

## Negation Markers in Buginese

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**Abstract:** This study analyzed the expression of negation markers in Buginese. The study employed a descriptive qualitative method. The data for this study are some snippets of daily speech in Buginese Sinjai Dialect setting which we have verified as the native speakers. The results indicated that there are two main ways of expressing negation in Buginese which are negation marker *dena'* that can be used interchangeably with negation *enna'*. Negation *dena'/enna'* is used if the predicate is verbal, adjectival, or with prepositions. Another negation is *tannia* which is used in relative clause. Negation *tannia* is used if the predicate is nominal either object or subject. This study can contribute to provide references in Buginese negation as there are a few references in this specific topic.

**Keywords:** *Buginese, Language contact, Negation,*

### INTRODUCTION

Buginese (also known as Bugis) is a regional language spoken in eastern Indonesia. Buginese is one of 719 local languages in Indonesia. It is spoken widely in the southern portion of Indonesia. Buginese is a member of South Sulawesi languages and the Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian language family (Valls, 2004). Buginese is spoken by Bugis people which is about 5.500.000 speakers (Wikipedia, 2018).

There are a number of dialects of Buginese. Sirk in Grimes and Grimes (1987) listed six tentative dialects of Buginese: Bone, Wajo, Soppeng, Luwu', a southern dialect encompassing the Sinjai-Bulukumba area, and a north-western dialect covering the Sidenrang-Rappang area. Grimes and Grimes (1987) listed ten dialects of Buginese: Luwu, Wajo, palakka (Bone), Enna (Sinjai), Soppeng, Sidenreng, Parepara, Sawitto (Pinrang), Tallumpanua (Campalagian) and ugi' riawa (pasangkayu). Meanwhile, Friberg and Friberg identified Buginese dialects into 11 major dialects, they are: Luwu, Wajo, Bone (Palakka), Soppeng, Enna' (Sinjai, Bulukumba), Sidrap, Barru (Pare-Pare), Sawitno, Pangkep, Camba, and Pasangkayu. We are able to speak fluently both Bone and Sinjai dialect since we grew up in both societies. In this paper, we will focus on Buginese with Sinjai dialect.

Typologically, WALS-APiCS categorized Buginese as SVO language in (1). However, pattern VSO and VOS are also allowed and both are very productive, especially in informal and daily communication. SVO is typically used in formal setting and it is not as common as VSO and VOS. As our experience and observation as Buginese native speakers as well as other references written by Buginese linguists, VOS and VSO are the most frequently used typology (Agus, 2009) like in (2) and (3) respectively. In addition to that, VOS is possible in (4).

(1) Iyya mempe'-ki kaluku-e

1SG<sup>1</sup> climb-AGR<sup>2</sup>3 coconut-DEF<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SG : Singular

<sup>2</sup> AGR : Agreement

I climb tree-the

'I climb the tree'

(2) Man-nasu-i bale La Upe

AV<sup>4</sup>-cook-ABS<sup>5</sup> fish La Upe

cook fish La Upe

'La Upe cooks fish'

(3) Man-nasu-i La Upe bale

AV-cook-ABS La Upe fish

cook La Upe fish

'La Upe cooks the fish'

(4) Man-nasu-i bale La Upe

AV-cook- ABS fish La Upe

cook fish La Upe

'La Upe cooks the fish'

Negation, especially Negation Polarity Item (NPI), has been documented fairly well in some languages primarily English and Dutch (Soehn et al, 2010). But it is not the case in Buginese.

To the best of our knowledge, there are very few articles focusing on negation in detail about Buginese negation. Two of them are presented very briefly by Laskowski (2016) and Valls (2010). Nonetheless, their work does not cover entirely the negation in Buginese.

Interestingly, negation in Indonesian which is the national language and is spoken as well by the Bugis has been documented very well. Therefore, for this study purpose, we mostly refer to and compare Indonesian and Buginese negation since both of them have some similarities though there are also some differences.

### Negation

In Indonesian, there are two distinct negation markers: *tidak* and *bukan* (Kroeger, 2014). Negation *tidak* is always used if the predicate is verbal, adjective, and most predicative PPS while negation *bukan* is most used when the predicate is nominal. For some cases, negation *bukan* may also be used if the predicate is verbal. Similar to Indonesian, Buginese also has two negation markers: *dena'enna'* and *tannia*. Negation *dena'* and *enna'* are used interchangeably and the difference is presented in the last part of the next section.

