



Original Article

Transitive Verbs and Causative Construction in Riau Melay Language, Pasir Pengaraian Dialect

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Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the forms, morphosyntactic features, and causative as well as applicative constructions in the Pasir Pengaraian dialect of Riau Malay. Employing a qualitative descriptive framework, data were collected through in-depth interviews and recordings of natural speech from native speakers in Pasir Pengaraian, Rokan Hulu, Riau. Data analysis was conducted using distributional method, involving the direct constituent analysis (BUL), deletion, and expansion techniques. The findings identify three categories of transitive verbs: monotransitive, ditransitive, and semitransitive, each with distinct argument configurations. Causative constructions in this dialect are classified into three types—analytic, morphological, and lexical, each reflecting valency expansion through the addition of a causative agent.

Keywords: transitive verbs, causative construction, riau malay language

Introduction

Language, as one of humanity's most complex cognitive achievements, goes far beyond its role as a mere means of communication. It is an arbitrary system of sound symbols that enables humans to interact, articulate abstract thoughts, express innermost feelings, and convey will ([Kridalaksana, 1983:17](#)). Without linguistic capacity, the complexities of communication between people and the transmission of knowledge across generations would not be possible to achieve effectively. Moreover, language serves as a reflection of culture, a marker of a community's identity, and a pillar of social cohesion. Every group of people develops unique linguistic variations or dialects, which are intrinsically linked to and evolve along with their sociocultural and geographical environments ([Wolfram & Schilling, 2016](#)).

The study of dialects, defined as language variations spoken by groups of people in a particular geographical area ([Zulaeha, 2010:1](#)), has fundamental significance in linguistics. Dialectology, as a branch of linguistics that specialises in the study of language variations based on local differences in all their aspects ([Chambers & Trudgill,](#)



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1998), aims not only to document the linguistic richness of a region, but also to understand the dynamics of language change, conservation of intangible cultural heritage, as well as mapping patterns of diffusion of linguistic innovations. In the context of Indonesia as a multiethnic and multicultural country, dialect studies become even more crucial given the extraordinary diversity of regional languages.

One linguistic complexity that attracts attention is the dialect of Riau Malay. This language itself is not a single entity, but rather a constellation of various subdialects, such as the Kampar, Pasir Pengaraian (Rokan), Petalangan, and Rantau Kuantan dialects ([Hamidy in Ermawati, 2019](#)). This diversity reflects the history of migration, interaction between ethnic groups, and adaptation to different geographical environments in Riau Province. Among these subdialects, the Riau Malay dialect spoken in Pasir Pengaraian, the capital of Rokan Hulu Regency, has its own distinctiveness. This distinctiveness is manifested in the lexical (vocabulary), phonological (sound system), and grammatical (language structure) levels, which distinguish it from other Riau Malay dialects, even from standard Malay or standard Indonesian. The vitality of its use in the daily life of the Pasir Pengaraian community makes it a very relevant and data-rich object of study.

In the internal structure of language, verbs occupy a central position. It is an essential word category because it expresses action, state, or process. In sentence construction, verbs function as core predicates that organise other arguments, such as subjects and objects, to form meaningful propositions ([Dixon, 2010](#)). An in-depth understanding of verbs, particularly in relation to their arguments, is crucial for unravelling the syntactic framework of a language or dialect.

One of the most common and complex subcategories of verbs is transitive verbs. Traditionally, transitive verbs are defined as verbs that grammatically require one or more nouns as direct objects in the active sentence ([Alwi, Dardjowidjojo, Lapoliwa, & Moeliono, 2010:95](#)). This object, in many languages, can transform into the subject in passive constructions ([Putrayasa, 2010; Masruroh, 2019](#)). For example, in the sentence 'He hit the ball', the verb 'hit' requires the object 'ball' for the sentence to be grammatically and semantically complete. Without the object, the meaning of this verb is not fully realised or its meaning changes. Transitive verbs often involve the transfer of action or effect from an agent (subject) to a patient (object), as outlined by Comrie (1989) in the concept of 'degrees of transitivity'.

