

## ***Denominal Nominals in Toba Batak: A Generative Transformational Study***

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this article is to elaborate denominal nominals in Toba Batak language from the view point of generative transformational study. The theory applied in this study is modified theory of Halle's model. Therefore, there are six components of sets of generative transformational rules as modified theory in this study, i.e. List of Morphemes, Word Formation Rules, Filter, Orthographic Rules, Phonological Rules, and Dictionary. The data were analysed by applying modified theory with reference to Halle's theory as the main theory. The method of this study is descriptive qualitative. The data were collected by using observation and interview. The collected data are voice-recordings and writings. The research findings show that denominal nominals in Toba Batak language are done by attaching (1) prefix [*par-*], (2) prefix [*sa-*], (3) infix [*-ar-*], (4) confix [*ha-an*], (5) confix [*par-an*], (6) and affix combination [*pasi-*]. The result of the affixation processes generate complex words which have new grammatical and lexical meanings. Phoneme addition takes place in morphological process particularly with prefix [*sa-*]. The inflectional processes of attaching those affixes bring about phonological idiosyncrasy, therefore, such words must be processed in filter to generate acceptable words in Toba Batak language.

**Key Words: Denominal Nominals, Inflectional, Generative Transformational Study.**

### **1. Introduction**

The aims of this study are to explore denominal nominals in Toba Batak language from the view point of generative transformational study. According to Ambarita (2018b: 309) nominal word formations in Toba Batak language are distinguished in three main ways, they are: (1) by attaching affixations, (2) by inserting premodi *fierni* between adjectival bases and nominal bases, and (3) by moving the stress of free adjectival bases. Affixation as one of the morphological processes will generate new word when affixes are attached to stems (Ambarita, 2018c: 75).

Talking about word formation, the native speaker of a language are able to relate linguistic elements in morphological sub-systems. When discussing morphological processes, phonological processes will be discussed as well. This study focuses the analysis on nominal word formation from nouns. Instead of listing a large number of nominalizations, a single transformation can be stated (Jackendoff, 1975: 641). The process of derivation of nouns from verbs through the attachment of the suffix *-ation* is one of the most productive in English (Guerssel, 1983: 225). In other words, productivity in morphemic processes refer to the competencies of language speakers to generate new words (Zainuddin, 2012: 176).

Normally, speakers of a language possess knowledge not only about the words of the language

but also about the composition and structure of the words (Halle, 1973: 1). The composition and the structure of a word deals with the elements and forms of the word itself (Ambarita, 2016: 11). Speakers of Toba Batak also know that the words such as (1a) are composed of the morphemes shown and that each of these morphemes cannot be concatenated in most other orders; i.e. sequences such as (1b) are not possible in English.

- (1) a. ho-ras, par-lin-dung-an, mar-hu-ta, om-pung, hu-ta
- b. al-form-at-ion-trans, ment-move, tion-at-ten

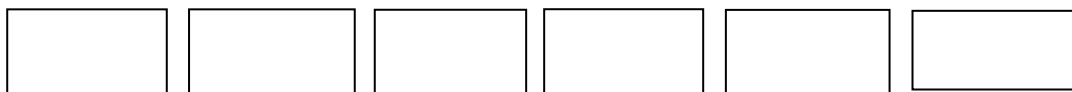
Talking about meanings, the native speaker of a language understand semantic details of each words in their own language. Besides the native speakers of a language understand original meaning of each word empirically in their own language (Ambarita, 2018 a: 104). Original meaning empirically are found in all languages because they are universal lexemes. The change of meaning does not always alter word class because inflectional processes occur to add words characteristics (Simpson, 1995: 48). These sets of lexemes can be applied to analyze meanings of spoken language naturally. As examples, the words in (2a) are acceptable in Toba Batak language. Whereas those in (2b) are not acceptable in Toba Batak language. The words in (2b) are according to word formation rules in Toba Batak language.

- (2) a. marguru, mangalua, mangalabang, manggonihon, manakkul
- b. \*mardosen, \*marpandita, \*mamiso, \*mallamarihon, \*mabbalati,

Looking at the Toba Batak language phenomena above, it can be assumed that word formation in Toba Batak language can generate acceptable words, unacceptable words, and potential words. Unacceptable words in this context do not mean the implication of breaking transformation rules or attaching improper affixation, rather that the words are not used yet by speakers. The product of affixation and lexeme derivationally is another manifestation of word formation to form new different word class but also new different lexical meaning (Ambarita, 2017b:15).

