

## ACEHNESE AND ENGLISH SUBJECT-PREDICATE CONCORD: A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

Contrastive analysis as a synchronic method in language analysis used in this study to show similarities and differences between languages or dialects in order to solve practical problems related to languages, such as language teaching and translation. Every language has its own rules, which is unique as well as common features. A language shares some the same rules to some extent which benefit English learners to better understand the rules of the target language by knowing the similarities between the language and their target language. This research deals with the descriptions and analyses on Subject-Predicate systems of English and Acehnese languages which shows several similarities and differences. The similar structure found in both language is subject and verb in both languages need an agreement depending on the subject of the sentence. While the differences can be seen in the position of enclitic of both languages. In Acehnese, the clitics position be found within a verb or a noun. While in English, it appears only within a verb. The example sentences of the two languages have been compared with sufficient examples, making it clear where and how they are identical and different.

**Keywords:** Contrastive analysis, subject-verb concord, subject-verb agreement, EFL

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### 1. Introduction

Acehnese and English come from different language families. The Acehnese is one of an Austronesian language while English Indo-European language family (Lehmann, 1995: 67-88). These two languages have different systems at the level of phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, clauses and sentences. This difference is due to the arbitrary nature of the two languages. As a means of communication, these two languages are systematic and systemic. Alwasilah (1990: 76) defines language as systematic which follows regular rules. In each language, these rules can involve two things, namely the sound system and the meaning system. Systemic language is a system or subsystems, such as morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, and lexicon subsystems.

Chomsky in Brown (2007: 44) points out that there are two main principles about the theory of Universal Grammar (Universal grammar); Core Grammar and Peripheral Grammar. Core Grammar (basic rules) are the rules that the majority of languages in the world have in common. Some of these similarities can be in the form of word order, tone of morphological markers, grammatical conformity (for example regarding subjects and verbs), predicative, negative, and question formation. Peripheral Grammar (separate rules, not basic) are special rules that exist in certain languages and do not exist in the

majority of languages. In this study, the reference is regarding Core Grammar, namely subject-predicate correspondence. For this reason, the discussion of subject-predicate is an interesting matter to study. It is because almost all utterances consist of the use of verbs, including Acehnese and English. Both of these languages have a class of verbs which are unique when examined from the concordance between the subject and the predicate.

The Acehnese language functions as a means of communication in most of Acehnese society living in Aceh province. This language is used in all aspects of the life of the people who speak the language as their mother tongue. This language also functions as a means of communication in the family, religion, civilization, school, government, commerce and society (Wildan, 2010: 2). While English, as an international language a foreign language in Indonesia, it is taught at all level of educations. Therefore, based on the description above, the subject-agreement correspondence in Acehnese and English was chosen as the object of this research because based on the statements of Durie (1985) and Asyik (1987), from a contrastive perspective, this discussion aims to find out the similarities and differences in the two languages. This study provides more data of subject-predicate Acehnese language and English comparison available as the existing studies of Acehnese limited to only describing general subject and predicate descriptions in the Acehnese language. This study will ultimately be beneficial in teaching English as a foreign language for speakers of Acehnese language in Aceh province. The scope of this study will focus on comparing and contrasting the subject-predicate concord between English and Acehnese positive-active sentences.

## **2. Contrastive Analysis**

Kridalaksana (2011: 15) defines contrastive analysis as a synchronic method in language analysis to show similarities and differences between languages or dialects in order to solve practical problems related to languages, such as language teaching and translation. According to James (1980: 3) contrastive analysis is always related to a comparison of two or more languages based on the assumption that these languages are comparable. Tarigan further (1992: 227) argues that contrastive linguistics is a study that examines differences, inequalities in two or more languages. Jack Richards et al (in Soedibyo 2004: 47) define contrastive analysis based on the following three things: 1) Contrastive analysis is he comparison of elements contained in two or more languages to find out the similarities and differences of these elements; 2) The comparison of these language elements is carried out synchronously or descriptively in other word, comparisons within a certain period; and 3) The results of this comparison are intended for various practical purposes, such as teaching, translation and researches.

According to Lado (1966: 67-70), the procedure in comparing the grammatical structures of two languages can be done with two procedures: general procedures and specific procedures. The general procedure is by marking instrument that will be compared between the two languages that have the same meaning and similar distribution of the language system. While the The specific procedure is divided into several stages. First, describing the structure of the languages to be compared. Second, comparing the structures of the two languages in pattern per pattern. And the last, regrouping patterns of difficulties into more general conclusions.

