

## SYNTAXES OF NIAS LANGUAGE IN PERSPECTIVE

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### ABSTRACT

This writing is about “Syntaxes of Nias Language in Perspective”, that describes the varieties and the forms of syntaxes of Nias language of, how it is formed and its system formulated as basic cases, to be analyzed. In the case of solving the problems, the writer used the theory of P.H. Mathew, related to the topic being discussed in relation to the system. The method used in this scientific writing is descriptive qualitative method, which describes and gives description of syntaxes, used in Nias language. This findings indicate that, the syntaxes of Nias language can be described in the forms of words, patterns and become sentences in Nias language.

**KEYWORDS :** Syntax, Form, Pattern

### INRODUCTION

Every language in the world has different patterns and the use of the language, depends on the use of the language in societies. The patterns of Indonesian language, English and other languages have different forms, as the patterns of Nias language as well. The improvement of Regional language, such as Nias language is not only to keep up the existence of the language itself, but to give the function for the developer and users of Indonesian language regarding, as a national language that may not be separated from one with another because, both of them have a very close relation. Nias language is a language, spoken by Nias people, who live in Nias island, located in West Sumatra. The language has been spoken for many years and has become a property, and a part of culture of Nias people, including Indonesian culture, as stated in Indonesian constitution 45, Chapter XV:p.36 about the function and position as Regional Language, in Indonesia (Maksum, 2000: 43) Nias island is a regency, headed by Bupati (a leader of regency), which consists of 13 subdistricts. The people who live in this island is Nias people, who speak regional language called ‘Nias Language’, as the first language in daily life, such as the language used in wedding ceremony, schools, social tradition, shopping, etc. While, Indonesian language used in Nias island, is used as national language by educated and intellectual societies because, not many of them living in rural areas can speak Indonesian. So, the people there know and speak two languages. As a matter of fact, since the improvement of technology in today’s time, the standard of living in Nias becomes increased, especially the language and tourism, as well. There are so many tourists coming there, such as from England, Australia, Scotland, Netherlands, etc. In terms of developing and using Nias language, the language is also used as social communication in many aspects, such as in agriculture and education, and the language therefore, should be developed by conducting research, so as to enrich vocabulary as social communication, especially in case of syntaxes, in order that, the language can be improved further.

Nias language has a structure of its own and its syntaxes, which is as same as other languages, in the world. The research on Nias language had been conducted by Prof. Ahmad Samin Siregar and others, and in their research, they stated

that, Nias language has some dialects and the dialects of the language is much different, from one with another in the areas being settled, such as:

- The dialect used in North area of Nias island ranged, in the subdistrict of Alasa and Lahewa.
- The dialect used in Gunung Sitoli, ranged in the subdistrict of Gunung Sitoli.
- The dialect used in central area, ranged in the subdistrict of L6l6wa'u, Gomo, Lahusa, Idan 6 Gawo and Gido.
- The dialect used in West Nias, ranged in the subdistrict of Sirombu and Mandrehe.
- The dialect used in South Nias, ranged in the district of Teluk Dalam and Pulau-pulau Batu.

The common dialect that is mostly recognized and spoken by Nias people, is the dialect of Nias language used in Gunung Sitoli. Historically, this dialect has a very long story, if it is studied chronologically, from the beginning up to the end since, the people began to settle in Nias island. Since, the arrival of Christian Missionaries from West Germany, to share and spread the christian belief. The dialect of Nias language was learned by them, so as to make them easy spread and teach the Christian religion and then, they wrote contents of the Bible. Some examples show, how to use the dialect of Nias language, in region of Gunung Sitoli, such as:

- The people in Gunung Sitoli says "Heza mo'6"?(Where are you going ?)
- The people in Teluk Dalam say "Haega g6 moi'6"?(=Where are you going?)
- The people in North Region of Nias say "Heza moi'we"?(=Where are you going?)
- The people in West Nias say "Heza lumal6"?(=Where are you going?)

