

Research article

Meaning of Adverbial in Nias Language

Meltarina Sihura^{1*}, I Nyoman Kardana², Ni Wayan Kasni³

Master of Linguistics, Universitas Warmadewa

ORCID

I Nyoman Kardana <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6855-0576>

Ni Wayan Kasni: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3766-1115>

Abstract.

The goal of this study was to look into the meaning of adverbial in Nias. This study used a qualitative research method and a descriptive approach. In addition, the data was analyzed using the Quirk et al. (1985) theory. The findings of this study revealed that the meanings found in Nias language referred to Nias language adverbial types. The meaning of adverbial of place expressing position, direction, goal, and source was discovered. Meanwhile, the adverbial of time can be used to express a specific point in time, duration, or frequency. Furthermore, the adverbial of manner has the ability to express manner, means, instrument, and agentive. It was discovered that the adverbial of degree has the ability to express measure, frequency, and duration. Other adverbials in Nias language have other meanings, such as adverbial of reason, which can express why, adverbial of condition, which can express the condition itself, and adverbial of purpose, which can express a goal or purpose.

Keywords: adverbial, meaning, Nias language

Corresponding Author: Meltarina Sihura; email: meltasihura97@gmail.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

Nias language is the language which is spoken by Nias community. Nias language is used by Nias community as their daily communication tools to speak to others. In addition, Nias language has six vowel; they are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* and \emptyset . Each word of Nias language is ended by a vocal sound, it is never ended by a consonant sound. For instance, '*mahemolu*' means 'tomorrow'; '*mamana ira*' means 'they have eaten'; '*mam*ɔ*i ira mohal*ɔ*w*ɔ**' means 'they go to work'. In Nias language, the use of single quotation mark commonly occurs in Nias language written text, so that the use of single quotation mark becomes one of the characteristics of Nias language. For instance, *ya'ita* means 'we'; *ga'a* means 'old brother/sister'; *me;e* means 'crying'.

An adverbial is different from an adverb. The term 'adverb' refers to a specific word class or lexical category and therefore contrasts with other word classes, such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, or prepositions, (Heusinger et al., 2011:1392). Whereas the


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term 'adverbial' refers to a specific syntactic function within sentences and therefore contrasts with other syntactic functions, like subject, object, and predicate.

In Nias language, the adverbial is complex since the lexicon that shows a place and a direction from one point to another place is similar, so that it can be confusing such as the example below.

1. Gumõi *ba sikola*

1SG-go Prep. school

'I go to school'

1. Ya'ira *ba fasa*

3PP Prep market

'They are at market'

Based on example (2) above, it can be seen that the function of the italic phrase is to show a place, however, the example (1) and (2) are different. In example (1), the function of '*ba*' is to show direction, while in example (2), the function of '*ba*' is to show place. In this case, it can be seen that in Nias language, *ba* in a sentence can have the same preposition with different meanings or functions. In addition, this becomes the uniqueness of Nias language. Thus, based on the example above, it can be stated that Nias language has various meanings of adverbial that can be filled by the preposition of *ba*.

The study about adverbial has been conducted previously by some researchers, such as Kurniawati (2014), Draganaa et al. (2015), and Yin (2016). Kurniawati (2014) in her study examined *Types, Function and Position of Adverbs in the Yak Magazine*. The results of this study showed that based on the types of adverbs, it was found that adverb in "The Yak" can be classified morphologically and syntactically. Morphologically, adverb can be classified into three types: simple, compound and complex adverb. Syntactically, adverb can be classified into: adverb of degree, adverb of manner, adverb of time, adverb of frequency, adverb of duration, adverb of place, adverb of interrogative, adverb of relative, adverb affirmative and adverb of probability. The functions of adverbs in this writing are as adverbial which usually expresses about manner, action, etc. There were found seven types of adverb as modifier in the data such as: modifier of verb, modifier of adjectives, modifier of prepositional phrase, modifier of noun phrase, modifier of clause and modifier of pronoun, pre-determiner and numeral and adverbs may function as complement of preposition. Furthermore, the positions of adverbs found in this writing are front position, mid position and end position.

