

# Syntactic Coordination of Compound Sentences Found in Sasaknese Children's Books

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## ABSTRAK

**Abstrak:** Penelitian sintaksis generatif kualitatif ini mengkaji jenis-jenis koordinasi dalam kalimat majemuk setara yang ditemukan dalam dua buku cerita anak berbahasa Sasak yang berjudul *Nyale leq Tian Manusie* dan *Dende Mirah Buaq Ate Kembang Mate*. Analisis dilakukan dengan menggunakan teori dari Quirk dan Greenbaum dan teori X-bar Chomsky untuk menelaah struktur sintaktis klausa. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bahasa Sasak memiliki koordinasi sindetik, ditandai oleh konjungsi seperti laguq 'tetapi', dait 'dan', dan terus 'sehingga', serta koordinasi asindetik yang direalisasikan melalui penjajaran klausa dengan tanda koma (,). Analisis X-bar menunjukkan bahwa setiap klausa terkoordinasi memproyeksikan Frasa Konjungsi sebagai inti dari Frasa Infleksional menegaskan kesetaraan sintaktis antar klausa.

**Abstract:** This qualitative generative syntactic study investigates the types of coordination in compound sentences found in Sasaknese children's books *Nyale leq Tian Manusie* and *Dende Mirah Buaq Ate Kembang Mate*. The analysis applies Quirk and Greenbaum's classification of coordination and employs Chomsky's X-bar theory to examine the syntactic structures of coordinated clauses. The findings show that Sasaknese employs both syndetic coordination, marked by conjunctions such as laguq 'but', dait 'and', and terus 'so', and asyndetic coordination, which is realized through clause juxtaposition marked by commas. X-bar analysis demonstrates that each coordinated clause independently projects an Conjunction Phrase (ConjP) as the head of IPs, confirming syntactic equality within coordination.



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## A. INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is the scientific study of language and encompass several interrelated subfields, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics (Wiguna et al., 2021). Among these branches, syntax focuses on sentence structure and the principles governing how words are combined into larger grammatical units. It examines sentence patterns, hierarchical relations, and grammatical functions that enable speakers to produce and interpret well-formed sentences (Chomsky, 1957; Chomsky & Halle, 1968). Language serves as the primary medium of human

communication in both spoken and written forms (Wiguna et al., 2021). In communication, sentences play a central role because they convey complete ideas. A sentence is commonly defined as a word or a group of words containing at least a subject and a predicate that expresses a complete meaning (Therendy et al., 2024). Based on structural complexity, sentences are classified into simple and multiple sentences. A simple sentence contains only one independent clause, whereas a multiple sentence consists of more than one clause.

Multiple sentences are further classified as compound or complex sentences. A compound sentence consists of two or more independent

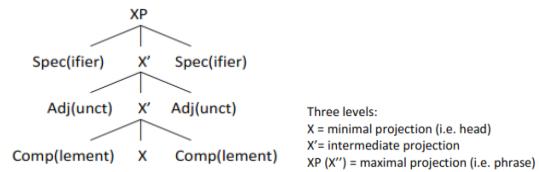
clauses that are syntactically coordinated, while a complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses (Winarta et al., 2022; Fadhilah, 2022). In compound sentences, each clause has equal grammatical status and can stand alone as a complete sentence. These clauses are commonly linked by coordinating conjunctions such as for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so, although punctuation and conjunctive adverbs may also function as coordinating devices (Quirk et al., 1982).

Quirk and Greenbaum distinguish coordination into two major types: syndetic and asyndetic coordination. Syndetic coordination involves the explicit use of coordinating conjunctions, whereas asyndetic coordination relies on punctuation or intonation without an overt coordinator. Both types are essential for understanding how compound sentences maintain syntactic balance between clauses. Syndetic coordination is used to bridge sentences with conjunctions like for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so. To show contrast between the first and the second clause, the sentence below uses coordinate and to bridge the sentence (1). Furthermore, asyndetic coordination typically bridges sentences with commas (,) or semicolons (;). To show contrast between the first and the second clause, the sentence below uses a semicolon (;) and comma (,) to bridge the sentence (2) as following (Quirk et al., 1982):

- (1) John plays the guitar, **and** his sister plays the piano.
- (2) John plays the guitar; his sister, moreover, plays the piano.

From a theoretical perspective, compound sentence structures can be effectively analyzed using X-bar theory, a generative syntactic framework introduced by Chomsky (Chomsky, 1970; Chomsky, 1957). X-bar theory proposes that all phrases share a common structural pattern consisting of a head, its complements, and optional specifiers or adjuncts. This theory emphasizes the hierarchical structure and endocentricity, making it particularly useful for analyzing coordination across languages (Subiyanto, 2014).

