

Simalungun's Syllable: Phonotactics Study

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ABSTRACT

Syllables are parts that need to be completed in phonotactics studies of a language. With phonotactics study of language, language researchers can determine syllable patterns of certain language. The purpose of this study is to describe syllable rules in Simalungun language. The method that is used in this study is descriptive qualitative by collecting data through observation, interview and literature review with using phonotactics theory initiated by O'Grady (1989). Based on the syllable analysis in Simalungun language, there are several syllable groups those are: syllable that consisting of one vowel (V), syllable that consisting of a vowel preceded and followed by a consonant (KV) or (VK), syllable that consisting of a vowel preceded and followed by one consonant (KVK). Words in Simalungun language consist of at least one syllable and the most is five syllables. Onset in Simalungun language consist 13 consonants, those are: b,d,g,j,k,l,m,n,p,r,s,t,ŋ. Nucleus in Simalungun language consist of 6 vowels, those are: a,i,u,e,o,Σ. Coda in Simalungun language consist of 11 consonants, those are: b,d,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,t and ŋ.

Keywords: syllable, phonotactics study, Simalungun, language.

INTRODUCTION

Every language has its own provisions relating to the rules of language, including the rules for forming syllables.

In language activities, the regulation on phonotactics studies can support the determination of syllabication systems in a language. Syllables are parts that need to be completed in phonotactics studies of a language. With phonotactics study of language, the language researcher can determine syllable patterns of certain language.

Syllable in every language has its own vowel which is the core of syllables, which can be preceded and followed by one consonant or more. Syllables are distinguished by open and closed syllables. The open syllable is a syllable that ends

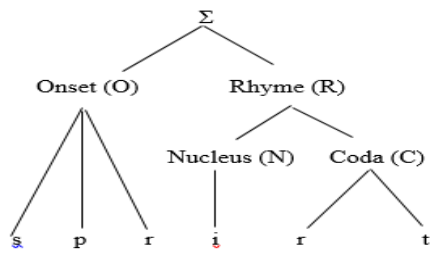
with vowel, while the closed syllable is a syllable that ends with consonant.

PHONOTACTICS THEORY

O'Grady et.al (1989:76-77) state that phonotactics is the set of constraints on how sequences of segment patterns, forms part of a speaker's knowledge of the phonology of his or her language.

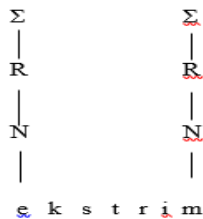
Syllables consist of two phonetic parts, those are:

1. Consonant that preceded a vowel called as Onset (O)
2. Rhyme (R) consist of two parts, those are:
 1. Core (Nucleus) or 'Peak' Hyman (1975:188)
 2. Consonant that following a vowels called as coda

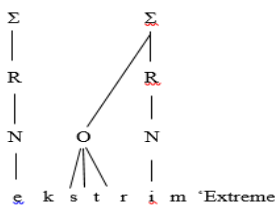


Describing the adulation in two syllables or more in the Simalungun language is guided by the four steps of O'Grady et.al (1989:79-80) opinion which says:

First step, because this syllable is a constituent that is mandatory for a syllable, so the first syllable is determined for each syllable which is usually vowel, and above each nucleus (N) symbol is place rhyme (R), and above each rhyme (r) is place a sigma (Σ) symbol for the syllable barrier.



Second step. The longest consonant to the left of each nucleus (N) that does not violate the phonotactics constraints of a language is called onset (O) of the syllable.

