

# Adverbs Of Verbs In The Kaili Language, Ledo Dialect: A Study Of Structure And Semantics

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## Abstract

This study aims to examine the structure and semantic aspects of verbal adverbs in in the Kaili language, Ledo dialect (BKDL). Verbal adverbs are syntactic elements that function to limit, clarify, or emphasize the meaning of verbs in speech. This study is in the field of morphosyntax and regional language semantics. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with observation and conversation as data collection techniques. The analysis was conducted using matching and distributional methods to examine the morphological and syntactic structure, as well as a semantic approach to interpret the lexical and grammatical meanings of BKDL verb adverbs. The results show that morphologically, BKDL verb adverbs are divided into basic forms (monomorphemic) and derivative forms (polymorphemic), which are formed through affixation such as the prefixes {*ma-*}, {*na-*}, {*mpa-*}, {*mpo-*}, {*njam-*}, {*njuma-*}, suffixes {*-na*}, {*-pa*}, and confixes {*ka-...-na*} and reduplication can be pure reduplication (without affixes) or affixed reduplication, either with the addition of prefixes, suffixes, or confixes. The affixed reduplication forms in the BKDL data vary, including: prefix {*ma-*}/{*na-*} + basic reduplication (RD); prefix {*njuma-*} + RD; prefix {*mpaka-*}/{*mpa-*} / {*mpe-*} + RD; RD + suffix {*-na*}; prefix {*ma-*} + RD + suffix {*-na*}; as well as the prefix {*ka-*} + RD + suffix {*-na*}. Syntactically, verbal adverbs occupy the left position, right position, and free position in accompanying verbs at the phrase level. Semantically, ten types of meanings were found, namely quality, quantity, limitation, frequency, temporality, manner, negation, necessity, expectation, and uncertainty. This study fills a gap in the study of BKDL verb adverbs, which have not been extensively researched in terms of structure and semantics. These findings contribute to the systematic and scientific preservation and documentation of the richness of regional languages.

**Keywords:** *verb adverbs, morphology, syntax, semantics, Kaili language, Ledo dialect*

## Introduction

Kaili is one of the main regional languages in Central Sulawesi that is still actively used by the community, especially in the Palu City area and its surroundings. As a tool of daily communication, this language has an important social and cultural function in maintaining the identity of the people who speak it. One of its prominent dialects is the BKDL. This dialect not only shows uniqueness in sound systems and vocabulary, but also in its grammatical structure and meaning (Syamsuddin, 2025:204). However, in the midst of the development of the Indonesian language and the influence of globalization, the vitality of BKDL faces challenges, so that documentation and research on its language are urgent to be carried out, especially in aspects that have not been widely studied scientifically.

The study of BKDL so far is still dominated by research at the level of phonology and lexicon, while morphology and semantics aspects have not received adequate attention. One of the word classes that has not been widely researched is verb adverbs, which are elements that describe verbs in sentences. Verb adverbs play an important role in the formation of meaning, especially in marking the aspect, manner, time, and intensity of action. According to Sasangka et al. (2002:1), research on word classes such as adjectives and adverbs is still relatively minimal compared to nouns and verbs, even though both have a great influence on the syntactic structure and semantic interpretation of a sentence. This condition emphasizes the importance of conducting a more systematic study of verb adverbs in BKDL as an effort to enrich the grammatical description of regional languages.

Theoretically, verb adverbs have a variety of forms that are divided into basic forms and derivative forms through morphological processes such as affixation, reduplication, and pluralization (Chaer, 2008:83). In BKDL, forms such as *dopa* 'yet', *vai* 'again', and *ngena* 'briefly' exhibit different syntactic and semantic behaviors. The adverb *dopa*, for example, can only precede the verb and serves to mark an unfinished aspect, while it grammatically only appears after the verb to mark the repetition of the action. As for *ngena*, it has a more flexible position because it can precede or follow verbs without changing the grammatical meaning. This phenomenon shows the existence of a typical morphological system and syntactic distribution in BKDL, which is different from the Indonesian system.

Previous studies, such as Abdillah (1998) in Kaili Grammar, have indeed discussed the structure of word classes in BKDL, but discussions about the basic forms and derivatives of adverbs are still very limited. Similar research in other languages shows that verbal adverbs play an important role in uncovering the semantic dimension of an action. For example, Nusarini's (2017) research on Indonesian found that adverbs can represent the meanings of quality, quantity, time, and expectations; Faizal (2022) in Madurese identified the role of modality adverbs in marking the attitude of speakers; while Mudrikah (2015) in Javanese found that verbal adverbs have a fixed position and specific function in sentences. These findings show how complex and important the role of verbal adverbs in language structure are, but until now, similar phenomena have not been studied in depth in BKDL.

Departing from this phenomenon, this study is directed to describe the structure (morphology and syntax) and semantic meaning of verb adverbs in BKDL. This study not only aims to identify the basic forms and derivatives of verb adverbs, but also to explain the grammatical meanings that arise due to morphological processes such as affixation, reduplication, and pluralization. Through this study, it is hoped that the system of formation of verb adverbs that are distinctive in BKDL can be revealed as well as show the relationship between the form and the meaning it produces. Theoretically, the results of this study will contribute to the development of descriptive linguistic studies, while practically, this research supports efforts to preserve and revitalize regional languages as part of the national linguistic wealth.

