The serial verbs need morphosyntactic and semantic analyses which include morphological, syntactical, and semantic categories collectively. Such grammatical properties may give specific typological information to the studies of grammatical typology based on the data and information of an agglutinative language, such as Minangkabaunese. The present paper focuses on the analyses of the grammatical-semantic properties of verb-phrase with *bae* ‘get’ and *kanai* ‘get’ as the serial verb construction. The main question for analysis and discussion is then *what are the grammatical-semantic properties of clause constructions with predicate in verb phrase bae or kanai + verb in Minangkabaunese?*

The existence of verb phrases in the form of serial verb constructions in agglutinative languages is unique and fascinating due to the fact that they are minority; most grammatical constructions in agglutinative languages involve the grammatical use of affixes. The need for typological, grammatical, and semantic analyses toward the serial verb construction in this local language is not only relevant to the study of its grammatical properties, but it is also essential to add data and grammatical information to the studies of grammatical typology in the interface

between syntax and semantics. It is assumed that the grammatical-semantic properties brought by such grammatical constructions are needed for further studies on minority constructions in one particular language.

BRIEF REVIEW OF RELEVANT THEORIES

It is highly believed that the language forms and grammatical features involved in all grammatical constructions of human languages have significant roles and communicative functions. The grammatical constructions conventionally bring and “capsulate” the grammatical-semantic meanings communicated to others. One of the most important tenets of Construction Grammar (see Lambrecht, 1996, pp. 33-34) is the belief that the distinction between “idiomaticity” and “regularity” (syntactic generativity, semantic compositionality) has been overemphasized in generative grammar and that an adequate linguistic theory must be able to account equally well for idiomatic as regular aspects of grammar. According to Construction Grammar, linguistic theory can bridge the gap between idiomaticity and regularity by recognizing it as the fundamental unit of grammar so called grammatical construction. The grammatical construction (Fillmore in Lambrecht, 1996) is any syntactical pattern which is assigned as one or more conventional functions in a language, together with whatever is linguistically conventionalized about its contribution to the meaning or the use of structure containing it.

In some literatures, the grammatical construction is also referred to as the sentence structure in which there is predication. Andrews (in Shopen (ed.), 2007, p. 135), among others, mentions that in the most usual type of situation, which usually implies various roles, there is a verbal element that designates in that situation. In English, for example, the verb ‘kill’ designates a type of situation with ‘killed’ and ‘killer’ roles. The element that defines the type of situation and the roles is simply called a predicate, meanwhile the noun phrase filling the roles is called arguments. Based on syntactical studies, a predicate need not be a single verb. Sometimes it is a complex predicate consisting of several verbs, or a verb plus a nominal or adverbial element. The serial verb construction is a part of complex predicates found in human languages.

As the “core” of a clause, a predicate is the center for grammatical processes and it has essential roles of grammatical meaning as well. In accordance with the predicate constructions, Ackerman and Webelhuth (1998, p. 1) clarify that it is commonplace of linguistic investigation that information packaged into a single word in one language is sometimes expressed by several independent words in another language. The phenomena of serial verb constructions and complex predicate are the “classic challenge” for linguistic theories: how linguists see the same among languages and also how the languages are different in the cases of specific predicate constructions.

The syntactic constructions in the level of clause (simple sentence) are the grammatical constructions in which meanings and other relevant communicative variables are linguistically capsulated. Among the others, the verbal clause with the predicate in the form of verb phrase and/or serial verb construction is the grammatical construction in one particular language. Therefore, the study on such constructions is linguistically essential in order to explore and to describe the grammatical and semantic properties of the grammatical construction. The result of analysis and discussion dealing with the grammatical-semantic properties of serial verb

constructions in Minangkabaunese are meaningful for both grammatical and communicative functions of language.

In addition to the species-specific quality of language, another basic notion about language might be highlighted that has become foundational for modern linguistics. In this viewpoint, there is a basic unity that underlies the awesome diversity of the world's languages. Whether it is Apache or Zulu or Hindi or Hebrew, there are certain core properties that languages have in common. These properties, often referred to as *language universals*, allow us to say that all languages are, in some sense, the same (Whaley, 1997, p. 4). Typology, or specifically linguistic typology, studies the shared and/or similar properties of human languages formally performed by grammatical constructions of particular languages.

As specifically stated by Whaley (1997, p. 7), typology, in the context of linguistics, is the classification of languages or components of languages based on shared formal characteristics. There are three significant propositions packed into this dense definition, namely: (i) typology utilizes cross-linguistic comparison; (ii) typology classifies languages or aspects of languages; and (iii) typology examines formal features of languages. It has been already known that the studies on language universal and language typology are basically derived from cross-linguistic studies; the data of analyses are obviously collected and compared from various types of languages in the world (see Whaley, 1997; Song, 2001; Finegan, 2004; Moravcsik, 2013). In accordance with this, the grammatical-typological studies on serial verb constructions focusing on the grammatical-semantic properties need cross-linguistic data and information based cross-linguistic studies.

The studies on grammatical-semantic properties of grammatical constructions can be executed by means of linguistic-typological analyses, including the study on verb phrase in the form of serial verb construction as the predicate in verbal clause. It is the typological study on particular grammatical construction of Minangkabaunese which may come to significant data and grammatical information to linguistic typology. The essence of this study may support one of the basic ideas of linguistic typology stating that the unity that underlies languages is better explained in terms of how languages are actually put to use. To be sure, languages are all employed for such purposes as asking questions, scolding bad behavior, amusing friends, making comparison, uttering facts, so on. Because languages exist to fulfill these types of functions, it stands to reason that speakers will develop grammars that are highly effective in carrying them out. Under the pressure of the same communicative tasks, languages evolve such that they exhibit grammatical similarities (see further Whaley, 1997).

