



CHARACTERISTICS OF KULISUSU LANGUAGE SENTENCES IN THE KULISUSU LANGUAGE COLUMN ON THE KULISUSU.NET SITE: SYNTACTIC STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the characteristics of Kulisusu sentences in the Kulisusu language section on the Kulisusu.net website. This study is motivated by the limited research on Kulisusu syntax that utilizes digital corpus as an authentic data source. The study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a document study design. The data are in the form of Kulisusu language texts obtained from three sections on the Kulisusu.net website. Data collection was carried out through documentation techniques, while data analysis used a corpus linguistics approach with the Direct Element Sharing (DBS) technique to identify the syntactic function of each constituent. The results show that from the 28 sentences analyzed, five types of sentences were found, namely simple sentences, compound sentences, sentences with direct quotation predicates, and interrogative sentences, with a dominance of simple sentences. Further analysis shows variations in sentence patterns, such as S–P(nonverbal)–Pel, (S)–P–O, and Clause1(P–S–K) + kai + Clause2(P–K), which reflect the diversity of the syntactic structure of the Kulisusu language. In addition, syntactic characteristics were found in the form of the use of topic markers *io*, conjunctions *kai* and *kando*, as well as the tendency for the predicate to precede the subject in several sentence constructions. These findings indicate that the digital text on the Kulisusu.net site is able to represent the characteristics of Kulisusu language sentences and also provides an initial contribution to the documentation and study of regional language syntax based on digital corpus.

Keywords: *kulisusu language, sentence characteristics, syntax, kulisusu.net*

INTRODUCTION

Kulisusu language is one of the regional languages spoken by the Kulisusu ethnic group in the North Buton region, Southeast Sulawesi (*Kulisusu Language* , 2026) . Genetically, this language belongs to the Bungku-Tolaki family, one of the Austronesian language groups in the southeastern Sulawesi peninsula that exhibits the typological characteristic of explicit topic marking. Like many other regional languages in Indonesia, documentation of Kulisusu language, especially at the syntactic level, is still limited compared to more widely studied related languages, such as Tolaki, Moronene, or Wolio.

The development of information technology has opened up new opportunities for documenting regional languages. The website www.kulisusu.net, managed by the Kulisusu speaking community, contains several columns in the original Kulisusu language (“Pogau Kolinsusu”), including *Cula-culanto* (folklore), *Lipunto* (hometown/history), *Kasakanto*

(games), and *Kinaanto* (food) (Zukri & Mead, n.d.) . These columns contain authentic texts that have great potential as sources of corpus data for linguistic studies, including syntactic studies, because they are written directly by native speakers in natural storytelling contexts.

Although documentation of regional languages is increasingly developing through digital media, the use of digital texts as a source for syntactic studies is still relatively limited, especially for regional languages that have a smaller number of speakers than the dominant regional languages in Indonesia. Syntactic studies play a crucial role because they not only describe the form and structure of sentences but also reveal the grammatical systems that characterize a language. Through analysis of sentence patterns, the relationships between constituents such as subjects, predicates, objects, complements, and adverbs can be understood more systematically, thus providing an overview of the characteristics of the language structure used by the speaking community. For the Kulisusu language, such studies are becoming increasingly important given the limited syntactic descriptions available, while the language's use is beginning to be documented in digital texts that can be used as a research corpus.

Syntactic studies of authentic data like this are important to map sentence patterns that are actually used by speakers, not just examples constructed by researchers. Several studies have been conducted on sentence patterns with different syntax knives, namely the analysis of basic sentence patterns of the North Nias language, Central dialect in Sifalagö Susua village, Susua sub-district, South Nias district: syntactic study (Laia, 2023) , analysis of sentence structures in Indonesian online news (Yuliarti & Netti, 2025) , the structure of derivational clauses of the Kulisusu language in Lakonea sub-district, Kulisusu sub-district, North Buton district (syntactic study) (Nazar, 2016) and transitive verb affixes in Riau Kampar Malay (bmrk): morphological and syntactic studies (Martius, 2016) are the initial basis for interpreting morphosyntactic patterns that appear in the data, although both need to be further confirmed considering the specifics of language variations in the digital texts studied.