The study of transitive verbs has been the focus of various linguistic researches due to their fundamental role in sentence structure and semantic understanding. [Masruroh \(2019\)](#), for example, analysed the transitive verbs in compound sentences and their potential applications as teaching materials, highlighting how objects can function as subjects in passive sentences. Similarly, [Eidjanah et al. \(2024\)](#) and [Putri & Najiibah \(2023\)](#) have examined transitive verbs in modern discourse contexts, both in popular articles and horror threads on social media, showing the relevance of these verbs in various genres and communication mediums. Meanwhile, [Nurhasanah \(2022\)](#) and [Putrayasa \(2010\)](#) provide theoretical foundations and empirical analyses on the function of transitive verbs in biographical texts and sentence structures in general.

In addition to the transitive aspect, causative constructions are also an important dimension in verb studies as they are directly related to the expansion of valency and syntactic roles. These constructions not only show the flexibility of sentence structure in a language, but also reflect how speakers structure and manipulate information to highlight the agent, patient, goal, tool, as well as the recipient of the action in

communication. Researching causative constructions is therefore crucial to understanding the grammatical mechanisms underlying the organisation of arguments in sentences.

However, to date, specific and in-depth studies regarding transitive verbs, including causative constructions in Riau Malay of Pasir Pengaraian dialect are still very limited. This indicates a gap in the Malay linguistic literature that needs to be filled immediately. This research is relevant and important because by systematically describing the forms, morphosyntactic features, and causative constructions of transitive verbs in the dialect, a more comprehensive understanding of the local language structure can be obtained. In addition, this study also makes a significant contribution to the development of verb typology in Austronesian linguistics as well as the preservation and documentation of local languages in Indonesia.

Verb Valency Theory

The concept of verbal valency is a key pillar in modern syntactic analysis. The term was first introduced by [French linguist Lucien Tesnière \(1959\)](#) in his work *Éléments de syntaxe structurale*. Tesnière likened the verb to an 'atom' in a sentence that has a 'pole' (valency) to attract 'satellites' (arguments) around it. Verb valency refers to the number and type of arguments (subject, direct object, indirect object, prepositional complement, etc.) that are grammatically required by a verb to form a complete and meaningful syntactic construction. Low-valence verbs (e.g., intransitive) only require a subject, while high-valence verbs (e.g., ditransitive) require a subject and two objects.

[Dixon \(2010\)](#), in *Basic Linguistic Theory: Volume 2: Grammatical Topics*, provides a comprehensive classification of verbs based on their valency. He proposes a universal verb typology that includes:

1. Intransitive: A verb that requires only one argument, the subject (S). Examples: sleep, cry.
2. Monotransitive: A verb that requires two arguments, namely the subject (A/Agent) and one direct object (O/Patient). Examples: eat, read, hit. These verbs transfer the action from the agent to the patient.
3. Ditransitive: A verb that requires three arguments, namely a subject (A), a direct object (O), and an indirect object (G/Goal or Recipient). Examples: give, send, teach. These verbs involve the transfer of an entity (O) from the agent (A) to the recipient (G).
4. Transitive Complex: A verb that requires a subject, a direct object, and a predicative complement (e.g. make him king).
5. Ambitransitive (Semitransitive): A verb that can be used intransitively or transitively without morphological changes. Example: read (either he reads or she reads a book). This concept is particularly relevant for the phenomenon in the Pasir Pengaraian dialect.

Dixon's classification provides a strong framework for analysing and identifying the categories of transitive verbs that appear in linguistic data, including in the Pasir Pengaraian dialect of Riau Malay.

