

## Buginese Interference into Indonesian: Word Order Level

Arifuddin Balla

Institut Parahikma Indonesia, Indonesia. e-mail: arifuddin.balla@parahikma.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Buginese, Indonesian, interference, language contact, word order</p> <p><b>DOI:</b> <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.21093/ijeltal.v7i2.1402">http://dx.doi.org/10.21093/ijeltal.v7i2.1402</a></p> <p><b>How to cite:</b> Balla, A. (2023). Buginese Interference into Indonesian: Word Order Level. <i>Indonesian Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics</i>, 7(2), 379-400</p>	<p>The goal of this study is to examine which word order is dominant in colloquial Buginese-Indonesian, 1) to find out which word-order pattern is more acceptable between SVO and VSO, 2) to find out which word-order pattern is more acceptable between VO and OV, and 3) to find out what internal linguistic characteristics and social factors motivate such acceptability. The data were collected through an online survey via Monkey Survey that employed Acceptability Judgment Task (AJT) to determine which word order is more acceptable in Buginese Indonesian (SVO or VSO and VO or OV). A total of 50 Buginese-Indonesian bilinguals rated the acceptability of 48 target items (and 48 fillers) for patterns such as SVO/VSO and VO/OV in a 1-5 Likert Scale (1=completely unnatural; 5=completely natural). Target items were controlled for linguistic factors and social factors. ANOVA analysis was used to analyze the data. The results indicate that both SVO and VSO are equally acceptable though VSO was slightly more favorable than SVO. When the subject is omitted, VO was farther favorable than OV. L1, age, and residence had a significant effect on the acceptability of VSO while grammatical person, education level, and residence contributed greatly to the acceptability of VO. The results also reveal that the acceptability of different word orders in Buginese-Indonesian is both linguistically and socially constrained. Thus, the results are situated within a discussion of Backus' (2014) notion of entrenchment and conventionalization.</p>

### 1. Introduction

Contact between languages is a very common phenomenon as an unavoidable consequence of social interaction. Matras (2015) argued that language contact emerges as the result of the interaction of different language communication; hence, their language may influence each other. A study by Lipski (2014) explored the influence of Spanish on English code-switching looking specifically at typology. The research focused on low-fluency bilinguals in Spanish and English while most of the time the researchers merely highly pay attention to the fluent bilingual speakers. Though Spanish and English share some similarities, it is argued that alternation, insertion, and congruent lexicalization occur (Lipski, 2014). Muysken (2000)

explained that in congruent lexicalization, the grammatical structure is shared by languages A and B, and words from both languages A and B are inserted more or less randomly. Moreover, Backus (2014) added that congruent lexicalization between languages that are not closely related may only occur after very intense or long contact has led to considerable convergence.

A study on language contact between English and Tamil also had been conducted by Sankoff, Poplack, & Vanniarajan (1990). The result of the study confirmed that the verb object studied behaves morphologically and syntactically exactly as in borrowings and native Tamil forms. The Tamil forms influence the English and change them into Tamil typology making English interfere with Tamil forms. Yet, the difference lies between the Tamil forms' degree of phonological integration and assimilation into the monolingual lexicon. Perhaps, this is also a result of intense contact between English and Tamil where Tamil is one of many languages in India which was conquered by English colonies for hundred years. Matthews & Yip (2009) also looked at bilingual acquisition of Singapore Colloquial English (SCE) affected by Chinese dialects. The research pointed out the process of replica grammaticalization which was argued to be derived through the same pathway of grammaticalization from lexical to grammatical (or from grammatical to more grammatical). Even though, SCE is somewhat considered a variety of English, an English-lexifier creole, or some other form of mixed language, English and the substrate grammars remain the same interaction mechanism.

Meanwhile, O'Shannessy (2015) examined multilingual children's (ages 6-12) lexical and phonological choices in two of their languages, Light Warlpiri and Warlpiri based in Australia. Both have similar lexical resources and most nominal morphology. However, the study only examined the phonological aspect. A more specific typology study was presented by Dabir-Moghaddam (2005) who argued that Modern Persian has drifted towards a VO type since the Middle Persian period. The change from OV type to a VO type of a syntactic process was found in Persian which led to an unsurprising shift. Concerning grammatical interference, some studies focusing on the interference of local languages into Indonesian have been conducted such as Rasyad (1983) who conducted a study on Minangkabau grammatical interference into Indonesian, and Siregar (2021) on the interference of Betawi on the morphology of adolescent speech in Jakarta, and Wati (2015) who studied Javanese grammatical interference into Indonesian. Interestingly, Indonesian interference with Javanese has been also shown in the study by Abdulhayi et al (1985). However, all of these studies focused on non-word order levels and did not take linguistics and social factors into account.

In the literature of contact linguistics, phonology is known as the most affected by contact. Long-standing situations and intense contact between Indonesian and Arabic and Dutch have led to extensive borrowed words yielding phonological change to accommodate foreign sounds that the Indonesian inventory did not have. It is not surprising then to find out that four fricative phonemes in Indonesia including /f/, /z/, /ʃ/, and /x/ are imported from Arabic, and the introduction of the complex onset clusters attested in Dutch and English (Batais, 2013) though Tadmor (2009) first entered Indonesian via Dutch loanwords. In addition, Kurniawan (2019) also conducted a study on Korean phonological interference in using Indonesian. A more focused study on the Indonesian variety in Makassar was conducted by Tabri & Said (2022). Both researchers argue that Makassar Chinese Community places the description of the place (K) before the predicate (P) and the object (O) while the structure of

the Indonesian is composed of (SPOK). The speakers are not aware of this as the use of Indonesian and Mandarin was carried out actively and alternated with each other. Thus, they did not take care when communicating in Indonesian.

What makes this apart from the previous studies is that this study addresses the word order level interference and internal and social factors motivating the interference. The interaction of Buginese as the minority and Indonesian as the majority has yielded influence between both languages. Indonesian is widely spoken in formal and government institutions. However, Indonesian spoken is not the standard one as the result of local language interference, like Buginese. Trask (2000) in Hidayat (2017) argued the influence of contacts possibly varies from somewhat trivial to more significant, affecting phonology, morphology, vocabulary, syntax, and other linguistic features.

This study focuses on Buginese interference with Indonesian on the word order level. Buginese is a pro-drop language (Valls, 2014). The subject can be omitted which is in contrast with English and Indonesian where subject presence is a must. The subject can be omitted because it is already expressed with a verbal marker. Laskowske (2016) stated Buginese syntax is basically head-initial. He added that the verb-initial ordering is part of a Buginese general pattern. The subject is marked with a verbal marker and clitics. WALS-APiCS categorized Buginese as SVO language. But traditionally Buginese basic word order is VSO/VOS (Laskowske, 2016). Since the subject can be omitted and marked with a verbal marker, the word order can be also VO/OV.

Agus (2009) argued that verb topicalization motivates verb-initial ordering in Buginese. As a consequence of contact with Indonesia which is SVO, colloquial Buginese-Indonesian may employ SVO/VSO and VO/OV. Therefore, the significance of this study is to examine which patterns are more dominant among other patterns. The result will give a better understanding assuming what word order is likely to be more acceptable in Buginese-Indonesian. Another significance is to provide resources and data focusing on word order patterns in Buginese-Indonesian since there are very few studies focusing on Buginese-Indonesian syntax, particularly on word order level.

