



Basic Clause Structure in Sikka

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Abstract

This study aims at describing the basic clause structure in Sikka and identifying the syntactic implications of the basic clause structure in Sikka. The primary data of the study was obtained from fieldwork interviews with two Sikka native speakers in Koting C village and Kokowahor village, online correspondence with one Sikka speaker, and introspection. The secondary data was taken from written texts in Sikka. The data were analyzed using transitivity alternation and work order pattern as the primary theoretical framework in this study. The result shows that Sikka has three types of basic clause structures distinguished by verb type (transitivity) and the number of core arguments involved in a clause (valency). The first basic clause type in Sikka is the intransitive clause (IC). ICs are clauses with one core argument (S). The second type is the transitive clause (TC). TC is a clause with two core arguments (A and O). The third type is the ditransitive clause (DC) which has three core arguments (A, PO, and SO). The predicate in DC can be a typical ditransitive verb or serial verb construction (SVC). The results of basic clause structure identification in Sikka shed light on typological claims such as voice alternation and valency-changing mechanisms that distinguish languages in Eastern Indonesia from languages in Western Indonesia.

Keywords: *basic clause structure, ditransitive clause, intransitive clause, transitive clause, Sikka*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan struktur dasar klausa dalam bahasa Sikka dan mengidentifikasi implikasi sintaksis dari struktur dasar klausa dalam bahasa Sikka. Data primer penelitian ini diperoleh melalui wawancara lapangan dengan dua penutur bahasa Sikka di desa Koting C dan desa Kokowahor, korespondensi daring dengan seorang penutur bahasa Sikka, dan introspeksi. Data sekunder diambil dari teks-teks tertulis dalam bahasa Sikka. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan konsep alternasi transitivitas dan pola urutan kata sebagai kerangka teori utama dalam penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bahasa Sikka memiliki tiga jenis struktur klausa dasar yang dibedakan berdasarkan jenis transitivitas verba dan jumlah argumen inti yang terlibat dalam klausa (valensi). Jenis klausa dasar pertama dalam bahasa Sikka adalah klausa intransitif (KI). KI merupakan klausa dengan satu argumen inti (S). Jenis kedua adalah klausa transitif (KT). KT adalah klausa dengan dua argumen inti (A dan O). Jenis klausa dasar ketiga adalah klausa ditransitif (KD) yang memiliki tiga argumen inti (A, OP, dan OS). Predikat dalam KD dapat berupa verba ditransitif atau konstruksi verba beruntun (KVB). Hasil identifikasi struktur dasar klausa bahasa Sikka mendukung klaim-klaim tipologi bahasa seperti alternasi *voice* dan mekanisme perubahan valensi secara perifrastik yang membedakan bahasa-bahasa di Indonesia Timur dengan bahasa-bahasa di Indonesia Barat.

Kata kunci: *bahasa Sikka, klausa ditransitif, klausa intransitif, klausa transitif, struktur dasar klausa*

Introduction

Although displaying different mechanisms of argument marking, particularly voice alternation as described by Arka and Ross (2005), Nagaya (2011, 2013), Arka and Wouk (2014), Himmelmann, (2015), Kroon (2016), and Salahuddin (2023), Western and Eastern Indonesian languages show a similar word order of their basic and unmarked clause, that is SVO order or as object final languages (Dryer, 1991; Hemmings, 2016). However, relying only on word order is insufficient to understand how languages configurate structural feature such as word order to convey various communicative purposes. Therefore, word order can be used as a starting point to investigate the basic structure in which languages configure different mechanisms to alter different information (Koplenig et al., 2017; Martin et al., 2020; Rubio-Fernandez et al., 2021).

One of the languages in Eastern Indonesia that has SVO order is Sikka (Glottocode: 1262/ISO: 639-3)¹. Sikka is also part of Central Malayo-Polynesian (CMP) grup of Austronesian languages (Blust, 2013). Sikka is spoken by people living in Sikka regency, which extends geographically from the central to the eastern part of Flores Island, bringing it into contact with Lio speakers in the Western region (Central Flores) and also with Lamaholot speakers in the Eastern region (East Flores). Based on dialectometric calculations, Sikka isolect is a language with a percentage difference of more than 81% compared to Palu'e, Lio, and Bajo (Badan Bahasa, 2019). Fernandez (1996) classified Sikka as a member of the subgroup East Flores (Flores Timur) together with Lamaholot and Kedang.