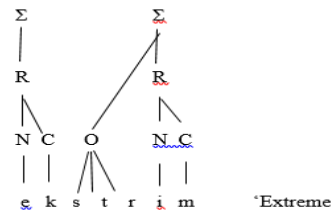


Third step. This means that each remaining consonant on the right nucleus (N) forms coda (C). This coda is combined with

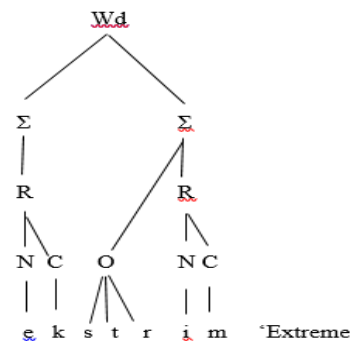
A. Syllables Number

Syllables Number	Word	Sound	Syllable Structure	Meaning
1	on	[on]	VK	this
1	in	[in]	VK	that
1	ho	[ho]	KV	you
1	ra	[ra]	KV	maybe
1	ham	[ham]	KVK	you
1	ban	[ban]	KVK	tire
1	dos	[dos]	KVK	same

syllable to the left in rhyme (R). The syllables that end with coda (C) in this case are called as closed syllables



Fourth step. Connect the two syllables to form word (Wd)



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative that aims to describe or explain the events objectively based on the data found in the field.

DISCUSSION

Syllable structure is a phoneme arrangement that is a part of word. Word in a language consists of one or more syllables. The syllables in Simalungun languages at least consist of one syllable and the most is five syllables. Syllable structure consists of V, VK, KV, and KVK. The following can be seen in the example below:

Table to be continued...				
1	bah	[bah]	KVK	water
1	roh	[roh]	KVK	come
1	sol	[sol]	KVK	will
2	asah	[asah]	V-KVK	sharpen
2	agas	[agas]	V-KVK	mosquito
2	udan	[udan]	V-KVK	rain
2	ulang	[ulan]	V-KVK	don't
2	ipon	[ipon]	V-KVK	teeth
2	inang	[inan]	V-KVK	mother
2	otam	[otam]	V-KVK	planer
2	onom	[onom]	V-KVK	six
2	etong	[Σton]	V-KVK	count
2	bayu	[bayu]	KV-KV	wicker
2	datu	[datu]	KV-KV	shaman
2	golang	[golan]	KV-KV	bracelet
2	gara	[gara]	KV-KV	light
2	hutu	[hutu]	KV-KV	flea
2	jagul	[jagul]	KV-KVK	corn
2	jabu	[jabu]	KV-KV	house
2	mata	[mata]	KV-KV	eye
2	soban	[soban]	KV-KVK	fire wood
2	sada	[sada]	KV-KV	one
2	tali	[tali]	KV-KV	rope
2	tuhor	[tuhor]	KV-KVK	bag
2	sasap	[sasap]	KV-KVK	erase
2	doras	[doras]	KV-KVK	heavy
2	begu	[begu]	KV-KV	tiger
2	garam	[garam]	KV-KVK	salt
2	boan	[bo ^o an]	KV-VK	bring
2	tulang	[tulan]	KV-KVK	uncle
2	jenges	[jenes]	KV-KVK	beautiful
2	nuan	[nu ^o an]	KV-VK	now
2	pitah	[pitah]	KV-KVK	only
2	suan	[suan]	KV-VK	plant
2	tambar	[tambar]	KVK-KVK	medicine
2	summah	[summah]	KVK-KVK	kiss
2	sombah	[sombah]	KVK-KVK	worship
2	mambur	[mambur]	KVK-KVK	spill
2	gurgur	[gurgur]	KVK-KVK	boil
3	andalu	[andalu]	VK-KV-KV	pestle
3	amboru	[amboru]	VK-KV-KV	aunt
3	indahan	[indahan]	VK-KV-KVK	aunt
3	ambilan	[ambilan]	VK-KV-KVK	sermon
3	insopan	[insopan]	VK-KV-KVK	cigarette
3	ontangan	[ontangan]	VK-KV-KVK	invitation
3	baliang	[baliang]	VK-KV-VK	dog
3	balanga	[balanga]	VK-KV-VK	cauldron
3	dalihan	[dalihan]	KV-KV-KVK	stove
3	garama	[garama]	KV-KV-KV	young man
3	hanami	[hanami]	KV-KV-KV	we
3	jambulan	[jambulan]	KVK-KV-KVK	hair
3	kulambu	[kulambu]	KV-KVK-KV	mosquito net
3	limbaga	[limbaga]	KVK-KV-KV	proverb
3	malala	[malala]	KV-KV-KVK	destroyed
3	palito	[palito]	KV-KV-KV	lamp
3	rumbia	[rumba ^a]	KVK-KV-KV	sago palm
3	sibahut	[sibahut]	KV-KV-KVK	catfish
3	sidea	[side ^a]	KV-KVK-KV	they
3	tarombo	[tarombo]	KV-KVK-KV	family tree
4	bajoraon	[bajora ^o on]	KV-KV-KV-VK	trauma
4	harajaon	[haraja ^o on]	KV-KV-KV-VK	kingdom
4	salimbubu	[salimbubu]	KV-KVK-KV-KV	crown
4	natimukmuk	[natimu ^o mu ^o]	KV-KV-KVK-KVK	caterpillars
5	halibitongan	[halibto ^o nan]	KV-KV-KV-KV-KVK	rainbow
5	solobayanon	[solobayanon]	KV-KV-KV-KV-KVK	buffalo disease