The main goal of this study is to find out which word order pattern is more acceptable between SVO and VSO and which word order is more acceptable between VO and OV. Another goal is to find out what internal linguistic characteristics and social factors motivate acceptability.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Buginese**

While some refer to the term "Buginese" and others refer to "Bugis", the researcher prefers to employ the 'Buginese' term in this study. Bugis can refer to both the language and the people. But Buginese is specifically referring to the language. Bugis is the largest tribe in eastern Indonesia. Based on the Ethnologue data (2013), the population is 5.500.000, and one of 719 languages existed in Indonesia. It is spoken widely in the southern portion of Indonesia. Buginese is also found in North Sumatra, Maluku, New Guinea Papua, West Nusa Tenggara, Kalimantan, Java, and even in Malaysia. This is motivated by migration for trade purposes and some of them decide to stay and build the Buginese community where they were migrating.

Buginese is a member of the South Sulawesi languages and the Malayo-Polynesian, the branch of the Austronesian language family (Valls, 2004). There are several dialects of Buginese. Sirk in Grimes and Grimes (1987) lists six tentative dialects of Buginese: Bone, Wajo, Soppeng, Luwu', a southern dialect encompassing the Sinjai-Bulukumba area, and a north-western dialect covering the Sidenrang-Rappang area. Meanwhile, Grimes and Grimes (1987) listed ten dialects of Buginese: Luwu, Wajo, Palakka (Bone), Enna (Sinjai), Soppeng, Sidenreng, Parepare, Sawitto (Pinrang), Tallumpanua (Campalagian) and ugi' riawa (Pasangkayu). Friberg and Friberg (1988) identified Buginese dialects into 11 major dialects, they are Luwu, Wajo, Bone (Palakka), Soppeng, Enna' (Sinjai, Bulukumba), Sidrap, Barru (Pare-Pare), Sawitno, Pangkep, Camba, and Pasangkayu. Presenting all Buginese dialects may lead to some constraints since every dialect has its characteristics. Thus, this study will focus on the Sinjai dialect of Buginese.

The main reason to choose Buginese Sinjai is that Buginese Sinjai is in the second position in terms of the high-level shift from Buginese to Indonesian which is 50% in the urban area and 37.32% in the rural area (Madeamin et al, 2015). The highest one is in Pare-Pare which is 70% in urban areas and 30% in rural areas. Nonetheless, the dialect of Pare-Pare is mixed. But in Sinjai, it is only Buginese Sinjai that mainly exists. Thus, Buginese Sinjai can represent Buginese Indonesian more accurately than another type of Buginese. Meanwhile, Indonesian is the national language of the Republic of Indonesia. It is sometimes called 'Bahasa' in many academic articles. In this paper, the researcher prefers to use the term 'Indonesian' since 'Bahasa' is literally already meaning 'language'. Employing 'Bahasa' is merely an unnecessary repetition.

## 2.2 Indonesian

As the fourth most populous country in the world, Indonesia has 260 million speakers, referring to the current data of the Statistics Indonesia Institute. The number of Indonesian speakers will be increasing due to the population increase. Gordon (2005) in Soderberg and Olson (2008) estimated that 23 million people speak Indonesian as a first language. However, the Indonesian standard is merely used in formal settings. In daily communication, Indonesian is spoken differently as a consequence of local language interference. This is also the case in Buginese society. Buginese speakers keep maintaining Buginese characteristics such as in word order. In Indonesia, the local language as stated by Muliono (2001) in Manuputty (2014) serves as a symbol of national identity, a symbol of pride, a medium of communication among the family and the local community, a medium for supporting local culture and Indonesian language, and medium for supporting local and national identity. Local language serves as a symbol of national identity in the sense that it is a part of nationality enriching and building an identity as a nation.

Like Buginese, Indonesian is also a member of an Austronesian family. Indonesian is based on a variant of Malay that is typically a part of western Indonesia while Buginese is categorized as a part of eastern Indonesia. In terms of grammatical typology, there is a quite difference between Austronesian spoken between Eastern and Western Indonesian (Adelaar & Himmelmann, 2005). The difference refers to the features of grammatical typology. The sense that features differ to the extent that in several cases, the classificatory labels have become almost insignificant compared to Western Indonesian.

Indonesian has been the official language of Indonesia when Indonesia declared its independence on August 17, 1945. Yet there is no exact date on which Indonesian can be said to have been born from Malay (Errington, 1998). Nonetheless, Errington (1998) mentioned that Indonesian does have an identifiable baptismal event called "Oath of the Youth" on October 28, 1928. Standard Indonesian has been extensively developed since 1945. As a national and state language, Indonesian is used as an official language in administration and a medium of instruction in schools since the post-colonial era of nation-building. As a national language, Indonesian serves as the symbol of national pride, a medium for unifying the various ethnic groups having different socio-cultural backgrounds and languages.

Following the independence in 1945, almost all education was in Indonesian (Sneddon, 2003). As a sequence, standardized Indonesian has continued to impact minority languages, particularly through its widespread use in education (Adelaar & Himmelmann, 2005). This was massively promoted in Suharto era until 1998 but the standardization was merely prescriptive and centralized. The expectation was not successfully achieved by then, especially in speaking Indonesian. It is a fact that Indonesian speaking varies from one region to others because of the influence of local languages like Buginese. It is not a surprise to find Bugis people who speak Indonesian differently from other regions as a consequence of Buginese characteristics in terms of morphology, phonology, and syntax.

Further, the researcher employs the term Buginese-Indonesian in this study referring to Buginese speakers who speak Indonesian that particularly focus on Sinjai dialect. Buginese-Indonesian is colloquial Indonesian or non-standard Indonesian spoken in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This is a consequence of language interaction between Indonesian as an official language and Buginese as a local language. This paper takes into account into syntax level, particularly the word order level. Indonesia is typically subject-verb-object (SVO) in 1. Buginese is also SVO though some argue that it is mainly VOS (Agus, 2009) such as in 2 and 3 respectively. VSO is also possible in Buginese as in 4.