Draganaa et al. (2015) in their study entitled *Adverb or Adverbial Phrases: Structure, Meaning, Function* examined the importance of phrases in English language by presenting their structure, meaning, types and functions that are usually appointed to them. The result of their study revealed that an Adverbial Phrase is a linguistic term for structures operating to express adverbial meaning. Like other phrases, it can be simple or complex. It is as well an endocentric structure. From the structural and functional point of view, each Adverbial Phrase must contain a head. Head words in Adverbial phrases are basically adverbs. They are a heterogeneous class, belong to the open-class items mostly, but varying in their functional and positional ranges. Beside adverbs a head in Adverbial Phrase can be represented by other structures that function as adverbs known as adverbials, such as adjectives, nouns, particles, etc. Related to Meaning and Function of An Adverbial Phrase, it is obvious that according to meaning an Adverbial Phrase corresponds to the meaning of either an Adverb or and Adverbial Clause, answering the question when, where, how, why, etc. and expressing the meaning of time, place, manner, reason, etc. From the point of view of function, an Adverbial Phrase appears on a phrase level structure and on a clause or sentence level structure.

Yin (2016) in her study conducted research about *Register-specific Meaning Categorization of Linking Adverbials in English*. The results of her study revealed that register-specific corpus studies based on manual analysis complement prevalent corpus-based pedagogical grammar studies and contribute to the understanding of the nature and meaning of linguistic items, especially multi-functional forms in spoken registers.

Based on the background and the previous studies above, it can be mentioned that the study about meaning of adverbial needs to be done, since the study of meaning of adverbial in Nias language is never been done yet. Therefore, this present study aims to examine the meaning of adverbial in Nias language.

2. METHOD

This research applied a qualitative research method. Creswell (2009:4) mentioned that qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. Moreover, the descriptive approach is the approach used in this research. The written data of this research were taken from Nias folklores. In addition, the data of this research also used oral data which is taken from the informants. Furthermore, the data taken from the informants are the utterances of Nias language. In collecting the data, documentation, interview and observation are the methods used in this research. Meanwhile, the technique applied in this research

is content analysis. Then, in analyzing the data of this research, the method applied is the distributional method. The distributional method uses the determinant tool in the language itself. The distributional method analyzes language based on the behaviour of the lingual unit of the language studied (Zaim, 2014:101). Regarding the method and technique of analyzing the data above, thus the data analysis of this research is by identifying the meanings of adverbial found in Nias language.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Meaning of Adverbial in Nias Language

In relation to the meaning of adverbial in Nias language, after the data was observed and analyzed, there were some meanings of adverbial found. The adverbial expressing time involved the point of time, duration, and frequency. Adverbial expressing place involved position, direction, goal, and source, and adverbial expressing manner involved manner, means, instrument and agentive, adverbial expressing degree involved measure, and frequency or duration. These meanings of adverbial are analyzed in the following discussion.

3.2. Meanings of Adverbial of Place

In relation to the adverbial, the adverbial of place may represent various meanings. These meanings can refer to position, direction, goal or source.

3.2.1. Adverbial of Place Expressing Position

In Nias language, the adverbial of place expressing position occurs. The data found in Nias language can be seen in the following discussion.

1. *Ero ma'õkhõ, mõi molangi ba mbombo sahatõ*

Every day go swimming in river near

'Everyday, he swims in the nearest river'

The adverbial of place in the data (a) above, shows the meaning. This meaning refers to position. It can be seen that the meaning of the adverbial is realized in a prepositional phrase. This preposition can be found in the word *ba* 'in'. The word *ba* in the sentence is functioning to show the location which is *mbombo sahatõ* 'the nearest river'.

3.2.2. Adverbial of Place Expressing Direction

In Nias language, it was found that there is an adverbial place that expresses direction. This meaning can be seen in the following discussion.

