# Grammatical Process of Affixes Forming Aspect and Mood in Talaud Language

**James Edward Lalira**[1], **Yopie Alex Tomi Pangemanan**[2], **Vivi Nansy Tumuju**[3]

[1] jameslalira@gmail.com
[1], [2] Universitas Kristen Indonesia, Tomohon, Indonesia
[3] Universitas Sam Ratulangi, Manado, Indonesia

## Abstract

Languages with extensive morphological systems offer valuable insights into how grammatical meanings are encoded through structural patterns, particularly in lesser-studied agglutinative languages where affixation plays a central role. This study offers an in-depth exploration of the morphological structure of the Talaud language, focusing on the vital role of affixes as indicators of aspect and mood. Understanding this complicated affixation system embraces significant importance in enriching knowledge of linguistic diversity, especially in agglutinative languages that often receive limited scholarly attention. To address this gap, this research examines how morphological marking in Talaud functions not only as a structural mechanism but also as a key determinant of grammatical meaning, enabling a more precise understanding of verbal organization within the language. Through qualitative methodology, functional analysis tools were employed to investigate how even the smallest components within predicates contribute to grammatical meaning. Data collection involved engaging with native speakers through elicitation and comprehensive interviews, enabling access to authentic language use and the significance attributed to affixes in everyday communication. These procedures ensured that the study reflected naturally-occurring linguistic behavior and demonstrated how morphological forms operate within spoken discourse. Research findings reveal that affixes in Talaud consistently maintain sentence meaning, even when certain linguistic features are substituted, illustrating the stability and resilience of the language's grammatical system, in which morphological processes preserve semantic integrity across structural variations. Identified categories include inceptive, progressive, perfective, and cessative aspects, along with imperative and optative moods, each realized through specific affixation patterns that encode temporal contours and modal attitudes within the predicate. These findings reflect how the affixation system in Austronesian languages governs grammatical meaning independently, ensuring functional stability across syntactic environments and revealing important typological parallels with other agglutinative systems. By elucidating the complexities of aspect and mood in Talaud, this study deepens understanding of its linguistic characteristics and underscores the importance of documenting underrepresented languages, ultimately contributing to a broader and more inclusive perspective on linguistic diversity and highlighting the cultural significance embedded within the Talaud language. Future research is encouraged to explore Talaud across broader discourse contexts and through sociolinguistic, psycholinguistic, and longitudinal perspectives in order to capture the interaction between grammatical structure, language use, and social change.

**Keywords**: affixes; agglutinative; aspect; mood; morphological structure; predicate function.

## INTRODUCTION

Language is not merely a tool for communication, but a dynamic system that is closely tied to human cognition. Its structural patterns provide important insights into how speakers organize and construct meaning (Romeo et al., 2018). Within this broader linguistic landscape, the Talaud language offers a compelling case for examining how morphological processes shape semantic interpretation. As an Austronesian language spoken in the Talaud Islands Regency of North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, Talaud is characterized by an agglutinative system in which prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and confixes attach systematically to lexemes (Lalira, 2013; Lalira, 2022; Lalira et al., 2022, 2023). This transparent morphological structure allows morpheme boundaries to remain clearly identifiable, facilitating both the construction and comprehension of word meanings. Moreover, the language's affixation patterns encode essential grammatical categories, including aspect and mood (Martin & Culbertson, 2020), demonstrating how the morphological form interacts with linguistic cognition to produce meaningful distinctions in discourse. In the Talaud language, these categories are closely tied to verbal morphology, where affixation contributes not only to lexical formation but also to the grammaticalization of aspectual and modal distinctions. Taken together, these features illustrate how the morphological system of Talaud structurally encodes speakers' temporal and attitudinal meanings.

In a broader typological perspective, however, the encoding of aspect and mood is not limited to morphological strategies alone, as many languages also employ lexical constructions to express similar grammatical meanings. In Austronesian languages, auxiliary verbs also play a crucial role. This lexical construction is also evident in the incorporation of the modal marker /will/ to convey the speaker's intention (Murray, 2021), as seen in "She will be singing a song." In Indonesian, similar lexical constructions, such as /dapat/ (may), /bisa/ (can), /boleh/ (may), /boleh jadi/ (may), and /pasti/ (must), indicate mood (Jannatussholihah & Triyono, 2020), while /sedang/ (-ing), /akan/ (will), /sudah/ (have), and /telah/ (have) indicate aspects.