Causative Construction

In addition to inherent valency, the meaning and argument structure of verbs can be extended through causative constructions. Causative constructions refer to expressions

in which events are caused by someone's action or something happens. Goddard (1998:266) states that a causative construction is an expression in which an event is caused by someone's action or because something happens. [Kridalaksana \(2009\)](#) further argues that causative constructions are concerned with actions (verbs) that cause a situation or event.

A causative situation fundamentally consists of two interconnected events: one denoting the cause (causing event) and the other denoting the effect (caused event) ([Shibatani, 1976](#); [Frawley, 1992:158](#)). Comrie (1981:165) refers to this concept as cause and effect. Typologically, causatives can be divided into:

1. Analytic/Periphrastic Causative: Uses a separate predicate (e.g., 'make', 'cause') to express a cause-and-effect relationship. Example: The boy went to sleep became The mother made the boy sleep.
2. Morphological Causative: The causative relationship is expressed through affixation to the verb. Example: The boy sat down becomes Mum sat the boy down.
3. Semantic/Lexical Causative: The causative meaning is implicitly contained in the lexicon of the verb itself. Example: The boy opened the door.

Causative constructions essentially increase the transitivity of a verb by adding a causative agent to the sentence structure, making the verb 'more' transitive as it involves the transfer of action from the cause to the caused.

Methods

This research adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to investigate and analyse in depth the form, function, and meaning of transitive verbs found in the Riau Malay language Pasir Pengaraian dialect. The qualitative approach was chosen deliberately because its main focus is on understanding linguistic phenomena holistically and contextually. It can capture the complex nuances and details of language use that may not be detected or effectively measured through purely quantitative methods ([Creswell, 2014](#)). The descriptive nature of this research ensures that all linguistic data is presented and analysed systematically and factually, accurately reflecting the reality of language use by native speakers.

This research is specifically located in Pasir Pengaraian, which is the capital of Rokan Hulu Regency, Riau Province, Indonesia. The choice of this location is not without reason, but rather based on initial observations that consistently show that people in the region still actively and extensively use this dialect in various aspects of their daily communication, both in the formal and informal realms. This high level of vitality of dialect usage in Pasir Pengaraian makes it an ideal and data-rich site for collecting natural and authentic linguistic data.

The informants of this study are native speakers of the Pasir Pengaraian Riau Malay dialect. To ensure a comprehensive representation of dialectal variations and linguistic practices within the community, informants were selected using purposive sampling criteria. These criteria include several important aspects. Firstly, informants must have native speaker status, which means they have used the Pasir Pengaraian dialect as their mother tongue since childhood and still actively use it in their daily lives today. Secondly, the informants have an age range between 30 to 70 years old. This age range was strategically chosen to include speakers from different generations, thus allowing for the potential identification of inter-generational variations or changes in transitive verb usage patterns. As a consideration, younger speakers (under 30 years old)

may have more exposure to standard Indonesian, while older speakers (over 70 years old) could potentially have more archaic or traditional variations. Finally, the availability and willingness of the informants is crucial; the informants must be willing to participate in the research, show a co-operative attitude, and be able to provide sufficient time for the interview and observation sessions. The number of informants involved in this study was determined based on the principle of data saturation, a condition where data collection is stopped when no more significant new information emerges from additional informants ([Glaser & Strauss, 1967](#)), signalling that the main categories and themes have been fully revealed.

Data collection was conducted by applying in-depth interviews, which were also a key technique in data collection. These unstructured interviews were conducted individually with informants. The main purpose of these interviews is to explore more specific and in-depth data regarding the use of transitive verbs in various semantic and syntactic contexts that may not always appear in spontaneous observations. The questions asked are open-ended, for example, the researcher may ask: 'How would you say 'bring a book' in your dialect?', or "Is there another way to say 'take heart' other than with this expression?", or even "Can this word be used without another word (object)?". This kind of interview allowed informants to not only provide examples of utterances, but also to explain nuances of meaning, and give their views on the grammaticality of a sentence construction. All interview sessions were audio-recorded to ensure data accuracy and completeness. As a complement, natural speech recording and note-taking techniques were also implemented.

