# English Verb "Catch" and Its Related Verbs in Buginese Language: A Comparative Study

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**ABSTRACT**

*Catch verb refers to something being brought into such position. All verbs are transitive verb and specification of locus is obligator and other it is optional. The aims of this research were (1)To identify related Verbs of English "Catch" Verb in Buginese Language. (2) To explain the similarities and differences of English Verb, "Catch" and Its Related Verbs in Buginese Language in terms of semantical and grammatical construction. English data were collected from Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), while data of Buginese were obtained from field research through process of observation and in depth interview. Both of the data were analyzed with description and qualitative analysis. The result of this research shows that (1) there is one kind of "Catch" verb that use in English. While, in Buginese language there are eight kinds of "Catch" verbs that different in semantic aspect. They are mattikkeng, mattimang, majjaleppa', mattado', marrippung, majjala, mattada, and massero' (2) The main differences of Verb "Catch" in English and Buginese Language can be seen from clause structure and movement to brought something into such position. From clause structure, In English a NP is followed by VP, while in Buginese is permissible that VP is followed by NP that marked by suffix –I in VP. From movement aspect, divided into three; normal movement, medium movement, and hard movement.*

## 1. Introduction

In human existence, language takes a significant critical part. It is regarded as a framework principally on the grounds that it is made of linguistic units that relate to one another. People used it as an arrangement of grammar, meaning, and sound. Passing on information, expanding thoughts, recognizing the way of life and extemporizing the social correspondence are the aims of language.

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language. In linguistics, it is divided into several parts to study language from the core. Linguistics analyzes languages from the smallest part to the complex part (Fromkin, 2000). In linguistics (Weda , et al. 2021), language is traditionally seen as consisting of three parts such as signs, meanings, and codes connecting signs with their meanings. The part of linguistics that deals with how signs can be combined to form words, phrases, and sentences is called syntax. Whereas, Semantics deals with the meanings about what is signified, while the three levels: phonology, morphology and syntax concerns with the exponent (Kracht, 2008).

According to Thornbury, (2001) grammar is a description of the rules that govern how a language"s sentences that is formed by words that have certain rules. Further, Swan (2005: 19) defines grammar as follows: "the rules that show how words are combined, arranged or changed to show certain kinds of meaning". Semantics is considered as a branch of linguistics which related to the meaning. In addition, Griffiths (2006) stated that the branch of linguistic study related to the meaning is Semantics.

The formulation theory of semantic can be recognized from semantic approach of English grammar by one of the experts in semantics, Dixon (2005), where word and grammar are totally related to semantic. The contribution of his theory takes a part of comparing the meaning contained in a language because there are some differences in equivalent meaning each other. Its contribution itself becomes the reason for his theory to be re-studied.

Therefore, the researcher is to focus on the rest verbs based on Open Subtype in Buginese. The reason for conducting this research is based on the preliminary research done where there are difference meanings of rest verb in Buginese. For example, in rest verbs based on Open Subtype have twenty nine verbs based on the semantics meaning. Buginese is one of the local languages in South Sulawesi (Tahir, 2018).

Therefore, the researcher wants to take research of "catch" verb in Buginese. The reason for conducting research is based on the preliminary research that there are difference meanings of rest verb in Buginese. For example, in hold subtype based on "Catch" verb have eight verbs based on the semantics meaning.

## 2. Literature Review

There are some brief outlines of previous studies which are related to the current study, such as Firstly, Melansari (2015) who conducted research about Motion Verbs in English and Wolio Language: A semantic point of view. She used a descriptive qualitative method. The result of research shows that there are 81 motion verbs in English and 85 motion verbs in Wolio language. Some verbs of English 'Run' subtype can be used in causative sense. Whereas, almost all motion verbs of Wolio 'Run' subtype are intransitive verbs. Only some of them can be used in causative sense when they are added with certain prefix or when certain prefix attached to the verbs is omitted.

