

CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF ASPECT BETWEEN MUNA AND INDONESIAN LANGUAGES

Haerun Ana *

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini merupakan kajian kontrastif mengenai aspektualitas bahasa Muna dan bahasa Indonesia yang bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan persamaan dan perbedaan aspektualitas dalam kedua bahasa tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan data lisan dan tulis yang dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan teknik pencatatan dan introspeksi dan dianalisis menggunakan kajian kontrastif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa bahasa Muna menggunakan infiks {-um-} dan prefiks {m-} untuk menyatakan perbuatan yang akan terjadi, sedangkan bahasa Indonesia menggunakan leksikon akan atau mau; bahasa Muna menggunakan leksikon nando dan bahasa Indonesia menggunakan leksikon sedang, sementara, masih, tengah, baru, dan pada yang diletakkan sebelum verba sebagai penanda progresif; bahasa Muna menggunakan sufiks {mo-} dan leksikon padamo untuk menyatakan kejadian yang telah berlalu yang sepadan dengan leksikon sudah atau telah dalam bahasa Indonesia yang diletakkan sebelum verba; dan bahasa Muna membedakan konsep kalimat negatif lampau dan akan datang dengan leksikon miina “tidak” untuk kalimat negatif lampau dan prefiks {pa:-} ‘tidak akan’ untuk kalimat negatif yang akan datang, sedangkan bahasa Indonesia tidak membedakan aspektualitas kalimat negatif lampau dan akan datang.

Kata Kunci: aspektualitas, infiks, kala, kontrastif, leksikal, prefiks

ABSTRACT

This paper, which is a contrastive analysis, is concerned with the study of aspect in Muna and Indonesian languages with aims to describe the similarity and difference of aspect in both languages. It uses both oral and written data which are collected by using recording and introspection techniques, and analyzed by using contrastive analysis. The result of the study shows that Muna uses infix {-um-} and prefix {m-} to express future event, while Indonesian uses lexicon akan ‘will’ or mau ‘want’ as future aspects; Muna uses nando and Indonesian uses sedang, sementara, masih, tengah, baru, and pada before the verb as durative or progressive aspects; Muna uses suffix {mo-} and lexicon padamo to express past event, while Indonesian uses only lexicon sudah or telah as perfective aspects; and Muna differentiates the concept of negative sentences in the past and in the future; Muna uses lexicon miina ‘did not’ to express negative statement in the past, and uses prefix {pa:-} ‘will not’ to express negative statement in the future, while Indonesian does not differentiate positive and negative statement of aspect.

Keywords: aspect, contrastive, infix, lexical, prefix, tense

* Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Haluoleo University, Kendari

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has a number of tribes speaking their own local language. In general, they speak their local language as the first language, and Indonesian as the second language. Their first language has significant effect toward Indonesian learning, as the mastery of local language usually brings certain problem in the learning of the second language. Understanding both the theoretical and practical study of local and Indonesian language system in comparison is, therefore, important. In addition to problems in learning, the languages can affect one another (Tobing, 2012:221), and this phenomenon may endanger language purity.

The problems in learning a second language result from the fact that each language has different form and structure in producing words, phrases, and sentences. Such differences are found not only between international language and national language, but also between local languages and national language. One of the local languages in Indonesian is Muna language in Muna regency, Southeast Sulawesi. However, its speech community spreads around, and even out of Southeast Sulawesi. One of the unique features of Muna language is *aspect*.

Chaer (1994:259) explains that aspect is the way to look at internal time forming in a situation or process. Samsuri (1987:251-253) point outs that aspect refers to the time of the event or action happening in past time as perfective aspect, recent time as progressive aspect, and future time as future aspect. In other words, aspect has two points of view, namely, imperfective aspect which means the activity is still in progress, and perfective aspect which means the activity has be done completely (Smith, 1991:3; Hoed, 1989:45). Related to Indonesian language, Pierre (1978:39) mentions only the words of *sedang*, *masih*, *belum*, and *sudah* as the examples of aspect in Indonesian.

This study uses both oral and written data which are obtained from the native speakers and books on Muna and Indonesian languages. The data of this study were collected by using recording

and introspection techniques, and then analyzed by using contrastive analysis. Contrastive analysis is very appropriate to compare two languages of either the same family or different family. Muna and Indonesian languages are categorized as two languages of the same language family. Therefore, the researcher wants to investigate the aspect in the two languages. Contrastive study has important role in not only the foreign language learning, but also local and Indonesian language learning. Based on the information from the previous linguists, contrastive analysis has great benefits such as solving the difficulty in a second language learning, in this case, Muna and Indonesian language learning.

