



The Interrogative Sentence in English and Buton Tomia Language

Nur Syamsiyah Ekhsan^{a, 1*}, Rifanti^{b, 2}

^a IKIP Muhammadiyah Maumere, Indonesia

¹ rifantitanti0@gmail.com*

*korespondensi penulis

Informasi artikel

Received: 27 April 2022;

Revised: 12 Mei 2022;

Accepted: 20 Mei 2022.

Kata-kata kunci:

Interrogative Sentence;

Buton Tomia Language.

ABSTRAK

This research has analyzed some differences of interrogative sentences in English and Buton Tomia language in order to contribute positively in language learning and teaching. Researcher used qualitative methods. Data in this research obtained by using literature study and interview. The results of the analysis found that the similarities between interrogative sentences in English and Buton Tomia is that each sentence uses a subject, verb, and object. While the difference in the form of interrogative sentences in English and Buton Tomia is that each interrogative sentence (yes/no question) in English begins with an auxiliary verb in the Buton Tomia language does not use auxiliary verbs and the form of interrogative sentence (yes/no question) in the Buton Tomia language.

ABSTRACT

Keywords:

Kalimat Tanya;

Bahasa Buton Tomia.

Kalimat Tanya dalam Bahasa Inggris dan Bahasa Buton Tomia. Penelitian ini telah menganalisis beberapa perbedaan kalimat tanya dalam bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Buton Tomia agar dapat memberikan kontribusi positif dalam pembelajaran dan pengajaran bahasa. Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data dalam penelitian ini diperoleh dengan menggunakan studi kepustakaan dan wawancara. Hasil analisis menemukan bahwa persamaan antara kalimat tanya dalam bahasa Inggris dan Buton Tomia adalah bahwa setiap kalimat menggunakan subjek, kata kerja, dan objek. Sedangkan perbedaan bentuk kalimat tanya dalam bahasa Inggris dan Buton Tomia adalah setiap kalimat tanya (kalimat tanya Ya/Tidak) dalam bahasa Inggris diawali dengan kata kerja bantu dalam bahasa Buton.

Copyright © 2022 (Nur Syamsiyah Ekhsan & Rifanti). All Right Reserved

How to Cite : Ekhsan, N. S., & Rifanti. (2023). The Interrogative Sentence in English and Buton Tomia Language. *Rhizome : Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Humaniora*, 3(1), 9–16. Retrieved from <https://journal.actual-insight.com/index.php/rhizome/article/view/1098>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). Allows readers to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of its articles and allow readers to use them for any other lawful purpose. The journal hold the copyright.

Introduction

Daily communication generally takes place in the form of dialogs, and the interrogative and declarative sentences are the dominant forms of sentences in the dialogs. In terms of this, interrogative sentences hold a very important function in the language and communication system. An interrogative sentence is one type of sentence, this interrogative sentence is used by people to ask for answers or explanations from others to understand something. Interrogative sentences are used to elicit information that may or may not be known to the questioner to either seek for information or for clarification of what has already been uttered (Mayasari, 2020). Questions can also be used by people to get information from other people. In line with this understanding, interrogative sentences are types of sentences that contain questions that are intended to get responses or answers from other people. Not only asked to others, interrogative sentences are also often asked to ourselves to find answers that we are not sure of the truth.

Interrogative sentence is used in communication involving a second person in a dialogue in the form of question and answer. Konig and Siemund (2007) assert that interrogative sentences are conventionally associated with the speech act of requesting information. Interrogative sentence is an important part in our daily life, because most of the communications happen in asking and answering questions. Commonly, how people express the question is different in each language, so that it can be said that the interrogative sentence structure is different between one language to another language.

Language reflects the culture and society of a region. It is also used as a means of interaction between tribes, cultures, and religions so that the role of language is considered essential for society's sustainability. Therefore, preserving culture, in terms of language, is very important for future generations (Iye, 2022). The Buton Tomia language is the regional language used by the Tomia people in Wakatobi district, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. And on this occasion the researcher will examine the form of interrogative sentences in the Tomia language which is also used by the people of Koja Doi, East Nusa Tenggara. The people of Koja Doi come from Buton Tomia who have lived on the island of Koja Doi since 1917. The people of Koja Doi use the Buton Tomia language as their daily language. The position of the Buton Tomia language is very important in the life of the Koja Doi people because the dominant community still uses their mother tongue.