The tree diagram below shows that Specifier, Adjunct, and Complement are placed at different levels as shown from the category or the projection of the mother node and the sister node (Dalrymple, 2001; Falk, 2001).



**Picture 1.** The tree diagram of X-Bar theory

The principle of X-bar theory is that each phrase structure is endocentric, meaning it contains a central head. This concept applies to both lexical categories, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, as well as to functional categories such as complementizers, finite auxiliaries, and determiners (Bresnan et al., 2016; Dalrymple, 2001; Falk, 2001).

An X-bar structure is composed of projections of heads selected from the lexicon. In the X-bar theory, each category serves as the head of its maximal projection, or phrase. In other words, a phrase is the maximum projection of a head (Chomsky, 1965; Chomsky & Halle, 1968; Dalrymple, 2001).

In later generative theory, the traditional sentence (S) node is replaced by the Inflectional Phrase (IP) (Chomsky, 1957). Moreover, tense is dominated by the functional category INFL, which appears as the I node in tree diagrams (Rahmah & Subiyanto, 2024). This replacement allows a more explicit representation of tense and agreement in syntactic structures.

Previous research on syntactic coordination has predominantly concentrated on English-language texts and learners' written production. Several studies have analyzed sentence patterns and types of coordination in online reviews, novels, and song lyrics by employing the coordination framework proposed by Quirk and Greenbaum, supported by syntactic tree diagrams based on Brown and Miller's theory (Wiguna et al., 2021; Sugiantara et al., 2022; Winarta et al., 2022; Therendy et al., 2024). Other studies have adopted a pedagogical orientation, focusing on university students' abilities and difficulties in constructing compound sentences using coordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs, and punctuation (Fatimah et al., 2020; Fadhilah, 2022). Although these studies contribute valuable insights into compound sentence coordination, they are largely limited to adult-oriented genres and instructional contexts. Furthermore, children's literature has received minimal attention as a distinct syntactic domain, and local languages remain underrepresented in

syntactic research. Consequently, empirical studies examining the syntactic coordination of compound sentences in Sasaknese children's books are remain limited, highlighting a significant gap that the present study seeks to fill.

Despite extensive research on coordination in major languages such as English, syntactic studies on regional languages remain limited (Hijriati, 2016; Hijriati, 2024; Hijriati et al., 2025). Previous research has primarily addressed phonological (Arafiq et al., 2020; Langkawi et al., 2020) and morphological aspects of the language (Mahyuni & Ahmadi, 2019), while formal syntactic analyses of compound sentence coordination using X-bar theory are still underrepresented. Children's books written in Sasaknese provide naturally occurring and pedagogically relevant linguistic data, yet they have received little scholarly attention in syntactic research.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the types of coordination in compound sentences found in Sasaknese children's books *Nyale leq Tian Manusie* and *Dende Mirah Buaq Ate Kembang Mate*. This study seeks (1) to identify the types of coordination based on Quirk and Greenbaum's classification and (2) to examine the syntactic structures of these compound sentences using X-bar theory. The findings are expected to enrich the syntactic documentation of Sasaknese and demonstrate the applicability of generative syntax to underrepresented languages.

## B. METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research design with an observational approach. The analysis focused on compound sentences containing coordinated independent clauses. The data were collected from two Sasaknese children's books, *Nyale leq Tian Manusie* by Wasilatul Jannah and *Dende Mirah Buaq Ate Kembang Mate* by Yulia Isfandiari Mahardhan (Jannah, 2022; Mahardhan, 2022).

The two Sasaknese children's books were selected because they are written entirely in Sasaknese and provide grammatically complete sentences within narrative contexts for kindergarten and elementary school learners. As children's literature, these texts employ relatively simple yet natural sentence structures, making them suitable for identifying and analyzing compound sentences and coordination patterns. In addition, both books

are widely used in local educational contexts, which enhances their relevance as representative samples of contemporary written in Sasaknese.

The types of coordination were identified using Quirk and Greenbaum' classification of coordination (Quirk et al., 1982). Furthermore, the syntactic structures of the compound sentences were analyzed using Chomsky's X-bar theory (Chomsky, 1957). Each clause was examined to determine its phrase structure and syntactic relations within the coordination conjunctions.

## C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Types of Coordination of Compound Sentences in Sasaknese

Based on the data taken from *Nyale leq Tian Manusie* and *Dende Mirah Buaq Ate Kembang Mate*, two main types of coordination are identified: syndetic coordination and asyndetic coordination.

