

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE WORD STRUCTURE OF SURIGAONON LANGUAGE

MARIA CRISTINA S. DELA CERNA

North Eastern Mindanao State University, Philippines. Email: delacernamariacristina@gmail.com, mcsdelacerna@nemsu.gov.ph; ORCID: 0000-0003-2325-9528

Abstract

This paper explores the word structure of the Surigaonon language, an Austronesian language spoken in the Caraga region of the Philippines. The paper uses a qualitative descriptive research method to examine and analyze the word structure of Surigaonon in terms of content and function words. The study finds that Surigaonon has a rich and complex word structure with a variety of content and function words. Content words are those that carry meaning, while function words are those that modify or connect content words. The paper also finds that Surigaonon has a number of unique morphological features, such as the use of affixes and reduplication. These features contribute to the unique word structure of Surigaonon. The study was carried out in Surigao del Sur's five municipalities, known together as CARCANMADCARLAN. Comprehensive interviews with Surigaonon native speakers provided the study's data. The research found that the complicated reduplication patterns and variety of affixes found in Surigaonon's morphological framework. The study's main hypothesis is that Surigaonon's lexical structure represents a rich, multidimensional system that reflects the population's unmatched linguistic and cultural history. The study is important in many different ways. It first helps with the important work of documenting linguistic diversity, which is critical for its preservation and spread. Second, the subject has connections to comparative linguistics, which makes it easier to compare linguistic structures among other languages. Third, the study has implications for culture since the Surigaonon language is inextricably linked to the culture and history of the Surigaonon people.

Keywords: Surigaonon, Content Word, Function Word, Morphology, Lexical Structure

INTRODUCTION

The province of Surigao del Sur is located in the northeastern part of Mindanao, the Philippines. It was created on June 19, 1960, through Republic Act No. 2786, separating it from its mother province, Surigao. The province is bordered by Surigao del Norte to the north, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur to the west, Davao Oriental to the south, and the Philippine Sea to the east. The Manobo people, who are thought to have moved from the north, were the first people to live in Surigao del Sur. The Manobos were a group of coastal villagers who were seafarers. They traded with other tribes in the area and had excellent farming and fishing techniques.

In the 16th century, the Spanish arrived in Surigao del Sur. The Spanish established a number of settlements in the province, including Surigao City, Tandag City, and Bislig City. The Spanish also introduced Christianity to the people of Surigao del Sur. In the 19th century, the Americans came to the Philippines. The Americans established a civil government in Surigao del Sur, and they also built roads, schools, and hospitals in the province. After Philippine independence in 1946, Surigao del Sur became a province of the Republic of the Philippines.

The province has since experienced rapid development, with a growing economy and a thriving tourism industry.

Today, Surigao del Sur is a beautiful and diverse province with a rich history and culture. The province is home to a number of natural attractions, including the Hinatuan Enchanted River, the Lanuza Mangrove Forest, and the Siargao Island Surfing Capital. Surigao del Sur is also home to a number of indigenous tribes, including the Manobos, the Mamanwas, and the Higaonons. The province is a popular tourist destination, and it is known for its beautiful beaches, lush forests, and friendly people. Surigao del Sur is a great place to visit for a vacation or a business trip.

Surigaonon is an Austronesian language spoken by the Surigaonon people in the Caraga region in the north of Mindanao Island in the Philippines. It is a regional Philippine language spoken in the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Sur, and some portions of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Davao Oriental. Surigaonon is closely related to Tausug and Butuanon, and many Surigaonon speakers also speak Cebuano. The language is written with the Latin alphabet and is taught in primary schools in the Surigao provinces and the Dinagat Islands.

Surigaonon refers to both the people and the language of the people of Surigao del Sur and del Norte. It is a mix of Surigao's ethnic language and Cebuano and has been heavily influenced by Cebuano due to the influx of many Cebuanos in the region. However, most Cebuano speakers can hardly understand Surigaonon speakers, except for Cebuanos who have been living in the region for years. Together, Surigaonon and Tandaganon are spoken in Surigao del Norte and most parts of Surigao del Sur, except in the City of Bislig, municipalities of Barobo, Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina. According to Ethnologue, there were about 500,000 speakers of Surigaonon in 2009. The language is also known as Cantilangnon, Jaun-Jaun, Sinurigao, or Waya-Waya.