Theoretically, it is expected that the result of this research will provide the theory of pragmatics, particularly the theory of function of interrogative sentences. In the other hand, practically, the results of this research may be used as a comparison by the future researcher for the subsequent research projects and as a consideration for preparing teaching materials for the subject of Indonesian in the educational field. It is expected that knowledge about the diversity of the forms and functions of Indonesian interrogative sentences make us aware that Indonesian is not a monolithic system, but rather a social phenomenon that intrinsically contains variations to reflect on the diversity of human nature and the speakers of Indonesian (Lindawati, 2016).

Research Method

This research is qualitative descriptive research. According to (Moh. Nazir, 2011) descriptive research is a method in examining the status of a group of humans, object, condition, system of thinking, or events on present time. (Nassaji, 2015) asserts qualitative research, however, is more holistic and often involves a rich collection of data from various sources to gain a deeper understanding of individual participants, including their opinions, perspectives, and attitudes. The research objective used to describe or explain accurately, systematically the facts in a phenomenon researched. This research use descriptive methods that are closely related to characteristics of natural settings. Descriptive method always used with the consideration that this study focuses on the characteristics and nature of language naturally as well as the reality of language as it is empirically still alive in the use of the language concerned. The data collected by interview and study document. The data analyzed through 4 steps,

namely (1) data collection, (2) data condensation, (3) data display, and (4) conclusion drawing / verification.

Research Findings and Discussions

In this discussion, the researcher explains the form of (yes/no question) in English and Buton Tomia language, as well as explains the similarities and differences between these two sentences. Here's the discussion :

Tabel 1. Simple present tense

Does	your father	go	to office	every day
Aux verb	S	V1	Object of preposition	Adverb of time
Ama'u	nolako	ka'i	ka kantoro	inu moina?
S	V	Question particle	Object	Adverb of time

In the English simple present tense interrogative sentence begins with the word no, followed by the subject, first form of verb (V1), object of preposition, and adverb of time, the word "does" in the English interrogative sentence is an auxiliary verb. Whereas in Buton Tomia, it begins with a subject, a verb, a question particle, an object, and an adverb of time.

The similarity between these two forms of sentences is that they use the subject, verb, object, and adverb. The difference between the two interrogative sentences is that in Buton Tomia uses question particles, while in English they do not use particle questions. As (Ratna, 2020) said that some languages in the world have particles with their respective functions. In interrogative sentences, English uses auxiliary verbs while Buton Tomia language does not use Auxiliary verbs.

Tabel 2. Present continuous tense

Is	he	talking	with his classmates	right now?
To Be	S	Verb-ing	Object	Adverb of time
Nopobisara	ka'i	nai'ia	ke kene sakalasio	
Verb	Question particle	S	Object	

In the present continuous tense interrogative sentence in English at the beginning of the sentence using the word is, followed by the subject, the third form of the verb (V3), object, and adverb. The word "is" in this sentence is an auxiliary verb. While in the interrogative sentences Buton Tomia at the beginning of the sentence, the subject is used followed by the question particle, object and verb.

The similarity of the two forms of interrogative sentences is respectively use a verb, subject, and object. The difference between the two forms of interrogative sentences is that in English interrogative sentences do not use question particles, while in Buton Tomia they use question particles. Interrogative in Buton Tomiya do not use an auxiliary verb, while English uses an auxiliary verb at the beginning of the sentence.

Tabel 3. Present Perfect Tense

Has	Lina	worked	in office?
Aux Verb	S	V3	Object
Wa Lina	nokumarja	ka'i	di kantoro?
S	V	Q Particle	Object

In the present perfect tense interrogative sentence at the beginning of the English sentence using the word had, followed by the subject, the third form of the verb (V3), object, and adverb. While the interrogative sentence on the Buton Tomia at the beginning of the sentence uses the subject, question particle, verb, object, and adverb.