In the context of Talaud, verbal phrases are indispensable. They serve as the central reference point for the meaning of a sentence (Garnier & Schmitt, 2014; Mahpeykar & Tyler, 2015). It is fascinating to note that the presence of subjects and objects is typically determined by these phrases (Manetta, 2019). Both lexical and grammatical forms are essential in fulfilling the functions of a sentence (Rizzi & Cinque, 2016). For example, in Talaud, the formation of aspect and mood meanings hinges on the addition of specific lexical elements. This is not just a unique feature of Talaud; it mirrors patterns observed in other Austronesian languages. The Talaud language grammatically constructs both aspect and mood within the predicate. Attachments, recognized as lexical forms of words, grammatical predicates of sentences, and lexical components of predicates, communicate the meanings of mood and aspect (Pustejovsky, 2017; Sauppe & Flecken, 2020; Vicente, 2018). This signifies a strong correlation between morphology and syntax, enhancing the comprehension of meaning construction (Haspelmath, 2011) in the realm of intricate morphology (Tan et al., 2018). The role of morphemes concerning syntactic categories indicates the Talaud language's affiliation with the agglutinative language family (Park & Kim, 2024). In this language, the intricacy of morphology must not be disregarded, as significant syntactic-semantic information must be conveyed in diverse morpheme functions (Hwang, 2024).

Agglutinative languages have greater morphological complexity, leading to a reduced frequency of words in sentences (Oral et al., 2024). New morphemes with distinct purposes can develop in the sentences of this language (Mohamed et al., 2023). Speakers of this language generally establish norms or patterns for substituting sentence parts via the grammaticalization of predicates (Rodríguez-Abruñeiras, 2020). Sentences commence with this pattern of functional substitution, classified within the realm of categorical grammar (Bozşahin, 2023). The substitution of elements does not alter the meaning of the discourse; instead, it emphasizes the intent of the utterance concerning the roles and relationships of the syntactic elements (Bire & Bustan, 2014).

Despite the growing interest in aspect and mood within linguistic research, our understanding of how these categories operate in agglutinative languages, such as Talaud, remains limited. Agglutinative languages exhibit substantial morphological complexity (Ladányi et al., 2020), offering a distinctive system for constructing meaning through grammatically-bound morphemes rather than through auxiliary verbs or lexical markers common in Indo-European languages (Alfieri, 2020). The

limited number of studies examining aspect and mood through affixation in such languages has left notable gaps in structural linguistics and language typology.

Against this backdrop, the present study seeks to provide new insights into the relationship between morphology and syntax in agglutinative languages. The core research question addresses how the unique morphological features of the Talaud language shape its syntactic organization. Findings from this investigation are expected to enhance the descriptive understanding of Talaud, while contributing to broader linguistic scholarship, by clarifying grammaticalization pathways observed across diverse language families (Petré & De Velde, 2018).

**METHOD**

This research employs a qualitative design, utilizing a structural linguistic framework. The study process commences with a preparatory phase, whereby the researcher performs a literature review to comprehend pertinent theories related to affixation in the language (Lim, 2017). Upon securing their consent to partake in this study, we selected 30 participants based on the age criterion of 60 to 70 years. The age selection was predicated on the premise that older speakers possess a more profound comprehension of the structure, affixes, and semantics of the Talaud language (Gharibi & Boers, 2016).

The interview and observation techniques involved comprehensive interviews that enabled participants to elucidate their utilization of affixes in their daily sentence constructions (Anguera et al., 2018; Mukumbang et al., 2019). To acquire further contextual information, subsequent observations were conducted concerning social interactions (Askarizad & Safari, 2020) that transpires within the Talaud-speaking community. Throughout the data collection procedure, the researcher documented diverse affix forms utilized by respondents, along with the phrasal situations in which these affixes manifested. It emphasizes the significance of morphemes in conveying meaning within sentences. Triangulation and member-checking methods were employed to evaluate the validity and dependability of the findings. Triangulation involved using multiple data sources, including interviews, surveys, and observations, to cross-verify the information obtained from various informants. This approach helped to ensure that the results were robust and comprehensive. Member checking was conducted by providing the informants with summaries of the findings and soliciting their feedback to confirm the accuracy and relevance of the data. This process ensured that the results were unequivocally validated and corroborated.

