

## *Infix –um- of Ciacia Language*

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### **Abstract**

Ciacia language is a language spoken by about 79.000 speakers in some small islands in southeastern Sulawesi, Indonesia. This language belongs to West Malayo Polynesian (WMP) of Austronesian in sub group of Muna Buton. As the part of Austronesian languages, this language has to reflex the features of the family. One of them in is the presence of infix –um- in the language. This article aims to describe how the infix –um- of Austronesian languages is reflected in Ciacia language and how it is compared to the infix –um- from the language family. The data was collected from some previous works of Ciacia language, especially the data of verbs from 200 basic vocabulary of Swadesh and other verb list from the work of Konisi & Hidayat (2001), and sentence examples from Facebook group Bugi-Karya Baru Community and WhatsApp group KONNAS ALUM &MHS LAPORO . The data later analyzed using introspection technique by entering the infix to the verb as the researcher is the speaker of the language and triangulation. From data analysis, the research found that in Ciacia language infix –um- is realized into four allomorph, namely {–um-}. { m-}, {m} (nasal substitution), and {∅}. Those allomorphs are also found in other language in sub group of Muna- Buton language even though in different number. Moreover, the allomorph of nasal substitution in the language has shown that this language belongs to WMP as nasal substitution is the features the unite the WMP group.

Keyword: Infix –um-, Ciacia language, West Malayo Polynesian

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## Introduction

Austronesian languages is a family of more than 1200s members. This family spreads from Easter Island in the east to Malagasy in the west and from the Southern part of Taiwan (Formosan) in the north to New Zealand in the south. Blust (2013) grouped this family into 10 branches, 9 of them are Formosan and the other is Malayo Polynesian. The group of Malayo Polynesian the divided into West Malayo Polynesian (WMP) and Central East Malayo Polynesian (CEMP). Ciacia language is the member of WMP group under Muna Buton sub group. This sub group consists of six languages namely Muna, Wolio, Ciacia, Lasalimu- Kamaru, Busoa, and Wakatobi (Tukang Besi Island) (Rahayu, 2016). Moreover, Ciacia language is spoken three small Islands of four different regencies namely Baubau City, Buton Regency, South Buton Regency, and Wakatobi Regency. This language has about 79.000 speakers (according to Ethnologue).As the member of the group, Ciacia language has to have the similar linguistics features share among the family member.

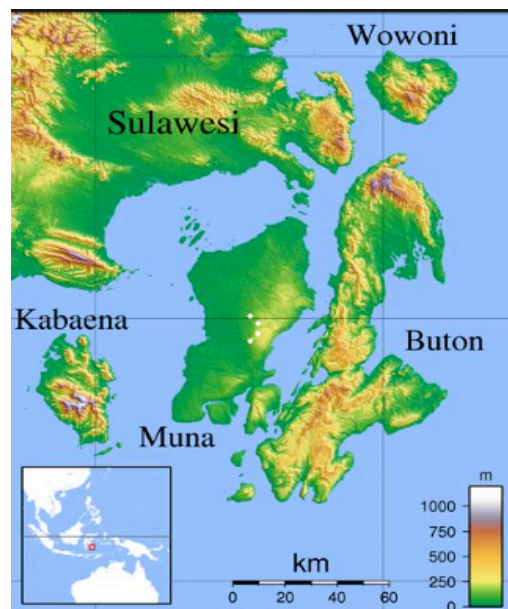


Figure 1. The Area of Muna Buton Language

Most recent study of historical language especially on Austronesians exploits the phonology correspondences among the compared languages. The researchers are hard to look at the morphology correspondence since the limitation of synchronic morphology studies of the compared languages. Affixation is one of most productive morphological process in Austronesian. The process includes the insertion of prefix, infix, suffix, simulfix, confix, and affix combination (Kridalaksana, 2014). These affixations can be attached to any kind of world class.

