



Morphological Forms of Serial Verb Constructions in a Transliteration Corpus of Fourteenth-Century Classical Malay Literature

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Article Info	Abstract
Received: 2026-06-20 Revised: 2026-07-15 Accepted: 2026-08-19 Keywords: <i>Classical Malay Literature, Morphological Forms, Serial Verb Constructions, Transliterated Manuscript Corpus</i> DOI: 10.24256/ideas.v14i1.11365 Corresponding Author: Yacub Fahmilda yacub.fahmilda@gmail.com Universitas Gadjah Mada	<i>A verb exists and plays an important role across all languages worldwide. It can be in the form of a singular or serial predicate. A singular predicate is relatively straightforward to identify, while a serial predicate is more complex, particularly when determining the morphological form of serial verbs. This study aims to identify and describe the serial verb constructions through a morphological approach of each component on the first (V1) and the second verb (V2) that both present as one predicate in a clause. Applying a descriptive qualitative method, the data of this study are verbs appearing side-by-side in a transliteration corpus of classical Malay literature within 69,378 words, namely Hikayat Bayan Budiman (HBB). Quantification between V1+V2 is not a main part of this study, but it complements a close observation on serial verb constructions, suggesting the dominance of word formation production in HBB. The result of this present study shows that 260 serial verbs construct V1+V2. The construction exhibits nine morphological forms in combination. These are (a) base form + base form, (b) base form + affixed verb, (c) base form + reduplicated verb, (d) base form + compound word, (e) affixed verb + base form, (f) affixed verb + affixed verb, (g) affixed verb + reduplicated verb, (h) reduplicated verb + affixed verb, and (i) reduplicated verb + compound word. In the context of HBB, V1 consistently uses the base form with four types of morphological processes, and it is found that compound verbs do not occur in V1. An affixed verb is not followed by a compound word, and a reduplicated verb is not followed by a reduplicated verb. Across morphological forms of serial verb, affixation is the most productive and plays a crucial role. The current study suggests that the adopted theory of serial verb construction in Indonesian is considered as a serial predicate and compound sentence with implicit relation.</i>

1. Introduction

A verb is an essential part of a clause and generally functions as a predicate. A predicate, according to Verhaar (2012), consists of a single predicate and a serial predicate. A single predicate generally serves a verb, while a serial predicate has a sequential verb or at least two or more verbs. As Aikhenvald (2018) mentions, a series of several verbs performing together as one unit of predicate is called serial verb constructions or a serial verb for short. Most serial verb studies focus on two main categories: syntactic and semantic approaches within comparative studies across languages worldwide.

Nevertheless, a morphological approach within descriptive studies is fairly overlooked. Durie (1997) emphasizes that distinguishing a serial verb profile in one language is a good case. Therefore, this present research aims to describe a serial verb construction of classical Malay language–pre-Independence language of Indonesia–through a morphological approach. Hereafter, the terminology of the classical Malay language or Indonesian is interchangeable in the present article.

A serial verb construction is a universal language phenomenon as they have universal characteristics across all languages. Aikhenvald (2018) suggests universal properties of a serial verb are (a) consisting of two or more verbs, (b) no marking of dependency between the verbs, (c) occupying a single predicate or *monoclausal*, (d) having transitivity value of each verb, (e) sharing at least one core argument by all the verbs, and (f) illustrating a single event. During the last decade, serial verb constructions have been studied across various languages and geographical areas. Serial verb constructions of African languages have been scrutinized by several scholars, such as Yoruba (Bamidele, 2025), Ìgáńí (Adeoye, 2025), Renard (2023) on Tshiluba, Abua (ThankGod & Ngulube, 2022), Zarma (Jayeola, 2021), Etulo (Ezenwafor, 2019), and Ikwere (Alerechi, 2018).

Meanwhile, Western languages on serial verb constructions have also been investigated by Soćanac and Joseph (2023) on Croatian, and Andrason (2018) on Polish. The previous studies strengthen the framework of serial verb, but further research should be conducted identifying specific properties based on their linguistics characteristic on each language. Interestingly, applying extensive morphosyntax and language contact, Aikhenvald (2022) conducts a studious research on the suffix *-siwa* in Tariana—a language spoken around the Vaupés River Basin in Brazilian Amazonia of South America.

A recent study on serial verb constructions across Austronesian languages in regional languages of Indonesia can be classified into four categories. The first category, the study of serial verb constructions, focuses on examining universal characteristics, which also categorizes the semantic type of serial verbs (Amalina Sari & Subiyanto, 2023; Maulidan, 2019; Romadhan, 2020). Several scholars utilized syntactic and semantic approach, which generates the second category (Sawaki, 2023; Selia & Romadhan, 2024). As the third and fourth categories, some scholars separate the study under one perspective. While some of them employ syntax as a single approach (Indrawati & Puspani, 2022; Saragih & Mulyadi, 2020; Siallagan dkk., 2024), the others focus on the semantic perspective only (Magfiroh & Subiyanto, 2021; Syifa & Subiyanto, 2022). Reviewing the previous studies, studies on serial verb constructions under a morphology approach are generally underexamined.

