

## MATERIAL PROCESS IN TRANSITIVITY OF BESEMAH LANGUAGE CLAUSES: Functional Grammar Approach

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**ABSTRACT.** The title of this study is *Material Process in Transitivity of Besemah Language Clause: Functional Grammar Approach*. It aimed to find out material processes in Besemah language and to analyze the elements of material processes found in the language. This research discusses three main points: (1) the verbs that can be categorized into material process; (2) the participants involve in the material process; and (3) the clause patterns of material process. The approach applied in this study was Functional Grammar Approach (FGA) using descriptive method, employing data from the book *Bahasa Besemah 2*, which show the elements of material processes. The findings of the study show that (1) the verbs *ngelipat*, *belajagh*, *ngandas*, *ngadum*, *diagai*, *ngaduk*, *beghusiq*, *main*, *ngeghap*, *ngenjuq*, *nganiaye*, and *nganyat* belong to the verbs of material process, (2) the participants in the material process can be *actor*, *goal*, *recipient*, *client*, *range*, and *instrument*, and (3). The clause patterns of material processes may be categorized into *intransitive*, *mono-transitive*, and *ditransitive verb clause*.

**Key words:** material process, clause, actor, goal, circumstance

### PROSES MATERIAL DALAM TRANSITIVITAS KLAUSA BAHASA BESEMAH: Pendekatan Gramatika Fungsional

**ABSTRAK.** Judul penelitian ini adalah *Material Process in Transitivity of Besemah Language Clause: Functional Grammar Approach*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan proses material dalam bahasa Besemah dan menganalisis unsur-unsur yang terdapat di dalamnya. Penelitian ini membahas tiga hal utama: (1) verba yang dapat dikategorikan sebagai proses material, (2) partipan yang terlibat dalam proses material, dan (3) pola yang terdapat dalam proses material. Pendekatan yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah Pendekatan Grammar Fungsional (FGA) dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif, dengan data dari buku *Bahasa Besemah 2*, yang menunjukkan unsur-unsur yang terdapat pada proses material. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa (1) verba *ngelipat*, *belajagh*, *ngandas*, *ngadum*, *diagai*, *ngaduk*, *beghusiq*, *main*, *ngeghap*, *ngenjuq*, *nganiaye*, dan *nganyat* merupakan verba proses material, (2) partipan dapat berupa *actor*, *goal*, *recipient*, *client*, *range*, and *instrument*; dan (3) pola klausa dalam proses material dapat dikategorikan ke dalam *intransitif*, *mono-transitif*, and *ditransitif*.

**Kata kunci:** material process, clause, actor, goal, circumstance

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has to be proud of the diversity in its ethnics as well as languages owned by each ethnic. It is suitable to its motto "Unity in Diversity" pointing to one of the greatest attractions to it. Goebel (2013) said that with some 17.000 islands, all of the world's major religions, around 1.000 communities with over 400 languages, and a large portion of the world's biodiversity, the archipelago nation of Indonesia is often talked about as one of the world's most diverse nations. Even so, this diversity has been ordered through the social category of ethnicity where each ethnic has its own language.

Besemah language is one of local languages of Indonesia. This language is spoken largely in the highland of South Sumatera Indonesia - particularly those who live in around Mount Dempo. McDonnell (2013) in his article said that Besemah (alternatively, Pasemah) is a little-known Malayic language in the Western Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian language family. Besemah itself like other languages has own structure which rules word,

phrase or clause when it builds sentences, paragraph or text.

Fromkin *et al* (2011:38) stated that languages make an important distinction between two kinds of words – content words and function words. Contents words denote concepts such as objects, actions, attributive and ideas that we can think about like children, ancestor, etc. Function words do not have clear lexical meanings or obvious concepts associated with them such as articles, conjunction, pronoun, exclamation and preposition.

The function of those contents words (especially) is also ruled in Functional Grammar Approach. This approach sees language first as a system of communication and grammar analysis to discover how it is organized to allow the speakers and writers to make exchange in meanings.