B. Syllable division based on onset, nucleus, and coda

In Simalungun language the syllable consist of onset, nucleus, and coda. The following can be seen in this example below:

Word	Sound	Onset (O), Nucleus (N), Coda (C)	Meaning
ban	[ban]	O-N-K	tire
rih	[rih]	O-N-K	weeds
roh	[roh]	O-N-K	come
sol	[sol]	O-N-K	will

a) The type of consonant which is onset in Simalungun language

Onset consist of consonant: b, d, g, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t and ŋ

Consonant Onset	Word	Sound	Meaning
b	balanga	[balanja]	stove
d	datu	[datu]	shaman
g	galuh	[galuh]	banana
j	jabu	[jabu]	house
k	kahou	[kahow]	lost
l	lamlam	[lamlam]	gentle
m	mata	[mata]	eye
n	narnar	[narnar]	live coals
P	padar	[padar]	grilled
r	raja	[raja]	king
s	sahap	[sahap]	word
t	tangis	[tangis]	cry
ŋ	nganga	[ŋanja]	open

b) The type of vowel which is nucleus in Simalungun language

Nucleus consist of: a, i, u, Σ, e dan o

Vowel Nucleus	Word	Sound	Meaning
a	masa	[masa]	season
i	igung	[igun]	nose
u	hiuta	[huta]	village
Σ	etek	[Σtek]	small
e	megah	[megah]	happy
O	malo	[malo]	clever

c) The type consonant which is coda in Simalungun language

Coda consist of: /b/, /d/, /g/, /h/, /k/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /p/, /r/, /s/, dan /t/

Consonant Coda	Word	Sound	Meaning
b	arbab	[arbab]	the name of a musical instrument
d	bagod	[bagod]	palm
g	dolog	[dolog]	hill
h	babah	[babah]	mouth
k	laklak	[laklak]	tree bark
l	jagul	[jagul]	corn
m	sulim	[sulim]	flute
n	dalihan	[dalihan]	stove
p	ahap	[ahap]	feel
ŋ	habang	[haban]	fly
t	harat	[harat]	bite

CONCLUSION

1. The syllabication in Simalungun language basically consist of:

a) The syllable consist of one vowel (V)

- b) The syllable consist of one vowel which preceded and followed by one consonant (KV) or (VK)
 - c) The syllable consist of one vowel which preceded and followed by one consonant (KVK)
2. Word in Simalungun language consist at least one syllable and the most is five syllables
 3. Onset in Simalungun language consist of 13 consonants, those are: b, d, g, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, ŋ
 4. Nucleus in Simalungun language consist of 6 vowels, those are: a, i, u, e, o, Σ
 5. Coda in Simalungun language consist of 11 consonants, those are: b, d, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, t, and ŋ

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