A theory of word formation must include an explanation of the fact that complex lexical items differ semantically from the sum of their components (Lipka. 1975: 179). The theory of generative morphology proposed by Halle (1973) cannot be applied totally to analyse the data of Toba Batak language in this study. Therefore, Halle's theory (1973) is modified and adjusted to the need of this study. Two new components in modified theory are Orthographic Rules (OR) and Phonological Rules (PR). This needs emphasizing because the rules of writing are different from the rules of pronunciation in Toba Batak language. The data analysis, however, always refers to Halle's as the main theory.

$$[[LM] \leftrightarrow [WFR] \leftrightarrow [FILTER] \leftrightarrow [OR] \leftrightarrow [PR] \leftrightarrow [DICTIONARY]]$$



LM = List of Morphemes, WFR = Word Formation Rules; OR = Orthographic Rules; PR = Phonological Rules

### **Diagram of Modified Theory**

List of Morpheme (LM) consists two main types of members, i.e. stems and affixes, both inflectional and derivational affixes. The stems in LM must be labeled relevant grammatical modifiers such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Morphemes as the elements for word formation have very important roles in word formation, therefore, there are a lot of morphological issues that can be studied, not only free morphemes but also bound morphemes (Ambarita 2017c:131). In LM all morphemes which are already identified will be grouped into two basic categories they are stems and affixes. In Toba Batak language, LM are realized by bases, roots, stems, and affixes such as prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and confixes (Ambarita, 2017a:191).

After all morphemes are listed in LM, the next step is to formulate Word Formation Rules (WFR) that include nominal word formation rules, verbal word formation rules, adjectival word formation rules, and numerical word formation rules. The LM together with the WFR define the set of potential words of the language. However, not all words in a language can be formed by regular rules and common rules, but there are a lot of exceptions in a language i.e. semantic idiosyncrasies, phonological idiosyncrasies, and lexical idiosyncrasies. Semantic idiosyncrasies are found in words which have denotative meanings (Nasution, 2011:200).

If the words are unacceptable or found to have such idiosyncrasies, they must be processed further in filter. On the other hand, if the words are acceptable and no idiosyncrasies are found, they will be sent to OR. OR labels orthographic rules of the word. Then, the word is sent to the next component, PR. PR gives phonological rules of words. PR detects words formed by WFR and labels them phonological rules. After that PR will send the words to dictionary. The sequence of representations formed in this process is called a "derivation" of the phonetic representation from the underlying phonological representation (Chomsky and Halle, 1968: 60).

Derivational processes are assumed to be limited in various idiosyncratic ways (Anderson, 1982: 585). Thus, the phonological component specifies the relation between phonetic and phonological representation. According to Schane (1992: 50), when morphemes are united to form words, different segments of morphemes are in sequences and sometimes changes. Finally, PR will send the words to dictionary to be saved. Dictionary are the main component to save all words which already have syntactic category, whereas WFR only have access with dictionary and have function as a component to accommodate all affixes to form new words (Loe, 2018:305).

#### **Research Location**

The research was conducted in Pasar Pangururan and Tanjung Bunga, two villages located in Pangururan subdistrict, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia.

#### **Data and Source of Data**

The kinds of data collected in this research were voice recordings and writings. The two

kinds of data are focused on words having affixes. The data of qualitative research are evidences and clues that the research was done (Bacon, 1992:106).

### **Informants**

The voice-recording data of this research were obtained from eight informants, i.e. four informants from each of the villages. According to Samarin (1988, 52) the informants of a research should fulfill some criteria, they are: (i) native speakers of the language researched, (ii) males or females, (iii) 25 to 65 years old and healthy, (iv) insightful and well informed, (v) minimally graduation of elementary schools or high schools, (vi) physically and spiritually healthy, (vii) settle in the research location, (viii) eager to be informants, (ix) honest and unostracized by the surrounding community, (x) have normal organs of speech, (xi) born and grown up in the research location (never migrate), and (xii) cooperative.

## **2. Research Design**

This study is descriptive qualitative which describes Toba Batak language phenomena naturally. The research method of a language must relate with theory and theoretical frame. Descriptively, a language researcher describes characteristics, features, or all language phenomena which are studied through data selection (Djajasudarma, 1993: 16). The uniqueness and phenomena of a language can be known through field facts where the language is studied.