In fact, syntax is one of the most important things, to be discussed in case of building up language, beside regarding as a prominent and interesting topic in the forms of constructing sentences, based on the specific forms and patterns of the language. Therefore, the syntaxes research, especially in Nias Language is very useful to be conducted. The Topic of this scientific writing is "SYNTAXES OF NIAS LANGUAGE IN PERSPECTIVE". This scientific writing is categorized as a research, which had ever been conducted by Prof.Dr.Mangasa Silitonga, 1978 with different topic "Struktur Bahasa Nias"(=Structure of Nias Language) and simultaneously continued by Prof.Drs.Ahmad Samin Siregar,et,al ", Morfologi dan Sintaksis Bahasa Nias, 1981(=Morphology and Syntax of Nias Language,1981).

Beside, T.Halawa, 1983 also elaborated the forms of Syntactical characteristics and the syntax of Nias language, in "Kamus Bahasa Nias"(=Nias language Dictionary), written by B. Wohada Mendrofa, 1983-1984, which is used to improve vocabulary of Nias language.

## PROBLEMS OF RESEARCH

### Problems

This scientific writing tries to describe 'syntaxes of Nias language 'specifically, based on the systems and patterns related to the syntactical analysis. The problems of research are formulated as:

- How are the syntaxes of Nias language formed ?
- How are the patterns of sentences in Nias language described?

- What are the kinds of syntaxes in Nias language described?

### **The Aims of Research**

The aim of research is also, one of the most important aspects to know that, may describe what research means about. These followings will indicate

- To describe the syntaxes of Nias language
- To describe the patterns of sentences in Nias language
- To describe the kinds of syntaxes of Nias language

### **The Significance of Research**

- To enrich the knowledge of syntaxes found in Nias language.
- To be a reference of Regional language in a research of syntaxes concerns with syntaxes of Nias language and its forms.
- It can be used by others, as an important consideration of using and improving Nias language, as one of Regional languages in Indonesia.

### **Basic Theory**

The theory used in this research is based on the theory of P.H. Mathews. This theory is relevant to the research being conducted, in relation to the system of analyzing sentences. Referring to this theory, the writer also used qualitative method, so as to describe the main problems being discussed.

## **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Based on the research conducted, related to syntaxes of Nias language in perspective, the syntaxes of Nias language can be formed in the systems of making sentences, such as in the forms of declarative, negation, interrogative, etc.

### **Declarative Sentences**

Declarative sentences are found and are always used by Nias people, to speak when they are speaking in daily life, for example:

- Udin mow6li asio ba fasa.(=Udin buys salt at the market.)
- Rahmat fagai gi'a ba nasi.(Rahamat fishes the fish at the sea.)
- Rini mondrino faxe ba nawu.(=Rini cooks rice at the kitchen.)
- Ani molowi ndr'u ba laza.(=Ani cuts grass at the wet rice field.)
- Ahmad mombaso sura iada'a.(=Ahmad is reading letter now.)

### Negation

Negative sentences are also spoken and used by Nias people when they are speaking in daily life so as to say 'l6' (=not). When the user of language says 'Not' (=l6), it means that the speaker rejects something that he wants. Examples

- Udin l6mow6li asio ba fasa. (=Udin does not buy salt at the market.)
- Rahmat l6fagai gi'a ba nasi. (=Rahmat does not fish the fish at the sea.)
- Rini l6 mondrino faxe baa nawu. (=Rini does not cook rice at the kitchen.)
- Ani l6molowi ndr'u ba laza. (=Ani does not cut grass at the wet rice field.)
- Ahmad l6 mombaso sura iada'a. (=Ahmad is not reading letter now.)

### Interrogative

Interrogative sentences are also used and spoken by Nias people when they are asking questions to other people to whom they are speaking in daily life, and the interrogative question is usually formed by using the words "l6", "noa", "hadia", "hadial6", "hadianoa", "heza" that are preceded by verbs, adjectives, nouns. For examples :

- L6mow6li asio Udin ba fasa? (=Does Udin buy salt at the market?)
- L6fagai Rahmat ba nasi? (=Does Rahmat fish the fish at the sea?)
- Noa manga ndraug6? (=Have you taken your meal?)
- Hadia noa'6'6li bukugu? (=Have you bought my book?)
- Hadia fakara ia kh6gu? (=Does he get angry with me?)
- Hadia duria? (=What is the news?)
- Hadia fao d6d6u ma l6'6? (=Do you agree or not?)
- Hadia fao d6d6u? (=Do you agree?)
- Hadia baga ma l6'6? (=Is it beautiful or not?)
- Hadia noa manura ia ma l6'6? (=Does he write or not?)