Secondly, Fahruddin (2016) in his thesis about "The Affect Verbs Subtype in English and Buginese Language: Semantic and Syntactic Approach" used descriptive qualitative method and found that English and Buginese affected verbs have equivalences and differences. Cultural background plays important role in determining variants of the verb. New feature of stretch subtype is Agent in using Manip to change the taste of the target. Buginese verbs included in those new features are *fejjei* (put salt in), *fissingi* (put monosodium glutamate in), *santangi* (put coconut milk in), *fellengi* (put candle nut in) and *cempai* (put tamarind in). Besides that, Reza Apreliah Dg. Matara (2016) conducted research under the title "Dixon's Carry Subtype of Motion Verbs in English and Barru Buginese". She used a descriptive qualitative method. The result of her research shows that the meaning differences between English motion verbs of Carry subtype and Buginese motion verbs cause different grammatical constructions. The main differences of motion verbs of Carry subtype in English can be seen from two aspects, clause structure and preposition.

The clause structure in verb (or a verb phrase) as long as the subject is plainly comprehensible from the previous discourse or context. Meanwhile, in aspect of preposition in Buginese (Zulkhaeriyah, 2021), there are two prepositions that have similar meaning and different use, they are *ri* and *ku* which mean *in.*

Furthermore, a research conducted by Suriati (2016) is a review on Dixon's giving semantic type theoretical framework. She analyzed the construction and the extended meaning of English 'give' verb and *kasi* verb in Kupang language. The researcher used Qualitative method of research and find out that the basic constructions of both languages are same, but different in grammatical properties that result to different meaning. The 'recipient' and 'donor' could be omitted when an adverb such as out, away, and back is added to 'give' verb. Indicating general giving activity, in Kupang Malay, a verb and noun can be added in *kasi* verb. In the construction, all the roles can be either omitted or stated. The literal meaning of both verbs can extent to grammatical meaning metaphorically, but 'give' verb exhibit more variation. The different of historical development of language and sociolinguistic characteristic of 'give' verb and *kasi* verb become the reason of the phenomenon happened.

The next is Hartari (2018) conducted "Dixon's Sit Subtype of Rest Verbs in English and Buginese". The research aimed to identify Rest verbs in English and Buginese based on the divided Sit subtype, then investigate the differences and similarities in terms of semantical and grammatical construction of Sit Subtypes of Rest verbs in English and Buginese. The result shows that There are nine rest verbs of Sit subtype in English, they are sit (down), stand (up), lie (down), kneel, crouch, squat, lean, hang (down), and float, while in Buginese, there are twenty eight Sit subtypes: *tudang, cadok, cadok-cadok, se'ppok, me'ppok, massampiang, massulekka, se'ppok, makkaddao uttu, mattulak sadang, mappasilojo', mappalempuk, massolla-solla, mattafakkoro, massale'poro, maddue'due', tettong, le'ngeng, llEu, makkanroppang, mappatettong uttuk, makkaluttu, cukuk, rroko', sujuk, maccekkeng, ssanrE', maggattung, and mmawang.*

The last is a research by Wahidah (2018) under the title "English Verb, "Fall" and Its Related Verbs in Makassarese Language: A Comparative Study". The research aimed to investigate the similarities and differences of English Verb, "Fall" and Its Related Verbs in Makassarese language in terms of semantical and grammatical construction. The result showed that the main differences between English and Makassarese language of "fall" verb in Drop subtype are different in the grammatical constructions.

English constructions mostly are started by subject or something as causer slot which is followed by fall as verb without noun phrase as moving object because "fall" verb in English categories as intransitive verb. The locus slot is marked by preposition. While in Makassarese language, the constructions mostly are started by fall as verb, subject in causer slot, noun phrase as moving object and locus slot that is marked by preposition.

The method is written descriptively and should describe the research methodology or steps in conducting the study. A brief justification of the method is recommended to give an idea to the reader about the appropriateness of the method, reliability and validity of the results.

The objectives of this research were (1) to identify the Rest verbs in English and Wajo Buginese based on Open subtype divided by Dixon and (2) to evaluate how the Open subtype found in English and Buginese language represented in terms of semantic understanding and grammatical construction. (3) to investigate the similarities and differences of Rest verbs in Open subtype in English and Buginese.

