

## PERIPHRASTIC CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE PUNAN DAYAK LANGUAGE

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### Abstrak

*Bahasa Dayak Punan merupakan salah satu bahasa daerah yang ada di wilayah Provinsi Kalimantan Utara. Bahasa Dayak Punan banyak digunakan oleh suku Dayak Punan di Kabupaten Malinau. Bahasa Dayak Punan merupakan salah satu bagian dari bahasa Austronesia. Penelitian ini membahas kausatif analitik atau perifrastik dalam bahasa Dayak Punan. Penelitian ini berusaha mengungkapkan bentuk kausatif analitik dalam bahasa Dayak Punan termasuk verba penanda dalam konstruksi tersebut. Metode pengumpulan yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini ialah observasi dan wawancara. Data penelitian ini diambil dari tuturan langsung penutur Dayak Punan. Informan dalam penelitian ini berasal dari suku Dayak Punan yang berusia antara 25-55 tahun. Metode analisis data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini ialah teknik agih. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian yang ditemukan maka terdapat dua tipe verba yang menjadi predikat utama dalam konstruksi kausatif analitik bahasa Dayak Punan. Verba tersebut ialah nuluh dan menah. Distribusi dari kedua verba tersebut berbeda. Verba nuluh dapat hadir pada konstruksi kausatif analitik atau perifrastik yang memiliki klausa subordinat berpredikat verba transitif dan intransitif. Di sisi lain, verba menah hanya dapat hadir pada konstruksi kausatif analitik atau perifrastik yang memiliki klausa subordinat berpredikat verba intransitif. Implikasi dari penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menjadi salah satu cara atau sarana dalam pelestarian bahasa Dayak Punan dan menjadi salah satu dasar dalam penyusunan tata bahasa Dayak Punan.*

**Kata Kunci:** kausatif, perifrastis, Dayak

### Abstract

The Punan Dayak language is one of the regional languages in the province of North Kalimantan. The Punan Dayak language is widely used by the Punan Dayak tribe in Malinau Regency. The Punan Dayak language is part of the Austronesian language family. This study discusses analytical or periphrastic causatives in the Punan Dayak language. This study attempts to reveal the form of analytical causatives in the Dayak Punan language, including the verbs that mark these constructions. The data collection methods used in this study were observation and interviews. The research data were taken from direct speech by Dayak Punan speakers. The informants in this study were from the Dayak Punan tribe, aged between 25 and 55 years. The data analysis method used in this study was the distribution technique. Based on the results of this study, there are two types of verbs that are the main predicates in analytical causative constructions in the Dayak Punan language. These verbs are nuluh and menah. The distribution of these two verbs is different. The verb nuluh can appear in analytical or periphrastic causative constructions that have embedded clauses with transitive and intransitive verbs as predicates. On the other hand, the verb menah can only appear in analytical or periphrastic causative constructions that have an embedded clause with an intransitive verb predicate. The implications of this research are expected to become a means of preserving the Dayak Punan language and a basis for compiling Dayak Punan grammar.

**Keywords:** causative, periphrastic, Dayaknese

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Punan language is a regional language used by the Dayak Punan community in North Kalimantan province. The Dayak Punan population mostly resides in the Malinau district. Alongside the Punan language, many additional languages are spoken in North Kalimantan province, including Tidung, Bulungan, Dayak Kenyah, among others (Kaskija, 2002; Romadhan & Sari, 2021).

In addition to Malinau Regency, the Dayak Punan tribe also inhabits the Sarawak area. The Dayak Punan tribe in the Sarawak area remains classified as a minority. The Punan language is a minority indigenous language of Sarawak. Limited academic research has been undertaken about the linguistic aspects of this language, in contrast to other indigenous languages in Sarawak, such as Iban, Bidayuh, Kayan, and Kenyah. Its presence has always been seen as synonymous with the Penan ethnicity, another minority group in Sarawak. The Punan National Association estimates the Punan population in Sarawak, from the Bintulu area to Kapit, to be 6,450. This statistic is deemed minor in comparison to other languages in Sarawak (Soriente, 2013).

Numerous references exist on the Punan ethnicity and language. The inconsistency of these allusions often perplexes both local and non-local groups. For instance, there are three often debated confusions or misconceptions about Punan terminology. Firstly, Punan Bah is term that encompasses all Punan ethnic groups in Sarawak, notwithstanding their shared language. Do the Punans and Penans denote the same ethnic group? Do the Punans now engage in a nomadic lifestyle, or did

they historically do it? The first ambiguity is evident in the study conducted by Western scholars like Ling-Roth (1986) and Nicolaisen (1976), whereby the word Punan Ba was used to denote the whole of the Punan ethnicity.

