

TENSE IN TAE' LANGUAGE (*Temporalitas dalam Bahasa Tae'*)

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Abstract

This research is aimed to study tense in Tae'. This research applies the qualitative method which aims to find the detail and complete data in the field. The collecting data is done by using the library study. It means that, the writer collects the data by reading books, journals, and other sources that relate to this study, particularly theories and researches about tense systems. Moreover, the qualitative method of this study is analysing Tae' discourses, there are eighteen discourses as the object analysis in this study. These discourses contain folklores, fables, advices from parents, and descriptions of the typical foods of this area. The result shows that tense are grammatically unmarked in Tae' language, they are only marked lexically by adverbial times that refer to absolute and relative times. The absolute times are expressed by sammai, taun lendu, allo te', taun te' masiang, taun pole, etc. Otherwise, the relative times are expressed by jolo, wattu to', masai allo, to' temo, pisse allo, lako te', allo pole, lulakona, dem polepa/pi, purapi, etc.

Keywords: *tense, qualitative method, and Tae' Language*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini ditujukan untuk mengungkapkan temporalitas dalam bahasa Tae'. Penelitian ini mengaplikasikan metode kualitatif yang bertujuan untuk mendapatkan data yang lengkap dan terperinci di lapangan. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui studi pustaka. Dengan kata lain bahwa, penulis mengumpulkan data dengan membaca buku-buku, jurnal, dan sumber-sumber lainnya yang berhubungan dengan penelitian ini, khususnya teori dan penelitian-penelitian tentang temporalitas. Lebih lanjut, penelitian ini mengkaji delapan belas wacana bahasa Tae' yang terdiri atas cerita rakyat, fabel, nasihat-nasihat dari orang tua, dan uraian makanan khas daerah ini. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara gramatikal temporalitas dalam Bahasa Tae' tidak bermarkah. Temporalitas hanya ditandai secara leksikal melalui kata keterangan yang merujuk pada waktu absolut dan waktu relatif. Waktu absolut diekspresikan melalui kata seperti, *sammai, taun lendu, allo te', taun te' masiang, taun pole*, dan lain-lainnya. Sebaliknya, waktu relatif diekspresikan melalui kata-kata seperti *jolo, wattu to', masai allo, to' temo, pisse allo, lako te', allo pole, lulakona, dem polepa/pi, purapi*.

Kata kunci: temporalitas, metode kualitatif, dan Bahasa Tae'

1. Introduction

The research focuses on tense system in Tae' language. Tae' belongs to Austronesia language family having remarkable features of grammaticalization. First, the language has a number of specific morphological distinctions, in that structures of this language are realized in complex forms, by way of, for instance, affixation and reduplication. Furthermore, the word orders of the language are VS/VAO. These word orders are different from those found in other languages in Indonesia particular and in the world general.

The term grammaticalization was defined by Hopper and Traugott (1993: 1-2). They formulated the definition of grammaticalization in two ways, namely

(1) grammaticalization refers to that part of the study of language that focuses on how grammatical forms and constructions arise, how they are used, and how they shape the language, and

(2) grammaticalization refers to the actual phenomena of language that the framework of grammaticalization seeks to address, most specifically the processes whereby items become more grammatical through time.

Thus, under the first definition, one investigates the sources of grammatical forms and the typical pathways of change that affect them, while under the second definition one sees grammaticalization as primarily a syntactic or discourse pragmatic phenomenon, to be studied from the point of view of fluid patterns of language use. Those distinctions can be found in various contexts, analysis of discourse, and language in use in order to see what natural languages are. Talking about natural language, Stassen (1985) proposes that natural languages, with regard to their structural properties, often compromise between various interfering strategies, the balance between which may vary from language to language, and from one developmental stage of a language to another.