In addition, the previous studies indicate that research on serial verb is a feature of all languages (Aikhenvald & Dixon, 2006), including Indonesian, as this language follows universal characteristics of serial verb constructions. It has been proven by Subiyanto (2010), who observed pre-independence Indonesian, while Baryadi (2005), Oktaviana and Mukhlis (2015) and Moeljadi (2024) studied modern or contemporary Indonesian. According to them, a serial verb is a sequence verb with two or more verbs occupying a predicate and representing a single event.

In Indonesia linguistics perspective, the serial verb is considered as a compound sentence and expressed relation implicitly. Reflecting on Subiyanto (2010) and Oktaviana and Mukhlis (2015) investigations, a serial verb significantly persists in the Indonesian language across different times, but none of these studies discussed the morphological forms of V1+V2.

The following excerpts from two sources, a short story anthology of *Nona Koelit Koetjing* (published between 1870-1910) and *Kartini Magazine* (published in 2015), illustrate a serial verb construction.

(a) Kita orang misti **peg**i **kasi** hormat *Pre-Independence of Indonesia*
We person must go give respect

tapekong di klenteng
priest in Chinese temple
'We must go to show our respect to the priest in Chinese temple'
(Subiyanto, 2010, hlm. 180)

(b) Ia **bersedia** **membela** tindakan Tsarnaev *Contemporary Indonesia*
He/she want defend action NAME
'He/she is willing to defend Tsarnaev's action'
(Oktaviana & Mukhlis, 2015, hlm. 53)

Seen through a morphological process, the verb of *peg*i 'go' and *kasi* 'give' in (a) are classified as free morphemes or a base form as they independently carry meaning with no need to be further followed by a word-formation process to shape a meaning. Meanwhile, in (b), the affix *ber-* and *meN-* in verbs of *bersedia* 'want' and *membela* 'defend' respectively are bound morphemes. The bound morpheme carries a particular meaning when they join another morpheme, as seen in (b) demonstrated by the verbs *sedia* and *bela*. Seen through the morphological process, excerpt (a) employs verbs which are in a base form. Meanwhile, excerpt (b) uses affixed verbs. The affix *ber-* attaches to the first verb and affix *me(N)-* attaches to the second verb. In this respect, serial verbs involve a morphological process, beginning from morpheme to word. Ramlan (1987) and Verhaar (2012) agree that a morpheme is a material object of research in morphology, especially in word-formation processes.

Affixation, reduplication, and compounding are three morphological processes in Indonesian (Ramlan, 1987; Verhaar, 2012). Affixation is adding an affix to a base form, which may be located before a base form (it is called a *prefix*), after a base form (*suffix*), or together occupying before and after a base form (*combined affix*). Reduplication is a morphological process by repeating a base form within a full repetition, a partial repetition, combining with affixes, or changing the sound. Combining two base forms to create new meaning is the compounding process. As Aikhenvald (2018) suggests a compound word is not serial verb, so that they are counted as a single verb. Meanwhile, a zero modification can be considered part of the morphological process, although it does not contribute to any change and employs a zero morpheme { $\emptyset$ } on a base form (Wijana, 2011). Adopting a morphological approach, a word formation process on a verb can be deeply examined, including each component of the serial verb in V1+V2.

In terms of collecting data, scholars conducted interviews with native speakers or allowed themselves to generate data intuitively. However, most of them have relatively small data and claim the dominance of language form without any support of numerical data, as presented by Subiyanto (2010). Selia and Romadhon (2024) suggest that research on serial verb constructions should employ an extensive corpus to capture the linguistic

diversity of a language being examined. Moeljadi (2024) uses the *Korpus Referensi Tata Bahasa Indonesia Kontemporer* (TBIK) v1.3 'Corpus of Indonesian Contemporary Grammar' in CQPWeb to obtain data on serial verb constructions in contemporary Indonesian. Nevertheless, his study's result focuses and is limited to identifying the high frequency of serial verb constructions without describing the language.

To address the challenges of data collection, this study utilizes a concordance corpus of transliterated classical Malay manuscripts, namely the *Malay Concordance Project* (MCP). This concordance corpus provides the oldest language form of the 14th century reflected in *Hikayat Bayan Budiman* (HBB), which represents classical Malay grammar in that period. Not only does HBB present the oldest language form, but it also indicates the originality of language form in the history of the Indonesian language.

Reflecting on the above discussion, the morphological approach in serial verb studies is often neglected across all languages. This study proposes two research questions (a) what are morphological forms of serial verb in HBB? (b) what are the dominance forms of serial verb in HBB based on quantification of data? This present research aims to identify and describe serial verb constructions of V1+V2 in the 14th century under the morphological approach by exploiting HBB. A further description involves a quantification process to map the dominance of word-formation production in HBB.

The novelty of the serial verb study in this present research lies in four key points: (a) adopting a morphological approach for the analysis framework, (b) taking a concordance corpus for assisting the data collection, (c) exploiting transliterated manuscripts of classical Malay literature, and (d) illustrating the dominance of morphological form with numerical data in graphs and charts. Overall, this article may contribute theoretically in synchronic linguistics, manuscript studies, and culture studies.

2. Method

This research applied a descriptive qualitative method. The descriptive approach is applied to describe the data empirically, synthesizes the findings, and summarizes to generalize within limitations. Employing a descriptive approach means the data were not evaluated by giving a value of true or false and correct or wrong. The qualitative method was implemented to interpret and narrate in analyzing the data based on researchers' intuitive power. Statistical numbers in this research were a complement of description, but it was not the main data to be analyzed. The analysis was supported by a distributional method, in which the language being investigated is a main tool to analyze itself (Kesuma, 2007).