Contrastive analysis or contrastive linguistic is a study that learns the similarity and difference of two or more languages in the same language family. Poejosoedarmo (2003:49) and Jack (1981:1) cited by Tobing (2012:222) state that contrastive analysis is a linguistics branch that studies language systems by comparison method of two or more languages to find out the similarity and the difference of the languages. Similarly, Marsono (1998:77) point outs that by using contrastive approach, the similarity, the difference, and the contrast of languages compared in either the form, the function, or the system can be explained. Besides, it studies linguistics systems -phonological or grammatical system- of two languages (Tarigan, 1992:6). It means that all aspects of one language can be compared with other languages in the same language family. Therefore, it can help us to have better understanding of similarities and differences of the languages compared.

In addition, James (1980:1) states that contrastive analysis is has important role, particularly for bilingual community like in Indonesian. According to Kridalaksana (2001:13) it is a synchronic method to find out the similarities and differences of language being compared. It especially gives practical solution for language learning and translation problems. Therefore, contrastive analysis can be used to deal with, or solve the difficulty of language learning, as well as

predict the difficulties so that the interference from the first language can be minimized.

So far, there has not been found literature that investigates the comparison of aspect in Muna and Indonesian language. Yatim (1981) has given general description of phonology, morphology, and syntaxes of Muna language, however, his study does not compare the aspect in Muna and Indonesian language. Berg (1989) focuses his study on Muna grammar with the title "A Grammar of the Muna Language". This study does not investigate the aspect in Muna and Indonesian language. Ramlan (2001) through his book *Ilmu Bahasa Indonesia: Sintaksis* 'Indonesian Language Knowledge: Syntaxes' discusses aspect in Indonesian language only. Nevertheless, this study does not investigate it in depth.

This research investigates aspect in Muna and Indonesian languages, in contrastive analysis. The method used is qualitative description in contrastive analysis technique. This method gives systematic and accurate description of the real situation in terms of the symptoms, facts, or events of the object being studied. It describes, firstly, the aspect of each language (Muna and Indonesian), and then finds out the similarities or differences of both languages. Therefore, this writing consists of three subtopics, namely (1) description of aspect in Muna language, (2) description of aspect in Indonesia language, and (3) description of the similarity and difference of aspect between Muna and Indonesian language.

DISCUSSION

Description of Aspect of Muna Language

Like other languages, Muna language allows the future, progressive, and perfect aspects as in the following illustration.

Future Aspect

Muna language uses infix {-um-} and prefix {m-} to express future event. The use of both infix and prefix depend on the phonemes. The infix {-um-} has two allomorphs, namely /-um-/

and /-im-/. Allomorph is the various forms of morpheme (Finegan, 1992: 99). In detail, the illustration of each allomorph can be seen below.

Infix {-um-} with Allomorph /-um-/

Infix {-um-} becomes /-um-/ if it is inserted or infixed to the base word that is preceded with phonemes /d/, /g/, /l/, /n/, /r/, /s/, /t/, or non-bilabial consonants, and not vowel /i/. consequently, so, the base word preceded with consonants /b/, /p/, /m/, /B/, /i/, and /c/ can not be inserted with allomorph /-um-/. The followings are examples of the allomorph use to give clear understanding.

- {-um-} + *dadi* 'live' → /**dumadi**/ 'will live'
- {-um-} + *rato* 'arrive' → /**rumato**/ 'will arrive'
- {-um-} + *kala* 'go' → /**kumala**/ 'will go'
- {-um-} + *gaa* 'marry' → /**gumaa**/ 'will marry'
- {-um-} + *solo* 'blow' → /**sumolo**/ 'will blow'
- {-um-} + *hela* 'sail' → /**humela**/ 'will sail'

The use of this allomorph can be seen in the following sentences:

- (1) *Anoa narumato naewine.*
He/She **will arrive** tomorrow.
He/She will arrive tomorrow.
- (2) *Andoa dakumala we galu naefua.*
They **will go** to the garden two days later.
They will go to the garden two days later.
- (3) *Andoa dagumaa tolu gholeo tora.*
They will get married three days later.
They will get married three days later.