With about tense, being the object research of this study, it is connected to the functional grammar of tense. This feature accommodates many of the principles and phenomena described in different theories. For

instance, (Dahl, 1985: 1-2) proposes that the tense systems are linked up with fundamental concepts in human thinking, such as 'time'. In recent years, the scope of general linguistic theory has widened and there has been an upsurge in studies of tense systems. Most such studies, however, use limited data bases, and then make universal claims if the tense systems seem to be working in some languages. They provide almost no information about the use of tense categories except for the labels of grammar. It turns out that the encoding of tense systems varies rather widely across the languages of the world in terms of their morpho-syntactic characteristics. In Tae', especially tenses cannot be described in morph syntactic terms, because tenses in this language are grammatically unmarked.

Based on the above arguments, the writer will try to describe the tense systems in Tae' as the main problems in this study. It will be expressed by two main problems addressed in this research, they are what are the markers of tense in the Tae' language? And what are the functions of those markers in the Tae' language.

The scope of study is to provide the lexical and grammatical features in Tae' language by regarding its tense systems. The writer uses Tae' discourses to identify the systems of the language.

2. Review of Related Literature

Comrie (1985) defined the boundaries of the notion of 'tense'. He stated that tense is the grammaticalised expression of location in time (1985: 9). It means that languages have grammatical features which can express the location of a situation on the "time axis". He further stipulated that, for any particular form in a language, we must decide whether it does in fact express location in time and whether it is indeed a grammatical category, and then pronounce it to be tense or not. For instance, in English the difference between *John sang* and *John sings* is one of tense, whereas the difference between *John signs* and *John is singing* is not, but rather a matter of aspect. In sum, the sentence *John sang* indicates the past event, while *John sings* indicates the present event, and then *John is singing* describes the situation that is still ongoing at the time or is

called a continuous event. Thus, from those examples, Comrie concluded that tense can be related with the situation of events. More specifically, tense is marked in relation to events that are past time, present time, and future time.

Furthermore, Comrie (1985: 36) argues that tenses refer to absolute and relative times. Absolute tense refers to tenses which take the present moment as the deictic centre. It can be divided into three categories, namely (1) present tense, which means coincidence of the time of the situation and the present moment, (2) past tense, which means location of the situation prior to the present moment, and (3) future tense, which means location of the situation after the present moment. In contrast, a relative tense refers to a tense which does not include the present moment as deictic centre. Comrie points out that relative tenses are required to identify a reference point, the range of potential reference points being in principle all those compatible with the given context. It means that, a relative tense focuses on the reference point is provided by the context. Thus, the difference between absolute and relative tense is not that between the present moment versus some other point in time as reference point, but rather between a form whose meaning specifies the present moment as reference point and a form whose meaning does not specify that the present moment must be its reference point (Comrie, 1985: 58).

Furthermore, Bybee (1985:157) argued that there is a distinction in English between present and past, on the one hand, and future, on the other. In other words, the encodings of present and past events are different from the encoding future events, and the two are independent of one another. Moreover, Dahl (1985) stipulated that normally, when we talk about future events, we are either talking about someone's plans, intentions or obligations, or we are making a prediction or extrapolation from the present state of the world. Sometimes we cannot differentiate between tense and mood, which is why we find it hard to distinguish these two features. In our case, however, I do hope to be able to indicate form when we can use the future separately from the mood form in the 'Tae' language.

Within the framework of formal semantics, Montague (1974) considers tenses as sentential operators. In this case, we consider the evaluation of time always to coincide with the time of the utterance which is symbolized by *u*. Given this view on tense, one can conclude that tense can be described by stipulating the relevant time of the utterance. For instance;

- A. 1. John saw Mary.
2. P[see(John, Mary)]
- B. 1. John will see Mary.
2. F[see(John, Mary)]

The logical form of sentence (A) features the past operator marked by P (*saw*), which is relative to the true time (past time) of the utterance. In contrast, sentence (B) features the future operator marked by F (*will see*), which is also relative to the true time of the utterance, that is the future time. Then, simple tense logic combines with propositional logic by using the operators P and F.