The linguistic data that has been collected is then analysed using the agih method (distributional method), as explained in detail by [Sudaryanto \(2015\)](#). The agih method is a unique language analysis approach because it makes the linguistic elements themselves the main determinant or tool of analysis. The basic principle of this method is that the meaning and function of a linguistic element can be accurately determined from its distribution, namely the pattern of its occurrence or its relationship with other elements in a particular context. In the context of this research, the analysis process is carried out by breaking down the obtained utterances or sentences into smaller linguistic units, such as verbs and their accompanying arguments. These units are then identified, classified, and examined for their distribution patterns.

To support the agih method, some further techniques are used systematically, namely the deletion technique. This technique is used to test the grammaticality or semantic integrity of a sentence when one of the elements, especially the object, is omitted. If the omission of the object causes the sentence to become ungrammatical or significantly alters its meaning, then the object is considered an obligatory argument to the related verb. This technique of omission proves to be very useful in distinguishing between ekatransitive verbs, whose objects are obligatory, and semitransitive verbs, whose objects can be optional. For example, if the sentence 'I eat' is still considered grammatical and can be understood in a certain context (indicating the activity of eating in general), then the verb 'eat' in that context can be categorised as semitransitive. Meaning analysis will be done on the comparison of sentences with and without objects to see a shift in focus or generalisation of meaning.

Then, the Expansion Technique is used to look at the syntactic limits or valency flexibility of a verb. For example, by adding an indirect object to a verb that initially appears to be ekatransitive (e.g., 'muek' becomes 'muekkan'), the Expansion Technique allows an examination of the types of arguments that a verb can accept and how the

addition of such arguments affects the meaning or grammaticality of the whole sentence, especially in the identification of causative and applicative constructions.

Finally, Componential Semantic Analysis. After the identification of the syntactic structure, the analysis of the meaning of transitive verbs will be deepened through componential semantic analysis. This technique involves decomposing the lexical meaning of the verb into smaller semantic components or distinguishing features. For example, the verb ‘to give’ can be decomposed into components such as [+TRANSFER], [+PRIVATE], [+BEFECTIVE]. This approach allows researchers to systematically compare and contrast the meanings of different verbs, identify common semantic features, and understand how they encode events, participants, and thematic roles. This analysis will be helpful in identifying the nuances of meaning between ekatransitive, bitransitive verbs, as well as the impact of valency changes on meaning in causative constructions.

Results

Classification of Transitive Verbs Based on Number of Objects

Based on their valency and argument configuration, transitive verbs in Riau Malay of Pasir Pengaraian dialect can be categorised into ekatransitive, bitransitive, and semitransitive verbs. This classification is in line with the verb typology proposed by [Dixon \(2010\)](#), which differentiates verbs based on the number and type of arguments they obligate.

1. Equatransitive (Monotransitive) Verbs

Equatransitive verbs are verbs that inherently require one direct object (DO) argument in addition to their subject to form a grammatical and semantic predication ([Dixon, 2010](#)). In the Pasir Pengaraian dialect, the dominant syntactic pattern for ekatransitive verbs is Subject (S) + Verb (V) + Object (O), reflecting the transfer of action from agent to patient. Consider the following data.

- (1) *Aku makan nasi*. ‘I ate rice.’
- (2) *Inyo macu buku*. ‘He is reading a book.’
- (3) *Ayah ngamiek sokin*. ‘Father takes a knife.’
- (4) *Adiek drinks ayia*. ‘Little brother drinks water.’
- (5) *Kami donga critu*. ‘We listen to the story.’
- (6) *Omak nyuci kain*. ‘Mum washes the cloth.’
- (7) *Mamak moli boreh*. ‘Uncle bought rice.’