The words *narumato*, *dakumala*, and *dagumaa* in sentences (1), (2), and (3) above constitute affixed verbs from verbal base *rato* 'arrive', *kala* 'go', and *gaa* 'get married'. From the above examples, /na/ has function as subject marker of the third singular person who will do the activity, and /da/ has function as subject marker of the third plural person who will do the activity.

Infix {-um} with Allomorph /-im-/

Infix {-um-} becomes /-im-/ if it is inserted or infixed to the base word that is preceded with vowel /i/. The changing into /-im-/ form is to give sound harmony with the vowel /i/ which is the second

phoneme of the first syllable. The followings are some examples:

- {-um-} + *sia* 'bit' → /**simia**/ 'will bit'
 {-um-} + *sipuli* 'remove' → /**simipuli**/ 'will remove'
 {-um-} + *tisa* 'plant' → /**timisa**/ 'will plant'
 {-um-} + *limba* 'go out' → /**limimba**/ 'will go out'
 {-um-} + *hiri* 'peel' → /**himiri**/ 'will peel'

The use of this allomorph can be seen in the examples below:

- (4) *Inodi aetumisa mafusau naewine we galu.*
 I **will plant** potatoes tomorrow in the garden.
 I will plant potatoes tomorrow in the garden.
 (5) *Andoa dahimiri kalei maitu.*
 They **will remove peel** banana that.
 They will peel that banana.
 (6) *Inodi aesimia lima anahi maitu.*
 I **will bite** finger child that.
 I will bite that child's finger.

The words *aetumisa* 'will plant', *dahimiri* 'will peel', and *aesimia* 'will bite' in sentences (4), (5), and (6) above come from verbal base *tisa* 'plant', *hiri* 'peel', and *sia* 'bite'. In these examples, /ae/ functions as subject marker of the first singular person who will do the activity, and /da/ functions as subject marker of the third plural person who will do the activity.

Prefix {m-}

Prefix {m-} is used with base words that start with vowels /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, and /o/ as in the examples below.

- {-um-} + *esa* 'draw' → /**mesa**/ 'will withdraw'
 {-um-} + *uta* 'pick' → /**muta**/ 'will pick'
 {-um-} + *omba* 'appear' → /**momba**/ 'will appear'
 {-um-} + *ere* 'stand' → /**mere**/ 'will stand'

The use of this allomorph can be seen in the sentences below:

- (7) *Intaidi tamesa o lambu we sikola naewine.*
 We **will draw** house in the school tomorrow.
 We will withdraw a house in the school tomorrow.
 (8) *Inodi aemuta fo: we galu naefua.*

I will pick up the mango in the garden two days later.

I will pick the mango up in the garden two days later.

- (9) *Anoa naemere ane guru nomaimo.*
 He/She will stand if the teacher comes.
 He/She will stand if the teacher comes.

The words *tamesa* 'will withdraw', *aemuta* 'will pick', and *naemere* 'will stand' in sentences (7), (8), and (9) above come from verbal bases *esa* 'withdraw', *uta* 'pick', and *ere* 'stand'. In the examples above, /ta/ functions as subject marker of the first plural person who will do the activity, /ae/ functions as subject marker of the first singular person, and /nae/ functions as subject marker of the third first person who will do the activity.

In addition, to express the event in the future with negative form, Muna language uses the prefix {pa:-} as in the following descriptions.

- (10) *La Ude pa:-namaia we sikola naefua.*
 La Ude **will not** come to school two days later.
 La Ude will not come to school two days later.
 (11) *Andoa pa:-darumato we kampusu naewine.*
 They **will not** arrive at campus tomorrow.
 They will not arrive at campus tomorrow.

The sentences (10) and (11) above indicate that the activity will not be done by the subject by the use that of the prefix {pa:-} meaning 'will not'.

Progressive aspect

Progressive aspect in Muna language is rather different from future aspect. In Muna language, progressive aspect uses lexicon, i.e., *nando*. The use of lexicon *nando* can be seen in the examples below.

- (12) *Inodi nando akadiu.*
 I **am taking** a bath.
 I am taking a bath.
 (13) *Andoa nando dopoguru.*
 They **are studying**.
 They are studying.
 (14) *Intaidi nando tatasa kahitela.*
 We **are planting** the corn.

We are planting the corn.

The lexicon *nando* above constitutes aspect marker to show that the subject is still doing something and not finished yet. In other words, the lexicon *nando* functions as progressive markers in Muna language.