#### a. Syndetic Coordination

Syndetic coordination is marked by the presence of a coordinating conjunction. In Sasaknese, the coordinators *laguq* 'but', *dait* 'and', and *terus* 'so' frequently appear to link two independent clauses. This is illustrated in the following sentences as *laguq* 'but' in (3), (4), (5), and (6), *dait* 'and' in (7) and (8), and *terus* 'so' in (9) and (10). These conjunctions function similarly to English coordinating conjunctions, maintaining syntactic equality between clauses.

(3) *Lika be-rusahe ngonong laguq awak=ne*

NAME try N-swim CONJ body=POSS

*kalah siq umbak.*

lost PREP wave

'Lika tried to swim but her body was hit by the huge wave.'

(4) *Lika leger laguq penasaran siq epe suare.*

NAME nervous CONJ curious PREP own voice

'Lika was scared but curious of whose voice it was.'

(5) *Pengirup-an leq ke-datu-an Kendang Sari*

living PREP kingdom Kedang Sari

*makmur dait molah, laguq leq musim*

prosperous CONJ easy, CONJ PREP season

*balit keadaan jari ber-ubah.*

famine situation get change

'Life in the Kendang Sari kingdom was prosperous until the dry season arrived.'

(6) *Dende Mirah lapah mele=ne mangan, laguq girl NAME hungry MOD=3S N.eat, CONJ inaq Ayub ndeq=ne be-doe nasiq dait kandoq. mother NAME NEG=3S rice CONJ vegetable*  
 'Dende Mirah is starving, but Mrs. Ayub doesn't have anything to eat.'

(7) *Ke-datu-an sine ie sugih dait rakyat=ne kingdom DET 3-S rich CONJ people=POSS makmur sejahtere. prosperous peace*  
 'His kingdom is extremely wealthy and his people lives in prosperity and peace.'

(8) *Pegaweane be-kedek doang dait mele=ne work=3S play only CONJ MOD=3S kaken kaken-an siq maiq-maiq. eat snack PREP delicious=RED*  
 'She does nothing but plays and eats tasty meals all day long.'

(9) *Lika towes terus ne be-gitaq kiri-kanan. NAME get up CONJ 3-S see left-right*  
 'Lika got up and looked around.'

(10) *Awak=ne ber-idap sakit, terus ie nangis body=POSS feel sick, CONJ 3-S N-cry mete dengen toaq=ne. N-search people old=POSS*  
 'She cried out for her parents as her body feels ill.'

### b. Asyndetic Coordination

Asyndetic coordination occurs when two independent clauses are juxtaposed without an explicit coordinating conjunction. This type of coordination is typically marked by commas (,) or semicolons (;) or intonation in spoken language. The data as seen in the following (11), (12), (13), (14), and (15) demonstrate that Sasaknese employs asyndetic coordination to express contrast, sequence, and cause-effect relations.

(11) *Lika ke-pesik jok lauq, Amaq lika kance NAME PASS-PREP south, father NAME PREP sampan=ne jok daye.*

boat=POSS PREP north  
 'The waves carried Likas southward, while her father and the boat headed north.'

(12) *Lika milu lampaq jok aiq segare, NAME accompany walk PREP water sea, nurut-an longe-longe saq wah=ne icaq. N-follow worm=RED REL PERF=3S step*  
 'Lika walked to the beach, following the sea worm she had unintentionally stepped on earlier.'

(13) *Longe pade nge-lewe jok awaq Lika, worm all crawl PREP body NAME, begegek leq awaq Lika. tickle PREP body NAME*  
 'The sea worms tickled Lika as they climbed up her body.'

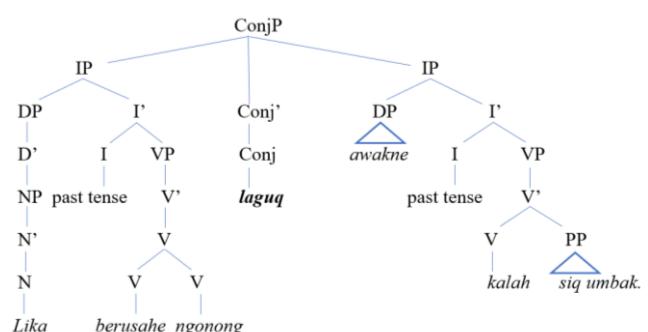
(14) *Lika cemoh, amaq=ne tetu dateng. NAME happy, father=POSS real come*  
 'Lika is overjoyed to see her father.'

