THE DISTRIBUTION OF NULL CASE AND PRO IN MAH MERI PHRASES

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FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR

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FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
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ABSTRACT

This dissertation analyses the existence of Null Case and PRO within the Mah Meri language following the Minimalist approach by Noam Chomsky who argues that PRO has null case checked by non-finite ‘T’. The Mah Meri language being one of the endangered languages is dying since it is spoken only by most adults within the population and not practiced among the children. Due to that, this research can contribute to the documentation of Mah Meri language in syntax. In addition to that, like any other languages, the non-finite phrases of the Mah Meri language will be identified to analyses the PRO as null case suggested by the Minimalist Approach. Findings reveal that in the Null Subject Parameter, there are Null Case and PRO existence in Mah Meri phrases.
ABSTRAK

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The list of questions were asked to the head of the Mah Meri tribe in Pulau Carey. The medium of language is Bahasa Melayu. He is a bilingual speaker whereby he is fluent
in both Bahasa Melayu and Mah Meri Language. The questions addressed to the participant are categorized into:

**BACKGROUND OF THE PARTICIPANT**

1. Boleh bagitahu nama Tuan Batin dan berapa umur Tok Batin? 
   *Tell me your name and how old are you?*

2. Sudah berapa lama menjadi Tok Batin? 
   *How long have you become the Tok Batin?*

3. Sudah kah berkahwin dan mempunyai berapa anak? 
   *Are you married and how many kids do you have?*

4. Apakah pekerjaan Tok Batin selain menjadi penghulu kampong? 
   *What do you do for a living apart from being the head of village?*

5. Selain Bahasa Mah Meri, bahasa apakah lagi yang Tok Batin fasih? 
   *Besides Mah Meri language, what other languages do you speak?*

6. Apakah agama Tok Batin? 
   *What religion are you?*

7. Adakah Tok Batin sangat fasih dalam percakapan Bahasa Mah Meri? 
   *Do you consider yourself fluent in speaking Mah Meri language?*

**BACKGROUND OF THE VILLAGERS**

1. Berapa ramai lagi masih mengamalkan Bahasa Mah Meri sebagai Bahasa pengantar? 
   *How many of the villagers still speak Mah Meri language?*
2. Adakah generasi muda di kampong ini masih bercakap Bahasa Mah Meri?
   As for the younger generation in this village, do they still speak Mah Meri?

3. Sekiranya generasi muda ini masih bercakap Bahasa Mah Meri, adakah mereka fasih dan sejauh mana kefasihan bercakap mereka?
   If the younger generation still speak Mah Meri language, how fluent are they?

LEXICAL (INCLUDING NOUN, VERB, ADJECTIVE, ADVERB AND PARTICIPLE)

1. Apakah perkataan 'orang' dalam versi Mah Meri?
   How do you say 'people' in Mah Meri?

2. Apakah perkataan 'lari' dalam versi Mah Meri?
   How do you say 'run' in Mah Meri?

3. Apakah perkataan 'makan' dalam versi Mah Meri?
   How do you say 'eat' in Mah Meri?

4. Apakah perkataan 'pergi' dalam versi Mah Meri?
   How do you say 'pergi' in Mah Meri?

5. Apakah perkataan 'kawan' dalam versi Mah Meri?
   How do you say 'friend' in Mah Meri?

6. Apakah perkataan 'baik' dalam versi Mah Meri?
   How do you say 'good' in Mah Meri?

7. Bolehkah anda berikan beberapa perkataan lain didalam Mah Meri?
   Can you give me examples of other words in Mah Meri language?

SENTENCES

1. Berikan ayat yang lengkap untuk 'Orang itu lari' dalam versi Mah Meri.
   Can you give me a Mah Meri sentence version of the phrase 'That person ran'
2. Berikan ayat yang lengkap untuk ‘Orang itu lari tahu tidak’ dalam versi Mah Meri.
   *Can you give me a Mah Meri sentence version of the phrase ‘Do you know that the person ran’*

   *Can you give me a Mah Meri sentence version of the phrase ‘Do you know that that person ran’*

   *Can you give me a Mah Meri sentence version of the phrase ‘Very good’ and give me sentences using the word ‘very’.*

5. Berikan ayat yang lengkap untuk ‘samaada dia benafas atau sudah mati’ dalam versi Mah Meri dan beberapa ayat yang menggunakan perkataan ‘nafas’ dan ‘mati’.
   *Can you give me a Mah Meri sentence version of the phrase ‘Whether he is still breathing or already dead and give me sentences using the word ‘breathe’ and ‘dead’.*

6. Berikan beberapa ayat lain dalam versi Mah Meri
   *Please provide some sentences in Mah Meri language.*

**NON FINITE SENTENCES**

In Mah Meri language, can we combine two different sentences that is already complete to form a full sentence that carries a proper message? For example a full sentence of ‘The doctor asked him’ and another full sentence ‘breathe slowly’ is being combined into ‘The doctor asked him to breathe slowly’.


In Mah Meri language, can we combine two different sentences that is already complete to form a full sentence that carries a proper message? For example a full sentence of ‘That person is still breathing’ and another full sentence ‘his friend is dying’ is being combined into ‘That person is still breathing but his friend is dying’.

3. Adakah Tok Batin faham tentang apa yang saya maksud kan dengan gabungan 2 ayat menjadikan satu ayat yang lengkap. Sekiranya ye, boleh kan Tok Batin berikan beberapa contoh ayat.

Do you understand what do I mean by combining to complete sentence to form a proper sentence that still carries the same meaning. If so, please come up with some other examples.

NULL CASE AND PRO

1. Didalam ayat Mah Meri adakah wujud nya sesuatu yang tidak perlu disebut, namun ayat nya betul dan difahami. Sebagai contoh ayat ‘Teruknya! Dia dah lari!’. Jadi kita faham bahawa keadaan orang yang ‘teruk’ adalah ‘orang yang sama yang telah lari’?
In a Mah Meri sentence, are there such thing as a missing subject but the sentence is comprehensible. For example, for the sentence ‘Terrible! He has ran’, we know that ‘Terrible’ refers to ‘the person who has ran’?

2. Setujukah anda sekiranya terdapat ayat Mah Meri yang tidak lengkap (dengan ketiadaan perkataan) namun ayatnya mudah difahami?

Do you agree that sentences without vocabulary in Mah Meri phrases is still understandable?


If you agree to the previous question, please provide more examples

GENERAL QUESTION

1. Pada pendapat Tok Batin, adakah Bahasa Mah Meri semakin pupus?
   In your opinion, do you think the Mah Meri language is dying?

2. Sekiranya benar Bahasa Mah Meri semakin pupus, ada atau tidak langkah yang dilakukan untuk memastikan Bahasa ini tidak pupus?
   If the Mah Meri language is dying, what do you do to preserve the language?