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<sup>3</sup> DEF : Definite

<sup>4</sup> AV : Active Voice

<sup>5</sup> ABS : Absolutive

Compared to Indonesian, negation *dena'* acts like *tidak* and *tannia* behaves like *bukan*. But *tannia* cannot negate predicate verbal like in Indonesian. Typically, Indonesia only has one structure SVO compared to Buginese which has SVO, VSO, and VOS. Interestingly, Buginese allows pro-drop subject (Valls, 2014). The subject can be omitted which is in contrast with English where subject presence is a must. When the subject is dropped, it is expressed with a verbal marker either by clitics. Therefore, Buginese might be possible to have VO or OV.

Negation *dena'* is always used with if the predicate with verbal, adjective, and adverb. *Dena'* even can co-occur with nominal if particular support is inserted. On the other hand, negation *tannia* only works in relative clause and also in declarative sentence but is restricted.

## METHOD

This study explored the expression of negation markers in Buginese. The data for this study are some snippets of daily speech in Buginese Sinjai Dialect setting which we have verified as the native speakers using a descriptive qualitative method. Thus, we also use our intuition as the Buginese native speakers. Then, the data were analyzed based on the theories of syntax, which is NPI (Negative Polarity Items) approach.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### a. Negation *Dena'*

Agus (2009) argued that verb topicalization in Buginese motivates verb-initial ordering in Buginese. This motivates structure VOS and VSO which are dominant in Buginese and distinguishes it from English. Since negation *dena'* occurs productively with verb, *dena'* is pre-verbal negation yielding negation *dena'* is in the highest position. When the subject is omitted, the subject is embedded by clitics to verb. Negation *dena'* can occur with transitive verb and intransitive shown in (5) and (6) respectively.

(5) *Dena'* ku-anre        beppa

NEG<sup>6</sup> 1SG.ERG<sup>7</sup>-eat    cake

'I do not eat cake'

(6) *Dena'* ku-tudang

NEG 1SG.ERG-sit

'I do not run'

However, it is also allowed to insert the free independent pronoun between verb and object in (7) and or after verb in (8).

(7) *Dena'* ku-anre        iyya        beppa

NEG        1SG.ERG-eat 1SG    cake

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<sup>6</sup> NEG: Negation

<sup>7</sup> ERG: Ergative

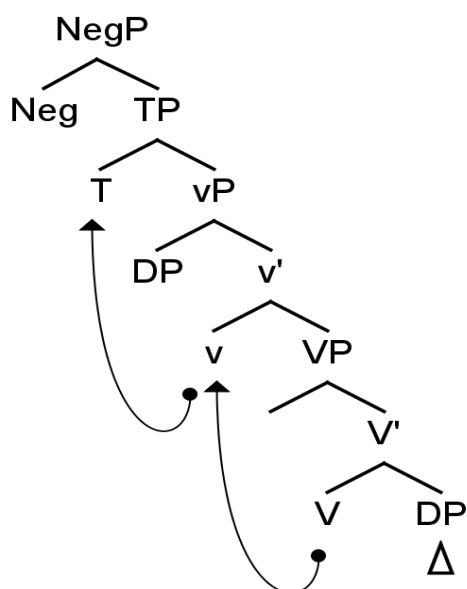
'I do not eat cake'

(8) *Dena'* ku-tudang iyya

NEG 1SG.ERG—sit 1SG

'I do not sit'

Buginese is typically verb topicalization as we mentioned earlier and the negation is pre-verbal. Therefore, when the sentence is negation, the verb moves to the T position as shown in the tree diagram. Negation in Buginese can be generally drawn in (9) below.



Interesting facts to underline here is that negation *dena'* has an ability to change the form of the verb in positive sentence. As we mentioned in the beginning of this paper, Buginese is prop drop language where subject can be omitted and marked by clitics. The statement sentence form of (5) and (6) as presented earlier are in the following respectively.

(5)' Manre-ka beppa

eat-1SG.ABS cake

'I eat cake'

(6)' Tudang-ka

sit-1SG.ABS

'I sit'

In (5)' and (6)' the subject is marked by enclitics where the clitics *-ka* comes at the end of the verb. But in negation sentence (5) and (6), the enclitics become proclitics where the clitics are attached at beginning of the verb. The same phenomenon applies for the declarative form of (7) and (8) as shown in (7)' and (8)' below.

(7)' Iyya manre-ka beppa

1SG eat-1SG.ABS cake

'I eat beppa'

(8)' Iyya tudang-(k)a

1SG sit-1SG.ABS

'I sit'

Though it is grammatical that for sentence (7)' and (8)' the enclitics can be omitted and they become proclitic when the form is negative. Therefore, it seems that negation *dena'* governs the clitics in Buginese.