According to Gerot and Wignell (2004) there are six processes in transitivity, but this research is limited only to the material process that found in transitivity clause. The material process which is focused by the writer is those of Besemah language. Therefore, the writer formulated the problem of the

study into three questions:

- (1) What verbs that can be categorized into material process?
- (2) What participants involve in the material process; and
- (3) What patterns consist of material process.

The result of this research might be significant for education field, in the form of giving information to the teachers and the students (especially Besemah local people) about the use of verbs in Besemah language. It can also be a reference for further research, especially for those who are interested in Besemah language. This study is also expected to be beneficial to boost interest to local language research in order to save the existence of Besemah language and other (local) languages in Indonesia.

Functional Grammar Approach is not commonly introduced in Indonesia. People tend to be more familiar with formal language in which it is concerned to describe the structure of individual sentences. Gerot and Wignell (1994: 5) stated that such grammars view language as a set of rules which allow or disallow certain sentence structures.

Functional Grammar Approach views language as a resource for creating meaning, attempts to describe language in actual use and so focus on texts and their contexts, and also concerns not only with the structures but also with how those structures construct meaning (Sujatna in Sosiohumaniora, Vol 11 No. 3, Nov 2009: 66).

According to Gerot & Wignell (1995: 22) in line with Halliday (1985), there are three kinds of metafunction meanings: *textual*, *interpersonal*, and *ideational*. Textual relates to clause as message, interpersonal relates to clause as representation, and ideational relates to clause as exchange. Clause as message discusses theme and rhyme in clauses. Clause as exchange discusses mood and residue and clause as representation discusses transitivity: process, participants, and circumstance.

Process is central to transitivity. Participants and circumstances are incumbent upon the doings, happenings, feelings and beings. Process is divided into two: nonrelational processes (processes of doing) and relational processes (processes of being and having). Nonrelational processes are subdivided into material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes and verbal processes. Relational processes are also divided into attributive, identifying processes, existential processes and meteorological processes. The writer focuses his study on material processes.

Halliday (2004: 179) stated that material clauses are clauses of doing and happening: a 'material' clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events as taking place through some input of energy. Gerot and Wignell also stated that clauses

with a material process obligatorily have a doing (process) and a doer (participant). There is optionally an entity to which the process is extended or directed which is called the *goal*. Circumstances are also optionally added to a clause. Here are some examples of material process.

- |     |                               |  |                           |                                    |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) | <i>The fuel</i><br>Actor      |  | <i>ignites</i><br>Process |                                    |
| (b) | <i>The youngster</i><br>Actor |  | <i>wiggled</i><br>Process | <i>in his seat</i><br>Circumstance |
| (c) | <i>The lion</i><br>Actor      |  | <i>caught</i><br>Process  | <i>the tourist</i><br>Goal         |

The entity who or which does something is the *actor* (a), (b), and (c). The entity which may be done to is the *goal* (c). *Circumstance* on (b) answer such questions as when, why, where, how, how many and as what. They realize meanings about time, place, manner, cause, accompaniment, matter and role. There is one further participant which may be incumbent on material process called *range* (Gerot and Wignell, 1995: p. 57).

Intransitive verb is a verb which can be followed by nothing or adverbial(s) only. In a 'material' clause, there is always one participant – the *actor*. This participant brings about the unfolding of the process through time, leading to outcome that is different from the initial phase of unfolding. This is called intransitive (Halliday, 2004:p. 180). Alternatively, the unfolding of the process may extend to another participant, the *goal*, we call it transitive. It means that an intransitive verb clause means without object but *circumstance(s)*; whereas transitive is the opposite of intransitive where the verb is followed by *object(s)*.

The above examples can be used to identify whether a verb clause is transitive or intransitive. The verbs in (a) and (b) are intransitive because they do not have any *goal* or *object*. They only have single participants called the *actor*. While the verb in (c) is transitive verb clause because it contains two participants; the *actor* and the *goal* (object). If a clause contains only one goal, it belongs to *mono-transitive verb clause*.