In the basic structure, clauses in Sikka display typical SVO order in most Austronesian languages. Sentences in (1) show examples of basic clauses in Sikka.

- (1a) *Rimu plari*
3pl lari
They run.
- (1b) *Me blutuk ia dola ahu nimu-ng*
Child little that beat dog 3sg-POSS
The little child beats his/her dog.

Sentence (1a) is an example of an intransitive clause in Sikka which has only one core (S) argument, *rimu*. Sentence (1b) is an example of a transitive clause in Sikka with two core arguments, *me blutuk* (A) and *ahu nimung* (O).

In addition to the intransitive and transitive clauses, Sikka also has ditransitive clauses as shown in (2).

¹In some literature and in [Glottolog](#), Sika with one 'k' is used. In this study, Sikka with two 'k' is used because in the language the word *sika* [sika] means 'to drive away' or 'to expel', while Sikka [si?ka] refers to a place name, an ethnic group in the southern coastal region of Sikka regency which also refers to the language studied in this article.

- (2a) *Du'a ia beli me nimu-ng utan bungang kelang*
 Woman DEM give child 3sg-POSS sarong flower-drawn
 The woman gives her child a flower-drawn sarong.
- (2b) *Du'a ia boter beli me nimu-ng utan bungang kelang*
 Woman DEM buy give child 3sg-POSS sarong flower-drawn
 The woman buys her child a flower-drawn sarong.

Sentence (2) is a ditransitive clause with the verb *beli* (give) as the predicate. Sentence (2b) is a ditransitive clause with serial verb construction (SVC) *boter beli* as the predicate. Both sentence has two NPs functioning as objects, *me nimung* and *utan bungang kelang*. However, the status of the objects is different in each sentence. This is because Sikka distinguishes primary object (PO) from secondary object (SO). This distinction can be identified through the order of object argument in the sentences (Radjalewa, 2025). This article is concerned with this issue in Sikka. The identification of clause structure in Sikka serves as the basis of understanding the grammar of Sikka. Also, it provides information on how different alternations such as ditransitive alternation in (2) are realized in other types of clauses. Moreover, the identification can reveal strategies to realize voice alternations in Sikka and whether or not it aligns with typological claims of the voice system in Austronesian languages.

One strategy to distinguish the function and syntactic-semantic role of arguments in Sikka is the use of serial verb construction (SVC) (Indrawati et al., 2013). In their findings, Indrawati et al. (2013) suggested two morphosyntactic strategies for SVC in Sikka, namely independent SVC and codependent SVC. However, these morphosyntactic aspects do not explain how the syntactic functions and semantic roles of arguments are affected by changes in valency and grammatical relations. Does the transitivity of Sikka verbs change when they merge into serial verbs? Does a serial verb affect the syntactic function and semantic meaning of its arguments? How do we know that the transitivity changes in a serial verb? Although there is an explanation of the semantic meaning of SVC in Sikka, these questions were not answered in their study.

Several researchers have done studies of Sikka grammar. Laksana et al. (1986), Bhaga, (2021), and Lering (2021). Laksana et al. (1986) classified words in Sikka into nominal, adjectival, and particle classes, but the basis for this classification remains unclear. Bhaga (2021) and Lering (2021) discussed conjugation in Sikka, focusing on changes in verbs with different subject pronouns. However, they did not explain whether these changes are syntactic, morphosyntactic, morphophonemic, or phonetic changes due to environmental influences or sound assimilation (Katamba, 1996). Identifying the type of verb changes is crucial as each type has different implications. However, they did not elaborate on how conjugation affected the realization of arguments and constituent structure. More importantly, the studies do not describe basic clause structure as the building block to understanding Sikka's grammar. Therefore, the present study focuses on providing unidentified features of Sikka's grammar, particularly the basic structure of clauses in Sikka.

