

VERB PHRASE ARCHITECTURE OF BINUKID LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This study entitled “Verb Phrase Architecture of Binukid Language” aims to describe the verb phrase architecture of Binukid language spoken by the Bukidnon, Higaonon and Talaandig tribes in the province of Bukidnon. Specifically, the study sought to answer the question: What are the constituents of the verb phrase in Binukid language? This study is a descriptive study using Noam Chomsky’s Universal Grammar, X-Bar theory and Minimalist Program.

Through convenience sampling, four (4) Talaandig, and two (2) Higaonon native speakers were interviewed and the conversations in different settings were recorded. Also, one recording from the house setting was included since one (1) native speaker from the Talaandig tribe was heard speaking the Binukid language. Consultation then with the expert of Binukid language was done for data accuracy.

Findings revealed that the verb phrase architecture of Binukid language in the province of Bukidnon based on the data gathered by the researcher shows that out of 305 verb phrases, there are 30 verb phrases structure of $VP \rightarrow V NP$, 162 verb phrases of $VP \rightarrow V$, the $VP \rightarrow V PP$ has 14 verb phrases, and there are 7 verb phrase structure of $VP \rightarrow V AdvP$. All of these are based on the X-Bar theory. On the other hand, based on the Minimalist Program, there are 92 verb phrases of $VP \rightarrow V PRN$, 20 verb phrases structure of $VP \rightarrow V DP$, 3 verb phrases structure of $VP \rightarrow V QP$ and 1 verb phrase structure of $VP \rightarrow V ConjP$. It can be concluded that the verb phrase constituents of Binukid language are verb, verb + noun phrase, verb + prepositional phrase, verb + adverbial phrase, verb + pronoun, verb + determiner phrase, verb + quantifier phrase and verb + conjunctival phrase.

Finally, it is recommended that the result on the verb phrases should be used by the language teachers as sample or reference to give additional information to the syntactic structures of native languages in the Philippines. Scholars and translators should create modules, references or informative materials that pertain to the Binukid language especially that there are a lot of Schools for Living Tradition (SLT) in Bukidnon today which helps in the preservation of the Binukid language. Researchers should conduct a more precise study of the syntactic structure of the Binukid language since there are more to be discovered and this study is a possible line of research to follow and researchers should conduct more studies about the Binukid language because there are only few studies that have been carried out and none, to the best of my knowledge, has attempted to comprehensively study about the morphology, phonetics and phonology, semantics and pragmatics.

Key words: minimalist program, syntax, universal grammar, verb phrase, x-bar theory

Introduction

Language influences the daily lives of members of any race, creed, and region of the world. Language helps express our feelings, desires, and queries to the world around us (*De Valoes, 2014*). But every language is different. They have structural rules and underpinnings which make them logical for the people who speak and understand them.

The term syntax is used to refer to the study of the set of rules, principles and processes that govern the structure of sentences in a certain language. Furthermore, syntax is the study of how sentences are put together (Lawler, 2014). It also examines the level of language that lies between words and the meaning of utterances in the sentence (Carnie, 2001). However, one of the most common concerned aspects of syntax is on how to organize the words into sentences and phrases. The most common phrases are the Noun Phrase (NP) and Verb Phrase (VP) without making the others less important (Jasper, 2015). This is because most sentences consist of a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase as they sometimes act as the subject and predicate of the sentence (Hurley, 2014). But Adamson and Diaz (2009) stated that the study of noun phrase seems to have been traditionally less popular than that of the verb phrase. Moreover, Lusekelo (2009) and Rugemalira (2007) both affirmed that scholars have paid less attention to the syntax of the noun and its dependents. One reason might be because a verb is always present in a sentence and it is a necessary component of all sentences (Simmons, 2015). Furthermore, Rodriguez-Navarro (1993) stated that while VPs have always been studied, NPs have not clearly been analyzed. This is the reason why she conducted a study on noun phrases and verb phrases in English in a parallel approach.

The researcher of this study described the verb phrase architecture of the Binukid language. Because by studying the verb phrases, it also means touching the noun phrases of the Binukid language.

Binukid language is spoken by indigenous people specifically the Higaonon, Talaandig, and Bukidnon found in the province of Bukidnon and in the province of Agusan del Sur and Cotabato that are near the boundaries with the Bukidnon province (Saldua, 2011). There are some published researches/studies about the Binukid language. Peng and Billings (2008) studied about the Binukid Pronominal Clisis, and Post and Gardner (1992) published a Binukid Dictionary. Also, part of the Bible in the Binukid language was published for the first time in 1956, and the New Testament was first published in 1986. But unfortunately, the complete Bible has not been published (Joshua Project, 2015).

This research aimed to describe the grammar of the Binukid language and to identify and determine the grammatical structures of the verb phrases using the theory of Noam Chomsky's X-bar and Minimalist Program. The respondents of the study were the Talaandig and Higaonon tribal people who are native speakers of the Binukid language residing in Bukidnon. The researcher chose to study about the VP structures of the Binukid language hoping that this study will at least illuminate or provide an additional way to understand linguistic diversity and at least inspire others to study the richness of this language.

It is inferred that the Binukid language was not given much attention by many local researchers. In fact, most researchers and surveyors came not from the Philippines but from international locations. In addition, it is for this reason that the researcher finds it necessary to study the language and determine its VP structures to help other researchers for future studies and research movements.

Methods

This study utilized the descriptive type of research design, since this study described the structure of the verb phrases of the Binukid language spoken by the Talaandig and Higaonon tribes in the province of Bukidnon.

The researcher conducted the study at three different barangays in the municipality of Lantapan, Bukidnon, namely: Nakadulog, Bulanga, and Centro Kibangay where the Talaandig indigenous people live. Also, the researcher interviewed Talaandig and Higaonon indigenous people from Malaybalay City, in the municipality of Malitbog, and in the municipality of Manolo Fortich during the 101st Kaamulan Festival held at Capitol Grounds Malaybalay City Bukidnon on October 19, 2015.

The study utilized a non-structured direct interview of the Talaandig and Higaonon indigenous people and recorded one of the conversations of the Talaandig indigenous people. The researcher asked questions from the participants in order to draw answers which the researcher determined the verb phrase architecture of the Binukid language. The researcher used a recorder and cameras to produce authentic data.