Research on the Punan language is somewhat constrained, particularly on syntax. To far, linguistic research examining Punan have only concentrated on its relationships with other languages, its phonological system, or the aspects and negation forms within Punan. This indicates that Punan retains significant potential for linguistic research. An unexplored characteristic of the Punan language is its causal construction.

According to Goddard (2011) defines causative construction as an expression that denotes an event resulting from an individual's action or an occurrence. Artawa (2004) posits that almost every language has a distinct method for constructing or articulating causal forms. Causative constructs often delineate micro-events, including (1) a causative event that precipitates another event and (2) the resultant event or effect engendered by the causative action (causee) (Shibatani, 1976; Song, 2014).

The sorts of causal constructions in each language vary from one another. Certain languages exhibit all three forms of causative constructions (lexical causative, morphological causative, and analytical causative), while others include just two types: lexical causative and analytical causative.

Languages exhibiting all three construction patterns are often agglutinative,

since they include affixes that may be appended to verbs to modify their valency.

Conversely, languages that include just two forms of causal constructions are classified as isolating languages, since they often lack affixes that modify the valency of verbs (Alien Kurnia Warya Selia & Achmad Dicky Romadhan, 2024; Fathonah & Romadhan, 2021; Romadhan et al., 2023; Selia & Romadhan, 2023; Wijati et al., 2025).

The evidence indicates that each language has distinct grammatical structures for conveying causal expressions. Nonetheless, the equivalence of causal constructions may be articulated both syntactically and analytically across languages (Kumalasari et al., 2025; Nazara et al., 2019; Yusuf & Mulyadi, 2021).

According to Artawa (1998) asserts that a primary syntactic distinction between non-causative and causative formulations is the augmentation of verb valency in causative formations. Research on alterations in verb valency due to causation examines variations in the valency of non-causative base verbs, including intransitive, monotransitive, and ditransitive verbs. The link between causative and non-causative formulations is elucidated via a grammatical hierarchy of subject > direct object > indirect object > oblique object.

This grammatical connection hierarchy indicates that the causee occupies the highest place, namely the leftmost position, which corresponds to the unfilled causal argument (Comrie, 1989). According to Arka (1993) also articulates views on causality and causative formulations. Arka (1993), using the views of Shibatani (1976), and Comrie

(1989) categorizes causative constructs into two types: periphrastic causatives and morphological / lexical causatives.

Periphrastic or analytical causative constructs are biclausal structures. Morphological and lexical causatives are monoclausal constructs. Morphological or lexical causatives are referred to as direct causatives. Arka's taxonomy of causative constructions (1993) is predicated on the quantity of clauses inside a causative construction. The distinctions between the causal categories as presented by Arka (1993) and Comrie (1989) are not inherently conflicting. Alsina and Joshi (1992), provide an alternative perspective on causality or causative constructs. Alsina and Joshi (1992), advocate for an argument structure framework about causality.

The fundamental of the theory established by Alsina and Joshi (1992) pertains to argument construction rather than grammatical function. This theory elucidates that arguments are structured according to the Universal Thematic Hierarchy, whereby the agent has a superior place above the receiver, who is, in turn, ranked above the patient and the topic.

This study has several connections with studies conducted by other researchers in the field of analytical causation. Studies discussing analytical causation have been conducted by Subiyanto (2014) and Kumalasari et al.(2025).

The research conducted by Subiyanto (2014) is titled Analytic Causatives in Javanese: A Lexical-Functional Approach. This research discusses analytic causatives in the Javanese language using the LFG approach. This research provides the

following results these constructions have an X-COMP structure, in that the SUBJ of the second verb is controlled by the OBJ of the causative verb (N)gawe “make”. In terms of the constituent structure, analytic causatives have two kinds of structures, which are V-cause OBJ X-COMP and V-cause X-COMP OBJ. The difference between this study and that conducted by Subiyanto (2014) lies in the language object and the theoretical approach used.

Further research was conducted by Kumalasari et al.,(2025). The research was titled Analytic Causatives of Massenrempulu Language in Duri Dialect: A Lexical-Functional Approach. The results indicate that kuanni (“command”) and the verb mangkabua (“make”) typically constitute analytic causatives in the Duri dialect. The event in question is denoted by PRED2, which may function as either transitive or intransitive, while the causative verbs serve as PRED1. These constructions exhibit a biclausal structure in which the embedded clause (X-COMP) extends from the object of the causative verb (kuanni or mangkabua). The typical word order observed is SVOV. This arrangement illustrates the manner in which arguments are distributed across predication structures in f-structure and c-structure, thereby facilitating complex predication. The difference between this study and that conducted by Kumalasari et al.(2025) lies in the language object and the approach used.