## **3. The structure of English Sentences**

A sentence in English must at least has one subject and predicate of which the predicate always filled by a verb. As Quirk (1985: 11) has phrased it, A simple sentence has one a subject, verb, object, and adverb. From all of these elements, subject and verb are the most important part of a sentence in English.

It is because subject is the main topic of a sentence in which also plays a role in determining other elements that follow (a verb). Verbs form in English vary depending on the tenses. The verb consists of one or more words (verb phrase) such as *have*, *is doing*, *will come*, and *have been working*.

### 3.1 Subject of English

Subject in English can be phrases and clauses. Keraf (1984: 138) argues that a phrase is a combination of two or more words and most often, a subject is formed by noun phrases such as personal pronouns (I, you, they, we, she, he, it), names (Mike, Allison), and word groups (the big wall, the small cars). There are two types of subjects; singular and plural. According to Hidayati (2005), words that can function as a subject are as follows:

- a) **Countable nouns**, for example *chair*, *father*, *book*. This noun must always be preceded by an article because it cannot stand alone, for example, *a book* *the chair*, and *one boy*.
- b) **Uncountable nouns**, for example *sugar*, *salt*, *equipment*. Unlike singular nouns, uncountable nouns can appear with or without an article.
- c) **Gerund** which is marked by giving the suffix {-ing} to the verb so that it becomes a noun. For example; *growing*, *eating*, and *swimming*.
- d) **Noun phrases** that begin with the word every or each, for example; every man, each book.
- e) Prepositional phrases. For example, "In the evening is the best for me".
- f) **Clauses** which are usually marked by the appearance of a question word (what, where, when, how, who, etc.).

On the other hand, as Quirck (1985) has phrased it, plural subjects in English are as follows:

- a) **Countable nouns** that are more than one. These nouns are usually marked with the suffix {-s/-es}. For example, *knives*, *boxes*, *boys*.
- b) **The first, second and third person plural pronoun** (*we*, *you*, *they*).
- c) **Quantity Nouns** such as *two*, *both*, *a couple of*, *a few*, *several*, *many*, *a number of*, *a lot of*, *a plenty of*, *all*, *most*. For example; *two books*, *several students*.
- d) **Plural noun without -s/ -es**. For example; *people*, *police*.
- e) **Collective nouns**, for example *the audience*, *the family*.
- f) **Adjectives preceded by the**, for example *the poor*, *the rich*.

### 3.2 Predicates of English

The slot of predicate in an English sentence is always filled with a verb. Verb elements must agree to the form of the subject or vice versa. Subject forms that are singular or plural can affect the form of the verb. However, tenses can also affect the formation of verbs in sentences. Tenses or times in English are divided into three major groups; present, past, and future time. This group of three can be further classified in Table 1 below.

Table 1 list of the twelve tenses in English

Present	Past	Future
• <b>Simple present</b>	• simple past	• Simple future
• <b>present continuous</b>	• past continuous	• future continuous
• <b>present perfect,</b>	• past perfect tense	• future perfect
• <b>present perfect continuous</b>	• past perfect continuous	• future perfect continuous

The formation of verbs that are influenced by the number of subjects occurs in the present tense, present continuous, present perfect, and past continuous. At that time, the single subject principle applied, demanding the presence of a single verb; a plural subject demands the presence of a plural verb.

Therefore, in the formation of verbs, the first step that must be observed is the tense, the next step is to examine the singular or plural form of the subject.

There are five forms of English verb; (1) base verbs, e.g., *stay* (2) verbs + -s, e.g., *stays* (3) verbs + past -ed, e.g., *stayed*, (4) verb + ing (participle) e.g., *staying*, and (5 ) verb + ed (participle), e.g., *stayed*. The function of the verb in the sentence is to describe the activity of the subject. In English, the formation of verbs is strongly influenced by time or tense. By referring to the verb in the sentence we can find out the form of the time used even though no adverb of the time is mentioned. Table below is the example sentences of the twelve tenses mentioned in Table 1.