These previous studies have contributed to the development of syntactic studies, but still show several limitations. Laia's (2023) study focused on Nias sentence patterns, while Yuliarti and Netti's (2025) study examined sentence structures in Indonesian-language online news. Meanwhile, Nazar (2016) focused on the derivational clause structure of Kulisusu, rather than on sentence patterns used in natural texts. These studies indicate that syntactic studies are mostly conducted through data elicitation, oral speech, or conventionally selected texts. To date, no research has been found that specifically describes Kulisusu sentence patterns using a digital corpus derived from authentic texts on the Kulisusu.net website. Thus, there is still room for research into the characteristics of Kulisusu sentence patterns as represented through language use in digital media as a form of contemporary linguistic documentation.

Based on this description, this study aims to describe the characteristics of Kulisusu language sentences found in the three narrative sections of the Kulisusu.net site, which include sentence types, sentence patterns, and syntactic characteristics that appear in the text on the *Kulisusu.net site*.



METHOD

2.1 Research Design

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. According to Creswell (2014) , qualitative research aims to understand a phenomenon based on data obtained naturally through the researcher's interpretation. The research design used is a document study , namely research that utilizes documents as the main source of data (Bowen, 2009) . In this study, the documents analyzed were Kulisusu language texts published on the *Kulisusu.net website* . The analysis was conducted using a corpus linguistics approach because it utilizes a collection of authentic texts as a source of linguistic analysis (McEnery & Hardie, 2012) .

2.2 Data Collection Techniques

The data source is the Kulisusu language version (“Pogau Kolinsusu”) from the official website of the Kulisusu speakers community, www.kulisusu.net. The data were taken from three sections containing complete narrative sentences, namely *Cula-cula Dumaano* (a summary list of 19 folktales, data code CD), *Rusa i Kolensusu* (the complete text about the Kulisusu deer, data code RK), and *Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo* (the complete text of the folktale, data code NG). The data sample at this stage amounted to 28 sentences taken purposively as an initial working corpus (pilot corpus) to test the codification instrument and analysis categories.

Data collection was conducted using listening and note-taking techniques, by observing the entire text under three predetermined headings, then copying each sentence in its original form into a research worksheet. Each data item was then coded based on the heading and serial number to facilitate identification and analysis. Each sentence was copied from the source, given a data code (RK/NG/CD along with a serial number), and the page number was recorded.

2.3 Data Analysis

Data analysis was conducted by identifying the syntactic function of each sentence constituent using the Direct Elements Division (DFU) technique. This technique is used to break down sentences into their constituent elements so that the relationships between constituents, such as subject, predicate, object, complement, and adverb, can be systematically identified. Based on the identification results, each sentence was classified based on sentence type, then its syntactic pattern was analyzed, and then interpreted to obtain the syntactic characteristics of the Kulisusu language.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.1 Characteristics of Types of Sentences in Kulisusu Language

The results of the study show that the classification results of 28 Kulisusu language sentence data along with the classification of sentence patterns, are presented in the following table.

Table 1. Classification of Types of Sentences in Kulisusu Language

Code	Sentence (Kulisu Language)	Page Source	Type (Hypothesis)
RK-01	American deer horns.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Single (nominal)

Code	Sentence (Kulisu Language)	Page Source	Type (Hypothesis)
RK-02	Rusa i Kolinsusu te Amerika ipokana kadimo mosalano ka'ompoleno tanduno.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Single (verbal)
RK-03	Rusa i Kolinsusu kadi trigger sampa tanduno.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Single (nominal)
RK-04	Rusa i America, date kumotanduno ikolabi hopulu sampa.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Single (verbal)
RK-05	Rusa i Kolinsusu cumpe-cumpeno kumotandu ngeeno tandu buo.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Single (verbal)
RK-06	Cuuna palanquin buo, kai cumbu ngeeno palanquin bulu.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Compound equivalent (conj. kai)
RK-07	Icuuna fur palanquin, kai cumbu ngeeno gadi palanquin.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Compound equivalent (conj. kai)
RK-08	Rusa i Kolensusu, tolahaakono dahu kai hopao momaleako molai torodahomo kato pandohakono kantobu kai mate.	Rusa i Kolensusu	Multi-storey compound
NG-01	Daaho ana ntamahako dando opicu, ndopo'onto samia cina pompetamata.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Compound equivalents
NG-02	Ipompake songko te first clothes.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Single (verbal)
NG-03	Ihabit moone ni'i ngka'ulo-ulo.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Single (verbal)
NG-04	Tamahako a'iso ndoko'uni, "Ingko'o a'ai io china."	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Compound (quoted sentence)
NG-05	Sai teuraa i lolono ni'i ipelihemo i rahano.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Single (verbal, time & place)
NG-06	Ontohomo balo-balo i ba'ono rahano, kai waa tei curu e'eno matano.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Compound equivalent (conj. kai)
NG-07	Ndowawaimo cina a'iso ilabasa, kai poone i bangka.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Compound equivalent (conj. kai)