(15) *Terus te-kelek Dende Mirah, PREP PASS-call girl NAME, te-suruk=ne sugul. PASS-ask=3S come out*  
 'Mirah was called and told to come outside.'

## 2. X-bar Analysis of Sasaknese Compound Sentences

In X-bar theory, each phrase is endocentric and projects a maximal phrase from its head. This principle applies to both lexical and functional categories (Dalrymple, 2001; Falk, 2001). In coordinated structures, each clause independently projects an IP, and these IPs are joined under a Conjunction Phrase (ConjP).

(16) *Lika berusahe ngonong laguq awakne kalah siq umbak.*



Picture 1. The tree diagram of Sasaknese syndetic coordination

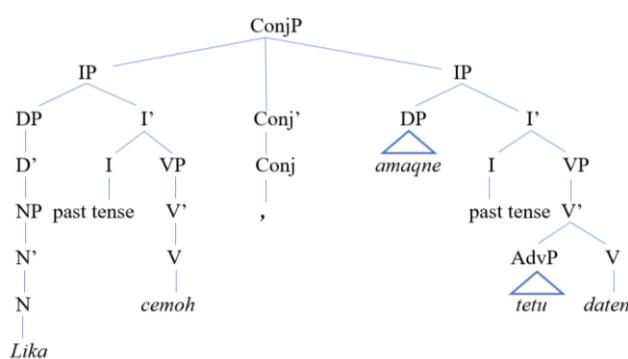
The sentence (16), *Lika berusahe ngonong laguq awakne kalah siq umbak* 'Lika tried to swim but her body was hit by the huge wave', shows that the construction is a compound sentence formed through coordination. This is shown by the presence of two syntactically independent clauses, each projecting its own Inflectional Phrase (IP), linked by the head Conj Phrase coordinating conjunction *laguq* 'but'.

At the highest level, the structure is dominated by a Conjunction Phrase (ConjP), with *laguq* 'but' as its head (Conj'). The conjunction connects two IPs of equal syntactic status, confirming that neither clause is subordinate to the other.

The first IP consists of a subject DP *Lika*, and an I' encoding past tense with a VP headed by serial verbs construction *berusahe* 'try' *ngonong* 'swim'.

The second IP parallels this structure, with the subject DP *awakne* 'her body', and past tense marking in I', followed by a VP headed by *kalah* 'lose' and the PP *siq umbak* 'to the waves' as adjunct. These findings confirm that coordination operates at the IP level and that X-bar theory adequately captures the syntactic structure of the sentence.

(17) *Lika cemoh, amaqne tetu dateng.*



**Picture 3.** The tree diagram of Sasaknese asyndetic coordination

The X-bar analysis of sentence (17), *Lika cemoh, amaqne tetu dateng* 'Lita is overjoyed to see her father', indicates that the construction is a compound sentence formed through asyndetic coordination. Unlike syndetic coordination, no overt lexical conjunction is present; instead, the

relationship between the two clauses is signaled by (,) a comma, which functions as a marker of coordination at the phonological and orthographic levels.

The first IP consists of the subject DP *Lika*, and an I' encoding past tense, with a VP headed by the predicate *cemoh* 'is overjoyed'.

The second IP mirrors this structure, containing the subject DP *amaqne* 'her father', past tense in I', and a VP headed by *dateng* 'come' which is modified by the adverbial phrase *tetu* 'truly'. These findings show that asyndetic coordination operates at the IP level and is fully compatible with X-bar theory.

The clauses in sentence (17) are connected by a comma (,) rather than an overt conjunction, making this an example of asyndetic coordination. Each clause independently projects a full IP, showing that neither is subordinate. The comma signals coordination, linking the clauses while maintaining their syntactic equality.

## D. CONCLUSION

This study analyzed the syntactic coordination of compound sentences in Sasaknese children's books *Nyale leq Tian Manusie* and *Dende Mirah Buaq Ate Kembang Mate* using Quirk and Greenbaum's classification of coordination and Chomsky's X-bar theory. The findings show that Sasaknese employs both syndetic coordination, primarily marked by the conjunction *laguq* 'but', *dait* 'and', *terus* 'so' and asyndetic coordination by a comma (,).

The X-bar analysis demonstrates that each clause in a compound sentence projects an independent maximal phrase, confirming the principle of syntactic equality in coordination. In addition, the study reveals that determiners and possessive markers in Sasaknese function as syntactic heads, with demonstratives appearing either before or after the noun. These results support the applicability of X-bar theory to the analysis of Sasaknese and contribute to the formal syntactic description of this local language.

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