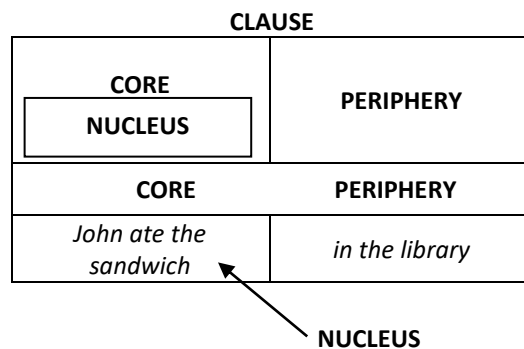
This study describes the basic clause structure referring to (Dixon, 2010) and Robinson and Borsley (2000) or also referred to in other literature as simple clause

structure. A basic clause refers to the smallest unit of an utterance or sentence that has information about an event or situation and the participants involved in the activity or the situation. A clause can be a sentence or it can be a unit that makes up a sentence (Croft, 1991; Crystal, 2008). Payne (1997) uses the term 'proposition' to refer to a clause as a complete thought that is linguistically expressed through a simple clause or sentence that has at least one argument and a predicate element (Delahunty & Garvey, 2010).

From the perspective of syntactic theory in general, clause structure is distinguished as deep structure and surface structure (Fromkin et al., 2014). Deep structure is considered to have a canonical pattern, while surface structure is considered to have a non-canonical pattern (Fromkin et al., 2014; O'Grady & Archibald, 2021). In Indonesian, for example, the deep structure that is considered to have a canonical arrangement is a structure with an SVO order pattern; the subject position precedes the verb (preverbal) and the object position follows the verb (postverbal).

According to Van Valin and LaPolla (1997), there are two components or elements in a clause, namely the nucleus and the periphery. The nucleus of a clause is the predicate in the form of a verbal phrase (VP). NPs with the nucleus forming the core are called core arguments, while other NPs outside the core are periphery arguments.

Table 1: Component of the layered structure of a clause
(Van Valin & LaPolla, 1997)



The description of the basic clause structure can be done using the framework as a reference because it fulfills typological adequacy as described by (Chomsky, 1969). Based on these criteria, the basic clause structure of most languages in the world consists of elements or components that are considered the core components of the clause and optional additional components. The core component of the clause consists of FN and FV which can be formulated as follows.

BASIC CLAUSE STRUCTURES:

(1) NP (subject) + VP

(2) NP (subject) + VP + NP (object)

(3) NP (subject) + VP + NP (object 1) + NP (object 2)

Through cross-linguistic observations, the basic clause structure described above is a basic linguistic component found in most of the languages in the world (Croft, 1991; Payne, 1997). Since almost all languages have clauses, observations of various clause structures in various world languages show a tendency for certain sequencing patterns such as SVO and SOV (Song, 2018). The NP in the preverbal position is generally the subject of a clause while the NP following the VP is the object of the clause. A clause can also have two objects. The second object usually follows the first object after as in basic clause structure (3).

The present study focuses on two main questions, (i) What are the characteristics of the basic clause in Sikka? And (ii) what are the syntactical implications of basic clause structure in Sikka? Answers to these questions can elucidate not only the understanding of the grammar of Sikka but also the typological claims about languages in Eastern Indonesia (Arka & Wouk, 2014; Elias, 2020; Kroon, 2016; Nagaya, 2013; Salahuddin, 2023).

Methods

The primary methodological approach applied in this study was the elicitation method (Chelliah, 2013). The data used in this study are phrases, clauses, and sentences in Sikka. Therefore, the research also employed descriptive and qualitative methods to elicit relevant utterances obtained through direct interviews with two Sikka speakers, online correspondence with one Sikka speaker, the researcher's introspection as a Sikka speaker himself, as well as written texts in Sikka. The data were then categorized into primary data elicited through direct interviews and correspondence with Sikka speakers, as well as the researcher's introspection and secondary data obtained from written texts in Sikka. The primary data in the study was obtained through (i) questionnaire-driven elicitation and (ii) text-driven elicitation (Chelliah, 2013).