Another fact is negation *dena'* cannot be placed between subject 'iyya' and verb. The sentence will be unnatural though it is still possible but it sounds awkward.

(10) ?Iyya *dena'* ku-anre beppa

(11) ?Iyya *dena'* kulari

In Buginese, it would be apparently ungrammatical when the negation precedes the verb after the subject as shown in (10) and (11). By contrast, Indonesian allows negation to precede the verb after the subject such in (12a) and (12b).

(12) a. Dia tidak menolong kami

3SG NEG help 1PL<sup>8</sup>.EXCL<sup>9</sup>

'She does not help us'

b. Saya tidak duduk

1SG NEG sit

'I do not sit'

Next, *dena'* can be also used with predicate adjective in (13)

(13) Dena' ku-masyanti'

NEG 1SG.ERG -beautiful

'I am not beautiful'

Just like in verb, it is possible to insert free independent pronoun between negation and adjective in (14).

(14) Dena' iyya ku-masyanti'

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<sup>8</sup> PL : Plural

<sup>9</sup> EXCL: Exclusive

NEG 1SG 1SG.ERG-beautiful

'I am not beautiful'

A slight difference is shown when negation occurs with the preposition. The clitic is embedded to the negation, not to the preposition in (15) and in (16).

(15) *Dena'*-ka di bola-e

NEG-1SG.ABS at home-DEF

'I am not at home'

(16) *Dena'*-ka iyya di bola-e

NEG-1SG.ABS 1SG at home-DEF

'I am not at home'

### b. Negation *Tannia*

Negation *tannia* is special negation in Buginese. It only cooccurs with nominal in Buginese in the relative clause. It cannot precede directly verb, adjective, or adverb. It must be followed by subject or object as in (17) and (18) in order.

(17) a. *Tannia* iyya manre bale

NEG.REL<sup>10</sup> 1SG eat fish

'I am not the one who eat the fish'

b. *Tannia* iko manre bale

NEG.REL 2PL eat fish

'You are not the one who eat fish'

c. *Tannia* alena lari

NEG.REL 3SG run

'She is not the one who runs'

(18) *Tannia* bale ku-anre

NEG.REL fish 1SG.ERG-eat

'It is not fish that I eat'

Negation *tannia* can also occur with adjective but the free independent should sit between negative and adjective as in (19) and adverb as in (20).

(19) *Tannia* alena masyanti'

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<sup>10</sup> REL: Relative

NEG.REL 3SG beautiful

“She is not the one who is beautiful’

(20) *Tannia* iyya di bola-e

NEG.REL 1SG at home-DEF

‘I am not who is at home’.

Special negation marker *tannia* can be also used when the predicate is nominal as in (21a) and (21b). Both have the same meaning but in (21b) the subject is dropped and embedded by clitics *-ka*.

(21) a. *Tannia-ka* iyya guru

NEG-1SG.ABS 1SG teacher

‘I am not a teacher’

b. *Tannia-ka* guru

NEG-1SG.ABS teacher

‘I am not a teacher’

### c. Nonverbal Negation *gaga*

Another feature of Buginese negation is *gaga*. It indicates negation but it cannot stand alone. It must obligatorily cooccur with negation *dena’*. It is functioning as nonverbal negation. In English, it can literally mean “no” or “none”. However, again, it must work together with negation *dena’*. When *gaga* stands alone, it does not have any meaning but negation *dena’* does. The sentence is shown in (22).

(22) *Dena’ gaga* bale ku-anre

NEG NEG fish 1SG.ERG -eat

‘I eat no fish’

or ‘there is no fish that I eat’

(23) *Dena’ gaga* iyya ku-anre bale

NEG NEG 1SG 1SG.ERG-eat fish

‘I eat no fish’

It seems that negation *dena’ gaga* can negate object and subject grammatically. However, the negation *dena gaga* only refers to the object not the subject semantically as in (23). This can be proved when the verb is intransitive which does not need an object. The sentence will be in ill-form when the negation *dena gaga* negate the subject as in (24). This sentence has no meaning in Buginese so we cannot provide the meaning.

(24) \**Dena gaga iyya lari*

NEG NEG 1SG run

Further, support *gaga* only work for *dena*’ and not with negation *tannia*. It cannot work at all as in (25) and (25).