Perfective Aspect

To show past event, Muna language uses suffix {-mo} with the verb as in the examples below.

(15) *Indoa dofekanggela-mo kangkaha maitu.*

They repair-**have** pavement that.

They have repaired that pavement.

(16) *Anoa nokala-mo we galu.*

He/She go-**has** in the garden.

He/She has gone to the garden.

(17) *Ama La Ege nomate-mo.*

Father La Ege died-**has**.

La Ege's father has died.

In sentences (15), (16), and (17) above, the suffix {-mo} functions as perfective marker. In addition to using the suffix {-mo}, Muna also uses lexicon *padamo* as perfective markers, as in the examples below.

(18) *Andoa padamo dokaradha.*

We **have** worked.

We have worked.

(19) *Anoa padamo nokadiu.*

He/She **has** taken a bath.

He/She has taken a bath.

(20) *Inodi padamo afuma.*

I **have** eaten.

I have eaten.

From the above examples can be concluded that Muna language has two ways to state the event in the past namely using the suffix {-mo} and lexicon *padamo*. In addition, to express the event in the past with negative form, Muna language uses lexicon *miina* 'did not' as in the following examples.

(21) *Anoa miina nomai we Kampusu indewi.*

She/He **not** come at campus yesterday.

She/He did not go to the campus yesterday.

(22) *Intaidi miina taowa buku we sikola indewi.*

We **not** bring book at school tomorrow.

We did not bring book to school tomorrow.

The sentences (21) and (22) are in the past form as indicated with the lexicon *miina* 'did not' and the adverb of time *indewi* 'yesterday'.

Aspect Description of Indonesian Language

Ramlan (2001: 159) states that aspect functions to state the happening of an event. Aspect of Indonesian consists of four kinds, namely aspect for future, progressive, perfect event, and frequent happening. However, the one that states frequent happening is not investigated in this paper.

Future Aspect

To state an event in the future, Indonesian may use the lexicons *akan* 'will' or *mau* 'want' as in the examples below.

(23) *Saya akan membeli baju baru bulan depan.*

I **will** buy blouse new month next.

I **will** buy new blouse next month.

(24) *Bapakku mau menyelesaikan tugas ini besok.*

My father **want** finish work this tomorrow.

My father **want** to finish this work tomorrow.

(25) *Mereka akan bermain bola besok pagi.*

They **will** play football tomorrow morning.

They **will** play football tomorrow morning.

In sentences (23), (24), and (25) above, the subject has not done anything yet; rather, it is a plan to do the activity.

Progressive Aspect

To describe an event in progress Indonesian language may use the lexicons *sedang*, *tengah*, *pada*, *baru*, *sementara*, *lagi*, and *masih*. All have similar meaning 'in progress'. The words *pada* and *lagi* are colloquial; the word *pada* requires plural subjects. The followings are some examples:

(26) *Mereka sedang membaca buku.*

- They **are** reading books.
They **are** reading books.
- (27) Mereka **pada** bernyanyi.
They **are** singing.
They **are** singing.
- (28) Iwan **masih** mencuci piring di dapur.
Iwan **are** still washing plate in the kitchen.
Iwan **are** still washing plates in the kitchen.
- (29) La Ege **tengah** menyelesaikan tugas akhirnya.
La Ege **is** finishing assignment his final.
La Ege **is** finishing his final assignment.
- (30) Saya **lagi** mengamati pertunjukan itu.
I **am** watching shows the.
I **am** still watching the shows.
- (31) Mereka **sementara** bermain bulu tangkis.
They **are** playing badminton.
They **are** playing badminton.
- (32) Saya **baru** memulai pekerjaan ini.
I **am just** starting doing job this.
I **am just** starting doing this job.

In sentences (26), (27), (28), (29), (30), (31), and (32) above, the subjects are still doing the activity, or that the activity is not finished when the subjects is telling it. The words of progressive time markers above imply imperfective meanings. However, Purwo (1984:235) mentions the difference between lexicon *baru* and *masih* as progressive time markers. The first shows that the activity has just been done, while the latter shows that the activity has not been done yet (will be done soon).

Perfective Aspect

Indonesian uses the words *sudah* and *telah* to indicate that an activity has been done. The followings are some examples:

- (33) Presiden **telah** mengumumkan anggota-anggota kabinet.
The president **has** announced members cabinet.
The president **has** announced cabinet members.
- (34) Masalah itu **sudah** diselesaikan dua bulan yang lalu.
The problems **is** solved two months ago.
The problems **was** solved two months ago.

