

## Contrastive Analysis of Interjections in Indonesian and Mandailing Batak Language

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**Abstract-** This study provides a contrastive analysis of interjections in the Indonesian and Mandailing Batak languages, focusing on their morphological characteristics. By comparing these two languages, we aim to highlight their similarities and differences in the use and formation of interjections. This analysis is limited to a morphological review to prevent overlap with topics related to verb types and verb formation processes. Utilizing both descriptive qualitative research methodology and comparative-contrast descriptive methodology, we systematically compare the interjection morphology in both languages. The methodologies differ in their application: the descriptive qualitative approach involves detailed observations and descriptions of interjection usage, while the comparative-contrast approach focuses on identifying and analyzing the distinctions and similarities between the languages. The primary data source comprises example sentences created by the researcher, ensuring linguistic acceptability. The researcher's specific tasks include selecting relevant sentences, analyzing their morphological structures, and categorizing the interjections. Data collection encompasses the specific interjection systems of each language, and each grammatical category's realization is examined. Contrasts are drawn based on the analysis outcomes after thorough data collection.

**Keywords:** Morphological systems, Interjection morphology, Indonesian language, Mandailing Batak language

### I. INTRODUCTION

The majority of Batak people use Batak as their first language and Indonesian as their second language. Despite serving different purposes in everyday life, both languages are often used interchangeably in the same environments. This bilingual dynamic can lead to confusion regarding whether someone is speaking Indonesian or Batak. The structural similarities between the two languages facilitate the transfer of language norms, further blurring the lines between them. For example, a speaker may inadvertently apply Indonesian rules while using Batak, or vice versa. Examining interjections, a key yet often overlooked aspect of

language, can provide valuable insights into these linguistic interactions and highlight the unique ways each language expresses emotions and reactions Ardiana (2022). Understanding these interjections in both languages not only enriches our comprehension of their individual structures but also sheds light on the intricacies of bilingual communication among Batak speakers.

The blurring of linguistic boundaries between Batak and Indonesian poses a threat to the preservation and development of both languages. In the Batak community, interjections serve as vital communicative tools that reflect cultural identity and social norms. Similarly, interjections in Indonesian play significant roles

in everyday communication, often carrying emotional and contextual nuances Mulyani (2022). By conducting a contrastive analysis of the interjections in these two languages, we can identify both their structural similarities and differences, thereby clarifying the extent of this linguistic overlap and informing efforts to maintain the distinctiveness and vitality of each language Nalendra (2021) and Contrastive analysis is also used in understanding and solving problems in learning and teaching a second or foreign language James (1980)

Research is essential to uncover necessary comparative insights, even though it is impractical to explore every structural aspect of both languages simultaneously. This study focuses on the contrastive analysis of interjections in Indonesian and Mandailing Batak languages, recognizing the significance of these expressions in everyday communication. Interjections, often overlooked in linguistic studies, play a crucial role in conveying emotions and reactions, making them vital for effective communication. By examining the interjections in both languages, this research aims to prevent linguistic interference and enhance the clarity of emotional expression. The findings are expected to be instrumental in language teaching and preservation efforts, highlighting the unique interjectional structures and promoting a deeper understanding of cultural nuances. This approach will support the teaching of both languages by providing a clearer framework for their interjectional use, thereby enriching linguistic competence and cultural appreciation.

This research has a more limited reach compared to other studies because of its more specific emphasis. This research looks at the verb morphology system in Indonesian and Batak. Nevertheless, the verb morphology systems of the two languages are also compared in this study. The process of verb formation is one of the factors studied.

Contrastive analysis is a branch of linguistics that examines the similarities and differences between two or more languages or language subsystems, according to Fisiak (1985). In order to predict the errors made by second language learners, teachers should conduct a contrastive comparison between the language being studied and the learner's everyday language, according to Lado (1957) and Fries (1945). These studies mainly examine vocabulary, syntax, morphology and phonology. While Chomsky's (1957) transformation model is

based on the idea of transformational generative grammar, Fries' (1945) and Lado's (1957) taxonomic analysis models are based on structural linguistic theory. Direct constituent analysis is the name given to the analysis technique coined by these structural linguists.