Code	Sentence (Kulisu Language)	Page Source	Type (Hypothesis)
NG-08	Ndosabumo i tahi kando nangi lumahari bangka a'iso.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Compound equivalent (konj. kando)
NG-09	Ahirino ndopakawi'indamo.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Singular (verbal, subject ellipse)
NG-10	Io tamahako ndo'onoono itonia ndomatemo i tongano olaro.	Ni'i Ngka'ulo-ulo	Singular (verbal, place noun)
CD-01	Tamano orua ana rapia imarewu larono rouno ilembahimo nando bansule minai perumpa'ano manu.	Anano Lakino Lipu Ndorapia	Multi-storey compound
CD-02	Io Apuno Rajaki imo'iliako mohalu raja moiko bo malimba'inda minai kasulita kai lako kaiko.	Apuno Rajaki	Multi-storey compound
CD-03	Ako kancukanano io inai bo membalino raja moiko?	Apuno Rajaki	Singular (interrogative)
CD-04	Io horn-cula ompudu a'ai io horn-culano ata molai hinai inonto io mia ordinary.	Ata Molai	Single (nominal)
CD-05	Dapo ana Bintausu owose nawusuuno mongka.	Bintausu	Single (nominal)
CD-06	Saluwuo io kinaa i laro rahando i puraho.	Bintausu	Singular (verbal, place noun)
CD-07	Saade waktuu ndo parahka'o, Bintausu tampu'u mohalu pangalama.	Bintausu	Multilevel compound (time clause)
CD-08	Io ana mengeehakono Buragil io ana binasiako tamano te sahinaahakono i larongkeu.	Buragil	Singular (nominal, broad phrase)
CD-09	Larono ndo baasiako a'iso Buragil i bring friendsu-manu ngeeno io Kincah.	Buragil	Singular (verbal, place noun)

Code	Sentence (Kulisu Language)	Page Source	Type (Hypothesis)
CD-10	Io manu-manu Kincah a'ai tumambanio Buragil until I became io raja saade lipu.	Buragil	Complex compound (conj. until)

This section shows the results of the recapitulation of the classification of sentence types in Table 1, and is presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Summary of Sentence Types

Sentence Type Categories	Amount	Related Data Code
Single sentence (one clause/predicate)	14	RK-01–RK-05, NG-02, NG-03, NG-05, NG-09, NG-10, CD-04, CD-05, CD-06, CD-08, CD-09
Compound sentences (kai/kando conjunctions)	6	RK-06, RK-07, NG-01, NG-06, NG-07, NG-08
Complex compound sentences	6	RK-08, CD-01, CD-02, CD-07, CD-10 (+1 variation)
Sentences with direct quotation predicates	1	NG-04
Interrogative sentences	1	CD-03

Based on Table 2, of the 28 sentence data studied, the most dominant type is the single sentence, namely 14 data (46.7%), followed by compound sentences and compound sentences with 6 data (20%) each, as well as one sentence data with a direct quotation predicate and one interrogative sentence data. The dominance of single sentences is in line with the character of the data, which is mostly in the form of short descriptive narrative sentences, while compound sentences appear more in parts of the story that describe a series of sequential events.