There are several studies and books available on the Surigaonon language. One of these is "Descriptive Analysis of the Surigaonon Language" by Francisco Perlas Dumanig, which provides a comprehensive description and analysis of the Surigaonon language, including its sound inventory, morphophonemic changes, and word formation. Another study is the "Community-based Descriptive Orthography of Surigaonon Language", which aims to provide preliminary points of discussion for language policymakers and create an alternative approach to developing materials for the Surigaonon language. Additionally, "The Maintenance and Preservation of the Surigaonon Language in Cyberspace" explores the maintenance and preservation of the Surigaonon language in the digital realm, considering the influence of major languages like English and Filipino. These studies offer valuable insights into the linguistic features, structure, and preservation of the Surigaonon language.

Exploring the word structure of the Surigaonon language would be a valuable contribution to the existing literature. While there are some studies that have analyzed the language's sound inventory, morphophonemic changes, and word formation, such as the "Descriptive Analysis of the Surigaonon Language" by Francisco Perlas Dumanig and the "Community-based

Descriptive Orthography of Surigaonon Language," there is still a gap in the literature when it comes to a more in-depth analysis of the word structure. This gap can be addressed by examining the language's affixes, roots, and other morphological aspects that contribute to its unique word structure. By exploring this aspect of the Surigaonon language, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of its linguistic features and contribute to its documentation and preservation.

The study holds significance in various areas of linguistic exploration. Primarily, it contributes to the essential task of linguistic documentation, which is crucial for safeguarding and propagating linguistic diversity. Through an in-depth analysis of Surigaonon's word structure, researchers stand to glean insights into its morphological intricacies, providing a foundation for crafting language instructional materials and initiatives aimed at its preservation. Moreover, the study intersects with the realm of comparative linguistics, facilitating the comparative analysis of linguistic structures across different languages. By dissecting the word structure of Surigaonon and juxtaposing it with other Austronesian languages, researchers can pinpoint commonalities and divergences in their morphological frameworks. Beyond its linguistic implications, this endeavor has cultural ramifications as well. The Surigaonon language is intrinsically intertwined with the identity and heritage of the Surigaonon people. Delving into its word structure not only unveils linguistic aspects but also offers glimpses into the cultural ethos, values, and beliefs woven into the language. Ultimately, this holistic understanding stands to contribute significantly to the preservation and perpetuation of the Surigaonon culture and its distinctive identity.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework of a study on the word structure of the Surigaonon language can be based on the following concepts:

Morphology refers to the study of the structure of words and the rules governing their formation. In the case of the Surigaonon language, the study would focus on the morphological features of the language, such as its affixes, roots, and other morphological aspects that contribute to its unique word structure.

Austronesian linguistics refers to the study of the Austronesian language family, which includes the Surigaonon language.

The study would draw on the theoretical frameworks and concepts developed in Austronesian linguistics to analyze the word structure of Surigaonon. Language documentation and preservation refers to the importance of documenting and preserving endangered languages like Surigaonon. The study would draw on the theoretical frameworks and concepts developed in language documentation and preservation to explore the word structure of Surigaonon and contribute to its documentation and preservation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study linguistically describes the structural linearity of Surigawnun as spoken in its speech community in Surigao Del Sur, Mindanao.

Specifically, it focuses on the structural analyses of word structure in terms of:

1. Content word
2. Function word

THE RESEARCH METHOD USED

This ethnolinguistic study utilizes the descriptive qualitative research method to examine and analyze the word structure of the Surigaonon language in terms of content and function. The study draws upon various sources to establish its theoretical framework and methodology. One relevant source is the "Community-based Descriptive Orthography of Surigaonon Language," which aims to provide preliminary points of discussion for language policymakers and develop materials through community involvement. This research contributes to the understanding of the linguistic system of Surigaonon and its word structure.

Another source is the "Descriptive Analysis of the Surigaonon Language" by Francisco Perlas Dumanig, which describes and analyzes the Surigaonon language, including its sound inventory, morphophonemic changes, and other linguistic features. This study provides valuable insights into the linguistic structure of Surigaonon, which can inform the analysis of its word structure.

As per Sandelowski (315), qualitative descriptive studies aim to provide a thorough overview of events using everyday language. Researchers engaged in qualitative descriptive studies maintain proximity to their data, focusing on the surface-level details of words and events. Qualitative descriptive designs often represent a dynamic yet coherent amalgamation of sampling, data collection, analysis, and presentation methodologies. Moreover, the qualitative-descriptive approach emerges as the preferred methodology when direct portrayals of phenomena are sought.