The similarities between these two forms of sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, an object, and an adverb. Meanwhile, the difference is that Buton Tomia language uses Question particles, while interrogative sentences in English do not use question particles. In English interrogative sentences use auxiliary verbs while in Buton Tomia does not use auxiliary verbs.

Tabel 4. Present perfect Continuous Tense

Have	they	been	helping	your sister
Aux verb	S	been	V -ing	Object
Amai	notumulu'emo	ka'i	na	pale nu hue u?
S	V	Q particle		Object

In the present perfect continuous tense in English, at the beginning of the sentence use the words have follow the subject, to be, verb-ing, and object. The word "Have" as an auxiliary verb. While in Buton Tomia it begins with a subject, a verb, a question particle and an object.

The similarity between the two forms of interrogative sentences is respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. Meanwhile, the difference is that interrogative sentences in English use an auxiliary verb, while in Buton Tomia language they do not use an auxiliary verb. Auxiliary verbs are among the grammatical elements that play crucial roles in the construction of grammatical units particularly clauses and sentences. They (auxiliaries) sometimes require the presence of lexical verbs to function within verbal groups; however, that does not deny their significance as grammatical sentence elements. Despite their syntactic dependency, auxiliary verbs enjoy high frequency as far as the use of sentence elements is concerned (Fema et al., 2020). The interrogative sentence in Buton Tomia language uses question particle, while in English it does not use question particle.

Tabel 5. Simple Past Tense

Did	my uncle	cook	deliciousfish	yesterday?
AuxVerb	S	V2	Object	Adverb of time
amauresu	sumaimanga	ka'i	te kenta	numamindeu dinggawi
S	V	Q particle	Object	Adverb

In interrogative sentences, the English past tense at the beginning of the sentence uses the word *did* followed by the subject, the second form of the verb (V2), the object, and the adverb of time. The word "Did" in this interrogative sentence is an auxiliary verb. Meanwhile, in the form of interrogative sentences in the Buton Tomia language, at the beginning of the sentence, the subject, verb, question particle, and object are used.

The similarities between these two forms of sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. The difference is that in the interrogative sentence, Buton Tomia uses a question particle, while in English it does not use a question particle. The English interrogative sentence begins with an auxiliary verb, while the Buton Tomia question does not use an auxiliary verb.

Tabel 6. Past Continuous Tense

Was	she	Walking	home?
Aux verb	S	V -ing	Adverb of place
Nowaliakomo	ka'i	na	ia?
V	Q particle	Subject	

In interrogative sentences the English past continuous tense begins with the word was followed by the subject, verb-ing, and object. Meanwhile, in the interrogative sentence, the Buton Tomia begins with a verb, a question particle and a subject.

The similarities between these two forms of sentences are respectively use a subject and a verb. The difference is that in the interrogative form, Buton Tomia does not use an auxiliary verb, while in English it uses an auxiliary verb. Buton Tomia language uses Question particle while in English it doesn't use question particle.

Tabel 7. Past Perfect Tense

Had	my mother slept before I come?		
Auxverb	S	V3	Object
Nomoturu	ka'i	na ina su	mea ka'ihoku mai?
V	Q particle	S	Object

In interrogative sentences, the past perfect tense in English begins with the word Had, followed by the subject, the third form of the verb (V3) and the object. The word "Had" in this sentence is an auxiliary verb. While the interrogative sentence in the Buton Tomia language begins with a verb followed by a question particle, subject and object.

What the two forms of interrogative have in common is that respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. The difference is that in the form of interrogative sentences, English does not use question particles, while Buton Tomia language uses question particles. The form of interrogative sentences in English uses an auxiliary verb, while the Buton Tomia language does not use an auxiliary verb.

Tabel 8. Past Perfect Continuous Tens

Had	you	been	watching	TV	all day?
Aux verb	S	Tobe	V-ing	Object	Adverb
U	sumi'in	si'imo	ka'i	te TV	mia asamoina'e?
S	V	QP	Objekt	Adverb	

In the past perfect continuous tense in English, it begins with the word Had, followed by subject, been, verb-ing, and object. The words "Had" and "Been" are formulas for past perfect continuous tense sentences. Meanwhile, in the interrogative sentence form, Buton Tomia language begins with a subject, a verb, a question particle, and an object.

