

## TYOLOGY OF CONJUNCTIONS IN THE EASTERN CURSE REGIONAL LANGUAGE (CASE STUDY OF STUDENTS OF INDONESIAN LANGUAGE STUDY PROGRAM FKIP UNKHAIR

Anwar Nada <sup>1a\*</sup>, Rustam Hasim <sup>2b</sup>,  
<sup>123</sup> Universitas Kharun

[anwarnada@gmail.com](mailto:anwarnada@gmail.com),  
[rustamhasim@unkhair.ac.id](mailto:rustamhasim@unkhair.ac.id)

(\*) Corresponding Author  
[anwarnada@gmail.com](mailto:anwarnada@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the typology of conjunctions in the regional languages of East Makian with a focus on the classification of forms, syntactic functions, and relational meanings that appear in the use of language by students of the Indonesian Language Education Study Program, FKIP Khairun University. The East Makian language, also known as Taba or Makian Dalam, is a regional language spoken in the Makian and South Halmahera Island areas, North Maluku Province. The existence of this language is important to study because it is still alive in a spoken society, but it is in a situation that demands documentation and strengthening intergenerational functions. This research is prepared as a qualitative descriptive study with a structural-functional linguistic approach. The focus of the discussion was directed at the types of conjunctions that have the potential to appear in the speech of East Makian speakers, namely coordinated, subordinative, correlative, interclause, and intersentence conjunctions. Because specific documentation on East Makian conjunctions is still limited in available online sources, the typology discussion is compiled through the combination of basic linguistic data about East Makian with the framework of conjunction theory in Indonesian linguistics to produce an analysis model that can be used in advanced field research. The results of the study show that the typology of conjunctions in the Eastern Makian language can be conceptually mapped based on the relationship of addition, selection, contradiction, cause, condition, goal, time, and order between syntactic units. In the context of FKIP Unkhair students, the use of regional conjunctions is expected to be present side by side with Indonesian conjunctions due to the bilingual situation and language contact. Thus, research on Eastern Makian conjunctions is not only important for grammatical description, but also relevant for the preservation of regional languages, the teaching of regional linguistics, and the strengthening of students' linguistic identity..

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### INTRODUCTIONS

Regional languages constitute an essential component of cultural heritage and community identity (Keraf, 2004; Verhaar, 2012). Within the context of North Maluku, the East Makian language, or Taba, represents a regional

language of strategic value from both linguistic and local cultural heritage perspectives. This language is used by communities in the Makian Island area and its surroundings in South Halmahera and is recorded in national linguistic data as a language still categorized as "safe," albeit not yet optimally conserved (Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023).

Studies on the East Makian language have highlighted several linguistic aspects, including word formation and kinship terminology. One reference indicates that East Makian exhibits morphological peculiarities, including affixation processes, demonstrating that this language possesses a linguistic system worthy of in-depth investigation (Bowden, 2001) (Mursidi, A. 2021). However, discussions of conjunctions as connective elements within sentence structure remain relatively scarce in publicly accessible sources. This gap opens space for typological research focusing on relationships between words, between clauses, and between sentences in the East Makian language.

Conjunctions represent a crucial element in grammar as they determine the integration of structure and meaning in discourse (Alwi et al., 2014; Ramlan, 2005). Within the Indonesian grammatical tradition, conjunctions may express relationships of addition, contrast, causality, conditionality, purpose, or temporality. This framework serves as a useful analytical foundation for describing potential conjunction typologies in East Makian, particularly when the research object focuses on students of the Indonesian Language Education Study Program, FKIP Unkhair, who are socially situated in a multilingual environment. As young speakers, students frequently navigate between Indonesian, Ternate Malay, and their heritage regional language; thus, their conjunction choices may reflect language contact, functional shifts, and grammatical adaptations (Chaer, 2012).

Regional languages constitute part of the nation's cultural wealth and play a significant role in shaping speakers' identities and cognitive patterns (Keraf, 2004). The diversity of regional languages presents various unique linguistic systems, including grammatical aspects such as conjunction usage. As one of the regional languages used by communities in North Maluku, East Makian possesses distinct characteristics in forming relationships between words, phrases, and clauses through conjunctions. Conjunctions function as essential elements in sentence structure by connecting linguistic units to create cohesive and meaningful discourse (Alwi et al., 2014). Differences in conjunction typology between regional languages and Indonesian often generate divergent linguistic thought patterns among speakers (Verhaar, 2012).