In this study, the technique employed involves capturing real-time instances of unscripted spoken language. This method becomes indispensable for capturing genuine data, meticulously documenting the unfiltered expression of natural speech at both the word and discourse levels. To ensure the fidelity of the recorded voices from the key informants, conventional digital recorders and video cameras were employed, enabling an accurate representation of the vocal nuances and qualities.

Environment of the Study

The research is carried out across the five municipalities situated in Surigao del Sur. Collectively known as CARCANMADCARLAN, an acronym derived from the initial syllables of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, and Lanuza, this encompassing region consists of Cantilan in its entirety. Historically renowned for their extensive timberlands, these

municipalities presently feature more than six thousand hectares of government-irrigated lands. Geographically, the area is flanked by seawater to the east and encircled by mountains in the north, south, and west.

CarCanMadCarLan serves as a habitation zone within the expanse of Surigao del Sur, Philippines, spanning the northernmost quarter of this province. Tracing back through history, from the mid-16th century until 1919, the territorial expanse of Cantilan town encompassed an estimated 130,000 hectares, roughly equating to a quarter of the contemporary area of Surigao del Sur province.

The original acronym for the whole area was CARCANLAN, which comprised Carrascal, Cantilan, and Lanuza. On December 10, 1918, Executive Order No. 52 divided Cantilan into three parts. In his book, Eleazar mentioned that on February 2, 1953, it became CARCANMADLAN when Madrid was created as a municipality and detached from the mother town by virtue of an Executive Order by President Elpidio Quirino. Furthermore, when Barangay Carmen of Lanuza was created as a town by Republic Act No. 6367 on August 16, 1971, the indigenous name of the whole area that was once Cantilan finally became CARCANMADCARLAN.

DATA-GATHERING PROCEDURE

The study employs guiding questions as conversational triggers, ensuring a natural and unscripted discourse. To foster spontaneity, the dialogue centers around contentious matters concerning the presence of mining enterprises within the designated municipalities. The prevailing belief holds that mining possesses the potential to bestow economic prosperity and communal advantages by means of employment opportunities and revenue generation. However, the flip side of this coin is that it can incite transformative societal shifts, which in turn can exacerbate preexisting social tensions. Consequently, the individuals identified as key informants are probed for their insights on the subject of mining. The ensuing set of questions encompasses:

1. What are your thoughts regarding the presence of mining in Carrascal?

(Uno may imu mahilaung mahitungod sa mining sa Carrascal)

2. Does mining provide economic advantages and significance for the people of Carcanmadcarlan? If so, what are the reasons behind this assertion? And if not, what factors contribute to this perspective?

(Jaun bay nahihatag na karajawan nan mina sa kahimtang nan mga taga carcanmadcarlan, kun oo unu may mga karajawan?)

The data-gathering procedure:

The analysis of the word structure is meticulously carried out, with a keen focus on the contextual words within the Surigaonon language. This examination is rooted in the transcript of the collected verbal data. The analytical process results in the creation of two comprehensive tables, distinctly delineating the free and bound morphemes embedded within the Surigaonon

language. These tables are elegantly organized, each comprising three columns that serve distinct purposes.

Initially, the lexical content words are meticulously identified and categorized as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Within these categories, each word is thoughtfully accompanied by relevant samples extracted from the amassed data.

The final column then offers an English gloss, bridging the linguistic elements for clarity. Subsequently, a parallel procedure is undertaken to examine grammatical functions. This entails a systematic classification encompassing personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, interrogative pronouns, articles, conjunctions, interjections, participles, and prepositions. Just as with the lexical content, this step also involves the presentation of illustrative samples accompanied by an English gloss, culminating in a comprehensive portrayal of the linguistic structure.

Lexical Content Words	Examples	Gloss
Nouns		
Verbs		
Adjectives		
Adverbs		
Grammatical: Functions Words	Examples	Gloss
Pronoun: Personal		
Pronoun: Demonstrative		
Pronoun: Interrogative		
Article		
Conjunction		
Interjection		
Particle		
Preposition		

The subsequent phase involves the examination of Surigaonon's bound morphemes, dissected within the realms of both inflectional and derivational elements. This progression necessitates the introduction of an additional table, meticulously designed with four distinct columns that collectively contribute to a comprehensive portrayal.

Commencing with the inflectional bound morphemes, the first column classifies these morphemes based on attributes such as plurality, comparatives, repetition, and superlatives. Concurrently, the subsequent columns facilitate the classification of the root or content word, accompanied by illustrative examples. This classification extends to identifying its positioning, whether as a particle, prefix, or suffix. This sequential process is mirrored in the classification of indicative mood-bound morphemes.