Ethical Considerations

These principles were observed in the conduct of this study. First, individuals involved in the gathering of data were treated with the highest respect. The respondents of the study participated in the study were asked in appropriate ways. Also, the researcher offered something for them in respect to their delicate culture. No personal data were collected from them without their permission, that is, in respect to their dignity and privacy. Their names were written with their full consent. Beneficence is also an ethical standard that the researcher observed in protecting the respondents from any harm. The researcher made sure that the questions asked during interview did not contain any degrading, discriminating or any unacceptable language that could be offensive to any of the respondents. Lastly, to promote justice, respondents were fully informed about the objectives of the study before involving them in the data collection process. They were aware that the results could benefit not only them or their tribes but also other learners, the school, and the society in general.

Results and Discussion

The Binukid language is a verb-initial language following the VSO and VOS word order (Post and Gardner, 1992). But sometimes, native speakers tend to unconsciously violate these word orders and this was proven true in the data gathered by the researcher. The reasons might be because languages diverge as well as converge. But then, Binukid language still belongs to a verb-initial language. According to Carnie and Guilfoyle (2000), languages that have as their "basic" or "default" word order that puts the verb first in the sentence make up about 10% of the world's languages, yet they are relatively untreated in the generative grammar literature. Therefore, Binukid language brings its own special problem to the discipline. Its VSO word order is highly problematic and even its simpler VOS word order.

To start with, a sample Binukid sentence following the VOS word order is shown below.

Tinimù sa gusuk din dini ta dibaluy ha gibang.
(pointing at her back)

Binukid: **tinimù sa gusuk din dini ta dibaluy ha gibang**

Word for word Translation: took mk ribs he here mk back lig left side

Translation: *He took the ribs here (pointing at her back) at the left side of the back.*

Sample 1

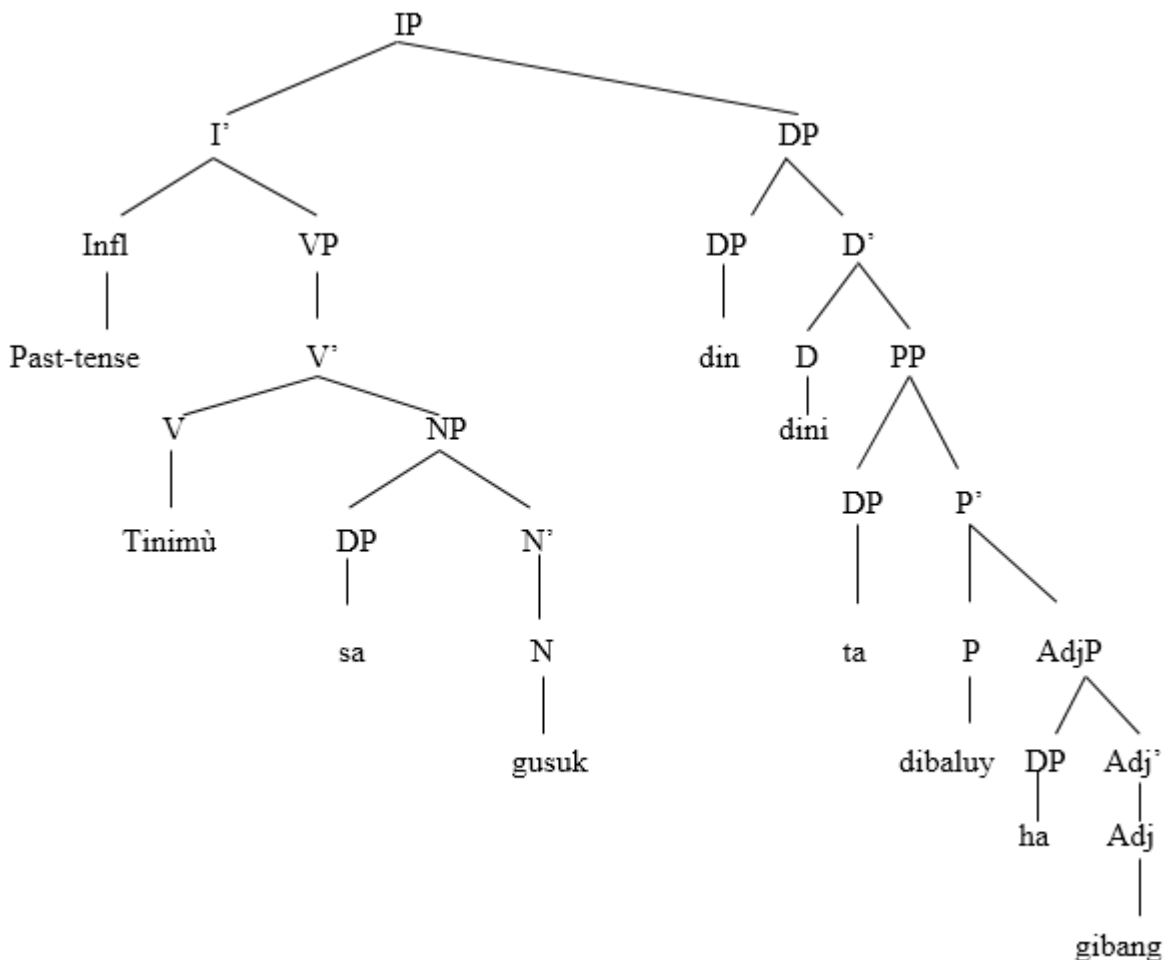


Fig.1 Syntactic Structure of the Binukid Language following the VOS Word Order

As shown in the sample 1 and fig. 1 above, the verb *tinimù* ‘took’ is the initial word in the sentence and the subject tends strongly to precede the object. VOS is characterized as typically unusual basic word order as it comprises of a verb-initial predicate phrase denoting the argument of predication (Pearson, 2007). However, this type

of word order is exceedingly rare in the Binukid language because its main word order is VSO. Following the verb is the object *sa gusuk* 'the ribs' in which *sa* is a noun marker that marks the *gusuk*. In this case, we can see a particular constituent of a verb phrase which is a noun phrase. Thus, follows VP → V NP.