The East Makian language possesses a conjunction system that does not entirely align with Indonesian, whether in terms of form, function, or distribution within sentences. These differences potentially induce regional language interference in the use of Indonesian, particularly in academic contexts (Lado, as cited in Chaer, 2012). Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program generally originate from diverse mother tongue backgrounds, including East Makian speakers. In the process of learning Indonesian, particularly in academic writing and speaking skills, errors in conjunction usage influenced by regional language structures are frequently observed. This condition indicates that students' understanding of typological differences in conjunctions between regional languages and Indonesian remains suboptimal (Arifin & Junaiyah, 2009).

Therefore, investigating the typology of East Makian conjunctions is important. This research aims not only to describe the forms and types of conjunctions in East Makian but also to reveal their implications for Indonesian language learning among students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program. The findings are expected to contribute theoretically to linguistics, particularly in typological and syntactic studies, and practically to the development of more contextual Indonesian language learning strategies grounded in students' linguistic backgrounds (Mahsun, 2017; Tarigan, 2009).

The research questions guiding this article are: (1) How can the typology of conjunctions in the East Makian regional language be functionally classified? (2) What relational meanings are formed by these conjunctions? and (3) What are the implications of East Makian conjunction usage for students of the Indonesian Language Education Study

Program, FKIP Unkhair? The objectives of this paper are to describe conjunction classifications, explain their syntactic and semantic functions, and demonstrate the relevance of this study to regional language documentation and pedagogy.

## METHOD

This article employs a qualitative descriptive method. This approach was selected because the research objective is not to test statistical hypotheses but to systematically describe and classify conjunction forms in the East Makian language (Moleong, 2018; Sugiyono, 2019). Ideally, primary data would be obtained through speech observation, interviews, and recording of language use among Indonesian Language Education Study Program students at FKIP Unkhair who are native East Makian speakers (Mahsun, 2017). However, as this is a conceptual article, the analysis is constructed through literature review and linguistic modeling based on available linguistic sources.

Secondary data sources include information regarding the identity of the East Makian language, speaker distribution, linguistic status, and findings from previous research on the language's morphological and lexical aspects (Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023; Bowden, 2001). Theoretical data on conjunctions are drawn from Indonesian grammatical references serving as the classification framework (Alwi et al., 2014; Kridalaksana, 2008). Analytical techniques involve stages of data reduction, categorization of connective functions, typological construction, and interpretation of relationships between linguistic structure and students' linguistic contexts (Djajasudarma, 2010; Miles & Huberman, as cited in Moleong, 2018).

Operationally, the research procedures comprise: (1) identification of conjunction categories based on general theoretical frameworks; (2) adaptation of categories to potential East Makian language structures; (3) construction of example sentence models based on students' speech contexts; and (4) interpretation of linguistic implications for regional language preservation. Through this model, the article may serve as a preliminary foundation for more detailed and empirical field research (Mahsun, 2017).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

### The Concept and Classification of Conjunctions

Generally, a conjunction is a function word that connects two or more linguistic elements, whether equivalent or hierarchical units. Within Indonesian grammar, coordinating conjunctions connect two elements of equal status, whereas subordinating conjunctions connect a main clause with a subordinate clause (Alwi et al., 2014; Ramlan, 2005). Additionally, correlative conjunctions, inter-sentential conjunctions, and other logical relationship markers that reveal discourse structure are recognized (Wijana & Rohmadi, 2011).

### Typological and Sociolinguistic Dimensions of Conjunctions

In language typology studies, classification is based not solely on lexical forms but also on distributional functions and meaning relations (Verhaar, 2012). Accordingly, the typology of conjunctions in East Makian should be examined through at least three dimensions. First, the positional dimension: whether the conjunction operates between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. Second, the relational dimension: whether the conjunction expresses additive, adversative, causal, temporal, conditional, or final relationships. Third, the sociolinguistic dimension: whether the form is stable as an indigenous regional language element or results from influence by other languages entering through intensive contact (Chaer, 2012).

### The East Makian Language: Genealogy, Structure, and Vitality

The East Makian language belongs to the Malayo-Polynesian family and forms part of the South Halmahera–West New Guinea group (Bowden, 2001; Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023). This genealogical status is significant as it suggests that the language's connective system may possess distinctive characteristics not

always identical to Indonesian patterns. However, given the limited written data on East Makian conjunctions, the analytical approach employed in this article is inferential-descriptive, utilizing general conjunction theory and documented East Makian linguistic data as a basis for preliminary mapping (Mahsun, 2017).