Having examined the basic grammatical construction in the form of coordination construction, it is also necessary to pay serious attention to co-subordination. According to Whaley (1997, p. 274), co-subordination occurs when two units are combined and there is dependency between them but neither structure is embedded in the other. Because of these properties, co-subordinate structures cannot easily be considered coordination or sub-ordination. One of the most common examples of co-subordination is serial verb construction. Whaley (1997) simply says that a serial verb construction is composed of multiple finite verbs that are not conjoined. Let us see the following examples (adopted from Whaley, 1997, pp. 274-275).

- (6) *O' mu iwe wa* (data from Bamgbose, 1974)
 he took book came
 'He brought the book'

(7) *Olu tele Ayo lo oja* (data from Lawal, 1983)

Olu followed Ayo went market

‘Olu accompanied Ayo to the market’

(8) *Olu gun iyan je*

Olu pounded yam ate

‘Olu made and ate pounded yam’

In each of these serial verb constructions, it is as if the two clauses have been compressed rather than coordinated, which is typical of this kind of co-subordination. The serialization often puts restrictions on the distribution of certain verbal categories. One common pattern is that verbs in non-initial clause receive no person marking. In some languages, verbs in serial sentences must have the same tense and aspect throughout.

A verb phrase composed of two or more verbs functioning as the predicated of verbal clause may lead to be the serial verb construction. As a specific construction, serial verb construction has specific characteristics; it is not the same with verb phrase. A serial verb construction (see Payne, 2006, pp. 288-289) contains two or more verb roots that are neither compounded nor members of separate clauses. English, for instance, marginally employs serial verbs as in the following clause:

(9) *Run go get me a newspaper.*

Furthermore, Payne (2006) adds that in many other languages, serial verbs are much more common features of the grammar. Typically, verbs in a series will express various facets of one complex event. For example, the concept expressed by the English verb *bring* is divisible into at least two components, the picking up or taking of an object and the movement toward a deictic center. In many languages, such as in Yoruba (a Kwa language spoken primarily in Negeria), this complex concept is embodied in a serial verb construction (as in 7a) (the data were adopted from Bamgbose as quoted by Payne, 2006, p. 289).

(10a) *Mo mu iwe wa ile.*

I take book come house

‘I brought a book home’

(10b) *Mo mu iwe; mo si wa ile.*

I take book I and come house

‘I took a book and come home’

Example (7b) illustrates a pair of coordinate clauses that employ the same two verb roots as the serial construction in (7a). The formal factors that distinguish (7a) as a serial construction are the following:

- (i) There is no independent expression of the subject of the second verb;
- (ii) There is no independent tense/aspect marking of the second verb;
- (iii) The intonation is characteristic of a single clause.

Another more complex grammatical-semantic feature brought by serial verb construction in Yoruba is also described by Payne (2006). According to him, example (11) illustrates that in Yoruba serial verb construction, tense/aspect/mode information is carried by the first verb:

- (11) *Mo n mu iwe bo (*wa).*
 I PROG take book come.PROG come.PERF
 'I am bringing a book'

In example (11), the auxiliary that expresses progressive aspect occurs before the first verb. It is not repeated before the second verb. Nevertheless, the form of the verb meaning 'come' must be consistent with progressive aspect, *bo*, rather than perspective aspect *wa*.

Durie (in Alsina et al. (eds.), 1997, pp. 289-290) mentions that verb serialization (=serial verb as it is used in this paper) is widely found in languages of West African, Southeast Asia, including Chinese, New Guinea, Oceania, and some Central American Languages, as well as in many pidgins and creoles. The archetypal serial verb construction consists of a sequence of two or more verbs which in various (rather strong) senses, together act like a single verb. It is of course not to be expected that all cases that are called verb serialization must be regarded as the same phenomenon. The constructions called verb serialization occur with remarkably similar in languages of very different morpho-syntactic types, ranging from isolating, morphology-less SVO languages of Southeast Asia to strongly head-marking Papuan verb-final languages. The range of construction types and grammatical properties that these languages encompass is rather greater than has been appreciated in much of the theoretical literature on serial verbs, which has tended to take as representative patterns occurring in a few restricted areal contexts.

Furthermore, Durie (in Alsina et al. (eds.), 1997) adds that much of the work on syntactic properties of serialization (serial verb) has focused on whether it can be fitted into the mold of less disconcerting and more familiar structures, such as coordination or subordination of clauses. On this point, the jury has returned its verdict: a wide range of studies have shown that serialization cannot in general be explained away using coordinated or subordinated clause structures. One of the most challenging aspects of verb serialization for syntactic theory is the property of argument sharing. In this idea, the serial verb constructions contain grammatical-semantic properties as one unit of single verb; they are not separable in the matter of grammatical structure as two word verb constructions.

The following are examples of serial verb constructions in some languages in the world (adopted from Payne, 2002, pp. 309-310). Note that in some languages, the actual meaning of a serial verb construction as a whole can often be ambiguous out of context, as it is shown in Thai in (15). In the example, this out-of-context clause is ambiguous in the three ways illustrated. In discourse, only the pragmatics of the situation can disambiguate.