This study's data included entire phrases using verbal predicates, which were crucial to indicating aspect and mood. To fulfil the requirements of thorough analysis (Birjali et al., 2021), the data were categorized into two main categories, i.e., transitive and intransitive sentences (Koring et al., 2018; Siegel, 2017), to examine how predicates interact with objects and other structures. Subsequent to categorization, the data were further condensed by emphasizing sentences that position the focal element at the sentence's commencement. The sentences in the subsequent table were constructed from a singular verb, namely the verb [puuʔ] 'to hit,' selected to assure consistency in the study of predicates and to guarantee precision in examining grammatical features. The usage of a singular verb was deemed adequately indicative to express the comprehensive material accessible (Guarasci et al., 2019), because this verb demonstrated a comparable pattern for the manifestation of mood and aspect.

**ANALYSIS**

The selection of a singular verb establishes a strong foundation for a more focused examination of the relationship between the predicate and aspect or mood indicators in sentence structure. The analysis is furthered by minimizing data variances that could potentially disrupt focus by maintaining consistency in the use of a singular verb (Hwang, 2024). From these patterns, it is clear that the predicate is essential for the organization of aspect and mood (Shevchenko, 2019), enabling grammatical alterations without the need for the addition of external elements. This elucidates the exclusive marking of the temporal aspect and the speaker's modal attitude through predicate modification.

Additionally, the verb [puuʔ] exhibits consistent constancy in the pattern of aspect and mood development across a variety of sentence forms, including both transitive and intransitive. Speakers

of the Talaud language have a distinctive capacity to substitute sentence components while maintaining the integrity of meaning through the use of robust predicate formation. This suggests that the predicate continues to play a critical role in regulating mood and aspect marking, despite the replacement of sentence elements, such as the subject or object (Liubchenko, 2019). This demonstrates the Talaud language's exceptional grammatical flexibility, as the predicate can assert temporal and modal markers within a variety of sentence structures.

The verb [puuʔ]'s stability in aspect and mood development patterns contributes to the capacity of speakers to restructure sentences without compromising the primary meaning. The aspect and mood marking remain consistent, even when the sentence's beginning endures changes, due to the central role of the predicate (Bogaards, 2022). The Talaud language's structure is characterized by exceptional flexibility, which enables the substitution of the sentence's initial elements without compromising the overall grammatical function. This is particularly true for the temporal and modal markers that are derived from predicate formation.

Table 1. Sentences Featuring Actor Focus

| No | Sentence | Meaning | Process |
|----|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | *i tou* **mamuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-/+ [puuʔ] {ma-} + [puuʔ] |
| 2 | *i tou* **mamuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **will hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, -e/+ [puuʔ] {ma-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 3 | *i tou* **mammuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **is hitting** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-/+ [puuʔ] {mam-} + [puuʔ] |
| 4 | *i tou* **mammuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **has been hitting** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, -e/+ [puuʔ] {mam-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 5 | *i tou* **namuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **has hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /naN-/+ [puuʔ] {na-} + [puuʔ] |
| 6 | *i tou* **namuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **has hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /naN-, -e/+ [puuʔ] {na-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 7 | *i tou* **maipuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **hopes** to hit the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, i-/+ [puuʔ] {ma-, i-} + [puuʔ] |
| 8 | *i tou* **maipuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **will hope** to hit the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, i-/+ [puuʔ] {ma-, i-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 9 | *i tou* **ma'ipuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **is hoping** to hit the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, i-/+ [puuʔ] {maʔ-, -i} + [puuʔ] |
| 10 | *i tou* **ma'ipuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **has been hoping** to hit the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, i-, -e/+ [puuʔ] {maʔ-, i-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 11 | *i tou* **mapapuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **ordered to hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, pa-/+ [puuʔ] {ma-, pa-} + [puuʔ] |
| 12 | *i tou* **mapapuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **will order to hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, pa-,-e/+ [puuʔ] {ma-, pa-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 13 | *i tou* **mappapuu'** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **is ordering to hit** the dog with a stick in that house." | /maN-, pa-/+ [puuʔ] {map-, pa-} + [puuʔ] |
| 14 | *i tou* **mappapuu'e** *asu* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "He **has been ordering to hit** the dog with a stick in that house" | /maN-, pa-,-e/+ [puuʔ] {map-, pa-, -e} + [puuʔ] |

