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MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CLITICS IN THE AMANUBAN DIALECT OF
UAB METO

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By
Agnes Marlin Paskalia Benu
Std. Number: 8820320200213

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INSTITUT PENDIDIKAN SOE

Jln. Badak No.5 A- Lokasi 2 SMK Negeri 1 Soe, TTS-NTT

Email : institutpendidikansoe15@gmail.com

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The journal entitles “**Morphological Analysis of Clitics in The Amanuban Dialect Of Uab Meto**” has been written by:

Name : Agnes Marlin Paskalaia Benu
Student's Number : 8820320200213
Study Program : English Education Program

It has been examined, defended and approved by the examiners in the final examination on 2nd August 2024.

Soe, 30 September 2024

Approved by:

Examiners Team:

Signatures

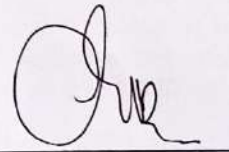
1. Leader

Supervisor 1 : Heidy Wulandari, S. Pd, M.Hum



2. Secretary

Supervisor 2 : Marthisa O. Billik, M.Pd



3. Member

Examiner : Tri Buce J. Banu, M.Pd



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Morphological Analysis of Clitics in the Amanuban Dialect of Uab Meto

Agnes M. P. Benu¹, Heidyu Wulandari², Marthisa O. Billik³

^{1,2,3}Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Institut Pendidikan Soe, Indonesia

E-mail: agnesbenu931@gmail.com¹, heidywulandary0@gmail.com², marthisabillik@gmail.com³

Abstract

This study explores the clitics in the Amanuban Dialect of Uab Meto. The objective is to analyze how these small word parts (clitics) function in sentence formation and understanding within this dialect. This study focused on the Amanuban dialect where clitics found in, which is one of the three main types of Uab Meto. The research used a descriptive qualitative method. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of clitics by examining native speakers' usage and perspectives. The study identified two types of clitics: proclitics and enclitics. Proclitics, such as “m-,” “t-,” and “n-,” appear before verbs and correspond to different pronouns, while enclitics like “-kum,” “-kun,” and “-kuk” follow verbs to indicate pronouns. For example, “m-” is used with “Hom” (You), and “-kum” is used with “Hom” (You). These clitics are crucial for clarifying the subject in sentences, helping speakers express themselves more clearly and effectively. Understanding these clitics provides insight into how Uab Meto speakers construct sentences, making communication more precise and reflecting the adaptability of language in everyday use.

Keywords: *Amanuban Dialect, Clitics, Morphology, Morphology Analysis, Uab Meto.*

INTRODUCTION

Crysta (2008) cited in Ates & Yayli (2022) said that language is the key to life that enables people to express their opinions or thoughts in its existence. Language is a very important tool to be used by humans to interact with others. There are many languages in the world so, we have to keep it preserved. In Indonesia, there are more than 700 languages, and it is unique in the diversity of languages. So, it is clear that there are many languages in a language country, including regional languages. Regional languages are different from Indonesian because they use regional languages or ancestral languages, this is what makes regional languages unique.

Booij (2016) cited in Nugraha (2024) stated that the classification of languages based on morphological complexity involves three key dimensions: the index of synthesis, the index of polysynthesis, and the index of fusion. The first dimension of classification is the index of synthesis, which refers to how many morphemes tend to occur per word in a language. The second index on which language can be ranked is that of polysynthesis, and the third classification is the index of fusion, which refers to how many meanings tend to be associated with each morpheme. These three indicators of morphological complexity are useful in giving a global characterization of the morphology of a language.

Moreover, a regional language is a language spoken from generation to generation in a region within a sovereign state. In the Eastern part of Indonesia, there is an island that is unique to its regional language, namely Timor. Timorese people usually call it Uab Meto or it is also called “Dawan”. The kind of language from Timor Tengah Selatan (TTS) includes three dialects; those are the Mollo, Amanuban, and Amanatun dialects. The dialects are usually used in the Timorese tribe based on each location. The natives believe that there are some differences in those three dialects in their sounds primarily due to variations in consonants, vowels, tone, stress patterns, syllable structures, and intonation. Distinctive phonetic elements, such as specific consonant sounds and vowel qualities, contribute to the unique auditory characteristics of each dialect. Additionally, differences in tone and stress patterns, along with

variations in syllable structure and intonation, further set these dialects apart. Historical factors, including linguistic influences and contact with other languages, contribute to these differences, but basically, they are similar based on language politeness. In this case, the Dawan language also has linguistic elements such as English linguistics that have to be used correctly to give clear meaning to the use of language. One of the linguistic elements that appear in the Dawan language is morphology.