- (12) *mede aburow migu msum* (Akan)
 I:take corn I:flow water:in
 'I pour corn into the water'
- (13) *pi-a yi yaha pi-a kare fo Bamako e* (Supyire)
 they-PERF them leave they:SUB-PERF go till Bamako to
 'They let them go to Bamako'
- (14) *pa yi yaha kari for Bamako ni* (Minyanka)
 they:ASP them leave go till Bamako to
 'They sent them to Bamako'
- (15) *John khap rot chon khwaay taay* (Thai)
 John drive car collide buffalo die
 'John drove the car into a buffalo and it (buffalo) died'

‘John drove the car into a buffalo and it (car) stalled’

‘John drove the car into a buffalo and he (John) died’

In addition to grammatical (morphosyntactic) properties, the serial verb constructions may contain semantic and pragmatic-contextual properties (see various meanings in Thai). Semantically, serial-verb constructions often mean something slightly different than what the same series of verbs would mean if they were cast in separate clause. Other grammatical-semantic properties of serial verb constructions may carry aspectual meaning or voice categories. Those properties can be linguistically caused by the fact that the serial verb is in predicate, the core part of clause constructions. A clause (or basic-simple sentence) is also called predication which consists of one predicate and (its) arguments. Van Valin, Jr., and Lapolla (2002, p. 25) illustrate that basic construction of a clause is: *predicate + arguments + (non-arguments)* (see also van Valin, Jr., 2005). In grammatical studies, particularly in syntax, linguists argue that predicate is the core of a clause construction in which (lexical) verb is the nucleus (see also Jufrizal, 2015).

In relation to the facts that serial verb constructions mostly focus on the grammatical existence of predicate, serial verb constructions contain “rich” grammatical-semantic properties of human languages. Other important things dealing with the grammatical-semantic properties the serial verb constructions argued by Payne (2002, p. 310). According to him, serial verb constructions often semantically mean something slightly different than that what the same series of verbs would mean if they were cast in separate clauses. However, if the semantics has changed very much, it is possible that one of the verbs in the series has been reanalyzed as an auxiliary. In fact, it is believed that serial verbs are one major diachronic source for auxiliaries. In Lahu (see data (12) – (14) as in Payne, 2002, p. 310), some verb pairs are ambiguous, out of context, as to whether they are to be construed as a series of co-equal serial verbs, or as an auxiliary plus a main verb. Only the semantics reveal any difference whatsoever:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| (16) <i>le che</i> | a. ‘beg to be there’ (verb series) |
| beg be: there | b. ‘is begging’ (verb + auxiliary) |
| (17) <i>ga ki</i> | a. ‘is busy getting’ (verb series) |
| get be: busy | b. ‘must be busy’ (auxiliary + verb) |
| (18) <i>ta ia</i> | a. ‘easy to begin’ (verb series) |
| begin be:easy | b. begin to be easy’ (auxiliary + verb) |

Payne (2002, p. 311) notes as well that verbs of motion are very useful in serial verb constructions. They are often exploited to express tense, aspect, or modal values. As such, they are well on their way to becoming auxiliaries. For example, it is very common for the verb meaning ‘go’ to become a marker of future tense. This happened in English (*He is going to get mad*), Spanish, and many other languages. In some languages, such as Supriye, the construction type that gives rise to this use of the verb ‘go’ is a serial construction:

- (19) *Zan he si dufuge keege.*
rain go maize-DEF spoil
‘The rain will spoil the maize’

Then, in Tibetan (as reported by Stahlke, 1970 in Payne, 2002), motion verbs in a serial-like construction provide directional orientation for the action described by the other verb in the following:

- (20) *qho phoo (cec) ci perce*
 he-ABS escape NP went PERF-DISJUNCT
 ‘He escaped away’

Durie (in Alsina et al. (eds.), 1997, p. 322) mentions that there are three main characteristics (generalizations) of serial verb constructions. The three generalizations have important implications for the syntactic investigation of verb serialization:

- (i) Verb serialization is universally characterized by heavy lexicalization of particular verb combinations;
- (ii) This lexicalization exists alongside productivity of serialization, because many events can be typed in terms of certain predictable internal structures and structural components;
- (iii) The productivity of verb serialization is constrained in such a way that a large variety of syntactically well-formed verb combination will be rejected by native speakers as unacceptable /ungrammatical because they do not correspond to a recognizable event-type, either within the actual experience of speakers, or alternatively within the permitted patterns of verb serialization within a language.

Cross-linguistic data of serial verb constructions dealing with lexicalization and productivity have partially presented by Durie (see Alsina et al. (eds.), 1997, pp. 322-326). According to him, the lexicalization is found in both contiguous (as in Alambik, Vanimo) and non-contiguous (as in Kalam, Sranan, Yoruba) verb serialization. See the following examples.

- (21) a. *ag n* ‘ask’ (Kalam)
 make sound perceive
 b. *bro kiri* ‘extinguish’ (Sranan)
 blow kill
 c. *ri gba* ‘receive’ (Yoruba)
 see take
 d. *tu- fenah* ‘spear’ (Alambak)
 throw-arrive
 e. *hung ha* ‘he laughs’ (Vanimo)
 3SG-M:drink 3SM:go

Then, the productivity of serial verb constructions can be noted in two ways or channels through which the productivity is realized. First, many serializations include one verb that is very frequently used in serialization. Some verbs can be ‘fixed’ in either V1 or V2 position, with different in meanings, and in the constraints they impose on the verbs they can combine with. The second kind of pattern of productivity can be observed to a limited extent which differs quite considerably from English in the aspects of events that need to be mentioned. A complete account of grammaticality in serial verb constructions (verb serialization) will need to take into account language-specific constraints on verb sequencing, in fact.

Therefore, cross-linguistic studies on serial verb constructions reveal that there are various grammatical-semantic properties systematically possessed by different languages in such a way that they encode specific aspects of language meanings and communicative functions. In relation to the phenomena, the grammatical studies and typological analyses on the serial verb constructions supply significant data and information toward linguistic studies,

particularly those of grammatical-semantic features. This paper brings specific grammatical-semantic properties of verb phrase constructions in the form of *bae / kanai + verb* in Minangkabaunese as they are possibly stated as the serial verb constructions.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in the research, from which the data and discussion are derived, was a descriptive-qualitative one which aimed at exploring, describing, and explaining the grammatical-semantic properties of verb phrase in the form of *bae/kanai + V* as the serial verb construction in Minangkabaunese. The research was conducted in the forms of field-research, in fourteen main towns where the native speakers of Minangkabaunese live, in the main land of West Sumatra and supported by library study. The field research was operationally conducted in the forms of participant observation, depth interview with informants, and recording natural speech events as well. The library study was operationally conducted in the forms of documents analyses, selecting the relevant data, and note taking. The data are the grammatical clauses of Minangkabaunese which have verbal predicates as *bae* and *kanai* followed by another verb. Therefore, the predicates of clauses are in serial verb or in serial verb constructions.