(25) \**Tannia gaga iyya manre bale*

NEG NEG 1SG eat fish

‘Not me who eat fish’

(25)’ \**Tannia gaga bale ku-anre*

NEG NEG fish 1SG.ERG-eat

‘I eat no fish’

What is more interesting, negation *dena* itself without *gaga* can be used when the predicate is nominal possession like in (26a). It can be also followed by free independent pronoun in (26b).

(26) a. *Dena bale-u*

NEG fish-1SG.POSS<sup>11</sup>

‘I have no fish’

(26) b. *Dena iyya bale-u*

NEG 1SG fish-1SG.POSS

‘I have no fish’

When indicating possession, negation *dena* can used together with *gaga* like in (27a) and it can be also followed by the free independent pronoun in (27b).

(27) a. *Dena gaga bale-u*

NEG NEG fish-1SG.POSS

‘I have no fish’

(27) b. *Dena gaga iyya bale-u*

NEG Neg 1SG fish-1SG.POSS

‘I have no fish’

Apparently, the difference between whether using the free independent pronoun or not, depending upon what is being emphasized. When the object is emphasized, the subject is dropped. But when the subject is emphasized rather than the object, the free independent pronoun presents.

#### d. Negative Polarity Item

Like in English and Indonesian, Buginese also has Negative Polarity Item (NPI). They are *at all* “metto”, *anybody* “namu’iga”, *wherever* “namu’diga”, and *anything* “namu’aga” as in (28), (29), (30), and (31). However, they can only work with negation *dena gaga*, not with negation *tannia*.

(28) *Dena gaga doik-ku namu’ceddi*

NEG NEG money-1SG.POSS any.little

<sup>11</sup> POSS: Possession



‘I do not have any money’

(29) *Dena gaga u-ita tau namu’iga*

NEG NEG 1SG.ERG -see person any.body

‘I do not see anybody’

(30) *Dena’ gaga ku-laoi namu’diga*

NEG NEG 1SG.ERG-go any.where

‘I do not go anywhere’

Interestingly, it seems that *at all* can be said into different ways, “*namu’ceddi*” as it is already mentioned and “*metto*”. When “*metto*” is used, it can be placed between negation *dena’* and *gaga* as in (31). This is word is a kind of special adverb in Buginese negation since it is the only word which can separate negation *dena’* and *gaga*. It can be meant “at all” and “really” at the same time. It can be meant someone really does not have it at all.

(31) *Dena’ mette gaga doik-ku*

NEG at all NEG money-1SG.POSS

‘I have really do not have any money at all’

### e. Double Negation

Buginese has double negation as shown in section c where negation *dena’* and *gaga* work together. It is also possible to have double negation *tannia* and *dena’* in one sentence as in (32).

(32) *Tannia iyya dena’ na-lao*

NEG 1SG NEG 1SG.ERG-go

‘I am not the one who does not go’

However, negation *dena’* cannot precede negation *tannia* as in (33).

(33) \**Dena’ iyya tannia na-lao*

NEG 1SG NEG 3SG.ERG -go

‘I am not the one who does not go’

### f. Negation *Enna*

Another negation in Buginese is *enna’*. It has exact meaning and function with negation *dena’*. Negation *enna’* behaves exactly in the same way with negation *dena’*. Negation *dena’* is typically used in urban areas which is in Northern Sinjai. It has been affected by Buginese with Bone dialect. In Buginese with Bone dialect, negation *de’* is used to express negation. Although there is no reference that I can refer to firm my claim, according to Buginese with Sinjai dialect speakers that I have asked, they argued that *dena’* is common in northern Sinjai region which is

close to Bone region. Meanwhile, negation *enna'* is typically used in southern Sinjai, typically in rural areas. However, many Buginese with Sinjai dialect speakers use both negation *dena'* and *enna'* interchangeably. We are two of them. Perhaps, this is not surprising since we used to live in both societies with different dialects, Bone and Sinjai.

Further, negation *enna'* is used for honorific reason or politeness. Negation *dena'* is used to older people while *enna'* is used to the peer or the younger ones. Negation *dena'* is considered politer than negation *enna'*.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, we presented in the previous section, it can be concluded that Buginese with Sinjai dialect has two negation markers. First, negation marker *dena'* that can be used interchangeably with negation *enna'*. Negation *dena'/enna'* is used if the predicate is verbal, adjectival, or with prepositions. It can be also used if the predicate is nominal when special negation *gaga* is used jointly after negation *dena'/enna'*. Another negation is *tannia* which is used in relative clause. Negation *tannia* is used if the predicate is nominal either object or subject.

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