Booij (2019) explained that morphology studies words, their formation, and their relationship with other words in the same language. It is a branch of linguistics focusing on the internal structure of words and their organization. Morphology analyzes morphemes, the smallest meaningful units in a language, and how they combine to form words and contribute to grammar. Clitics, as part of morphology, change form based on their position in a sentence. Studying clitics within morphology helps linguists understand how words are built and interact in different contexts, highlighting their role in shaping word and sentence structure. Morphology, as described by Sibora & Bram (2020), is the branch of linguistics that studies words, their structure, and formation, focusing on morphemes, the smallest units of meaning. Kusumawardhani (2018) explains that morphemes can be either free (able to stand alone as words, like "dog" or "run") or bound (needing to attach to other morphemes, like "un-" in "undo" or "-ed" in "walked"). Morphology also looks at how words are formed through processes like affixation (adding prefixes or suffixes), compounding, derivation, and inflection, which modify words to show tense, number, or gender. Carlisle (2003), cited in Dodur (2021), highlights that studying morphology helps linguists understand how words are built and change, as seen in the verb "run," which can become "runs," "ran," or "running" to express different grammatical features.

Morphological analysis, as described by Josiah & Udoudom (2012), is a method used in linguistics to study how words are structured and formed by breaking them down into morphemes, the smallest meaningful units like prefixes, suffixes, or roots. According to Trask (2013), the process involves several steps: identifying the morphemes in a word, dividing the word into these parts, classifying each morpheme by its role (e.g., a prefix might show negation, a suffix might show plurality), and determining the meaning of each morpheme. Finally, as noted by Raja (2014), the analysis examines how these morphemes combine to form the full meaning of the word, considering rules like affixation and compounding.

Clitics, as Bonet (2019) explained, are bound morphs that attach to other words and function like articles, pronouns, or auxiliaries. In Uab Meto, these clitics play a key role in the relationship between verbs and subjects, as seen with proclitics like "ma" or enclitics like "-kuk," which modify verbs to reflect tense and subject. In the Amanuban dialect, verbs like "Miun" (you drink) and "Iun" (I drink) must match the subject to avoid confusion. By studying these clitics, the researcher, a native Timorese speaker, aims to explain how they help maintain the grammatical structure and meaning in Uab Meto, particularly in the Amanuban dialect. Rivas (1977), categorized clitics into five types based on their syntactic behavior: proclitics (attached to the beginning of a word), enclitics (attached to the end), mesoclitics (inserted between a word and an inflectional ending), endoclitics (inserted within a word), and exoclitics (phonologically attached but standing alone). However, in Uab Meto, only proclitics and enclitics are used, showing the language's unique structure. The researcher, a native Timorese speaker, focuses on how these clitics in the Amanuban dialect help form sentences and indicate subject-verb relationships, like in "Au u niu" (I take a bath), where clitics help express meaning clearly.

Feka and Suhandano (2019) describe Uab Meto as a regional language spoken by people on Timor Island, particularly in East Nusa Tenggara. Benu (2021) adds that Uab Meto is commonly used in the North Central Timor, South Central Timor, and Kupang regions. Rose (2018) notes that the language, spoken by the Atoni Pah Meto, shows variation based on ethnic groups. In the South-Central Timor area, three ethnic groups—the Mollo, Amanatun, and

Amanuban—speak Uab Meto but with distinct dialects, reflecting differences in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar.

Hajar and Purniawati (2020) explain that the Dawan language, often called Uab Meto by its speakers, is used across mainland Timor, particularly in the South-Central Timor (TTS) region, where it has three dialects: Molo, Amanuban, and Amanatun. The Amanuban dialect, as noted by Nenoliu and Mardikantoro (2019), has unique characteristics compared to the other dialects, especially in the way words are spoken. Amanuban speakers often add words at the end of sentences, a practice linked to the royal language "Atola," used in conversations with royalty or elders. Additionally, the Mollo people frequently use interrogatives in daily communication, asking questions to seek information from their interlocutors.