The distributional method involved an immediate constituent analysis technique to identify and break down the word formation between a base form and morphemes of affixes by segmenting the constituents intuitively (Sudaryanto, 2015). A paraphrase technique was employed to decipher the meanings of the words. In terms of quantifying data, this research used Microsoft Excel in managing numerical data and generating graphs and charts. The graphs and charts show the dominant of the use of verb serial word formations in HBB.

This research was limited to serial verbs consisting verb-verb construction (V1+V2) because this prototypical form is universal and can be found in almost all languages worldwide (Aikhenvald & Dixon, 2006) albeit it is possible to find a sequence more than two (Maulidan, 2019; Syifa & Subiyanto, 2022). The data of this research were clauses of serial verb and limited to a transliterated manuscript corpus, entitled *Hikayat Bayan Budiman* (HBB) with 69,378 words in total. HBB, as the source of the data, was chosen since it has a moderate number of words as a corpus to identify the patterns of serial verbs, especially considering the manuscript is the oldest one in the corpus. Given the properties

of HBB, examining a single manuscript may represent the other three manuscripts of 14th century from the corpus.

This corpus is web-based and called *Malay Concordance Project* (MCP) which can be accessed online through <https://mcp.anu.edu.au>. MCP is a concordance corpus and the word being examined can be observed in *key word in context* (KWIC) (Roselani, 2023). Furthermore, the tool in this corpus allows us to select particular Indonesian affixes, such as prefixes (*me(N)-*, *ber-*, *ter-*), suffixes (*-an*, *-kan*, *-i*), circumfix (*ber-an*, *ke-an*), and any combination affixes. These corpus tools also provide reduplication form to select. These tools assist the researchers to obtain specific morphological form of serial verbs. Furthermore, the analysis involved a careful observation by scrutinizing the list of concordance one-by-one. Therefore, the corpus search was conducted both automatically and manually.

The transliterated version of HBB in this research was edited by R.O. Winstedt, which was initially published in 1966 by Oxford University Press in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This manuscript is a translation of Persian literature and approximately written in 1371 A.D., equivalent to the 14th century A.D. HBB was chosen as a data source because this transliteration work had been done by a philologist. Additionally, HBB is available accessed online within a corpus platform and MCP facilitates language research with features mainly for morphology, such as affixes. Lastly, HBB is the oldest manuscript among the other transliterated manuscripts in MCP, so that the language used in this manuscript may expose unique word forms.

3. Result and Discussion

This research reveals two major findings: these are the morphological forms and the dominant patterns of serial verbs in HBB. The following findings are described and interpreted narratively.

Morphological Forms of V1+V2 in HBB

In this part, the morphological form of serial verbs in HBB is presented. The present study found that word formation of serial verbs in HBB involves four types of word formation for V1+V2 across 260 data. There are at least nine V1+V2 formations, these are (a) base form + base form, (b) base form + affixed verb, (c) base form + reduplicated verb, (d) base form + compound word, (e) affixed verb + base form, (f) affixed verb + affixed verb, (g) affixed verb + reduplicated verb, (h) reduplicated verb + affixed verb, and (i) reduplicated verb + compound word. Each of these morphological forms is described, and the components of serial verbs are in bold as follows.

a. Base Form + Base Form

In this type of formation, the base forms of both V1 and V2 are *terbang* 'fly' and *pergi* 'go' respectively. These base forms are categorized as verbs. Consider (1) below.

- (1) Bayan itu pun **terbanglah** **pergi** kepada kubur Syékh itu
NAME that even fly go towards tomb priest that
'Even Bayan fly heading to priest's tomb'

Morphological process of V1 and V2 is a zero derivation. Each component in (1) is derived by zero morpheme { $\emptyset$ }. This type of word formation means the process does not result in any change towards the base form as it can be seen in the following process in (1a) and (1b).

- (1a) {terbang} + {Ø} > terbang 'fly'
 (1b) {pergi} + {Ø} > pergi 'go'

Within zero derivation, the category of *terbang* and *pergi* remains the same as a verb. This derivation process without changing word category is called inflectional (Verhaar, 2012). Furthermore, the zero derivation in (1) does not change the meaning of *terbang* and *pergi*, remaining as 'active verb'. Regarding the transitivity, *terbang* and *pergi* do not need to be followed by any object, and it is called intransitive. The phrase of *kepada kubur Syékh itu* 'towards the priest's tomb' is a complement or an object of complement as their presence is optional in a structure. Therefore, this construction follows an intransitive + intransitive pattern.

b. Base Form + Affixed Verb

The following clauses (2), (3) and (4) consist of base forms in V1 and are followed by affixed verbs in V2 as they can be seen below.

- (2) Ia **duduk** **membaca** isim Allah
 He/she sit read name God
 'He/she sits to read the name of God'
- (3) Raja pun **keluarlah** **berburu**
 King even go out hunt
 'Even the king goes out to hunt'
- (4) Sebuah kapal **datang** **berlabuh** di labuhan itu
 A/an ship arrive berth in harbor that
 'A ship arrives to berth in that harbor'

V1 in (2), (3), and (4) are *duduk* 'sit', *keluar* 'go out', and *datang* 'come' respectively. These three morphemes are free morphemes and categorized as verbs. These three verbs are formed without making any change due to involving zero morpheme in their morphological process as (2a), (3a), and (4a) in the following word formation.

