
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Reordering in Kupang Malay Noun Phrase

Yunita Reny Bani Bili

Lecturer of English Education Program - Universitas Nusa Cendana, Kupang, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: Yunita Reny Bani Bili, E-mail: yunita.bili@staf.undana.ac.id

| ABSTRACT

Kupang Malay noun phrases (NP) have a unique structure. The speakers often reorder the phrases to convey a particular meaning. However, the reordering of the words in the noun phrase also has boundaries. Due to the problem, this study investigated the type of Kupang NP, its reordering pattern, its effect on the semantic content, grammatical function, and constraints of the NP reordering. This research employed Fieldworks lexical explorer (Flex) built up by SIL teams to analyze the data. The data was gathered from the online Kupang Malay Bible website. Sixty data were chosen from four out of twenty-eight books within the bible. The books are called carita mula-mula (Old Testament), Mathew, Mark, and Luke. The data consist of 30 NPs with pre-modifiers and 30 NPs constructed by post-modifiers. The result shows that pre-modifiers noun phrases undergo more reordering because they are triggered by the constituents than post-modifiers noun phrases. Most word shift does not affect a noun phrase's meaning and grammatical function.

| KEYWORDS

Noun phrase, Kupang Malay, reordering, pre-modifier, post-modifier

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 25 June 2022

PUBLISHED: 30 June 2022

DOI: 10.32996/ijls.2022.2.2.11

1. Introduction

Kupang Malay is one of the Central Malayo Polynesian subgroups spoken in eastern Indonesia, particularly Timor Island. Jacob and Grimes (2011) argue that Kupang Malay is a stigmatized Malay-creole based on distinctive historical contact and unique linguistic features in its phonology, lexicon, morphology, and grammar.

As a part of grammatical features, Kupang Malay noun phrases can function as subjects, primary or secondary objects, and objects of prepositions. As a native speaker of this language, the writer noticed that Kupang Malay noun phrases often undergo reordering. My family members, friends, and neighbours often reorder the noun phrase, which is accepted semantically and grammatically. For example, it is correct to say "A tiny old white cat," an English noun phrase, in three alternative ways. The first order can be *kucing tua putih kurus* (An old white skinny cat). The second one is *kucing putih kurus tua* (A white, old skinny cat), and the third modification is *kucing kurus putih tua* (A skinny white old cat).

However, the modification of word order in the Kupang Malay noun phrase also has boundaries. A noun phrase, such as *satu rumah tua yang murah* (an old affordable house), cannot be reordered into *satu lama rumah murah* (An old house affordable) or *satu rumah murah lama* (A house affordable old). The modification and restriction of the Kupang Malay noun phrase draw the writer's attention to further research on this language's noun phrase.

The research is organized into three major parts. The first part elaborates on the grounding theory of NP and its reordering, the focus, and the research aims. The second part describes the methodology used to gather and examine the data. The last part discusses the finding in Kupang Malay NP reordering triggered by pre-and post- modifiers constituents, the constraints, and effects

on semantic meaning and grammatical function. It is argued that the pre-modifier noun phrase undergoes more reordering because it is triggered by its constituents than in the post-modifier noun phrase.

2. Aims and scope of the study

Börjars and Burridge (2010) state that noun phrases have two types accounting for pre-modifiers and post-modifiers noun phrases. A pre-modifier noun phrase is any grammatical constituent that precedes the head noun (Börjars and Burridge 2010, p. 173). Both scholars explain that the grammatical constituents of the pre-modifiers of the noun phrase include determiners, numbers, possessive markers, and adjectives. On the other hand, post-modifiers of a noun phrase consist of complements and clauses (Börjars and Burridge 2010, p. 177-178). NP also can have several possible patterns.

“Dem num A N Dem A N Num Num A N Dem A N Num Dem
Dem num N A Dem N A Num Num N A Dem N A Num Dem”
(Rijkhoff 1997, p. 341)

Based on the grounding theory of NP, this research focuses on the analysis of reordering within Kupang Malay noun phrases. In particular, this study investigated the reordering made by pre-and post-modifier constituents within NP containing pre- and post-modifiers. This study addresses the following research questions within the language tools and resources analysis framework.

1. What kinds of reordering are triggered by pre-modifiers and post-modifiers constituents in NP containing pre- and post-modifiers of Kupang Malay?
2. Does the reordering convey distinctive semantic meanings and affect the grammatical functions in both NPs?
3. What type of NP does not change? What structural constituents hinder the reordering of particular NP?

This study has four main aims, namely, first, examining what type of Kupang NP order and its reordering pattern. Second, this research wants to determine the effect on the semantic content, grammatical function, and constraints of the NP reordering. Third, the study explores the electronic tool (Flex) for analyzing NP. Fourth, it is expected to contribute a profound knowledge of Kupang Malay NP reordering to linguistics.

3. Methodology

This research used Fieldworks lexical explorer (Flex) built up by SIL teams and aims to help field linguists perform language documentation and task analysis. This study employed Flex to analyze 60 data of Kupang Malay noun phrases. The data was divided into 30 NPs with pre-modifiers, consisting of determiners, numbers, possessive pronouns, and adjectival modifiers (Börjars and Burridge 2010, p.173-176). The other 30 NPs are constructed by post-modifiers, comprising a relative clause, noun, and adjectives (Börjars and Burridge 2010, p.177-178).