### Intransitive and Transitive Sentences

The form of intransitive and transitive sentences can be found in Nias language. Intransitive Sentences are sentences with verbs without objects. While transitive sentences are sentences with verbs having objects and can be formed in passive sentences. Examples

- Yaia maigi-igi. (=He is laughing) → Intransitive Sentence
- Udin manaoka-naoka. (=Udin is jumping) → Intransitive Sentence
- Ahmad molangi-langi. (=Ahmad is swimming) → Intransitive Sentences

- Ani manura sura.(=Ani writes a letter)→Transitive Sentence
- Tono mamaha'6 li niha.(=Tono teaches Nias language)→Transitive Sentence
- Animar mondriño faxe.(=Animar cooks rice)→Transitive Sentence

### Imperative

The structure of imperative sentence in Nias language is the same with other languages. The imperative sentence can be formed by replacing verb before subject or verb is preceded by subject, for examples

- Bua wo'6m6 da'6! (= Pay the loan!)
- Miofan6 iada'a!(=Go now!)
- Mialio'6 weam6i bada'a!(=You must come here early!)
- B6i tase m6i ami!(= You may not go anywhere!)
- Mat6t6na wanoluo yaaga!(=We hope you help us)
- Tad6na-d6na wa'akh6 d6d6 si'oroilowalangi(=We hope mercy from Lord)

### Greeting

Greeting can also be found in Nias language, which is the same with other language and this can be formed in sentences such as

- Heza m6i'6 Tin?(=Where are you going Tin?)
- Hadia ni'ohl6w6g6i?(=What are you doing?)
- Zago atoru!(=Beware it falls down!)
- Of6nai'6 man6!(= Go first!)
- Teheg6 man6! (= Let it be like that!)
- Heza m6i' ami?(=Where are you going?)

### Patterns of Sentences

Based on the research, the researcher finds out that the patterns of sentences in Nias language can be differentiated in the different forms such as : 1. Based on the Subject-Predicate (S -P) Examples

- Ya'ia manga.(=He eats)
- Ya'ira manura.(=They write.)
- Manu muhombo.(=The cock flies.)
- Ina morino.(=Mother cooks.)
- Ama managu.(Father sews.)

The pattern of S-P in Nias language can be changed into 'Predicate-Subject'(P—S). Predicate preceded Subject. This can be formed if the speaker starts speaking using predicate. For examples:

- ya'ia mannga.(=He eats) ----- Manga ia(=He eats.)
- Ya'ira manura.(=They write) ----- Mnura yaira(=They write.)
- Manu muhombo(=The cock flies) ----- Muhombo manu(=The cock flies.)
- Ina mondrino(=Mother cooks) ----- Mondrino Ina (=Mother cooks.)
- Ama managu(=Father sews) ----- Managu Ama(=Father sews.)

#### Based on Subject –Predicate-Object (S—P—O)

##### Examples

- U'a wakhe sasoso.(=I eat rice.)
- Ibaso novel.(=He reads novel.)
- Ya'ia molowi ndrui(=He cuts grass.)
- Ya'ira famai bola.(=They play football.)
- Ahmad mamaha'6 li Niha(=Ahmad teaches Nias language.)

#### Based on Subject-Predicate–Complement(S—P---C)

##### Examples

- Ya'ira mofan6 menewi.(=They went yesterday.)
- Ya'ia mof6kh6 t6lu ngaluo.(He is sick for three days)
- Ama maso sihu6 wongi.(Father gets up in the morning)
- Ina mondrino ba nawu.(=Mother cooks in the kitchen)
- Awe mangawuli tan6 owi.(=Grandmother comes back in the afternoon)

The above pattern of sentence can also sometimes be changed such as : Predicate-Subject-Complement (P(V)—S—C.

##### Examples

- Mofan6 ia menewi.(=He went yesterday.)
- Mof6kh6 ia telungaluo.(=He is sick three days.)
- Mondrino Ina ba nawu.(=Mother cooks in the kitchen.)
- Mangawuli Awe tan6 owi.(=Grandmother comes back in the afternoon.)
- Maoso Ama sihu6 wongi.(=Father gets up in the morning.)