Following the noun phrase which is an object complement in the sentence is the subject or the actor which is *din* 'he'. It is a pronominal subject with a genitive case form and this is very common in the Binukid language. In the sample of the Binukid sentence above, *din* is a pronoun which is the subject itself. Pronouns are words that stand for a noun or a whole noun phrase (Hana, 2011). In the work over the past few decades, the verb in such cases has a null subject which can be thought of a silent or invisible counterpart of the pronouns he/she (Radford, 2006) which appear in the English language such as in the sentence, 'He/She takes a bath.' Null subject languages like Italian with null finite *pro* subjects, we find that overt pronoun subjects are only used for emphasis, so that in an Italian sentence like *L'ho fatto io* (literally means 'I have done I') the subject pronoun *io* 'I' has a contrastive interpretation and the relevant sentence is paraphraseable in English as 'I was the one who did it' (Radford, 2006). The null subject is conventionally designated as *pro* (Radford, 2006), where *pro* is a null subject and it captures the intuition that the sentence or a phrase has an understood subject. In the case of the Binukid language, *tinimù* 'took' has a pronoun as its subject. Thus far, Binukid is a null subject language like Italian language. But things are very different in English because it is a non-null subject language.

The existence of compound pronouns is said to be present in the Binukid language. In the sample sentence above, *dini* 'here' is a locative pronoun that locates or directs. Two pronouns can be used together just like the subject pronoun *din* 'he' and *dini* 'here'. Therefore, the subject pronoun in the sentence goes with the locative marker *dini* 'here'. This is the same in the Chrambo language (Wright, 2009) and in Mankong language in which compound pronouns are very commonly used (De Visser, 2011).

Following the locative marker *dini* 'here' is the prepositional phrase which is an adjunct in the sentence. But the researcher decided not to elaborate it further since the focus of this study is in the verb phrase. *Dini* 'here' was explained just to emphasize the compound pronouns in the sentence. But it is already part of an adjunct which is an optional information since *Tinimù sa gusuk din* 'He took the ribs' can stand alone.

As mentioned above, VOS word order is exceedingly rare in the Binukid language since most of its sentences follow the VSO word order (Ethnologue, 2015). Therefore, it is hard to find a verb phrase that constitute a noun phrase. But on the data gathered by the researcher, there are verb phrases structure of VP → V NP. The researcher provides example using the framework of Noam Chomsky's X-bar.

Verb Phrase Structure of VP → V NP

<i>naghimu hu libru</i>			
Binukid:	naghimu	hu	libru
Word for word Translation:	made	OBL	book
Translation:	<i>Made a book</i>		
Sample 2			

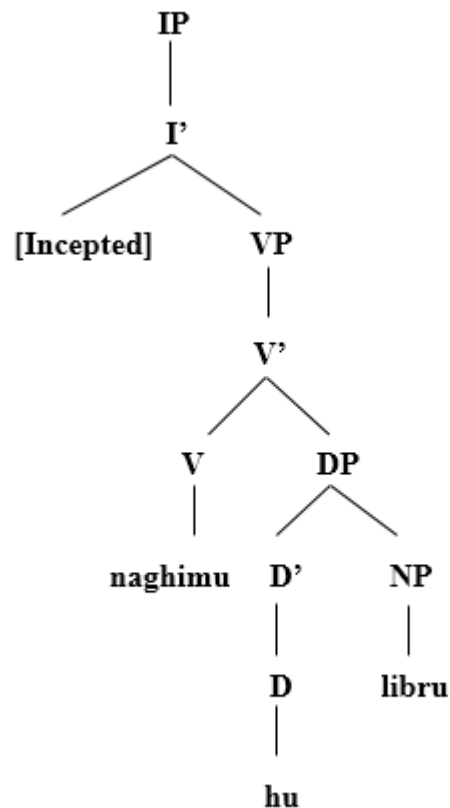


Fig.2 Verb Phrase Structure of VP → V NP

Sample 2 and fig. 2 shows that the verb *naghimu* which means *made* in English is located in the initial syntactic position and precedes the oblique marker *hu* or which introduces the noun *libru* or *book* in the English language. Thus, it follows the structure VP → V NP. The oblique (OBL) *hu* is considered to be a determiner in the Binukid like *si, ang, ng, sa*, etc. in Tagalog and they are case marking particles that show the grammatical relation of the NP to the verb. And since *hu* is an oblique, the translation is *made a book* and not *made the book*.

Also, *hu* is an oblique marker which in this NP introduces an objective case because the noun in the given sample is a *book* or *libru* and that *hu* introduces *libru* as the object of the verb *naghimu* which receives the direct action of the verb. It is also incepted since the action is not clearly determined if it has been initiated or not. This is the same in Badjao Dialect that its past actions are basically in the incepted aspect and its present actions are the incepted aspect too unless they are habitual actions (Ramos, 2015).

Verb Phrase Structure of VP → V PP

<i>ligid hu panahun</i>			
Binukid:	ligid	hu	panahun
Word for word Translation:	roll	mk	time
Translation: Roll of the time			
Sample 3			

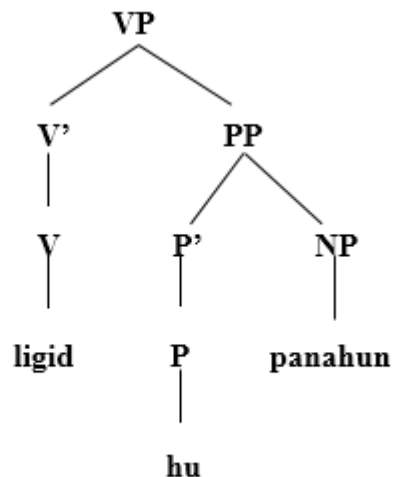


Fig.3 Verb Phrase Structure of VP → V PP

Fig. 3 from Sample 3 illustrates that *Ligid* is the verb which means *roll*. Following the verb is the marker *hu* which acts as a preposition which means *of* in the English language. This follows the VP → V PP. The marker *hu* in the Binukid language which is the preposition *of* in the English language marks the noun *panahun* or *time*. The complete phrase which is *roll of the time* is an idiomatic phrase similar to the *time flies* which means that *time passes quickly* or *as time goes by* which means *as time passes or moves* or *the passing of time* (McCarthy, 2008).