The data was gathered from the website of <http://e-alkitab.org/Kupang/Conc/Root.htm>, an online Kupang Malay Bible. This website was developed by the language and culture unit of East Nusa Tenggara province-Indonesia in 2007. Sixty data were chosen from four out of 28 books within the bible. The books are called *carita mula-mula* (Old Testament), Mathew, Mark, and Luke. The three books are New Testament books. The samples were randomly chosen from the chapters of each book by allocating 15 NPs in each book.

Additionally, the data was analyzed through the *analysis section* of the interlinear text of Flex. The analysis section explored 60 NPs and labelled them based on the word, morpheme, lexical entries, lexical gloss, lexical, grammatical info, word gloss, word category, and free Translation. The result of Flex analysis becomes raw data elaborated in detail in the discussion sections based on the types of pre-and post-modifiers of a noun phrase, reordering varieties, the constraint of the reordering, and semantic and grammatical function.

4. Discussion of the result

4.1. Pre-modifier noun phrase in Kupang Malay and its modification

The finding shows that the noun phrase of Kupang Malay is pre-modified by determiners, possessors, nouns, adverbs, adjectives, and demonstratives.

Kroeger (2005, p.89) explains that determiners encompass an article (*a* or *the*), demonstrative (*this* or *that*), and quantifiers (*some*, *all*, *no*, *many*, *few*, and so forth). An article *the* in Kupang Malay does not have a specific word to mark the definiteness of an entity as in English or other languages. In contrast to a definite article, the indefinite article *a* shares a common word with the lexical word *satu* (one). The example of a noun phrase that is pre-modified by an indefinite article is illustrated in the following examples:

| | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| 7 | Morphemes | Satu | nona | yang | masih | perawan |
| | Lex. Entries | Satu | nona | yang | masih | perawan |
| | Lex. Gloss | One | Girl | who | still | Virgin |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | Num | n | pro | adv | n |
| | Word | Satu | nona | yang | masih | perawan |
| | Word Gloss | One | Girl | which | still | Virgin |
| | Word Cat. | Num | n | pro | adv | n |
| | Free A virgin girl | | | | | |
| 40 | Morphemes | satu | umpama | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | satu | umpama | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | one | parable | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | n | | | |
| | Word | satu | umpama | | | |
| | Word Gloss | one | parable | | | |
| | Word Cat. | n | n | | | |
| | Free A parable | | | | | |
| 41 | Morphemes | satu | tuan | tana | | |
| | Lex. Entries | satu | tuan | tana | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | one | master | land | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | n | n | | |
| | Word | satu | tuan | tana | | |
| | Word Gloss | one | master | land | | |
| | Word Cat. | n | n | n | | |
| | Free An owner of a land | | | | | |
| 36 | Morphemes | satu | tuan | kabon | | |
| | Lex. Entries | satu | tuan | kabon | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | one | master | yard | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | n | n | | |
| | Word | satu | tuan | kabon | | |
| | Word Gloss | one | master | yard | | |
| | Word Cat. | n | n | n | | |
| | Free An owner of the yard | | | | | |
| 59 | Morphemes | satu | rumah | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | satu | rumah | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | one | house | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | n | | | |
| | Word | satu | rumah | | | |
| | Word Gloss | one | house | | | |
| | Word Cat. | n | n | | | |
| | Free A house | | | | | |

Figure 1. Noun Phrase Pre-modified by an Indefinite Article

The examples of Kupang Malay noun phrases that are pre-modified by indefinite article *a* and *an* can be modified into:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Nona yang masih perawan satu</i> Literal Translation (girl who is still virgin a) Free Translation (A virgin girl) | 2. <i>Tuan kabon satu</i> Literal Translation (yard owner a) Free Translation (An owner of the yard) |
| 3. <i>Umpama satu</i> Literal Translation (parable a) Free Translation (<i>a parable</i>) | 4. <i>Tuan tanah satu</i> Literal Translation (master land a) Free Translation (<i>An owner of a land</i>) |

Though article *a/an* is placed at the final position following the head noun, this reordering does not change the phrase's meaning. The native speakers of Kupang Malay can still understand the meaning of the phrases.

Despite the articles, example 3 only contains one word and a modifier, making both words unable to be modified into another form. Yet, examples 1, 2, and 4 show plausible alternative reordering, as illustrated in the following examples.

5. *Tuan satu kabon* (owner of a yard)
6. *tuan satu tanah* (owner of a land)
7. *nona satu yang masih perawan* (a girl who is still virgin)

Placing article *satu* (*a*) between two nouns produces different meanings from 2 and 4. As examples 2 and 4 refer to a singular owner of any general *land* and *yard*, alternations 5 and 6 more specify the meaning of an owner of a singular *yard/land*. However, the alternation in 7 shows a resemblance sense to *example a*, which still refers to a particular girl. Thus, both modifications of article *a/an* within Kupang Malay noun phrase demonstrate that the reordering of article *an/a* denotes different grammatical and semantic functions if the noun phrase does not contain a clause (7).