Based on the explanation above, there is uniqueness in the Dawan language which is diverse from English. Therefore, the researcher chose this topic to be referenced. There is a comparison to previous research that lies in morphological analysis in Uab Meto that comes out from the speaker's mouth and in this study, the Amanuban dialect must be emphasized. In the study of the Amanuban dialect, the emphasis should be placed on conducting a detailed morphological analysis. The analysis should focus on the unique morphological features that distinguish the Amanuban dialect from English and draw comparisons with the findings of previous research, particularly in Uab Meto. Researchers should explore the intricacies of how words and their meaningful elements are formed and structured in the Amanuban dialect, paying attention to any distinctive morphological patterns that set it apart. By emphasizing the morphological aspects, the study can contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic characteristics of the Amanuban dialect.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research used a descriptive qualitative method to study clitics in the Amanuban dialect of Uab Meto. This approach was chosen because it helps gather detailed information and provides a clear understanding of language use. By describing and analyzing real-life language use, the researcher could focus on how clitics are used in the Amanuban dialect, giving a better picture of the language.

The study took place in Amanuban, specifically among native Uab Meto speakers in SoE. This area was chosen because it allowed the researcher to meet many native speakers who naturally use the Amanuban dialect. Focusing on this particular group made it easier to understand their way of speaking, filling a gap in previous research, which had not paid much attention to the Amanuban dialect.

Participants were native speakers of the Amanuban dialect, and their everyday conversations were recorded in places like markets and hospitals. An audio recorder was used to capture these conversations accurately, ensuring that the natural use of clitics was documented for analysis. To collect the data, conversations were recorded and then transcribed into written form. This made it easier to study the use of clitics in the dialect. The data was carefully analyzed by first transcribing the conversations, then grouping similar parts of speech to find patterns. This process helped the researcher draw conclusions about how clitics are used in the Amanuban dialect. The analysis was guided by Rivas's theory, which explains that clitics are short words that attach to other words to show grammar rules clearly. The researcher looked at different types of clitics, such as articles and pronouns, and how they help make communication clear and easy. By studying these patterns, the researcher gained a deeper understanding of how clitics work in the Amanuban dialect, providing valuable insights into the language.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Clitics in the Meto Language are divided into two kinds namely proclitics and enclitics

(Udemmadu & Anidobe, 2020). Proclitics in the Meto Language vary based on the personal pronoun used in the sentence.

There are several kinds of proclitics that are usually appeared in Uab Meto, such as “m-”, “t-” and “n-”. The clitics are usually appeared based on what pronoun is used in a sentence. For example, “m-” appeared when the pronoun is “Hom” (You), “t-” appeared when the pronoun is “Hit” (We) and “n-” is used when the pronoun is “In” (She/He) or “Sin” (They).

Research Result:

1. Au aen - I run.
2. Hom **maen** - You run.
3. Hit **taen** - We run.
4. In **naen** - She/He runs.
5. Sin **naen** – They run.

When proclitic is added to the verb and adjective it will not change the class of word but it indicates the actor or the doer. Next, there are several kinds of enclitics that are commonly used in Uab Meto, such as “-kum,” “-kun,” and “-kuk.” These enclitics typically appear based on the pronoun used in a sentence. For example, “-kum” appears when the pronoun is “Hom” (You) as in "Hom mnaokum neo lene" (You go to the garden), “-kun” is used when the pronoun is “In” (He/She) or “Sin” (They) as in "In naokun neo lene" (He/She goes to the garden) and "Sin naokun neo lene" (They go to the garden), and “-kuk” appears when the pronoun is “Au” (I) or “Hit” (We) as in "Au naokuk neo lene" (I go to the garden) and "Hit naokuk neo lene" (We go to the garden).

Research Result: “*au nao neo lene.*”

1. Au naok**uk** neo lene = I go to the garden.
2. Hom mnaok**um** neo lene = You go to the garden.
3. In naok**un** neo lene = He/She goes to the garden.
4. Hit naok**uk** neo lene = We go to garden.
5. Sin naok**un** neo lene = They go to garden.