Source: Processed from Primary Data

Table 1 illustrates sentences that exemplify several manifestations of the action of striking utilizing the verb /puuʔ/. Every phrase incorporates modifications in affixes, including prefixes, suffixes, or other combinations, which denote the temporal aspect and the mood of the action (Minor et al., 2022). The prefixes *maN-* and *naN-* signify that the activity is presently occurring or has transpired, whereas the use of suffixes like -e imparts a futuristic connotation or certainty to the event. The sentences exhibit variations in the nature of action, transitioning from direct impact to expressions of hope and commands regarding the act of hitting, contingent upon the employed morphological structure.

Table 2. Sentences Featuring Target Focus

| No | Sentence | Meaning | Process |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | *asu **puuła** ngi tou* {t} *tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **will be hit** by him using a stick in that house" | /-a/+ [puuʔ] <br> {-ła } + [puuʔ] |
| 2 | *asu **puułakke** {t} tou tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **is already going to be hit** by him using a stick in that house" | /-a, -e/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ła-, -kke} + [puuʔ] |
| 3 | *asu **appuuła** ngi tou tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **is being hit** by him using a stick in that house." | /a-, -a/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ap-, -ła } + [puuʔ] |
| 4 | *asu **appuułake** {t} tou tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **has been being hit** by him using a stick in that house" | /a-, -a, -e/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ap-, -ła, -kke } + [puuʔ] |
| 5 | *asu ni**puu'** i tou {t} tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **has been hit** by him using a stick in that house" | /ni-/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ni-} + [puuʔ] |
| 6 | *asu **nipuu'e** {t} tou tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **has already been hit** by him using a stick in that house" | /ni-, -e/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ni-, -e} + [puuʔ] |
| 7 | *asu **niapuu'** i tou tatumma'i su wałe ude* | "The dog **was hit** by him using a stick in that house" | /ni-,a-/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ni-,a-} + [puuʔ] |

Source: Processed from Primary Data

Table 2 demonstrates variations of passive constructions with the dog as the object impacted by a stick, highlighting changes in aspect and mood through the use of different affixes. The affixes -ła and -kke in the initial two phrases signify acts to be performed, suggesting a sense of futurity or potentiality in the specified activities. The third and fourth sentences utilize the prefixes ap- and the suffix -a to denote actions now taking place, thus emphasizing continuing activities in the present tense. Sentences five to seven demonstrate the use of the prefix ni-, indicating completed acts typically linked to a perfective aspect, in conjunction with the suffixes -e and a- that modify the meanings of these actions, including those performed accidentally. The application of these affixes demonstrates a sophisticated interaction of grammatical markers that let speakers express nuanced intentions, aspects, and moods. Moreover, the concluding line integrates the prefix ni- with the suffix -ka, signifying habituality and suggesting actions that were not only finished but also executed regularly. These differences underscore the complex morphology of the Talaud language, demonstrating how affixation patterns dictate the perception of acts and their chronological context. Thus, the analysis in Table 2 illustrates the adaptability of affixation systems in Austronesian languages, offering profound insights into the encoding of aspect and mood inside passive constructions.