**Based on the Complement—Subject—Predicate (C---S—P)****Examples**

- Me'owi ia mofan6.(=Yesterday he went.)
- T6lu ngaluo ia mofekh6.(=Three days he is sick.)
- Sihul6 wongi Nama maoso.(=In the morning Ftaher gets up.)
- Ba nawu Ina Mondrino.(=In the kitchen Mother cooks.)
- Tan6 owi Awe mangawuli.(=In the afternoon Grandmother comes back.)

**Based on the Pattern : Subject-Predicate-Object-Complement(S—P—O—C)****Exzamples**

- Ya'ia manura sura iada'a.(=He is writing a letter now.)
- Ub6zi nakhi nia menewi.(=I hit his little brother yesterday.)
- Ina mow6li bulu ndr'u ba mbale.(Mother buys vegetabes at the market.)
- Ama mamaha'6 li Niha ba zikola.(=Father is teaching Nias language in school.)
- Abang molowi ndr'u ba laza.(Brother is cutting grass at the wet rice field)

**Based on the Pattern: Complement—Subject---Predicate—Object(C—S—P—O)**

- Menewi mamaha'6 ia bahasa Inggris.(Yesterday he taught English.)
- Migu f6nada ya'ira famai bola.(Next week they will play foot ball.)
- Mege sihul6 wongi ya'ira mow6li moto sibohou.(=This morning they bought a new car.)
- Iada'a yai'ra belajar li Inggris.(Now they are learning English.)

**Kinds of Syntaxes in Nias Language**

Every language has kinds of syntaxes or sentences with different varieties formed by using words as the roots of forming sentences. The researcher finds out some varieties in Nias language such as : Active Sentences, Passive Sentences, Main Clause, Subordinate Clause, Compound Sentences. Active Sentences The active sentences in Nias language can be formed by the combination of words joined together related to the pattern of the language as has been discussed before and these sentences can be transferred in the passive forms such as :

- Ya'ia molowi ndr'u ba laza.(=He cuts the grass at the wet rice field.)→Active Sentence
- Ndr'u i'owi ba laza.(=The grass is cut by him at the wet rice field.)→Passive Sentences
- Ya'ira mombaso sura.(=They read a letter.)→Active Sentence
- Sura labaso.(=A letter is read By them.)→Passive Sentence
- Ama mamaha'6 li Melayu.(=Ftaher teaches Malay language.)→Active Sentence

- Li Melayu ifaha'6 Ama.(=Malay language is taught by Father.)→Passive Sentence
- Ina managu mbarugu.(=Mother sews my clothes.)→Active Sentence
- Mbarugu itagu Ina.(=My clothes is sewed by Mother.)→Passive Sentence

### Main Clause and Subordinate Clause

In Nias language, there are many kinds of clauses such as :Clause as Subject,Clause Complement, Clause as Situation but the writer of this scientific research merely concentrated on the discussion of Main Clauses and Subordinate clauses so as to make reader understand the kinds of sentences in Nias language.

The main clause in Nias language can be formed by the combination of words that may build up sentences such as

- Ya'ia mohal6w6 abua fao fa'ow6l6'6l6.(= He works hard and diligently.)→Main Clause
- I'ila hadia niera-eragu.(=He knows what i think.)→Main Clause
- Ya'ira l6 la'ila li Niha.(=They do not know Nias language)→Main Clause
- Ahmad alau ba nora.(= Ahmad falls from the ladder.)→Main Clause
- Samaha'6 da'6 fakara kh6u.(=The teacher gets angry with you.)→Main Clause

The subordinate clause in Nias language can also be formed by the combination of words that may build up sentences.This kind of clause usually uses a certain words such as 'nano', 'naha megara at6', 'nafao', 'ba hana', 'na', 'nano', 'nal6', 'ba he at6', 'ba heg6i', 'he waae', 'ba', 'me' if it is combined with main clause, but it can not stand by itself.