In Uab Meto, proclitic and enclitic usually appear in verbs, adjectives, and pronoun. For example, the clitics occurred in the verbs such as “Pao = Mpao” and “Aen = Taen”. It occurred also in adjectives such as “Peh = Mpeh” and “Pok = Mpok”. Then, it also occurred in the pronoun “Hom” that means “you” includes the clitic “m.”

Proclitics

According to Halpern (2017), proclitics are clitics that are attached to the beginning of a word. In Uab Meto, proclitics often indicate the subject pronoun and are placed before the verb to show who is performing the action. These proclitics are essential for sentence structure and clarity. Below, researcher provides some findings of sentences that have proclitics with and without pronoun to see the difference.

Research Result:

Verb:

1. - Hom **mpao** ena nbi Soe (You wait mom in Soe)
- **Mpao** kau nbi ume he (You can wait us at home)
2. Hom **mnao** neo lene (You go to farm)
- **Mnao** kit neo elaf (Can you go to the party)
3. - Hom **mpoi** nako ui menas et fi neona (You were out of the hospital yesterday)
- **Mpoi** bi mone (Go outside)
4. - Hom **msoi** surat nbi klas nanan (You read letter inside the classroom)

- Om hem **msoi** kit surat la i (Please read this letter for us)
- 5. - Hom **muko** soe (You are from Soe)
 - **Muko** me? (Where are you from?)
- 6. - Hom **mbi** lene et noka i (You have been in farm since this morning)
 - **Mbi** kit lene ee (Keep the farm)
- 7. - Hom **mait** upun nbi kulkas (You take mango from refrigerator)
 - Nao he **mait** kit noni bi ATM (Go to take us money at ATM)
- 8. - Hom **mfaes** mblua bi noe (You wash clothes at river)
 - Nao he **mfaes** kit pika (Go to wash dishes for us please)
- 9. - Hom **maen** neo me (You run to where)
 - **Maen** neo me? (Where do you run to?)
- 10. - In **nsoi** surat nbi klas nanan (She/He reads letter inside the classroom)
 - **Nsoi** kit surat knino (Read The Bible for us)
- 11. - In **nako** Soe (She/He is from Soe)
 - **Nako** me? (Where is he/she from?)
- 12. - In **nbi** lene et noka i (She/He has been in farm since this morning)
 - **Nbi** kun lene et mabe i (She/He has been at farm since last night)
- 13. - In **nfaes** mblua bi noe (She/He washes clothes at river)
 - **Nfaes** kun in blua (She/He washes her/his clothes)
- 14. - In **naen** neo me (She/He runs to where)
 - **Naen** kun neu amaf (She/He runs to her/his father)
- 15. - In **nkae** et fai i (She/He cried last night)
 - **Nkae** neu in anah (She/He cries because of her/his son)
- 16. - Hit **tpao** ena nbi Soe (We wait mom in Soe)
 - Om het **tpao** kase sin (Let's wait the people)
- 17. - Hit **tnao** neo lene (We go to farm)
 - Om het **tnao** he ta tik bol (Let's go to play football)
- 18. - Hit **tako** Soe (We are from Soe)
 - **Tako** soba (Just arrived from market)
- 19. - Hit **tait** upun nbi kulkas (We take mango at refrigerator)
 - Om het **tait** laku (Let's take cassava)
- 20. - Hit **tfaes** mblua bi noe (We wash clothes at river)
 - Neo om het **tfaes** pika sin (Come on, let's wash the dishes)

Adjective:

- 1. - In **npeh** kaul he tnao hae (She/He will be lazy if we go on foot)
 - **Npeh** nainkun (She/He is lazy for years)
- 2. - Hom **mpok** loh (You are fat you know)
 - **Mpok** misan loh (You are too fat)

In Uab Meto, clitics are important. These little parts can go at the start or end of words to show who is doing the action or other details. For example, with verbs, adding “m” to “pao” makes “mpao” (wait), like in “Hom mpao ena nbi Soe” (You wait mom in Soe). Even without “Hom,” the “m” in “Mpao kau nbi ume he” (You can wait for us at home) still shows it means “you.” The same happens in “Hom mnao neo lene” (You go to the farm) and “Mnao kit neo elaf” (Can you go to the party), where the “m” shows “you” without needing the word “Hom.” Other examples are “Hom mpoi nako ui menas et fi neona” (You were out of the hospital yesterday) and “Mpoi bi mone” (Go outside). The “m” in these words shows “you” even

without saying “you.”