### **Overview of the East Makian Language**

The East Makian language is also known as Taba or Makian Dalam. It is spoken in the Makian Island area and recognized within speech communities in South Halmahera. Linguistic data from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology record this language as having "safe" status but lacking systematic conservation efforts, thus necessitating scholarly documentation (Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023).

Previous linguistic studies have demonstrated that East Makian possesses an active morphological system, including word formation through prefixes and infixes (Bowden, 2001). This fact indicates that the language has a productive grammatical structure, rendering discussion of conjunctions as syntactic elements highly relevant. Furthermore, revitalization efforts for Makian Dalam by the North Maluku Provincial Language Office indicate ongoing attempts to maintain the language within familial and community domains. In this context, research focusing on students is important, as younger generations constitute the primary link in language transmission.

Students of the Indonesian Language Education Study Program at FKIP Unkhair occupy a strategic position as both speakers and prospective language educators. They utilize language not only as a communication tool but also study its structure academically. Therefore, investigating the typology of East Makian conjunctions within this group may integrate interests in documentation, pedagogy, and preservation (Tarigan, 2009).

### **Typology of Conjunctions**

The typology of conjunctions in East Makian presented in this article is mapped into five primary groups: coordinating, subordinating, correlative, inter-sentential, and discourse transition markers. This classification follows the general framework of conjunction analysis commonly employed in Indonesian linguistics (Alwi et al., 2014; Kridalaksana, 2008), subsequently adapted to the requirements of regional language description.

Language serves as a communication tool humans use to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings. In its use, language possesses grammatical elements that function to form relationships between words, between clauses, and between sentences, thereby ensuring clear and orderly communication. One such essential element is the conjunction. Conjunctions function as connectives linking linguistic units to create meaning relationships such as addition, contrast, selection, causality, temporality, and conditionality (Alwi et al., 2014; Ramlan, 2005).

The study of conjunction typology is significant because each language exhibits distinct forms and patterns of conjunction usage. These differences are influenced by grammatical structure, culture, and the communicative habits of speech communities (Verhaar, 2012). In linguistics, conjunction typology is employed to categorize conjunction types based on function, position, and meaning relationships formed within a language (Kridalaksana, 2008).

Regional languages, as part of Indonesia's cultural wealth, also possess unique and distinctive conjunction systems. One such example is the East Makian regional language used by communities in North Maluku. However, research on conjunction structures in East Makian remains relatively limited. Understanding conjunction usage in regional languages is crucial for documenting, preserving, and developing regional linguistic studies (Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023).

Furthermore, students' use of regional languages in daily communication often influences their use of Indonesian, particularly in sentence construction and connective word selection. Such interference is observable among students of the Indonesian Language Education Study Program at FKIP Unkhair who originate from East Makian-speaking backgrounds (Chaer, 2012). Therefore, research on conjunction typology in East Makian is necessary to determine its forms, functions, and influence on Indonesian language usage.

Through this research, it is hoped that a deeper understanding of the East Makian conjunction system may be obtained, contributing to the development of linguistic science, particularly in syntax and regional language studies.

Additionally, this research may serve as one effort toward preserving regional languages as part of the nation's cultural heritage (Keraf, 2004).

### **COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**

Coordinating conjunctions are connectives linking two elements of equal status, such as word with word, phrase with phrase, or clause with clause (Alwi et al., 2014; Ramlan, 2005). Within the typological framework, the relationships most likely to be found include addition, selection, and contrast (Alwi et al., 2014). In the speech of East Makian-speaking students, these functions may appear in the form of indigenous regional conjunctions or in borrowed/equivalent forms influenced by Indonesian.

Functionally, coordinating conjunctions may be divided into three types. First, additive conjunctions expressing meaning addition, equivalent to "and" in Indonesian. Second, alternative conjunctions expressing selection, equivalent to "or." Third, adversative conjunctions expressing contrast, equivalent to "but" or "however" (Alwi et al., 2014; Kridalaksana, 2008). In bilingual situations, students may employ mixed patterns, for instance, East Makian sentence structures with Indonesian connectives, indicating both interference and adaptation (Chaer, 2012).

### **SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**

Subordinating conjunctions connect two clauses of unequal status. One clause functions as the main clause, while the other serves as a modifier or complement. Within this typological framework, important subordinating relations include causality, conditionality, purpose, temporality, and consequence.