Many languages in the world have different forms of tenses. The 'Tae' language, specifically, also has tense to express the time. However, tenses in 'Tae' are generally deictic. In other words, there are no formal features of verbs that can be used to express tense in this language. It can be marked by the absolute and relative time. This feature is similar with tense in Malayu Ambong (Minde, Don Van. 2007: 189). Tense in Malayu Ambong is marked by adverbial items as well as in 'Tae'. Furthermore, Comrie (1985: 56) points out that adverbial items like *today* (the day including the present moment), *yesterday* (the day preceding the day including the present moment), and *tomorrow* (the day following the day including the present moment) are used to indicate absolute time reference. In contrast, relative tense can also be referred to by adverbial items, such as *on the same day*, *on the day before*, and *on the next day* (Comrie 1985: 56). These adverbial items seem to be working in 'Tae' as well (see following examples and chapter 1V).

In general, there are three adverbial items in 'Tae' which express tenses, *sammai* 'yesterday' (past), *masiang* 'tomorrow' (future), and

allo te' 'today' or *lako te'/to'* 'this/that now' (present). Examples of sentences are the following;

1. manjona lako kampus sammai
manjo -na' lako kampus *sammai*
go 1ERG to campus yesterday
(PAST)
'I went to the campus yesterday'
2. lamanjona lako kampus masiang
la- manjo -na' lako kampus
masiang
want go 1ERG to campus
tomorrow (FUT)
'I want to go to the campus tomorrow'
3. lamanjona lako kampus lako te'
la- manjo -na lako kampus *lako*
te'
want go 1ABS LOC campus LOC
DEM (PRESENT)
'I want go to the campus now/ today'.

From the above examples, it can be concluded that tenses in 'Tae' can be identified adverbially. The adverbial items function as markers of absolute and relative tense. Specifically, sentence 1 indicates past tense, sentence 2 indicates future tense, and sentence 3 indicates present tense. As these examples demonstrate, there are no formal features of verbs that can be used to identify tenses in 'Tae'. It is true that there is a prefix on verbs that might be said to indicate future tense. In reality, however, this prefix must be rated as ambiguous, since it sometimes functions as a marker of future tense and sometimes as a mood marker, depending on the context of the sentence. As we see in example 2, the presence of the prefix *la-* 'want' and the adverbial *masiang* 'tomorrow' as absolute tense marker emphasizes that the event will occur in the future. In other words, the prefix *la* and the adverbial *masiang* 'tomorrow' should co-occur in this sentence. In contrast, sentence 3 also features the prefix *la-*, but here it emphasizes the present tense because of the presence of the adverbial *lako te'* 'now'. The exception is that the prefix *la-* cannot be used to emphasize the past event (see sentence 1). It cannot produce this meaning because the prefix *la-* refers to the wish or desire that the event will occur in the future.

Uniquely, to emphasize the present time in 'Tae', we use demonstrative *te'* (this) and *to'* (that). However, these demonstratives must be preceded by the locative marker *lako* 'at'. *Lako te'* 'now', can be categorized as relative time, because there is no specific fixed time that refers to the action; the form is only interpretable in its time reference when related to the context.

Another form that indicates present tense in 'Tae' is shown by relative *allo te'* 'today', as in the following sentence;

4. allo te' tae' allo
allo te' tae' allo
day LOC NEG day
'There is no sun today'

Specifically, the presence of adverb *allo te'* 'today' at the above sentence indicates absolute time (Comrie 1985).

Thus, it can be concluded that tenses in 'Tae' are categorized as deictic features which refer to absolute and relative times. The following table describes the encoding of tenses in 'Tae';

	Absolute Times	Relative Times
Past	sammai (yesterday)	jolo (past)
Present	allo te' (today)	lako te'/to' (now)
Future	masiang (tomorrow)	pura (later on)

Obviously, the past time is distinguished by the adverbial *sammai* (yesterday) as absolute time and *jolo* (past) as relative time. The present time is clearly distinguished by the adverbial *lako te'/to'* (now) as relative time and *allo te'* (today) as absolute times. *Te'* and *to'* are demonstrative markers. Then, the future tense is clearly distinguished by the adverbial *masiang* (tomorrow) which also refers to absolute time. In addition, there are other temporal adverbs which are categorized as relative by the context, for instance, *pura* (see later), etc.