- (35) Kalian **telah** menjalankan tugas dengan baik.
You **have** done the job well.
You **have** done the job well.

In sentences (33), (34), and (35) above, the subject has done the activity, and the activity is completed when being told. All the words as perfective time markers above signal that the activity is completed. Purwo (1984:231) explains the difference between the words *telah* and *sudah* as past time markers that the word *telah* gives more focus to the event happening in the past time as new information, while the word *sudah* is used when the event is less important. This difference can be seen from the time aspect of the finished activity. In general, the word *telah* is for a recently completed activity, while the word *sudah* is for more distance time than the word *telah*.

The description of Indonesian aspect above gets support from Keraf (1980:72-73) who points out that Indonesian does not have grammatical forms to state time or tense. Keraf mentions three general aspects, namely durative or progressive aspect expressed with lexicons *sedang* and *sementara*, perfective aspect with lexicons *sudah* and *telah*, and future aspect with lexicon *akan*. Those lexicons are often called *aspect makers*.

Aspect Comparison between Muna and Indonesian Languages

Parts (3) and (4) show that there are some similarities and differences of aspect between Muna and Indonesian languages. The following discusses them in detail.

The Similarity of Aspect between Muna and Indonesian Languages

Muna language has similarity with Indonesian in showing progressive and perfective events. For the progressive event, Muna language uses the word *nando* that is equivalent with the word *sedang* in Indonesian.

- (36) La Ege **nando** noala sau (Muna).
La Ege **sedang** mengambil kayu (Indonesian)
La Ege is taking the wood.

La Ege is taking the wood.

- (37) *Mie aitu nando nopoguru* (Muna).
Orang itu sedang belajar (Indonesian).
The man is studying.
The man is studying.

Another similarity, for stating the perfective event, Muna language uses lexicon *padamo* that has similar meaning with *sudah* in Indonesian language, as in the examples below.

- (38) *Anoa padamo nofuma* (Muna).
Dia telah makan (Indonesian).
She/he has eaten.
She/he has eaten.
- (39) *Wa Abe padamo nokadiu* (Muna).
Wa Abe sudah mandi (Indonesian).
Wa Abe has taken a bath.
Wa Abe has taken a bath.
- (40) *David padamo nobasa buku aitu* (Muna).
David sudah membaca buku itu (Indonesian).
David has read book that.
David has read that book.

Based on the examples (36), (37), (38), (39), and (40) above, the words or lexicons used as progressive and perfective markers both in Indonesian or Muna languages are put before the verb and do not change the verb form.

The Differences of Aspect between Indonesian and Muna Languages

Indonesian language has a number of differences with Muna language in describing future, progressive, and perfective events. Indonesian language uses the words *akan* 'will' or *mau* 'want' to express activity in the future. Muna language uses the infix {-um-} and prefix {m-} for activity in the future with the meaning 'will'. Their use can be seen in the following examples.

- (41) *Inodi akumala aGondo isaku* (Muna).
Saya akan pergi melihat kakakku (Indonesian).
I will go to meet my old brother.
I will go to meet my old brother.
- (42) *Beni natumende samen-samentaeno* (Muna).
Beni akan berlari siang-siang ini (Indonesian).

Beni will run noon this.

Beni will run this noon.

- (43) *Anoa naemere ane guru nomaimo.*
Dia akan berdiri jika guru datang.
He/she will stand if the teacher comes
He/she will stand up if the teacher comes

In the sentences (41), (42), and (43) above, the words *akumala*, *natumende*, and *naemere* come from verbal base of *kala* 'go', *tende* 'run', and *ere* 'stand'. The prefix /a/ is the first singular person marker, and the prefixes /na/ and /nae/ are the third singular person markers. It is clear that these are among the differences between Muna and Indonesian languages in stating the event in the future. Muna language uses infix {-um} and prefix {m-} put before the verb, while Indonesian language uses the lexicon of *akan* or *mau* put before the verb as in the examples of Indonesian language below.

- (44) *Saya akan memperbaiki komputer ini besok pagi* (Indonesian).
I will repair this computer tomorrow morning.
- (45) *Mereka mau menyelesaikan tugas ini tahun depan* (Indonesian).
They will finish this work next year.
- (46) *Mereka akan bermain bulu tangkis dua hari lagi* (Indonesian).
They will play badminton two days later.