### *Indonesian*

1. Saya makan mi

1SG<sup>1</sup> eat noodle

I eat noodle

'I eat noodle'

### *Buginese*

2. Iyya mempe'-ka kaluku-e

1SG climb-1SG.ABS<sup>2</sup> coconut-DEF<sup>3</sup>

3. Man-nasu-i bale La Upe

AV<sup>4</sup>-cook- ABS fish La Upe

---

<sup>1</sup> SG : Singular

<sup>2</sup> ABS : Absolutive

<sup>3</sup> DEF : Definite

<sup>4</sup> AV : Active Voice

I climb tree-the cook fish La Upe  
 'I climb the tree' 'La Upe cooks the fish'

4. Man-nasu-i La Upe bale  
 AV-cook- ABS La Upe fish  
 cook La Upe fish  
 'La Upe cooks the fish'

Clitic is very productive in Buginese either proclitic or enclitic. Clitic carries the subject agreement that is marked to the verb Laskowske (2016). Sometimes, the independent subject pronoun is omitted since it is already marked by clitic embedded in the verb. This motivates Buginese to not have the subject so the word order can be VO/OV. Indonesia also employs clitics but it is not as common as Buginese and does not affect the sentence pattern. This study focuses on personal pronoun clitics. Seemingly, a clitic is similar to an affix but it is different. Tupa (2011) defines clitic as a construction consisting of a single morpheme that is generally minor shaped, morphologically independent but phonologically able to be placed after or before other morphemes. The similar definition is also offered by Nadir (2017) who says that clitic is bound grammatical morphemes which are separated words that grammatically have specific meanings, but are phonologically part of preceding the words (proclitic) or following the words (enclitic). Laskowske (2016) who intensively works in Buginese syntax differentiates clitic from affix by offering an example in 5 below.

(5) Buang tongeng-i ambo'ku  
 V Adv S  
 Fell truly father-my  
 'My father truly fell'

In sentence (5), the enclitic *-i* follows the adverb *tongeng* 'truly' rather than the verb *buang* 'fell'. This reflects that phoneme *-i* does not have an affix since it is not attached to the verb. However, Laskowske (2016) states that when there is a feature of a preverbal focus position, which may be occupied by a full NP (Noun Phrase) or a free-standing pronoun, the fronted constituent no longer appears as a clitic on the verb such as shown in the sentence 6a and 6b that he provides. As a note, he used the Soppeng dialect which has slight differences from Sinjai dialect in some words like *the book* (Sinjai: buku, Soppeng: bo'e) and *my father* (Sinjai: ambe'ku, Soppeng: ambo'ku).

(6) a. Bo'-e na-baca ambo'ku	b. Alena baca-i bo'
O V S	S V O
Book read father-my	He read book
'My father reads the book'	'He reads the book'

Clitics can be attached to the verb and is divided into proclitic and enclitic. The use of clitic is quite productive in Buginese and it exists in Buginese-Indonesian. Although Madeamin et al (2015) found that Bugis people have shifted to Indonesian which is 45% in urban regions and 25.30% in rural regions, it is not entirely Indonesian standard. Word order and clitics are the

features that are replicated in the Indonesian pattern. A high frequency of contact between Buginese and Indonesian leads to grammaticalization. This is in line with what Heine and Kuteva (2010) stated that high-frequency contact causes grammatical replication. In this case, grammatical replication is a process whereby Bugis people create a new grammatical structure when using Indonesian. Those structures do not exist in Indonesian using the linguistic resources available in Buginese which in this study is clitics.

Table 1: Pronominal forms in Buginese

	Free Pronoun		Clitics	
	Buginese	Indonesian	Ergative	Absolutive
1SG	lyya	Saya	(k)u-	-(k)a
2SG	lko	Kau/kamu	mu- kik-	-ko
2SG (honorific)	Idi'	Kita	Mu- Kik-	-ki
3SG	alena	Dia	na-	-(k)i

For this study purpose, the researcher modified this table from Tupa (2011) and added needed information from Laskowske (2016). In Buginese Indonesian, the speakers may use the free pronoun and still mark the pronoun with clitic attached to the verb. But also the speakers may omit the free pronoun or subject and only mark the subject with a clitic attached to the verb. When Buginese speakers produce Indonesian, they can follow SVO or VSO pattern. As it is mentioned at the beginning of this paper, Bugis also allows SVO as Indonesian. However, Buginese keeps marking the subject to the verb with clitics as in 7a or following the Buginese pattern VSO as in 7b. Sentence 7c is in Indonesian standard as a comparison. This kind of pattern is only used in a formal context.

Further, when they omit the free pronoun, the structure will be VO or OV. This similar pattern was shown in the previous study of Modern Persian that shifted from OV to VO type. In VO/OV patterns, the free pronoun is inflected by the verb as clitics. The subject is deleted and marked by the clitics to the verb as in 8a and 8b.

*Buginese-Indonesian*

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 7. a. Saya makan-ka kue | b. Makan-ka saya kue |
| 1SG eat-1SG.ABS cake    | eat-1SG.ABS 1SG cake |
| 'I eat the cake'        | 'I eat the cake'     |

*Indonesian standard*

- c. Saya makan kue  
 1SG eat cake  
 'I eat the cake'

*Buginese-Indonesian*

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 8.a Makan-ka kue | b. kue ku-makan |
|------------------|-----------------|

eat-1SG.ABS cake	cake 1SG.ERG <sup>5</sup> -eat
'I eat the cake'	'I eat the cake'

It is seen clearly that Bugis keeps maintaining its clitics derived from Buginese features though the words are in Indonesian. These clitics seem to govern the word order from SVO in Indonesian becoming VSO or VO/OV. Though the numbers are limited, some articles studied Buginese linguistic features interference into Indonesian. Hidayat (2017) conducted a study of how Buginese morphology influences Indonesian. It is found that much more likely in final offset sounds, leading to interchangeable of bilabial nasal /m/, alveolar nasal /n/, and velar nasal /ŋ/ or the stop marking between alveolar /t/ and velar /k/. A similar result has been also shown by Jaya (2018) including the change of nasal /m/ and /n/ into /ŋ/ at the final position of the word, the assimilation process of sound /k/ into [s], and [t]. Meanwhile, morphologically, the Buginese speakers insert the suffixation /je'/ /mbo/, and /ki'/ in their pattern of speaking Indonesian.

Furthermore, Imran (2015) argued that Buginese-Makassarese Indonesian allows predicate+subject as a result of Buginese-Makassarese grammatical interference allowing which allows syntactic function as shown in 9.

(9) a. Pergi ki	b. makan ka
go 3SG.ABS	eat 1SG.ABS
'She goes'	'I eat'

While there might be a misunderstanding that Imran claimed it is predicate+subject which is not since the subject is inflected to the verb, he showed that Buginese-Makassar has interference in terms of word order in Indonesian. However, Imran did not focus on word order specifically in his work. In addition to that, Imran mainly focused on morphological interference in the sociolinguistic study and took data from Facebook users. Mokhtar's study (2000) showed that Buginese has influenced Indonesian utterance morphologically. The data was taken from 200 respondents with various backgrounds and occupations. Mokhtar (2000) presented how clitics in Buginese intervenes in Indonesian utterances. The use of clitics in this study is primarily motivated by honorific reasons. But honorific systems are also a part of clitics. Nonetheless, this study is sociolinguistic-based that does not deeply and particularly focus on personal pronoun clitics usage in Buginese Indonesian. In addition, Yunus (2016) presented Buginese proclitics that interfere into Indonesian which are *u-*, *mu-*, *ki-*, *na-*, *na-*, and *ta-* and one enclitics which *-i* that can be embedded in the transitive verb. Unfortunately, Yunus did not cover all kinds of common enclitic interference into Indonesian.

To the best of the researcher's knowledge, there are still very few studies, if any, focusing specifically on word order in Buginese-Indonesian. There is number of studies on Buginese word order and clitics but they focus purely on Buginese instead of examining Buginese-Indonesian pattern as the consequence of Buginese interference. Most of the studies merely focus on phonology and morphology. Therefore, this study is also intended to bridge the gap.