- (2a) {duduk} + {Ø} > duduk 'sit'
 (3a) {keluar} + {Ø} > keluar 'go out'
 (4a) {datang} + {Ø} > datang 'come'

(2) of V2 applies *me(N)-* while *ber-* is found in (3) and (4). Both affixes are bound morphemes called prefixes, as they are located before the base forms of *baca* 'read', *buru* 'hunt', and *labuh* 'berth'. The following morphological process describes the affixation process.

- (2b) {me(N)-} + {baca} > membaca 'read'
 (3b) {ber-} + {buru} > berburu 'hunt'
 (4b) {ber-} + {labuh} > berlabuh 'berth'

The category (part of speech) of *baca* and *buru* in (2b) and (3b), respectively, is a verb, but (4b) *labuh* is an adjective. In (2b) the nasal of N- is shown as /m/ since it precedes the bilabial consonant /b/, the initial phoneme of the base form *baca*. The morphological process of *baca* and *buru* becoming *membaca* and *berburu* in (2b) and (3b) is inflectional, as they do not change the category and they remain as a verb. On the other hand, *ber-* in (4b) changes the adjective of *labuh* into a verb, *berlabuh*. This derivational process of

shifting an adjective into a verb is called deadjectival (Verhaar, 2012). Both prefixes of *me(N)-* and *ber-* mean 'active verb' for (2b-4b).

In terms of verb types, V1 of (2a-4a) is intransitive since it can occur independently without a direct object. While prefix *ber-* marks V2 of (3b-4b) intransitive, V2 in (2b) indicates a transitive verb and *me(N)-* plays as a marker. Prefix *me(N)-* causes a verb to be followed by an object, and in (2) *isim Allah* 'the name of God' performs as an object of a clause. Therefore, this base form + affixed verb formation alternatively can be intransitive + intransitive or intransitive + transitive, marked by bound morphemes *ber-* and *me(N)-*.

c. Base Form + Reduplicated Verb

V1 of (5) to (7) are filled with base forms of *datang* 'come', *pergi* 'go', and *duduk* 'sit'. Meanwhile, reduplication forms of *melayang-layang* 'fly', *bermain-main* 'play', and *bersuka-sukaan* 'snuggle' occupy V2. All categories of V1+V2 in this type are verbs. Consider (5) to (7) below.

(5) Bayan itu pun **datanglah** **melayang-layang**
Bayan that even come fly
'Even that Bird Bayan comes flying in the air'

(6) Raja pun **pergilah** **bermain-main** ke taman.
King even go play head to park
'Even the king goes out playing in the park'

(7) ia **duduk** **bersuka-sukaan** dengan segala bidadari
he/she sit snuggle with all angel
'He/she sits snuggling with all of the angels'

Verbs of V1 are formed without combining any affix, but they are shaped by zero morpheme. The word formations of V1 are shown (5a)–(7a) below.

(5a) {datang} + {Ø} > datang 'come'

(6a) {pergi} + {Ø} > pergi 'go'

(7a) {duduk} + {Ø} > duduk 'sit'

In (5b)–(7b), word formation of V2 occurs through reduplication combined with the affixation process. Consider the following (5b) to (7b).

(5b) {me(N)-R} + {layang} > melayang-layang 'fly in the air'

(6b) {ber-R} + {main} > bermain-main 'play'

(7b) {ber-R-an} + {suka} > bersuka-sukaan 'snuggle'

(5b) and (6b) involve the reduplication process of prefixes *me(N)-* and *ber-* within base forms of *layang* 'fly' and *main* 'play' respectively. These prefixes do not contribute to changing the meaning of the base form. Compared to (7b), the base form of *suka* 'like' undergoes reduplication within *ber-an* confixes, and the meaning changes into 'snuggle,' but it remains as a verb. Meanwhile, the meaning of reduplication combined with the prefixes *me(N)-* and *ber-* in (5b)–(6b) indicates 'repetitive actions.' The circumfix of *ber-an* in (7b) means 'reciprocal actions.' Reduplication occurs only on V2 in (5b)–(6b). Conversely, the meaning of *ber-an* in V2 significantly affects the whole meaning of V1 and V2 into 'sitting while snuggle each other.' Even though reduplication is applied in (5b)–(6b), shown by the affixes *me(N)-* and *ber-*, both V1+V2 in these morphological forms consist of intransitive + intransitive because all V2 do not need an object to follow.

d. Base Form + Compound Word

Base form of V1 in (8) is a verb *kembali* 'go back', while V2 is a compound word *memberi tahu* 'tell', as shown below.

(8) Sahaya itu pun segera **kembali** **memberi tahu** Bibi Zainab
I/me that even soon go back tell aunt NAME
'Even I soon go back telling to Bibi Zainab'

(8a) {kembali} + {Ø} > kembali 'go back'

(8b) {me(N)-} + {{beri} + {tahu}} > memberi tahu 'tell'

V1 of (8a) illustrates that *kembali* involves zero morpheme in the morphological process. On the other hand, compounding occurs in V2 (8b). Compounding means a process of combining two words considered as two morphemes to generate a new word and meaning. The form and meaning of a compound word are frozen. The compound word of *memberi tahu* consists of two verbs: *beri* 'give' and *tahu* 'know'. The combination of these two verbs means 'to tell'. The meaning of this compound word can be tested in two ways by swapping the position and replacing *beri* and *tahu* with another verb, *datang* 'come'. Observe the following (8c-8e) tests.