The sources of data were the informants selected from the native speakers of Minangkabaunese and published materials written in Minangkabaunese. In the research, there were 280 respondents and twelve informants used as the source of spoken data. The sources of written data were local newspapers, previous research reports, books of local stories, and classical books written in Minangkabaunese. As a native speaker, the researcher was also the source of data, but the data were cross-checked to informants to have the validity and reliability of data. The instruments used in collecting the data were the researcher, questionnaire, field-note sheets, recording equipment, and writing equipment. The analyses of data were based on relevant theories of linguistic semantic and linguistic typology, especially the theories of grammatical typology. The results of analyses are argumentatively presented in formal and informal ways as commonly used in linguistics.

DATA DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Grammatical-Semantic Properties of Serial Verb Construction with *bae*

As it has been previously claimed by Jufrizal (2015), the clause constructions with the verbal predicates in the form of verb phrases *bae/kanai +V* can be assigned as the verb phrase constructions. In this study, the researchers found that such serial verb constructions are relatively common and productive in Minangkabaunese. It may furthermore be informed on this occasion that they are common and productive in spoken language and in informal situation. Therefore, verbal clauses with predicates in serial verb *bae* followed by another verb in Minangkabaunese (as in (1) – (3) above) are not relatively accepted and recommended to be used in formal situation, such as in (traditional) speech, written language, or in socio-cultural declarations. Further comments dealing with formality degree of the serial verb constructions are discussed at the end of the following part.

Let us see how the verb phrase predicates in the construction of *bae + verb* are reasonably treated as the serial verb constructions. Based on the available data, as (1) – (3) and see also (22) – (25) below, the first grammatical property dealing with verbal predicate *bae + verb* is that it can be assigned as serial verb construction since it fulfills the grammatical criteria

of serial verb cross-linguistically (see Durie in Alsina et al (eds.), (1997); Payne, (2002)). Lexicalization and productivity are the two main points of consideration to assign the verb phrase as serial verb constructions.

- (22) *Kok baitu, kito bae mam-baco sajarah tu sajak samulo.*
 if so 1PL get ACT-read history ART from beginning
 ‘If so, we will get reading the history from the beginning’
- (23) *Jadilah, waang bae sajo pai beko yo.*
 all right 2SG get only go later yes
 ‘All right, you just get going later on’
- (24) *Dek banyak masalah, inyo bae man-jua tanah pusako abih-abih.*
 due to many problems 3SG get ACT-sell land heritage all
 ‘Due to many problems, he has got selling all heritage land’
- (25) *Mandanga itu, kami bae ba- malam di rumah kapalo kampuang.*
 listening it PRO1PL get ERG sleep-night in house leader kampong
 ‘Listening to the case, we got sleeping in the leader kampong’ house’

The verb phrase *bae + verb* can be argued and universally characterized by heavy lexicalization of particular verb combinations. The verbal predicate construction *bae lalok* ‘get sleeping’, *bae ma-nangih* ‘get crying’, *bae ma-nulih* ‘get writing’, in (1) – (3), *bae mam-baco* ‘get reading’, *bae pai* ‘get going’, *bae man-jua* ‘get selling’, and *bae ba-malam* ‘get sleeping-night’, in (22) – (25), have heavy lexicalization; they cannot be separated into different predicates of two clauses. If verb *bae* ‘to throw’ becomes one verb as a predicate of one clause and other verbs following it becomes a predicate of other clause, the meanings will be different. It means that they have heavy lexicalization as the verb combination. Then, this lexicalization exists alongside productivity of serialization, because many events can be typed in terms of certain predictable internal structures and structural components. In addition, the productivity of verb serialization is constrained in such a way that a large variety of syntactically well-formed verb combination will be rejected by native speakers as unacceptable (or ungrammatical) because they do not correspond to a recognizable event-type, either within the actual experience of speakers, or alternatively within the permitted patterns of verb serialization within a language.

The second grammatical property that can be argued to assign the construction *bae + verb* as the serial verb is that the verbs following *bae* may be categorized into the semantic-properties of verb as intransitive or transitive. The intransitive categories are available in (1), (2), (23), and (25) and the transitive ones are found in (3), (22) and (24). The construction *bae + verb* should be understood as a “single verb” because it cannot be inserted by a noun phrase as an object argument; there is no object-patient if the verbs following *bae* are intransitive, and object-patient must be in post verbal position if the verbs following *bae* are transitive ones. Such grammatical characteristics indicate that both *bae* and the verb that follows it are verb; it is a verb phrase as *verb + verb* with specific-grammatical density and properties “packaging” the cross-linguistic features of serial verb constructions. The construction *bae + verb* functions as one unit of verbal predicate in the given clause constructions.

In relation to these grammatical properties, the following constructions are not grammatical if there is NP inserted between *bae* and the second verb in transitive constructions

or inserted by adverbs in intransitive constructions, to mean the same meaning or to have two-word verb constructions. It proves that the verb phrase *bae + verb* is the serial verb construction in Minangkabaunese and it should be understood as a unit of verb.