Mother tongue (Bahasa Ibu/ B1), also known as first language, is acquired from birth through contact with family, caregivers, and the surrounding environment, among other community members who speak the language. Mastery of the mother tongue plays an important role in the subsequent language learning process. One can acquire a second language (Bahasa kedua/B2) after being fluent in the first language (Bahasa Pertama/B1). After mastering the first language to some extent, learning a second language is known as second language acquisition. Foreign language and second language are sometimes used interchangeably. In the Indonesian context, mother tongue is referred to as first language or mother tongue, while foreign language or Indonesian is referred to as second language.

To facilitate foreign language learners' understanding of the target language or second language (B2), contrastive analysis is used. If the first language (B1) and the second language (B2) have the same structure, then there will be no problem. Conversely, if the first language (B1) and the second language (B2) have different structures, contrastive analysis can be used as a tool to help foreign language learners understand the structure of the second language.

The Big Indonesian Dictionary defines verbs as words that express action, process, or state (Poerwadarmita, 2005). Verbs are defined as words that describe actions, processes, or states by KBBI (2007:1260). A verb is any word that can be expanded by adding adjectives to it, and only words that can be used to describe actions or activities, according to Gorys Keraf (Keraf, 1984:64).

The analysis in this study focuses exclusively on the morphological aspects of interjections, emphasizing how they are structured and used in both Indonesian and Mandailing Batak languages. The primary objective is to compare and contrast the morphological systems of interjections in these two languages. This includes examining the form, formation process, meaning, and phonemic structure of interjections, providing a detailed understanding of their similarities and differences from a morphological perspective.

The term "morphology" originates from the English word "morphology," which refers to the field of linguistics that investigates the grammatical structure and constituents of words. Initially termed "morphemics," this study focused on morphemes, the smallest units of meaning in language. Over time, "morphology" replaced "morphemics" as the preferred term. Etymologically, "morphology" combines "logi," meaning science, and "morph," meaning form, reflecting its literal meaning as the science of form. In linguistics, morphology specifically explores changes in word structure and their implications for word class and meaning, providing essential insights into language structure and function.

Words are created through morphological processes by combining basic forms. Affixation (the addition of affix), reduplication (repetition), and compounding (the combining of words) are the three main morphological processes in Indonesian. Understanding this etymology is expected to help understand the nature of morphology. Here are examples of words with various changes in form:

<i>Modom</i>	"tidur"
<i>Dipapodom</i>	"ditidurkan"
<i>Dipodomi</i>	"ditiduri"
<i>Mamodomi</i>	"meniduri"
<i>Tarpodom</i>	"tertidur"

## II. METHODS

To better understand the similarities and differences between Mandailing Batak and Indonesian, this study compares the interjection systems in the two languages. Since the scope of this study is limited to interjectional characteristics, the discussion will revolve around the form, function, and usage context of interjections. The morphological and syntactical structure of interjections in Mandailing Batak and Indonesian is the main subject of this study. Utilizing a comparative-contrast methodology, a descriptive qualitative study is conducted to identify and analyze the similarities and differences in interjection usage between Mandailing Batak and Indonesian.

Data will be collected from a combination of sources including spoken language corpora, written texts, and existing linguistic research on both languages. Interjections will be identified and categorized based on their form and function. The analysis will focus on how interjections are formed, their syntactical placement, and their

pragmatic roles in communication. Examples will be provided to illustrate the findings, and multiple coders will be employed to ensure the reliability of the analysis. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the interjection systems in these two languages and their potential implications for linguistic theory and language learning.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The process of affixation or fusion is how verbs are formed in Mandailing Batak. Prefix (*awalan*), Infix (*sisipan*), Suffix (*akhiran*), and Confix (*Campuran*) are the four categories of affix (*Imbuhan*) used to produce verbs. In contrast, verb construction in Indonesian is done using three methods: fusion, repetition, and affixation. Thus, it can be said that there are differences in verb construction between the two languages. However, there are similarities in the form, meaning, and function of affix used in the verb formation process of both languages. However, there are also differences between these similarities and similarities. The verb formation process in Mandailing Batak will be examined first, followed by an analysis of the similarities and differences in Indonesian.