Segueing this, the table delves into a vivid portrayal of how affixes, serving as derivationally bound morphemes, bring about transformative shifts in parts of speech. The consolidation of the aforementioned variables seamlessly manifests within the same table, continuing on the subsequent page. This meticulous arrangement ensures a holistic and easily navigable exploration of Surigaonon's intricate linguistic components.

Inflectional Bound Morpheme	Root: Content Word	Examples	Position
Plurality			
Possessive			
Comparative			
Repetition			
Superlative			
Indicative Active			
Present Tense			
Past Tense			
Future Tense			
Indicative Passive			
Present Tense			
Past Tense			
Future Tense			
Imperative			
Speaker-receiver			
Speaker-doer			
Frequentive Action			
Present			
Frequentive Past			
Frequentive Future			
Change in Parts of Speech			
Verb to Adjective			
Adjective to Noun			
Noun to Verb			
Adjective to Verb			

The *Surigawnun* Word Structure

The subsequent phase involves the examination of Surigaonon's bound morphemes, dissected within the realms of both inflectional and derivational elements. This progression necessitates the introduction of an additional table, meticulously designed with four distinct columns that collectively contribute to a comprehensive portrayal. Commencing with the inflectional bound morphemes, the first column classifies these morphemes based on attributes such as plurality, comparatives, repetition, and superlatives. Concurrently, the subsequent columns facilitate the classification of the root or content word, accompanied by illustrative examples. This classification extends to identifying its positioning, whether as a particle, prefix, or suffix. This sequential process is mirrored in the classification of indicative mood-bound morphemes. Segueing this, the table delves into a vivid portrayal of how affixes, serving as derivationally bound morphemes, bring about transformative shifts in parts of speech. The consolidation of the aforementioned variables seamlessly manifests within the same table, continuing on the subsequent page. This meticulous arrangement ensures a holistic and easily navigable exploration of Surigaonon's intricate linguistic components.

According to sentential relationship of the morphemes, they can be:(1) inflectional morphemes (retaining parts of speech), and (2) derivational morphemes (changing the parts of speech) (Pesirla 93-95). Table 5 presents the *Surigawnun* free and bound morphemes.

Table 1: The Surigawnun Free Morphemes: Lexical and Grammatical

Lexical: Content Words	Examples	Gloss
Nouns	idad	Age
	trabahu	Work
	lugar	Place
	bata	Child
	mina	Mining
	trabahanti	worker
	ayuda	dole-out
	baryu	barrio
	basakan	rice field
	humay	rice
	kinabuhi	life
	rajaw	benefit
	kahimtang	situation
	ngayan	name
	buuk	number
	usik	waste
	tubig	water
	kaitan	clay
	andu	reward
	lima	five
ujun	like/fit	
Pronoun: Demonstrative	ini	this
	jadtu	that
	didtu	that
	adtu	that
Pronoun: Interrogative	umay	what
	uman	why
	kagan-u	when
	hain	where
	sin-u	who
	pila	how much
Article	an	the
	isa ka	an/a
Conjunction	sanan	and
	u	or
	peru	but
	ugsa	hence
	para	for
	kun	if
	sa	in/on
	tungud	Because
	sanan	Also/and
Interjection	agay	Ouch!
	amu	Really!
	tabang	help
Participle	na	no English counterpart
Preposition	sa	of
	gikan	from

The division of linguistic components into two crucial categories—content words and function words—creates a thorough structure within the rich fabric of the Surigaonon language. The revealing Table 1 provides an insightful guide to the Surigaonon linguistic environment and represents this sophisticated categorization.

Through clear divisions, the Surigaonon lexicon unfolds its colorful features while embracing the content words, also known as lexical morphemes. According to Pesirla (97), these divisions are specifically named as nouns (ngalang-pulung), verbs (pulung-diwa), adjectives (dagway ngalan), and adverbs (dagway-diwa). This academic endeavor highlights the enormous significance of each lexical category in communicating complex levels of meaning by exploring both the language's structural and semantic characteristics.

The resulting discovery, as presented in Table 1, is evidence of the sophistication of Surigaonon's language structure. It conveys the duality of content and function words in the language through its precise arrangement. The essence of Surigaonon communication is revealed through this classification, encouraging us to understand how these linguistic elements interact to create a rich and diverse tapestry of expression. This study essentially serves as a key that opens the door to a fuller comprehension of the Surigaonon language and the enthralling symphony of its grammatical and semantic subtleties.