3. Methods and Techniques of Research

The 'Tae' language, the object of this research, has many interesting features. The language belongs to the group of Austronesian languages. The genetic affiliation of this language

is Malayo Polynesian (Lewis, 2009). The Tae' language is located in East Indonesia, particularly in the Luwu regency, South Sulawesi. There are about 250,000 speakers of Tae' (1992 SIL in Lewis 2009). The Tae' language is used in the Luwu province. Luwu is divided into three regencies and one city. Those regencies are named South Luwu (Belopa), North Luwu (Masamba), East Luwu (Malili), and Palopo city. The most speakers of Tae' are located in South Luwu (Belopa) and this research centres on the variety spoken there. The Tae' language is used by people in this area in daily conversations. Tae' is the first language (L1) for them at this regency. However, the Tae' language is also used by people in the other regencies of Luwu province.

The sources for obtaining data in this study are discourses of Tana Luwu (Luwu land). There are eighteen examples of Tae' discourses as the object of analysis in this study. These discourses consist of folk tales, fables, advices from parents, and descriptions of the typical foods of this area. Those discourses have been collected by Ibrahim in 1997. This means that the data are still new and I do not need to do the field research because the validity of authenticity of data has been ascertained by the previous researcher. I am sure that there have been no changes like a language shift, because the data have been collected recently, about 14 years ago. Furthermore, the most important thing the writer is a native speaker of this language, so I can easily read and understand these discourses.

This study uses the descriptive method which is aimed at finding detailed and complete data. The collecting of the data was done by way of library study. It means that the writer has collected the data by reading some books, journals, and other sources that are related with this study, particularly theories and researches about tense, mood, and aspect systems. After the data had been collected, I started to analyze them by using the theory of Bernard Comrie about *tense* (1985) Don Van Minde about *Malayu Ambong* (1997). These theories will be the main references in finding the systems of tense of Tae' discourses.

4. The Results of the Investigation

As I noted in previous explanation, tenses of Tae' are grammatically unmarked. In this way, Tae' resembles many other languages in Indonesia, for instance, Ambong Malay (see Minde 1997) and Bahasa Indonesia (see Tadjuddin 2005), where verbs are also unmarked as to tense. In Tae', particularly, tenses are expressed by lexical forms or phrases only. There are no grammatical forms that can encode tenses in this language. Tenses in Tae' can be categorized as deictic markers which refer to an external situation (absolute and relative time). The following examples and arguments will illustrate the tenses in Tae'.

4.1. Present tense in Tae'

Present tense can be identified as referring to the present moment as a point on the timeline, and the basic meaning of present tense is thus location of a situation at that point (Comrie, 1985:36). In Tae' the form of present moment is expressed by absolute and relative times. These times are illustrated by the following sentences;

5. jaji ia to' lako te' allo lasulemo
 jaji ia to' lako te' allo la-
 sule -mo
 CONJ PRON DEM LOC DEM day want
 back PERF
 'So, I want to go back now'
6. iake pakkalinoan to' temo' iarika lako te', iake
 sicado-cadoranmi tau tae'mo nasangrupa
 bicaranna to jolona nalako te'
 iake pa- ka- lino -an to'
 temo' iarika lako te'
 iake si- cado-cado -mi tau tae'
 -mo na- sang- rupa
 bicara -na to jolo -na na-
 lako te'
 CONJ CAUS ACT-N life TRAN DEM
 ago or LOC DEM
 CONJ RECIP sit-sit PVF people
 NEG PFV CONJ NUM various
 speak POSS N past POSS CONJ
 LOC DEM
 'The life is changed now, in the past we were
 forbidden to speak carelessly when we
 were gathered but now they do it'