(8c) *{tahu} + {beri} > tahu beri

(8d) *{beri} + {datang} > beri datang

(8e) *{datang} + {tahu} > datang tahu

Swapping technique in (8c) shows the compounding result means nothing, as in Indonesian *tahu beri* does not exist. Results in (8d) and (8e) also prove that each component of the verb '*beri tahu*' cannot be replaced with another verb, such as **beri datang* and **datang tahu*.

In terms of verb type, V1 in (8) *kembali* is intransitive, while V2 *memberi tahu* is transitive because a direct object, Bibi Zainab, follows the verb. Therefore, the construction of this morphological form is intransitive + transitive.

e. Affixed Verb + Base Form

V1 is *berjalanlah* or *berjalan* 'to walk,' while *keluar* 'go out' and *turun* 'go down' occupy V2. All of these are verbs, as they can be observed in (9) and (10) below.

(9) Ia **berjalanlah** **keluar** dari negeri itu
He/she walk go out from country that
'He/she walks away from that country'

(10) Ia **berjalan** **turun** ke sampan
He/she walk go down to boat
'He/she walks getting on a boat'

Excerpt (9) and (10) shows that the base forms of V1 are *jalan* 'walk' and added *-lah* particle in (9), which does not affect the word formation. The morphological process of V1 applies affixation with the prefix *ber* in both verbs. This affixation process is inflectional as the category of both verbs remains the same. Consider the following affixation in (9a) and (10a).

(9-10a) {ber-} + {jalan}> berjalan 'walk'

Base form of V2 implements a zero derivation, allowing zero morpheme in the word formation process. Both affixation and zero derivation imply that the type and meaning of each component remains as active verbs. Observe (9b) and (10b) below.

(9b) {keluar} + {Ø} > datang 'come'

(10b) {turun} + {Ø} > pergi 'go'

Clauses in (9) and (10) do not have an object, but they have an adverb of place, which are *dari negeri itu* 'from that country' and *ke sampan* 'to the boat'. The verb of *berjalan(lah)* is intransitive as well as *keluar* and *turun*. Therefore, this section of affixed verb+base form indicates formation of intransitive+intransitive.

f. Affixed Verb + Affixed Verb

In this type of morphological form, affixed verbs such *bermimpi* 'dream', *melompat* 'jump', and *menangis* 'cry' occupy the V1, while V2 consists of *melihat* 'see', *mengambil* 'take', and *mendengarkan* 'hear'. Observe (11)-(13) below.

(11) Ia **bermimpi melihat** seorang perempuan
he/she dream see a/an woman
'He/she dreams seeing a woman'

(12) Ia pun **melompat mengambil** pisau
he/she even jump take knife
'Even he/she jumps to take a knife'

(13) Ia **menangis mendengarkan** hal saudaranya
he/she cry hear things his/her sibling
'He/she cries hearing about his/her sibling situation'

Base forms of verbs in V1 are (11a) *mimpi* 'dream' and (12a) *lompat* 'jump', while (13a) *tangis* 'sad emotion state' is an adjective. In the morphological process, affixation of V1 in (11a) involves the prefix *ber-*, while prefix *me(N)-* occurs in (12a) and (13a). These prefixes do not alter the category and meaning, as they remain verbs, which state 'active action' in (11a) and (12a). The verbs of *mimpi* and *lompat* can perform independently without a prefix, but an adjective of *tangis* cannot act as a predicate, as *tangis* must be combined with an affix, such as *menangis*, involving a deadjectival process. See (11a)-(13a) below.

(11a) {ber-} + {mimpi} > bermimpi 'dream'

(12a) {me(N)-} + {lompat} > melompat 'jump'

(13a) {me(N)-} + {tangis} > menangis 'cry'

In (11b) *lihat* 'see', (12b) *ambil* 'take', and (13b) *dengar* 'listen to' are base forms of V1. These verbs can perform individually as a predicate without affixation. While *me(N)-* indicates 'active action', the affix combination of *me(N)-/-kan* distinct the meaning of having higher intensity. For instance, *dengar*, *mendengar*, and *mendengarkan* have different meanings: *hear* (base form), *hear* (with prefix *me(N)-*), and *listen to* (with affix combination

of *me(N)-/-kan*). *Dengar* and *mendengar* are ‘two active actions’ of the verb, but *mendengarkan* means ‘an active activity within deep, careful action’.

- (11b) {*me(N)-*} + {lihat} > melihat ‘see’
 (12b) {*me(N)-*} + {ambil} > mengambil ‘take’
 (13b) {*me(N)-*} + {dengar} + {-kan} > mendengarkan ‘to listen to’

The construction of these serial verbs is intransitive + transitive. Consistently, all components (11a-13a) of V1 are intransitive, while all verbs (11b-13b) of V2 are transitive. Transitive verbs are marked by the prefix *me(N)-* and consequently followed by an object, such (11) *seorang perempuan* ‘a woman’, (12) *pisau* ‘knife’, and (13) *hal saudaranya* ‘their siblings’.

g. Affixed Verb + Reduplicated Verb

Prefix *ber-* occupies V1 of (14) *bermimpi* ‘dream’ and (15) *berjaga* ‘keep watch’. Reduplication process in V2 is combined with circumfix *ber-an* in (14) *bersuka-sukaan* ‘snuggle’ and prefix *ber-* in (15) *berganti-ganti* ‘take turns.’ Observe (14) and (15) below.