In (1), the verb eat obligatorily takes rice as its direct object. Similarly, macu (‘read’) in (2) binds a book, and ngamiek (‘take’) in (3) binds a sokin (‘knife’). Morphologically, verbs such as macu and ngamiek show phonological adaptations typical of the Pasir Pengaraian dialect, where the meN- prefix present in standard Indonesian is often dropped or dropped at the initial level (e.g. reading > macu; taking > ngamiek). However, these morphophonological changes do not alter the basic valency of these verbs as ekatransitives; they still require an object to complete the meaning.

Syntactically, this object obligation can be proven through the lesap test. If the object rice is omitted from sentence (1) to become I eat, the sentence is still grammatical in certain contexts, but its meaning becomes unspecific or altered, indicating that rice is the

core argument needed to communicate the specific action of eating. In addition, the object's ability to transform into the subject in passive constructions confirms the verb's ekatransitive status. Consider the following transformation:

- a. *Nasi dimakan (dek aku)*. ('Rice is eaten (by me).')
- b. *Buku dibaca (dek inyo)*. ('The book is read (by him).')
- c. *Sokin diamiek (dek ayah)*. ('The knife is taken (by father).')
- d. *Ayie diminum (dek adiek)*. ('Water is drunk (by younger brother).')
- e. *Critu didonga (dek kami)*. ('Stories are heard (by us).')
- f. *Kain dicuci (dek omak)*. ('The cloth is washed (by mum).')
- g. *Boreh diboli (dek mamak)*. ('Rice was bought (by uncle).')

This passive transformation shows that the object in the active sentence has the role of patient or undergoer, i.e. the entity that is subjected to or directly affected by the action performed by the subject (Comrie, 1989). The consistency of the SVO pattern and this passive transformation ability confirm that the ekatransitive verb forms a stable syntactic foundation in the Pasir Pengaraian dialect.

2. Bi-transitive) Verbs

Bi-transitive verbs are verbs that grammatically require two object arguments, one direct object (DO) and one indirect object (IO), in addition to the subject (Dixon, 2010). The indirect object generally indicates the recipient, beneficiary, or goal of the action involving transfer or delivery. Consider the sentences below

(8) *Aku ngagieh adiek duik.*

'I gave my brother some money.'

(DO: duik; IO: adiek)

(9) *Omak molikan ayah baju.*

'Mum bought dad a shirt.'

(DO: baju; IO: ayah)

(10) *Guru ngajakan anak-anak pelajaran.*

'The teacher teaches the children a lesson.'

(DO: pelajaran; IO: children)

(11) *Inyo ngirim kami surek.*

'He sent us a letter.'

(DO: letter; IO: us)

The verb in the data above structurally and semantically demands the presence of both objects for the meaning of the action transfer to be complete. For example, the verb *ngagieh* ('to give') cannot be followed by only one object; *Aku ngagieh duik* ('I give money') still implies the recipient, and *Aku ngagieh adiek* ('I give younger siblings') still implies what is given. These two objects, *duik* (DO) and *adiek* (IO), are absolutely necessary to convey the proposition 'giving money to adik' explicitly.

The commonly observed syntactic pattern in this dialect is [Subject] + [Dwitransitive Verb] + [Indirect Object] + [Direct Object]. This order, where the Indirect Object

precedes the Direct Object, is a common pattern in many languages and often indicates the status of the IO as an animated or more informationally prominent recipient ([Levin & Rappaport Hovav, 2005](#)).

Morphologically, verbs such as *molikan* show the suffix *-kan* which in standard Indonesian often indicates a causative or benefactive function (e.g., *buy* becomes *buyikan* 'buy for'). This function supports the presence of two objects (what is bought and for whom). [Comrie's \(1989\)](#) analysis of 'degree of transitivity' is also relevant here; bitransitive verbs have a high degree of transitivity because they involve a clear transfer of action from an agent to two other entities, one being the patient and the other the recipient.