7. iami to' pa'kalinoan ia te' lako te' tae'mo
nasitandai to' tau ma'kapolo
ia- -mi to' pa- ka- lino -an
ia te' lako te'
tae' -mo na- si- tanda -i
to' tau ma'- kapolo
PRO PFV DEM CAUS ACT-N life
TRAN PRO DEM LOC DEM
NEG PFV 3ERG RECIP know
3ABS DEM people INTR famiy
'The life now', people are not known as
families anymore'
8. kasiboboran mira lako te' magasa ombo
ka- si- bobo -an mira
lako te' magasa ombo
ACT-N RECIP fight TRAN just
LOC DEM much rise
'A lot of fighting arises now'
9. ia lako te' wamparang mira nula,
tae'mo natandai ia te' pa'amberanna
ia lako te' wamparang mi- -ra
na- ula tae' -mo na-
tanda -i ia te' pa- ambe
-an -na
PRO LOC DEM wealth 2ERG
only 3ERG chase NEG PFV
3ERG
know 3ABS PRO DEM CAUS father
TRAN POSS
'At now, she/he only pursues the wealth,
she/he doesn't know her/his family
anymore'
10. ia lako te' tae'mo namataku madosa
ia lako te' tae' -mo na-
mataku ma- dosa
PRO LOC DEM NEG PERF
3ERG shy INTR sin
'She/he is not shy anymore to make sin
now'
11. sikamabelamo to' lino to jolona lino
lako te'
si- kambela -mo to' lino to jolo -na lino
lako te'
RECIP far PFV DEM life N past POSS
life LOC DEM
'People's life in the past and now are very
different'
12. tae' naissen to' kapolona lako te'
tae' na- issen to' kapolo -na
lako te'
NEG 3ERG know DEM family 3POSS
LOC DEM
'They do not known their families right now'.
13. saba' iake umpamana nabengki' dalle taun ia
te' nabengki' dalle buda disukkurui lako
Puang Allah taala
saba iake umpama -na na-
beng -ki dalle taun
ia te' na- beng -i
dalle buda di- sukur -i
lako Puang Allah taala
CONJ CONJ example POSS 2ABS-
HON give 1ABS sustenance year
PRO DEM 2ABS-HON give 1ABS
sustenance much PASS thank 3ABS
LOC HON God
'If we have a lot of sustenance this year, we
must say thanks to God'

Clearly, based on the above examples, it can be concluded that present tense in *Tae'* can be expressed by lexical means only, in particular by using adverbial markers. The adverbial *lako te'* (now) in the above sentences refers to relative times. The adverbial *taun ia te'* (this year) refers to absolute times. Lexically, the word *lako* refers to the locative, and *allo* refers to a noun, while the word *te'* refers to a demonstrative. In this case, however, those lexical formations encode the present time.

4.2. Past tense in *Tae'*

Comrie (1985: 41) points out that the past tense locates the situation in the past, without saying anything about whether that situation continues to the present or into the future. The following examples illustrate the encoding of past tense in *Tae'*:

14. jolona den mesa kampong nangai to
sipobaine
jolo -na den mesa kampong
nangai to si- po- baine
PS 3POSS BE NUM village
occupy N RECIP CAUS woman
'In the past, there was one village occupied

- by the couple'
15. jolona den mesa to sipobaine sisola to
sipomuane njajian anang mesa'
jolo -na den mesa to si- po-
baine si-
sola to si- po- muane n-
jaji- -an anang mesa
PS 3POSS BE NUM N RECIP
CAUS woman RECIP
with N RECIP CAUS man NT
birth TRAN child NUM
'In the past, a couple gave birth one child'
16. jaji jolona den mesa to sipobaine sipomuane
to kasiasi mpunnai anak da'dua
jaji jolo -na den mesa to si-
po- muane to kasiasi m-
punna -i anak da'dua
CONJ PS 3POSS BE NUM N
RECIP CAUS man N poor NT
has 3ABS child two
'So, in the past, there was a poor couple
who had two children'
17. ia to' jolona iake den pesta naadakan to' tau
matua. ia to' natambai ia ngasanna to' rara
nabuku
ia to' jolo -na iake den
pesta na- ada -kan
to' tau matua. ia to' na-
tambai ia ngasanna
to' rara na- buku
PRO DEM past 3POSS CONJ BE
party 3ABS do 1eksERG
DEM people old. PRO DEM 3ABS
invite PRO all
DEM blood CONJ born
'In the past, if there was a party who held by
old people, they invited all their families'
18. jolona inde' Bonelemo, nacarita to' to matua,
maccaritanna batu tikumbak
jolo -na inde' Bonelemo na-
carita to' to ma- tua,
ma'- carita -na batu tikumbak
PS 3POSS here Bonelemo 3ERG
story DEM N INTR old
INTR story POSS stone open
'In the past, here in Bonelemo', the old
people told about open stone (Batu
Tikumbak)'