- (14) Ia **bermimpi bersuka-sukaan** dengan seorang puteri
 he/she dream snuggle with a/an princess
 ‘He dreams snuggling with a princess’

- (15) Kita **berjaga berganti-ganti**
 We keep watch take turn
 ‘We take turns keeping watch’

In (14a) and (15a), the prefix *ber-* marks the base form of *mimpi* and *jaga* as active verbs, although both can function as predicate independently without the prefix.

- (14a) {*ber-*} + {mimpi} > bermimpi ‘dream’
 (15a) {*ber-*} + {jaga} > berjaga ‘keep watch’

The reduplication process in (14b) shows the action is repetitive, whilst the circumfix *ber-an* indicates a reciprocative meaning. Consequently, this reciprocative action affects the whole sentence as a repetitive, reciprocative action. Meanwhile, the prefix *ber-* in (15b) shows an ‘active verb’; the reduplication process implies repetitive action. See (14b) and (15b) below.

- (14b) {*ber-R-an*} + {suka} > bersuka-sukaan ‘snuggle’
 (15b) {*ber-R*} + {ganti} > berganti-ganti ‘take turn’

All components of V1+V2 can be a predicate with no object to follow, hence the structure follows intransitive + intransitive.

h. Reduplicated Verb + Affixed Verb

All components of V1 and V2 are shaped by the prefix *ber-* while the reduplication process occurs in V1 only. The reduplication *berjalan-jalan* ‘walk around’ and *bermain-main* ‘play around’ perform as V1. *Berkeliling* ‘walk around’ and *berburu* ‘hunt’ are two affixed verbs of V2. Consider the following excerpt.

- (16) ia **berjalan-jalan berkeliling** rumah itu
he/she takes a walk walk around house that
'He/she walks around that house'
- (17) adat raja itu sehari-hari **bermain-main berburu** rusa
culture king that daily play hunt deer
'On a daily basis, the king culturally plays hunting deer'

Base forms of V1 are (16a) *jalan* and (17a) *main*. The prefix *ber-* marks both verbs as an 'active verb.' On the other hand, the reduplication process in (16a) and (17a) indicates repetitive actions. Consider examples (16a) and (17a).

- (16a) {ber-R} + {jalan} > berjalan-jalan 'take a walk'
(17a) {ber-R} + {main} > bermain-main 'play around'

Keliling 'go around' in (16b) and *buru* 'hunt' in (17b) are two base forms of V2. The prefix *ber-* attaches to the verb, indicating the verbs are active actions. The morphological process in (16b) and (17b) is illustrated below.

- (16b) {ber-} + {keliling} > berkeliling 'walk around'
(17b) {ber-} + {buru} > berburu 'hunt'

The transitivity pattern of V1+V2 is intransitive + intransitive, mainly marked by *ber-* of each component verb. Although each V2 is followed by a noun, *rumah* 'house' and *rusa* 'deer', these nouns are not objects of the clause, but they are *complements* or objects of complements.

i. Reduplicated Verb + Compound Word

In this type of morphological form, *berseru-seru* 'cry' performs as V1 while V2 is occupied by a compound word of *meminta ampun* 'to ask forgiveness'. Consider the following excerpt (18).

- (18) Perempuan itu pun **berseru-seru meminta ampun** ke hadrat Allah
Woman that even cry ask forgiveness for in front of God
'Even the woman cries asking for forgiveness of God'

Seru 'exciting' as a base form is an adjective and the prefix *ber-* attaches to the verb. Hence, it shows a derivation process, particularly deadjectival, constructing a verb *berseru* 'to shout.' At the same time, this verb also undergoes a reduplication process, constructing *berseru-seru* 'to cry.' The V2 is a compound word *meminta ampun* 'asking forgiveness', which consists of *minta* 'ask something' and *ampun* 'forgiveness'. This compound word is a frozen form as they cannot be swapped and neither of the verbs can be replaced with another verb. Observe this following morphological process (18a) and (18b).

- (18a) {ber-R} + {seru} > berseru-seru 'cry'
(18b) {me(N)-} + {{minta} + {ampun}} > meminta ampun 'to ask forgiveness'

The compound word of *minta ampun* cannot be swapped and each of the component verbs is not replaceable with another verb, *datang* 'come', for instance. Consider the following test (18c)-(18e).

(18c*) {ampun} + {minta} > ampun minta
 (18d*) {minta} + {datang} > minta datang
 (18e*) {datang} + {ampun} > datang ampun

The meaning and form of compound words such as (18c)-(18e) do not exist in Indonesian. The results from the swapping technique in (18c) prove that *minta ampun* is not equal to **ampun minta*. (18d) and (18e) also illustrate that each of verb in a compound word of *minta ampun* is not replaceable, like **minta datang* and **datang ampun*. Meanwhile, *minta datang* means 'invite or ask someone to come', but they do not have the same meaning as *minta ampun*. V1 of *berseru-seru* 'cry' and *minta ampun* 'ask forgiveness' in V2 are intransitive verbs, so that this morphological form of serial verb is intransitive + intransitive.