Although in broader discursive contexts the order of objects may vary or one of the objects may be implied, this basic structure of dwitransitive valency remains a prominent grammatical feature in the Pasir Pengaraian dialect. This suggests that the syntactic system of this dialect allows for argument complexity comparable to that of standard languages.

3. Semitransitive (Ambintransitive) Verbs

Semitransitive verbs (often called ambitransitive) are valency-flexible verbs, i.e. they can occur both with and without a direct object argument, without causing the sentence to become ungrammatical or without morphological changes to the verb itself ([Dixon, 2010](#)). The absence of an explicit object in semitransitive verbs is usually filled in by the pragmatic context or the common knowledge of speakers and listeners. Consider the sentence below.

- (12) a. *Ayah sodang macu qur'an*. 'Father is reading the Qur'an.
b. *Ayah sodang macu*. 'Father is reading.

- (13) a. *Anak tu nggambar pemandangan*. 'The boy is drawing a landscape.
b. *The boy is drawing*. 'The boy is drawing.

- (14) a. *Inyo nulis surek*. 'He wrote a letter.
b. *Inyo nulis*. 'He wrote.'

- (15) a. *Kami munyanyi lagu Melayu*. 'We sing Malay songs.'
b. *We munyanyi*. 'We sing.'

In sentence pairs (12a) and (12b), the verb *macu* ('to read') shows semitransitive behaviour. In (12a), *macu* is followed by the object *qur'an*, which clearly describes what is being read. This is a transitive usage. However, in (12b), *macu* is used without an explicit object. Despite this, the sentence is still grammatical and comprehensible. The listener can assume the object being read based on the context of the previous conversation or common knowledge (e.g., books, newspapers, etc.). The same is seen in the verb pairs *nggambar* ('draw'), *nulis* ('write'), and *manyanyi* ('sing').

This phenomenon of semitransitivity can be explained with the framework of Hopper and Thompson's Transitivity [Scale \(1980\)](#). A verb like *macu* falls in the middle of the transitivity scale, as it can exhibit both transitive (object present, object affected) and intransitive (object not explicit, action more on the agent) features. The absence of an

explicit object does not reduce the inherent ‘transitivity’ of the verb, but rather indicates that the object does not need to be expressed because the context is sufficiently clear or the focus of the utterance is on the action itself, not on the object. For example, in ‘Ayah sodang macu’, the focus is on the activity of Ayah reading, not on what is being read.

The existence of semitransitive verbs in Pasir Pengaraian Malay dialect shows high syntactic flexibility and dependence on pragmatic context. This reflects that sentence structure is not always rigid, but dynamic and adaptive to the communication needs of speakers, where shared knowledge between speakers and listeners plays a crucial role in understanding meaning.

Causative Construction in Pasir Pengaraian Riau Malay Dialect

Causative constructions in Pasir Pengaraian Riau Malay dialect represent expressions in which an event is caused by someone's action or something happens, in accordance with the definition expressed by [Goddard \(1998\)](#) and [Kridalaksana \(2009\)](#). Causative situations fundamentally involve two interconnected events, namely the cause (causing event) and the effect (caused event).

In this dialect, causatives manifest in several typologies. Firstly, analytic/periphrastic causatives are expressed using a separate predicate, i.e. an explicit causative verb which lexically means ‘to make’, ‘to cause’, or ‘to result in’. In the Pasir Pengaraian dialect of Riau Malay, the accepted accusative verb is *muek* ‘to make’. For example, in the following data.

- (16) a. *Inyo nangih* (‘She cried’), becomes
b. Ayah *muek inyo nangih* (‘Ayah made her cry’).

- (17) a. *Anak tu gilu*. (‘The child is crazy’)
b. The witch doctor *muek anak tu gilu* (‘The witch doctor made the child crazy’).