---

<sup>5</sup> ERG :Ergative



This study employed an acceptability judgment test instead of production on word order patterns. In a few previous studies about Buginese-Indonesian, they are based on production data. The acceptability test allows Buginese speakers to provide a spontaneous reaction in response to linguistic stimuli that closely resemble a sentence. By comparing some possible patterns, the study may predict what patterns that are likely to be more acceptable by Buginese speakers when it comes to Indonesian contact. Further, this study will not merely examine which pattern is preferable but also take into account what linguistics and social factors contribute to their preference for a particular pattern.

There are six social factors considered, adapted with some adjustments from Moro (2018). First, it is the age factor. Age ranged from 18 to 65 falling into 3 categories. Category 18-22 is the time when the speakers started and finished their bachelor's degree. It is also the time for Buginese speakers in rural areas to move to the city to continue their studies after graduating from senior high school. Category 23-28 is a period when speakers are typically working either in the city or back in their village. Category 29 years old and above is the time when the speakers, generally, get married and permanently decide to stay in the village or city. The age to learn Indonesian falls into categories 1-5 years old and 6-12 years. The year 1-5 is the period when the children mostly spend their time at home while after that period they will go to elementary school and start to learn and use Indonesian intensively. Indonesian is a language in education obligatorily.

Therefore, there are three research questions formulated:

1. Which pattern is more acceptable between SVO and VSO in Buginese-Indonesian?
2. Which pattern is more acceptable between VO and OV in Buginese-Indonesian?
3. What linguistics and social factors contribute to the acceptability of word order patterns?

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study employed Acceptability Judgement Task (AJT). Judgment data provides information that is not readily available from other kinds of data. AJT enables one to distinguish impossible utterances among sentences that have never been naturally produced (Schütze & Sprouse, 2014). Through this method, information on which pattern is preferable would be gained. Therefore, judgment data can distinguish which pattern is preferable compared to the others. In this study, the respondents judged the acceptability rate on word order in Buginese-Indonesian: SVO, VSO, VO, and OV patterns. Particularly, this method employed Likert Scale Task (LS) which uses a scale from 1 to 5. Point 1 is completely unnatural and point 5 is completely natural with a range 0-100. This provides both numerical and intuitive data.

There are 3 linguistic factors considered in this study. The first is the acceptability of the different verbs. There are two different transitive verbs examined and judged on a scale from 1 to 5. Point 1 represents "completely unnatural" and point 5 indicates "completely natural". There are 96 items. 48 items are target items and another 48 items are filler items. 24 target items focus on SVO/VSO and another 24 target items focus on VO/OV. The randomization technique used was block randomization. In total, there are 16 blocks and each block has 8

sentences. The first eight blocks are to identify SVO/VSO and the rest blocks are to examine VO/OV. Each block has 8 sentences and contains an equal number of target and filler items, 4 sentences for each. Those sentences are arranged interchangeably to prevent selection bias. Meanwhile, for the filler items, there are also 48 fillers in which 24 items focus on SVO/VSO and another 24 items focus on VO/OV. From each 24 group fillers, 12 items are grammatical and another 12 items are ungrammatical and semantically incongruent. All sentences presented contain words in both target and filler items. The second linguistic factor is word order. The researcher compared which one is preferable between SVO and VSO and between VO and OV. SVO/VSO patterns are typically in word order when the subject is present while VO/OV patterns are when the subject is dropped in Buginese-Indonesian. Finally, the third linguistic factors are a different kind of person. This study looked at the first singular person (1sg), the second singular person (2sg), and the third singular person (3sg). In all word order patterns attested in this study, clitics are embedded in the verb. The type of clitics depends upon the type of person. Therefore, there is a verb agreement with the type of person.

### **3.2 Participants**

The respondents were Buginese with Sinjai dialect speakers who speak Indonesian and were at least 18 years old. 50 respondents filled SVO/VSO sentences completely and 41 respondents completed VO/OV sentences. They are from different backgrounds including various ages, gender, education level, first language (L1), ages to start learning Indonesian, place to grow up, and place to live. Further, the education level is classified into senior high school, bachelor's degree, master, and doctorate where the speakers quite intelligibly use Indonesian for most of their time. Finally, the place, where the speakers grew up and live, are falling into the rural and urban areas. A rural area is in the villages where Buginese is still spoken most of the time while in the rural area, typically in the city, is a place where Indonesian is mostly spoken.

### **3.3 Instruments**

The data were collected through an online survey using Survey Monkey. The link was shared on social media which were on Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp targeting users who are bilinguals in Buginese and Indonesian.

### **3.4 Data Analysis Procedures**

The collected data were coded and divided into two groups of SVO/VSO and VO/OV. Each group was analyzed using ANOVA to analyze the variance. After analyzing each group, the analysis continued to the internal and social aspects. Each element of linguistic and social factors was tested and analyzed the correlation and significance to measure to what extent the influence of each factor.

## **4. Findings**

Acceptability Judgment Task (AJT) was employed to determine whether the speakers can discern the grammaticality of Buginese-Indonesian word order. While Indonesian only possess SVO but Buginese may have SVO, VSO, VO, and OV. Language contact between Buginese and Indonesian leads to colloquial Buginese-Indonesian allowing SVO, VSO, VO, and OV patterns. Buginese which is productive with clitics keeps the clitics into Indonesian.

For convenience, the researcher provides again Buginese-Indonesian examples in the following as has been mentioned earlier.

*Buginese-Indonesian*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7. a. Saya makan-ka kue<br>1SG eat-1SG.ABS cake<br>'I eat the cake' | b. Makan-ka saya kue<br>eat-1SG.ABS 1SG cake<br>'I eat the cake' |
|---|--|

*Indonesian standard*

- c. Saya makan kue  
1SG eat cake  
'I eat the cake'

*Buginese-Indonesian*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 8.a Makan-ka kue<br>eat-1SG.ABS cake<br>'I eat the cake' | b. kue ku-makan<br>cake 1SG.ERG-eat<br>'I eat the cake' |
|--|---|

Sentence 8a and 8b is Buginese-Indonesian sentence where the clitics are inflected to the verb. It is not the case in Indonesian standard in 8c. Buginese-Indonesian also allows pro-drop subjects as the influence of Buginese as a pro-drop language. Therefore, it can be seen in 9a and 9b where the subject is omitted since it is already marked by clitics embedded in the verb. The clitic and the verb must agree with the type of person as has been shown in Table 1 earlier.

50 respondents were filling SVO/VSO sentences and 41 respondents completed VO/OV sentences. The respondents are coded for seven social factors as illustrated in Table 2 and Table 3 respectively adapted with some modification from Moro (2018).

Table 2 Coding social factors for SVO/VSO.