Idiomatic expressions or phrases or even sentences are common in the Binukid language. In fact, Mrs. Ravidas, the transcription and translation validator of this study realized the richness of idiomatic expressions present in the Binukid language. However, there seems to be a constraint that only a string of words which forms a unitary constituent can be an idiom. So, we find idioms which are of the form *verb+complement* (but where the subject is not part of the idiom), we do not find idioms in the form *subject+verb+complement* where the verb has a complement which is not part of the idiom: this is because in *subject+verb+complement* structures, the verb and its complement form a unitary constituent, whereas the subject and the verb do not-and only unitary constituent can be idioms (Radford, 2006). Therefore, idioms are generally formed from a verb and its object, and not from a verb and its subject. Like for example, *itagù nu henà-henà nu* which means *bear in mind*. In light of the constraint that an idiom is a unitary constituent with an idiosyncratic interpretation, the choice of the verb and its complements are fixed. We can't replace the verb or its complements by near synonyms-as we see the fact that they are ungrammatical (on the intended idiomatic expression). The *itagù nu henà-henà nu* literally means *hide in your mind*, but in real sense, it means *bear in mind*. But there are also exceptions like in the English sentence *Patrick gave me a piece of his mind*, the idiomatic NP (a piece of his mind) is not the immediate object of the verb *gave*. Even in the sample given, it was actually a prepositional phrase. Such exceptions could be accounted because of the semantic relations among

predicates and arguments. Even in the phrase, *nahangad ku man* which literally means *I looked after it* but this actually means *I learned from it*. *I* is a pronoun, *looked* and *learned* are verbs but *after* is an adverb while *from* is a preposition. Though, *looked after* and *learned from* are the two word translation in English of the verb *nahangad* but still, there still differences. Therefore, word order or the orderly arrangement of words in any given construction is very vital in semantic analysis because it may depicts a difference in meaning not minding that their substantive content are the same syntactically (Nweke, 2011).

Verb Phrase Structure of VP→ V Adv

<i>igarbu gyed hayan</i>			
Binukid:	igarbu	gyed	hayan
Word for word Translation:	will make proud	really	that
Translation: <i>Will really make proud of that</i>			
Sample 4			

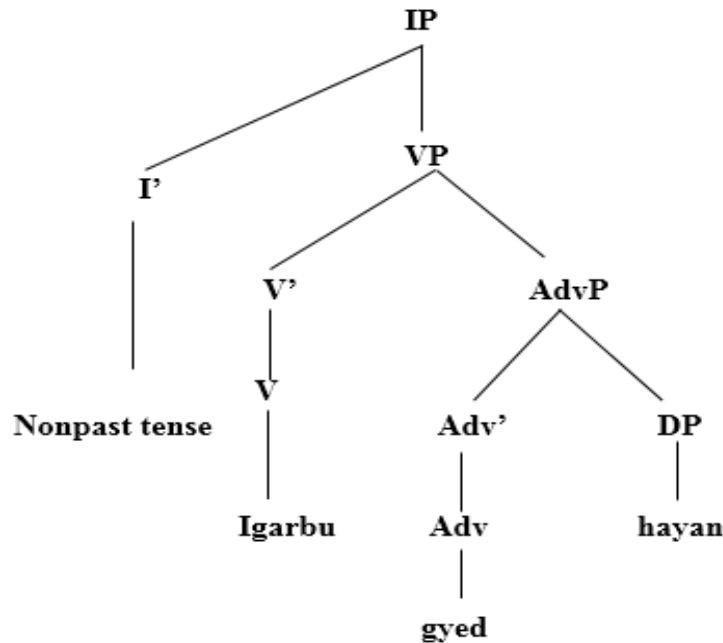


Fig.4 Verb Phrase Structure of VP→ V Adv

Fig. 4 from Sample 4 illustrates that *Igarbu* is a verb which means *will make proud* in the English language that auxiliary verb is present. In the sample tree, it shows that *igarbu* is a nonpast tense in the Binukid language because of the prefix *i* that was added to the root word *garbu* ‘pride’ which is a noun. Following the verb is the adverb *gyed* which means *really* in English language and that makes the sample phrase VP→ V Adv. In the study of Lee (1990) entitled, *Madak Verb Phrase*, he discovered that there are several types of adverbs in Madak. But the only type that occurs in a verb phrase is common adverbs. This includes adverbs such as *quietly*, *quickly* and so on. It also includes intensifiers. The position of adverbs is after the verb, and in serial constructions, the adverbs occur last. One

example for Madak sentence that the adverb occurs directly after the verb is *di-ga-gugu atasan to katamang* meaning *They worked carefully in the gardens*. Therefore, *atasan* is the adverb. Another example is the sentence *la-va-kin di-pase nennem* meaning *The women are speaking softly*. Therefore, *nennem* is the adverb and it occurs after the verb and occurs last in the sentence. This is the same in the Binukid language that adverbs occur mostly after the verbs.

Also, there is a presence of a Determiner Phrase (DP) *hayan* which means *that* in the English language. *That* is called a determiner because it has a semantic property that it determines specific semantic property of a noun phrase that it introduces, marking it as a definite expression (Radford, 2006). *That* in the sample sentence is a determiner and not a complementiser. In the sentences, *You know that I love you* and *He thought that the flowers are fresh*, *that* in the two sentences are complementizers that may often be omitted that it makes the sentences, *You know I love you* and *He thought the flowers are fresh*. But this is in English language because in the sample phrase, *that* is the final word and nothing follows because it indicates something that needs to be proud of and that alone indicates the noun. Like for example, in the imperative sentence, *Ilambeg nu hayan* which means *Throw that away*. *That* already serves as the object since *nu* is the subject pronoun. Looking closely to the complete sentence, *Kay tungud sa balaud nga igarbu gyed hayan* which means *It is because of the law that will really make proud of that* indicates that *hayan* signifies the exact subject, not of the sentence but in the conversation itself. Like for example, in an interrogative sentence like, *Imbà nu tagbuhata hayan?* Which means, *Why are you doing that?* Therefore, this implies that in the Binukid language, *hayan* can be likely seen in the end of the sentence referring to the noun and not just only to complement.

According to the X-Bar theory, an object is the complement to V (sister to V, daughter of V'). This means that no specifier or adjunct can intervene between the complement and the head because if they did, the object would no longer be a complement. Thus, considering the relation between a verb and its object. In the Binukid language, most prominent word order which is VSO, the subject which is the specifier intervenes between the subject and the object. So, this cannot be generated by X-Bar theory. This is the reason why X-Bar theory as it does not produce all the possible grammatical sentences in a language, Chomsky proposed that what was needed was a set of rules that change the structure (in very limited ways) generated by phrase structure rules which are called transformational rules (Carnie, 2001). A sample sentence in the Binukid language is given below and the researcher explained its very problematic basic word order.