Infix *-um-* is an affix that attached to verb. Blust (2013) mentions that infix *\*-um-* has been reconstructed as one most important affix in PAN. This affix marks the actor voice in Philippines sub group and inchoative aspect in Celebic sub group. In the group of Muna Buton, beside Ciacia language, there were three other languages that have been examined. The languages are Muna language, Wolio language, and Wakatobi language. The study of Muna language by Van Den Berg (2013) found that there are five allomorphs of infix *-um-* in Muna language while Donuhue (1999) mentioned that this infix usually appears with irrealis subject. Putra (2005) explored

more about this infix in Wakatobi language especially in Tomia dialect and then found that there are three allomorphs of infix –um- in this dialect. A study on Wolio language by Anceaux (1952) did not mention anything about this infix in Wolio language.

The presence of this infix in Ciacia language had been mentioned by few studies before. Abdullah, (1991), Konisi & Hidayat (2001), and Hanan (2014) in their research found that there is infix –um- in Ciacia language. They also explained that this infix appears at the same time with future tense. Konisi (2013) and Fajrhi (2017) had shown their suspicion that this infix has allomorph. In their paper, they mentioned that this infix only appear in particular environment. These two studies did not give any further information about the possibilities of allomorph for this infix. Therefore, this study aims to describe how infix –\*um- from PAN is reflexed in Ciacia language and to compare the reflection to the language in Muna Buton sub group, WMP, and PAN.

### **Theoretical Background**

Katamba (1993) describes affix as “a morpheme which only occurs when attached to some other morpheme such as root or stem or based.” Affix cannot appear without any free morpheme. Thus it is categorized as a bound morpheme. There are many researchers that explain about types of affix. But since those researchers are started from the Indo European languages, the theory does not suitable for Ciacia language as the member of Austronesia languages. Therefore, this study will use the types of affix by Kridalakasana (2012) since this theory is started from Bahasa Indonesia, the member Austronesian language family as well. The affixes are prefix, infix, suffix, simulfix, confix, and affix combination. Simulfix, confix, and affix combination do not exist in Indo European languages.

Based on the function of the affix, there are two types of affix. The affixes are inflection and derivation (Katamba, 1993; Bauer, 1988; Matthews, 2009; Verhaar, 2012). Inflectional morpheme forms morpheme alternations from the same word class. In the other hand, derivational morpheme is kind of affix that derives a new word class from other different word class. Infix –um- in Ciacia language is an inflectional morpheme in Ciacia language. This infix is attached to verb and does not change the word class. The insertion of infix –um- to the stem result in some changes to initial phoneme. These changes will be discussed in this paper.

### **Methodology**

This is a qualitative study. The data used in this study is hinterland dialect of Ciacia language spoken in Sorawolio district in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. The data was collected from some previous works of Ciacia language, especially the data of verbs from 200 basic vocabulary of Swadesh and other verb list from the work of Konisi & Hidayat (2001), and sentence examples from Facebook group *Bugi-Karya Baru Community* (3.669 members) and WhatsApp group *KONNAS ALUM &MHS LAPORO* (128 members). Facebook group members consist of people from various job backgrounds such as high school students, university students, politician, farmer, army, policemen, teacher, etc. The ages are ranged from 17 years old to 50 years old. WhatsApp group members are university student with age range from 17

years old to 28 years old. Both social media groups member are the speaker of Ciacia language who comes from Sorawolio. The data later analyzed using introspection technique by inserting infix to the verb as the researcher is the speaker of the language. The result of introspection method is verified by other speakers (triangulation method).

## Findings

### 1. Infix *-um-* of Ciacia Language

In Ciacia language, infix *-um-* marks the inchoative aspect that is attached to verb and fills the predicate position. This affix cannot be directly inserted to the verb and becomes a predicate. This infix must be appeared with future tense subject marker prefixes. There are six prefixes in Ciacia language namely *a-* for first singular person, *ta-* for first plural person, *cu-* for second singular person, *cuka-* for second plural person, *na-* for third singular person, and *naka-* for third plural person. Moreover, the presence of this infix with particular verb initial sound in construction causes some variation (allomorph) of infix *-um-*.