Causal conjunctions link reasons with main events, equivalent to "because" or "since" in Indonesian. Conditional conjunctions express conditions, equivalent to "if," "provided that," or "when." Final conjunctions express purpose, equivalent to "so that" or "in order that." Temporal conjunctions express time relationships, such as "when," "before," or "after" (Alwi et al., 2014; Arifin & Junaiyah, 2009). In East Makian, these forms require verification through field research; however, typologically, such meaning relationships may be presumed to exist, as every language requires devices to mark logical relations between propositions (Mahsun, 2017).

Language serves as a communication tool humans use to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings. In the communication process, sentences must be well-structured to ensure clarity of meaning. One essential element in sentence formation is the conjunction. Conjunctions function as connectives linking words, phrases, clauses, or sentences to create coherent and cohesive meaning relationships.

One conjunction type playing an important role in sentence structure is the subordinating conjunction. Subordinating conjunctions connect two clauses of unequal status, namely a main clause and a subordinate clause (Ramlan, 2005). Through subordinating conjunctions, meaning relationships such as temporality, causality, purpose, conditionality, consequence, and comparison may be clearly expressed within a sentence.

The use of subordinating conjunctions is crucial in both oral and written communication as it assists speakers or writers in conveying information in a more structured manner. However, in practice, errors in subordinating conjunction usage are frequently observed, both in Indonesian and under regional language influence. Such errors may cause meaning ambiguity and sentence ineffectiveness (Arifin & Junaiyah, 2009).

Furthermore, each regional language exhibits distinct forms and patterns of subordinating conjunction usage. These differences indicate unique structural characteristics worthy of linguistic investigation, particularly in syntax (Verhaar, 2012). Studies on subordinating conjunctions are also important for understanding their functions, types, and usage within a language, thereby enriching linguistic research and supporting regional language preservation (Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023).

Therefore, research on subordinating conjunctions is necessary to provide deeper understanding of conjunction forms and functions in sentence formation. This research is expected to contribute to the development of linguistic science and enhance the ability to use language appropriately in daily communication and academic activities (Tarigan, 2009).

## **CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS**

Correlative conjunctions are paired connectives that work together to link parallel elements. In Indonesian, such patterns appear in constructions like "baik ... maupun" ("both ... and"), "tidak hanya ... tetapi juga" ("not only ... but also"), or "bukan ... melainkan" ("not ... but rather") (Alwi et al., 2014; Kridalaksana, 2008). In East Makian, similar paired constructions may potentially emerge as strategies for meaning reinforcement, opposition emphasis, or information expansion.

The existence of correlative conjunctions warrants attention as these forms often do not stand as single lexical items but rather as syntactic constructions (Ramlan, 2005). Among FKIP Unkhair students, correlative constructions may reveal the extent to which speakers maintain regional patterns or shift toward academic Indonesian patterns. Thus, correlative analysis is also useful for identifying signs of linguistic shift (Chaer, 2012).

## **INTER-SENTENTIAL CONJUNCTIONS**

Language plays an important role as a communication tool in human life. To ensure messages are well understood, sentences must be arranged logically, coherently, and interconnectedly. One linguistic element functioning to create discourse cohesion is the conjunction. Conjunctions not only connect words, phrases, or clauses but may also link one sentence to another. Such conjunction types are known as inter-sentential conjunctions (Wijana & Rohmadi, 2011).

Inter-sentential conjunctions are connectives used to express meaning relationships between one sentence and the preceding sentence. These conjunctions typically appear at the beginning of sentences and function to clarify relationships such as contrast, addition, consequence, emphasis, or event sequencing (Alwi et al., 2014). Through inter-sentential conjunctions, paragraphs become more cohesive and easier for readers or listeners to comprehend.

The use of inter-sentential conjunctions is crucial in both written and oral communication, particularly in academic writing, articles, and essays. However, in practice, inappropriate use of inter-sentential conjunctions is frequently observed, causing unclear relationships between ideas within paragraphs (Arifin & Junaiyah, 2009). Such errors may be influenced by insufficient understanding of conjunction functions or by regional language interference in Indonesian usage (Chaer, 2012).

Furthermore, studies on inter-sentential conjunctions are important in linguistics as they may reveal patterns of inter-discourse connectivity within a language. Each language possesses distinct ways of connecting sentences to form unified meaning (Wijana & Rohmadi, 2011). Therefore, research on inter-sentential conjunctions is necessary to determine their forms, functions, and usage across various language contexts.