<i>Ta nahimu sa etaw tungud ta bugtà.</i>							
<i>Binukid:</i>	Ta	nahimu	sa	etaw	tungud	ta	bugtà
<i>Word for word Translation:</i>	ptl	formed	mk	human	because	mk	soil
<i>Translation: The human was formed because of the soil.</i>							
Sample 5							

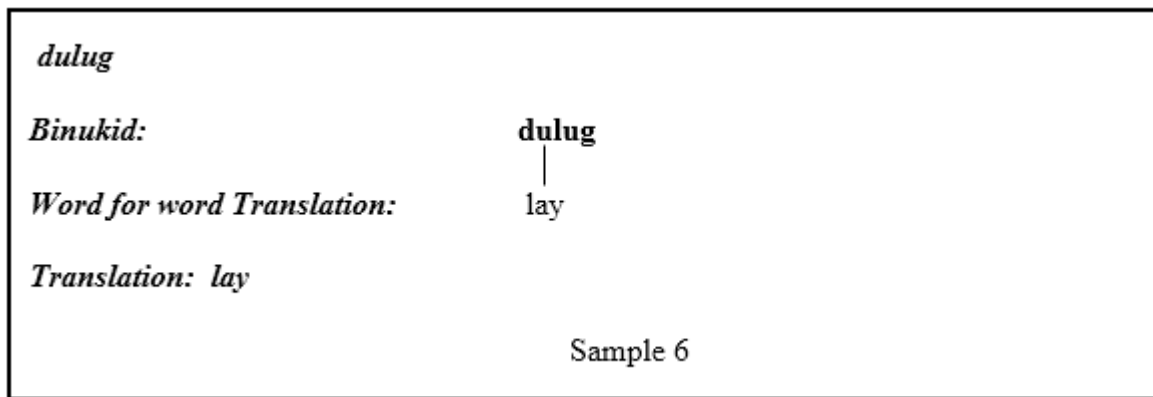
As we observe above, there is no way that the X-Bar theory can generate a sentence of this type. This is also true in the Irish language which has a strict VSO word order especially in its tensed sentence (Carnie, 2005). VSO order is also the basic word order of about 9% of the world's languages, including languages from many different language-families such as Tagalog, Welsh, Arabic, Mixtec, Mayan, Salish, Turkana, Maasai (to name only a few) and most linguists considered VSO languages to simply be exceptions to X-Bar theory (Carnie, 2001).

As observed, the sentence starts with a particle *ta* which has grammatical meaning than lexical meaning. In the study of Peng and Billings (2008) about the Binukid Pronominal Clisis, they stated that preverbal element is called host in a sentence in the sense that it allows clitics to be preverbal. Another pervasive preverbal words in the Binukid language are *ku* 'if' and the negation *hari* 'do not'. Bury (2004) in Carnie and Guilfoyle (2000) generalized that verb-initial languages have preverbal particles which is proven true in the Binukid language. Even the Arabic also has negative particles such as *laysa*, *maa* and *laa* and these are called preverbal negative particles (Al Khawalda,

2012). That is, they must be followed by a verb. Particles and clitics typically express notions such as negation, interrogation, uncertainty, emphasis, direction or orientation. Some particles stand alone, some can either stand alone or can be cliticized to the preceding word (Westerland, 2007).

Following *ta* is the main verb *nahimu* ‘formed’ which is followed by the subject *sa etaw* ‘the human’. Then a conjunction *tungud* ‘because’ that links the subject to the nominative case object *ta bugtà* ‘the soil’. *Ta* is a noun marker. The word order in the sample sentence shows a surface string that due to the intervening subject- points away from a verb-object VP constituent. On the other hand, it shows other syntactic effect that points toward the existence of a VP constituent (Carnie, 2005). Verb phrase in the Binukid language is the most prominent constituent of a sentence. Like other Iranian languages especially Boier Ahmadi Lori and Persian language which are pro-drop languages that a subject may or may not exist. Instead, an affix is attached to the end of a verb is person and number marker. Thus, many sentences can be observed in which a verb phrase is a representative of a whole sentence (Mohammadpour, 2012). Therefore, it points out that the verb *nahimu* ‘formed’ in the sample sentence can be an obligatory component of a verb phrase. Thus, follows VP → V.

Verb phrase structure VP → V



In Radford’s view (1988), in every type of phrase, there is a head which is obligatory and some other elements, which are optional and play the role of (pre-or post) modifier for the head of phrase. Thus, a verb phrase is a phrase with a verb as its head and the verb phrase may or may not have some modifiers (Mohammadpour, 2012). Fig. 5 then is a manifestation of the verb phrase in the Binukid language which only contains of the verb. It shows that a single-word *dulug* is in itself a complete sentence which means *lay* in English language. Wright (2009) in her study about the Chrambo Language stated that a verb phrase can be a main verb by itself as in *kitè* meaning *fry* and *shà’â* meaning *cross*.

The Binukid language is a verb initial language since it follows VSO and VOS word order and certain other elements can also occur preverbally like negation markers and complementizers. In the study of Peng and Billings (2008) about the Binukid Pronominal Clisis, it shows that pronouns usually occur immediately after the initial verb or there are instances that pronouns occur before the verb but after the preverbal particle. In this case, pronouns are considered to be bound. This is proven true in this study. The researcher concludes that all overt pronouns in the VP → V PRN structure of Binukid language found on the corpora gathered are all subjects/actors. Therefore, the claim above that the Binukid language is a pro-drop or a null-subject language in which overt pronoun subjects are only used for emphasis is made stronger based in the corpora gathered (*see sample 1 discussion*). An example is given below.