1. *Fagai ira sitambai tou hili*

Fishing 3PP beside bottom hill

'They are fishing beside the bottom of the hill'

The adverbial of place which is expressing direction occurred in the data (b) above. This direction refers to a directional path without locational specification. This word can be indicated in the word *sitambai* 'beside' which shows direction or in which someone is moving. It means that the subject in the data (b) moved to *tou ba hili* 'the bottom of the hill'. Furthermore, this adverbial is realized by the prepositional phrase which is filled by the preposition *sitambai tou* 'beside bottom' and a noun *hili* 'hill'.

3.2.3. Adverbial of Place Expressing Goal

The adverbial of place expressing goal is another meaning which is found in Nias language that indicated the adverbial of place. This meaning can be seen in the following data found in Nias language.

1. *La- tōrō tou barō danō we- amōi ba nasi.*

3PP pass below under land to- going prep. Sea

'They pass underground to go to the sea'

In the data (c) above, the adverbial of place expresses a goal involving a positional aspect of direction. This can be seen in the word *ba nasi* 'in the sea'. This word indicates the goal.

3.2.4. Adverbial of Place Expressing Source

The adverbial expressing source is this other kind of meaning of adverbial of place. In Nias language, this kind of meaning is found in the data. The data are presented as follows.

1. *Mōi baero nagō moroi ba dōgi-nia.*

Go outside crab from prep. hole-poss.

'The crab comes out from its hole'

Based on the data (d) above, it can be seen that there was a meaning behind the adverbial of place that occurred in the sentence. This meaning refers to goal. The adverbial *moroi ba dōginia* 'from its hole' shows goal. It can be identified from the word *moroi* 'from' which means a place that something from. However, this kind of meaning is realized by the prepositional phrase.

3.3. Meanings of Adverbial of Time

The adverbial of time may be occurred before or after the main clause. Nevertheless, this kind of adverbial may represent various meanings. These meanings can refer to point of time, duration and frequency. In Nias language, these types of meanings are found. Each meaning is shown in the following discussion.

3.3.1. Adverbial of Time Expressing Point of Time

The adverbial of time expressing point of time occurred in Nias language. This type of meaning usually indicates the time when an action took place. Based on the analysis, the data related to the adverbial expressing point of time can be presented below.

1. *Dra- so aefa migu*

3PP- exist after Sunday

'They will come next week'

The data (e) above shows the point of time. This can be seen from the adverbial *aefa migu* 'next week'. The preposition *aefa migu* 'next week' is dealing with time. In addition, this adverbial emphasized the point of time of the event in the sentence. *Aefa migu* 'next week' is used for periods when conceived of as points of time.

3.3.2. Adverbial of Time Expressing Duration

The other type of meaning dealing with the adverbial of time is duration. Duration refers to how long something takes time. Fortunately, this type of meaning is found in Nias language. The following data presented the adverbial of time expression duration.

1. *Lōna la- sōndra niha sitaiha dre irugi ma'akha*

Not PV find human lose Dem. until today

‘They did not find the missing person until today’

The data (f) above contained the adverbial of time expressing duration. This can be identified from the word *iugi ma’akha* ‘until today’. The word *iugi ma’akha* ‘until today’ denotes an end point of time. Furthermore, this adverbial can be seen that it was preceded by a preposition which is *irugi* ‘until’ and this preposition refers to time.

3.3.3. Adverbial of Time Expressing Frequency

In Nias language, this type of meaning is found. Then, the representative data of this type of meaning is described below.

1. **Asese fao-fao** *ira na mõi ba sekola*

Often together 3PP if go prep. School

‘They often go to school together’

The data (g) above shows the adverbial of time. However, this adverbial of time shows meaning which is duration. This meaning can be identified in the word *asese* ‘often’. The adverbial *Asese fao-fao* shows the meaning ‘have been together many times’ which is indicating the duration. In addition, this meaning is realized by the adverb phrase.

3.3.4. Meanings of Adverbial of Manner

Adverbial of manner usually refers to how something happened. Adverbial of manner may express various meanings. These meanings can express manner, means, instrument and agentive. In Nias language, these types of meanings can be found. Therefore, the following explanation is described.

3.3.5. Adverbial of Manner Expressing Manner

In Nias language, it was found this type of meaning. The following data is shown how this meaning occurred in the sentence.

1. **Aoha** *wangalui gõ ra.*

Easy look for food –Poss.