Quantification of Morphological Form on Serial Verb in HBB

The present investigation employs quantification towards morphological forms of V1+V2 in BB. The quantification involves two types: a total of morphological forms in number and a percentage of V1+V2 in combination. Each quantification result is described as follows.

a. Proportion of Morphological Forms of Serial Verb in HBB

The bar chart in Figure 1. presents information about the number of V1+V2 combination on morphological forms in HBB, while Figure 2. Illustrates the data in proportion of percentage.

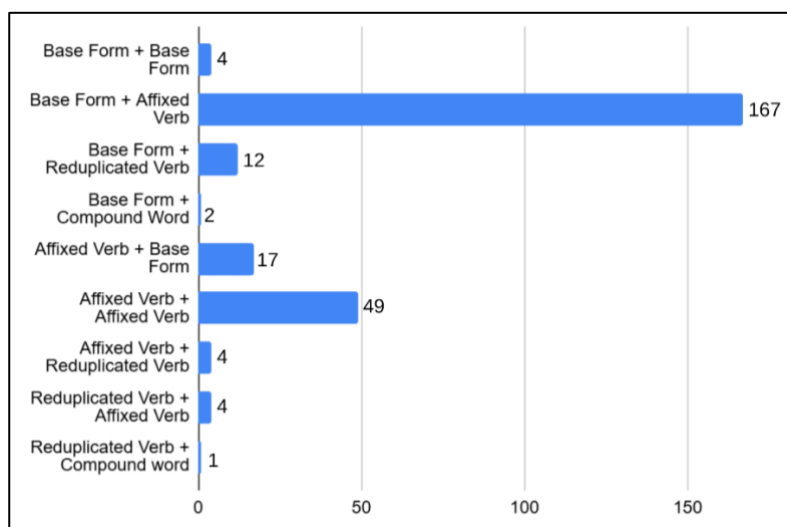


Figure 1. Morphological Forms of V1+V2 in Number of HBB

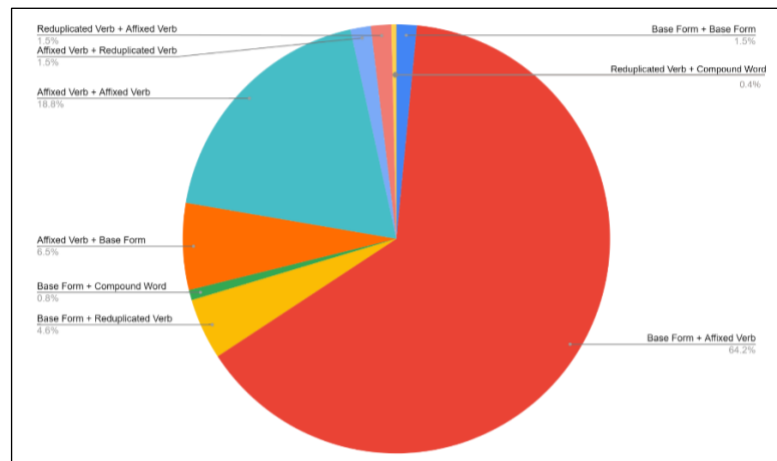


Figure 2. Proportion of Morphological Forms of V1+V2 in Per cent of HBB

As can be seen in Figure 1. and Figure 2., base form + affixed verb has the largest number, 167 data or 64.2%, across all types of serial verb constructions. Meanwhile, affixed verb + affixed verb is relatively productive, with 49 instances (8.8%) identified in the dataset. The proportions of affixed verb + base form and base form + reduplicated verb are not more than 7% and 5%, respectively. On the other hand, the base form+ base form, affixed verb + reduplicated verb, and reduplicated verb + affixed verb are at 1.5%, while base form + compound word and reduplicated verb + compound word have the lowest proportion, at less than 1%. Word formation of affixation occupies all combinations jointly with base form and reduplication. This graph and formation represent that affixation is essential across all types of morphological forms or serial verbs in HBB.

b. Proportion of Word Formation of V1+V2 in HBB

Given the word formation of serial verbs in HBB involves four types: zero derivation, affixation, reduplication, and compounding. These four types of word formation exhibit unequal distribution of V1+V2. Interestingly, zero morpheme is mainly found in V1, and compound words occupy only for V2. Affixation has the highest number of productions across two verbs, as this fact can be seen in Figure 3. Meanwhile, the proportion of V1 and V2 is presented separately in Figure 4. And Figure 5. below.