### **Data Collection**

The data of this research were obtained by interviewing informants and doing documentary study. The interview was open-ended. Furthermore, the data collected from interview were audiotaped and transcribed. The documentary technique was carried out to collect data from *BIBEL, Alkitab Bahasa Batak Toba* (2003), especially from Mathew.

### **Data Analysis**

Components of qualitative data analysis after data collection, according to interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014, 31-33), are data condensation, data display, and drawing and verifying conclusions. In the flow of data condensation, the collected data are condensed by selecting, focusing, abstracting and/or transforming the full corpus to make the data stronger. The data consisting of affixes, of which the syntactic category of the lexemes are nouns and they are formed from nouns, are selected to be analysed. Then, in data display, the condensed data were organized and compressed that allows conclusion drawing and verification. The findings were formulated according to the data display. Finally, conclusions were drawn based on the findings of the analysis.

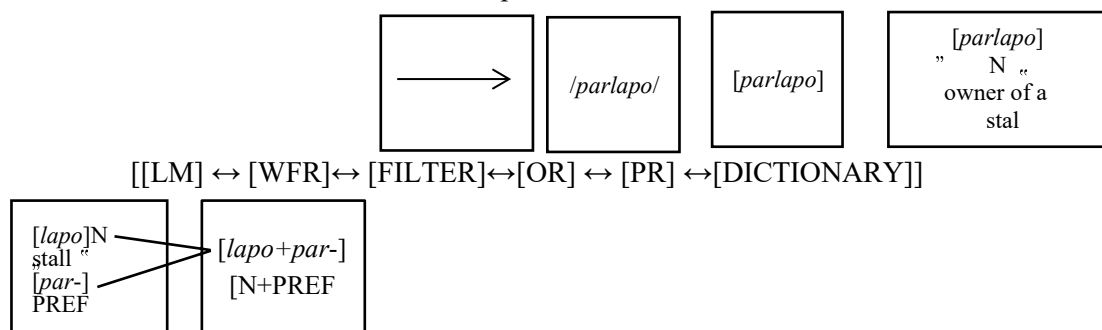
## **3. Results and Discussion**

Data analyses show that inflectional affixes of forming N from N in Toba Batak language consist of prefix (henceforth referred to as PREF) [*par-*], PREF [*sa-*], infix (henceforth referred to as INF)

[-ar-], confix (henceforth referred to as CONF) [*ha-an*], CONF [*par-an*], affix combination (henceforth referred to as AC) [*pasi-*]. The affixation processes of attaching those affixes generate complex words (henceforth referred to as CW). Each of the generated words have new meanings as grammatical and lexical meanings.

### 1. Prefix [*par-*]

PREF [*par-*] has ability to be attached to N to form new modified N as presented below. (i). [*parlapo*] The process of forming the word *parlapo* [*parlapo*] in Toba Batak language is displayed in the following part.



The processing steps of forming the word [*parlapo*] as N from the stem [*lapo*] „stall“ as a N based on the modified diagram above can be formulated as follows: [[STEM]N + [*par-*]PREF → [CW]N. Word formation of [*parlapo*] from [*lapo*] added with PREF [*par-*] in Toba Batak language can be analyzed as: [STEM[*lapo*]N → STEM[*lapo*]N + PREF[*par-*]N → CW[*parlapo*]N]. The word formation of [*parlapo*] is inflectional because the process does not alter the wordclass.

The CW [*parlapo*] consists of stem [*lapo*] as free morpheme and PREF [*par-*] as bound morpheme. The grammatical meaning of CW [*parlapo*] expresses „the owner mentioned by the stem“ and the lexical meaning of [*parlapo*] is „owner of a stall“. There are not any idiosyncratic properties of words found in the process of forming the word [*parlapo*]. Besides, there is not grammatical function of PREF [*par-*] in [*parlapo*] because the affixation process does not change syntactic category.

The rule of forming the word [*parlapo*] can be formulated as: [[LM] ↔ [WFR] ↔ [OR] ↔ [PR] ↔ [DICTIONARY]].

Filter is not included because no process is found in filter in forming the word [*parlapo*]. In other words, „filter“ is omitted because WFR sends the word [*parlapo*] to „dictionary“ to be saved as acceptable word in Toba Batak language without any process in „filter“. Furthermore, the word [*lapo*] as the stem of [*parlapo*] will have access to LM to form other new word using other affixes available in LM include potential words. Therefore, the word [*lapo*] can be transformed to form other new neologism.