‘They look for their food easily.’

In the data (h) above, it can be seen that the adverbial of manner expressing manner existed. The occurrence of this meaning can be identified in the word *aoha*. In that

sentence, the word *aoha* functions as an adverbial. The word *aoha* in Nias language means easy. Yet, the word *aoha* in the sentence has a different meaning. However, this word means easily which is this word expresses manner. Moreover, this manner is expressed by an adverb phrase.

3.3.6. Adverbial of Manner Expressing Means

The following data will be presented related to the adverbial of manner expressing means in Nias language.

1. *Mõi ira ba fasa fao moto*

Go 3PP prep. market with car

'They go to the market by car'

In the data (i) above, the adverbial of manner expressing means can be identified in the word *fao moto*. This meaning denotes by means of. The word *fao moto* represents the mode of transportation. However, this adverbial is realized by the preposition *fao* 'with'.

3.3.7. Adverbial of Manner Expressing Instrument

In Nias language, this type of meaning is found. The representative of this meaning will be described below.

1. *Molowi ndrū'u ia fao balatu.*

Mow grass 3SG with knife

'She cuts the grass with knife'

The adverbial of manner expressing instrument is shown in the data (j) above. This type of meaning can be identified in the word *fao balatu* 'with knife'. The word *fao* is a preposition. *Fao*, on the other hand, expresses instrumental meaning. In addition, the instrument used in the sentence is *balatu* 'knife'. However, *Fao* is realized by a prepositional phrase.

3.3.8. Adverbial of Manner Expressing Agentive

In Nias language, this type of meaning is found. The following discussion will be explained this meaning.

1. I'- a Budi Limo dre

PV-eat Budi Orange Dem.

'That orange was eaten by Budi'

In the data (k) above, the adverbial of manner expressing agentive is shown. This adverbial can be identified in the word *i'a Budi* 'was eaten by Budi'. In Nias language, the sentence structure of passive voice which is marked by 'i' indicates passive which is not filled by the word 'by' as in English. However, the word which is filled by 'i' or 'la' in Nias language represents a passive voice and the word 'by' is implicitly contained in the sentence when it is translated into the target language. Uniquely, the passive voice in Nias language should mention the agent such as in the data (k) above, which mentioned *Budi* as the agent of the action.

3.4. Meanings of Adverbial of Degree

Adverbial of degree concerned with the assessment of gradable constituents in relation to an imaginary scale. However, the adverbial of degree may represent various meanings. It might express measure or frequency. In Nias language, these types of meanings are found. These meanings will be explained in the following discussion.

3.4.1. Adverbial of Degree Expressing Measure

The measure indicates something which is gradable. Based on the analysis, this type of meaning can be found in Nias language. The representative data of this meaning can be seen as follows.

1. *Inõtõ wohalõ- nia tōra moroi ba danōbō'õ*

Time working- poss. more from prep. other

'His working time is more than others'

The data (l) above shows that the adverbial of degree contained is expressing measure. This can be recognized from *tōra moroi ba danōbō'õ* 'more than others'. The word *tōra moroi* 'more than' is particularly expressed gradable meaning or something that can be used to measure.

3.4.2. Adverbial of Degree Expressing Frequency or Duration

This meaning is pointing out the frequency level of something. In Nias language, this type of meaning can be found. The representative data can be seen in the following discussion.

1. *Me'e ya simato'ölönia abölö-bölö sibai*

Crying 3SG usually much loud very

'She's usually crying very much loudly'

The adverbial of degree expressing frequency is represented in the data (m) above. This can be identified in *simato'ölönia abölö-bölö sibai*. The word *simato'ölönia* is an adverb that expresses frequency meaning. The frequency meant in the sentence is to describe the verb *me'e* 'crying'. Moreover, the word *abölö-bölö sibai* 'very much loudly' adds the intensity of the verb which expresses adverbial of degree.

3.5. Meanings of Adverbial of Reason

Adverbial of the reason explained the reason why things happened. Furthermore, this adverbial may express meaning in a sentence. However, the meaning of this adverbial still refers to the adverbial of reason itself which is stating why. This type of meaning occurred in Nias language. Thus, a further explanation of this meaning will be explained as follows.