19. ia to' jolona tae' naposarai to' siborong
ia to' jolo -na tae' na-
posara -i to' si- borong
PRO DEM PS 3POSS NEG 3ERG
do 3ABS DEM RECIP group
'In the past, they didn't do it in a group'

The word *jolo* 'past' in the above sentences combines with the possessive suffix *-na* to form the expression *jolona* 'in the past', which describes a situation that occurred in the past time. Specifically, the existence verb *den* 'was' in sentences 15, 16, 17 and 18 emphasizes reference to a past event, because it is preceded by the adverbial *jolo*. Then, sentence 19 clearly expresses situation that starts in the past and ends in the past as well. There is no activity that continues from this event anymore. Additionally, the simple negative *tae* 'didn't' in sentence 20 expresses the past negative event. Again, in this construction there is no grammatical feature which marks the past tense.

Thus, the past tense in Tae' is marked by the adverbial *jolo* followed by the possessive *-na* as enclitic. The adverbial *jolo* (past) points to relative time in Tae'. Furthermore, another relative tense form in Tae' is illustrated by the following sentences;

20. ia to' wattu to majurru', namampu bela'na,
sulemi
ia to' wattu to ma- jurru,
na- mampu bela'
-na sule -mi
PRO DEM time N NTR fire,
3ERG scorched garden
POSS back PERF
'When people burnt their farmlands, his
garden got scorched, then he had to get
back.'
21. wattu ia to' tappa manjo Lakipadada
wattu ia to' tappa manjo
Lakipadada
time PRO DEM directly go
Lakipadada
'At that time, Lakipadada left directly'
22. jaji wattu ia to' tappa maballo
jaji wattu ia to' tappa ma-
ballo

- CONJ time PRON DEM ADV INTR
good
'So, at that time it got better'
23. jaji mpakaden kaputusan rapa' to' wattu ia to'
jaji M- pakaden kaputusan rapa
to' wattu ia to'
CONJ NT invent decision meeting
DEM time PRO DEM
'Then, people made decision at the time'
24. paccapuranna wattu ia to' sisolami Datu
pa' cappu -an -na wattu ia
to' si- sola -mi Datu
CAUS finish TRAN 3POSS time
PRO DEM RECIP with PFV
HON
'Eventually, they became friend with Datu'
25. des siwattu napuang Tambalibuntu mangasu
den si- wattu na- puang
Tambalibuntu maN- asu
BE RECIP time 3ABS HON
Tambalibuntu IT dog
'One day Tambalibuntu went for hunting
some dogs'
26. apa makale'i manjo nalele to' bubuna
apa makale' -i manjo na- lele
to' bubu -na
PREP morning 3ABS go 3ERG take
DEM fishing gear 3POSS
'When the morning came, he went to take his
fishing gear'
27. naden pisse allo, makale, namanjo to indo'na
sola ambe'na lako salu njaka bête
na- den pisse allo, makale' na-
manjo to' indo'
-na sola ambe' -na lako salu
N- jaka bête
CONJ BE once day, morning 3ERG
go DEM mother
3POSS with father 3POSS LOC river
NT look fish
'One day, in the morning, her mother and
father went to the river for fishing'
28. ia to' sainna naula to' bai ia to tallung taun
tallung bulan tallung allo
ia to' saina na- ula to' bai
ia to tallung taun tallung bulan
tallung allo
- PRO DEM very 3ABS rush DEM pig
PRO N three year three month three
day
'He needed three years, three months, and
three days for hunting the pig'
29. masai allo di'pa'lalanni rampo lallui indei to'
masai allo di- pa- lalan -i rampo lallui
indei to'
long day PASS CAUS walk 3ABS arrive
in here DEM
'After a long walk, they arrived into the
woods'
30. sipulung-pulung njakai lolokna to' temo'allo
si- pulung-pulung N- jaka -i
lolokna to temo'allo
RECIP together NT find 3ABS
solution DEM ago day
'They gathered to find the solution at the time
(ago)'