- (22a) **Kok baitu, kito bae urang tu mam-baco sajarah tu sajak samulo.*
 if so 1PL get man ART (NP) ACT-read history ART from beginning
 ‘If so, we will get reading the history from the beginning’
- (23a) **Jadilah, waang bae sagiro sajo pai beko yo.*
 alright 2SG get quickly (Adv) only go later yes
 ‘Alright, you just get going later on’
- (24a) **Dek banyak masalah, inyo bae abak man-jua tanah pusako abih-abih.*
 due to many problems 3SG get father (NP) ACT-sell land heritage all
 ‘Due to many problems, he has got selling all heritage land’
- (25a) **Mandanga itu, kami bae anak-anak ba- malam*
 listening it PRO1PL get children (NP)ERG sleep-night
di rumah kapalo kampuang.
 in house leader kampong
 ‘Listening to the case, we got sleeping in the leader kampong house’

The third grammatical property indicating that *bae + verb* a serial verb is that the verb following *bae* may use morphological markers (verbal affixes) or not. This is one characteristic of verb forms in Minangkabaunese depending on the semantic contents of the verb. In other words, it can be stated that the presence of morphological marker depends on the semantic properties of the verb in the clause construction, such as transitivity, voice, and communicative function as well. The verb following *bae* must be a verb that can be morphologically marked by verbal prefixes or depending on the grammatical characteristics of each verb. The examples (22) – (25) show the grammatical characteristics that can be seen as the predicative constructions. Such grammatical-semantic features are possible and common in Minangkabaunese because verbs in this local language may appear with or without morphological markers in verbal constructions (see also the same claims in Jufrizal, 2012).

The grammatical behaviors dealing with the serial verb *bae + verb* bring about semantic properties, as well. As it has been mentioned above, the semantic properties are the language meanings conveyed by the grammatical-formal constructions. Therefore, the grammatical constructions in one particular language, such as the clauses with serial verb constructions are the “package” of language meanings communicated. The semantic properties and grammatical meanings brought by verbal clauses with the predicate in the form of serial verbs in agglutinative languages, as in Minangkabaunese, may have significant information for linguistic studies.

The relevant data in the form of clause constructions and other communicative information gained in the research tell that there are, at least, three semantic properties that can be revealed concerning with the serial verb constructions. Firstly, the serial verb construction *bae + verb* “pack” the meaning of active voice; the clauses with the serial verb predicate are the active ones. The semantic aspects of volition and aspectuality of progress and perfectness are naturally involved in such constructions as well. The subject-agent does the action as it is described by the verb, volitionality, and aspectuality can be interpreted based on semantic cues

and pragmatic functions in particular communicative events. Such semantic properties are also the cross-linguistic characteristics of serial verb constructions found in many languages. Thus, the following clauses, as the addition to (22) – (25), are semantically understood as the active voice.

- (26) *Sajak itu, inyo bae ba- raja siang malam.*
 since that PRO3SG get ACT-learn day night
 ‘Since that time, He gets learning day and night’
- (27) *Dek ari ujan, kito bae ma- minum aia sipadeh malam ko.*
 due to day rain PRO1PL get ACT-drink water ginger night this
 ‘Due to raining, we get drinking ginger-water to night’

Furthermore, the semantic aspect of active voice brought by the grammatical constructions with the predicate *bae + verb* can be categorized as the lexical-active type. It is grammatically constructed in different ways compared with the morpho-syntactic active voice as the common one in agglutinative languages. The lexicon *bae* brings the semantic-grammatical meaning which equals to that brought by active prefix *ma-* in Minangkabaunese. In many languages, it is also common to have such semantic properties of serial verb constructions. In this case, it can be claimed that the serial verb constructions contain aspectuality to the volitional aspect of active voice in the clause. Such semantic contents are parts of the grammatical-semantic specification of serial verbs in Minangkabaunese as an agglutinative language.

The second semantic property brought by the serial verb construction *bae + verb* is that the active meaning and transitivity of verbal predicate in the clause become “weak”; the volition of active voice and transitivity of verb in such construction are semantically “weaker” than those of morpho-syntactic activation and original form of transitivity. The clause constructions with this type of verbal predicate convey active and transitive properties in lower level compared with those constructed in morphosyntactic verbal constructions. Such semantic property implies that *bae* as the first verb in the serial verb constructions carries light stylistic meaning as well.

This semantic property can be further proved by having comparison with the active voice morphologically marked by active prefixes. It means that the degree of volitionality (volition) of the active voice with the predicate in serial verb construction *bae + verb* is not as high as that conveyed by the transitive constructions morphologically marked by prefix *ma-* as the active marker. Thus, the degree of transitivity in transitive constructions with the predicate *bae + verb* is weaker than it is in non-serial verb constructions of transitive clauses. Thus, the clause (28a) and (29a) have higher level of active-voice and transitivity of its verb than in (28b) and (29b).

- (28a) *Untuak saminggu ko, kito mam-buek paga sajo dulu.*
 for one-week this PRO1PL ACT-make fence only first
 ‘For this week, we will only make the fence firstly’
- (28b) *Untuak saminggu ko, kito bae mam-buek paga sajo dulu.*
 for one-week this PRO1PL get ACT-make fence only first
 ‘For this week, we will only get making the fence firstly’
- (29a) *Jadi, kau ma- makai baju kuruang itam sahari ko.*
 so PRO2SG-woman ACT use long-dress black one day this
 ‘So, you wear the black long-dress all day’

- (29b) *Jadi, kau ma- makai baju kuruang hitam sahari ko.*
 so PRO2SG-woman ACT use long-dress black one day this
 ‘So, you wear the black long-dress all day’

The third semantic property “packaged” by the serial verb constructions is that the communicative meanings brought by the constructions are less formal; the meanings tend to come to pragmatic-emotional style. The examples presented dealing with the clauses with serial verb predicates *bae + verb* are the clause constructions which have communicative meanings in less formal degree. As the result, the constructions are not commonly used in formal uses. This is the fact that the serial verb constructions in Minangkabaunese are sensitive to pragmatic functions in addition to semantic ones. As it has been argued by linguists, many languages may include the semantic-pragmatic or other communicative properties into the serial verb constructions they naturally have. Cross-linguistically, such phenomena are common in world languages.

