

# **Finite Clause in Biate: A Minimalist Approach**

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## CONCLUSION

### Summary of Findings

I adopted the Minimalist program to investigate the Finite Clause Structure in Biate. We have dealt with all the clause types viz intransitive, transitive and di transitive sentence construction. We found that the subject of the transitive sentence originates in the Spec of vP and finally it moves to Spec of TP to fulfil the EPP features. We have seen that the external case is assigned by v and the internal arguments are assigned by V in the derivation of the structure. In case of ergative case we have assumed that the case is assigned in-situ where v assigns the ergative as well as the theta role. So, we can say that the DPs that moves upwards from Spec of vP to Spec of TP to get nominative case. We have proposed vP2 to deal with the indirect object; where v gives the case as well as the thematic role in the derivation.

**Chapter 1:** In this chapter we have given a brief summary about the Biate community. The demography and the population are presented in this Chapter. This Chapter also shows the genetic affiliation of the Biate language. Brief description of phonology and morphology is also discussed. In the last part of the Chapter, we have given existing literature on Biates and also discussed the methodology that we used for collecting data during the fieldwork.

**Chapter 2:** In this chapter we have described the syntactic feature of the Biate Language. The finite clause structure is looked into thoroughly. Intransitive, transitive and di-transitive are explained in detail. The component of the clause like Tense-Aspect-Mood is explained in details. We found that Biate follows future vs non-future tense system. We have aspectual marker like *-mai* progressive, *-yai* habitual and *-tak*. In this chapter we have also looked at the agreement system in Biate and we found the Biate subject agrees with its finite verb in person and number. The subject agreement markers are always prefix in the positive sentence; whereas in negative sentence it is suffix. The variation of subject agreement can also be seen in case of tense. The future negative and non-future negative sentences have different agreement markers. The object pronoun in Biate are clitics which are affixed to the finite verb except the second person pronoun. Case system in the language is also looked at in this chapter; Biate syntactically follows Nominative-Accusative case. We can also see the phenomenon of split ergativity in the language. In the last part of the Chapter, we discussed about the thematic roles that DPs are assigned.

**Chapter 3:** In this Chapter, we have revisited the Minimalist Program proposed by Chomsky. We have looked into the developments of derivation of syntactic structures starting from GB to Minimalist. Here we have discussed how merge operation operates to combine two lexical items to be meaningful in the sentence constructions. Following Chomsky, we also presented that every DPs in the sentence must be assigned with the case and given a thematic role. We have talked about various approaches to deal with the derivation of a sentence in a particular language. The A<sub>gs</sub> model and A<sub>gr</sub> less model is described in details in the Chapter. Observing our data, we followed A<sub>gr</sub> less model to show the derivation of Biate sentence construction.

**Chapter 4:** In this Chapter we looked into the finite clause structure of Biate within Minimalist Program. The architecture of Biate finite clause structure is explained in the initial part of the chapter. We have observed that the subject of the derivation originates in the Spec of vP and as it has a nominative uninterpretable case feature it moves to the spec of TP. The external case is assigned by the Spec of v and the internal arguments are assigned by V in the derivation. We have discussed about the object clitic where the object pronoun is criticised with the verb. Here the pronominal objects are co-indexed by their clitics. We assumed that the pronominal object takes the similar position in the construction as pro and it inherits case and thematic roles later which is assigned to their corresponding clitics. In the last part of the Chapter, we dealt with the ergative case; where we found that the ergative case in Biate is not grammatically conditioned. The marking of ergative case to DPs mainly depends on the pragmatic reasons. We also came across that the marking of ergative is optional in the language.

**Chapter 5:** In this Chapter, we discussed about the di-transitive sentence construction. Here we found that the case assignment of indirect object in derivation is not as Larson proposed in 1988 and 1990. Looking at the parameters of the word order of Biate we proposed vP just below the vP which is responsible for external case. We named it as vP<sub>2</sub>; this vP is the place indirect object originates and the v gives case as well the thematic role in the derivation of a sentence. In this Chapter, we also dealt the ergative case as the inherent case. Ergative case is assigned by v in-situ, this inherent ergative case indicates pragmatic reasons and also indicative of volitional, focus, habitual activity, generic statements, wilfulness and so forth in the last part of the Chapter, we have dealt with agreement within Minimalist Program in positive as well as negative sentences. We found that the verb is highly affixal in the language; so, verb is motivated to move from its original position to upwards. The verbs in

Finite initially moves for subject agreement, negation, aspect and finally to T to get the tense features