Verb Phrase Structure of VP→ V PRN

<i>nakapinuu a</i>		
Binukid:	nakapinuu	a
Word for word Translation:	sat down	I
Translation: I sat down		
Sample 7		

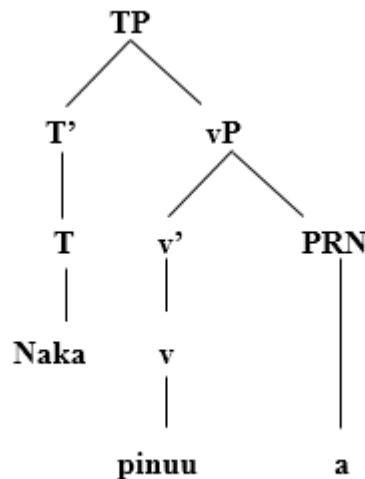


Fig. 6 Verb Phrase Structure of VP→ V PRN

Sample 7 and fig. 6 show that the TP template makes use Tense Phrase (TP) which rewrites as – Tense Aspect/Inflection – VP. The verb *nakapinuu* is a past tense verb which precedes the pronoun *a* which means *I*. There are lots of critics to whether pronouns can be a constituent of a verb phrase. One reason of Chomsky's X-Bar theory is that a noun phrase is always a direct object and it always complements the verb. This is more likely in English language because it follows SVO. But in the Minimalist Program especially in the Binukid language that follows VSO or VOS, pronouns as constituents of a verb phrase does make sense even if it is the actor or the one that performs the action and not the object complement. Also, in the sample given, it seems clear that the grammatical property of the phrase is determined by the verb *nakapinuu* 'sat down' and not by the pronoun *a* 'I'. The constituent which is merged with the verb is the pronoun which has the grammatical function of being the subject pronoun of the verb.

In the study of Ingilan (2012), he discovered that the verb phrase of the Kalagan, Maguindanaon, and Tausug languages is located on the initial part of the sentence showing focalization which means that the verb is the focus followed by its constituents. Therefore, the typological structure would be $S \rightarrow VP NP$ which is the same in the Binukid language. But with some of the sentences in Badjao dialect as in the study of Ramos (2015), the study revealed that some pronouns occur at the beginning of the sentence followed by the verb as in *Iya anganda'ug* meaning *He won* and thus follows $VP=PRN+V$. The subject *iya* is emphasized and shows topicalization. Ingilan (2011) mentioned about the focalization of the verbs in Kalagan, Maguindanaon and Tausug languages while Ramos (2015) stated the topicalization in Badjao dialect. According to Johnson (2001), it is the topic and focus that is assumed to be located in the left periphery of the nominal domain. In the Binukid language, the topic is further signaled by the verbal affixation in the predicate or the one that is the syntactic subject (Post and Gardner, 1992). The

other kind of topic is the topicalized NP that is put in front of the clause or sentence which Johnson (2011) and Ramos (2015) is referring to. For example, a sentence like *That woman, she is my mother. That woman* then is the topic which is emphasized and was put in the beginning of the sentence.

In the Binukid language since the obligatory agent or the doer of the action acts as the subject like in the phrase *nanayù din* which means *they asked*. *Din* 'They' is the subject. Looking closely to the complete sentence which is *Nanayù din ha kahibalu* which means *They asked for knowledge*. *They* is the agent and *for knowledge* is the goal and this is the focus in the sentence since the sample sentence is transitive. For intransitive like *Taghipanaw en hayan sa sabubuwa* which means *That one is departing*. The *one* is the actor that needs no other obligatory participants and it is the subject and the focus of the sentence. Therefore, in the Binukid language, the subject in transitive sentences is mostly not the focus unless the sentence is intransitive.

There are other verb phrase constituents found in the corpora gathered by the researcher through the lens of the Minimalist Program. In the VOS word order, noun phrases are commonly the object (complement of V) that constitute the verb phrase but in the Minimalist Program. As what Abney (1987) stated, noun phrases nowadays often are called determiner phrases, as the determiner instead of the noun is considered to be the head of the phrase.