The Surigawnun language has six grammatical morphemes, including pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, articles, and particles. The last two kinds of function words are considered null morphemes, which are empty morphemes that are considered imperative grammatical indicators because they have the tendency to affect grammar. In Surigawnun, one has to use the particle "na" in adjectival phrases such as "gwapa na lungsod" (beautiful town). "Na" in the phrase is a peripheral morpheme but is indispensable because it is not plausible to say "gwapa na lungsod" in Surigawnun. The use of null morphemes in language is a common phenomenon. Null morphemes are "invisible" affixes that have no phonetic form but are useful for analysis by contrasting them with alternatives that do have some phonetic realization. In most languages of the world, it is the affixes that are realized as null morphemes, but in some cases, roots may also be realized as these. The concept of null morphemes is important in understanding the structure of language and how it affects grammar.

This result has broad ramifications for the linguistic and communicative domains. The classification of function words reveals the inherent grammar of the Surigaonon language and provides insights into its distinctive structural characteristics. This study's resonance extends beyond linguistics since it mirrors the complex interplay between form and function in language systems around the world.

On the other hand, the understanding of the complexities of language is significantly impacted by the study's analysis. The use of null morphemes, which are effective instruments for communicating subtle grammatical distinctions, is one significant implication. A prime example is the Surigaonon language, where the ostensibly unimportant particle "na" acts as a crucial marker, designating whether a word is definite or indefinite.

The study also shows how null morphemes, which frequently outperform overt morphemes in this regard, can be used to communicate levels of formality or politeness in language usage. This socio-pragmatic aspect is present in many languages, where the careful use of null morphemes results in subtle interactions.

The Surigaonon language has two major classes of morphemes: free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are those that can stand alone as words, while bound morphemes are those that cannot stand alone and must be attached to a free morpheme. The fact that the Surigaonon language has a large number of root words and affixes is significant because it means that the language is very expressive. Root words can be combined with affixes to create a wide variety of words, which allows speakers to fine-tune their meaning. For example, the root word "idad" (age) can be combined with the affix "-an" to create the word "idadan" (old age). This allows speakers to express the concept of old age in a more specific way.

The implications of this result are that the Surigaonon language is a very complex and sophisticated language. It is a language that is well-suited for expressing a wide range of ideas and concepts. The large number of root words and affixes also makes the Surigaonon language a challenging language to learn, but it is also a language that is very rewarding to learn.

Consequently, the vast array of root words and affixes available in the Surigaonon language encourages impressive linguistic output. By combining existing elements, this innate productivity makes it easier to creatively create new phrases, enabling the language to adapt and change. This abundance of root words and affixes also gives the Surigaonon language profound flexibility, allowing a single word to assume various roles and thereby expanding its expressive range. This wealth of languages, however, poses two problems. Despite being empowering, this makes learning the Surigaonon language difficult since students must understand the complex rules controlling the fusion of root words and affixes to create new vocabulary. This complexity sheds light on the difficult process of linguistic learning within the Surigaonon cultural mosaic.

The free morphemes in the Surigaonon language are the core parts of words that can function as independent words and carry meaning on their own. Examples of free morphemes in Surigawnun include baryu (barrio), humay (wheat/rice), and apiki (near). Free morphemes are complete words that cannot be divided into smaller, meaningful units. The concept of free morphemes is important in understanding the structure of language. Morphemes are the smallest units of meaning in language, and they can be divided into two basic types: roots and affixes. Roots are free morphemes that can stand alone and have their own meaning, while affixes are bound morphemes that modify the meaning of root words and cannot stand alone. Function words, such as articles and pronouns, are another type of free morpheme that typically occurs in languages like English.

The presence and significance of free morphemes in the Surigaonon language carry several implications. These autonomously meaningful units serve as the core building blocks of linguistic expression, enabling standalone words that convey distinct meanings. This contributes to the language's efficiency and expressiveness. From an educational perspective,

the recognition of free morphemes aids language learners in grasping fundamental vocabulary and linguistic structures. Moreover, these units play a role in preserving the unique linguistic identity of Surigaonon. The existence of free morphemes also aligns with broader linguistic principles, highlighting the shared structural elements among languages.