In another examples, “In nkae et fai i” (She/He cried last night) and “Nkae neu in anah” (She/He cries because of her/his son), the “n” shows “he/she.” Similarly, “Hit tpao ena nbi Soe” (We wait mom in Soe) and “Om het tpao kase sin” (Let’s wait for the people) show “we” with “t.” This shows how clitics in Uab Meto can make sentences clear by showing who is doing the action. This shows how clitics in Uab Meto can make sentences clear by showing who is doing the action.

Enclitics

As mentioned in Halpern (2017), enclitics are attached to the end of a word and are usually used in sentences optionally by language users. Enclitics, the forms of the enclitics in Meto Language shows by the add of [-kuk], [-kum], and [-kun] on the end of the verbs.

Research Result:

Verb:

1. - In naok**kun** neo lene (She/He is going to farm)
- Naok**kun** et noka i (She/He goes out since this morning)
2. - Au seuk**kuk** noah mate et lene (I took coconut in farm)
- Fe ha seuk**kuk** upun (I just want to take mango)
3. - Au pehk**kuk** leufa (I am very lazy)
- Peh**kuk** kal het nao hae (I will be lazy if we walk on foot)
4. - Au poik**kuk** neo mone (I go outside)
- Poik**kuk** fes (I want to go outside)
5. - Au soik**kuk** sulat bi ume (I read letter at home)
- Soik**kuk** a’an (I want to read command)
6. - Au aenk**kuk** neo skol (I run to school)
- Aenk**kuk** neo mone (I run outside)
7. - Au kaek**kuk** neo au olif nao neo Soe (I cried because my little sibling went to Soe)
- Kaek**kuk** neo au ena (I cry to my mom)
8. - Au maink**kuk** neo in bel (I laughed because he falls)
- Maink**kuk** tal noka (I will laugh until tomorrow)
9. - Hom msaek**kum** noah mate et lene (You climb coconut tree at farm)
- Msaek**kum** neo motol (You can go by motorbike)
10. - Hom mtuik**kum** sulat et kean (You are writing letter in bedroom)
- Mtuik**kum** sa? (What do you write?)
11. -Hom mpoik**kum** neo mone (You go outside)
- Mpoik**kum** nai (Get out now)
12. - Hom msoik**kum** sulat bi ume (You read letter at home)
- Msoik**kum** palsum (You read for nothing)
13. - Hom maenk**kum** neo skol (You run to school)
- Maenk**kum** nai (Run!)
14. - Hom kaek**kum** neo au olif nao neu Soe (You cried because your little sibling went to Soe)
- Kaisam kaek**kum** bute ah (Do not cry for nothing)
15. - Hom maink**kum** neo in bel (You laughed because he falls)
- Kais ala ho maik**kum** neu in sanat (Do not only laugh at her mistakes)
16. - Hom naok**kum** neo lene (You went to farm)
- Naok**kum** mbi in ume (Go to his house)

17. - In nsaekun noah mate et lene (She/He climbs coconut tree at farm)
- Nsaekun neu bikase tunan (She/He is on horse top)
18. - In ntuikun sulat et kean (She/He writes letter in bedroom)
- Ntuikun palsum (She/He writes for nothing)
19. - In npoiikun neo mone (She/He goes outside)
- Npoiikun es noka la i (She/He goes out since this morning)
20. - In nsoikun sulat bi ume (She/He reads letter at home)
- Nsoikun onen nbi sulat (She/He reads prayer at letter)

The examples show that clitics are important. For example, with verbs, adding “n” to “nao” makes “naokun” (going), like in “In naokun neo lene” (She/He is going to the farm). Even without “In,” the “kun” in “Naokun et noka i” (She/He goes out since this morning) still shows it means “she/he.” The same happens in “Au seukuk noah mate et lene” (I took coconut in the farm) and “Fe ha seukuk upun” (I just want to take mango), where “kuk” shows “I” without needing the word “I.” Other examples are “Hom mtuikum sulat et kean” (You are writing a letter in the bedroom) and “Mtuikum sa?” (What do you write?). The “kum” in these words shows “you” even without saying “you.”