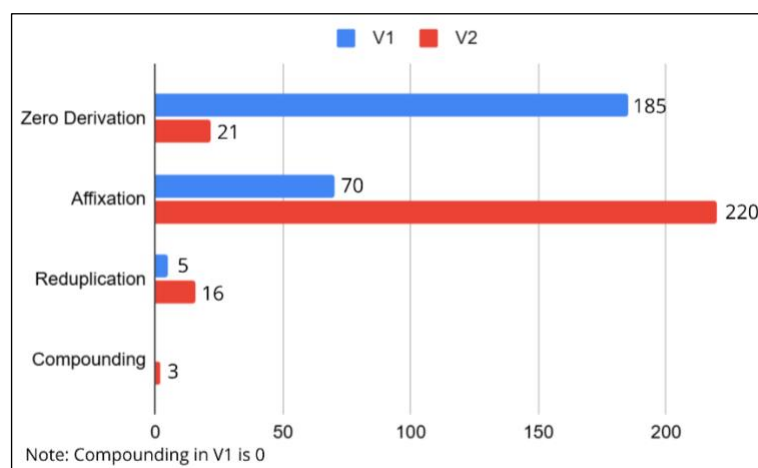


Figure 3. Word Formation on V1 and V2 in Number of HBB

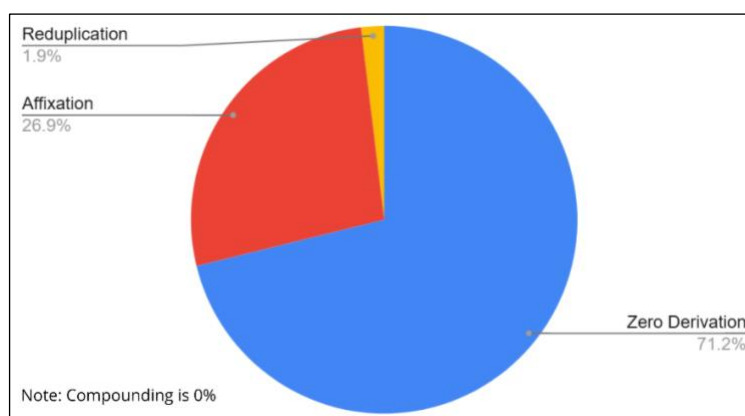


Figure 4. Proportion of Word Formation of V1 in Percent in HBB

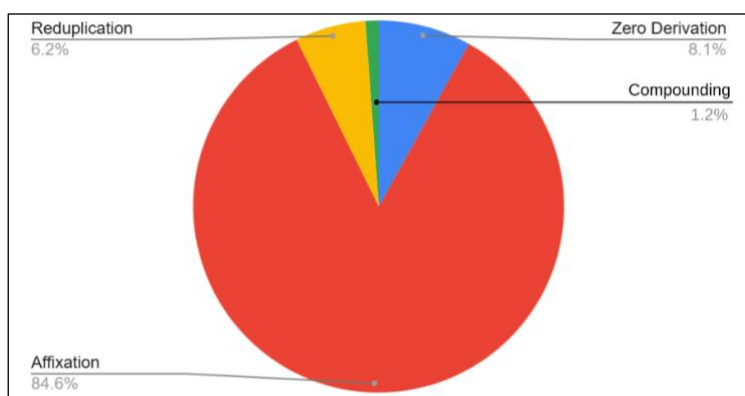


Figure 5. Proportion of Word Formation of V2 in Percent in HBB

According to Figure 3. and Figure 4., zero derivation dominates over two-thirds of V1 by 71.2% or 185 data. Meanwhile, a third of the total number is occupied by affixation and reduplication; these are 70 data (26.9%) and 5 data (1.9%), respectively. In contrast, Figure 3. and Figure 5 show that affixation has the highest number in V2 with 220 data, approximately 85%. Zero derivation is relatively low at 8.1% (21 data), and reduplication is not less than 16 data (6.2%). Interestingly, compounding in V1 is absent, but it is present in V2 with a tiny proportion of not more than 1.2 % (3 data). Overall, affixation in serial verb play significant role in the morphological process, as this type of word formation exists in both V1 and V2.

4. Conclusion

The result of this present study reveals that serial verb constructions in HBB consist of no more than nine morphological forms of V1+V2. These are (a) base form + base form, (b) base form + affixed verb, (c) base form + reduplicated verb, (d) base form + compound word, (e) affixed verb + base form, (f) affixed verb + affixed verb, (g) affixed verb + reduplicated verb, (h) reduplicated verb + affixed verb, and (i) reduplicated verb + compound word. Quantified data illustrate the dominant pattern of each type of word formation and morphological forms, particularly in HBB. Notably, the base form consistently occupies V1 in combination with four types of morphological processes, while no compound verbs are found in V1.

It is observed that an affixed verb is not followed by a compound word. In addition, no reduplicated verb occurs in V2. Across morphological forms of serial verbs, affixation is the most productive word formation and plays a crucial role. Reflecting on the universal theory of serial verbs, this study suggests that serial verb construction is considered a serial predicate in Indonesian, and the morphological form of each component of the serial verb

influences the combination and order of verbs. Compared to contemporary Indonesian and classical Malay, the language form of serial verb construction in a classical Malay manuscript of HBB is most likely no different, but a few lexical items might be less productive in modern Indonesian.

This investigation provides a novelty towards theoretical and methodological implications on the morphology of serial verb construction reflected in a corpus of classical Malay transliterated manuscripts. A prominent suggestion for future research on serial verb constructions is adopting this present research method and procedure. As a group of Austronesian languages had majorly been examined within a syntactic and semantic approach, a morphological approach is highly suggested, given that most Austronesian languages are agglutinative and affixation mainly happens across Austronesian languages.

As this study is limited to one transliterated manuscript, future studies might involve a greater number of words and transliterated manuscripts within the same period, such as investigating all transliterated manuscripts in the 14th century. A further strategic examination may be conducted on more than two verbs to broaden and to map serial verb construction studies. An advanced study may implement a diachronic study, comparing two different eras of texts between classical Malay language and contemporary Indonesian within corpus-assisted research. This diachronic study might contribute to language and cultural studies of Indonesia, before and during contemporary Indonesian language use.

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