The similarities between the two forms of interrogative sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. The difference is that in the form of interrogative sentences, Buton Tomia language uses question particles while English does not use question particles. The form of interrogative sentences in English uses an auxiliary verb, while in Buton Tomia it does not use an auxiliary verb.

Tabel 9. Simple Future Tense

Will	she go to Surabaya?		
Auxverb	S	V	Adverb
No Uminte	ka	Surabaya	ka'i?
S	V	Adverb of place	Q particle

In an interrogative sentence, simple future tense in English begins with the word will followed by the subject, verb, and adverb. The word "will" in this sentence is a form of auxiliary verb. Meanwhile,

in the form of interrogative sentences, the Buton Tomia language begins with a verb, a question particle, and a subject.

The similarity of the two forms of interrogative sentences is respectively use a subject and a verb. The difference is in the form of interrogative sentences in English using an auxiliary verb while in Buton Tomia it does not use an auxiliary verb. The form of interrogative sentences in the Buton Tomia language uses question particles, while in the form of interrogative sentences in English it does not use question particles.

Tabel 10. Future Continuous Tense

Wii	she	be	working	tomorrow	morning?
Auxverb	S	be	V-ing	Adverb of time	
Di'ia	nakumarja	ka'i	dilange rea-rea?		
S	V	Q particle	Adverb of time		

In interrogative sentences the English future continuous tense begins with will followed by subject, be, verb-ing, and adverb of time. While the interrogative sentence form Buton Tomia begins with the subject, verb, question particle, and adverb.

The similarity of these two forms of interrogative sentences is that they each use a subject, a verb, and an adverb. The difference is that in English it does not use question particles, while in Buton Tomia uses Question particles. In Buton Tomia language does not use an auxiliary verb while English uses an auxiliary verb.

Tabel 11. Future Perfect Tense

Will	they	have	gone to work	by 9 am?	
Auxverb	S	To have	V3	Adverb of time	
I'amai	nokumarja	ka'i	di rambi kesia?		
Auxverb	V	Q particle	Adverb of time		

In interrogative sentences the English future perfect tense begins with the word will followed by the subject, have, the third form of the verb (V3), the object and the adverb. The word "will" as an auxiliary verb. Meanwhile in Buton Tomia it begins with a verb, question particle, subject, and adverb.

The similarities between these two forms of sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. The difference is that in English interrogative sentences, Auxiliary verbs are used, while Buton Tomia language is not using Auxiliary verbs. The form of interrogative sentences in Buton Tomia language uses question particle while English does not use question particle.

Tabel 12. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Will	she	have been	studying math?		
Auxverb	S	To have been	V-ing	Object	
No	sisinga	ka'i	te matematika?		
S	V	Q particle	Object		

In interrogative sentences, the English future perfect continuous tense at the beginning of the sentence uses the word will followed by the subject, have been, verb-ing, and object. The word "will" in this sentence as an auxiliary verb and have been is the formula for the future perfect tense. Whereas in Buton Tomia it begins with a verb, question particle, subject, and object.

The similarities between the two forms of interrogative sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. The difference is in English using an auxiliary verb while in Buton Tomia does not use an auxiliary verb. The interrogative sentence in Buton Tomia language uses question particle, while in English it does not use question particle.

Tabel 13. Simple Past Future Tense

Would narti forgive you if you come to his house?			
Auxverb	S	VI	Object
Wa Narti noma'awuko ka'i ara ko uminte ka saponu?			
S	V	Qparticle	Object

In English simple past future tense, the word would is used at the beginning of the sentence followed by subject, verb, and object. The word "would" in this sentence is an auxiliary verb. While the interrogative sentence of Buton Tomia begins with the subject, followed by the verb, the question particle, and the object.

The similarities between these two forms of sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, an object. The difference is that in the form of interrogative sentences, English uses an auxiliary verb, while Buton Tomia does not use an auxiliary verb. The form of interrogative sentences in Buton Tomia language uses question particle, while English does not use question particle.