## **Method**

### **Study Design**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with an inductive approach to describe the form, structure, and meaning of verb adverbs in BKDL. This approach was chosen because it focuses on understanding linguistic phenomena naturally through linguistic descriptions, rather than through quantitative measurements. In

accordance with the views of Moleong (2019:6) and Sugiyono (2017:9), qualitative research aims to understand the meaning contained in the use of language contextually, while descriptive research functions to describe phenomena as they are without manipulation. The data of this study is in the form of speech that contains verb adverbs in BKDL, obtained through the observation method and the cakap method. The simak method is applied with the tapping and swipe cakap engagement (SLC) technique to record the natural conversations of native speakers, while the cakap method is used through fishing techniques and face- to-face cakap to explore a deep understanding of the function and meaning of adverbs. All data is recorded, transcribed, and recorded systematically to ensure the validity and authenticity of the linguistic forms analyzed.

### **Sample Population**

This research was carried out in Baru Village located in West Palu District, Palu City, Central Sulawesi Province. The selection of this area as a research location is based on a number of considerations that are closely related to the existence and use of BKDL by the local community. First, the majority of the population in the region are native speakers of BKDL, who use the language as the main means of communication in daily interactions. The existence of this homogeneous language community allows researchers to obtain data that is authentic and appropriate to the context of the original use. Second, the availability of the necessary adverbial data can be obtained more easily and efficiently, considering that the research location has a fairly representative population to support the needs of field data collection.

### **Data Collection Techniques and Instruments**

The type of data used in this study is oral data, which is obtained through direct speech from informants who are active speakers of BKDL. The main data source is native speakers who live in Baru Village, West Palu District, Palu City. The data collected is a representation of the real use of BKDL in the context of people's daily lives, so it is in line with the purpose of the research which focuses on the description of the verb adverbs of the language.

In data collection, the main informant refers to individuals who are the main source of primary data. They are native speakers of BKDL who actively use the language and meet a number of set selection criteria. These criteria include: (1) being a native speaker of BKDL; (2) born and settled at the research site; (3) have a minimum level of education equivalent to elementary school; (4) be in a healthy physical and mental condition; (5) have a speech organ that functions normally; and (6) be in the age range between 18 and 55 years. These criteria are designed to ensure that the data obtained is from competent speakers and can represent the variations of the language spoken naturally within the community.

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

The data analysis method in this study utilizes two main approaches, namely the matching method and the distributional method. The selection of these two methods is based on the characteristics of the adverb data analyzed, namely data that has both structural and semantic dimensions, especially in the context of the relationship between adverbs and verbs in BKDL. This dual approach allows researchers to examine linguistic phenomena comprehensively, both in terms of formal structure and meaning contained in speech.

## Results

### Basic Forms of Verb Adverbs

The basic form of BKDL verb adverbs is an adverb that morphologically does not undergo the process of affixing and reduplication. This adverb appears as a single word that is directly attached to the verb to provide a certain information. This kind of adverb is categorized as monomorphemic adverbs because their structure is intact and is no longer segmented into morphemes that form it. The basic form (monomorphism) is usually a free word that lexically already has an adverb meaning without having to go through an affixation process. Abdillah (1998:58) in *Kaili Grammar* also said that the basic adverb data is still minimally documented so that this research fills this gap. The basic forms of verb adverbs found in this research data include the following:

Table 1. *BKDL Basic Verb Adverbs*

No	Adverbia Verba	English Translation
1)	<i>aga</i>	'only', 'just'
2)	<i>bara</i>	'maybe', 'perhaps'
3)	<i>biasa</i>	'usually', 'normally'
4)	<i>da</i>	'still'
5)	<i>domo</i>	'no need to'
6)	<i>dopa</i>	'not yet'
7)	<i>kana</i>	'must', 'have to'
8)	<i>ledo</i>	'not', 'no'
9)	<i>mami</i>	'indeed'
10)	<i>nemo</i>	'do not', 'don't'
11)	<i>ngena</i>	'later'
12)	<i>nggoo</i>	'just', 'merely'
13)	<i>njuu</i>	'continuously'
14)	<i>ntani</i>	'formerly', 'before'
15)	<i>tunggai</i>	'often', 'repeatedly'
16)	<i>vai</i>	'again'

All of the above adverbs are found side by side with verbs as agents of action, for example:

- 1) *Dopa mangande tueiku.*  
'Haven't eaten my sister yet'
- 2) *Nojarita vai ngana hai.*  
'Talk to the child again'
- 3) *Hau ngena kita manggita tovau.*  
'Go away for a while we see the goats'

Based on the research data, basic verb adverbs in BKDL appear as monomorphemic forms that do not undergo affixation, reduplication, or compounding. Adverbs such as *dopa* 'yet' and *vai* 'again' function as free lexical items but exhibit different syntactic distributions. The adverb *dopa* consistently occurs in a preverbal position to express an unfinished aspect, whereas *vai* obligatorily appears after the verb. Although both are

morphologically simple, their fixed positional patterns indicate that basic verb adverbs in BKDL have systematic and distinctive syntactic constraints.