Transitive verb clause can be *mono-transitive* and *ditransitive* verb clauses. Ditransitive verb clause is the clause that has a ditransitive verb. A ditransitive verb in (d) takes two objects. Some of linguists call them as a direct and indirect object or primary and secondary. The indirect object or the secondary refers to the living creature, and the direct object or primary refers to the non-living creature.

- |     |                           |  |                        |  |                                      |  |                                      |
|-----|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| (d) | <i>The man</i><br>Actor   |  | <i>gave</i><br>Process |  | <i>me</i><br>Beneficiary (recipient) |  | <i>some flowers</i><br>Goal          |
| (e) | <i>My mother</i><br>Actor |  | <i>made</i><br>Process |  | <i>some delicious cake</i><br>Goal   |  | <i>for me</i><br>beneficiary: client |

In both examples, there are found three participants which consist of one actor and two goals, where the other goal is called beneficiary (recipient and client). It is also found a client: *for me*. Client is the one for whom services are provided (Gerot and Wignell: 63). Functional grammar approach can also be applied in Besemah language. Here is an example.

(f)	<i>Endungku</i>	<i>mbuat</i>	<i>nasiq gemuq</i>	<i>kandiq aku</i>
	Actor	Process	Goal	Beneficiary: client
	"My mother made savory rice for me."			

From the data, we can see that material process in the clause is *mbuat* 'cooked', which has three participants: the actor (*endungku* 'my mother'), the goal (*nasiq gemuq* 'savory rice'), and beneficiary client (*kandiq aku* 'for me').

## METHOD

The method applied in this research is descriptive (Djajasudarma, 1993), which employs substitution and reference techniques, as follows:

Substitution:

- (1) He *went* to school by bus (process of doing).
- (2) He *rode* his bicycle to school (process of doing).

In this study, the writer tried to analyze and describes material processes by taking and collecting the data source from Mahdi's books entitled *Bahasa Besemah 2* (2012) and *Kamus Bahasa Besemah-Indonesia-Inggris* (2014). The steps in analyzing the data are as follows:

1. The first step is selecting the verbs which belong to material processes
2. The second step is classifying each sentence
3. The third is analyzing the sentences based on the theoretical background elaborated in the previous chapter about material processes.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Here twenty two data are to be analyzed into the elements containing in material processes. They are clauses provided to give clear explanation and elaboration.

### Intransitive Verb Clause

Material processes typically have a subject with the participant role of agent. It can be in intransitive, mono-transitive, ditransitive, and complex transitive clauses. Intransitive verb is a verb which can be followed by nothing or adverbial(s) only... Intransitive verb clause is one of the clauses, characteristically has intransitive verb (Sujatna in Sosiohumaniora, Vol 11 No. 3, Nov 2009: 68).

In the following discussion, the variation of intransitive verbs is shown by adding one or more than one circumstances such as place, time, purpose, and manner.

### *Bani la ngelipat ke Bandung*

<i>Bani</i>	<i>la ngelipat</i>	<i>ke Bandung</i>
Bani	already come back	to Bandung
Participant:	Process: <i>material</i>	Circumstance:
<i>actor</i>		<i>place</i>
"Bani has come back to Bandung."		

The verb *ngelipat* 'come back' in the data shows an action or process of doing, so it belongs to material process. There is only one participant *Bani* (one's name) as an actor. In the data, there is no goal but there is one circumstance, *ke Bandung* 'to Bandung' (place).

### *Bani la ngelipat ke Bandung aghi Ahat kemaghi*

<i>Bani</i>	<i>la ngelipat</i>	<i>ke Bandung</i>	<i>aghi Ahat kemaghi</i>
Bani	already come back	to Bandung	day Sunday yesterday
Participant:	Process: <i>material</i>	Circumstance: <i>place</i>	Circumstance: <i>time</i>
<i>actor</i>			
"Bani has come back to Bandung last Sunday."			

The verb *ngelipat* 'come back' in the data shows an action or process of doing, so it belongs to material process, *Bani* is an actor and now there are two circumstances found: *ke Bandung* 'to Bandung' (place) and *aghi Ahat kemaghi* 'hari Ahad minggu lalu' (time).