Social Factor	Number of speakers
<b>Age (years old)</b>	
18-22	11
23-28	27
29+	12
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	21
Female	29
<b>Education level</b>	
Senior High School	13
Bachelor Degree	27
Master	8
Doctor	2
<b>First language</b>	
Buginese	28
Indonesian	22

<b>Age to learn Indonesian (years old)</b>	
1-5	35
6-12	15
<b>Place to grow up</b>	
Urban	21
Rural	29
<b>Place to live</b>	
Urban	16
Rural	34

Table 3: Coding social factors for VO/VO

Social Factor	Number of speakers
<b>Age (years old)</b>	
18-22	7
23-28	22
29+	12
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	19
Female	22
<b>Education level</b>	
Senior High School	7
Bachelor Degree	24
Master	8
Doctor	2
<b>First language</b>	
Buginese	13
Indonesian	18
<b>Age to learn Indonesian (years old)</b>	
1-5	29
6-12	12
<b>Place to grow up</b>	
Urban	23
Rural	18
<b>Place to live</b>	
Urban	14
Rural	27

Technically, the result of this study can be divided into three parts confirming the three research questions.

#### 4.1 SVO and VSO Acceptability

The result of data analysis suggests that 18 respondents (36%) consider that there was no difference between SVO and VSO showing both SVO and VSO are equally acceptable. At some point, however, 14 respondents (28%) accepted VSO is more acceptable than SVO compared to 10 % perceived that both SVO and VSO are unacceptable. The data were confirmed in the following figure.



Figure 1: Profile of speakers on SVO and VSO word order

#### 4.2 VO and OV Acceptability

When the subject is dropped in Buginese Indonesian, there was an obvious difference in the acceptability of word order VO and OV where VO is far away more acceptable than OV. There were more than half of the respondents more than 60% considered VO to be more favorable than OV as indicated in Figure 2 below.

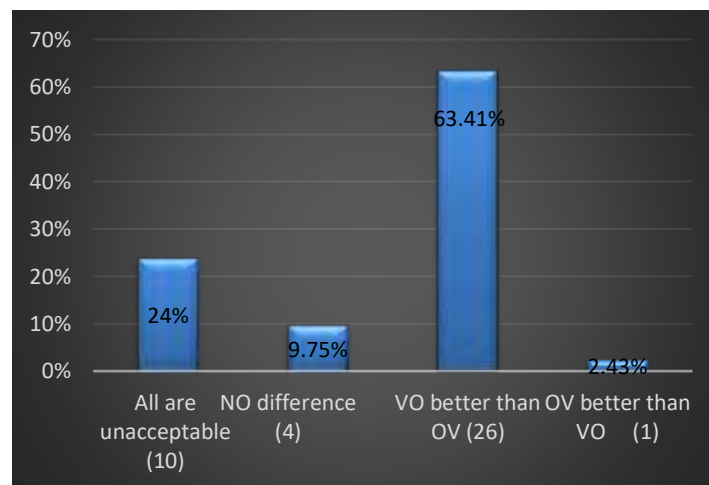


Figure 2: Profile of the speakers on VO and OV word patterns.

#### 4.3 Internal Linguistics and Social Factors

Based on the result, it can be shown that both internal linguistics and social factors influence the acceptability of word order.

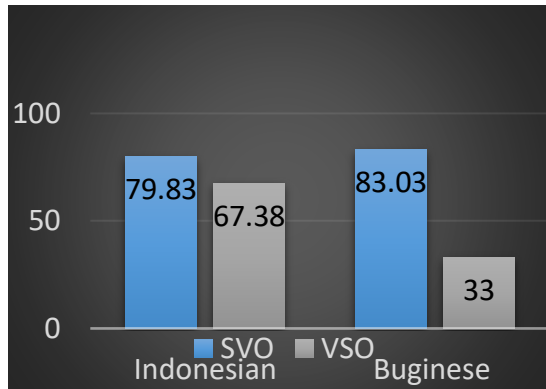
##### 4.3.1 SVO More Acceptable

###### 4.3.1.1 First Language and Verb Type

In terms of linguistic factors, L1 and verb type contributed to the acceptability of SVO that was more acceptable than VSO. Speakers whose first language is Indonesian and Buginese considered SVO to be more acceptable than VSO as shown in Figure 3. The analysis of ANOVA indicates that there was a statistically significant effect of the L1 factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,87)=7.72, p<0.01$ ). In Figure 4, it is indicated that verb type

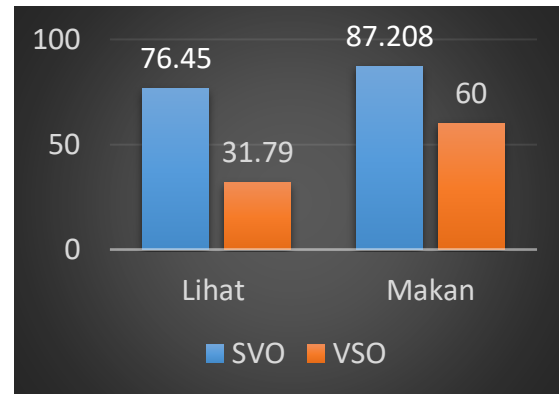
also contributed to the grammaticality of the Buginese-Indonesian word order pattern. There was a statistically significant effect of the verb type factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,87)=12.85, p<0.001$ ). Thus, the verb *makan* 'eat' and *lihat* 'see' which are transitive verbs were more acceptable and natural for SVO than the VSO pattern.

Figure 3  
Word order rating by L1



Word order rating by first language

Figure 4  
Word order by verb type



Word order rating by verb type

#### 4.3.1.2 Word Order, First Language, and Verb Type

When word order, first language, and verb type are integrated, the data analysis revealed that there was a statistically significant effect of L1 and Verb type factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,87)=4.09, p<0.05$ ) as also shown in Figure 5. Interestingly, for those whose first language is Indonesian, the verb *makan* 'eat' is slightly more acceptable for VSO.



Figure 5 : WO + L1 + Verb type.

#### 4.3.2 VSO More Acceptable

##### 4.3.2.1 First Language and Age

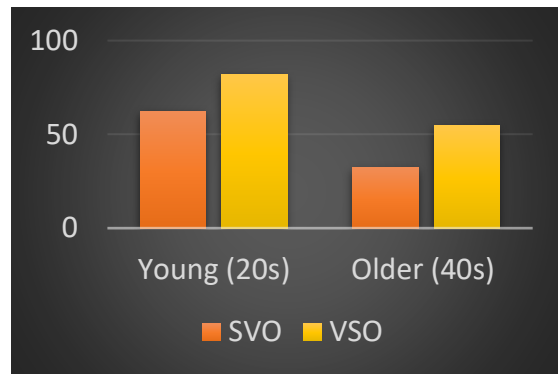
For speakers who accept VSO more than SVO, first language and age had a considerable effect. Speakers whose first language is either Indonesian or Buginese accepted more VSO than SVO. Meanwhile, the younger the speakers the more likely they accept more VSO than SVO.