Table 2: Surigawnun inflectional bound morpheme and Surigawnun Derivational Bound Morpheme

Inflectional Bound Morpheme	Root: Content Word	Examples	Position
Plurality mga (-s/es)	Noun	Mga trabahanti	Particle
Possesive Kan	Noun	Kan Mayor	Particle
Comparative Mas (ir)	Adjective	dakuir (bigger) gamajir (smaller) gwapahi (more beautiful)	Suffix
Repetition	Adjective	Baryu-baryo	Suffix
Superlative (ist)		dakuist (biggest) gamajist (smallest) gwapahist (most beautiful)	Suffix
Indicative	Content Word	Examples	Position
Present Tense Nag	Verb	naghuya	Prefix
Past Tense mi ni naka	Verb	misugut (agreed) nisugut (agreed) nakapirma (signed) nakatrabahu (worked) nakatabang (helped)	Prefix
Future Tense mu mag maka	Verb	musugut (agree) mulambu (to improve) magtukud (to build) makalaung (to say)	Prefix
Indicative Passive Present Tense na	Verb	nahatag (give)	Prefix
Past Tense tag	Verb	taghimu (done)	Prefix
Future Tense un ma		mahilaung (to say) mahitungod (All about) matabangan (to help) makatrabahu (to work) mahimu (to build) madaut (to destroy)	Prefix

Imperative i/hi	Verb	lang-i sija (tell her/him)	Suffix
Speaker - receiver		Tabangi an lungsud (help the town) Himui nan paagi (make a way) (destroy her/him) Trabahui iton (work for it)	
Speaker - doer an	Verb	tabangan an mga tawu (help the community) lang-an na dili ipadajun (tell her/him not to continue)	Suffix
Frequentive Action			
Present tig	Verb	Tig tabi man gud sija (He always gossips) Tigbasa sija (He always reads)	Prefix
Frequentive Past nang	Verb	Nanguha man gud sija (He/She used to get it)	Prefix
Frequentive Future manga	Verb	Manguha man gud jaun sija. (He will always get it)	Prefix
Changes in Parts of Speech	Derivational Bound Morphemes	Example	Position
Verb to Adjective	Un Ma ka	hajaun (Crying baby) mahaja (Crying baby) kakaunun (hungry)	Prefix-suffix
Adjective to Noun	pasi	Pasiuna (introduction)	Prefix
Noun to Verb	nag mag	katawa (laughter) nagkatawa (laughing)	Prefix
Adjective to Verb	na	itum	Prefix

A bound morpheme is a linguistic unit that lacks the capacity to exist as a separate and self-contained word; it necessitates attachment to a free morpheme or an existing word to convey a coherent meaning. Bound morphemes can be classified into two distinct types. Certain bound morphemes exhibit the intriguing ability to alter the word class of the host word or generate entirely new lexemes, while others primarily function to inflect the word they are affixed to, contributing to grammatical nuances. This dichotomy within bound morphemes underscores the dynamic interplay between form and function within linguistic structure, revealing layers of complexity in how language constructs and conveys meaning.

Table 2 presents data on Surigaonon inflectional bound morphemes and Surigaonon derivational bound morphemes. Inflectionally bound morphemes are used to indicate

comparison, tense, and number in Surigaonon. Inflection is done through affixation, which is a morphological process of attaching an element, usually called an affix, to the root or base of a word. For example, "sugut" is a root word, and when "mi-" is added to it, it becomes "misugut." "Mi" is a prefix, which is an element added to the beginning of a word, while an element added to the end of a word is called a suffix. An example of a suffix in Surigawnun is "gwapahist" (most beautiful), where "gwapa" (beautiful) is the root word and "hist" is the suffix, which is accounted for as the superlative equivalent of "the most". The distinction between inflectional and derivational morphemes is important in understanding the structure of language. Inflectional morphemes are used to indicate grammatical information about the base words they are bound to through marking. Derivational morphemes, on the other hand, change the meaning or the part of speech of a word. The use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in language is important because they allow for the creation of new words and the modification of existing words to convey different meanings.

The data presented in Table 2 carries significant implications for the understanding of Surigaonon morphological structure. It unveils the pivotal role of inflectional and derivational-bound morphemes in shaping the language's grammatical and semantic dimensions. Inflectional morphemes offer a mechanism to convey essential grammatical information like comparison, tense, and number, enriching the language with nuanced nuances.

Conversely, derivational morphemes exhibit the power to alter meanings and parts of speech, enabling lexical expansion and semantic variation. The distinction between these morphemes not only elucidates the intricate mechanics of Surigaonon but also underscores the universality of morphological processes observed in languages worldwide. This insight offers a window into the complex interplay between form and function, contributing to a deeper understanding of linguistic diversity, adaptation, and communication dynamics.