In addition to rigidly positioned adverbs, BKDL also displays flexible basic adverbs such as *ngena* 'for a while', which may occur either before or after the verb without affecting grammaticality. This variation demonstrates that basic verb adverbs in BKDL differ not only in semantic function but also in syntactic distribution, despite their shared morphological simplicity. These findings support the views of Kridalaksana (1986) and Chaer (2008) regarding adverbial behavior, while also highlighting a typological distinction between BKDL and Indonesian, where adverb placement is generally more flexible (Alwi et al., 1998; Sasangka, 2000). Consequently, this study addresses the data gap noted by Abdillah (1998) and contributes to the morphosyntactic and semantic description of regional languages in Indonesia.

### Derivative Forms of Adverb Verbs

In addition to being present in the basic form that is monomorphemic, the verb adverb BKDL is also found in the form of derivatives that are polymorphemic. This finding is in line with the results of Abdillah's (1998) research which divided the BKDL adverb into basic adverbs and derivative adverbs that are affixed, duplicated, and combined.

### Adverb Verb of Affixation

The process of forming verb adverbs in BKDL does not only come from the basic form, but also through a productive morphological process, namely affixation. Affixation in this case involves adding prefixes, suffixes, and confixes to the basic form in the form of verbs, adverbs, or nouns to form derivative verb adverbs with more complex meanings. This process shows that the BKDL morphological system has a strong enough derivative ability to form new words with specific semantic functions, such as showing time, manner, state, intensity, and similarity of actions.

The affixes found in the formation of BKDL verb adverbs consist of the prefixes {*ma-*}, {*na-*}, {*mpa-*}, {*mpo-*}, {*njam-*}, {*njuma-*}, suffixes {-*na*}, {-*pa*}, and the suffix {*ka-na*}. Each affix has a different semantic role, depending on the basic form to which it is attached. To clarify the form, structure, and meaning produced, the following table is presented that contains the process of forming verb adverbs through affixation in BKDL.

Table 2. *Adverb Verb of Affixation*

Yes	Types of Physicists	Morphological Formulas	Example of Formation	Meaning	Example Sentences and Translations
1	Prefiks { <i>ma-</i> } / { <i>na-</i> }	{ <i>ma-</i> } + Adv → AdvDerivatives	{ <i>ma-</i> } + { <i>ipua</i> } → <i>maipua</i> 'lusa'	Mark the time, circumstan ce, or frequency of actions	(4) <i>Maipua makava Joko dako ri Makassar?</i> 'The day after tomorrow Joko will come from Makassar?'
		{ <i>na-</i> } + Adv/N → AdvDerivatives	{ <i>na-</i> } + { <i>lavu</i> } → <i>nalavu</i> 'rare'		(5) <i>Ngana nggapuri nalavu hau ri posusa.</i> 'Today's children rarely go to parties'

Yes	Types of Physicists	Morphological Formulas	Example of Formation	Meaning	Example Sentences and Translations
2	Prefiks { <i>mpa</i> -} / { <i>mpo</i> -}	{ <i>mpa</i> -} + N/Adv → AdvDerivatives	{ <i>mpa</i> -} + { <i>sanggani</i> } → <i>mpasanggani</i> 'together'	Marking the manner or similarit y of the action	(6) <i>Kita tumai nopeinta taipa rakandeta mpasanggani.</i> 'We came here to see mangoes to eat together'
		{ <i>mpo</i> -} + N/Adv → AdvDerivative	{ <i>mpo</i> -} + { <i>asu</i> } → <i>mpoasu</i> 'like a dog'		(7) <i>Ngana hai, kana mongare mpoasu merapi kande.</i> 'That child, must be screaming like a dog when asking for food'
3	Prefix { <i>njam</i> -} / { <i>njuma</i> -}	{ <i>njam</i> -} + N → AdvDerivatives	{ <i>njam</i> -} + { <i>bongi</i> } → <i>njambongi</i> 'all night'	Mark the time or place where the event occurred	(8) <i>Njambongi la naturu ri banua sampesuvuna.</i> 'He slept all night at his brother's house'
		{ <i>njuma</i> -} + N → AdvDerivative	{ <i>njuma</i> -} + { <i>ngata</i> } → <i>njumangata</i> 'the whole village'		(9) <i>Pomarenta nobantu njumangata, tempo nambela abala.</i> 'The government helps the whole village when it is hit by a disaster.'
4	Suffix {- <i>na</i> } / {- <i>pa</i> }	A/Adv + {- <i>na</i> } → AdvDerivative	{ <i>biasa</i> } + {- <i>na</i> } → <i>biasana</i> 'usually'	Mark a habit, expectati on, or upcoming time	(10) <i>Ia biasana notingguli tinti papitu.</i> 'He usually comes home at seven'
		Adv + {- <i>pa</i> } → AdvDerivative	{ <i>ngena</i> } + {- <i>pa</i> } → <i>ngenapa</i> 'in a moment'		(11) <i>Ia ngenapa tulau.</i> 'He'll be there soon'
5	Konfiks { <i>ka</i> - - <i>na</i> }	{ <i>ka</i> -} + A + {- <i>na</i> } → AdvTurunan	{ <i>ka</i> -} + { <i>upu</i> } + {- <i>na</i> } → <i>ancestor</i> 'finally'	Mark the outcome or closure of an event	(12) <i>Kaupuna nakava muni ia ri ngatana.</i> 'Finally he came to his own village as well.'