### Some Examples of Subordinate Clauses in Nias Language

- Nano 6fondo-ndrongo ligu.(=If you had listened me.)
- Naha megara g6 ate l6fatimba hk6nia.(=if he does not feel an objection to.)
- Nafao bad6d6 nia niwa'6gu andre.(=If he agrees what i say.)
- Nal6 m6ia bada'a.(=If he does not come here.)
- Bahe at6 fa'ila ndra'aga.(=But want to see one with another.)
- Bahana nam6i'ia bada'a.(=No matter if he comes here.)
- Na'6 wa'6 zimane da'6.(=If you say like that.)
- He wa'ae simane da'6.(Even though like that)

### Compound Sentences

In Nias language, compound sentences can also be found in relation to the main clause with subordinate clause using 'Joining words', for examples :

- Na 6o'6 li gu meluo no, Ahmad l6 fakara kh6u.(=If you had obeyed what i said at that time, Ahmad would not have got angry with you.)



- He wa'ae siman6 da'6 niwa'6 nia,l6 id6-id6 d6d6gu.(=Though he said like that,i do not feel offended.)
- Na l6 6baso mbuku da'a,l6'6ila geluaha nia dania.(=Unless you read this book,you do not understand its meaning later.) 4.Na asese mei'e ba mandrasa, Lowalangi omasi kh6u.(If you always go to the mosque,God loves you.)
- Ya'aga bada'a seha-seha man6 ba siman6 g6i ami bada'6 sisa.(=We are find here and you are either there.)
- Alio-lio ia maoso, me i'ila ndrau'g6.(=He gets up soon when he sees you.)

In Nias language,the researcher also finds out that the relative clause can also be used to form sentences using the words such as :/gufahezo/,/gufahadia man6/,/gufa hadia man6/,/gu w'ara man6/,/gufa ha uga man6/,/gufa hezzo man6/,/gufa haniha man6/.The relative clause in Nias language can be a form of subject of sentences,for examples :

- Gufa hezo m6i'6 l6 tobali masala kh6gu.(=Wherever you go will not be a problem to me.) S P
- Gufa hadia niwa6u l6 af6kh6 ba d6d6gu.(=Whatever you say will not hut my feeling.) S P
- Gufa haniha man6 ia l6 fasala na tobali ndrongagu.(=Whoever she is will not be a problem to be S P My Wife
- Gufa hawa'ara man6 yau'g6 m6i ba nomo ubaloi man6.(=Whenever you come at home will be S P waited for.)
- Gufa hauga man6 niwa'6m6 la bai.(= How much you say will be paid.) S P

Some relative clauses like in these followings can also be found in Nias language that can be formed in relation with the specific words,for examples

- Ha ya'ia zi so bakha ba d6d6gu.(=She who is in my heart only.)
- Si m6i badaa akhigu siakhi.(= who comes here is my little brother.)
- Ira alawe sibaga ni omasi'6 nia andre.(=The beautiful girl whom he loves.)
- Ha kh6 ukiri sura da'a?(=To whom i send this letter?)
- Niha sasil6yawa l6 omazsi Lowalangi.(=The proud man is not liked by God.)
- Omo zof6kh6 siso ba lala Sudirman nifazizio Amada Jokowi.(=The hospital which is in Sudirman Street established by Mr. Jokowi.)
- Kureta nifake nia yaia da'6 kureta Abdullah.(=The bicycle he rides belongs to Abdullah.)
- Si no latatuk6 ira amada ba tebai labul6'6.(=Something which has been determined by our fathers may not be changed.)

## CONCLUSIONS

Having analyzed the syntaxes of Nias language from the very beginnig up to the end,it can be concluded that the syntaxes can be formed by using the collection of some words with joining words or conjunctions that becomes sentences and clauses. Nias language can also be formed using sentence patterns so as to become sentences such as :/S-P(V)/,/P(V)-S/,/S-P(V)-O/,/S-P(V)-C/,/C-S-P(V),/S-P(V)-O-C/,/C-S-P(V)-O/.Besides,the language itself can also be formed in relation with the main clause, subordinate clause and relative clause as well and becomes compound sentences.

## SUGGESTIONS

Having conducted this research, it is suggested that this research should be improved so that the syntaxes of Nias language be more understood since this research is rarely conducted by some language experts. So, as a regional language, Nias language should be more studied and improved that may bring people or speakers easy to communicate in Nias language to one with another as a means of improving human relationship in case of language communication.

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Siamir Marulafau was born in Nias, May 17, 1958. He graduated from English and Literature Department of Faculty of Culture Sciences, University of North Sumatra, Medan-Indonesia. He received his Master Degree in Linguistics, 2004. In 1985, he became a teaching staff of English language and literature at the Department of English

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