1.2 Characteristics of Sentence Patterns

From the results of the data analysis that has been carried out, it is then explained to be presented in the application of the Direct Element Sharing (BUL) technique to the data, which is explained as follows:

Data RK-03: “Rusa i Kolinsusu kadi picu sampa tanduno.” (translation: “The Kulisusu deer only has seven branches on its antlers.”) The constituents of this sentence consist of the subject *rusa i Kolinsusu* in the form of a nominal phrase with the head *of the deer* and the information of origin *i Kolinsusu* (preposition *i* + toponym); the predicate *kadi* which functions as a limiting predicate (similar to “only/cuma”) so that this sentence has a nonverbal predicate; and the complement *picu sampa tanduno* in the form of a numeral phrase with a noun with the possessive suffix *-no* ('its antlers'). This sentence pattern can be formulated as S–P(nonverbal)–Pel, with the note that the status of the category *kadi* as a limiting adverb or an affirmative particle still needs to be verified.

Data NG-02: “Ipompake songko te baju ntama.” (translation: “(He) wears a hat and men’s clothes.”) The subject of this sentence is implied in the prefix *i-* on the verb, in the



form of a third-person singular argument bound to the verb; the predicate *ipompake* is a transitive verb formed from the personal prefix *i-* and the base *pompake* ('wear/use'); while the object *songko te baju ntama* is a coordinative nominal phrase with two nouns connected by the conjunction *te* ('and/with'). This sentence pattern can be formulated as (S)-PO, with the subject in the form of an argument bound to a characteristic verb commonly found in Austronesian languages of the Bungku-Tolaki type.

Data NG-06: "Ontohomo balo-balo i ba'ono rahano, kai waa tei curu e'eno matano." (translation: "Bubbles appeared on the wall of his house, and water dripped from his eyes.") The first clause consists of the predicate *ontohomo* ('appeared/arised'), the subject *balo-balo* ('bubbles'), and the adverb of place *i ba'ono rahano* (preposition *i* + noun + possessive *-no*); the two clauses are connected by the coordinating conjunction *kai* ('and/then'); the second clause consists of the predicate in the form of the verbal phrase *waa...curu* ('dripped') and the adverb *e'eno matano*. This sentence pattern can be formulated as Clause1(PSK) + *kai* + Clause2(PK), namely a compound sentence with the order of the predicate preceding the subject (PS) which appears consistent in intransitive/existential verbs, as also seen in the RK-06 and RK-07 data.

The results show that the Kulisusu language, as represented in the narrative texts of the kulisusu.net site, exhibits varied sentence patterns but with a number of recurring and fairly consistent morphosyntactic features.

1.3 Syntactic Characteristics of Kulisusu Language

In the syntactic characteristics of the Kulisusu language found on the Kulisusu.Net site, it explains the use of the conjunctions *kai* and *kando* found repeatedly as connectors between equal clauses, with a meaning close to "and/then" in Indonesian, as seen in the data RK-06, RK-07, NG-01, NG-06, NG-07, and NG-08. Meanwhile, the marker *io* consistently appears in front of the constituent that functions as the subject/topic of the sentence, for example in the data NG-10, CD-02, CD-04, CD-08, and CD-10.

The types of sentences that dominate on the site are the dominance of single sentences, the use of the conjunction *kai* / *kando* in compound sentences, explicit topic marking through *io*, and the order of PS in intransitive / existential predicates.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of 28 Kulisusu sentences taken from three narrative sections of the kulisusu.net website, this study shows that Kulisusu sentences in the Kulisusu language sections on the *Kulisusu.net website* have diverse syntactic characteristics. Based on the analysis of the research corpus, five types of sentences were found, namely simple sentences, compound sentences, compound sentences, sentences with direct quotation predicates, and interrogative sentences, with a predominance of simple sentences. The analysis of syntactic functions shows variations in sentence patterns, such as S-P(nonverbal)-Pel, (S)-P-O, and Clause1(P-S-K) + *kai* + Clause2(P-K). In addition, the syntactic characteristics of Kulisusu are marked by the use of topic markers *io*, conjunctions *kai* and *kando*, and the tendency for the predicate to precede the subject in several sentence constructions. These findings indicate that the text on the *Kulisusu.net site* can be a representative data source to describe the

characteristics of Kulisusu language sentences while providing an initial contribution to the documentation and syntactic study of regional languages based on digital corpus.

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