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that the process of forming verb adverbs in BKDL through affixation shows a fairly diverse morphological productivity. The affixes that play a role include the prefixes {*ma*-}, {*na*-}, {*mpa*-}, {*mpo*-}, {*njam*-}, {*njuma*-}, the suffixes {-*na*}, {-*pa*}, and the {*ka--na*} confix. Each affix has a different semantic function depending on the basic shape to which it is attached. In general, these patterns show that the formation of verb adverbs in BKDL takes place systematically and consistently in marking the description of the time, way, state, and frequency of an action.

The prefixes {ma-} and {na-} are the most productive affixes in the formation of BKDL verb adverbs. The prefix {ma-} tends to form adverbs with temporal meanings such as *maipua* 'the day after tomorrow' and *madota* 'will', while {na-} produces the meaning of a state or frequency such as *nalavu* 'rare' and *nadota* 'will'. The prefixes {mpa-} and {mpo-} form adverbs that mean means means way or similarity of actions, such as *mpasangani* 'together' and *mpotonji* 'like a bird'. Meanwhile, the prefixes {njam-} and {njuma-} form adverbs that denote the duration or breadth of time and place, such as *njambongi* 'all night' and *njumaao* 'all day'. This variation shows that the BKDL affixation system is able to give rise to differences in semantic nuances even though the morphological structure is relatively simple.

In addition to prefixation, the suffixation and confixation processes also play a role in the formation of BKDL verb adverbs. The suffixes {-na} and {-pa} form adverbs that express habits, hopes, or the near future, such as *biasana* 'usually', *kambana* 'hope', *ngenapa* 'soon', and *ledopa* 'no more'. The confix {ka- -na} produces a form like *kaupuna* 'finally' which indicates the meaning of the result or affirmation of the end time. Overall, the affixation in BKDL not only enriches the morphological system of the language, but also shows a close relationship between form and meaning in the formation of verb adverbs that function to clarify and refine the meaning of predicates in speech.

### Adverbs in the Form of Reduplication

This reduplication shows the morphological productivity of BKDL in forming more complex adverbs. In general, reduplicated verb adverbs are divided into two major types, namely reduplication without affixes (pure repetition of the basic form) and affixed reduplication (repetition of the basic form accompanied by the addition of a prefix, suffix, or confix).

#### Adverbs Derivative Verbs Reduplication (Basic) Without Affixes

In addition to being formed through the process of affixation, derivative verb adverbs in BKDL are also formed through basic reduplication without affixes. This process is done by repeating the basic form of adverbs or time numerals in full without the addition of other morphemes. Morphologically, the formation can be formulated as follows: Basic Form (A/Num) + Basic Form (A/Num) → AdvDerivative. This form produces polymorphic adverbs that mean affirmation, reinforcement, habit, or repetition in an event. Examples of basic reduplication without affixes are as follows:

- 1). *mpuu* 'absolutely' → *mpuu-mpuu* 'earnest'
- 2). *nemo* 'don't' → *nemo-nemo* 'don't'
- 3). *pura* 'all' → *pura-pura* 'everything'
- 4). *sanggani* 'once' → *sanggani-sanggani* 'rarely' / 'occasionally'

Consider an example of a verb adverb distribution formed by reduplication without affixes in BKDL speech.

(13) *Aga sanggani-sanggani nakava ia tumai.*

'Maybe the chicken has already been sold to the market'

(14) *Aga sanggani-sanggani nakava ia tumai.*

'He only comes here occasionally'

Consider the distribution of verb adverbs formed through full reduplication without affixation in BKDL utterances. In sentence (13), the reduplicated adverb

*nemo-nemo* occurs at the beginning of the clause, preceding the verb *rapobalunamo* 'has been sold'. In this position, the adverb functions as a marker of conjecture that scopes over the entire proposition, expressing the meaning 'perhaps the chicken has already been sold at the market'. In contrast, sentence (14) shows the reduplicated adverb *sanggani-sanggani* placed before the verb *nakava* 'has come', where it directly modifies the verb to indicate low frequency, conveying the meaning 'only occasionally comes here'. These examples demonstrate that basic reduplicated verb adverbs in BKDL, although morphologically formed through full reduplication without affixation, display syntactic flexibility: they may function either as clause-level modifiers affecting the whole proposition or as verb-level modifiers expressing intensity or frequency, depending on their distribution in the clause.

### Affixed Reduplication Derived Verb Adverbs

In BKDL, the adverb form derived from affixed reduplication is found in several productive formation patterns, including the prefixes {*ma-*}, {*na-*}, {*nju-*}, {*mpa-*}, {*mpaka-*}, {*mpe-*}, {*no-*}, suffixes {-*na*}, as well as the confixes {*ma-* -*na*} and {*ka-* -*na*}. Each pattern shows a close relationship between *the* morphological process and the resulting semantic function. These patterns show that the BKDL morphological system has a high ability to modify basic meanings to form more subtle and diverse descriptions.