Present	Past	Future
<b>• Simple present</b> <b>Ruli fixes his car</b> <b>Ruli does not fix his car</b> <b>I fix his car</b>	<b>• Simple past</b> Ruli fixed his car Ruli did not fix his car I fixed his car	<b>• Simple future</b> Ruli will fix his car Ruli will not fix his car I will fix his car
<b>• Present continuous</b> <b>Ruli is fixing his car</b> <b>Ruli is not fixing his car</b> <b>I am fixing his car</b>	<b>• Past continuous</b> Ruli was fixing his car Ruli was not fixing his car I fix his car	<b>• Future continuous</b> Ruli will be fixing his car I will fix his car I will not fix his car
<b>• Present perfect</b> <b>Ruli has fixed his car</b>	<b>• Past perfect tense</b> Ruli had fixed his car	<b>• Future perfect</b> Ruli will have fixed his car
<b>• Present perfect continuous</b> <b>Ruli has been fixing his car</b>	<b>• Past perfect continuous</b> Ruli had been cleaning his car	<b>• Future perfect continuous</b> Ruli will have fixed his car

#### 4. The Structure of Acehese Sentences

The elements in Acehese sentences include subject (S), predicate (P), object (O), complement (Pel.), and adverb (K). In general, subjects in Acehese are in the form of nouns or pronouns. The subject can occupy a position at the beginning of the sentence or at the end of the sentence according to the intonation of the sentence (Wildan, 2010: 84). As can be seen in the following example sentences below (time not defined):

(1) Gobnyan      geusok   sipatu              itam  
He/she      3SG-use           shoes              black  
‘He/she uses black shoes’

(2) Salma              jjak                      u              sikula  
Salma      3SG-go      to              school  
Salma goes to school

(3) Geusok              sipatu                      itam\_      gobnyan  
3SG-use              shoes                      black      he/she  
‘he/she uses black shoes’

(4) Jjak              u              sikula      Salma  
3SG-go      to              school      Salma  
Salma goes to school

The subjects in the sentence above are the underlined words: *gobnyan* and *Salma* (a person name). In Acehnese, the subject of the sentence can be marked by the presence of a personal pronoun in the verb. The prefix *geu-* in the word *geusok* 'use' and *ji-* in the word *jijak* 'went' indicates the third person singular subject. Another way to determine the subject in Acehnese is by adding a word before the noun or pronoun. As the example below.

- (5) *Geusok sipatu itam di gobnyan*  
3SG-use sepatu hitam he/she  
'He/she uses black shoes'

In Acehnese, verbs marked with proclitic and enclitic markers which used as predicates in the form of prefixes and suffixes to indicate the form of the subject contained in the Acehnese language. It will be explained further in the section below.

Subject-Predicates agreement in Acehnese.

In the Aceh language, correspondence only occurs in verbs that function as predicates that are preceded by a personal pronoun and a noun. This agreement by Durie (1985) is characterized by the presence of clitics consisting of proclitic and enclitic attached to verbs. Verhaar (1986) defines clitics as short words that are not accented and must 'rely' on an accented word as a constituent. Asyik (1987: 9) refers to proclitic as a prefix and enclitic as a suffix. Following are the clitics attached to Acehnese verbs in Durie (1985: 116).

Table 2 Clitics of Acehnese pronouns

Pronoun	Proclitic	Enclitic	Meaning
kèe	ku-	-ku(h)	I
lôn	ulôn-, lôn-, ulông-, lông-, ulôntuwan-, lônntuwan-	-lôn-, -lông	I
kah	ka-	-keu(h)	You (sg)
gata	ta-	-teu(h)	You (sg)
droe	neu-	-neu(h)	You (sg)
jih	ji-, di-, i-	-ji, -i	He/she
gobnyan	geu-	-geu(h)	He/she
gotnyan	geu-	-geu(h)	He/she
(geu)tanyo	ta-	-teu(h)	We (1PL)
kamoe	meu-	-meu(h)	We (1PL)

The following is a subject-predicate correspondence according to the list of personal pronouns in the Acehnese language and several other examples that the author quotes from Lani (2016).

- (6) *kèe kujak u blang* 'I go to the rice field'  
*lôn lônjak u blang* 'I go to the rice field'  
*kah kajak u blang* 'You go to the rice field'  
*droe neujak u blang* 'You go to the rice field'  
*gata tajak u blang* 'You go to the rice field'  
*jih jijak u blang* 'He/she goes to the rice field'  
*gobnyan geujak u blang* 'He/she goes to the rice field'  
*tanyoe tajak u blang* 'We go to the rice field'  
*kamoe meujak u blang* 'We go to the rice field'

- (7) *kuwoe u rumoh* 'I go home'



<i>lônwoe u rumoh</i>	'I go home'
<i>kawoe u rumoh</i>	'you go home'
<i>neuwoe u rumoh</i>	'you go home'
<i>tawoe u rumoh</i>	'we go home'
<i>jiwoe u rumoh</i>	'he/she goes home'
<i>geuwoe u rumoh</i>	'he/she goes home'
<i>tawoe u rumoh</i>	'we go home'
<i>meuwoe u rumoh</i>	'we go home'

#### 4.1. Predicate of Acehnese Language

Predicates of Acehnese verbs have two forms: base verbs and derived verbs. Derivative verbs in the Acehnese language consist of three forms; (1) affixed verbs formed using the prefixes *meu*, *peu*, *teu*, *tu*-, *gi*- and the infix *-eum*-. (2) Repeated verbs (3). Compound verbs. The function of the verb in Acehnese is to describe the subject's activities.