In addition to primary data, this study also used references from secondary data obtained in previous studies such as research on Sikka (Fernandez, 1996; Indrawati et al., 2013; Laksana et al., 1986), written texts in Sikka from Orinbao (1969, 1992), translation of the Bible in Sikka (Petu, 1970), prayer and songbook in Sikka (Parera et al., 1998), and the dictionary of *Sara Sikka* (Pareira, 1998). References from these secondary data were used as a comparison with the primary data and also to complete the information that was not contained in the primary data and the introspection as the Sikka speaker.

The data were then classified into two categories: basic clause constructions and complex clause constructions. The data analysis focused on identifying obligatory (core) and optional elements (periphery) of the basic clauses utilizing the defining frames proposed by Givon (Givon, 2001a, 2001b). To support the use of defining frames, data analysis was also conducted using constituent movement techniques, relativization tests, and substitution tests (Fromkin et al., 2014; O'Grady & Archibald, 2021).

Result and Discussion

3.1 Intransitive Clause

An intransitive clause (IC) is a clause construction consisting of one NP which functions as the subject of the intransitive clause (S) and the VP which is the predicate of the IC. Several verbs in Sikka require one obligatory NP argument in a clause or sentence such as, *b(p)ano* (go), *bitak* (break), *bo'u* (come), *d(t)ani* (cry), *d(t)eri* (sit), *d(t)u'e* (sleep), *ela* (fall), *gera* (stand), *hu'i* (bathe), *gu'a* (work), *hulir* (forget), *lerner* (drown), *megu* (dear, love), *susar* (regret). These verbs are the intransitive verbs (IV). Sentences in (3) are examples of ICs in Sikka.

- (3a) *Nimu du'e*
3sg sleep
He/she sleeps.
- (3b) *A'u hulir ba'a*
1sg forgot already
I have already forgotten.
- (3c) *Du'a ia pano*
Woman DEM left
The woman goes.
- (3d) *Me la'i nimu-ng bo'u ba'a*
The boy 3sg-POSS come already
Her son has come.

Intransitive verbs (IVs) as mentioned earlier only require one core argument (S) like the verb *d(t)u'e* in (3a) and *b(p)ano* in (3c). Besides the one core argument, ICs in Sikka can be extended with aspectual adverbs such as *ba'a* (PERF) in 3b) and (3d).

ICs in Sikka can also be expanded by adding E arguments in the form of temporal argument (TEMP) as in (4a), locative argument (LOC) as in (4b), and numeral argument (NUM) as in (4c) to form extended intransitive clauses (Dixon, 2010).

- (4a) *Ami bano lu'at kawu*
1j-exc go/leave tomorrow morning
We leave tomorrow morning.
- (4b) *Rimu plari lau uma*
3pl run to field
They run to field.
- (4c) *Pau ela temang ru'a*
Mango fell fruit two
Two mango fruits fall.

In addition to the S argument, in (4) there are other nouns, namely, *kawu* (4a), *lau uma* (4b), and *temang rua* (4c) in the extended IC in Sikka. The additional arguments in (4) are adjuncts that describe place (LOC), time (TEMP), and number (NUM) (Brinton & Brinton, 2010). These adjunct arguments are considered

periphery because they provide additional information about the time and location of the event as well as the number of participants represented in the intransitive clause.

To prove that these arguments are adjunct, a movement test can be undergone by moving the position of the temporal arguments in (4a) and (4c) to those in (5d) and (5f) and by changing IC (4b) to an interrogative clause (InC) that asks for the locative adjunct argument as in (4e).

- (4d) *Lu'at kawu ami bano*
tomorrow morning 1j-exc go/leave
Tomorrow morning we will leave.
- (4e) *Rimu plari epae?*
3pl run where
Where do they run to?
- (4f) *Temang ru'a, pau ela*
Fruit two mango fell
Two, mango fruits fall.

The word order ICs is SVE. The postverbal argument (E) is peripheral and is optional in the IC. Nonetheless, the SVE word order can change to EVS when the E argument is to be emphasized. This mechanism is similar to argument topicalization as described by Li and Thompson (1976). However, the EVS word order in Sikkha only occurs when the S argument is not an agent (AG) and is an inanimate object.