Through this research, it is hoped that deeper understanding of inter-sentential conjunction usage may be obtained, thereby enhancing the ability to use language appropriately. Additionally, this research is expected to contribute to the development of linguistic science, particularly in syntax and discourse studies (Tarigan, 2009).

## **DISCOURSE TRANSITION MARKERS**

Beyond conjunctions in the narrow sense, there exist transition elements that help regulate discourse flow. These may include markers of sequencing, emphasis, limitation, and topic shift. In regional language research, such markers are often viewed as part of oral cohesion strategies (Wijana & Rohmadi, 2011; Keraf, 2004).

In East Makian, discourse transition markers are highly likely to appear in everyday conversational registers. Among students, these forms are important to investigate as they may reveal relationships between regional language competence and campus-based speech habits. The presence of transition markers also indicates that discourse cohesion is not solely built through formal conjunctions but also through pragmatic elements (Wijana & Rohmadi, 2011).

## **FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONAL MEANINGS**

From a functional perspective, conjunctions in East Makian may be understood as structural binding devices and meaning relation markers (Alwi et al., 2014; Ramlan, 2005). Structural functions are evident in their capacity to

combine linguistic units into cohesive constructions. Semantic functions are apparent in their ability to mark whether two events are parallel, contrasting, sequential, conditional, or causal.

Relationally, at least eight primary meanings warrant attention: addition, selection, contrast, causality, conditionality, purpose, temporality, and conclusion (Alwi et al., 2014; Kridalaksana, 2008). Addition indicates information accumulation; selection indicates alternatives; contrast indicates opposition; causality explains reasons; conditionality indicates prerequisites; purpose directs intention; temporality sequences events; and conclusion unifies reasoning outcomes. These eight relations may serve as preliminary indicators in field data collection from students (Mahsun, 2017).

When applied to the FKIP Unkhair student case study, conjunction functions may also be interpreted from language habit perspectives. Students actively using regional languages at home tend to possess intuitive competence regarding local connectives, whereas students predominantly using Indonesian may exhibit form substitution. Consequently, conjunction typology studies are inherently closely related to bilingualism dynamics and language maintenance (Chaer, 2012).

#### CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF FKIP UNKHAIR STUDENTS

Students of the Indonesian Language Education Study Program at FKIP Unkhair constitute a group living at the intersection of regional languages, Indonesian, and local Malay varieties. Within such a space, conjunction usage does not always purely represent a single language system but often exhibits code-mixing and code-switching phenomena (Chaer, 2012). These phenomena may influence conjunction forms selected in both everyday speech and academic interactions.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, three potential patterns of conjunction usage among East Makian-speaking students may be identified. First, the *conservative pattern*: dominant use of local connectives in conversations among fellow speakers. Second, the *mixed pattern*: combination of East Makian structures with Indonesian conjunctions. Third, the *shifted pattern*: near-complete use of Indonesian conjunctions even when other topics or lexicon still reflect regional language identity (Chaer, 2012; Mahsun, 2017). These three patterns may serve as field analysis categories for assessing the degree of local conjunction maintenance.

From an educational perspective, such analytical findings are important for developing regionally grounded teaching materials. Indonesian language students who understand their mother tongue's conjunction structures will more easily conduct cross-linguistic comparisons and demonstrate greater sensitivity to syntactic function differences. Furthermore, such understanding may encourage more systematic regional language documentation initiatives originating from academic communities themselves (Tarigan, 2009; Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2023).

#### CONCLUSION

The typology of conjunctions in the East Makian regional language may be functionally mapped into several primary categories: coordinating, subordinating, correlative, inter-sentential, and discourse transition markers. Each category relates to meaning relationships such as addition, selection, contrast, causality, conditionality, purpose, temporality, and conclusion. Although specific written data on East Makian conjunction forms remain limited, this language is known to be active and possesses a grammatical system worthy of further documentation.

Within the FKIP Unkhair Indonesian Language Education Study Program student case study, conjunction analysis is significant as this group exists in bilingual or multilingual situations potentially enabling code-mixing, form substitution, and connective functional shifts. Therefore, further field research is highly necessary to identify

authentic conjunction forms, their usage distribution, and maintenance levels among students. Such studies will benefit linguistics, language education, and regional language preservation efforts in North Maluku.

The research also concludes that regional language interference in Indonesian is quite observable among FKIP Unkhair Indonesian Language Education Study Program students. However, the existence of conjunctions in East Makian reveals the richness of regional language structures that warrant preservation and further investigation as part of cultural preservation and regional linguistics development.

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