Moreover, the head noun within the Kupang Malay noun phrase is also preceded by demonstratives *that* and *this* as the pre-modifiers. The examples of demonstratives *this* preceded the head noun are exemplified in the following examples.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|----|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------|----|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|------|
| 42 | Morphemes | ini | pamarenta | 48 | Morphemes | ini | minyak | wangi | 49 | Morphemes | ini | parampuan | pung | bae |
| | Lex. Entries | ini | pamarenta | | Lex. Entries | ini | minyak | wangi | | Lex. Entries | ini | parampuan | pung | bae |
| | Lex. Gloss | this | government | | Lex. Gloss | this | Oil | Fragrant | | Lex. Gloss | this | woman | Possessive | Kind |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | adj | | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | post | adj |
| | Word | ini | pamarenta | | Word | ini | minyak | wangi | | Word | ini | parampuan | pung | bae |
| | Word Gloss | this | government | | Word Gloss | this | Oil | Fragrant | | Word Gloss | this | woman | Possessive | Kind |
| | Word Cat. | det | n | | Word Cat. | det | n | adj | | Word Cat. | det | n | post | n |
| | Free | This government | | | Free | This fragrant oil | | | | Free | This woman's kindness | | | |

Figure 2. Noun Phrase pre-modified by demonstrative *ini* (this)

These three examples can undergo several modifications, as illustrated in the following examples.

8. *pamarenta ni*

Literal Translation (government this)

Free Translation (This government)

9. *minyak wangi ni*

Literal Translation (fragrant oil this)

Free Translation (This is fragrant oil)

10. *parampuan pung bae ni*

Literal Translation (woman's kindness this)

Free Translation (*This woman's kindness*)

Similar to the modification of the article, *this* (*ini*) can also be placed at the final position of the phrase, but the semantic meaning and grammatical function of the noun phrase remain intact. Interestingly, the examples show that demonstrative *ini* (this) undergoes reduced lexical form when it is at the final position of a noun phrase. The form *ini* is shortened into *ni*, but it still means *this*.

In addition, examples (9) and (10) can still undergo reordering, but example (8) is restricted due to the word limit within a phrase. The reordering can be demonstrated as follows.

11. *Minyak ini wangi*

Literal Translation (Oil this fragrant)

Free Translation (This oil is fragrant)

12. *Parampuan ini pung bae*

Literal Translation (women this possessive marker kind)

Free Translation (This woman is very kind)

Nevertheless, the reordering and the placement of *ini* after the head noun change the grammatical function of the phrase into a sentence. Example (11) *Minyak ini wangi* (Oil this fragrant) no longer functions as a noun phrase with pre-modifiers, but it becomes a sentence translated as *this oil is fragrant*. Similar to example (11), example (12) also no longer serves as a noun phrase, but it becomes a sentence which means *this woman is very kind*. The striking point of placing *ini* after the head noun is the grammatical change of *pung*, which is originally a possessive marker, becomes an adverb *very*. The other effect of altering the position of *ini* after the head noun is that word *bae* no longer functions as a noun but has to shift into an adjective.

Another critical thing to be noted is Kupang language has no auxiliary verb, such as *to be* or *to do*, as the linker between subject and object or complement. The non-existence of the linker, though, is considered a unique part of this language's grammar. Accordingly, placing *ini* after head noun allows examples 11 and 12 to form a sentence.

The data findings also demonstrate that demonstrative *itu* (that) also takes an initial position as the pre-modifiers of the noun phrase. This position is illustrated in the following figures :

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-------|--|--|
| 43 | Morphemes | itu | guru | agama | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | itu | guru | agama | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | That | Teacher | Religion | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | n | | | |
| | Word | itu | guru | agama | | | |
| | Word Gloss | That | Teacher | Religion | | | |
| | Word Cat. | det | n | n | | | |
| | Free | That religious teacher | | | | | |
| 52 | Morphemes | itu | kayu | palang | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | itu | kayu | palang | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | That | wood | Cross | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | n | | | |
| | Word | itu | kayu | palang | | | |
| | Word Gloss | That | wood | Cross | | | |
| | Word Cat. | det | n | n | | | |
| | Free | That Cross | | | | | |
| 46 | Morphemes | itu | meja | kecil | bulat | | |
| | Lex. Entries | itu | meja | kecil | bulat | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | That | meja | small | round | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | adj | adj | | |
| | Word | itu | meja | kecil | bulat | | |
| | Word Gloss | That | table | small | round | | |
| | Word Cat. | det | n | adj | adj | | |
| | Free | That round small table | | | | | |
| 47 | Morphemes | itu | parampuan | | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | itu | parampuan | | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | That | woman | | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | | | | |
| | Word | itu | parampuan | | | | |
| | Word Gloss | That | woman | | | | |
| | Word Cat. | det | n | | | | |
| | Free | That woman | | | | | |
| 55 | Morphemes | itu | tuan | pesta | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | itu | tuan | pesta | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | That | master | Party | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | det | n | n | | | |
| | Word | itu | tuan | pesta | | | |
| | Word Gloss | That | master | Party | | | |
| | Word Cat. | det | n | n | | | |
| | Free | The host of the party | | | | | |

Figure 3. Noun Phrase pre-modified by demonstrative *itu* (that)

This demonstrative can also be reordered like demonstratives *this*. The only possibility to reorder it is by placing *itu* at the end of other constituents within noun phrases, as in the following examples.