- (5a) *Bitak nang ba'a unu tana ia*
Broke PART already pot earthen DEM
The earthen pot was broken.
- (5b) *Reta ba'u urang ela*
Top-PREP from top of something rain fall
It is raining.
- (5c) *'Omi lemer tena ia*
almost sink boat DEM
The boat almost sank.
- (5d)* *Plari rimu*
Run 3pl
They ran.
- (5e)* *Orin ami gu'a dena*
House 1pl-exc work make
We work to make a house.

Sentences (5a)-(5c) show the changes in IC order from SV(E) to ESV order. Meanwhile, the ESV order in (5d) and (5e) causes both constructions ungrammatical. This is because, in Sikkha, the S argument, which is the agent and the animate argument, is always in the initial-preverbal position in a clause.

Thus, the basic structure of IC in Sikkha consists of one NP (S) as the core argument and one IV as the part of the nucleus, and an optional NP which is the

peripheral argument (E). Peripheral arguments (E) in IC can be in the form of TEMP, LOC, and NUM arguments. The word order of IC in Sikka is SV(E) and (E)SV when the argument E is a non-agent and inanimate. The structure of IC in Sikka can be summarized as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IC} &\rightarrow \text{S} + \text{IV} + (\text{E}) \\ &\quad (\text{E}) [\text{V}] [\text{S}_{\text{non agent/inanimate}}] \\ \text{E} &\rightarrow (\text{TEMP})/(\text{LOC})/(\text{NUM}) \end{aligned}$$

3.2 Transitive Clause

Besides clauses with one core argument, there are also clauses with two core arguments or transitive clauses (TC) in Sikka. In clauses with two core arguments, one of the arguments is the doer or experiencer and is an animate argument, generally an animate entity. TC in Sikka is characterized by the use of transitive verbs (TV) that require an O argument. Sentences (6) are examples of TC in Sikka.

(6a) *Nimu bana manu*
3sg arrow chicken
He shoots chicken.

(6b) *A'u hena i'an*
1sg cook fish
I cook fish.

TCs in Sikka consist of an A argument, a transitive verb (TV), and an O argument. Since there is no morphological process for marking arguments, the identification of core arguments in TC is done by observing the word order. NPs in preverbal position are A arguments and NPs in postverbal position are O arguments. In (6), the arguments *nimu* and *a'u*, are A arguments, while *manu* and *i'an* that come after the TV are O arguments.

Like IC, TC in Sikka can also be extended by adding the peripheral arguments TEMP, LOC, and NUM as in (7a)-(7c) below.

(7a) *Nimu bana manu leron-leron*
3sg arrow chicken day-RED
He shoots chickens every day.

(7b) *La'i ha ia dola ahu nimu-ng e'i orin*
Man one DEM beat dog 3sg-POSS PREP house/home
The man beats his dog at home.

(7c) *Anton nora Tinus pati wawi rimu-ng lele rua*
Anton and Tinus kill pigs 3pl-POSS tail two
Anton and Tinus kill their two pigs.

The movement test on peripheral arguments as in (8a) and wh-question formation in (8b) shows that these arguments are adjuncts whose presence in the clause is not obligatory.

- (8a) *Leron-leron nimu bana manu*
 Day-RED 3sg arrow chicken
 Every day he shoots chicken.
- (8b) *La'i ha ia dola ahu nimu-ng epae?*
 Man one DEM beats dog 3sg-POSS where
 Where does the man hit the dog?

The word order of TC in Sikkha is SVO(E). The word order can be altered to (E)SVO when the argument E is to be emphasized. The (E)SVO word order pattern in TC occurs when argument A is an agent and when argument A is a non-agent. Although not all A arguments in TC are agents, there is no morphological or lexical marking that shows the difference between an A argument as an agent (AG) as in (9a) and an A argument as a possessor (PS) as in (9b).

- (9a) *Anton nala tudi ami-ng la'en*
 Anton take knife 1pl-exc not yet
 Anton has not taken our knife yet.
- (9b) *Nimu noran uma gawan golo*
 3pl have farm many very
 He/she has so many farms.