The following is a table that summarizes the forms of affixed *reduplication* derivative adverbs in BKDL along with morphemic structures, examples of formations, and meanings, in order to provide a clearer picture of their morphological variations and functions.

Table 3. *Affixed Reduplication Derived Verb Adverbs*

Yes	Morphological Process	Formation Formula	Examples of Forms and Meanings	Grammatical Meaning	Example of BKDL Sentence
1	Prefix { <i>ma-</i> }/{ <i>na-</i> } + basic reduplication	{ <i>ma-</i> }/{ <i>na-</i> } + RD → AdvTurunan	<i>masasinta</i> 'will be fast', <i>nasasinta</i> 'it's in a hurry'	Mark the time aspect (prospective/perfective) and the intensity of the action	(15) <i>Nemo masasinta motingguli.</i> 'Don't hurry home.' (16) <i>Ia nasasinta motingguli.</i> 'He's been home in a hurry.'
2	Prefix { <i>nju-</i> } + basic reduplication	{ <i>nju-</i> } + RD → AdvTurunan	<i>njumangu-mangu</i> 'whole', 'everything'	Declaring totality or whole	(17) <i>Geira njumangu-mangu nompakagali masigi eo hii.</i> 'They all cleaned the mosque together today.'



3	Prefix { <i>mpaka-</i> } + basic reduplication	{ <i>mpaka-</i> } + RD → AdvTuruna n	<i>mpakabelo- belo</i> 'with care'	Stating how to proceed with caution	(19) <i>Komiu pura, ane nauda molipa mpakabelo- belo.</i> 'All of you, if it rains carefully.'
4	{ <i>mpa-</i> } prefix + basic reduplication	{ <i>mpa-</i> } + RD → AdvTurunan	<i>mpaole-ole</i> 'slowly', 'quietly'	Stating the way or attitude in acting	(20) <i>Ri dala mbaso nadea oto ante motoro noliu ledo</i> <i>no mpaole ole.</i> 'On the highway many cars and motorcycles pass by not slowly.'
5	{ <i>mpe-</i> } prefix + base reduplication	{ <i>mpe-</i> } + RD → AdvTurunan	<i>mpenggani- nggani</i> 'often'	Marking a frequency or habit	(21) <i>Apa ane ngana mpenggani- nggani momore uda kana mpenggani- nggani muni ia madua.</i> 'If a child plays in the rain a lot, he must be sick a lot.'
6	{ <i>no-</i> } prefix + basic reduplication	{ <i>no-</i> } + RD → AdvTurunan	<i>nompari- mpari</i> 'hurry'	Marking actions taken in a hurry	(22) <i>Ia nompari- mpari notingguli dako ri posikola.</i> 'He hurriedly went home.'
7	Basic reduplication + suffix {- <i>na</i> }	RD + {- <i>na</i> } → AdvDerivat ive	<i>biasa- biasana</i> 'ordinary'	Stating a general intensity or habit	(23) <i>Geira biasa- biasana notingguli tinti papitu.</i> 'They usually come home at seven.'
8	The confix { <i>ma- -na</i> } + basic reduplication	{ <i>ma- -na</i> } + RD → AdvTuruna n	<i>maipia-Piana</i> 'anytime'	Marking unlimited or flexible time	(24) <i>Maipia- piana keni yaku tulau ri gade.</i> 'Anytime take me to the

market.'

9	The confix { <i>ka-</i> <i>-na</i> } + base reduplication	{ <i>ka-</i> <i>-na</i> } + RD → AdvDerivat ives	<i>Kasinta-</i> <i>sintana</i> 'as soon as possible',	Indicates the maximum intensity of a situation	(25) <i>Kasinta-</i> <i>sintana</i> <i>polipana i Yojo</i> <i>nagasipa</i> <i>roana.</i> 'As fast as Yojo walks faster than his friend.'
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Affixed reduplication derivative verb adverbs in BKDL show a diversity of complex and productive morphological processes. This process is the result of a combination of affixation and reduplication that produces polymorphic forms with diverse grammatical meanings. In the BKDL morphological system, the affix attached to the form of reduplication functions to expand the basic meaning, both in terms of time, method, frequency, and intensity of action. Thus, reduplication in BKDL does not simply mark repetition, but also interacts with affixes to create more specific and semantically and grammatically rich adverbial categories.

The adverb forms of affixed reduplication verbs in BKDL show a typical variation of functions. The combination of the prefixes {*ma-*} and {*na-*} with basic reduplications such as *masasinta* 'will be soon' and *nasasinta* 'already soon' indicates the marking of temporal aspects and the intensity of action. The prefix {*ma-*} denotes the prospective aspect (the action to be performed), while {*na-*} denotes the perfective aspect (the action to be completed). In addition, forms such as *mpakabelo-belo* 'carefully', *mpaole-ole* 'slowly', and *mpenggani* 'often' show adverbial functions related to means and frequency. Affixes in these forms play a role in emphasizing the meaning of the action, while reduplication reinforces the elements of intensity and repetition inherent in the verb.