### a) Prefix (*awalan*)

#### 1. *Ma-* Prefix

The function of the prefix "*ma-*" in Mandailing Batak is similar to the prefix "*me-*" in Indonesian. You can use this prefix alone or in combination with other affix. Both transitive and intransitive active verbs can be formed with the "*ma-*" prefix. "*Ma-*" becomes "*mang-*" when combined with a vowel (such as "a" or "o") as the base form of the first syllable. "*Mang-*" is the result of combining "*ma-*" with one of the first syllable base forms "g", "h", "k", or "w". The word "*ma-*" becomes "*man-*" when combined with a first-syllable base form consisting of the letters "z", "c", "d", "j", or "n". When the prefix "*ma-*" is combined with the letter "p" as the first syllable base form, it produces "m" (compound). "*Ma-*" becomes "*n-*" when combined with a first syllable base form containing the letters "s" or "t".

Example:

*"Ma"* + *"angkat"* *lompat* = *"mangangkat"*  
(*melompat*)

*"Ma"* + *"kusut"* *kusuk* = *"mangkusut"*  
(*mengusuk*)

*"Ma"* + *"zaman"* *zaman* = *"manzamanhon"*  
(*menzamankan*)

In Mandailing Batak, the prefix “ma-” has the same function as the prefix “me-” in Indonesian verb construction. Moreover, like the “ma-” prefix in Mandailing Batak, both of these prefix can be used for nouns, adjectives, or pre-verbial forms. The examples above illustrate how the “ma-” prefix in Mandailing Batak functions similarly to the “ber-” or “me-” prefix in Indonesian.

#### 2. Mar- Prefix

In Indonesian, the prefix *mar-* and *ber-* can be used interchangeably. In Mandailing Batak, most verb forms become active by adding the *mar-* prefix. In Batak Mandailing, verbs such as nouns, article words plus other affix, verbs plus other affix, and adjectives plus other affix are formed by adding the *mar-* prefix to the base form.

Example:

*Mar + arta - harta* “*mararta*” = *berharta*

*Mar + sibong - kerabu* “*marsibong*”  
= *berkerabu*

*Mar + sipatu -sepatu* “*marsipatu*” = *bersepatu*

*Mar + guru - guru* “*marguru*” = *berguru*

The meaning of the prefix “*mar-*” in Batak is the same as the meaning of the prefix “*ber-*” in Indonesian. In the formation of Indonesian verbs, base forms that are nouns or adjectives can use the prefix “*ber-*” for the same purpose.

#### 3. Tar- Prefix

To produce passive verbs, we use the prefix “*tar-*”. This prefix can resemble the “*ter-*” prefix in Indonesian. Unlike Indonesian, which has two forms for the “*ter-*” prefix, “*ter-*” and “*te-*”, Batak only has one form for the “*tar-*” prefix.

Example:

*Tar + songgot- kejut* “*tarsonggot*” = *terkejut*

*Tar + dege - injak* “*tardege*” = *terinjak*

*Tar + bereng -lihat* “*tarbereng*” = *terlihat*

*Tar + sunggul -bangun* “*tarsunggul*”

= *terbangun*

The prefix “*tar-*” is used to root words that have the letter “*r*” in the first syllable (*rimas*) to make *tarrimas* in this example. On the other hand, in Indonesian, words that do not begin with the /r/ sound are prefixed with “*ter-*”, and words that begin with the /r/ sound are prefixed with “*te-*”.

#### 4. di- Prefix

Both Mandailing Batak and Indonesian have the same *di-* sound. The prefix *di-* creates the passive form. Just like *ma-* form passive verbs, the *di-* form can be added to the base form of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

Example:

*di + tuhor - beli* “*dituhor*” = *dibeli*

*di + cet - cat* “*dicet*” = *dicat*

*di + haol - peluk* “*dahaol*” = *dipeluk*

*di + dege- injak* “*didege*” = *diinjak*

*di + birong - hitam* “*dibirongi*” = *dihitami*

*di + pangan - makan* “*dipangan*” = *dimakan*

*di + golom - pegang* “*digolom*” = *di pegang*

When the prefix “*di-*” is used for verbs and adjectives, these examples show that passive verbs can be created in Batak but not in Indonesian. Therefore, there is some overlap between Batak and Indonesian in terms of how the “*di-*” prefix should be used.