The given result highlights the use of inflectionally bound morphemes in the Surigawnun language to indicate tense. Specifically, it mentions the example of "mulambu," where "lambu" (improve) is the root word and the prefix "mu" indicates future tense, resulting in the word "mulambu" meaning "will improve."

The function of inflectional-bound morphemes in Surigaonon has many ramifications. Their use to denote tense inside linguistic structures becomes a cornerstone for communicating temporal information, allowing speakers to express actions or events across the past, present, and future temporal domains.

Additionally, these morphemes play a crucial role in verb conjugation, making it possible to change verb forms to correspond with desired tenses and ensuring accuracy and clarity in communication. From an educational perspective, recognizing the importance of these inflectional morphemes in tense marking is indispensable for language learners embarking on the journey of acquiring Surigaonon. It furnishes them with a foundational understanding of the language's grammatical structure, enabling effective communication across diverse temporal contexts.

Beyond pedagogical utility, the study of these morphemes contributes to the broader realm of linguistic analysis, unraveling the intricate morphological intricacies of Surigoanon. This endeavor not only advances our comprehension of the language's internal mechanisms but also lends valuable insights to the field of linguistics at large, shedding light on language typology, evolution, and the intricate interplay between form and function. A sort of bound morpheme known as the Surigawnun Derivational Bound Morpheme alters a word's word class. For example, it transforms the word "katawa" (laughter), which is classified as a noun, into "nagkatawa" (laughing), which is classified as a verb. Derivational-bound morphemes, which influence all word classes, not only nouns and verbs, undergo this kind of modification. The core, base, or free morpheme, however, stays unaltered because this transformation has no impact on the lexical meaning of the free morpheme's basic forms.

Derivational-bound morphemes, which influence all word classes, not only nouns and verbs, undergo this kind of modification. The core, base, or free morpheme, however, stays unaltered because this transformation has no impact on the lexical meaning of the free morpheme's basic forms.

FINDINGS

1. *Surigawnun* word structure fall into two major classes; the content words and the function words. Under the content/lexical morpheme, *Surigawnun* lexis is classified as nouns (*ngalan-pulung*), verbs (*pulung-diwa*), adjectives (*dagwayngalan*) and adverbs (*dagway-diwa*). Another major class is the function words. *Surigawnun* language has six grammatical morphemes which include pronouns (*hulipngalan*), preposition (*bahinpulung*), conjunction (*dugtungpulung*), interjection (*tuwaw-pulung*), articles and particles. The last two kinds of function words are considered to be null morphemes. On the other hand, *Surigawnun* language abounds with roots and affixes. Root words/free morphemes are either disyllabic. *Surigawnun* language is found to have inflectional and derivational bound morpheme.

CONCLUSION

Several important conclusions can be drawn from research on the morphological structure of the Surigaonon language. Both free and bound morphemes are used in the language, with free morphemes functioning as stand-alone words and bound morphemes requiring attachment to provide meaning. Further divisions into inflectional and derivational kinds are made for the bound morphemes. When it comes to expressing tense, number, and comparison, inflectional morphemes are crucial, increasing the language's expressive power. On the other hand, derivational morphemes cause word class changes, such as turning nouns into verbs, without changing the underlying lexical meanings. The Surigaonon language offers insights into linguistic flexibility, communication nuances, and the complex link between word classes and meanings by showcasing the dynamic interaction of form and function. The research offers deeper understandings of language typology, language evolution, and the mechanisms underlying morphological change, in addition to helping to grasp the linguistic complexities of Surigaonon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be made:

1. **Language Preservation and Documentation:** It is advised to give language preservation and documentation efforts top priority due to the Surigaonon language's rich and intricate morphological structure. The different morphemes, their uses, and examples will be documented and cataloged, resulting in thorough language materials that will be useful to linguists, teachers, and future Surigaonon speakers.
2. **Development of Educational Resources:** The study's understanding of the inflectional and derivational morphemes can be used to create educational resources. The development of language learning materials that emphasize these morphemes can help Surigaonon speakers master morphological phenomena such as word class changes, tense marking, and other morphological phenomena.
3. **Research and Linguistic Training:** The findings highlight the significance of Surigaonon-specific research and linguistic training. In order to gain a greater grasp of the intricacies of these morphemes and the language's structure, evolution, and position within the larger linguistic landscape, linguists, language experts, and researchers can work together.
4. **Community language initiatives:** Involving the Surigaonon people in language revival projects can make them feel prouder of and responsible for their linguistic heritage. The distinctive morphological characteristics of Surigaonon can be explored and celebrated by language enthusiasts in settings created through community-based language programs, workshops, and events.
5. **Cross-Linguistic Comparative Studies:** The study's conclusions provide new opportunities for this type of research. It can be quite instructive to investigate related morphological occurrences in other Austronesian languages, or even in languages from other language families, in order to gain knowledge about the diversity and universality of morphological processes.
6. **Applications for Language Learning:** The study's findings can be incorporated into programs and platforms for language learning. Particularly for younger generations, interactive systems that emphasize inflectional and derivational morphemes can promote independent language learning and engagement.
7. **Cultural Integration:** Applying the study's conclusions to cultural projects can help people better comprehend the Surigaonon people's unique culture. Building a bridge between language and local customs can be accomplished by investigating how morphemes represent cultural values and practices.
8. **Community Extension Project:** to create a series of seminars or workshops aimed at improving language understanding and communication abilities among the Surigaonon community. These workshops could emphasize how the identified inflectional and derivational morphemes are really used in ordinary conversation. Participants can develop a greater appreciation for their linguistic history by giving community members insights into how these morphemes create meaning, convey nuance, and contribute to effective