Verb Phrase Structure of VP → V DP

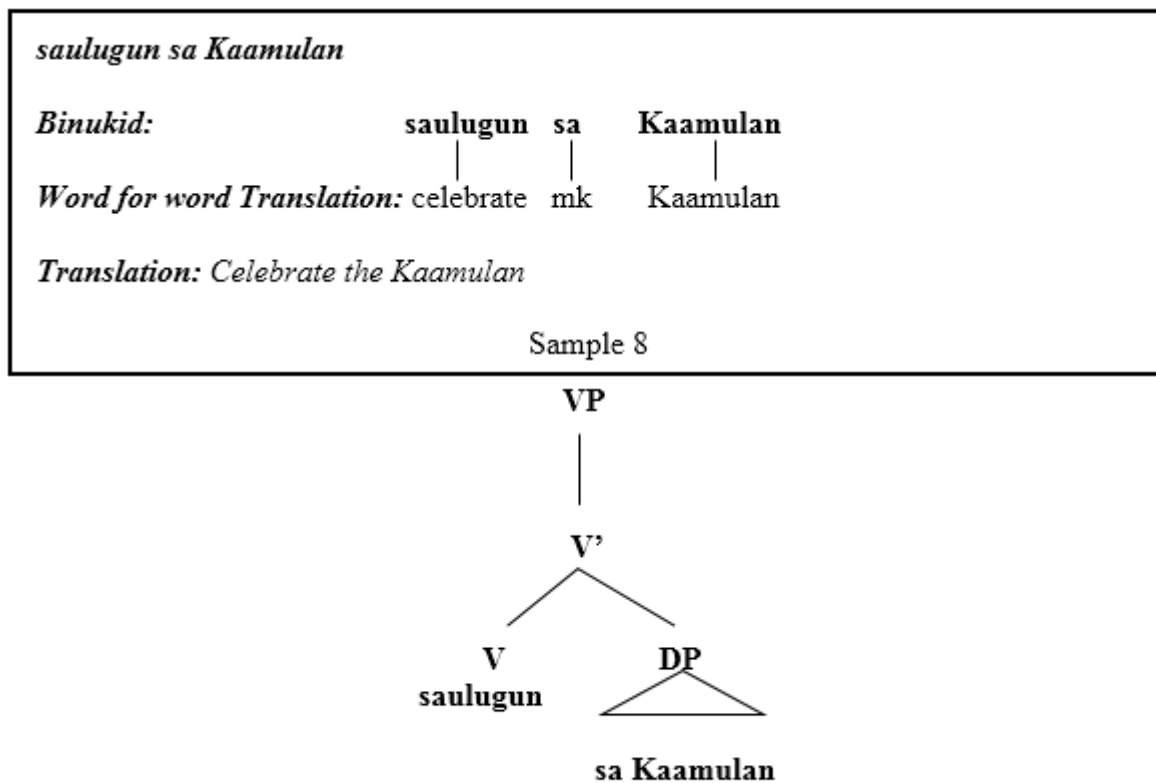


Fig.7 Verb Phrase Structure of VP → V DP

As shown, the verb *saulugun* which means *celebrate* in English is located in the initial syntactic position and is followed by *sa Kaamulan* where *sa* is a noun marker and *Kaamulan* is a noun. Therefore, the sample phrase follows VP → V DP. *Saulugun* has a root word of *saulug* with a suffix *un* and it is different from its English translation which is *celebrate* and no affix on it. Also, in English language according to Rodriguez-Navarro (1993) that the unit sentence can be divided into two elements: a Head which is realized by the VP and the rest of the dependents. The two most important dependents are the subject and the object which are normally realized by the NPs like the sentence *John likes Mary* and *Ron went to Davao* since subjects usually complement VPs in preposition and objects usually appear in post-position. In Binukid language, though it follows the VSO or VOS typological structure unlike the SVO typological structure of English and this study focuses only in the VP structure. Still, the analysis of Rodriguez-Navarro (1993) about the dependents of VP is noticeable, like the sample above that the Head is the *saulugun* while the dependent is the *sa Kaamulan* which is realized by the DPs.

Following the verb *saulugun* which means *celebrate* is *sa* which is a nonpersonal NP marker since the verb *saulugun* is not a person but an event (Post and Gardner, 1992). This is evident because *sa* marks the noun *Kaamulan* which is an event. *Kaamulan* is from the word *amul* meaning *to gather*, thus the gathering of Bukidnon’s indigenous tribes in festivity (Mascarinas, 2014). *To gather* is an infinitive verb. Infinitive is a grammatical term referring to the certain verb form which is not affixed for tense or aspect. In many languages, the infinitive is a single word like in Spanish, *manger* which means *to eat* and in French, *portare* which means *to carry* (Hickey, 2007). Similarly, in the Binukid language, the root form can be considered a type of infinitive as *amul* which means *to gather* and *ila* which means *to give*. But also, there are verb forms that turn out to be a “noun” considering into the use of infinitive verbal like in the sample noun *Kaamulan* which becomes a certain event and not just a simple form of verb.

In Minimalist Program, there is a presence of a Uniform Theta Assignment Hypothesis (UTAH) (Baker, 1988). This states that the two arguments which fulfill the same thematic function with respect to a given predicate must occupy the same underlying (DS) position in the syntax just like in the figure 4 above. The researcher provides another sample below that follows VP→ V QP.

Verb Phrase Structure of VP→ V QP

<i>kailahi pila libu</i>			
Binukid:	kailahi	pila	libu
Word for word Translation:	given	many	thousand
Translation: Given many thousand			
Sample 9			

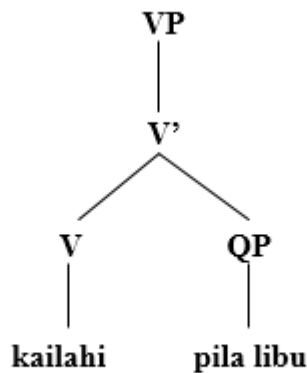


Fig.8 Verb Phrase Structure of VP→ V QP

As shown, the verb *kailahi* which means *given* in English is located in the initial syntactic position and is followed by *pila* which means *many* and follows *libu* which means *thousand*. *Kailahi* has its root word *ila* and affixes *ka* and *hi* while its English translation has a root word *give* and a suffix *n*. *Ka* nominalizes the state of something or what is happening. This is just a primary affix derived from a simple stem (Post and Gardner, 1992) because *kailahi* has a simple stem. In the Binukid language, *hi* is a marking particle that marks phrases as personal like a person’s name. On the syntactic level, this marking particle signals phrases as attributive or the unfocused phrase which has the situational role of agent performing the action of the predicate (Post and Gardner, 1992). For example, *Pigpilay hi apù su kayu* which means *Grandfather cut down that tree*. This is the unfocused one since if there is a focus, it should be *Migpilay si apù hu kayu* which *si apù* is the focused phrase or the topic because in the

Binukid language, the topic is always signaled by the verbal affixation in the predicate and it is always indicated by some particles. Also, an attributive is a noun possessor phrase like *balay hi Jose* which means *house of Jose*. But in the sample, *hi* is a suffix that added to *kaila*. This time, it does not function as a marking particle but an addition to a root word. Therefore, in Binukid language, not all marking particles function as a marker but sometimes, they act as an affix to make a particular word a verb.

Pila then quantifies the noun *libu* since quantifiers are one of the main types of determiners (Krane, 2006). But this follows $VP \rightarrow V QP$ because the verb *kailahi* ‘given’ precedes a quantifier *pila* ‘many’. Normally, quantifiers precede the noun they modify (Lawler, 2012). Quantifier denotes expressions of quantity (Radford, 2006).

Noun phrases containing quantifiers also present a certain degree of positional variation in Waimiri Atoari language, a Carib language spoken in several villages in an area to the North of the state of Amazonas and the South of the state of Roraima, Brazil (Bruno, 2000). Same in the Binukid language, the adverbial quantifier *many* seems to be free when they modify a noun phrase. But their adverbial quantifiers can occur either to the left or to the right of the head noun like in the noun phrase *waha xiba* which means *many fish* or *xiba waha* unlike in the Binukid language that it is always in the left of the head noun.

Based on the Minimalist Program, the researcher found that there is a presence of the verb phrase structure following $VP \rightarrow V ConjP$. Its syntactic structure is shown below.