Overall, TCs in Sikkha consist of the A argument as the subject, the TV, and O argument as the object. A and O are the core arguments. TC in Sikkha can be extended with the addition of TEMP, LOC, and NUM arguments which are periphery. The structure of TC in Sikkha can be summarized as follows:

TC → A + VT + O
 (E) + A + VT + O + (E)
 E → (TEMP)/(LOC)/(NUM)

3.3 Ditransitive Clause

A ditransitive clause (DC) has three core arguments. DC is also known as double object construction. In the present study, two objects in DC are identified as primary object (PO) and secondary object (SO) (Radjalewa, 2025). In Sikkha, verb *beli* (give) and *natu* (send) display typical ditransitive clause nuclei that demand the use of two object arguments without resorting to strategies such as the use of dative markers, prepositions, or serial verb construction (SVC) that are highly productive in Sikkha that have very little morphological process on verbs. Sentences (10a) and (10b) are examples of DC with ditransitive verbs (DV) *beli* (give) and *natu* (send).

- (10a) *du'a ha ia beli me nimu-ng utan bungang-kelang*
 Woman one DEM give child 3sg-POSS sarong flower-picture
 The woman gave her child a flower-drawn sarong.
- (10b) *Amang natu a'u hoang*
 Father send 1sg money
 Father sends me money.

Sentences (10a) and (10b) are typical DC in Sikka. *Du'a* and *amang* are the A arguments, *me nimung* and *a'u* are the primary object (PO) arguments, and *utan bungan-kelang* and *ho'ang* are the secondary object (SO) arguments. This DC structure resembles the double-object construction (Larson, 1988). Sikka uses a word order strategy to distinguish PO and SO. The PO argument follows the ditransitive verb (DV) *beli/natu*, while the SO follows the PO argument.

Ditransitive clauses in Sikka can also be expressed using serial verb construction (SVC). There are two types of SVC in Sikka. Indrawati et al. (2013) identified it as independent and codependent SVC. However, in this study, two types of SVC in Sikka are referred to as the bound and the free SVC. The terms independent and codependent SVC as proposed by Indrawati et al. (2013) are not suitable for Sikka because there is no derivational or inflectional morphology process for SVC in Sikka compared with the definition of independent, dependent, codependent, and complex SVC proposed by Staden & Reesink (2008).

The SVC in Sikka consists of two verbs (V1+V2) as the nucleus. From the corpus of this research, V2 in SVC is mostly *beli* (give). Sentences (11) are examples of DC with bound SVC as the nuclei.

- (11a) *Ina boter beli ami labu werun*
 Mother buy give 1pl-exc clothes new
 Mom buys us new clothes.
- (11b) *Hali pola beli dede nimu-ng tuak*
 Hali pour give uncle 3sg-POSS arak
 Hali pours his uncle arak.

In DC constructions like (11a) and (11b) the SVC *boter beli* and *pola beli* change the function of the NPs appearing after the bound SVC. The NP following bound SVC functions as the SO, while the NP following the SO is the PO (the distinction between PO and SO and their specific characteristics can be seen in Radjalewa, 2025).

DC in (11) can also be expressed in another way without a change in meaning, using free SVC (V1+NP1...V2+NP). This strategy is similar to the mechanism of dative shift or dative movement (Larson, 1988; Trask, 2013).

- (12a) *Ina boter labu werun beli ami*
 Mother buy clothes new give 1pl-exc
 Mom buys new clothes for us.
- (12b) *Hali pola tuak beli dede nimu-ng*
 Hali pour arak give uncle 3sg-POSS
 Hali pours arak for his uncle.

In (12), V2 *beli* (give) behaves like the preposition 'untuk' Indonesian or 'for' in English. The use of free SVC separates the NP following the verb *beli* from the

core and thus becomes a periphery part, Therefore the NPs following the V1 *boter* and *pola* function as PO arguments. Meanwhile, the arguments *ami*, and *dede nimung*, which follow the V2 *beli* appears to be benefactive arguments (BEN) which are not part of core argument. Although they are not core, omitting the NP after the V2 *beli* ungrammatical constructions.

*(13a) *Ina boter labu werun beli*
 Mother buy clothes new give
 Mom buys new clothes for.