The relative times in sentences 21-26 are expressed by *wattu* 'time' which follows pronoun *ia* 'he/she'. The formation then follows or precedes the demonstrative *to'* which emphasizes the event that occurs in the past. On the other hand, the relative times in sentence 27 is marked by the preposition *apa* and the noun *makale*, meaning 'when the morning'. Sentence 28 indicates the relative time by employing the adverb *pisse allo* 'one day'. The relative time at sentence 29 and 30 is expressed by the adverbs *ia to' sainna* 'for a long time' and *masai allo* 'very long'. The meaning here is that he needed a long time for hunting and they walked for a long day. Finally, sentence 31 also expresses past-relative tense. The adverbial *to' temo* means 'ago' and indicates that the event occurred in the past.

Again, we do not find grammatical tense marking in this construction, because the *Tae'*, like many other languages in the world, lacks tense as a grammatical category.

4.3. Future tense in *Tae'*

The future tense in *Tae'* can also be marked by absolute and relative markers. Those markers will be illustrated by the following sentences,

31. masiang pole omi, manjo omi Labongo'-
bongo' lolang
masiang pole omi manjo omi
Labongo'-bongo' lolang
tomorrow ADV ADV go ADV
Labongo'-bongo' walk
'On the next day Labongo-labongo goes to
walk again'
32. allo pole omi, manjo Labongo'-bongo' lolang
allo pole omi, manjo Labongo'-bongo'
lolang
day again again, go Labongo'-bongo'
walk
'The next day, Labongo'-bongo' goes to walk
again'
33. manjomi Labongo'-bongo' to' allo pole
manjo -mi Labongo'-bongo' to' allo
pole
go PFv Labongo'-bongo' DEM day
again
'On the next day, Labongo'-bongo' goes
again'
34. mopaki wa'ding salama inde lino oncongpi
allo undinna Puang Allah taala
mopa -ki wa'ding salama inde
lino oncong -pi allo
undi -na Puang Allah taala (absolute-
future)
fortunately, ink.ABS may safe
LOC earth then IMF day
back -POSS HON God
'We are fortunate to live with happiness on
the earth, but we will be more than that if we
can live the same way in heaven'
35. taum pole ke madodongi to', madodongna
to' dalle den duka tu' tau tundu battuanna
tae'mo nasukkurui (future ABSOLUTE)
taum pole ke' ma- dodong -i to'
ma- dodong to' dale
den duka to' tau tundu battuanna
tae' -mo na- sukkuru -i
year next CONJ INTR less 3ABS
DEM INTR less DEM fortune
BE also DEM people respect meaning
NEG PFV 3ERG happy 3ABS
'If next year people earn less there will be no
thanksgiving'

Sentences 31, 32, and 33 express relative

time. Semantically, the presence of adverbial markers in these sentences emphasizes the same meaning, that is 'on the next day again'. Morphologically, these sentences are characterized by different lexical features. The presence of the adverbial *masiang pole omi* 'on the next day again' indicates that the event will occur tomorrow, the day after this day, but there is no specific time reference for the occurrence of the action. In other words, there is no specific hour when the event of walking will be held tomorrow. It could be held in the morning, at noon, or somewhere in the afternoon.

In contrast, the absolute time in sentence 35 is marked by the adverbial *allo undi* 'next day' followed by possessive *-na*. Besides, the use of honorific *Puang Allah taala* 'God' emphasizes that the situation will really happen in the future (in the hereafter), whereas a different case of absolute time reference can be seen in sentence 36. Here, the use of the adverbial *taum pole* 'next year' indicates that the event will occur in the next period.