#### b) Infix (Sisipan)

Often called insertion words, infixes are affix that are inserted in the middle of the base word. Infixes (*el*), (*er*), (*em*) and (*in*) are often used. Indonesian has many examples of infixed words that are often used in daily conversation. Due to their initial resemblance to simple words, some readers may not realize that they include infixes.

Examples of infixes in Indonesian:

- *luhur + -el = leluhur*

- *tunjuk + -el = telunjuk*

- *jajah + -el = jelajah*

- *tapak + -el = telapak*

- *kudung + -er = kerudung*

- *sabut + -er = serabut*

- *gigi + -er = gerigi*

- *gendang + -er = genderang*

- *guruh + -em = gemuruh*

- *kelut + -em = kemelut*

- *getar + -em = gemetar*

- *gilang + -em = gemilang*

Examples of infixes in Mandailing Batak:

- *dao + -um = dumao (lebih jauh)*

- *godang + -um = gumodang (lebih besar)*

#### c) Suffix (Akhiran)

Suffix are the next class of affixed words; they are affix that are added at the end of a base word. The suffix (*-an*), (*-i*), (*-(its)*), (*-(kan)*), and (*-(kah)*) are different affix that are added to the end of the base word. When something is owned, we express it with the suffix (*-(its)*). Command phrases are expressed with the (*-i*) and (*-(kan)*) endings on a word. Meanwhile, nouns are made from other base words by adding the (*-an*) ending.

Examples of suffix in Indonesian:

*Makan - pangan + an* “*makanan*” = *panganon*

*Baca - baca + an* “*bacaan*” = *bacahon*

*Gula - gula + I* “*gulai*” = *gulei*

*Susah - dangol + nya* “*susahnya*” = *dangolna*

*Senang - senang + nya "senangnya" = senangna*  
*Jauh - jauh + kan "jauhkan" = jauhona*  
*Mungkin - mungkin + kah "mungkinkah" = mungkin do*

Examples of suffix in the hobo language mandailing Suffix found in Mandailing Batak language are {-kon}, {-an}, and {-i}

Example:

*buat - ambil + kon "buatkon" = ambilkan*  
*gadis - jual + kon "gadiskan" = jualkan*  
*gogo - kuat + an "gogoan" = lebih kuat*  
*burju - baik + an "burjuan" = lebih baik*  
*napu - pupuk + i "napui" = pupuk*  
*ligi - lihat + i "ligii" = lihat*

**d) Confix (Campuran)**

1. Compound affix ma... hon

The compound prefix ma-...-hon, which can be added to a base word derived from a noun, verb or adjective, is used in Batak to produce verbs. The compound affix ma-...-hon is involved in the formation of transitive active verbs.

Example

*ma...hon + dabu 'jatuh' mandabuhon = menjatuhkan*  
*ma...hon + mago 'hilang' mamagohon = menghilangkan*  
*ma...hon + tahan 'tahan' manahanhon = menahankan*  
*ma...hon + ula 'kerja' mangulahon = mengerjakan*  
*ma...hon + susah 'susah' manyusahon = menyusahkan*

The way verbs are formed in Batak is also found in Indonesian, where a noun, verb, or adjective base is combined with another word with the join suffix meN-...- Kan. In Indonesian, kana "adjustment join me" also forms transitive active verbs.

Example

*me-...-kan + bajak membajakkan*  
*me-...-kan + bubur , membuburkan*  
*me-...-kan + bangun , membangunkan*  
*me-...-kan + tidur , menidurkan*

2. Compound affix di-...-hon

It is always possible to convert the active verbs with the di -...- hon pattern discussed into passive verbs with the di -...- hon pattern. This means that base words formed from nouns, verbs, or adjectives can have the compound suffix di -...- hon added to form verbs in Batak. The function of the modifying conjunction di-...- hon is to create third-person passive verbs

Example:

*di...hon + torus 'terus' ditorushon = diteruskan*  
*di-...-hon + lompas 'masak' dilompashon = dimasakkan*  
*di-...-hon + ponggol 'patah' diponggolhon = dipatahkan*  
*di...hon + paridi 'mandi' diparidihon = dimandikan*

In Batak, the compound affix di-...-hon is used similar to the compound affix di-...-kan in Indonesian, both in terms of function and the base forms (nouns, verbs, and adjectives) that can receive the affix. Forming third-person passive verbs is another use of the compound affix di-...-kan in this example.