Both of these sentences are called intransitive verb clause because they can be followed by nothing or adverbial(s). The adverbials here are the circumstances of place and time.

### *Anaqe la belajagh bejalan*

<i>Anaqe</i>	<i>la belajagh</i>	<i>bejalan</i>
child her	already learn	walk
Participant:	Process: <i>material</i>	Circumstance:
<i>actor</i>		<i>purpose</i>
"Her child has learnt to walk."		

This sentence contains similar information with data (1) and (2) where it is an intransitive verb clause because it can be followed by nothing or adverbial(s), but the circumstance here is different; it is a circumstance of purpose (*bejalan* 'walk').

### *Kami ngiciq di ghumahe besenai benagh.*

<i>Kami</i>	<i>ngiciq</i>	<i>di ghumahe</i>	<i>besenai benagh</i>
we	talk	at house his/her	slowly very
Participant:	Process: <i>material</i>	Circumstance: <i>place</i>	Circumstance: <i>manner</i>
<i>actor</i>			
"We talked very slowly at his/her house"			

In this sentence also we found material process *ngiciq* 'talk' with different circumstance: manner (*besenai benagh* 'very slowly').

### Mono-transitive Verb Clause

If a clause consists of one goal, it belongs to mono-transitive verb clause. It can be followed by only single direct object and optional circumstances. This clause can also be formed in active and passive form. Here are the analyses.

*Aku dang ngadum ruti.*

<i>Aku</i>	<i>dang</i>	<i>ngadum</i>	<i>ruti</i>
I	now	mix	cake
Participant:	process:	Participant:	Participant:
actor	material	goal	goal
"I am making dough of bread"			

The verb *ngadum* 'make dough' in the data shows an action or process of doing, so it belongs to material process. There are two participants: the actor is *aku* 'I' and the goal is *ruti* 'bread'. In the data above the actor does something to other entity (goal).

Unlike the data (1) to (4), in this data, it consists of a goal which is also called direct object. This material process is categorized as mono-transitive verb clause because it takes a single direct object.

*Aku dang ngadum ruti di dapue*

<i>Aku</i>	<i>dang</i>	<i>ngadum</i>	<i>ruti</i>	<i>di dapue</i>
I	now	mix	bread	in kitchen
Participant:	Process:	Participant:	Circumstance:	Circumstance:
actor	material	goal	place	place
"I am making dough of bread in the kitchen"				

*Aku dang ngadum ruti di dapue mbaq ini*

<i>Aku</i>	<i>dang</i>	<i>ngadum</i>	<i>ruti</i>	<i>di dapue</i>	<i>mbaq ini</i>
I	now	mix	bread	in kitchen	now this
Participant:	Process:	Participant:	Circumstance:	Circumstance:	Circumstance:
actor	material	goal	place	time	time
"I am making dough of bread in the kitchen now"					

Data (5), (6) and (7) show material process *ngadum* 'make dough' with two participants (actor and goal), but there are two circumstances added; circumstance of place (*di dapue* 'in the kitchen') and time (*mbaq ini* 'now'). It means that a sentence can stand with or without circumstance(s).

*Kawe diagai sandi lungguqan*

<i>Kawe</i>	<i>diagai</i>	<i>sandi lungguqan</i>
coffee	spread	from pile
Participant:	Process:	Circumstance:
goal	material	place
"The coffee was spread from the pile"		

Material processes take both active voice (5, 6, and 7) and the passive form in data (8). *Kawe* 'coffee' is a goal because it is the direct object, not the actor, and *diagai* 'spread' is material process and *sandi lungguqan* 'from the pile' is circumstance of place.

*Die ngaduq dedaq kandi q itiq.*

<i>Die</i>	<i>ngaduq</i>	<i>dedaq</i>	<i>kandi q itiq</i>
he	mix	rice bran	for duck
Participant:	Process:	Participant:	Beneficiary:
actor	material	goal	client
"He mixed the rice bran for the ducks"			

The word *ngaduq* 'mix' in the data shows an action or process of doing, so it belongs to material process. There are two participants: the actor is *Die* 'he/she' and the goal is *dedaq* 'rice bran'. In the data above the actor does something to other entity (goal). It is also found a client, *kandi q itiq* 'for the ducks'. Client is the one for whom services are provided (Gerot and Wignell: 63).