## 3. Methodology

This researcher used descriptive qualitative method in which the writer analyzed the data to compare between "Catch" verb in English and Buginese, both in meaning aspect and in grammatical construction. Catch verb in both languages were presented descriptively in the form of comparison. In collecting data, first the writer listed English verbs and Buginese verbs which indicate "Catch" verb. Then the example of the verb usage of English and Buginese was obtained in different ways. English data was collected from Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), meanwhile Buginese data was gained from observation and in interview with people using Buginese data. Observation is a process of watching and memorizing the things happened around. Participant observation is a qualitative method with roots in traditional ethnographic research, whose objective is to help researchers learn the perspectives held by study populations. The Buginese data was collected from people using Buginese in Wajo regency. The writer chooses Wajo regency because she can understand well the typical Buginese language there and it makes her get easier to collect the data. In analyzing of the data, the writer used some techniques of analyzing data in order to answer the research questions. They are: 1. The data which had been collected were transcribed.

The first step was transcribing Buginese data gained from observation and interview. Since English data were obtained from COCA it did not need to be transcribed anymore. 2. The numbers of transcribed data were reduced by selecting the important and related data. Both English and Buginese data which have been collected were reduced by selecting data that could be representative of others. 3. The reduced data was presented. The next step was presenting the data. The data which had been reduced were presented based on "Catch" verb in Hold subtype divided by Dixon. Presentation of example of each catch verb was in the form of clause. English "Catch" verb came first and followed by Buginese "Catch" verbs. 4. The data were then analyzed. The presented data were analyzed by applying Dixon's semantic principles, but in advance each clause was analyzed based on the word classes and semantic role. The writer used Oxford Dictionary to determine the meaning of English "Catch" verbs, whereas the meanings of "Catch" verb in Buginese concluded based on the reading the context. The last, the writer resolved the grammatical properties of those rest verbs underlain on their meanings as the starting point. 5. Conclusion was made. After doing the analysis, in the last step the writer made some conclusions which could reflect the main points of the analysis as the result of the study.

## 4. Result

Hold subtype related to position of rest with respect to, prototypically, a person's hand. They are hold, handle, grab, grasp, clutch, catch, gather, pick up, capture and trap. While in Buginese, there are eight verbs that refers to catch verb, they are *mattikkeng, mattimang, majjaleppa', mattado', marrippung, majjala, mattada, and massero'.* All members in hold subtype are transitive verb with the moving/resting role mapped onto O function.

### 4.1 English verb "Catch" in Rest verbs Based on Componential Analysis and Grammatical construction

According to Leech (1981:89), componential analysis is breaking down the sense of the word into its semantic features. By this process, words can be defined intrinsically in terms of formula. These componential definitions reduce the word's meaning into its ultimate contrastive elements.

Meanwhile, Aitchison (2003:92) explained that Componential analysis is based on the presumption that the meaning of a word is composed of semantic components. Thus, the essential features that form the meaning are elementary units on semantic level. From the componential analysis, it is possible to state the smallest indivisible units of lexis or minimal components.

Furthermore, Saeed, (2009:260) stated that componential analysis is particularly applicable to distinguishing the meaning of lexemes that are semantically related or in the same semantic domain. It is often seen as a process of breaking down the sense of a word into its minimal distinctive features, that is, into components which contrast with other components. It refers to the description of the meaning of words through structured sets of semantic features, which are given as "present" or "indifferent with reference to feature". Binary rules are used to describe the presence and absence of a feature. The symbol '+' means the feature is present, while the symbol '-' means that the feature is absent.