The originality of this research is evident in the selection of the linguistic object. The selected language is Dayak Punan, regarded as a minority language and inadequately documented for the analysis of analytical

causal constructs. This project aims to enhance the documentation and description of local languages in Borneo.

This research introduces a unique emphasis on analytical causative structures. This is due to the lack of thorough discourse on analytical causatives in the Dayak Punan language. This paper introduces analytical causal structures as a new area of investigation in the Dayak Punan language.

This work introduces a fresh feature by analyzing analytical causative structures in the Dayak Punan language, so enhancing comprehension and solidifying knowledge of the causative system within the Austronesian language family.

## 2. METHOD

This research is a descriptive qualitative study aimed at analyzing causative analytic in the Punan Dayak language. The data for this research was obtained from 10 respondents fluent in the Punan Dayak language. The speakers reside in the Malinau Regency region. The participants were purposively selected based on their linguistic purity, fluency in speech, and frequency of language use. The researchers failed to include dialectal variance. The obtained data reflected a diverse range of language used by the speaking population.

This research used an elicitation approach. The elicitation approach employs a series of inquiries or linguistic clues to provoke statements that include analytic causal constructions.

This study employs an distributional analysis approach, which utilizes language as an analytical instrument for data examination (Sudaryanto, 2018). The study focused on the aspect of sound. This component changes

alone under certain situations. This approach encompasses the direct element technique, ellipsis technique, replacement technique, and alteration technique as advanced methods.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the Dayak Punan language, two verbs delineate the development of periphrastic or analytic causal formulations. The verbs *menah* and *nucuh* constitute analytic causal formulations in Dayak Punan. This may be shown as follows.

#### Analytical Causative Construction with Intransitive Verbs in Subordinate Clauses

In the Dayak Punan language, analytical or periphrastic causal structures may be generated from two categories of verbs: intransitive and transitive verbs. Both verbs function as subordinate verbs and do not serve as the principal verbs that constitute analytical causal formations in the Dayak Punan language. The principal verbs in analytical causative formations in the Dayak Punan language are *menah* and *nucuh*. The use of these two verbs might extend to intransitive verbs functioning as verbs in subordinate clauses. This is shown by the statistics presented below.

1. *Ine' nagih*

Mother cry

"Mother cried"

2. *Me' mong*

Father laugh

"Father laughed"

3. *Hen muruk*

3S sit down

"He sat down"

The aforementioned three sentences exemplify fundamental intransitive clauses.

In sentence (1), the subject is constituted by the element *ine'* as the core argument, whereas the predicate, represented by the intransitive verb *nagih*, does not need further arguments.

This is also evident in clause (2). In sentence (2), the only argument present and pivotal is the subject argument represented by the constituent *me*, followed by an intransitive verb predicate with the constituent *mong*. Clause (3) is similar to clauses (1) and (2) as it has an intransitive verb clause structure, marked by an intransitive verb predicate in the component *muruk* and the primary subject represented by the constituent *hen*.

These three sentences lack evidence of an analytical causal structure in the Dayak Punan language. This is due to the absence of arguments and verbs that signify an analytical causal formulation in the Dayak Punan language. The procedure of including verbs that denote an analytical causative structure, followed by the inclusion of arguments to the three aforementioned clauses, which transforms these sentences into analytical causative clauses, is shown as follows.

4. *Hen menah ine' nagih*

3S make mother cry

"He made his mother cry"

5. *Ine nucuh me' mong*

Mother tell father laugh

"Mother told father to laugh"

6. *Adu' ley nucuh hen muruk*

Grandfather tell 3S sit

"Grandfather told him to sit down"

From the three examples above, we can see that the intransitive clauses previously formed in clauses (1)-(3) can be changed into clauses with an analytic causative



construction in clauses (4)-(6). This change is due to the addition of an analytic causative verb to the constituents *menah* and *nucuh*, followed by the addition of arguments.

The three examples above demonstrate that the intransitive clauses established in clauses (1)-(3) may be transformed into clauses using an analytic causal construction in clauses (4)-(6). This modification results from the incorporation of an analytic causal verb to the elements *menah* and *nucuh*, followed by the inclusion of arguments. In clause (4), the primary subject, formerly represented by the component *ine'*, transitions to the constituent *hen*. The element *hen* serves as the primary subject and the subject of the verb *menah*, an analytic causal marker verb in the Dayak Punan language. Conversely, the constituent *hen*, formerly the primary subject, transforms into the object of the main phrase and simultaneously serves as the subject of the subordinate sentence governed by the intransitive verb *nagih*. This results in the element *ine'* serving dual purposes simultaneously inside a sentence structure. A comparable situation occurs in clause (5).