In morphophonemic process, infix *-um-* conforms with the initial sound of the stem. In Ciacia language, there are four allomorph of infix *-um-*. The allomorphs are  $\{-um-\}$ ,  $\{m-\}$ ,  $\{m\}$ , and  $\{\emptyset\}$ . The rules of each allomorph are shown as follow:

1. Allomorph  $\{-um-\}$  is attached between the initial consonant sounds and first vowel sounds with condition that first initial consonant are alveolar sounds such as  $/t/$ ,  $/d/$ ,  $/nd/$ ,  $/s/$ , and  $/l/$ ; palatal sounds such as  $/j/$  and  $/c/$ ; velar sounds such as  $/k/$ ,  $/g/$ ,  $/ŋ/$ , and  $/ŋ/$ ; and glottal sound  $/h/$ . Here are some examples of this allomorph:

<i>/taje/</i>	<i>/t{um}aje/</i>	will furl
<i>/davu/</i>	<i>/d{um}avu/</i>	will give
<i>/ndavu/</i>	<i>/nd{um}avu/</i>	will fall
<i>/sampu/</i>	<i>/s{um}ampu/</i>	will decrease
<i>/lupi/</i>	<i>/l{um}upi/</i>	will fold
<i>/jalo/</i>	<i>/j{um}alo/</i>	will mix
<i>/cunu/</i>	<i>/c{um}unu/</i>	will burn
<i>/koni/</i>	<i>/k{um}oni/</i>	will know
<i>/gagauji/</i>	<i>/g{um}agauji/</i>	will count
<i>/ŋeya/</i>	<i>/ŋ{um}eya/</i>	will mention
<i>/uaso/</i>	<i>/u{um}aso/</i>	will catch
<i>/hende/</i>	<i>/h{um}ende/</i>	will increase

The combination of future tense prefixes and infix *-um-* will be present in the following examples:

(1) *Isami*                      *ungkaka*                      *tabe* ***ta-k-um-oni-e***                      *paghae nibahasi*.  
 P1pl.exl.we N.children                      art. 2pl.ft.-ink-V.know.O3 P.what                      adj.cl.  
 ‘As children, we want to know what you are talking about.’

(2) *Isoo*                      ***cu-l-um-upi***                      *kancia*                      *ia?*  
 P.2sg.you P2sg.ft.-ink.-V.fold N.clothes                      det.that

‘Will you fold that clothes?’

- (3) Undanga                      ia                      na-s-um-ampu                      walohacu  
N.invitation letter det.that    P3sg.ft.-ink.-V.decrease    Num.800  
na-hu-me-nde                      aghiwu.  
P3sg.ft.-ink.-V.increase    Num.1000  
‘You may decrease the number of the invitation letter to 800 or increase it to 1000.’

In sentence (1) verb *koni* ‘to know’ is attached by infix *-um-* after its first initial sound /k/, prefix *ta-* as subject marker of first plural person, and suffix *-e* as object marker third person. Verb *lupi* ‘to fold’ in sentence (2) is attached by infix *-um-* after its first initial sound /l/ and prefix *ta-* as subject marker of second singular person. Sentence (3) has two verbs, *sampu* ‘to decrease’ and *hende* ‘to increase’. In both verbs, infix *-um-* is attached after its first initial sound /s/ and /h/ and prefix /na-/ as subject marker of third singular person.

2. When the initial sound of the verb is vowels, infix *-um-* will be changed into *m-* and it is placed before the vowels. Here are some examples of this allomorph:

/aso/	/m}aso/	will sell
/inte/	/m}inte/	will go
/eka/	/m}eka/	will rip
/onto/	/m}onto/	will be silent
/unta/	/m}unta/	will touch

The combination of future tense prefixes and this allomorph will be present in the following examples:

- (4) Hawite                      a-m-ero-e                      bhata sontamagha.  
Adv.hanya                      P1sg.ft.ink-V.steer-O3.                      Prep.to    N. west  
‘I just need to steer this boat to the west.’
- (5) Cia                      cuka-m-ita                      La Ramis?  
Neg.                      P2pl.ft.-ink.-V.see                      N. La Ramis  
‘Do you see La Ramis?’

In sentence (4) verb *ero* ‘to steer’ is attached by allomorph *m-* before its initial sound, prefix *a-* as the subject marker of first singular person, and suffix *-e* as the object marker. Verb *ita* ‘to see’ in sentence (5) is attached by allomorph *m-* before its initial sound and prefix *cuka-* as the subject marker of second plural person.