In accordance with the aspect of formality, in which the clause construction with a predicate in the form serial verb is less formal, it is the proof to say that pragmatic and communicative functions are also involved in grammatical construction. The typological studies on serial verb construction reveal that in many languages, one formal characteristic of prototypical of this construction is that when a constituent of the second verb is clefted for pragmatic purposes, it moves to the front of the entire serial construction (see Payne, 2002). In Minangkabaunese, the pragmatic purposes reflected as the less formal degree of communicative function. Other pragmatic functions and properties of serial verb constructions as the marked constructions in this local language can be further explored. This article, however, does not particularly concern with those points on this occasion.

In case of less formal sense, the serial verb constructions in Minangkabaunese formulated as *bae + verb* constitute three main points as the “extract” of grammatical-semantic analysis argued in this article. The first one, it is reasonably to assign that the construction is the form of serial verb construction as the verb phrase has high lexical-grammaticalization as a unit. Although this claim sounds grammatical than semantic, but the semantic properties are systematically involved inside. It is impossible to state the degree of formality as less formal without considering the semantic features. It proves, in fact, that grammatical-formal constructions on human languages are not in isolation to the semantic values. In other side, the grammatical constructions are the “box” packaging the meanings of language.

Secondly, the less formal sense brought by the serial verb *bae + verb* in this local language systematically accommodates the grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic features. The facts lead the users of language to use grammatical constructions possibly created in their language in appropriate context as they appear in communicative events. It does not mean, however, that context is everything in verbal communication. Semantic and pragmatic contents of language are capsulated in language forms as conventionally created and developed by its speakers. Less formal may imply also that the pragmatic factors cannot be separated from language forms.

Thirdly, the linguists’ claim stating that serial verb constructions found in world languages bring about particular systematic interaction between grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic layers of language is acceptable. The native speakers of Minangkabaunese, in fact, know that the serial verb constructions are frequently used; the clause constructions with the

predicate in serial verb constructions are productive. In addition, they know that such constructions are not relatively allowed to use in formal situation. The clause constructions are naturally used in less formal situation and it may be used as the stylistic uses of language.

Grammatical-Semantic Properties of Serial Verb Construction with *kanai*

In addition to *bae + verb*, another verb phrase which can be assigned as serial verb constructions are formulated as *kanai + verb*. In general, the formal characteristics of this verb phrase are similar to the first one. Therefore, it can be simply argued that such type of verb phrase is a serial verb construction. To have typological description on grammatical-semantic properties of verb phrase in the form of serial verb constructions with *kanai + verb*, let us firstly pay serious attention to the following clause constructions, (30) – (34), as the addition to (4) and (5) above.

- (30) *Caliak lah, paja tu kanai tangkok dek polisi beko mah.*
 see PART boy ART get arrest by policeman later PART
 ‘Let’s see, the boy will get arrested by policeman later’
- (31) *Kok tangka, inyo bisa kanai ampok dek urang kampung.*
 if naughty 3SG can get hit by people village
 ‘If (he is) naughty, he can get hit by villagers’
- (32) *Kalau indak cadiak, kami alah kanai jua mah.*
 if not clever, 1PL already get sell PART
 ‘If (we are) not clever, we have already got sold’
- (33) *Tantu, urang maliang tu kanai tinju sajadi-jadinyo.*
 of course, thief ART get box rudely
 ‘Of course, the thief got boxed rudely’
- (34) *Iyo, rang gaek-nyo kanai rampok patang.*
 yes parents- POS3SG get rob yesterday
 ‘Yes, his parents got robbed yesterday’

In line with the serial verb constructions *bae + verb* and based on the data as presented above, there are also particular characteristics of grammatical and semantic properties of the serial verb constructions in the form of *kanai + verb* in Minangkabaunese. However, the two forms of serial verb constructions are not really the same, both in grammatical and semantic properties. The grammatical and semantic properties possessed by the serial verb constructions *kanai + verb* are the logical-natural consequences of different verbs and grammatical constructions used. Linguistically, it is meaningful to see further how the second construction of serial verb differs from the first one as it has been discussed previously. The analyses and discussion are based on the relevant theories of grammatical typology and linguistic semantics.

Based on the data obtained, the first grammatical property of this type of serial verb constructions is that the first verb, *kanai*, must be followed by another verb without active or passive voice markers (in Minangkabaunese, the prefix *ma-* for active voice marker and prefixes *di-*, *ta-*, and *ba-* for passive voice markers). In other words, the verb *kanai* must be followed by verb without affixes (verb in base form). If *kanai* is followed by a verb with an active marker (*ma-*) or passive ones (*di-*, *ta-*, or *ba-*), the constructions are not grammatical. Thus, there are no serial verb constructions in Minangkabaunese such as the following:

- **kanai ma-nangkok*;
- **kanai ma-ampok*;
- **kanai man-jua*;
- **kanai ma-ninju*;
- **kanai ma-rampok*; or
- **kanai di-tangkok*;
- **kanai di-ampok*;
- **kanai di-jua*;
- **kanai di-tinju*,
- **kanai di-ampok*

Therefore, the following clause constructions are not grammatical, then.

(30a) **Caliak lah, paja tu kanai ma-nangkok dek polisi beko mah.*

ACT

(30b) **Caliak lah, paja tu kanai di-tangkok dek polisi beko mah.*

PAS

(30c) **Caliak lah, paja tu kanai ta-tangkok dek polisi beko mah.*

PAS

(30d) **Caliak lah, paja tu kanai ba-tangkok dek polisi beko mah.*

PAS

This first grammatical property implies that it is not relevant to assign the verbal clause with serial verb construction *kanai + verb* as a transitive or intransitive, or as an active or passive one. The absence of verbal-morphological markers in the second verbal following verb *kanai* may lead us to state that this is a kind of middle-voice construction in Minangkabaunese. Another grammatical possibility to state is that such construction can be determined as an ergative-absolutive construction. To determine this verbal construction as a kind or middle-voice one is not strongly reasonable because the action expressed by the verbal predicate in the form of serial verb construction does not fall into the grammatical subject as an agent. Moreover, each argument agent in this type of clause (see (30) – (34)) is grammatically marked as oblique argument (preceded by preposition *dek* ‘by’) or it is possibly deleted. It means that the argument agent in this construction is not the core argument in fact.