**Table 1.** The Componential Analysis of Hold Subtype of Catch Verb in English and Buginese

| Catch Verb | | Object | | Things | | | | Movement | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | General object | Specific object | Ball | Rice | Fish | water and Container things | Slow Movement | Medium movement | Fast movement |
| Catch | English | +/- | +/- | +/- | - | +/- | - | +/- | +/- | +/- |
| Mattikkeng | Buginese | + | - | +/- | - | +/- | - | - | +/- | +/- |
| Mattimang | Buginese | + | - | +/- | - | +/- | - | +/- | +/- | +/- |
| Majjaleppa' | Buginese | + | - | +/- | - | +/- | - | - | - | + |
| Mattado' | Buginese | + | - | +/- | - | +/- | - | - | +/- | +/- |
| Marrippung | Buginese | + | - | +/- | - | +/- | - | - | +/- | +/- |
| Majjala | Buginese | - | + | - | - | + | - | - | - | + |
| Mattada | Buginese | - | + | - | + | - | - | +/- | +/- | - |
| Massero' | Buginese | - | + | - | - | - | + | +/- | +/- | +/- |

The word 'catch' as a verb means to intercept or obstruct the movement of something by grabbing hold of it or stopping it. As shown on the componential analysis table that verb 'open' on features is binary (+/-) on the features of general and specific object. While, for the things 'ball and fish' are binary (+/-) and absent (-) of rice, water and container things. Next, all the movement are binary (+/-) they are slow movement, medium movement and fast movement. In Buginese, there are eight verbs which are similar to catch verb. They are *mattikkeng, mattimang, majjaleppa', mattado', marrippung, majjala, mattada, and massero'.* Verb *mattikeng* in Buginese refers to catching by hand using grip which used for general object. For the things 'ball and fish' are binary (+/-) while is absent (-) on features of 'rice, water, container things and slow movement'. Then, medium and fast movements are binary (+/-). *Mattimang* means catching by hands like spreading out palms to catch something fallen. *Mattimang* tends to received catching by someone and absent [-] on rice, water and container things. For the things 'ball and fish' are binary (+/-). While, all the movements are binary (+/-). Verb *majjaleppa'* refers to catching by hand with the pressure of the blow and usually represent impoliteness. It is absent [-] of rice, water and container things and just present (+) on fast movement. *Mattado'* refers to catching something with a swing of the hand hanging up and present [+] in general object.

For the things 'ball and fish' are binary (+/-) and absent [-] on rice, water and container things. Both medium and fast movement are binary (+/-) while is absent (-) on slow movement. Next, *marrippung* refers to catching by hand to elbow to get more. Present [+] in general object. For the things 'ball and fish' are binary (+/-) while is absent (-) on features of 'rice, water and container things. Both medium and fast movement are binary (+/-) while on slow movement is absent (-). *Majjala* means catching something by using a tool (net). It is present (+) in specific object. It is just present (+) on the thing 'fish'. Then, It is present (+) on fast movement. *Mattada* means catching something by receiving what is spread from above. It is used for specific object. It is just present (+) on the thing 'rice' and absent (-) on slow movement. Both medium and fast movements are binary (+/-). The last *massero'* means catching something by using a swinging tool. It is used for specific object. It is just present (+) on the thing 'water and container things'. All the movements are binary (+/-).

**4.2 Recapitulation of English and Buginese Language in Catch Verb of Hold Subtype as well as Grammatical Construction of Related example**

Catch means take hold of so as to seize or restrain or stop the motion of into such a position. The moving role is the transitive verb with the moving/resting role mapped onto O function. The subject maps a Causer role (normally

HUMAN) and the Locus is likely to be some part of human's body; the actual body part involved can be specified by a prepositional NP.

*Mattikeng* means take hold something or someone and it is used in general for catching things. It is used in medium and slow movement. The resting role is a predicate. The locus should be specified. *Mattimang* specifically used for catching the things by hands like spreading out palms to catch something fallen. The resting role is a predicate and the locus should be specified. *Majjaleppa'* refers to grabbing hold something on fast movement and it tends to impolite. The resting role is a predicate and the locus must be specified. *Mattado'* means catching something with a swing of the hand hanging up. *Mattado'* used for catching the part of human's body or animal by using hand or tool. the resting role is a predicate and the locus is some part of the human's body and animals only. *Marrippung* means catching by hand to elbow to get more and usually used two hands. The resting role is a predicate and the locus should be specified. *Majjala* means catching fish by using a tool (net) and used fast movement. *Mattada* means catching something by receiving what is spread from above. It is used for rice. The resting role is a predicate and the locus should be specified. The last *massero'* means catching something by using a swinging tool. It is used for water and container things. In brief, catch refers to intercept or obstruct the movement of something by grabbing hold of it or stopping it. The specification of locus is obligatory. All verbs are transitive.