Table 3. Sentences Featuring Target Focus

| No | Sentence | Meaning | Process |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | */wałe ude **pamuuła** ngi tou asu* {t} *tatumma'i/* | "The house **will be used as a place** for him to hit the dog with a stick" | /paN-,-a/+ [puuʔ] <br> {pa-, -ła } + [puuʔ] |
| 2 | */wałe ude **pamuułakke** ngi tou asu {t} tatumma'i/* | "The house **will already be used as a place** for him to hit the dog using a stick" | /paN-,-a, -e/+ [puuʔ] <br> {pa-, --ła,-kke} + [puuʔ] |
| 3 | */wałe ude **nipamuuła** ngi tou asu* {t} *tatumma'i/* | "The house **has been used as a place** for him to hit the dog using a stick" | /ni- paN-,-a/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ni- pa-, --ła} + [puuʔ] |
| 4 | */wałe ude **nipamuułakke** {t} tou asu {t} tatumma'i/* | "The house **has already been used as a place** for him to hit the dog using a stick" | /ni-,paN-,-a, -e/+ [puuʔ] <br> {ni-, pa-, -ła -kke } + [puuʔ] |
| 5 | */wałe ude **pamamuuła** ngi tou asu {t} tatumma'i/* | "The house **is always used as a place** by him to hit the dog" | /paN-,maN-, -a/+ [puuʔ] <br> {pa-, ma-, -ła } + [puuʔ] |

Source: Processed from Primary Data

Table 3 illustrates sentences that exemplify the application of wałe ude 'the house' and tatumma'i 'the stick' within the context of striking a dog. The affix changes reveal the aspects and moods of the activities, regardless of their execution or completion (Beavers & Lee, 2020). The diverse morphological processes manifest aspect and mood indicators through affixes, such as prefixes, infixes, suffixes, confixes, and their combinations. Each row displays a distinct combination

of markers, including maN, naN-and paN-, utilized to signify variances in temporal context and content within the sentences.

Aspect and mood markers will be analyzed down to their fundamental components. The table demonstrates that the roles of these morphemes remain conventional, functioning solely as affixes, which requires an analysis down to the minimal units, specifically allomorphs.

This procedure elucidates the interplay between morphology and syntax, wherein affixes can affect the overall sentence structure. The utilization of various allomorphs might produce distinct nuances of meaning in particular settings, rendering it essential to investigate how this diversity influences message interpretation by speakers. of the Talaud language, as well as its reflection of the cognitive processes and culture of its speakers. This analysis enhances linguistic studies and deepens our comprehension of language as a dynamic communication instrument.

**Verbs in Talaud Language (TL)**

As an agglutinative language, Talaud features a complex morphological structure that allows affixes to denote many grammatical purposes. This section will examine how the findings of this research enhance the results of prior studies and their contribution to offering a novel perspective in the domain of language morphology. Aside from enhancing our understanding of Talaud's morphological characteristics through extensive data analysis and comparative research, this study will elucidate the distinctive features of the grammatical system of Talaud by examining the specialized functions of affixes.

The data in this research includes the verb /puu'/ 'to hit,' which signifies the identification of aspect and mood. Additional verbs are examined based on the conditions of initial phoneme alterations in the root word. The phonemes included are /a, e, h, i, l, o, p, r, Я, s, t, u/, and /w/. This occurrence corresponds with the structural parameters of the Talaud verb system, which does not acknowledge the phonemes /c, f, j, q, v, x, y/, and /z/.

Upon filtering the passive markers, thirteen initial phonemes of root words were discerned, including /anggi'/ 'to give,' /elle'/ 'to see,' /hewa'/ 'to enlarge', /itta/ 'to eat raw,' /loso/ 'to heat up,' /oЯe'/ 'to slice,' /puu'/ 'to hit,' /reno/ 'to bathe', /Яassa'/ 'to cut', /sihi'/ 'to pour' /tio/ 'to pick', /ułi/ 'to steer', and /wuni/ 'to hide.' During this analytical phase, the syntactic components of aspect and mood are discerned. The manifestations of these two parts in the sentence can be ascertained when the informants interpret the forms of the inquired verbs. Nonetheless,. The mood and aspect forms in this analysis function as distinguishing factors for forms and meanings related to the temporal markers of occurrences (aspect) and the speaker's psychological state (mood).

**The Roles of Each Active Verb**

The active sentence mamuu' features the verb /puuʔ/ 'to hit,' which incorporates the morphological process /maN-/ + [puuʔ]. The prefix /maN-/ signifies an initiatory action, indicating that the hitting is now occurring. The term /mamuu'e/ undergoes the morphological process /maN--e/+ [puuʔ]. The prefix maN- and the suffix -e denote an impending action, signifying 'will hit.' The term /namuu'/ is constructed from the prefix /naN-/ combined with the root word [puuʔ]. Meanwhile, /namuu'e/ encompasses the process /naN- -e/+ [puuʔ]. The combination of affix naN- and -e signifies that the action of 'having struck' has transpired, emphasized by the perfective aspect.