13. *Guru agama itu*

Literal Translation (teacher religion that)

Free Translation (That religion teacher)

15. *Parampuan itu*

Literal Translation (woman that)

Free Translation (That woman)

14. *Meja kecil bulat itu*

Literal Translation (table small round that)

Free Translation (That small round table)

16. *Kayu palang itu*

Literal Translation ((cross that)

Free Translation (That cross)

The placement of demonstrative *itu* (that) at the final position of a noun phrase shows a similar result to the placement of article *satu* and demonstrative *ini*. The occurrence of *itu* at this position changes neither the grammatical function nor the semantic meaning.

Reordering *itu* into the middle position of a noun phrase will bring an equivalent case as in *ini*. The position of *itu* will also affect the grammatical function of the phrase and changes the function into a sentence. Unlike examples of *ini*, the position of *itu* after the head noun or in the middle of a noun phrase gives a variety of sentences. For instance,

17. (a). **guru itu agama* (Teacher that religion)

(b). *Guru, itu agama.* (Teacher, that is religion!)

18. (a). *meja itu kecil bulat* (that table is small round)

(b). *meja kecil itu bulat* (That small table is round)

19. *kayu itu palang* (that wood crossed)

20. (a)**tuan itu pesta* (host that party)

(b). *Tuan, itu pesta* (Sir, that is party!)

Examples 17 (a) and 20 (a) are given star (*) because both sentences are semantically bizarre in Kupang Malay though they are grammatically correct. The purposes of involving them in the example are, first, to show that moving *itu* after the head noun does not necessarily mean that the sentence can be semantically correct. Second, the semantically bizarre examples become the model to compare and contrast to the grammatically and semantically ones, such as in 17 (b) and 20 (b). *Itu* can be placed after the head noun, but it is conditioned by a comma (,) which should precede the demonstrative *itu*. Hence, the sentences can become grammatically and semantically correct, for example, *Guru, itu agama.* (Teacher, that is religion.) (17b) and *Tuan, itu pesta* (Sir, that is a party) (20b) rather than *Guru itu agama* (that Teacher is a religion) and *Tuan itu pesta* (That Sir is a party).

The movement of *itu* in example 19 is grammatically and semantically true because *palang* functions as a verb so it simply forms the correct sentence (Grimes and Jacob 2003, p. 164). Examples 18a and 18b are also accepted in this language.

The other pre-modifiers that precede the noun in Kupang Malay noun phrase are quantifiers. For example,

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>2 Morphemes <i>dong dua</i> Lex. Entries <i>dong dua</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>They two</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>pro Num</i> Word <i>dong dua</i> Word Gloss. <i>They two</i> Word Cat. <i>pro n</i></p> <p>Free Both of them</p> | <p>6 Morphemes <i>Satu Malam</i> Lex. Entries <i>Satu Malam</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>One Night</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n</i> Word <i>Satu Malam</i> Word Gloss. <i>One Night</i> Word Cat. <i>Num n</i></p> <p>Free One night</p> | <p>23 Morphemes <i>samua orang</i> Lex. Entries <i>samua orang</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>all people</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n</i> Word <i>samua orang</i> Word Gloss. <i>all people</i> Word Cat. <i>det n</i></p> <p>Free All people</p> | <p>2 Morphemes <i>dong dua</i> Lex. Entries <i>dong dua</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>They two</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>pro Num</i> Word <i>dong dua</i> Word Gloss. <i>They two</i> Word Cat. <i>pro n</i></p> <p>Free Both of them</p> | <p>6 Morphemes <i>Satu Malam</i> Lex. Entries <i>Satu Malam</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>One Night</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n</i> Word <i>Satu Malam</i> Word Gloss. <i>One Night</i> Word Cat. <i>Num n</i></p> <p>Free One night</p> | <p>33 Morphemes <i>samua orang</i> Lex. Entries <i>samua orang</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>all people</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n</i> Word <i>samua orang</i> Word Gloss. <i>all people</i> Word Cat. <i>det n</i></p> <p>Free All people</p> | <p>37 Morphemes <i>satu doi perak</i> Lex. Entries <i>satu doi perak</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>one money silver</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n n</i> Word <i>satu doi perak</i> Word Gloss. <i>one money silver</i> Word Cat. <i>n n n</i></p> <p>Free One silver coin</p> | <p>39 Morphemes <i>dua hari</i> Lex. Entries <i>dua hari</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>two Day</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n</i> Word <i>dua hari</i> Word Gloss. <i>two Day</i> Word Cat. <i>n n</i></p> <p>Free Two days</p> | <p>50 Morphemes <i>banya orang</i> Lex. Entries <i>banya orang</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>many people</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n</i> Word <i>banya orang</i> Word Gloss. <i>many people</i> Word Cat. <i>det n</i></p> <p>Free Many people</p> | <p>37 Morphemes <i>satu doi perak</i> Lex. Entries <i>satu doi perak</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>one money silver</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n n</i> Word <i>satu doi perak</i> Word Gloss. <i>one money silver</i> Word Cat. <i>n n n</i></p> <p>Free One silver coin</p> | <p>39 Morphemes <i>dua hari</i> Lex. Entries <i>dua hari</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>two Day</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n</i> Word <i>dua hari</i> Word Gloss. <i>two Day</i> Word Cat. <i>n n</i></p> <p>Free Two days</p> | <p>51 Morphemes <i>barapa rumah</i> Lex. Entries <i>barapa rumah</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>some house</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n</i> Word <i>barapa rumah</i> Word Gloss. <i>some house</i> Word Cat. <i>det n</i></p> <p>Free Some house</p> | <p>53 Morphemes <i>banya bangsa</i> Lex. Entries <i>banya bangsa</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>many Nation</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n</i> Word <i>banya bangsa</i> Word Gloss. <i>many Nation</i> Word Cat. <i>det n</i></p> <p>Free Many Nations</p> | <p>54 Morphemes <i>satu orang laen</i> Lex. Entries <i>satu orang laen</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>one person Other</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>n n adj</i> Word <i>satu orang laen</i> Word Gloss. <i>one person Other</i> Word Cat. <i>n n adj</i></p> <p>Free Another person</p> | <p>55 Morphemes <i>samua orang yang percaya</i> Lex. Entries <i>samua orang yang percaya</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>all people which Believe</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n pro v</i> Word <i>samua orang yang percaya</i> Word Gloss. <i>all people which Believe</i> Word Cat. <i>det n pro v</i></p> <p>Free All believers</p> | <p>56 Morphemes <i>banya rumput</i> Lex. Entries <i>banya rumput</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>much grass</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>det n</i> Word <i>banya rumput</i> Word Gloss. <i>many grass</i> Word Cat. <i>det n</i></p> <p>Free Much rumput</p> | <p>58 Morphemes <i>Dua belas orang</i> Lex. Entries <i>Dua belas orang</i> Lex. Gloss. <i>twelve people</i> Lex. Gram. Info. <i>Num n</i> Word <i>Dua belas orang</i> Word Gloss. <i>twelve people</i> Word Cat. <i>Num n</i></p> <p>Free Twelve people</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|