*(13b) *Hali pola tuak beli*
 Hali pour arak give
 Hali pours arak for.

To include NP after V2 in free SVC as a core argument, we need to use the NP as SO for a bound SVC. This is done through the promotion of the benefactive argument (BEN) to the SO position. Therefore, the NPs after V2 in free SVC are considered an oblique argument (Radjalewa, 2025).

Like IC and TC, DC in Sikkha can also be extended by adding TEMP, LOC, and NUM arguments as in (14) below.

(14a) *Leron-leron du'a ha ia beli me nimu-n(g) hoang*
 day-RED womanone DEM give child 3sg-POSS money
 Every day the woman gives her son money.

(14b) *Du'a ha ia beli me nimu-n(g) hoang leron-leron*
 Woman one DEM give child 3sg-POSS money day-RED
 The woman gives her son money every day.

*(14c) *Du'a ha ia beli leron-leron me nimu-n(g) hoang*
 Woman one DEM give day-RED child 3sg-POSS money
 The woman gives every day her son money.

(14d) *Nimu neti mu'u beli ita wawa regang*
 3sg bring banana give 1pl-inc from market
 He/she brought us banana from the market.

*(14e) *Nimu neti wawa regang beli ita mu'u*
 3ag bring from market give 1pl-inc banana
 He brought from the market us bananas.

In (14a), the TEMP argument *leron-leron* is in clause-initial position, while in (14b) and (14d) it is in clause-final position. However, putting a TEMP or LOC argument between the ditransitive verb and the objects or between V1 and V2 in SVC will result in ungrammatical constructions as in (14c) and (14e).

DCs in Sikkha consist of subject (A), ditransitive verb (DV) which can be a single verb or a SVC, PO, and SO arguments which are the core of DC. The ditransitive SVC can be a bound SVC or free SVC. DC can also be extended by adding TEMP, LOC, and NUM arguments which are the periphery arguments. The structure of DC in Sikkha can be summarized as follows:

KD → **A + DV + PO + SO**
 (E) + A + DV + PO + SO + (E)
 (E) + A + V1 + V2 + SO + PO (E)
 (E) + A + V1 + PO + V2 + OBL + (E)
E → **(TEMP)/(LOC)/(NUM)**

Overall, the basic clause structure in Sikka can be summarized as follows:

Clause Type		Core Argument(s)	Periphery Argument(s)
Intransitive	Clause (IC)	{S}	E (TEMP, LOC, NUM)
Transitive Clause (TC)		{A, O}	E (TEMP, LOC, NUM)
Ditransitive	Clause (DC)	{A, PO, SO}	OBL (BEN, INS), E (TEMP, LOC, NUM)

Conclusion

This study set out to describe basic clause structure in Sikka and identify syntactic implications of the structure for the grammar of Sikka. The present study has shown that basic clause structure in Sikka aligns with the general language typology of clause structure particularly the typology of clause structure in Austronesian languages. The basic clause structure in Sikka has SVO order. The basic structure can be extended by adding an E argument in the initial or final position (ESVO/SVOE). The basic clause structure in Sikka also consists of a core and periphery. The core includes the obligatory NP (S/A) and the verb, while the periphery can include adjuncts such as TEMP, LOC, and NUM argument or oblique such as benefactive argument (BEN) or instrumental argument (INS).

The principal theoretical implication of this study is that the change in grammatical relation can be done periphrastically by word order alternation as shown in the Sikka ditransitive clause. As a consequence, Sikka allows ditransitive and benefactive alternations in its grammar. Prior to this study, ditransitive and benefactive alternation or voice alternations in Austronesian languages in Eastern Indonesia have been investigated by several scholars. Although it needs more data from other languages, the findings of this study from Sikka support several claims for the typological feature of voice alternations in Eastern Indonesia languages such as voice alternations without voice morphology, the use of serial verb construction to alter ditransitive clauses, and valency-changing manipulation with the promotion of benefactive argument (BEN) or oblique argument (OBL) through applicative process. The result of the present study can support the development of an areal typology of grammatical relations for languages in Eastern Indonesia.

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