Figure 6  
Word Order by L1



Word order rating by first language

Figure 7  
Word Order by Age



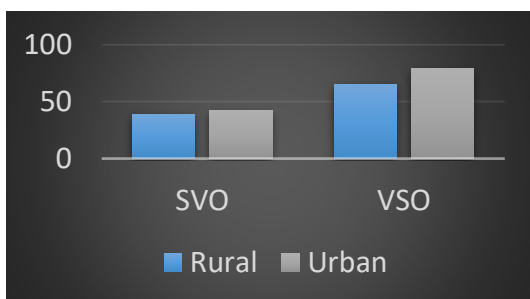
Word order rating by age

Figure 6, it is shown that the VSO word pattern was more acceptable by speakers whose first language either Indonesian or Buginese. Here, there was a statistically significant effect of the L1 factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,157)=4.41, p<0.05$ ). In terms of age in Figure 7, the speakers who are in both age groups of the 20s and 40s accepted more VSO than SVO which has a statistically significant effect of the age factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,87)=9.08, p<0.01$ ).

#### 4.3.2.2 Residence

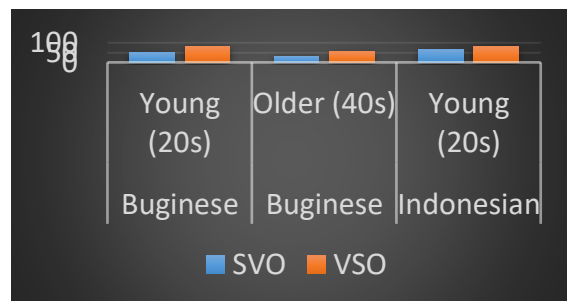
Furthermore, in Figure 8, concerning social factors, it is clear that residence had a remarkable effect as well. There was a statistically significant effect of the residence factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,157)=5.92, p<0.05$ ). This is also supported by the data in Figure 9 where there was a statistically significant effect of L1 and age factor on the acceptability of SVO and VSO ( $F(1,157)=6.66, p<0.05$ ).

Figure 8  
WO and Residence



Word order rating by residence

Figure 9  
WO+L1+Age



Word order rating by L1 and age

#### 4.3.3 VO more acceptable

##### 4.3.3.1 Grammatical Person

On this occasion, the linguistic factor of the grammatical person had a significant effect where VO was more acceptable for the first, second, and third person as in Figure 10. This was

also confirmed by ANOVA which indicated that there was a statistically significant effect of the grammatical person factor on the acceptability of VO and OV ( $F(1,313)=11.57, p<0.001$ ).

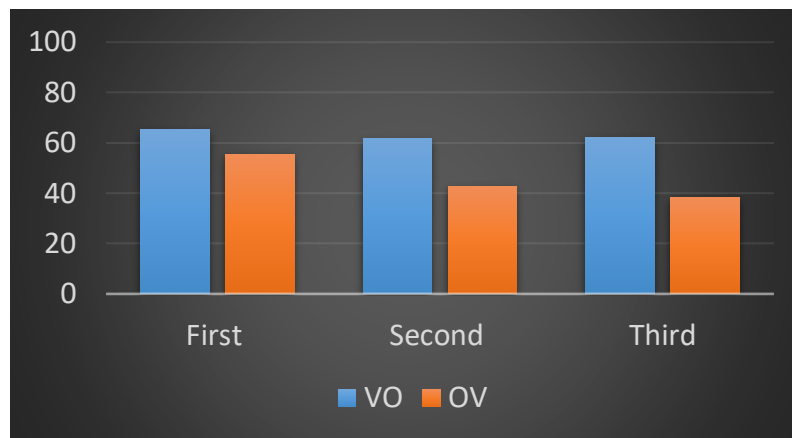


Figure 10. Word order rating by grammatical person

#### 4.3.3.2 Education Level

Meanwhile, the social factors that had a significant contribution were education level. As shown in Figure 11, VO was more acceptable for the speakers who hold degrees in four different levels of education from senior high school, bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. ANOVA analysis also showed that there was a statistically significant effect of the education level factor on the acceptability of VO and OV ( $F(1,313)=11.72, p<0.001$ ).

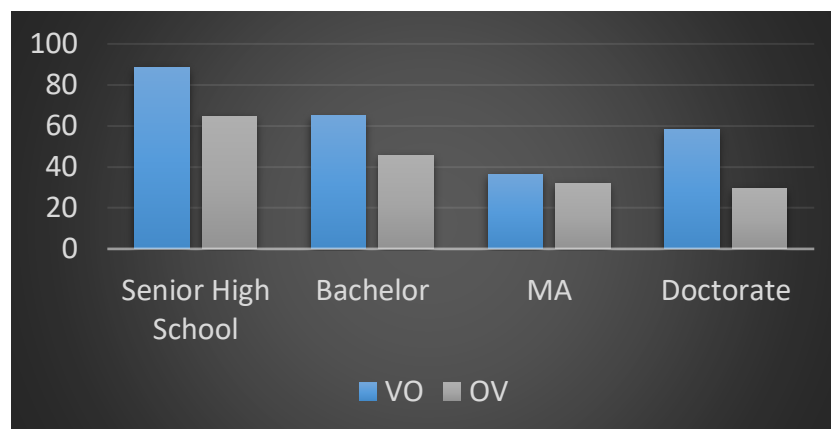


Figure 11: Word order rating by education level

#### 4.3.3.3 Residence and Where The Speakers Grew Up

Another social factor that should be also taken into account is residence both where the speakers live currently and where they grew up as illustrated in Figures 12 and 13.



Figure 12  
Word Order by Residence

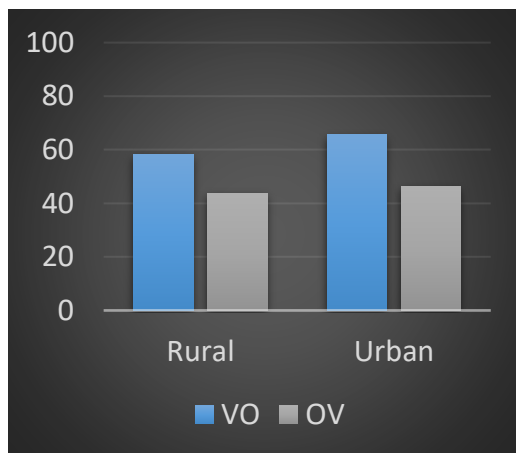


Figure 13  
Word Order by where the speakers grew up

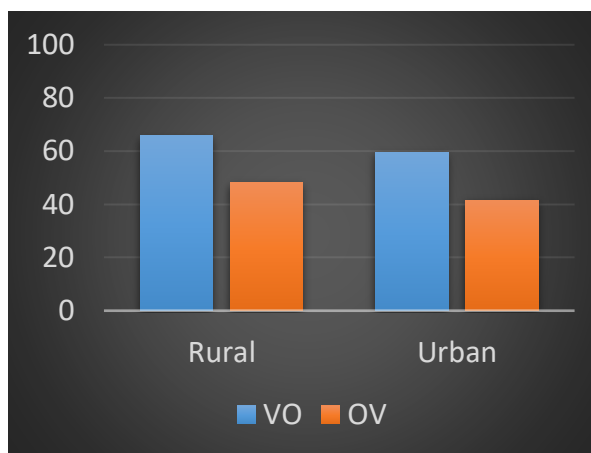


Figure 12. Word order by residence      Figure 13. Word order by where the speaker grew up

In terms of where the speakers live, VO was more favorable both in rural and urban areas which had a statistically significant effect of residence factor on the acceptability of VO and OV ( $F(1,313)=7.85, p<0.01$ ). The same trend went to where the speakers grew up that had similar percentages with residence factor. In this context, there was a statistically significant effect of where the speakers grew up factor on the acceptability of VO and OV ( $F(1,313)=8.34, p<0.01$ ).