The rules and procedures above can also be applied to analyse the data in the following table.

**The Processes of Attaching  
 Inflectional Prefix [par-] to  
 Nominal Stems**

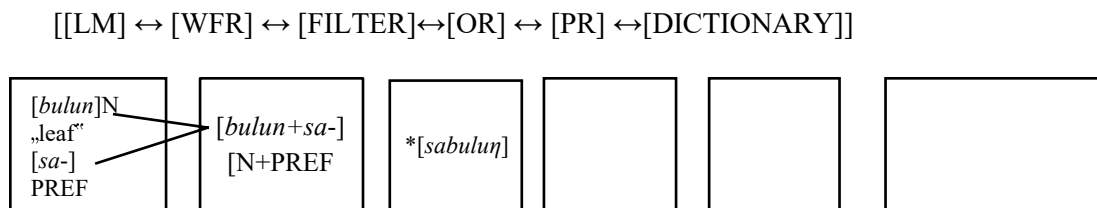
No	Stem	Gloss	Neologisms	Grammatical Meaning	Lexical Meaning	Trans-
1	hoda	horse	parhoda	the owner of N mentioned by the stem	horse owner	N → N
2	Jabu	house	parjabu	the owner of N mentioned by the stem	house owner	N → N
3	juma	garden	parjuma	the owner of N mentioned by the stem	garden owner	N → N
4	horbo	buffallo	parhorbo	the owner of N mentioned by the stem	buffallo owner	N → N

Based on the table above PEF [par-] is classified into inflectional affix because its attachments to stems do not alter syntactic category. The word [parlapo], [parhoda], [parjabu], [parjuma], and [parhorbo] as complex neologisms directly enter „dictionary“ without any process in „filter“ because no idiosyncratic properties of words are found.

**2. Prefix[sa-]**

PEF [sa-] does not have allomorphs if attached to stems of which the initial phoneme is [h]. The OR of PEF [sa-] is changed to [sam-] and the PR of [sam-] alters to [sabb-] if the initial phoneme of the stem is [b] as presented in the following part. (ii). [sabbulun]

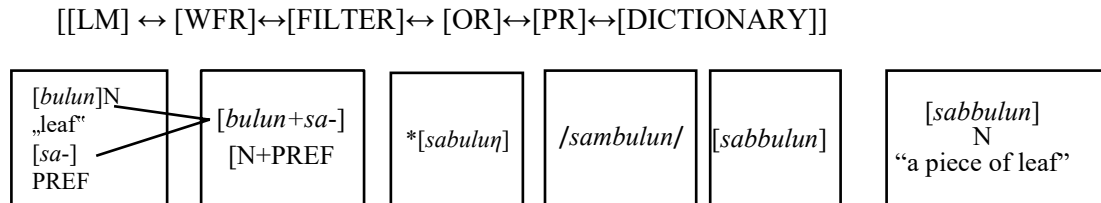
The affixation process of forming the word *sambulung*[sabbulun] can be seen in the following diagram.



The form \*[sabbulun] is unacceptable word in Toba Batak language because the filter contains the idiosyncratic properties of words, therefore, the form must be hailed and processed in „filter“ as shown below.

DeepStructure : \*#[*sa-*]PREF + [*buluŋ*]N#]N  
 : \**sa-* + [*buluŋ*]  
 : \**sabuluŋ*(unacceptable in Toba Bataklanguage) PhonemeAddition[*m*] : \**sa-* + [*m*] + [*buluŋ*]  
 : [*sa-* + *m* + *buluŋ*]  
 : [*sambuluŋ*] (acceptable in Toba Bataklanguage) SurfaceStructure  
 : *sambuluŋ*[*sabbuluŋ*] „a piece ofleaf“

After having been processed in „filter“and OR and PR are given the word *sambuluŋ*[*sabbuluŋ*] as acceptable word in Toba Batak language is sent to„dictionary“ and the dictionary saves it as presented below.