Related to the event in the progress, Indonesian language uses lexicons *sedang*, *tengah*, *baru*, *sementara*, *lagi*, and *masih*. It is different from Muna language that has only one lexicon, *nando*, to express the event in progress. Despite the difference in lexicon, the two languages have similarities of syntax structure to express the activity in progress as seen the examples below.

- (47) *Aiku nando nopoguru* (Muna).
Adikku sedang belajar (Indonesian).
My younger sister is still studying.
- (48) *Amaku nando nofuma* (Muna).
Bapakku sedang makan (Indonesian).
My father is still eating.
- (49) *Martin nando noburi sura* (Muna).
Martin sedang menulis surat (Indonesian).

Martin **is** writing a letter.

In addition, Muna language is different from Indonesian language in showing activity in the past (perfective). It also uses suffix {-mo} that is similar in meaning with the word *telah* in Indonesia language.

(50) *Inaku nokala-mo we Bali* (Muna).

Ibuku telah pergi ke Bali (Indonesian).

My mother **has** gone to Bali.

(51) *Ama-ku dolodo-mo* (Muna).

Bapak-ku telah tidur (Indonesian).

My father **has** slept.

(52) *Mereka dorato-mo we Jakarta* (Muna).

Mereka telah tiba di Jakarta (Indonesian).

They **have** arrived in Jakarta.

The following examples clearly show the difference between Muna and Indonesian languages in stating the event in the past (perfect). Muna language uses the suffix {-mo} with the verb, while Indonesian language uses lexicon *telah* before the verb.

(53) *Ayah telah memperbaiki tulisannya* (Indonesian).

My father **has** revised his writing.

(54) *Saya telah menyapu halaman* (Indonesian).

I **have** cleaned the floor.

In the above sentences (50), (51), (52), (53), and (54), the subject has done the activity completely when being. Moeliono (1976: 125), therefore, claims that the lexicon *telah* in Indonesian language is an aspect particle which has perfective meaning.

Other differences of aspect between Muna and Indonesian languages can be seen from the negative statement. To express past event with negative form, Muna language uses lexicon *miina* 'did not', while to express future event with negative form, Muna language uses the prefix {pa:-} 'will not'. Indonesian language does not have any particular time marker for future and past event in negative form. It can clearly be seen from the description below.

(55) *La Ege miina nopoguru indewi.*

La Ege tidak belajar kemarin.

La Ege **did not** study yesterday.

(56) *Wa Abe pa-nakumala we Bandung newine.*

Wa Abe tidak akan pergi ke Bandung besok.

Wa Abe **will not** go to Bandung tomorrow.

The sentence (55) contains a negative form that implies that the subject did not study (in the past), and it is shown by the word *miina* 'did not' and the adverb of time, *indewi* (Muna) or *kemarin* (Indonesian) 'yesterday'. The sentence (56) also contains negative form, but the subject will not do the job (in the future), and it is expressed with the prefix /pa:-/ in Muna, or lexicon *tidak akan* 'will not' in Indonesian. The subject has a plan that he/she will not do the job in the future. Indonesian, on the other hand, does not differ negative sentence for past and future forms. In other words, negative sentences in the past and future have the same form.

CONCLUSION

There are several conclusions related to the study of aspect between Muna and Indonesian languages. First, to express future event, Muna language uses the infix {-um-} and prefix {m-}, while Indonesian language uses lexicon *akan* 'will/shall' or *mau* 'want' put before the verb. Second, Muna language has similarity with Indonesian language in stating progressive even. Muna language uses lexicon *nando* that is similar in meaning with the lexicon *sedang* in Indonesian. However, Indonesian language has more words to express progressive event like *masih*, *tengah*, *sementara*, *lagi*, and *pada*. Third, Muna language has similarity with Indonesian language in stating past (perfect) event. Muna language uses the lexicon *padamo* that has similar meaning to the lexicon *sudah* in Indonesian. However, Muna language sometime uses the suffix {-mo} to express the activity in the past (perfect). Suffix {-mo} has similar function with lexicon *telah* in Indonesian language. Fourth, to express the negative statement, Muna language uses lexicon *miina* 'did not' for past event, and prefix {pa:-} 'will not' for future event. Indonesian language does not have specific markers

to differ the negative statement in the past and in the future. Last, Muna language has several tense markers, while Indonesian language does not have any tense marker.

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