### 5. Discussion

The data obtained indicate that both SVO and VSO are equally acceptable though VSO is slightly more acceptable than SVO. Yet, the difference is not significant. It shows that when the subject is present, Buginese-Indonesian speakers may front the verb over the subject. This pattern is parallel with the traditional typological form of Buginese basic word order which is VSO/VOS (Laskowske, 2016). Thus, this corresponds with the background of most speakers who were raised in the Buginese community. Further, Laskowske (2016) argued that the verb-initial ordering is part of the general pattern of Buginese syntax.

Even when the speakers use SVO which is typically the only pattern that Indonesian has, Buginese-Indonesian speakers keep maintaining clitics embedded in the verb. Inflected clitics is typically a Buginese feature. Referring to Backus (2014), the Buginese feature of word order has been entrenched in the speakers' minds. Perhaps, this makes the difference in the Indonesian standard which does not employ clitics.

Meanwhile, when the subject is dropped, VO is far more acceptable than the OV pattern. OV is unlikely natural for most speakers. This is indicated by a significant difference that data has shown. When the subject is omitted, the subject is inflected to the verb by clitics. Enclitic is employed when the pattern is VO such as in 10 while OV employed proclitic as in 11.

10. Makan-ka kue  
eat-1SG.ABS cake  
'I eat the cake'

11. kue ku-makan  
cake 1SG.ERG-eat  
'I eat the cake'

Interestingly, SVO, VSO, and VO have a similar trend. This tells that the presence or the absence of the subject is acceptable and fairly equal in Buginese-Indonesian speakers. However, when the object is fronted over the verb, the pattern seems to be unnatural. It is shown by the fact that OV has the least favorable and the difference is quite high. Therefore, SVO, VSO, and VO have been entrenched by the majority of some speakers which situated it in the context of a usage-based approach (Backus, 2014). It is more likely that these three-word order patterns of SVO, VSO, and VO are more used. Thus, the more entrenched the word order, the higher the chance they will be selected again next time. When the units are more entrenched very well in the speakers' mental representation, they are more likely to be more conventionalized in the community (Backus, 2014). In this case, the word order of SVO, VSO, and VO has been conventionalized in the Buginese community. However, Buginese speakers prefer verb ordering when even the subject is presently leading to slightly more acceptable for VSO over the SVO. Meanwhile, the VO is far away more favorable than OV when the subject is dropped. This confirms that verb topicalization has been more conventionalized in the community.

Concerning internal linguistic factors, the data results confirmed that the type of verb and grammatical persons contributed to the judgment. Although both verb *makan* 'eat' and *lihat* 'see' are transitive verbs, the verb *makan* 'eat' is more acceptable if the patterns are SVO, VSO, and OV while *lihat* 'see' is preferable when the pattern is VO. However, the difference is not significant. Regarding person type, all word order patterns, except OV, are more acceptable when the person is the third singular person, followed by the first singular, and then a second singular person. On the contrary, OV is least preferable for a third singular person. Unlike verb type, the difference is not high. This is in line with Poplack et al (2012) who showed that internal linguistic factors contribute to language contact though in this study the influence of certain internal linguistic factors such as grammatical person does not share equally for each type.

Meanwhile, regarding social factors, for those who considered SVO to be more acceptable, the first language had a significant effect. Age, first language and the place where the speakers grew up and recently live had a considerable effect on those who favor more VSO than SVO. Concerning the preference of VO, education level and residence (where the speakers grew up and live) greatly contributed to the judgment. It seems that the lower the education level the more acceptable the VO pattern. This agrees with Moro's study (2018) that showed that the social network, particularly concerning the place where the speakers grew up contributed significantly to language interference such as in the heritage Ambon Malay community. Moro (2018) indicated that heritage speakers living outside a Moluccan ward show the highest rate of Dutch-like features, whereas speakers living in a Moluccan ward retain homeland Malay-like features more firmly.

Further, the results presented above show that contact between Indonesian and Buginese is quite intense. This agrees with Thomason (2001) who stated that the intensity of the contact is one of the factors influencing language contact. Indonesian as a national language is supposed to be more powerful to intervene with Buginese and converge the word order into only SVO which is typically the Indonesian pattern. However, Buginese-Indonesian speakers keep employing VSO, VO, and OV which do not exist in Indonesian standards. These patterns have been entrenched in the majority of the Buginese community.

The researcher would like to argue that VSO and VO can be acceptable quite similarly to SVO by the speakers regardless of the social factors because of verb topicalization. Buginese is a verb topicalization language as stated by Agus (2009) proposing that verb topicalization motivates verb-initial ordering. Due to intense contact, Buginese speakers replicate this verb topicalization in Indonesian. This can be seen clearly when the subject is dropped in the VO pattern where speakers whose first language is Buginese score far higher than speakers whose first language is Indonesian.

Although, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, there is still no study focusing on word order in Buginese-Indonesia language contact, the result of this study proves that Buginese also intervenes in Indonesian on word order level. Therefore, the interference does not only have morphological and morphological levels as has been shown by Hidayat (2017), Jaya (2018), Mokhtar (2000), Imran (2015), and Yunus (2016) but also the interference occurs in word order level.

In addition to that, the previous study (Madeamin et al, 2015) argued that there is a language shift from Buginese toward Indonesian in Buginese with Sinjai dialect in 50% of urban areas. While the result might be true, Buginese-Indonesian speakers keep maintaining Buginese typically word order. It is supported by the result that both who grew up and live in urban areas tend to accept all word order patterns higher than speakers who grew up and live in rural areas. Perhaps, this is because the interaction is more intense and more frequent in urban areas. This confirms Backus (2014) that the entrenchment is related to the frequency of use.

## **6. Conclusion**

Based on the research questions and data analysis presented, it can be concluded that word order SVO and VSO are acceptable equally though the VSO pattern is slightly more acceptable than the SVO pattern. Meanwhile, when the subject is dropped, the VO pattern is more acceptable than the OV pattern. In terms of linguistics and social factors, L1, age, and residence have a considerable effect on the acceptability of VSO while linguistic factors of first language and verb type had a significant effect on the acceptability of SVO. When the subject is absent, grammatical person, education level, and residence play an important role in the acceptability of VO. Thus, SVO, VSO, and VO are entrenched by some speakers.

### **6.1 Implication**

There were limited studies on the interference of the local language with Indonesian as a national language. This study can be a pivotal reference in the area of Buginese interference with Indonesian specifically at the word order level. The research provides an analysis of syntactic integration between Buginese and Indonesian in a specific dialect context of Buginese which can help us to determine whether and to what extent language or dialects spread or decay.