Figure 4. Noun Phrase pre-modified by quantifier

The data shows that there are several examples of quantifiers in Kupang Malay, constituting both of (*dong*), numbers (*satu* (one), *tiga* (three), *lima* (five), *dua belas* (twelve)), all (*samua*), many (*banya*), and some (*barapa*). Nonetheless, several pre-modifiers with quantifiers cannot be modified as listed in the examples.

21. *Dong dua* (Both of them)
22. *Satu malam* (One night)
23. *Tiga malam* (Three nights)
24. *Dua hari* (Two days)

However, the following noun phrases can be modified.

25. (a). *Doi satu perak*
Literal Translation (coin one silver)
Free Translation (one silver coin)
27. *laki-laki muda lima*
Literal Translation (men young five)
Free Translation (Five young men)
29. *Bangsa banya*
Literal Translation (nation many)
Free Translation (many nations)
31. *Rumput banya*
Literal Translation (grass many)
Free Translation (many grass)
33. *Orang samua*
26. (b). *Doi perak satu*
Literal Translation (coin silver one)
Free Translation (one silver coin)
28. *Orang banya*
Literal Translation (people many)
Free Translation (many people)
30. *Orang laen satu*
Literal Translation (other person one)
Free Translation (one other person)
32. *Orang percaya samua*
Literal Translation (believers all)
Free Translation (all believers)
34. *Orang dua belas*

Literal Translation (people all)
Free Translation (All people)

Literal Translation (People twelve)
Free Translation (Twelve people)

The numbers 21-24 cannot be reordered because they depend on different quantifiers. For example, *dong* (both of) cannot be reordered because the noun phrase only contains two words. In other words, this quantifier can be reordered if more constituents are added. For example, *dong dua orang* (both of the people). When *orang* (people) is added, it is possible to reorder it into *dua orang dong* but not *dua dong orang* because the sentence is semantically wrong in Kupang Malay. The second restriction is if the head noun is related to time, such as *day* and *night*, then it is impossible for the number to be reordered, such as in 22-24. However, examples 25, 26, and 36 demonstrate that number as the quantifier can be reordered because the head noun is unrelated to the time. Interestingly, the movement variations in 26 still mean *one silver coin*, in 27 means five young men, and in 34 still means twelve people.

The last restriction of this group is *barapa* (some) cannot be reordered and put at the middle and at the end of the word because it will become a question word rather than modifies the noun. It is because *barapa* in Kupang Malay has two distinctive meanings: *some* and *how many/much* (Jacob and Grimes 2003, p.42).

Unlike other quantifiers, *banya* and *samua* are flexible quantifiers because they can be moved at the initial and final positions within a noun phrase. The initial and final positions of *banya* and *samua* often convey the same meanings, such as in examples 29, 31, 32, 33, and in the original examples described by Flex figures. Another essential thing of *banya* in Kupang Malay is to convey the meaning of *many* and *much* (Jacob and Grimes 2003, p.40).