**The Role of Each Passive Verb**

The role of /puuła/ is subsequent to the morphological transformation of /-a/+ [puuʔ]. The suffix -a denotes the forthcoming action of being struck in the passive voice, indicating "will be hit"; /nipuu'/ is derived through the affixation process of /ni-/ + [puuʔ]. The prefix ni- denotes the completion of the passive action, signifying "hit"; /nipuu'e/ experiences the morphological transformation of /ni- -e/+ [puuʔ]. The amalgamation of ni- and -e underscores that the passive action of striking has transpired, signifying "has been hit"; /niapuu'/ is derived from the morphological process of /ni-a-/ + [puuʔ]. The prefix ni- and the infix a- denote an inadvertent passive action, signifying "accidentally hit."

Various mechanisms are evident in the sentences that emphasize the instrument, including the following: /ipamuu'/, resulting from the affixation of /i-pa-/ and [puuʔ]. The prefix i- signifies

the utilization of an instrument in passive actions, but pa- conveys an imperative component, denoting "will be employed to strike"; /nipamuu'e/ utilizing the method /ni-pa--e/+ [puuʔ]. The amalgamation of ni- and pa- denotes the culmination of the instrument striking action, whereas -e accentuates the use of the instrument for striking. Regarding the emphasis on location, there is /pamuuła/, which is derived from the affixation of /paN-,-a/+ [puuʔ]. The prefix paN- indicates the location of the action, but the suffix -a denotes its use for the striking action; /nipamuuła/ is derived from the affixation of /ni-paN--a/+ [puuʔ]. The amalgamation of ni- and paN- indicates that the location has been utilized for the act of striking, underscoring the action's completion; /mapapuu'/ is the outcome of the affixation process of /maN- pa-/ + [puuʔ]. The prefixes maN- and pa- denote the imperative mood, signifying an order to strike, "commanding to hit."

### Focus in Talaud Language (TL)

The Talaud language features a sophisticated affixation system that indicates the attention on the actor, target, and instrument in a sentence. This section will examine the impact of these affixes on sentence meaning, specifically in transitive and intransitive formulations (Nugraha, 2020). The analysis will be augmented by examples of the verb [puuʔ] to illustrate the changes in meaning generated by different affix applications and their impacts on aspect and mood.

The affix system in the Talaud language exhibits remarkable complexity, particularly in the formation of meaning in transitive and intransitive sentences. Every alteration in the application of affixes to basic verbs such as [puuʔ] leads to substantial modifications in meaning, affecting both the temporal aspects of occurrences and the speaker's disposition (Nugraha, 2020). For example, in the active form, prefix affixes such as /maN-/ denote ongoing acts, whereas combinations of prefixes and suffixes like /maN--e/ introduce a futurity aspect, indicating that the activity will transpire. In the passive form, the affix ni- indicates the completion of the passive action, whereas the suffix -e in /nipuu'e/ emphasizes its completion. Affixes also play a role in expressing the emphasis of the actor (Reichelt, 2020). The prefix maN- on the verb [puû] indicates that the active subject is the one carrying out the action when it is being performed. Whenever the suffix paN- is employed, as in the case of the word /pamuuła/, the emphasis changes to the location or target of the action, suggesting that the location is the place where the action of hitting takes place. This particular instance is one in which the affix change causes the focus of the sentence to move immediately from the person who is conducting the action to the location where the action is taking place (Evans et al., 2017).

Forms such as /ipamuu'/, in which the affixes i- and pa- combined imply the usage of an instrument in the hitting action, are additional examples of forms that highlight the role of the instrument focus. In addition to the focus on the actor and the target, affixes also have an effect on the focus on the instrument in Talaud phrases. There are particular affixes, such as /ipamuu'e/, that highlight the completion of the hitting action of some instruments. As a result, this illustrates that the function of affixes in Talaud goes beyond aspect and mood, and encompasses the shifting of emphasis among the actor, the target, and the instrument that is being used in an action (Baetscher, 2022).