Example:

*di-...-kan + penjara "dipenjarakan"*  
*di-...-kan + film 'difilmkan'*

**Map of similarities and differences between Batak and Indonesian verbs**

Equation Verba	Equations	Differences
1. <i>Ma</i> Prefix = <i>me</i> -prefix	a. Both transitive and intransitive verbs can be actively constructed with it. b. In Batak, the <i>ma</i> prefix has the same function as the <i>me</i> prefix, which is to form transitive and intransitive active verbs. c. When forming Indonesian verbs, the <i>ma</i> - and <i>me</i> - prefixes can be attached to the base	When the aligned base forms have different word classes, it is not always possible to match the use of the prefix <i>ma</i> -as above with the use of the prefix <i>ber</i> - or <i>me</i> -.

	form to form nouns, adjectives or pre-verb forms.	
3. <i>tar</i> -Prefix = <i>ter</i> - Prefix	a. The <i>tar</i> - prefix is used to create passive verbs.	a. The Indonesian prefix <i>ter</i> has two forms, <i>ter</i> - and <i>te</i> -, but the Batak prefix <i>tar</i> has only one form, <i>tar</i> -. b. In Batak, words that begin with the root /r/ use the <i>tar</i> -prefix, but in Indonesian, phrases without it and words that begin with the consonant /r/ use the <i>te</i> -prefix.
4. <i>di</i> - Prefix = <i>di</i> -	a. In Batak and Indonesian word formation, the prefix <i>di</i> - functions as a passive verb constructor. b. The <i>di</i> - prefix is used to form passive verbs in Batak and Indonesian word structures. Transitive active verbs in Batak and Indonesian can be changed with the <i>di</i> -prefix into passive forms. c. Passive verbs can be made by adding the <i>di</i> -prefix to nouns, kata kerja, dan kata sifat pada bentuk dasarnya.	
1. Compound affix <i>ma</i> -...- <i>hon</i> = <i>me</i> -...- <i>kan</i>	a. The affix <i>me</i> -...- <i>kan</i> in Indonesian is equivalent to the affix <i>ma</i> -...- <i>hon</i> . The affix <i>ma</i> -...- <i>hon</i> and <i>me</i> -...- <i>kan</i> can be added to the base form of nouns, verbs, and adjectives. b. The ability to combine to create transitive active verbs.	
2. Compound affix <i>di</i> -...- <i>hon</i>	a. The compound prefix <i>di</i> -...- <i>hon</i> and the compound affix <i>di</i> -...- <i>kan</i> can be added to noun, verb and adjective base forms in the formation of Batak verbs and Indonesian verbs. b. Ways of forming passive verbs with the compound affix <i>di</i> -...- <i>hon</i> and <i>di</i> -...- <i>kan</i> .	

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of interjections in Indonesian and Mandailing Batak highlights intriguing insights into language acquisition and usage. Despite Indonesian being a second language and Mandailing Batak a native tongue, their interchangeability in everyday discourse underscores shared linguistic structures and cultural influences. This phenomenon presents a challenge for language learners aiming to distinguish between the two languages accurately, potentially affecting their fluency and communicative confidence. Strategies such as contextual awareness, language switching exercises, and cultural immersion are crucial for

learners to navigate these complexities effectively, fostering a deeper understanding of when and how to use interjections appropriately in each language.

Further research in this field could explore other parts of speech beyond interjections, such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of language differentiation and integration. Extended field studies across diverse demographics and regions would also contribute valuable insights into language variation and usage patterns, enhancing our knowledge of linguistic dynamics within these communities. Comparative studies with additional languages could further illuminate

universal versus language-specific characteristics in interjection usage, offering broader implications for language learning strategies and cross-cultural communication competence.

In conclusion, while Indonesian and Mandailing Batak exhibit structural similarities that facilitate language interchangeability, targeted research and strategic language learning approaches are essential to cultivate nuanced proficiency and foster cultural sensitivity among learners. This ongoing exploration promises to enrich our understanding of linguistic diversity and contribute to more effective educational practices in multicultural contexts.

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