Furthermore, the last type of pre-modifiers is nouns and adjectives. The example of the noun as the pre-modifiers can be seen in the following figure.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Free Other place</p> <p>14 Morphemes ana nona dong manis-manis</p> <p>Lex. Entries ana nona dong manis-manis</p> <p>Lex. Gloss Child Girl plural marker Beautiful</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n n pro-form adj</p> <p>Word ana nona dong manis-manis</p> <p>Word Gloss Child Girl They Beautiful</p> <p>Word Cat. n n pro adj</p> <p>Free Beautiful daughters</p> | <p>32 Morphemes Macam-macam binatang</p> <p>Lex. Entries Macam-macam binatang</p> <p>Lex. Gloss Type animal</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n n</p> <p>Word Macam-macam binatang</p> <p>Word Gloss Type animal</p> <p>Word Cat. n n</p> <p>Free Types of animal</p> |
|---|--|

Figure 5. Noun Phrase pre-modified by noun

Unfortunately, for example, *Ana nona dong manis-manis* (Beautiful girl) cannot be reordered because *Ana* has two distinctive meanings in Kupang Malay: child and name of the person. Hence, it will affect the semantic and grammatical meaning of the phrase. For example, when *ana* is placed after *nona*, it will be *nona Ana dong manis-manis*. The semantic interpretation will be a girl named *Ana* is beautiful. This order is also totally ungrammatical because a girl named *Ana* is supposed to be singular, but the existence of *dong* in plural also affects the syntactical aspect of the sentence. On the other hand, *macam-macam binatang* (various animals) can be reordered into *binatang macam-macam* (various animals) because this modifier is also flexible, and the position does not affect the meaning.

In addition, the example of pre-modifiers with an adjective is also illustrated in the following example.

| |
|---|
| <p>38 Morphemes papagi hari</p> <p>Lex. Entries papagi hari</p> <p>Lex. Gloss Early Day</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. adj n</p> <p>Word papagi hari</p> <p>Word Gloss Early Day</p> <p>Word Cat. adj n</p> <p>Free Early morning</p> |
|---|

Figure 6. Noun Phrase pre-modified by adjective

This kind of adjective, such as *early*, cannot be reordered because this adjective can only appear at the initial position of a noun phrase.

4.2. Post Modifiers Noun Phrase reordering and its constraints

The Kupang Malay noun phrase post-modifiers are mainly dominated by possessive markers, adjectives, and nouns. The examples of the possessive marker as the post-modifier are demonstrated in the following figure:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1 Morphemes *** pung turunan</p> <p>Lex. Entries *** pung turunan</p> <p>Lex. Gloss *** Possessive Descendant</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. *** post n</p> <p>Word Daud pung turunan</p> <p>Word Gloss *** Possessive Descendant</p> <p>Word Cat. *** post n</p> <p>Free Daud's descendants</p> | <p>12 Morphemes beta pung parenta</p> <p>Lex. Entries beta pung parenta</p> <p>Lex. Gloss I Possessive Command</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. pro post n</p> <p>Word beta pung parenta</p> <p>Word Gloss I Possessive Command</p> <p>Word Cat. pro post n</p> <p>Free My Command</p> | <p>30 Morphemes jemaat pung omong</p> <p>Lex. Entries jemaat pung omong</p> <p>Lex. Gloss congregation Possessive talk</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n post n</p> <p>Word jemaat pung omong</p> <p>Word Gloss congregation Possessive talk</p> <p>Word Cat. n post n</p> <p>Free Congregation's talk</p> |
|---|--|---|

Figure 7. Noun Phrase post-modified by possessive marker

The modifiers follow the head noun in Kupang Malay. Unlike the pre-modifiers, the possessive markers cannot be reordered within the noun phrase. The restriction is because Kupang Malay syntactic rule only allows the possessive marker to appear directly after the possessor.

Additionally, an adjective can function as the post-modifier within a noun phrase. The examples can be found in the following picture.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>11 Morphemes binatang liar</p> <p>Lex. Entries binatang liar</p> <p>Lex. Gloss animal wild</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj</p> <p>Word binatang liar</p> <p>Word Gloss animal wild</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj</p> <p>Free The wild animal</p> | <p>13 Morphemes tampa laen</p> <p>Lex. Entries tampa laen</p> <p>Lex. Gloss Place Other</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj</p> <p>Word tampa laen</p> <p>Word Gloss Place Other</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj</p> <p>Free Other place</p> | <p>16 Morphemes banjer bésar</p> <p>Lex. Entries banjer bésar</p> <p>Lex. Gloss Flood Big</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj</p> <p>Word banjer bésar</p> <p>Word Gloss Flood Big</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj</p> <p>Free Big Flood</p> |
| <p>17 Morphemes hati lurus</p> <p>Lex. Entries hati lurus</p> <p>Lex. Gloss heart straight</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj</p> <p>Word hati lurus</p> <p>Word Gloss heart straight</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj</p> <p>Free Honest</p> | <p>20 Morphemes orang kecil</p> <p>Lex. Entries orang kecil</p> <p>Lex. Gloss people small</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj</p> <p>Word orang kecil</p> <p>Word Gloss people small</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj</p> <p>Free The poor</p> | <p>22 Morphemes kaen baru mahal</p> <p>Lex. Entries kaen baru mahal</p> <p>Lex. Gloss cloth new expensive</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj adj</p> <p>Word kaen baru mahal</p> <p>Word Gloss cloth new expensive</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj adj</p> <p>Free New expensive cloth</p> |
| <p>23 Word Anggur asam lama</p> <p>Morphemes anggur asam lama</p> <p>Lex. Entries anggur asam lama</p> <p>Lex. Gloss wine sour old</p> <p>Lex. Gram. Info. n adj adj</p> <p>Word Gloss wine sour old</p> <p>Word Cat. n adj adj</p> <p>Free Old sour wine</p> | | |

Figure 8. Noun Phrase post-modified by adjective

It is noticeable that most noun phrases containing only an adjective as the post-modifiers and a head noun within the noun phrase could not be reordered. Reordering an adjective before a head noun in this context creates semantically bizarre meaning. In contrast, a noun phrase with at least two post-modifiers words enables the modifiers to undergo movement. For instance, (22). *Kaen baru mahal* (Cloth new expensive) can be reordered as *kaen mahal baru* (cloth Expensive new). The other example is (23). *Anggur asam lama* (Wine sour old) can be reordered into *Anggur lama asam* (Wine old sour). Placing the adjective, which denotes the age *lama* (old) and *baru* (new), does not affect the semantic meaning or the grammatical function of the noun phrase.