Tabel 14. Past Future Continuous Tense

Would you be working in office?			
Auxverb	S	be V-ing	Adverb of place
Ko kumarja ka'i di kantoro?			
S	Verb	Qparticle	Object

In the English past future continuous tense interrogative sentence, the word would is used at the beginning of the sentence followed by the subject, be, verb-ing, and object. Whereas in Buton Tomia language it begins with a subject, a verb, a question particle, and an object.

The similarities between these two forms of interrogative sentences are respectively use a subject, a verb, and an object. While the difference is that the form of interrogative sentences in English uses an auxiliary verb, while in Buton Tomia it does not use an auxiliary verb. The form of interrogative sentence in Buton Tomia language uses question particle while English does not use question particle.

Tabel 15. Past Future Perfect Tense

Would she have worked at 8 am?			
Aux verb	V	to have V3	Adverb of time
Toka nokumarja ka'i na'ia di rambi kealu?			
V	Qparticle	S	Adverb of time

In English past future perfect tense at the beginning of the sentence, would is used followed by the subject, to have, the third form of the verb (V3), and the adverb. Whereas in Buton Tomia language, at the beginning of the sentence use the verb, question particle, subject, and adverb.

The similarities between the two forms of interrogative sentences are respectively use a subject verb, and adverb. The difference is that interrogative sentences in English use an auxiliary verb, while the Buton Tomia language does not use an auxiliary verb. The form of interrogative sentences in Buton Tomia language uses question particle, while English does not use question particle.

Tabel 16. Past Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Would they have been working tomorrow?			
Aux verb	S	To have been V-ing	Adverb of time
Nakumarja ka'i na'amai dilange?			
V	Qparticle	S	Adverb of time

In the past future perfect continuous tense sentence in English at the beginning of the auxiliary verb sentence, it is followed by the subject, to be, and Verb. While in Buton Tomia, at the beginning of the sentence the verb, question particle, and subject.

What the two forms of interrogative have in common is that they each use a subject, a verb, and an object. The difference is that in the form of interrogative sentences in English it does not use question particles, while in Buton Tomia language it uses question particles.

Conclusions

The formation of sentence patterns between English and Buton Tomia language has the same sentence form, namely using the subject and verb in every interrogative sentence. The difference between the two languages is that Buton Tomia uses the question particle form and does not use an auxiliary verb. In every interrogative sentence in the Buton Tomia language, the word "ka'i" is used. Every interrogative sentence (yes/no question) in English always starts with an auxiliary verb. Meanwhile all interrogative sentences (yes/no question) in Buton Tomia Language always starts with a question particle. Patterns of Interrogative sentence in Buton Tomia language there are two forms, namely: first in Simple present tense, Present perfect tense, Present perfect continuous tense, Simple Past Tens, Past Perfect Continuous Tense, Simple future tense, Future continuous tense, Future Perfect tense, Future Perfect Continuous Tense, Simple Past Future Tense, and Past Future Continuous Tense use sentence patterns beginning with subject, verb, question particle, and object/adverb. The use of interrogative sentence to declare those various actions shows that there is a rethorical feature in local language. Therefore, variety of forms and functions of interrogative sentences in local language must be introduced.

References

- Fema, B. M., Shuaibu, H., & Abubakar, A. (2020). The Auxiliary Verbs and Their Fuctions : An Overview. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, 25(4), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.9790/0837-2504040106>
- Iye, R. & P. (2022). *the Nouns of Tomia Dialect in Wakatobi Language : an Ecolinguistic*. 7(June), 89–93.
- Lindawati. (2016). Indonesian Interrogative Sentences : a Study of Forms and Functions. *Humaniora*, 28(3), 348–357.
- Mayasari, M. (2020). *Question Words In The Interrogative Construction In Javanese : In X-Bar Theory*. 4(1), 145–152. <https://doi.org/10.30743/ll.v4i1.2217>
- Moh. Nazir. (2011). *Metode Penelitian*. Penerbit Ghalia Indonesia.
- Nassaji, H. (2015). Qualitative and descriptive research: Data type versus data analysis. *Language Teaching Research*, 19(2), 129–132. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362168815572747>
- Ratna, M. P. (2020). Particles Ka(h) of Indonesian and Japanese: Cross Linguistic Study. *Izumi*, 9(1), 23–30. <https://doi.org/10.14710/izumi.9.1.23-30>