In addition to prefixation, a basic form of reduplication was also found that combined with suffixes and confixes. The suffix {-*na*} in the 'ordinary' form usually denotes a habit or state of recurrence, while the confixes {*ma-* *-na*} and {*ka-* *-na*} in the form *maipia-piana* 'some time' and *kasinta-sintana* 'form denote temporal meaning and highest intensity. All of these forms show that the combination process of affixation and reduplication in BKDL does not occur randomly, but follows a systematic morphological pattern. This phenomenon reflects the richness and uniqueness of the BKDL morphological system in producing adverbial categories that have nuances of layered meanings and are relevant to the context of the speech of the speaking community.

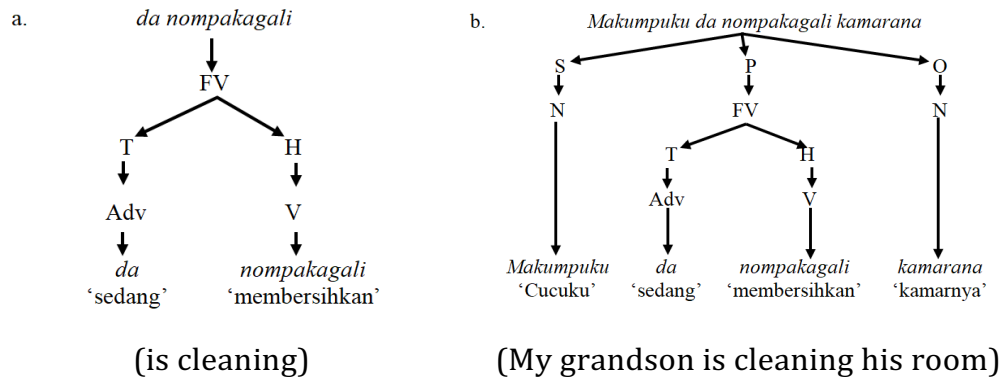
### Syntactic Structure of Verb Adverbs

After describing the morphological forms of verb adverbs in BKDL, the following discussion focuses on syntactic structure to see how the verb adverbs are distributed in the Phrase.

### Left Placement Verb Adverb (Preverbal)

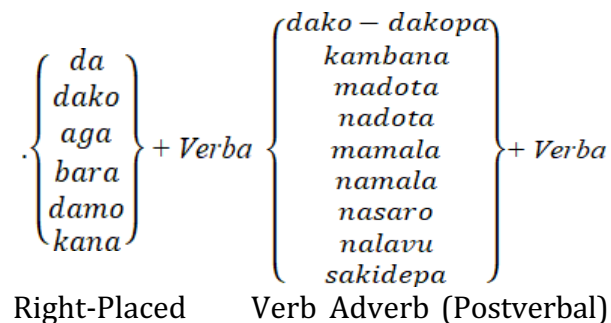
BKDL verb adverbs are present to describe verbs and their position is to the left of the verb they follow. Consider some examples of the following sentences.

- (26) *Makumpuku da nompakagali kamarana.*  
'My grandson is cleaning his room'



In diagram (26a), the structure presented is a verb phrase (VP) consisting of the adverbial modifier *da* 'progressive/ongoing' and the head verb *nompakagali* 'to clean'. In this construction, *da* functions as a modifier (M) that precedes the head (H), namely the verb *nompakagali*. This configuration shows that at the phrasal level, BKDL verb adverbs occupy a leftward position and attach directly to the verb they modify. The presence of *da* before the verb encodes a progressive aspect, indicating that the action is ongoing. Accordingly, the resulting phrase follows the pattern Adv + V → VP.

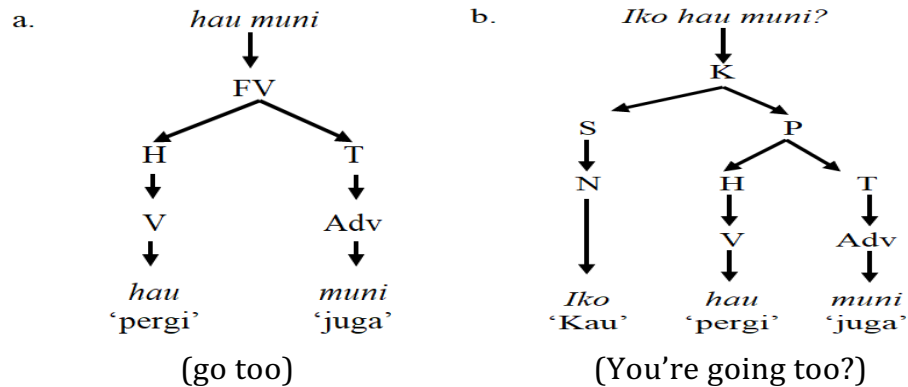
In diagram (26b), the structure expands into a complete clause consisting of a subject (S), predicate (P), and object (O). The subject is *Makumpuku* 'my grandchild', the predicate is the verb phrase *da nompakagali* 'is cleaning', and the object is *kamarana* 'his/her room'. Within the predicate, *da* again appears to the left of the main verb, reinforcing its role as a progressive adverbial modifier. This distribution further demonstrates that at the clausal level, BKDL verb adverbs do not shift to a postverbal position; a construction such as *Makumpuku nompakagali da kamarana* is ungrammatical. Thus, data from (26a) and (26b) consistently show that BKDL progressive verb adverbs such as *da* obligatorily occupy a leftward position at both the phrasal and clausal levels. This pattern confirms a hierarchical relationship in which the adverb functions as a modifier and the verb as the head, establishing the leftward position as the natural and productive syntactic slot for BKDL verb adverbs. The following is presented with the left position verb adverb as follows.