The last type of post-modifiers within a noun phrase is a relative clause. Unlike English or other languages, Kupang Malay has only one relative clause called *yang* used for animate and inanimate objects. The example of the relative clause as a post-modifier within a noun phrase can be exemplified below.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|--|
| 5 | Word | Roh | yang | barisi | 15 | Word | kayu | yang | kuat | |
| | Morphemes | roh | yang | barisi | | Morphemes | kayu | yang | kuat | |
| | Lex. Entries | roh | yang | barisi | | Lex. Entries | kayu | yang | kuat | |
| | Lex. Gloss | Spirit | which | clean | | Lex. Gloss | wood | which | strong | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | pro | adj | | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | pro | adj | |
| | Word Gloss | Spirit | which | clean | | Word Gloss | wood | which | strong | |
| | Word Cat. | n | pro | adj | | Word Cat. | n | pro | adj | |
| | Free | Clean spirit | | | | Free | The strong wood | | | |
| | Free | Honest | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Word | kampong | yang | badeka | | | | | | |
| | Morphemes | kampong | yang | badeka | | | | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | kampong | yang | badeka | | | | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | village | which | nearest | | | | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | pro | adj | | | | | | |
| | Word Gloss | village | which | nearest | | | | | | |
| | Word Cat. | n | pro | adj | | | | | | |
| | Free | The nearest village | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Word | gunung | yang | talalu | tinggi | | | | | |
| | Morphemes | gunung | yang | talalu | tinggi | | | | | |
| | Lex. Entries | gunung | yang | talalu | tinggi | | | | | |
| | Lex. Gloss | mountain | which | very | high | | | | | |
| | Lex. Gram. Info. | n | pro | adv | adj | | | | | |
| | Word Gloss | mountain | which | very | high | | | | | |
| | Word Cat. | n | pro | adv | adj | | | | | |
| | Free | a very high mountain | | | | | | | | |

Figure 9. Noun Phrase post-modified by relative clause

The example shows that a relative clause with one adjective class within the noun phrase cannot be reordered, for example, *roh yang barisi* (pure spirit), *kampong yang badeka* (near village), and *kayu yang kuat* (strong wood). However, a noun phrase with two post-modified words either in the same or different word class is plausible to undergo movement. For example, *gunung yang talalu tinggi* (a very high mountain) can be reordered into *gunung yang tinggi talalu* (a very high mountain). The movement of one of the clause constituents does not affect the noun phrase's semantic meaning and grammatical function.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, using Flex as a linguistics tool profoundly assists the analysis of Kupang Malay noun phrases. As 60 data consisting of 30 pre-modifiers and 30 post-modifier noun phrases were gathered from the e-bible of Kupang Malay, the findings show the result of the analysis as follows. First, the noun phrase of Kupang Malay is pre-modified by determiners, possessors, nouns, adverbs, adjectives, and demonstratives. Kupang Malay only has a determiner which is an indefinite article *a/an*. This article shares a common word with the lexical word *satu* (one). The reordering of article *a/an* within Kupang Malay noun phrase demonstrate different grammatical and semantic function if the noun phrase does not contain a clause.

Moreover, the head noun within the Kupang Malay noun phrase is also preceded by demonstratives *this* (*ini*) and *that* (*itu*) as the pre-modifiers. *Ini* can also be placed after the final position of the noun phrase, but the semantic meaning and grammatical function remain intact. Interestingly, demonstrative *this* (*ini*) undergoes reduced lexical form into *ni* when it is at the final position of a complex noun phrase. The reordering of *ini* within noun phrases is restricted by the word limit within a phrase. Nevertheless, the reordering and the placement of *ini* after the head noun change the grammatical function of the noun phrase into a sentence. This movement also affects the word within the phrase, such as a possessive marker becoming an adverb, and the word *bae* no longer functions as a noun but has to shift into an adjective.

On the other hand, the only possibility to reorder *itu* is by placing *itu* at the end of other constituents within the noun phrase. The occurrence of *itu* at this position changes neither the grammatical function nor the semantic meaning. Hence, the placement of demonstrative *itu* at the final position shows a similar result to the placement of article *satu* and demonstrative *ini*. Yet, reordering *itu* into the middle position of a noun phrase will also affect the phrase's grammatical function and change the function into a variety of sentences.