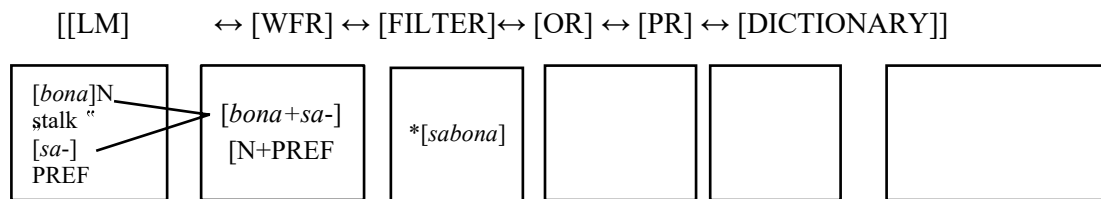


The processing steps of forming CW [*sabbuluŋ*] as N from the stem [*buluŋ*] as N as well is: [STEM]N + [*sa-*]PREF → [CW]N]. The process of forming CW [*sabbuluŋ*] from [*buluŋ*] in Toba Batak language can be analysed as follows: [STEM[*buluŋ*]N → [STEM[*buluŋ*]+ PREF[*sa-*]N] + ADDITION OF PHONEME [*m*]N → CW[*sabbuluŋ*]N].

The process of forming the word [*sabbuluŋ*] is inflectional process. CW [*sabbuluŋ*] consists of the stem [*buluŋ*] as free morpheme and PREF [*sa-*] as bound morpheme and additional phoneme [*m*]. The grammatical meaning of [*sabbuluŋ*] expresses „a piece of something as mentioned by the stem“. Whereas the lexical meaning of CW [*sambuluŋ*] is „a piece of leaf“.

(iii). [*sakkabona*]

The processing steps of forming the word *sangkabona*[*sakkabona*] is shown in the following diagram.

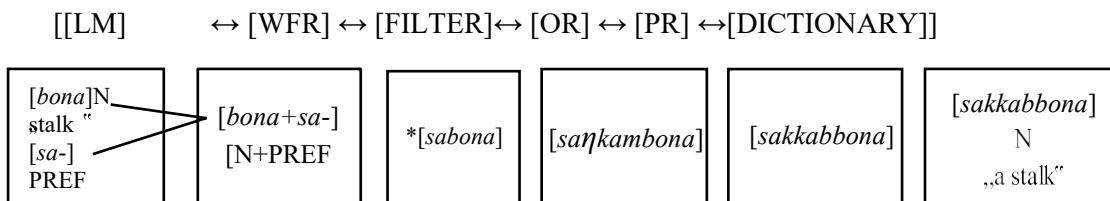


The form \**sabona*] is unacceptable word in Toba Batak language because the filter contains the idiosyncratic properties of words, therefore, it must be hailed to be processed in „filter“ as shown in the following part.

DeepStructure : \*#[*sa-*]PREF + [*bona*]N#]N  
 : \**sa-* + [*bona*]

language) PhonemeAddition[*ngka*]: \**sabona*(unacceptable in Toba Batak language)  
 : \**[sa-] + [ngka] + [bona]*  
 : *[sa- + ngka + bona]*  
 : *[sangkabona]* (acceptable in Toba Batak language)  
 SurfaceStructure : *sangkabona[sakkabona]* „onestalk“

The acceptable form of *sangkabona[sakkabona]* „one stalk“ is sent to „dictionary“ after OR and PR are given as shown below.



The diagram above can be explained as in the following: [STEM]N + [sa-]PRAF → [CW]N. The process of forming the word *[sakkabona]* from the stem *[bona]* in Toba Batak language can be analysed as follows: [STEM[*bona*]N → [STEM[*bona*] + PRAF[*sa*]N + PHONEME ADDITION [*ŋka*]N → CW[*sakkabona*]N].

The process of forming the word *[sakkabona]* is inflectional. The CW *[sakkabona]* consists of the stem *[bona]* as free morpheme and *[sa-]* as bound morpheme, and phoneme addition [*ngka*] as bound morpheme. Therefore, WFR results in *[sakkabona]* of which the grammatical meaning is expresses „one thing as mentioned by the stem“. The lexical meaning is *[sakkabona]* is “astalk“.