In addition to occupying a position to the left of the verb, the verb adverb in BKDL can also appear to the right of the verb (postverbal). This position is usually used to provide additional information that is affirmation, intensity, time order, or independence of the action. In other words, verbal adverbs that occupy a postverbal position no longer mark aspects or negations as in the preverbal position, but serve to expand the meaning of the events expressed by the predicate. Consider some examples of the following sentences.

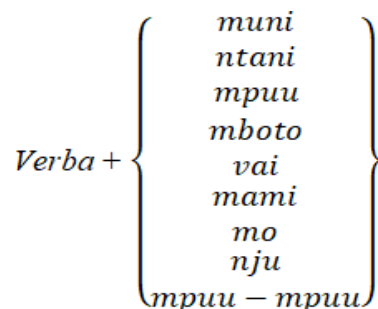
(27) *Iko hau muni?*

'You're going too?'



In diagram (27a), the structure illustrated is a verb phrase (VP) consisting of the head verb *hau* 'go' and the adverb *muni* 'also'. In this construction, *hau* functions as the head (H), while *muni* functions as an adverbial modifier (M) that occupies the rightward position relative to the verb. This pattern shows that, unlike progressive adverbs such as *da*, the adverb *muni* is postverbal in BKDL. At the phrasal level, the resulting structure follows the pattern  $V + Adv \rightarrow VP$ , indicating that *muni* modifies the verb from the right.

In diagram (27b), the structure expands into an interrogative clause consisting of a predicate and a subject. The subject is *Iko* 'you', while the predicate is the verb phrase *hau muni* 'go also'. Within the predicate, the adverb *muni* consistently appears after the verb *hau*, maintaining its postverbal position. This distribution demonstrates that even at the clausal level, *muni* does not shift to a preverbal position; a construction such as *Iko muni hau?* is ungrammatical in BKDL. Therefore, data from (27a) and (27b) confirm that BKDL verb adverbs expressing additive meaning, such as *muni* 'also', are structurally fixed in a postverbal position. This pattern further supports the view that BKDL verb adverbs exhibit systematic positional distinctions, with some adverbs occurring preverbally and others postverbally, depending on their semantic and syntactic properties. The following is presented with the left position verb adverb as follows.



### Free Placement Verb Adverbs

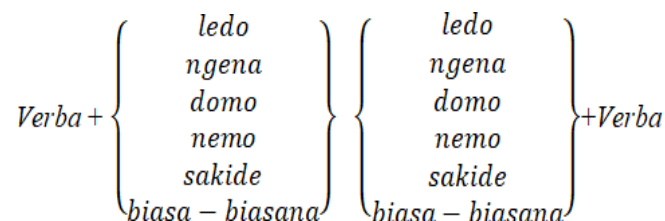
What is meant by free-standing verb adverbs in BKDL is an adverb that does not have a fixed position towards the verb, meaning that it can appear both on the left (preverbal) and right (postverbal) of the verb it follows, without causing significant changes in meaning or grammaticality. Consider some examples of the following sentences.

(28) *Ia hai mangande ledo?*  
'Didn't he eat?'

(29) *Ia hai ledo mangande?*  
'That he didn't eat?'

In sentence (28) *Ia hai mangande ledo?* 'Does he eat?' and (29) *Ia hai ledo mangande?* 'He doesn't eat?', the adverb *verb ledo* 'not' can occupy a position both after the verb *mangande ledo* and before the verb *mangande ledo*. Semantically, both sentences express a negative question, namely questioning the truth of the act of 'eating'. Pragmatically, however, the position of the adverb can affect emphasis: if *the ledo* is behind the verb (28), the pressure falls on the predicate 'eat' as a dubious action, whereas if it is in front of the verb (29), the emphasis shifts to the negation itself, as if the speaker is confirming the unpretentiousness of the action.

Thus, the existence of free-located verb adverbs in BKDL shows that the linguistic syntactic system is dynamic and prosodic, where intuitive emphasis and focus of information can determine the position of the adverb without violating grammatical rules. The following is presented with the left position verb adverb as follows.