Furthermore, infix forms, such as the example /niapuu'/ which contains the infix a-, indicate that the action of hitting occurs inadvertently. This highlights the interaction of affixes in the process of portraying the speaker's personality (Belz, 2023). As a result of this study, it is clear that even minute modifications in morphological forms can result in substantial variances in the meaning of sentences (De Clercq & Housen, 2016). Affix combinations, such as those found in the term "*nipamuu'e*," have a specific meaning in the context of instrument use. This meaning refers to the action of hitting with an instrument that has been accomplished. Certain kinds of affixes, such as the word "*mapapuu'*," also exhibit the imperative aspect, which indicates that a command to hit has been issued (Van Olmen, 2017). This demonstrates that affixes not only serve as markers for the structure of sentences, but they also impart deeper semantic nuances that are tied to the intents of the speaker and the temporal characteristics of the situation (Hoek et al., 2018).

When all of these data are taken into consideration, it is clear that Talaud, which is an agglutinative language, features a morphological system that is both rich and complicated, allowing for a wide variety of sentence formations. When it comes to sentence structure, the aspect and mood markers that are expressed through affixes play a significant impact (Pappas & Mawyer, 2022). This

is especially true when it comes to indicating when an action takes place and how the speaker views that activity. Additionally, Talaud's versatility in conveying more particular meanings according to context and situational speech is demonstrated by the focus on the actor, target, and instrument, which is supported by the affix system.

**Aspect and Mood**

The aspect and mood system of the Talaud language is said to exhibit a very sophisticated and well-organized grammatical structure, as indicated by the findings of research. As temporal markers, grammatical morphemes are responsible for the formation of components, such as the inceptive, emphatic inceptive, progressive, emphatic progressive, perfective, cessative, and habitual components. These elements are formed without the incorporation of any additional semantic elements. The position of an action in time is determined by each of these components, and each of them plays an important role in the process.

The inceptive aspect is a special marking that indicates the beginning of an activity. It enables the speaker to communicate that the action has just begun without having to mention the complete motion (Hasson et al., 2018). The progressive element, on the other hand, is used to represent the continuing of an activity, indicating that it is not yet complete but is actually taking place while the conversation is taking place. On the other hand, the habitual aspect denotes a continuous and recurring pattern of action across time (González & Hernández, 2018), while the perfective aspect ensures that the speaker is able to claim that an action has been completed for the speaker (Benson & DeKeyser, 2018). A clear indication of the termination or conclusion of an action is provided by the cessative aspect.

One of the most fascinating qualities of the Talaud language is the fact that its speakers frequently incorporate emphatic components into particular sections. By including these aspects of emphasis, the meaning that is communicated is enhanced. It also allows one to determine how long an action will take (Ocasio et al., 2017). Therefore, speakers can be more successful in conveying the importance of an action by emphasizing its urgency, power, or emotional component. Grammatical flexibility is provided by the suffix -e, which serves as an emphatic marker. This enables speakers to convey the nuance of acts in a manner that is more contextually appropriate and accurate within the framework of the language (Degen, 2023). Through the use of the emphatic aspect, the aspect system has the ability to establish a more robust temporal meaning. When it comes to the Talaud language, emphatic features are applied to both inceptive and progressive categories. Additionally, the suffix "-e" is consistently used to provide a specific emphasis to the specified action. By way of illustration, the coupling of the inceptive aspect and the suffix "-e" results in the creation of the emphatic inceptive nuance, which denotes the beginning of an action and emphasizes the intensity and imperative nature of the action. Therefore, the temporal sense not only suggests that the activity has just begun, but it also implies that it has begun in a more serious manner and in a circumstance that is more urgent (Fisher et al., 2018). A similar thing happens when one adds the suffix "-e" to the progressive aspect, creating the emphatic progressive nuance, which reinforces the action that is currently taking place. Taking this into consideration, it appears that, in comparison to the typical progressive nuance, this activity is carried out with a higher level of intensity or in a more significant setting.