In that phrase, the subject's position, first occupied by *me'*, shifts. The primary subject's position is assumed by *ine'* after the transformation of the clause type into an analytic causal clause. This alteration occurs due to the word *nucuh*, which serves as a marker for the analytic causal construction in the Dayak Punan language. The inclusion of this verb alters the placement of the primary subject. The position of the component *me'*, serving as the primary subject in the intransitive verb construction governed by *mong*, shifts to the object in the analytic

causative sentence with the introduction of the analytic causative verb marker *nucuh*. Furthermore, the component *me'* also serves as the subject of a subordinate phrase with the intransitive verb *mong* as its predicate.

In clause (6), the analytical causal construction similarly alters the role of the subject as shown in clauses (4) and (5). In clause (6), the primary subject is occupied by the component *adu' ley*, which was formerly occupied by the constituent *hen*. The principal verb in the analytical causative formulation of clause (6) is represented by the word *nucuh*. Conversely, the constituent *hen*, initially the subject, transitions to the object in the main sentence and concurrently serves as the object in the subordinate clause, which has an intransitive verb predicate complemented by the constituent *muruk*.

### **Analytical Causative Construction with Transitive Verbs in Subordinate Clauses**

The Dayak Punan language features not only the analytical causative type generated with intransitive basic verbs but also causative formulations utilizing transitive basic verbs. This can be substantiated with the subsequent instances of clauses.

7. *Ipun matuk kun*

Aunt cook rice

"Aunt is cooking rice"

8. *Ikan menyut bayang*

Brother wash cloth

"Brother is washing clothes"

The two examples above illustrate clauses using transitive verb predicates. This is demonstrated by the existence of two arguments within the clause. Clause (7) contains two components: the subject and the object. Both arguments are necessary for

predicates associated with transitive verbs. In clause (7), the subject is represented by the constituent *ipun*, whereas the object argument is represented by the constituent *kun*. The predicate that constitutes the essence of the clause is occupied by the element *matuk*.

Clause (8) exhibits a similar occurrence. This clause contains two arguments, similar to the preceding clause. Clause (8) is populated with the subject and object functions required by the predicate with a transitive verb type. The subject function in this clause is fulfilled by the constituent *ikan*, followed by the predicate occupied by the element *menyut*. Conversely, the object function as the second parameter is occupied by the constituent *bayang*, which follows the predicate *menyut*.

The two aforementioned clauses can be transformed into subordinate clauses within the framework of analytical causative clauses when more arguments are introduced due to a modification in the predicate. This can be seen by the following sample clause.

9. *Adu' oroh nuluh ipun matuk kun*

Grandmother tell aunty cook rice

"Grandmother told aunty to cook rice"

10. *Kai nuluh ikan menyut bayang*

3P tell brother wash cloth

"We told brother to wash clothes"

\*11. *Ipun menah hen nufuh kelien an umoh*

Aunt make 3S plant vegetable Prep field

"Aunt made him to plant vegetable in the field"

The three examples above demonstrate that a fundamental sentence originating from a transitive verb clause can be transformed into an analytical causal clause. This results

from the incorporation of arguments in the clause prompted by a modification in the predicate of the main clause.

Clause (9) demonstrates that the analytical causative construction contains three argument. The arguments are categorized according to the principal clause and the subordinate clause. The principal clause arguments in clause (9) are populated by the subject and object. The subject in the main phrase is occupied by the element *adu' oroh*, followed by the verb *nuluh*. The object in the main sentence is occupied by the constituent *ipun*, which simultaneously functions as the subject in the subordinate phrase. The predicate in the subordinate clause is occupied by the constituent *matuk*, followed by the object function, *kun*, within the subordinate sentence.

Clause (10) demonstrates that the analytical causative structure has three argument in both the main and subordinate clauses. In the main clause, the subject function is occupied by the constituent *kai*, followed by the verb *nuluh*, which serves as the analytical causal marker in the Dayak Punan language. The object role in the main sentence is occupied by the constituent *ikan*, which simultaneously serves as the subject in the subordinate clause. The predicate of the subordinate clause is a transitive verb complemented by the constituent *menyut*, which necessitates an argument that serves as an object. The object function in the subordinate clause is occupied by *bayang*.