*Die ngadang mubil tu.*

<i>Die</i>	<i>ngadang</i>	<i>mubil tu</i>
he	stop	car that
Participant:	Process:	Participant:
actor	material	goal
"He stopped the car"		

The verb *ngadang* 'stop' in the data shows an action or process of doing, so it belongs to material process. There are two participants: the actor is *Die* 'he/she' and the goal is *mubil tu* 'that car'. In the data above the actor does something to other entity (goal). Like the previous data, we call this mono-transitive because it takes a single direct object.

*Jeme ugha due tu main bal di jalan kemaghi*

<i>Jeme ugha</i>	<i>main</i>	<i>bal</i>	<i>di jalan</i>	<i>kemaghi</i>
duwe tu			on	
Person	play	ball	street	yesterday
two that			Circumstance:	Circumstance:
Participant:	Process:	Range	place	time
actor	material			
"Both of them played football on the street yesterday"				

The data contains material process. It is *main* 'play', and there are two additional participants for this material process, **range and instrument**. Range refers to semantic role of the direct object of a verb in which the verb and object form a semantic unit, such as *sing a song* or *play ball* (main bal).

*Umaq ngehap taghuq nga wali di dapue mbaq ini.*

<i>Umaq</i>	<i>ngehap</i>	<i>taghuq</i>	<i>nga wali</i>	<i>di dapue</i>	<i>mbaq ini</i>
mother	cut	vegetable	with knife	in kitchen	now this
Participant:	Process:	Participant:	Instrument	Circumstance:	Circumstance:
actor	material	goal		place	time
"Mother is cutting vegetables with a knife in the kitchen now"					

*Umaq ngehap taghuq di dapue mbaq ini.*

<i>Umaq</i>	<i>ngehap</i>	<i>taghuq</i>	<i>di dapue</i>	<i>mbaq ini</i>
Mother	cut	vegetable	in kitchen	now this
Participant:	Process:	Participant:	Circumstance:	Circumstance:
actor	material	goal	place	time
"Mother is cutting vegetables in the kitchen now"				



*Wali ngeghap taghuq*

<i>Wali</i>	<i>ngeghap</i>	<i>taghuq</i>
knife	cut	vegetable
Instrument	Process: <i>material</i>	Participant: <i>goal</i>

“A knife cut vegetables”

The verb *ngeghap* ‘cut’ in (12) is the material process. Data (11) is different from data (12) in which the additional participant is no more a range but an instrument. The role of *wali* ‘knife’ is an instrument. But the role of an instrument in a sentence is optional as it can be seen in data (13) which means that it can exist or it can be omitted. In data (14), instrument can also replace the role of an actor as it is shown in the clause where it has no agent mentioned, so the subject is the instrument itself.

**Ditransitive Verb Clause**

Ditransitive verbs take two objects or goals consisting of a direct and an indirect object or sometimes called a primary and a secondary object. The following data will show how the indirect object can function as client or recipient beneficiary.

*Die ngambiqa aku pencibuq*

<i>Die</i>	<i>ngambiqa</i>	<i>aku</i>	<i>pencibuq</i>
he	take	me	ladle
Participant: <i>actor</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Beneficiary: <i>client</i>	Participant: <i>goal</i>

“He took me a ladle”

*Die ngambiqa pencibuq kandiaku aku*

<i>Die</i>	<i>ngambiqa</i>	<i>pencibuq</i>	<i>kandiaku aku</i>
he	take	ladle	for me
Participant: <i>actor</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Participant: <i>goal</i>	Beneficiary: <i>client</i>

“He took a ladle for me”

The verb *ngambiqa* ‘take’ in the data shows an action or process of doing, so it belongs to material process. There are three participants: the actor is *Die* ‘he/she’ and the goal is *pencibuq* ‘ladle’ as direct object or affected. What makes this sentence different from the previous one (14) is the existence of client *aku* ‘me’ which is called beneficiary. Beneficiary is the one to whom or for whom the process is said to take place. *Aku* ‘me’ is client because it shows **for whom** the benefit is aimed. This clause is called ditransitive clause because it has two objects: *a ladle* (direct) and *me* (indirect).