Therefore, in Uab Meto, proclitics are important because they show who is doing the action by attaching to the beginning of words. For example, “Hom mpao ena nbi Soe” means “You wait mom in Soe.” Enclitics, which go at the end of words, add details like tense or emphasis. For instance, “Au seukuk noah mate et lene” translates to “I took coconut in farm.” Understanding how to use these proclitics and enclitics is the key to express ideas clearly in Uab Meto.

Discussion

The discussion section interprets the findings, explaining their importance and what they mean in a broader linguistic context. The researcher explored the morphology of clitics in the Amanuban dialect of Uab Meto, their functional roles, and the social factors influencing their use.

The analysis shows a clear pattern of clitic usage in the Amanuban dialect. According to Abbas, Yulianti, & Thaba (2022), clitics often appear as proclitics (before the word) and enclitics (after the word) attached to verbs and nouns, which shows who is doing the action. For example, the proclitic “Hom” (you) is often attached to verbs that indicate action, such as “mpao” (wait), “mnao” (go), and “msoi” (read). The basic forms of these verbs are “pao,” “nao,” and “soi.” The proclitic appears due to subject-verb agreement in Uab Meto, where using a certain subject automatically adds a proclitic to the following verb or adjective. This use of proclitics indicates the subject of the sentence and is an important feature of dialect grammar.

Enclitics in Uab Meto also play a crucial role. According to Sideltsev, et al (2015) enclitics typically attach to the end of verbs or nouns, adding information about who is doing the action too. For example, in the sentence “Au seukuk noah mate et lene” (I took a coconut at the farm), the enclitic “-kuk” is added to the verb “seu” (take) to indicate the past tense, forming “seukuk.” Another example is “Hom mpoiikum neo mone” (You go outside), where the enclitic “-kum” attaches to “mpoi” to show a continuous or habitual action.

To learn clitics in Uab Meto, people should first know the subject to be used in a sentence, as it defines the appearance of clitics in Uab Meto.

Examples:

When using “Au” (I) as the subject:

1. Au nao neo lene (I go to the farm)
2. Au pao ena nbi Soe (I wait mom in Soe)
3. Au poi nako ui menas et fi neona (I was out of the hospital yesterday)

When using “Hom” (You) as the subject:

1. Hom mnao neo lene (You go to the farm)
2. Hom mpao ena nbi Soe (You wait mom in Soe)
3. Hom mpoi nako ui menas et fi neona (You were out of the hospital yesterday)

When using “In” (She/He) as the subject:

1. In nbi lene et noka i (She/He has been at the farm since this morning)
2. In bpeh kaul he tnao hae (She/He will be lazy if we go on foot)
3. In poikuk neo mone (She/He goes outside)

As noted by Kurniawan & Seprizanna (2016), while English adjusts verb forms to match the subject in number and person (e.g., “He runs” vs. “They run”), Uab Meto uses clitics to achieve subject-verb agreement. For example, the verb “pao” (wait) changes to “mpao” when the subject is “Hom” (you), demonstrating different mechanisms in both languages to ensure subject-verb agreement.

This pattern illustrates the grammatical structure and clitic placement in Uab Meto sentences, showing how different subjects influence the clitics’ presence and attachment to verbs or nouns. Furthermore, in Uab Meto, clitics play a significant role in modifying verbs, adjectives, and pronouns. As mentioned in Rivas (1977) these clitics, often attached to the beginning or end of words and can show who is doing an action.

As supported by Halpern (2017) in Uab Meto, clitics often attach to verbs to indicate the subject. For example, “Pao” becomes “Mpao” to mean “wait,” as in “Hom mpao ena nbi Soe” (You wait, Mom, in Soe) and “Mpao kit ume” (Keep the house for us). Similarly, “Aen” becomes “Taen” to mean “run,” as seen in “Hit taen neo me” (We run to somewhere) and “Taen kuk neo ume nanan” (Let’s run inside the house). Here, the clitics “m” in “mpao” and “t” in “taen” modify the basic verbs to include pronouns.