Adding a sense of intensity to temporal elements is possible in the Talaud language due to the "-e" suffix. Not only does this indicate when the action takes place, but it also indicates how intense it is at that particular instant. This makes the meaning of an action more contextual. Because the Talaud language uses the -e emphatic suffix, the aspect system can accommodate a greater degree of flexibility. Therefore, speakers are able to transmit more specific and diversified meanings in terms of the intensity and temporal relevance of an activity. Not only do the parts of the Talaud language represent the passage of time, but they also convey the urgency and emotional weight of the action that is being referred to.

The grammatical structure of the Talaud language also shows major shifts in modality within the mood system. One example is the imperative mood (Quiroz, 2018), which gives speakers the ability to make rapid and unambiguous directives to the audience being addressed. On the other hand, the optative mood (la Roi, 2024) enables speakers to communicate their desired activities that

have not yet taken place throughout the sentence. With the separate encoding of both of these moods, the speaker is able to convey their goals without obscuring the temporal context in which they are being considered.

The grammatical structure of the Talaud language shows an unusual pattern in the expression of modality within the mood domain. By directing the listener and instructing them to take immediate steps, the imperative mood is extremely effective. The optative mood, on the other hand, gives the speaker the opportunity to convey what they want but have not yet experienced. Due to the fact that these two moods are encoded differently, the speaker is able to convey their intentions without concealing the chronological context of the action.

Adding the suffix "-e" to a word in the Talaud language indicates that the term has a strong emphasis on the subject matter. When this mood is present, the modality, whether it be a command or a desire, becomes more concentrated. When the -e suffix is added to the imperative mood, it indicates a stronger degree of urgency, highlighting the necessity of carrying out the instruction quickly or with a greater degree of intensity. The "-e" suffix indicates the speaker's hope, indicating that the desire that is being conveyed bears more weight or is more urgent. In this case, the negative mood is present.

Therefore, the emphatic mood serves as a grammatical component in the Talaud language. It enriches the modality system, which enables speakers to express it in a manner that is more resolute and contextual. By using this marker, the modality that is being given is able to maintain its primary goal without the addition of any other temporal or semantic aspects that can obscure its meaning.

In Talaud, aspects and moods function in ways that are parallel to one another but distinct from one another. Not only does each morpheme that indicates aspect or mood functions inside its own grammatical domain, but there is also no overlap between these two categories. This enables the accurate transfer of meaning, with each element keeping its grammatical role, whether it be to convey the speaker's attitude toward the action or to mark the passage of time.

All things considered, this framework demonstrates that the Talaud language possesses highly efficient morphological processes capable of conveying intricate nuances of meaning from the perspectives of modality and temporal organization. This system is characterized by its clarity and consistency, as evidenced by the distinct separation of aspects and moods from other grammatical categories.

**CONCLUSION**

The Talaud language exhibits significant morphological complexity through the use of affixes as indicators of aspect and mood. A notable characteristic of this system is the ability of each category to develop autonomously, without the incorporation of any semantic components beyond the current affixes. These affixes function as both temporal and modal markers, allowing each morpheme to operate independently within its grammatical aspect, which denotes the timing of an action and mood, conveying the speaker's attitude toward the activity.

Building on earlier discussions, this study highlights the distinctive morphological processes of the Talaud language and their broader implications for understanding agglutinative linguistic systems. The novelty of this research lies in its detailed examination of how Talaud organizes grammatical categories through affixation, thereby contributing valuable insights into the structural dynamics of agglutinative languages and enriching the wider field of linguistic typology. These findings not only deepen our understanding of Talaud but also invite comparative exploration with other Austronesian languages to examine how grammatical categories are managed across related systems. Furthermore, future research into the sociolinguistic dimensions of Talaud could illuminate patterns of language use and evolution within its speech community, opening new avenues for inquiry into the interaction between grammatical structure, language practices, and cultural context.

Future research is recommended to extend the present findings by examining a wider range of Talaud discourse genres in natural communicative contexts to determine the stability of aspectual and modal affix functions across registers. Comparative studies involving other Austronesian and agglutinative languages would further clarify Talaud's typological position and reveal cross-linguistic patterns in grammatical organization. In addition, integrating sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic perspectives could illuminate how speakers acquire, process, and negotiate these

morphological structures in everyday interaction, while longitudinal investigation may capture ongoing changes influenced by language contact and social transformation.

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