*Pencibuq diambiqa kandiaku li die*

<i>Pencibuq</i>	<i>diambiqa</i>	<i>kandiaku</i>	<i>li die</i>
ladle	taken	for me	by him
Participant: <i>goal</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Beneficiary: <i>client</i>	Participant: <i>actor</i>

“A ladle was taken for me by him”

*Aku diambiqa pencibuq li die*

<i>Aku</i>	<i>diambiqa</i>	<i>pencibuq</i>	<i>li die</i>
I	taken	ladle	by him
beneficiary: <i>client</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Participant: <i>goal</i>	Participant: <i>actor</i>

“I was taken a ladle by him”

Material process is also provided or can be formed in passive form. Because this clause is ditransitive, meaning it has two objects, it can be formed in two possible passive voices. It can be seen in (17) and (18). Even though *pencibuq* ‘ladle’ in (17) is put in the initial, it does not function as an actor, it stays a goal because it does not do anything to the beneficiary. Similarly *aku* ‘I’ in (18) is still a beneficiary, it is not an actor. *Die* ‘him/her’ is the actor of the process.

*Die ngenjuq aku duit*

<i>Die</i>	<i>ngenjuq</i>	<i>aku</i>	<i>duit</i>
he	give	me	money
Participant: <i>actor</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Beneficiary: <i>recipient</i>	Participant: <i>goal</i>

“He gave me money”

*Die ngenjuq duit kandiaku aku*

<i>Die</i>	<i>ngenjuq</i>	<i>duit</i>	<i>kandiaku aku</i>
he	give	money	to me
Participant: <i>actor</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Participant: <i>goal</i>	Beneficiary: <i>recipient</i>

“He gave money to me”

Compared to the previous data, this clause differs in the beneficiary. The objects are *duit* ‘uang’ and *aku* ‘me’. But *aku* ‘me’ is not client anymore, but it is a recipient because the beneficiary is **to whom** the process is said to take place.

*Die nganiaye bininye katah kejame*

<i>Die</i>	<i>nganiaye</i>	<i>bininye</i>	<i>katah kejame</i>
he	torture	wife his	very cruel
Participant: <i>actor</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Malficiary	Circumstance: <i>manner</i>

“He tortured his wife very cruelly”

*Lanang tu nganyat kucing diq sengaje*

<i>Lanang tu</i>	<i>nganyat</i>	<i>kucing</i>	<i>dqsengaje</i>
man that	hit	cat	not intentionally
Participant: <i>actor</i>	Process: <i>material</i>	Malficiary	Circumstance: <i>manner</i>

“The man hit the cat accidentally”

In the data, *nganiaye* ‘torture’ and *nganyat* ‘hit’ are the material process. However, it can be seen that the second participant is no more a beneficiary but malficiary, because what *Die* ‘he/she’ and *Lanang tu* ‘that man’ have done is not a benefit but a disadvantage to the goal. Now, this is a mono-transitive verb clause because it has only a direct object.

### CONCLUSION

Having analyzed some clauses found in Besemah language, it can be concluded that (1) *ngelipat, belajagh, ngandas, ngadum, diagai, ngaduk, beghusiq, main, ngeghap, ngenjuq, nganiaye*, and *nganyat* are verbs of material process; (2) the participants of the material process can be *actor, goal, recipient, client, range*, and *instrument*, (3) The clause patterns of material processes may be categorized into be *intransitive, mono-transitive*, and *ditransitive verb clause*.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT THANKS

On this occasion, I would like to thank H. Djazuli Kuris, M.M, theformer Mayor of Pagaralam, who set Besemah Language as local content subjects in Primary Schools, Junior High school, and Senior High School. The policy has prevented Besemah Language from extinction.

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