Verb phrase structure of $VP \rightarrow V ConjP$

<i>pakapamegas aman tiglalima ha gantang</i>					
Binukid:	pakapamegas	aman	tiglalima	ha	gantang
Word for word Translation:	 can plant	 therefore	 five	 lig	 equivalent to
	twelve cups or 3 pints or 1.5 quarts				
Translation:	<i>Can therefore plant sixty cups</i>				
Sample 10					

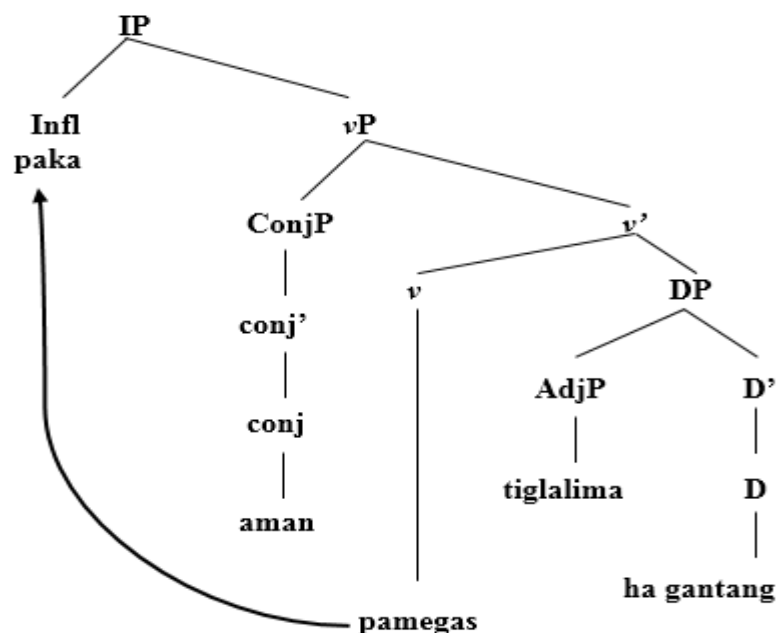


Fig.9 Verb Phrase Structure of $VP \rightarrow V ConjP$

As shown, the verb *pakapamegas* means *can plant* in English. Therefore, the prefix *paka* in Binukid language is a simple neutral tense verb that makes the verb equivalent in English as *can plant*. Neutral in the Binukid language indicates that the action has not yet been actualized in the time continuum or else, the time is not significant (Post and Gardner, 1992). According to Bornemann and Risch, (1978) ancient Greek does not use the future tense, but the aorist to denote the gnomic aspect. Aorist comprises a single word that consists of the past stem, plus the past endings unlike periphrastic future tenses (Kyriakaki, 2006). Gnostic on the other hand is a mood and a grammatical feature that expresses a general truth (Carychan, 2010). Generally, English uses the simple present tense as the equivalent of a gnomic aspect like *dogs are fast* and *water boils at 212°F*, though the past tense like *curiosity killed him* is sometimes used and also, the auxiliary *will* can also be used to indicate gnomic aspect like *girls will be girls* (Payne, 2006). Also, stated by Ramos (2015) that the functionalist school of grammar maintains that Philippine languages verbs have no tense but rather contains an aspect. His analysis also in the dialect used by the Badjao in Davao City also known as Sinama have no tense but has aspect instead. Even Athabaskan languages tend to have elaborated aspectual and modal systems, rather than focusing on tense. There is a future tense, which is created through combination of progressive and inceptive markers in the verb (Young, 2000). Else, there is no tense marking. The terms ‘aspect’ and ‘mode’ are used in nonstandard ways in literature on Navajo language (Fountain, 2000). Another language is the Thai that lacks obligatory tense marking on verbs or auxiliaries, and lacks inflectional tense morphology of any kind (Jenks, 2011). Like for example, in the sentence *Nát kin thúrian* which can be glossed as *Nat eat durian*. But there is a temporal vagueness of the sentence because it does not necessarily state if the action is referred to in the past or in the future. And that even if an adverb of time will be put in the sentence, still, it does not necessarily provide for a TP projection (Lin, 2005; Sybesma, 2007 in Jenks, 2011). Another conclusion is that, based on the syntactic evidence, Old English had no TP and that TP has developed from temporal features in the history of English and that the absence of TP and the subsequent emergence of TP is also observed in first language acquisition in English (Osawa, 1996). This further conclude that the process of language acquisition and diachronic language is constantly changing. But regardless of all the claims, Binukid language emphasizes the presence of its past and nonpast tense.

Can is a modal auxiliary verb that expresses the ability to do something like in the sample that states the ability of the speaker of the phrase to plant sixty cups. Following the verb is the word *aman* which is a conjunction in Binukid language that connects the verb phrase and the noun phrase. Thus the sample follows VP → V ConjP.

Tiglalima in *tiglalima ha gantang*, is an adjective. *Lalima* is a cardinal number denoting to the number *five* in English language. *Tig* then is an adjective affix added to the cardinal number *five* to make it an adjective to describe the quantity of the noun. Norris (2009) stated that affixes are added to form a particular word like the nouns the *president* and *Italy* that makes *presidential* and *Italian*. In the study of De Visser (2011) about the Mankong (Bamukumbit) Noun Phrase, she stated that the cardinal numerals two (2) through nine (9) normally come after the noun they modify and agree with the noun class of the head noun but their *tá'* which means *one* is the unusual cardinal numeral because it always precedes the noun it modifies as in *tá' máa* which means *one child*. This is the only similarity in the cardinal numerals in Binukid language since the cardinal numerals always precede with the noun they modify even if it is already an adjective.

Following the adjective is the ligature *ha* which links the two grammatical constructions which is the adjective *tiglalima* and the noun *gantang* and acts as a determiner *the* to determine the noun *gantang* which is *equivalent to twelve cups or 3 pints or 1.5 quarts* in English language. There is also a particular language called Delaware that has a *ha* particle. It is often used in combining a noun phrase with another noun phrase to make a statement or ask a question concerning the identity of a person or thing and expressing a doubt or uncertainty about the location of a person or thing since Delaware has sentences without verbs (O'Meara, 2003).

Conclusion

Based on the X-Bar theory, the verb phrase constituents of the Binukid language are VP → V NP, VP → V, VP → V PP, and VP → V Adv. On the other hand, based on the Minimalist Program, the verb phrase constituents are VP → V PRN, VP → V DP, VP → V QP and VP → V ConjP. This basically lists the ways in which the VP in Binukid language can be expanded. But that is not all there is. There are peculiarities, unexpected and challenging behaviour of the Binukid VP that seem to be remarkable.

Biography

Catherine Y. Tabequero earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language in 2016. She is a product of the University of Southeastern Philippines. Directly after her graduation, she was enrolled in her alma mater as a master student of English in Applied Linguistics. But she went to Romania to do an ERASMUS and was enrolled as

a master student of Theory and Practice in Translation and Interpreting: English Language. She is hoping to finish her master's degree in Translation in 2018.

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