In other words PRAF [*sa-*] → [*saŋkam-*] if the initial phonemes of a stem are phonemes [*b*] and [*h*]; Based on the data collected, this form is very limited as shown in the following example:

[*sa-*]+[*bona*]N „stalk“ → /*sangkambona*/ [*sakkabona*]N „astalk“  
 [*sa-*] + [*hambirang*]N „left“ → /*sangkambirang*/ [*sakkabbirang*]N „hit once using left hand“

(iv). [*saddakka*]

: \**sadakka*(unacceptable in Toba Batak language) Phoneme  
 Addition[*n*] : \**[sa-] + [n] + [dakka]*  
 : *[sa- + n + dakka]*  
 : [*sandangka*] (acceptable in Toba Batak language)  
 SurfaceStructure : *sandangka[saddakka]* „onebranch“

The acceptable form of *sandangka[saddakka]* „one branch“ is sent to OR to be given orthographic rule and continued to PR for phonological rule. Furthermore, PR sends the words *sandangka[saddakka]* to dictionary to be saved. The process of forming the word *[saddakka]* from the stem [*dakka*] can be explained as follows: [STEM]N + [sa-]PRAF → [CW]N. In other words, it can be said that: [STEM[*dakka*]N → [STEM[*dakka*] + PRAF[*sa-*]N + PHONEME ADDITION [*n*]N → CW[*saddakka*]N].



Word formation of *[saddakka]* is inflectional because the attachment of PREF *[sa-]* to stem does not alter syntactic category. The grammatical meaning of *[saddakka]* states „one entity as mentioned by the stem“. Therefore, the lexical meaning of *[saddakka]* is „one branch“. Besides, PREF *[sa-]* → *[san-]* in Toba Batak language if the initial phoneme of the stems is *[s]* as presented below: *[sa-]* + *[sonduk]*N „spoon“ → *sansonduk* *[sassodduk]*N „a spoon of“

### 3. Infix [-ar-]

In Toba Batak language, INF [-ar-] forms new word as shown below. (v). *[darede]* The steps of



forming the word *darede* *[darede]* is described in the following diagram.

[[LM] ↔ [WFR] ↔ [FILTER] ↔ [OR] ↔ [PR] ↔ [DICTIONARY]]

“

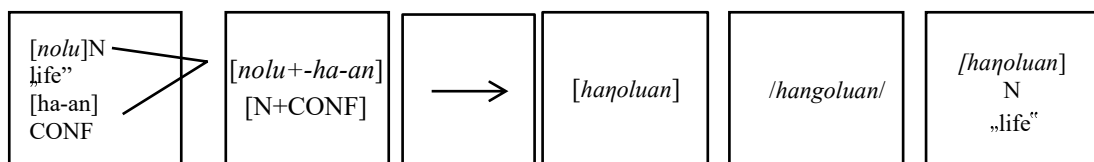
The processing steps of forming the word *[darede]* from *[dede]* is:  $[[\text{STEM}][\text{N}] + \text{INF}[-\text{ar-}][\text{N}] \rightarrow [\text{CW}][\text{N}]]$ . The rule can be analysed as:  $[\text{STEM}][\text{dede}][\text{N}] \rightarrow [\text{STEM}][\text{dede}] + \text{INF}[-\text{ar-}][\text{N}] \rightarrow \text{CW}[\text{darede}][\text{N}]$ . In other words, the N *[darede]* is formed from N *[dede]* attached with INF [- ar-]. The CW *[darede]* consists of *[dede]* as free morpheme and INF [- ar-] as bound morpheme, of which the grammatical meaning expresses „something like the stem“. Thus, the lexical meaning of *[darede]* is „saliva-like dripping from the mouth“.

### 4. Confix [ha-an]

CONF *[ha-an]* which is attached to nominal stem will generate nominal stem as well. Therefore, CONF *[ha-an]* is an inflectional affix as in the following example. (vi). *[hanoluan]*

The processing steps of forming the word *hanoluan* *[hanoluan]* is shown in the following diagram.

[[LM] ↔ [WFR] ↔ [FILTER] ↔ [OR] ↔ [PR] ↔ [DICTIONARY]]



The word *[hanoluan]* as a N derives from *[nolu]* as a N added with CONF *[ha-an]* N. The word formation can be analysed as:  $[\text{STEM}][\text{nolu}][\text{N}] \rightarrow [\text{STEM}][\text{nolu}] + \text{CONF}[\text{ha-an}][\text{N}] \rightarrow \text{CW}[\text{hanoluan}][\text{N}]$ . The process of forming the word *[hanoluan]* is inflectional because the attachment of CONF *[ha-an]* does not change syntactic category. The word *[hanoluan]* consists of *[nolu]* as free morpheme and CONF

[*ha-an*] as bound morpheme. The grammatical meaning of [*haŋoluan*] expresses „thing mentioned by the stem“. The lexical meaning of [*haŋoluan*] is „life“.