3. When the verb initial sound is voiceless bilabial plosive /p/, the initial sound is changed to /m/ (nasal substitution). Here are some examples of this allomorph:

/pilagu/	/m}ilagu/	will sing
/pe?ena/	/m}e?ena/	will ask
/pilonga/	/m}ilonga/	will see



## 2. Infix *-um-* of Languages in Muna Buton Sub Group

There are six members of Muna Buton sub group and only three of them that has been documented. They are Muna language, Wolio language, and Wakatobi language. A research of Muna language was published by Van Den Berg (2013), Wolio language by Anceaux (1952), and Wakatobi language by Donuhue (1999) and Putra (2005). In his publication, Van Den Berg mentions that there are five allomorphs of infix *-um-* in Muna language. The allomorphs are  $\{-um-\}$ ,  $\{m-\}$ ,  $\{m\}$  (nasal substitution),  $\{\emptyset\}$ , and  $\{-im\}$ . The first four allomorph of infix *-um-* in Muna language are similar to the allomorphs in Ciacia language, except the number of initial sound for each allomorph that may be more or less than Ciacia language. This is caused by the different of phonological system of each language. Allomorph *-im-* is not found in Ciacia language. This allomorph is only used in standard dialect of Muna language while in Ciacia language there is no any standard dialect.

Donuhue (1999) mention that infix *-um-* in Wakatobi language marks future event, shows wishes and desires, and emphasizes the actor in the sentence. Putra (2005) then strengthen Donuhue opinion by explaining that there are there allomorph of infix *-um-* in Wakatobi language especially in Tomia dialect. The allomorphs are  $/IR-V1um/$ ,  $/IR-umV1/$ , and  $/IR-zero/$ . IR means the future tense subject marker. The number of infix *-um-* is less than Ciacia language. The number of initial sound of each allomorphs are also different from Ciacia language since these two languages have different sound system as well.

In the study of Wolio language by Anceaux (1952) does not mention the presence of this infix in Wolio language. The morphology description needs to be explored more to the previous date and theories. The other two languages, Lasalimu-Kamaru and Busoa, have not had any documentation yet. Thus, this study cannot compare these languages to Ciacia language.

## 3. Infix *-Um-* of Austronesian

The reconstruction of infix *-\*um-* in Proto Austronesian (PAN) construct intransitive verb. For example *\*Caŋis* ‘weeping, crying’ becomes *\*C<um>aŋis* ‘weep, cry’, *\*Nanuy* ‘swimming’ becomes *\*N<um>aŋuy* ‘swim’, and *\*quzan* ‘rain’ menjadi *\*q<um>zan* ‘to rain’. This does not happen to all Austronesian language. Ciacia language does follow this pattern but not the meaning. Mostly this infix will be placed based on the verb initial sound or Blust calls it as Consonant-initial bases. Ciacia language reflexes this infix as what the other West Malayo Polynesian language do. This infix marks an inchoative aspect as it is only get paired with future tense subject marker prefixes. Moreover, this infix shows how Ciacia language is connected to WMP group through its nasal substitution. Blust mentions this is the unity feature of WMP.

It is not only languages in the group of Muna Buton that have allomorph. Most language has two allomorphs and other has more. Bolaang Mongondow reflexes this infix as consonant-initial based  $\{-um-\}$ , realized the infix as  $\{m-\}$  for the vowel sounds, as nasal substitution for labial-initial bases, and as *-im-* when the consonant-initial is followed by by high front vowel. Thao reflexed this infix with ten allomorphs. In Ciacia, as what has been explained, has four allomorphs. In

conclusion, even though the meaning of infix *-um-* in Ciacia only follow the meaning of WMP sub group, the pattern of this infix in Ciacia follows what is found in most Austronesian language as well as the allomorph.

### **Conclusion**

Ciacia is a quasy polysynthetic language under the family of Austronesia. This type of typology is shown through its infix *-um-* that is attached to verb and does not change the verb world class. Infix *-um-* is well known as one of most important morpheme in PAN. Ciacia reflex its membership of Austronesia by following the consonant-initial bases pattern, vowel initial bases, the nasal substitution, and bare allomorph. The nasal substitution on Ciacia also shows that the language has the unity features of WMP as well as the inchoative meaning of the infix.

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