### **6.2 Limitations and Suggestions for Future Studies**

The data were collected online which can be affected by the clarity of instruction. Some respondents might not fully understand the instruction. Moreover, the sentences are already provided which are not based on a certain context. In addition, the subjects of this study are

limited to 50 bilingual of Buginese-Sinjai speakers. More samples from various Buginese dialects are required for future research.

## References

- Abdulhayi, A., Sulaiman, S. E., Sutarna, S., & Suharti, S. (1985). *Interferensi Gramatikal Bahasa Indonesia dalam Bahasa Jawa*. Pusat Pembinaan Dan Pengembangan Bahasa Departemen Pendidikan Dan Kebudayaan.
- Adelaar, K. A., & Himmelmann, N. (Eds.). (2005). *The Austronesian languages of Asia and Madagascar* (Vol. 7). Psychology Press.
- Agus, N. (2009). Typology study of the constituent sequence of Bugis Language: Case on clause active verbal). *Sawerigading*, 15(3), 309-320.
- Backus, A. (2014). *A usage approach to borrowability*. The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.
- Batais, S. S. (2013). *Consonantal and syllabic repairs of Arabic and Dutch loanwords in Indonesian: A phonological account*. The University of Florida.
- Dabir-Moghaddam, M. (2006). Internal and external forces in typology: Evidence from Iranian languages. *Journal of Universal Language*, 7(1), 29-47.
- Errington, J. J. (1998). *Shifting languages* (Vol. 19). Cambridge University Press.
- Ethnologue. (2013). [Graph Buginese illustration October 14, 2018]. Retrieved from <https://mycourses.siu.edu/d2l/le/content/357955/viewContent/2237060/View?ou=357955>
- Friberg, T., & Friberg, B. (1988). Dialect geography of Bugis. In *Papers in Western Austronesian Linguistics* No. 4. Pacific Linguistics.
- Grimes, C.E & Grimes, B. D. (1987). *Languages of south Sulawesi*. Australian National University.
- Heine, B. & Kuteva, T. (2010). *Contact and grammaticalization in Hickey (Ed). The Handout of Language Contact* (pp. 86-105). Blackwell Publishing.
- Hidayat, N. S. (2017). Buginese family speaking Bahasa showed ethnolect speech-pattern phenomena. *Journal of Global Management Research*, 2367-962X
- Imran, M. A. (2015). *Penggunaan partikel mi, ji, dan pi dalam tuturan bahasa Indonesia oleh pengguna facebook di Makassar: Analisis interpretasi gramatikal bahasa Bugis-Makassar*. Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Universitas Gadjah Mada.
- Jaya. (2018). *Phonological interference of Buginese into Indonesian by Buginese speakers in Toli-toli Central Sulawesi*. Thesis: Universitas Diponegoro.
- Kurniawan, M. A. (2019). *The Korean Phonological Interference In Using the Indonesian Language* (Doctoral dissertation, UNIMED).
- Laskowske, D. C. (2016). *Voice in Bugis: an RRG perspective*. The University of North Dakota.
- Lipski, J. M. (2014). Spanish-English code-switching among low-fluency bilinguals: Towards an expanded typology. *Sociolinguistic Studies*, 8(1), 23.
- Matthews, S., & Yip, V. (2009). Contact-induced grammaticalization: Evidence from the bilingual acquisition. *Studies in Language. International Journal sponsored by the Foundation "Foundations of Language"*, 33(2), 366-395.
- Matras, Y. (2015). Why is the borrowing of inflectional morphology dispreferred? *Borrowed*

- morphology*, 47-80.
- Madeamin, R., Lukman, Darwis, M., & Maknun, T. (2015). The Buginese language shift in South Sulawesi. *International Journal of Enhanced Research in Science Technology & Engineering*, 4(2), 1-5.
- Manuputty, D. G. (2016). Interference of local culture on the use of the Indonesian language in South Sulawesi. *Sawerigading*, 20(2), 261-269.
- Mokhtar, M. (2000). Interferensi morfologi penutur bahasa Bugis dalam berbahasa Indonesia. *Humaniora*, XII(2).
- Moro, F. R. (2018). Divergence in heritage Ambon Malay in the Netherlands: The role of social-psychological factors. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 22(4), 395-411.
- Muysken, P. (2000). *Bilingual speech: A typology of code-mixing*. Cambridge University Press.
- Nadir, M. (2017). An Analysis of The Morphosyntax of Verbs in The Buginese Language by Using Flex. *JICSA (Journal of Islamic Civilization in Southeast Asia)*, 6(2).
- O'Shannessy, C. (2015). Multilingual children increase language differentiation by indexing communities of practice. *First Language*, 35(4-5), 305-326.
- Poplack, S., Zentz, L., & Dion, N. (2012). Phrase-final prepositions in Quebec French: an empirical study of contact, code-switching, and resistance to convergence. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 15(2), 203-225.
- Poplack, S. (2013). "Sometimes I'll start a sentence in Spanish Y TERMINO EN ESPAÑOL": Toward a typology of code-switching. *Linguistics*, 51(s1), 11-14.
- Rasyad, H. (1983). *Interferensi gramatikal bahasa Minangkabau dalam bahasa Indonesia tulis murid kelas VI sekolah dasar Sumatera Barat*. Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa, Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Sabbah, S. (2015). Negative transfer: Arabic language interference to learning English. *Arab World English Journal (AWEJ) Special Issue on Translation*, (4).
- Sankoff, D., Poplack, S., & Vanniarajan, S. (1990). The case of the nonce loan in Tamil. *Language variation and change*, 2(1), 71-101.
- Schütze, C. T., & Sprouse, J. (2014). Judgment data. *Research methods in linguistics*, 27.
- Siregar, I. (2021). Analysis of Betawi Language Interference on the Morphology of Adolescent Speech in Jakarta. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*, 3(8), 54-60.
- Sneddon, J. N. (2003). *The Indonesian language: Its history and role in modern society*. UNSW Press.
- Soderberg, C. D., & Olson, K. S. (2008). Indonesian. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, 38(2), 209-213.
- Tabri, F. K., & Said, I. M. (2022). Mandarin Interference In the Indonesian Language Of Chinese Community In Makassar City. *International Journal of Social Science*, 2(2), 1379-1386.
- Tadmor, U. (2007). Grammatical borrowing in Indonesian. *Empirical Approaches To Language Typology*, 38, 301.
- The World Atlas of Language Structures Online. (2013). [Feature 81A; order of Subject, Object, and Verb October 14, 2018]. Retrieved from <https://wals.info/feature/81A#2/18.0/153.1>
- Thomason, S. (2001). *Language contact*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Tupa, N. (2011). Bentuk pronomina persona bahasa Bugis. *Sawerigading*, 17(2), 261-268.
- Valls, D. (2004). *A grammar sketch of the Bugis language*. Available online on August 31, 2017.
- Yunus, A. F. (2016). Analisis kontrastif bahasa Bugis dan bahasa Indonesia dalam bidang *Indonesian Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, 7(2), 2023

*Arifuddin Balla*

morfologi. *Retorika* 9(1).

Wati, M. R. D. P. (2015). *Grammatical Interference Of Javanese Language In Indonesian Language By Kindergarten Children* (Doctoral dissertation, Diponegoro University).