## 5. Discussion

Based on the Buginese data shown in finding, there are five variations or patterns of constructions in Buginese as in the follow table:

**Table 1.** Eight variations or patterns of constructions in Buginese

| No | Pattern | Verb |
|----|---------|------|
| 1 | NP+VP+ADV | *Mattikkeng, mattado', majjala, mattada, massero'* |
| 2 | VP+NP+ADV | *Mattikkeng, mattimang, majjaleppa,mattado', marrippung, majjala, mattada, massero'* |
| 3 | VP+NP | *Mattikkeng, mattimang, mattado', marrippung, mattada, massero'* |
| 4 | V | *Mattikkeng,majjaleppa, massero'* |
| 5 | NP$_{(Ob)}$+VP + ADV | *Mattikkeng, majjala* |
| 6 | ADV+ VP+NP | *majjala, mattada, massero'* |
| 7 | NP+VP+NP | *Mattikkeng* |
| 8 | ADV+ VP +ADV | *Mattimang, mattado'* |

The table above illustrates that commonly, NP is not endlessly in the beginning of sentences. Most of the sentences are composed and started from VP with the pattern VP+NP+(ADV) although NP can be put at first as subject. In Buginese language, either prefix or suffix is exist in nearly all of the VP to indicate the subject pronoun of each sentence. There are many kinds of prefix and suffix in Buginese language itself such as na-, mu-, u- for prefix and -i -na, -mu for suffix. "Na" can be as both prefix (na-) and suffix (-na) which is demonstrated as singular pronoun the third person and signifies "his/her". -i as suffix follows -na as suffix for the same function. Prefix u- reveals the singular pronoun of the first person which indicates "I", while "mu" as prefix (mu-) and suffix (-mu) reveals the second pronoun for indicating "you".

## 6. Conclusion

In English there is catch verb that only one kind for all context and situation. While, "catch" verb in Buginese language there are eight kinds found in this research that different in the semantic aspect, namely; *mattikkeng, mattimang, majjaleppa', mattado', marrippung, majjala, mattada, and massero'.* There is some verbs used for specific object, they are *majjala, mattada, and massero'.*

The meaning differences between English and Buginese language of "Catch" verb in Hold subtype because the different grammatical constructions. The main differences "catch" verb of Hold subtype in English and Buginese can be seen from two aspects, semantically and clause structure. From clause structure, it can be found that basically clause structure of Buginese is similar with English in which has locus as obstruct of movement and noun phrase for all verb of "catch" verb in Hold subtype is in transitive constructions. The variations of buginese clause structure are VP+NP+ADV, NP+VP+ADV, VP+NP, V, NP$_{(Ob)}$+VP + ADV, ADV+ VP+NP, NP+VP+NP, and ADV+ VP +ADV. Most of the Buginese rest

verbs reflect to part of the human's body or animal or thing and can be specified the prepositional NP. Buginese term of Catch could have several different meanings and different context like *mattikkeng* used for all context and situation by using hand. *Mattimang* used for received catching by human. *Majjaleppa'* always represent impoliteness, such as catching something without permitted. *Mattado'* refers to catching something with a swing of the hand hanging up, usually using a tool for example rope. *Mattado'* also has another meaning in the culture of Buginese community, namely "pattado-tado ulu". The meaning is catching the human's head. "pattado'-tado' ulu" was a past myth which full of meaning. "Pattado'-tado' ulu" usually told by parent or anyone and has succeeded in stopping the children from running around. Next, *marrippung* used for catching something by hand to elbow to get more with fast movement. *Majjala* used for catching fish by using a tool (net). *Mattada* used for catching something by using filtered tool from woven bamboo. The last *massero'* used for catching the water or container things by using a swinging too.

This current study applies semantic approach to analyze grammar of language. There are some other categories that are proposed by Dixon. This current study takes one that is "Catch" verb in Hold subtype. In the future, the writer expects that there will be another researcher who takes other subtype of Dixon to analyze or applies another local language to be compared to English.

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