According to Benu (2014) clitics also appear in adjectives, changing their forms and sometimes the intensities. For instance, “Peh” becomes “Npeh” to mean “lazy,” as in “In npeh kaul he tnao hae” (She/He will be lazy if we go on foot) and “Npeh neu sa?” (What is she/he lazy for?). Similarly, “Pok” becomes “Mpok” to mean “fat,” as illustrated in “Hom mpok loh” (You are fat, you know) and “Mpok misan loh” (You are very fat, you know). In these cases, the clitic “m” is used to modify the adjectives, often to reflect the subject.

As mentioned by Radja, et al (2022), the pronoun “Hom,” which means “you,” includes the clitic “m.” This clitic helps to indicate the subject within the verb phrase. For example, “Hom” (you) includes the clitic “m” in sentences like “Hom mnao neo lene” (You go to farm) and “Mnao ne me?” (Where do you go?). Similarly, “Hom” (you) appears in “Hom mbi lene et noka I” (You have been in the farm since this morning) and “Mbikum me es et lelo?” (Where have you been for hours?). In these examples, the clitic “m” in “Hom” attaches to verbs to specify that the subject is “you.” Even though people do not always use “Hom” as the pronoun, the sentence can still be understood.

Understanding clitics in the Amanuban dialect helps speakers communicate more clearly and efficiently. According to Spencer (2012) these small word parts are used to specify who is doing what, which makes sentences more precise and reduces the chance of

misunderstandings. By including these clitics, speakers can express detailed information about actions and relationships in a more straightforward way. This also highlights how language adapts to meet the needs of its users. This is supported by Halpern (2017) that the use of clitics simplifies the grammatical structure, making conversations less complicated. This shows how language evolves over time to improve communication, reflecting the close relationship between grammar and meaning in everyday speech.

Therefore, In Uab Meto, clitics are important parts of the language. They attach to verbs, adjectives, and pronouns to show who is doing something. Clitics change words to give information about the subject and make meanings clearer and stronger. Meaning that, it makes the message or information easier to understand and more powerful. In other words, it helps to ensure that what is being said is not only easier to grasp but also has a greater impact or emphasis.

CONCLUSION

In the Amanuban dialect of Uab Meto, clitics are small word parts that play important roles in how sentences are formed and understood. There are two types of clitics: proclitics, which come before words, and enclitics, which come after. In Uab Meto, both proclitics and enclitics are used to indicate pronouns within sentences. Proclitics like “m-”, “t-” and “n-” attach to verbs based on the pronoun, such as “m-” for “Hom” (You), “t-” for “Hit” (We), and “n-” for “In” (He/She) or “Sin” (They). Similarly, enclitics such as “-kum,” “-kun,” and “-kuk” follow the verb to indicate the pronoun. For instance, “-kum” is used with “Hom” (You), “-kun” with “In” (He/She) or “Sin” (They), and “-kuk” with “Au” (I) or “Hit” (We). These clitics help clarify the subject in Uab Meto sentences. Understanding these clitics helps people in the Amanuban community express themselves clearly and efficiently. By using these small word parts, speakers can convey who is doing what making their sentences more precise. This system also reflects how language can adapt to make communication easier, showing how grammar and meaning work together in everyday conversations.

The researcher suggests that young Indonesians, particularly those from the Meto community, should learn their Uab Meto language. By focusing on how clitics function in the Amanuban dialect, this study helps people understand the different Meto dialects and the role clitics play in sentence structure. Future research could explore how clitics express tenses in other Uab Meto dialects, enhancing understanding of the language. This study benefits both English lecturers and students, as lecturers can incorporate insights from Uab Meto, especially clitics, into more engaging lessons, while students gain opportunities to compare Uab Meto and English, discovering similarities and differences in language structure. It also helps students build analytical skills and appreciate Indonesia’s linguistic diversity, which is especially valuable for those pursuing teaching careers. Studying clitics not only deepens knowledge of language but also improves teaching approaches.

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