A distinct circumstance arises in clause (11). This clause presents an unacceptable condition regarding the meaning inside the analytical causal construction of the Dayak Punan language. The unacceptability arises

from the incorporation of *menah* as a verb marker in the analytical causative construction of the Dayak Punan language. This addition is impermissible as the incorporation of *menah* can solely occur within an analytic causal formulation with a subordinate clause predicate of the intransitive variety. In clause (11), the predicate of the subordinate clause is populated by a transitive verb, rendering that structure semantically unsuitable in the Dayak Punan language.

## DISCUSSION

Comrie (1989) claims that causative constructs may be categorized into three forms based on formal criteria (morphosyntax): analytical causatives, morphological causatives, and lexical causatives. This research will especially concentrate on the analytical causative construction among the three causative constructions identified by Comrie (1989).

Based on the research results presented above, there are several interesting points to discuss regarding the analytical causative construction in the Dayak Punan language.

The above research results explain that the analytical causative construction in the Dayak Punan language has two types of subordinate clauses, namely clauses with transitive verb predicates and clauses with intransitive verb predicates.

In the Dayak Punan language, clauses with intransitive verb predicates are similar to clauses with intransitive verb predicates in other languages. Clauses with intransitive verb predicates in the Dayak Punan language have one argument required by the predicate. The addition of more than one argument in an

intransitive verb clause construction will cause this clause to be unacceptable.

In these clauses, the addition of a new argument and predicate, namely the analytical causative marker verb in the Dayak Punan language, causes a change in the grammatical structure of the clause. This change results in the subject in the subordinate clause having two functions at once. These functions are the object function in the main clause with an analytic causative predicate. The subject position in the main clause is filled by a new constituent required by the predicate. This causes the analytic causative process to be referred to as a valency raising mechanism.

In transitive verb clauses in the Dayak Punan language, these clauses also have structural similarities with transitive verb clauses in other languages around the world. In transitive verb clauses in the Dayak Punan language, the predicate requires at least two arguments, namely the subject and the object. This is similar to transitive verb clauses in other languages universally.

Transitive verb clauses become subordinate clauses in analytical causative constructions in the Dayak Punan language. This also affects the grammatical structure of the function in transitive verb clauses. In analytical causative constructions in the Dayak Punan language, verbs that indicate analytical causative constructions in the Dayak Punan language require additional arguments that function as the subject of the main clause. This can be seen in the research results above. The new constituent that appears as the subject of the main clause then shifts the position of the subject function in the subordinate clause. The subject in the



subordinate clause is given an additional function in the analytical causative construction of the Dayak Punan language. This function is as the object of the main clause. On the other hand, the object in the subordinate clause has the same role in the analytical causative construction, namely as the object.

The second point that can be discussed based on the research findings is the use of two analytical causative verbs, *nucuh* and *menah*. The use of these two verbs differs depending on the subordinate verb that follows the main verb.

The verb *nucuh* can appear in all types of verbs that are intransitive and transitive predicates. This has been proven by the results of the above research. On the other hand, the verb *menah* cannot appear in all types of verbs that are predicates. The verb *menah* can only appear in predicates that are intransitive verbs. This has been proven by the results of the research described above.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, several conclusions can be drawn from this study. These conclusions relate to the type of subordinate clause verbs, analytical causative verbs, and the limitations of the study.

Subordinate verbs in analytical causative constructions in the Dayak Punan language play a fairly strong role in the use of analytical causatives. There are two types of subordinate clause verbs in analytical causative constructions: intransitive and transitive verbs.

Analytical causative verbs in the Dayak Punan language are also influenced by the type of verb in the subordinate clause. In the

Dayak Punan language, there are two types of analytical causative verbs: *nucuh* and *menah*. These two verbs have different distributions in the analytical causative construction. The verb *nucuh* is present in all types of verbs in the subordinate clause in the analytical causative construction. The verb *nucuh* can be present with a subordinate clause that has a transitive and intransitive verb predicate.

A different situation occurs in the distribution of stative verbs. Stative verbs can only appear if the subordinate clause has an intransitive predicate. On the other hand, the presence of stative verbs followed by subordinate clauses with intransitive verb predicates is not acceptable in terms of meaning, even though it is still grammatically acceptable.

The final conclusion of this study is the limitations of the research itself. The limitation of this study lies in the application of the theory used. Future studies are expected to use theories that are relevant to the analytical causative of the Dayak Punan language. The application of different theories to the analytical causative construction of the Punan language can have a positive impact, especially in revealing analytical causative constructions from other perspectives.

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