### Meaning of Adverbs

Verb adverbs in BKDL can be grouped into ten semantic categories in the following table:

Table 4. *Meaning of BKDL Verb Adverb*

Yes	Types of Adverb	Main Meaning/Function	Examples of BKDL Adverb Forms
1	Quality Adverbs	Declare the degree or degree of an action	<i>ntoto</i> 'very/once'
2	Adverb Quantity	Indicates the number or number of actions	<i>sakide</i> 'a little' <i>nadea</i> 'a lot'
3	Limitation Adverbs	Limit or narrow the scope of an action	<i>aga</i> 'only' <i>nggoo</i> 'just'
4	Frequency Adverbs	Stating the frequency or intensity of events	<i>nasaro</i> 'often' <i>nalavu</i> 'sometimes'
5	Adverb Tense	Indicates when the action occurred	<i>dako</i> 'new' <i>dako-dakopa</i> " not just

Yes	Types of Adverbia	Main Meaning/Function	Examples of BKDL Adverb Forms now"
6	Adverbs How-to	escribe the how, process, or tempo of the action	<i>paole</i> 'slow' <i>pakaole-ole</i> 'slowly' <i>masasinta</i> 'will be fast' <i>nasasinta</i> 'it's fast'
7	Adverbia Negasi	Deny or cancel an action	<i>ledo</i> 'no' <i>domo</i> 'no need' <i>dopa</i> 'not yet'
8	Adverb Necessity	Demonstrate certainty or necessity of action	<i>mpuu</i> 'true/correct' <i>kana</i> 'must be' <i>nju</i> 'always' <i>mpuu-mpuu</i> 'really'
9	Adverbia Harapan	Expressing a desire or prayer for action	<i>kambana</i> 'hopefully'
10	Adverb Uncertainty	Indicates the suspected or probable occurrence of an event	<i>bara</i> 'maybe'

## Discussion

Based on the results of the analysis of verb adverb data in BKDL, it can be concluded that verb adverbs have a distinctive morphological and syntactic structure and show a semantically complex diversity of meanings. First, in terms of structure, verb adverbs in BKDL are divided into two main forms, namely basic adverbs and derivative adverbs. Basic verb adverbs are monomorphemic forms that do not undergo the process of affixation or reduplication, such as *dopa* 'yet' and *vai* 'anymore'. While derivative verb adverbs are formed through the process of affixation in verb adverbs, BKDL shows a productive and varied morphological system in forming the meaning of descriptions for verbs. The analysis found include prefixes, suffixes, and confixes, each with a different semantic function. Prefixes {*ma-*}, {*na-*}, {*mpa-*}, {*mpo-*}, {*njam-*}, {*njuma-*}, suffixes {-*na*}, {-*pa*}, and confixes {*ka-...-na*}. Then in the Reduplication section, it can be in the form of pure reduplication (without affixes) or affixed reduplication, either by adding prefixes, suffixes, or confixes. The forms of this affixed reduplication in BKDL data vary, including: the prefix {*ma-*}/{*na-*} + basic reduplication (RD); the prefix {*njuma-*} + RD; the prefix {*mpaka-*}/{*mpa-*}/{*mpe-*} + RD; RD + suffix {-*na*}; prefix {*ma-*} + RD + suffix {-*na*}; prefix {*ka-*} + RD + suffix {-*na*}. Meanwhile, syntactically, BKDL verb adverbs occupy three main positions, namely preverbal, postverbal, and free- position. The preverbal position generally marks aspects of time, frequency, negation, and modality, e.g. *aga* 'only' and *nasaro* 'always' while the postverbal position is used for affirmation, repetition, or addition of the meaning of intensity, e.g. *vai* 'again' and *mami* 'indeed'. Free-standing adverbs such as *ledo* 'no', *nemo* 'don't' and *ngena* 'later/for a while' can appear before or after the verb without changing the basic meaning, affecting only the emphasis in speech.

Second, in terms of meaning, the verb adverb BKDL shows the richness of the meaning category. The verb adverb can be classified into ten main semantic categories, namely: quality, quantity, limitation, frequency, timing, formality,

negation, inevitability, expectation, and uncertainty. Thus, structurally and semantically, verb adverbs in BKDL play an important role in shaping the meaning of clauses and enriching the expression of speech actions of BKDL speakers. This diversity of forms and functions reflects the flexibility of the BKDL grammatical system while showing the conceptual richness of its linguistic culture.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the research, it is suggested that the study of BKDL be continued by examining other linguistic aspects such as other types of adverbs, adjectives, and clause structures at the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic levels. Findings regarding the formation, distribution, and meaning of BKDL verb adverbs can also be used as teaching materials in morphology, syntax, and semantics courses to enrich students' understanding of the diversity of the structure of the archipelago's language. In addition, the results of this research are expected to encourage linguistic institutions, academics, and local governments to document, teach, and preserve regional languages through culture-based literacy activities. Thus, this research makes a real contribution to the development of linguistics and the preservation of regional languages as part of the nation's cultural identity.

## Suggestions

Based on the results of the research and the conclusions obtained, the following suggestions can be submitted as a follow-up:

1. For future researchers, the results of this research are expected to be the basis for further studies on other linguistic aspects in BKDL, such as other types of adverbs, adjectives, or clause structures in a broader syntactic and semantic context. Further research can also be directed to pragmatic studies and discourse to see how verb adverbs are used in the context of daily communication, oral literature, and social interaction of the Kaili community.
2. For academics and language teachers, the findings of this research can be used as teaching materials and references in morphology, syntax, and semantics courses. Analysis of the formation, distribution, and meaning of BKDL verb adverbs can be a concrete example of the application of linguistic theory to regional languages, as well as enrich students' understanding of the diversity of the language structure of the archipelago.

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