The other pre-modifiers that precede the noun phrase in Kupang Malay are quantifiers. The data shows that there several examples of quantifiers in Kupang Malay, constituting both of (*dong*), numbers (*satu* (one), *tiga* (three), *lima* (five), *dua belas* (twelve)), all (*samua*), many (*banya*), and some (*barapa*). Quantifiers are restricted from making any reordering in this language, depending on its type. For example, *dong* (both of) cannot be reordered because the noun phrase only contains two words. The second restriction is that if the head noun is related to time, such as day and night, it is impossible for the number to be reordered. The last restriction

is *barapa* (some) cannot be reordered and put at the middle and end of the word because it will become a question word rather than modify the noun. Unlike other quantifiers, *banya* and *samua* are flexible quantifiers because they can be moved at the initial and final positions within a noun phrase. The initial and final positions of *banya* and *samua* often convey the same meanings. Furthermore, the last type of pre-modifiers is nouns and adjectives. Some nouns and adjectives cannot be reordered, but others not. Although nouns and adjectives can be reordered, the meaning remains intact.

In addition, the post-modifiers of a noun phrase are mainly dominated by possessive markers, adjectives, and nouns. Unlike the pre-modifiers, the possessive markers cannot be reordered within the noun phrase. The restriction is due to the Kupang Malay syntactic rule on the order of possessive noun phrases, which only allows the possessive position directly after the possessor. The adjective also functions as the post-modifiers within a noun phrase. Nonetheless, most noun phrases containing only an adjective as the post-modifiers and a head noun within the noun phrase could not undergo any reordering. Yet, a noun phrase with at least two pro-modifiers words allows the modifiers to experience movement.

The last type of post-modifier within a noun phrase is a relative clause marked by relative clause *yang* (which) is used for animate and inanimate objects. The reordering only occurs when a noun phrase has at least two words either in one class or a different word class. The movement does not affect the semantic meaning and grammatical function of the noun phrase.

In conclusion, pre-modifiers noun phrases undergo more reordering because they are triggered by the syntactic constituents than post-modifiers noun phrases. Most of the reordering does not affect a noun phrase's meaning and grammatical function. However, this conclusion needs further investigation because this research did not explore the adverb and preposition examples as the pre-modifiers in Kupang Malay noun phrases. Thus, it is important to investigate the rest of the books and provide more data on both categories to give a thorough conclusion of noun phrases in this language.

In addition, another area that needs to be investigated in this language is the adjective phrase. It is interesting to explore the structure of the phrase and the possibility of the reordering that might affect the semantics aspects and grammatical functions. Further research will then provide a good comparison between the two phrases and give a clear explanation of phrasal categories in Kupang Malay.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author Biography: A lecturer at Universitas Nusa Cendana, Kupang, Indonesia, with 13 years plus of working experience in the area of linguistics, education, English, and Indonesian language teachings. My interests include conducting local language and culture research, documenting languages, and translating documents into local languages.

Publisher's Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations or those of the publisher, the editors, and the reviewers.

References

- [1] Berlage, E. (2014). *Noun Phrase Complexity in English*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- [2] Börjars, K., & Burridge, K. (2010). *Introducing English Grammar*. Hodder Education.
- [3] Ge, N. (2010). A Direct Syntax-Driven Reordering Model for Phrase-Based Machine Translation. *Human Language Technologies: The 2010 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the ACL* (pp. 849-857). Los Angeles: Association for Computational Linguistics.
- [4] Ghomeshi, J. (2003). Plural Marking, Indefiniteness, and The Noun Phrase. *Studia Linguistica*, 47-74.
- [5] Gordon, P. C., Hendrik, R., & Johnson, M. (2004). Effects of Noun Phrase Type on Sentence Complexity. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 97-114.
- [6] Günther, C. (2012). *The Elliptical Noun Phrase in English Use*. London: Routledge.
- [7] Hatem, A., & Omar, N. (2010). Syntactic Reordering for Arabic-English Phrase-Based Machine Translation. *Springer*, 198-206.
- [8] Issah, S. A. (2013). The Structure of the Dagbani simple noun phrase. *South African Journals of African Languages*, 203-212.
- [9] Jacob, J., & Grimes, C. (2003). *Kamus Pengantar Bahasa Kupang*. Kupang: Artha Wacana Press.
- [10] Jacob, J., & Grimes, C. (2011). *Aspect and directionality in Kupang Malay (Jacob & Grimes, 2003) serial verb construction calquing on the grammars of the substrate languages. In the Creoles, their substrates, and language typology*. Netherlands: John Benjamin.
- [11] Kroeger, P. (2005). *Analyzing Grammar an introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [12] Leung, H.-C., Alex, & van der Wurff, W. (2018). *The Noun Phrase in English*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- [13] Lusekelo, A. (2009). The Structure of the Nyakyusa Noun Phrase. *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, 305-331.
- [14] Onishi, T., Utiyama, M., & Sumita, E. (2011). Reordering Constraint Based on Document-Level Context. *49th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (pp. 434-438). Portland: Association for Computational Linguistics.
- [15] Rijkhoff, J. (1997). *Order in the Noun Phrase of the Languages of Europe. In Constituent Order in the Languages of Europe, edited by Anna Siewierska*. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- [16] Rugemalira, J. (2007). The Structure of the Bantu Noun Phrase. *SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics*, 135-148.
- [17] Rush, S. (1998). The Noun Phrase in advertising English. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 155-171.

- [18] Shlonsky, U. (2004). The form of Semitic Noun Phrases. *Lingua*, 1465-1526.
- [19] Trask, R. (2003). *The Noun Phrase: nouns, determiners, and modifiers; pronouns and names*. De Gruyter Mouton.
- [20] UBB-GMIT. (2007). *Carita Mula-Mula*. Retrieved from e-alkitab: <https://e-alkitab.org/>