The verb *nangih* ‘cry’ is intransitive as in data (16a). However, through causative construction, the sentence becomes *Ayah muek inyo nangih* (‘Ayah made her cry’). In this construction, ‘Ayah’ acts as a causing agent that directly triggers the event ‘*inyo nangih*’ (caused event). The verb *muek* explicitly states a causal relationship, so that the originally intransitive base verb ‘*nangih*’ becomes part of the clause subject to action by ‘Dad’, showing an expansion of valency through the predicate combination.

In the data, ‘*dukun tu*’ (the shaman) is the causative agent that causes ‘*anak tu*’ (the child) to become ‘*gilu*’ (crazy). The verb *muek* once again functions as an analytic causative marker that connects the causative agent with the causative result on the participant.

In addition, the Pasir Pengaraian dialect also exhibits morphological/semantic causatives. Although this dialect does not have as complex a semorphological causative affix system as some other languages, the causative function can be internalised through the affixation of the prefix *muN-* (which varies into *nga-*, *mo-*, *nyu-*, and so on after phonological extension), especially when interacting with initially intransitive base verbs or adjectives. For example, in the following data.

- (18) *Ayie tu habih* (‘The water runs out’), becomes
b. Ayah *ngabihkan ayie tu* (‘Ayah finished the water’).

- (19) a. *Kain tu biak* ('The cloth is wet'), becomes
b. *Omak mumiakkan kain tu* ('Mum wet the cloth').

In data (18 a and b), the base verb *habih* ('runs out') describes a state, but with the prefix *nga-* (a variant of *muN-*) and the suffix *-kan*, the verb *ngabihkan* explicitly states 'to cause something to run out'. 'Ayah' is the agent that actively causes the change of state in 'ayie tu' (the water) from 'exist' to 'run out', showing how affixation can transform intransitive verbs into transitive ones by adding a causative agent.

In data (19 a and b), 'wet' is an adjective that describes a state. With the affix *mambasahkan* (from *meN-* + *wet* + *-kan*), 'Omak' (Ibu) causes 'kain tu' (the cloth) to become 'wet'. This shows how verbs from adjectives can be formed to express causality.

Furthermore, causative meaning can also be implicitly attached to the verb lexicon itself, called semantic/lexical causative. e.g. in the following data.

- (20) *Omak motong kayu tu* ('Mum cut the wood')
(21) *Pak guru mulempa bola*. ('The teacher throws the ball')

The verb *motong* ('to cut') in data (20) inherently contains a causative meaning. The action of 'motong' performed by 'Omak' implicitly causes a change of form in 'kayu tu' (that wood), even though the specific effect (e.g., 'split' or 'cut') is not expressed as a separate predicate. This causative meaning is already embedded in the lexical semantics of the verb itself.

The verb *mulempa* ('to throw') in data (21) inherently means 'to make something move away from the hand'. The action of 'throwing' by the 'teacher' implicitly causes the 'ball' to change position or move. The result of the action of 'mulempa' (i.e. 'moving away') is already contained in the meaning of the verb.

Conclusion

Based on valency analysis, transitive verbs in Pasir Pengaraian Riau Malay dialect are divided into three main categories. Firstly, *ekatransitive* verbs which are obligatory to have one direct object for complete predication, showing action transfer from subject to object and can be passivised. Second, *bitransitive* verbs which require two object arguments, namely direct and indirect objects, with the indirect object often preceding the direct object as the recipient of the action. Thirdly, *semitransitive* verbs which have valency flexibility, can appear with or without an explicit object, highly dependent on pragmatic context and speaker-hearer shared knowledge.

Causative constructions in Pasir Pengaraian Riau Malay dialect show the dynamics of verb valency change through morphosyntactic and lexical strategies. Causative constructions can appear in analytic (using lexical verbs such as *muek*), morphological (with the prefix *muN-* and suffix *-kan*), as well as semantic (lexical) forms, all of which allow the agent to cause an event to occur.

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