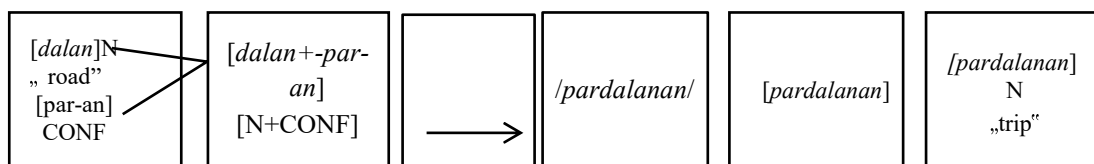
### 5. Confix[*par-an*]

Based on the data collected, CONF [*par-an*] in Toba Batak language has ability to be attached to nominal stem. The following part will discuss the attachment of CONF [*par-an*] to nominal stem.

(vii). [*pardalanan*]

The steps of forming the word *pardalanan*[*pardalanan*] can be seen in the following diagram:

[[LM] ↔ [WFR] ↔ [FILTER] ↔ [OR] ↔ [PR] ↔ [DICTIONARY]]



The processing steps of forming the word [*pardalanan*] from [*dalan*] is: [[STEM]N + CONF[*par-an*] → [CW]N]. The formula can be analysed as: [STEM[*dalan*]N → [STEM[*dalan*] + CONF[*par-an*]N] → CW[*pardalanan*]N].

The process is inflectional because the result of the affixation does not change word class. The grammatical meaning of the word [*pardalanan*] expresses „thing mentioned by the stem“ and the lexical meaning is „trip“.

### 6. Affix Combination[*pasi-*]

AC [*pasi-*] in Toba Batak language is inflectional when attached to nominal stems. The grammatical function of AC [*pasi-*] is to form noun. The following part is about the attachment of AC [*pasi-*] and the process of its attachment in morphemic construction as presented below.

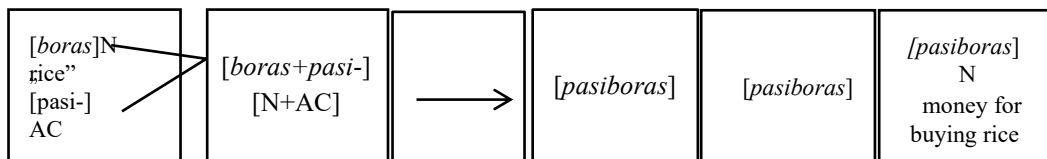
(viii). [*pasiboras*]

The form *pasiboras*[*pasiboras*] is processed by attaching AC [*pasi-*] to [*boras*] „rice“ as noun. The attachment of AC [*pasi-*] to free morpheme does not change word class. The word *pasiboras*[*pasiboras*] is formed in WFR. The word formation is:

DeepStructure : \*#[*pasi-*]AC + [*boras*]N#]N  
 : \* [*pasi-*] + [*boras*]

SurfaceStructure : *pasiboras*[*pasiboras*] „money for

buying rice“ [[LM] ↔ [WFR] ↔ [FILTER] ↔ [OR] ↔ [PR] ↔ [DICTIONARY]]



#### 4. Conclusions

Denominalnominals in Toba Batak language are found by attaching (1) PREF [*par-*], (2) PREF [*sa-*], (3) INF [*-ar-*], (4) CONF [*ha-an*], (5) CONF [*par-an*], and (6)AC)[*pasi-*]. Word formation processes using these affixes are inflectional because the results of the affixations do not change word class. The attachment of those affixes generate new grammatical and lexical meanings to the words modified. Idiosyncratic behavior of words is found phonologically in some word formations that is why such words must be processed in filter to generate acceptable words in Toba Batak language.

Despite its contribution to linguistic knowledge, this study has limitations in some aspects. Firstly, this study was conducted only to elaborate a generative transformational study of forming nouns from nouns. Besides, there are still many more issues to be studied due to word formation in Toba Batak language such as word formation from nouns to verbs, from verbs to nouns, from adjectives to nouns, etc. Therefore, it is suggested to other linguistic researchers to conduct more research on other linguistic issues.

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