The first grammatical properties of this type of serial verb prove as well that the phenomena of serial verb constructions in many languages involve the grammatical categories and semantic roles. The serial verb constructions may relate to the grammatical and semantic aspects in systematic ways in the forms human languages. In some languages, the semantic and pragmatic functions may influence the construction as it is communicatively used in daily life communication. In Minangkabaunese, it is also on the right line to say that the verbal clause with serial verb *kanai + verb* tends to be influenced by pragmatic features. The semantic and pragmatic properties related to this construction will be presented below.

The second grammatical property that can be determined dealing with serial verb *kanai + verb* is that the second verb after *kanai* in the construction cannot be an intransitive verb. The verb after *kanai* in this type of serial verb constructions must be transitive verb in base form (without affixes). Therefore, the serial verb constructions such as **kanai pai* ‘get gone’, **kanai lalok* ‘get slept’, **kanai duduak* ‘get sit’, **kanai galak* ‘get laughed’ and other similar ones are

not grammatical. This case implies that the serial verb constructions, as *bae + kanai* in Minangkabaunese, need semantic features for better description and explanation, then.

As the continuation to the grammatical properties, let us see the semantic properties of the serial verb construction *kanai + verb* in this local language. In relation to grammatical-formal properties, the first semantic property brought by the clause with verbal predicates in the form of serial verb *kanai + verb* is the passive-voice. Comparative analysis toward such verbal clauses may come to an idea that it equals to *GET PASSIVE* in English. In relation to typological, grammatical, and semantic behaviors of the verbal clauses, it may be argued that there are three main reasons (or three main characteristics) to assign that such clause constructions are passives, namely:

- (i) The second verb, after verb *kanai*, must be transitive verb even though it must appear without active or passive morphological markers. The intransitive verbs cannot be placed after the first verb;
- (ii) The second verb, or the serial verb construction as a whole, does not need any argument object-patient; it is a kind of derived intransitive clauses; and
- (iii) The argument agent of the clause is grammatically marked as an oblique relation, a prepositional noun phrase marked by preposition *dek* ‘by’.

The reasons and/or grammatical-semantic characteristics possessed by the serial verb construction *kanai + verb* are the main indicators of universal passive constructions as cross-linguistically found in nominative-accusative languages. Thus, it is highly reasonable to state that the verbal clauses with the predicate in the form of serial verb *kanai + verb* are the passive ones. This claim provides new points to be added to the previous findings dealing with passives and passivization in Minangkabaunese.

Firstly, there is one more passive type in Minangkabaunese, passivization by means of lexical markers, which can be called as lexical passivization, in addition to morphosyntactic passivization. It seems that the first verb *kanai* functions as passive marker for the second verb. The grammatical-semantic criteria of cross-linguistic passives (see for instance Tallerman, 2005) are fulfilled by the examples (4) - (5), (30) – (34) above. According to Tallerman (2005, p. 190), there are four operations which go to characteristic of universal passives:

- (i) Applying to a transitive clause (the active clause) and to form an intransitive clause (the derived intransitive clause);
- (ii) Object promoted to (grammatical) subject;
- (iii) Former subject demoted to oblique argument, or is deleted; and
- (iv) Changes occur in the morphology (=form) of the verb to signal passivization.

The data (30), for example, are grammatically derived from the active voice (35) below.

(35) *Caliak lah, polisi ma- nangkok paja tu beko mah.*

see PART policemen ACT-arrest child ART later PART

‘Let’s see, the policemen will arrest the child later’

In the active voice (35), *polisi* ‘policemen’ is both the grammatical subject and agent with the verbal predicate *ma-nangkok* ‘to arrest’, and *paja tu* ‘the child’ as the object/patient. Through the grammatical process of passivization, the argument object/patient is promoted to grammatical subject by using serial verb construction *kanai tangkok* ‘get arrested’ as the verbal predicate in (35). This grammatical process is the common in universal passivization. The same grammatical explanation may be addressed to data (31).

In (32), the argument agent is not explicitly mentioned and this is common in passive constructions. It is supposed that the basic clause construction is grammatically derived from the active-voice in (36) below.

- (36) *Kalau indak cadiak, (urang lain/seseorang) alah man-jua kami mah.*
 if not clever, (other people/someone) already ACT-sell PRO1PL PART
 ‘If (we are) not clever, (someone) has already sold us’

The agent of passive construction in (32) is grammatically deleted, but semantically the agent can be understood by listener(s) or reader(s) as ‘someone’ or ‘other people’. These grammatical-semantic properties are common in passive voice.

Secondly, the so called lexical passives in Minangkabaunese have semantic-pragmatic senses involved in grammatical constructions. The semantic-pragmatic interfaces in the clause constructions bring about stylistic rather than grammatical meaning. As the result, the verbal clauses with predicate *kanai + verb* are less formal. The constructions are productive and frequently used in informal situation and in daily life communication. Thus, Minangkabaunese has stylistic constructions for passives in addition to formal ones.

The passive voice brought by serial verb construction *kanai + verb* in Minangkabaunese needs grammatical-semantic analyses and comparison with universal passives. It is reasonable to assign that the passive voice formally constructed by means of the serial verb is a type of non-basic passives; it may be categorized as the lexical-semantic passive as opposed to basic passives. Basic passives, as mentioned by Keenan and Dryer (in Shopen (ed.), 2007, pp. 328-329) basic passive is used based on the justification to such type of passives are most widespread across the world’s languages. Basic passives are characterized by: (i) no agent phrase (in most constructions) is present; (ii) the main verb in its non-passive form is transitive; and (iii) the main verb expresses an action, taking agent subjects and patient objects in its non-passive form.