communication. Participants can practice utilizing these morphemes to build sentences during interactive sessions, boosting their language skills and sense of pride. This program not only promotes the survival of the Surigaonon language but also gives community members the confidence to participate more actively in their linguistic customs.

References

- 1) Ethnologue: Wikipedia." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, June 19, 2023, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnologue>.
- 2) "Community-based Descriptive Orthography of Surigaonon Language: Academia.edu, Academia.edu, https://www.academia.edu/49561649/Community_based_Descriptive_Orthography_of_Surigaonon_Language.
- 3) "Countries & Languages—Ethnologue." Ethnologue, <https://www.ethnologue.com/browse/countries>. "arXiv:2210.14712v1 [cs.CL] 26 Oct 2022." arXiv, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2210.14712.pdf>.
- 4) "Population Size and the Rate of Language Evolution: A Test Across Indo-European, Austronesian, and Bantu Languages, PubMed Central (PMC), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5934942/>.
- 5) Sandelowski, Margarete. "Focus on Research Methods: Whatever Happened to Qualitative Description?" *Research in Nursing & Health*, vol. 23, no. 4, 2000, pp. 334–340.
- 6) "Whatever Happened to Qualitative Description? Abstract." Europe PMC, <https://europepmc.org/article/med/25355514>.
- 7) Kingsley, Danny. "What Academic Research is ChatGPT Accessing?" LinkedIn, March 20, 2023, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-academic-research-chatgpt-accessing-danny-kingsley>.
- 8) Kim, Jee Hyun, and So Young Kim "Which Academic Search Systems are Suitable for Systematic Reviews or Meta-analyses? Evaluating Retrieval Qualities of Google Scholar, PubMed, and 26 Other Resources." *Journal of the Korean Medical Association*, vol. 63, no. 1, 2020, pp. 28–36. doi:10.5124/jkma.2020.63.1.28.
- 9) "List of Academic Databases and Search Engines." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, Dec. 28, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_academic_databases_and_search_engines.
- 10) Kurniawan, Dwi. "Several Search Engines that are Better than Google for Academic Purposes." *Level Up Coding*, April 10, 2023, <https://levelup.gitconnected.com/several-search-engines-that-are-better-than-google-for-academic-purposes-b8c51e7522d7>.
- 11) Tampus, Rizalle. "Community-based Descriptive Orthography of Surigaonon Language." *Research Gate*, 2017, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322119914_Community-based_Descriptive_Orthography_of_Surigaonon_Language.

Online Articles

- 1) SEA: Supporting English Acquisition: What Are Morphemes?" Rochester Institute of Technology, <https://www.rit.edu/ntid/sea/processes/wordknowledge/grammatical/whatare>.
- 2) "Practical Learning English: Types and Characteristics of Morphemes, Practical Learning English, <https://icteducationweb.wordpress.com/about/prefix/>.
- 3) "Your Dictionary. Bound and Free Morpheme Examples." Your Dictionary, <https://www.yourdictionary.com/articles/bound-free-morphemes>.
- 4) ALIC: Analyzing Language in Context, Chapter 12.2: Types of Morphemes, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, <https://alic.sites.unlv.edu/chapter-12-2-types-of-morphemes/>.
- 5) "Anthropology 4U. The Structure of Language: Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax." *Medium*, 5 Oct. 2020, <https://anthropology4u.medium.com/the-structure-of-language-phonology-morphology-and-syntax-fd8e1a1d16b3>.