The relative future in 'Tae' can be seen in the following sentences;

36. purapi kugere-gere'i
pura -pi ku- gere-gere -i
later IMF 1ERG chop-chop 3ABS
'I will be chopping him/her later'
37. purapi kutunui
pura -pi ku- tunu -i
later IMF 1ERG bur 3ABS
'I will burn him/her later on'
38. purapi kupeppe' to' ulunna
pura -pi ku- peppe' to' ulu -
na
later IMPF 1ERG hit DEM head
3POSS
'I will hit his/her head later on'
39. ke' pura to' macangkang omi jamanna
ke' pura to' ma- cangkang omi
jama -na
CONJ later DEM INTR cold
again do POSS
'later on, it will cold again'
40. iake den jonga pura goraikun, mimbalikun le'
iake den jonga pura gora -i -kun

- mimbali -kun le'
if is deer later shout 3ABS ABS
-PL answer ABS-PL please
'If a deer will shout at you later on, answer
please'
41. iake cado'i to' adimmu pura, pa'deda'
dedarannai
iake cado' -i to' adi'
-mu pura pa'- deda'
deda -an -i
CONJ weak up 3ABS DEM younger
sister 2POSS later CAUS swing
swing TRAN 3ABS
'If your younger sister will wake up later on,
swing her please'
42. umba-umba kuangai topa pura ia tondo
mutiroi kumua lamupobaine
umba-umba ku- ngai topa pura ia
tondo mu- tiro -i kumua
la- mu- po- baine
RED 1ERG place stop later
PRO DEM 2ERG-SG see 3ABS that
want 2ERG-SG CAUS woman
'Where I will stop later on, she will be your
wife'

As will be clear, those above sentences express future tense by way of the adverbial *pura* 'later' followed by the suffix *-pi* 'on'. In other words, the adverbial *purapi* as relative time marker stipulates that the event will occur in the next time without any indication of a specific point in time. Interestingly, the prefix *la-*, which also functions as a modal marker,' refers to future time if it is in an interrogative sentence, as we see

in sentence 42.
Another form of relative future in 'Tae' is illustrated by the following sentence;

43. tae'mo masala lulakona to'
tae' -mo masala lulako -na to'
NEG PVF problem then 3POSS
DEM
'Then, there won't problem in the future
anymore'
44. nakua, dem polepa
na- kua, den pole -pa
3ABS say BE again only
'Yes, later on'
45. nakua dem polepi
na- kua den pole -pi
3ERG say BE again only
'Yes, later on'

The adverbial *lulako* 'then' in sentence 44, followed by the suffix *-na* as possessive (enclitic), indicates future time reference here. It is understood that the situation will obtain at a certain time in the future, but it is not known exactly when it will happen. A similar situation holds for the sentences 45 and 46, where the phrase *den polepa/pi* expresses future reference. Hence, the future time reference in 'Tae' is expressed lexically, where no morphological marking on verbs to express a future tense.

Based on the above data, it can be concluded that tenses in 'Tae' are marked lexically. These lexical, phrasal, markers indicate the past tense, present tense, and future tense. The following table describes tenses in 'Tae'.

	Past tense	Present tense	Future tense
Absolute times	sammai (yesterday)	taum te' (this year) allo te' (today)	masiang (tomorrow) taum pole (next year) allo undi (hereafter)
Relative times	jolo (past) wattu ia to' /ia to' wattu (that time) masai allo (a long time) ia to' sainna (very long time) to' temo (ago) pisse allo (one day)	lako te' (now) lako te' allo (now)	pura to' (later on) purapi (later on) dem polepa (later on) dem polepi (later on) lulako (then) allo pole (on the next day) allo pole omi (on the next day again) masiang pole omi (on the next day)

5. Conclusion

Summing up the results of discussion of tense marking in Tae', it can be concluded that there are many interesting features which characterize this marking. Tenses in Tae' are distinguished for absolute and relative times. The past tense, specifically, is marked by adverbial *sammai* (yesterday) as absolute time, while *jolo* (past), *wattu to'* (at the time), *to' temo* (ago) are markers of relative time. The present tense is marked by *allo te'* (today), *taum te'* (this year) as absolute time, while relative time is marked by *lako te'* (now), *allo pole* (next day), and *pisse allo* (one day). Finally, the future tense is marked by *masiang* (tomorrow), *taum pole* (next year), *allo undi* (hereafter) as absolute time, while relative time is marked by *purapi* (later on), *lulako* (then), *dem polepa* (later on), *dem polepi* (later on).

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