The subject marker proclitic *ku*-, *lôn*-, *ka*-, *neu*-, *ta*-, *ji*-, *geu*-, *ta*, *meu*-, in the example sentence of Acehnese above which start the verb forms *jak* 'go' and *woe* 'go home' appear to mark the relationship between subjects and the verbs. In the example above (4) of English, in addition to the base verb which is attached with the subject marker proclitic, it is also found optionally in the first, second and third personal pronoun both singular and plural. Sometimes, the subject proclitic marker *ku*-, *lôn*-, *ka*-, *ji*, *geu*-, *ta*, *meu*- which starts the verb form *woe* 'go home' in English example sentence number (5) is not preceded by a personal pronoun. Even so, the presence of proclitic at the beginning of the basic form of the verb shows the absolute relationship between the subject and the verb. Based on the observed data, it appears that there are regular agreements between subjects and verbs in Acehnese.

The use of Acehnese pronouns shows the degree of politeness and familiarity. For example, the second singular pronoun *droe* 'you' is more polite than the word *gata* 'you', and *kah* 'you' (which is consider as rough). Likewise with the first-person singular pronoun which consists of three levels of politeness; *ulôntuwan* or *lôntuwan* 'I' (very polite), *ulôn*, *lôn*, *lông*, *ulông* 'I' (polite), *kèe* 'I' (coarse, familiar) and the third singular pronoun *gobnyan* 'he/she' (polite) from *jih* 'he/she'.

The following excerpts are the other example sentences of Acehnese active sentence. In the example (8) the enclitic markers which has meaning 'you' appear to be attached to verbs in a sentence which has no subject 'you'. However, the sentence already contains the meaning 'you' as the subject of the sentence. Next, example (8) is a verb that shows a state of *sakétgeuh* 'sick' which is preceded by the pronoun *gobnyan* 'he' which functions as a subject. If you look at the difference with example (6), it can be concluded that the existence of enclitics which requires the presence of pronouns is optional. Example (8) makes it clear that the presence of proclitic and enclitic markers can be present simultaneously in an utterance filled with the two verbs *kalon* 'see' and *teubit* 'out'. Klitika *ji*- in the word *jiteubit* 'out' refers to a word that means 'blood that comes out' which functions as an object. Example (9) signifies enclitic – still expresses the persona 'we' which appears in the word 'surprising' as an enclitic marker. Example (7) indicates that clitics in Acehnese can be attached to both verbs and nouns.

(8) *pue nyang galakkeuh?* (hal.38. baris ke 2)  
like-enclitic2SG

'what do you like?'

(9) *padum uroe nyang ka ulikot gobnyan sakétgeuh.* (hal. 37 baris ke 4)  
Sick-enclitic3SG

'A few days ago he/she was sick.

(10) *mak neukalonkeuh le that jiteubit darah.* (hal.63 baris ke 2)  
procli2SG-look-encli2SG procli3SG-out

'Mother, look, it is bleeding so much'.

(11) *keu hai nyan hana hireuenteuh.* (hal. 27 baris ke 6)  
enclitic 1PL

- 'it does not surprise us'.  
(12) *kée kusok bajèekuh*. (hal 74 baris ke 12)  
procli1SG-wear encli1SG  
'I wear my shirt'

Based on the description above, it appears that the Subject-verb relationship pattern in the Acehese language can be formulated as follows:

1. S (personal pronoun) + proclitic + Verb,
2. (personal pronoun) + verb proclitic + verb enclitic,
3. Without (personal pronoun)+ proclitic + verb
4. Without (personal pronoun)+ enclitic verb

## 5. Conclusion

This article has made a contrast between the the structure of active sentence of two languages with English limited to only twelve tenses. From this, we get a clear picture of the use of proclitic and enclitic that typically found in English and Acehese. It has been evident that English and Acehese, have similarities as well as differences in the terms of the structure of the active sentence. The similar structure found in both language is subject and verb in both language need an agreement depending on the subject of the sentence. While the differences can be seen in the position of enclitic of both language. In Acehese, the clitics position be found within a verb or a noun. While in English, it appears only within a verb.

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