1. (a) *Adverbial of Reason Expressing Why*

In Nias language, this type of meaning is found. The following data will be shown the meaning that occurred in the sentence.

1. **Börö wa'atabö zinanö, andrö ba da'ö toröi auri**

Because, bushy plants, therefore Prep. Dem. leave alive

ngawalö gurifö

all kind animals.

'Because the bushy plants, that is why all kinds of animal live there'

The data (n) above shows the meaning of the adverbial of reason which expressing why. The occurrence of this meaning can be identified in the word *börö* 'because'. The word leads *börö* 'because' the meaning of the adverbial occurred in the sentence

which is stating *bõrõ wa'atabõ zinanõ*. The data (n) above consists of an independent clause and a dependent clause which the independent clause can be identified from the subordinator that exists in the clause. However, the adverbial of the reason that is represented by the independent clause expresses why the action should be taken in this case this action is represented by the dependent clause *andrõ ba da'õ torõi auri ngawalõ gurifõ*.

3.6. Meanings of Adverbial of Condition

This meaning refers to the condition itself. Based on the data, it was found that this type of meaning occurred in Nias language. This meaning will be explained in the following description.

3.6.1. Adverbial of Condition Expressing Condition

The type of meaning indicates the adverbial itself, which is a condition. Conditionality is conveyed chiefly by means of conditional clauses. Conditional clauses are most typically introduced by the subordinating conjunction *if*. This type of meaning is found in Nias language. Therefore, this meaning can be seen in the following explanation.

1. **Na no õ- toloni-do dania, u- famaha ndra'ugõ**

If already 2SG help- 1SG later, 1SG- teach 2SG

molangi si- sõkhi.

Swim Rel.- well.

'If you have helped me later, I will teach you a good swimming.'

The data (o) above shows the meaning of the adverbial of condition. This meaning can be identified from the clause *na no õ'tolonido dania*. This clause expressed the potential event. The word *na* 'if' is used to indicate the unfulfilled outcome of those events. Therefore, the adverbial expressed condition in the data (o) above enables something can or cannot happen.

3.7. Meanings of Adverbial of Purpose

The meaning of the adverbial of purpose is a goal. In Nias language, the type of meaning may occur. Thus, this type of meaning can be seen in the following explanation.

3.7.1. Adverbial of Purpose Expressing Goal

This type of meaning indicates the adverbial of purpose. Based on the results obtained, it was found that this type of meaning occurred in Nias language. The following explanation will be described how this meaning can occur in Nias language.

1. *Ero'ero molangi nono Bebe Sa'usõ Ana'a ba lõ zi lõ*

Every swimming child duck yellow gold Prep. not ever not

i'- amenesi ia ina- nia, ena'õ na mõi molangi ha

PV. advise 3SG mother- poss. in order when go swimming only

ba mbombo manõ

prep. river only

'Every time a yellow golden duck swims, her mother always advises her in order to go swimming only in the river'

The data (p) above, shows the adverbial of purpose. However, this sentence contains the meaning. The meaning of the adverbial of purpose that occurred in the sentence is a goal. This meaning can be identified from the word *ena'õ* 'in order to' which lead to the purpose of why the action should be done. It can be seen from the clause which is preceded by the subordinator *ena'õ* that refers to the rest of the clause.

4. CONCLUSION

Dealing with the aims of this study that examined the meaning of adverbial in Nias language, and the results obtained and explained above, it can be concluded that the meanings found in Nias language refers to the types of adverbial in Nias language. As for the meanings found is the meaning of adverbial of place expressing position, direction, goal and source. Meanwhile, the meaning of the adverbial of time can express a point of time, duration, and frequency. Moreover, the meaning of the adverbial of manner can express manner, means, instrument, and agentive. For the meaning of adverbial of degree, it was found that the adverbial can express measure, and frequency and duration. The other meaning of other adverbials also occurred in Nias language, such as adverbial of reason can express why, whereas adverbial of condition can express the condition itself and the adverbial of purpose can express a goal or purpose.

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