Looking back to the characteristic of the non-passive forms of the passives with a predicate in serial verb *kanai + verb*, the criteria of basic passives argued by Keenan and Dryer can be formally fulfilled. However, the grammatical processes which involve in passivization commonly occur in agglutinative languages do not involve. It has been proved and claimed that morpho-syntactic passivization is the basic form of passives in Minangkabaunese. Therefore, the following passives are regarded as the basic passives instead of (30) – (34).

- (37) *Caliak lah, paja tu di- tangkok (dek) polisi beko mah.*
 see PART boy ART PAS arrest by policeman later PART
 ‘Let’s see, the boy will be arrested by policeman later’
- (38) *Kok tangka, inyo bisa di- ampok dek urang kampuang.*
 if naughty 3SG can PAS hit by people village
 ‘If (he is) naughty, he can be hit by villagers’
- (39) *Kalau indak cadiak, kami alah ta- jua mah.*
 if not clever 1PL already PAS sell PART
 ‘If (we are) not clever, we have already been sold’
- (40) *Tantu, urang maliang tu di- tinju sajadi-jadinyo.*
 of course thief ART PAS box rudely
 ‘Of course, the thief has been boxed rudely’

- (41) *Iyo, rang gaek-nyo di- rampok patang.*
 yes parents- POS3SG PAS rob yesterday
 ‘Yes, his parents were robbed yesterday’

Based on the grammatical-semantic properties of verbal clause construction with serial verb *kanai + verb*, it can be also claimed that the first verb *kanai* is the lexical passivization in Minangkabaunese, in addition to morphological passivization marked by *di-*, *ta-*, and *ba-* in Minangkabaunese. In accordance with this, Minangkabaunese has passivization by means of lexicon, namely *kanai* ‘get’. In this case, the first verb *kanai* in serial verb of Minangkabaunese functions as a passive marker. Cross-linguistic studies on serial verb constructions tell that the serial verb constructions behave in various grammatical-semantic properties.

Similar to semantic properties of serial verb construction *bae + verb*, the second semantic property of serial verb (verb-phrase) construction *kanai + verb* are: (i) the communicative meanings brought by the constructions are less formal; and (ii) the meanings tend to come to pragmatic-emotional ones rather than formal-ideal ones. These two semantic properties are similar to those of serial verb construction *bae + verb* in this local language. In accordance with this, the passive voice construction with predicate *kanai + verb* is not commonly used in formal situation. However, this construction is productive and often used in daily life communication, particularly in casual speech and in intimacy speech events.

That Minangkabaunese has stylistic construction in passives is a new invention through this research because the point has not been studied in detail yet. The stylistic construction is grammatically acceptable, but the senses of meaning are less formal. The speakers should be in high communicative comprehension and cultural awareness in order to use the stylistic constructions. In many literatures, almost all languages have stylistic constructions in addition to grammatical-formal ones. In English, for instance, the medio-passive constructions are regarded as the stylistic constructions rather than the grammatical ones (see among the others Hundt, 2007). In English, the medio-passive constructions are grammatically constructed in active voice but they should be semantically understood as passives. The medio-passives in English, however, are possibly used both in formal and informal situation.

The grammatical-semantic properties of serial verb in verbal-clause constructions, the uncommon grammatical constructions in Minangkabaunese as an agglutinative language, supply meaningful data and information to the grammatical-semantic studies of grammatical constructions of human languages. The grammatical constructions with predicate in the form of serial verb, such as *bae / kanai + verb* in Minangkabaunese relates to voice system, active – passive dichotomy. In addition, the analyses relate to grammatical typology of languages as well.

CONCLUSION

The term verb-phrase simply refers to any construction consisting of two or more verbs as “one unit”. More specifically, serial verb construction may be similar to verb-phrase but it is in specific-predicative criteria of a clause. In this sense, verb-phrases in the form of *bae + verb* and *kanai + verb* are grammatically reasonable to assign as a serial verb construction. The verbal constructions with the predicate formulated as *bae / kanai + verb* have grammatical-semantic characteristics of universal serial verb constructions. The clause constructions with predicates in such serial verbs are relatively productive in Minangkabaunese, but they are less

formal; they are particularly used in casual speech and informal-emotional style. It seems that the serial verb constructions with *bae / kanai + verb* in the local language contain pragmatic-psychological meanings in addition to grammatical meaning, in nature.

Grammatical typological analysis on the clause constructions with predicates in serial verb with *bae + verb* tells that the constructions are in active voice. Further typological analyses on the clause constructions with serial verb *kanai + transitive/intransitive verb* may imply that they are antipassive constructions as well. However, the antipassive phenomena in such constructions are not the topics of discussion in this paper. Meanwhile, clause constructions with the predicates in serial verb *kanai + verb* can be assigned as the grammatical constructions of passive-voice. In addition, the clause constructions with predicate *kanai + verb* imply also the ergative-absolutive constructions, the passive like constructions; the phenomena of ergative-absolutive constructions are not discussed in this paper. It is assumed that, in addition to grammatical typology, the linguistic phenomena of serial verb constructions in agglutinative languages, such those in Minangkabau, other relevant discussion in the levels of semantics, pragmatics, and discourse analysis may be addressed to the grammatical constructions. It should be noted down that semantic and pragmatic aspects are systematically interfaced in the constructions. Therefore, further analyses on serial verb construction in Minangkabau are highly needed, because there are still a lot of grammatical, semantic, pragmatic, and discourse features which need further analyses and discussion for better linguistic data and information.

NOTE

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