

MORPHOSYNTACTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN ACEHNESE

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Abstract

This study investigates the morphosyntactic configurations of serial verb constructions (SVCs) in Acehnese, focusing on pronominal agreement, valency-changing morphology, and structural integration. The research employed a qualitative descriptive approach, combining fieldwork and library research. Data were collected through elicitation and unstructured interviews with four native speakers of the North Aceh dialect and were supplemented by Acehnese-language books and other relevant linguistic sources. The data were analyzed using the distributional (*agih*) and identity (*padan*) methods, focusing on person-marking prefixes and the syntactic behavior of serial verb constructions. Morphologically, the findings reveal that Acehnese SVCs lack connecting morphemes and exhibit strict prefix coherence, subject marking follows two patterns: *full concordance* (identical pronominal prefixes on all verbs) and *single marking* (marking restricted to the initial predicate). Furthermore, aspectual reduplication and the derivational affixes *meu-* and *peu-* target the serial complex as a single structural unit. Syntactically, the constructions display robust monoclausal properties, including a shared core argument, rigid word order, and a single macro-event boundary where negative and aspectual operators scope over the entire complex. Ultimately, this study provides critical refinements to the typological classification of serialization mechanisms in Austronesian languages.

Keywords: *Serial Verb Constructions, Morphosyntax, Acehnese Language, Agreement Marking.*

1. Introduction

Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) have long served as a focal point of inquiry in grammatical typology and comparative linguistics, particularly with respect to the structural mechanisms through which languages encode complex events. By allowing two or more verbs to co-occur within a single clause, SVCs provide an efficient means of expressing a sequence of closely related actions or events (Aikhenvald, 2006; Aikhenvald & Dixon, 2006). Their widespread occurrence across genetically and geographically diverse languages has established them as a significant topic in typological and theoretical research. The presence of SVCs in unrelated language families suggests that serialization constitutes a productive grammatical strategy for encoding complex event structures and grammatical relations (Aikhenvald & Dixon, 2006).

Acehnese is an Austronesian language spoken by approximately 3.5 million speakers in Aceh Province, Indonesia. The language has attracted considerable linguistic attention because of its unusual alignment patterns, rich agreement system, and complex verbal morphology. These characteristics make Acehnese a particularly valuable language for investigating the interaction between morphology and syntax in serial verb constructions.

From a morphosyntactic perspective, SVCs are characterized by such features as verb sequencing, argument sharing, and the integration of grammatical relations within a single predication unit (Bisang, 1995; Lord, 1993). These properties are central to understanding how serialization is structurally organized and how it differs from other types of complex predicate constructions (Schiller, 1990; Sebba, 1987).

Accordingly, this study aims to investigate the morphosyntactic characteristics of Serial Verb Constructions in Acehnese. Specifically, it seeks to identify and describe the morphosyntactic features that characterize serialization in the language, including verb sequencing, argument-sharing patterns, and other grammatical properties associated with serial verb constructions.

2. Literature Review

Research on SVCs has expanded considerably over the past several decades. Early studies emerged in the 1980s, particularly in investigations of Austronesian languages (e.g., Bradshaw, 1982; Crowley, 1987), Papuan languages (e.g., Bruce, 1988;), and creole languages (e.g., Baxter, 1988; Jansen et al., 1978; Sebba, 1987) (Lovestrand, 2017). Subsequently, SVCs have been documented in a wide range of languages, including Kavalan (Lin, 2013), Thai (Thepkanjana, 1986), Chinese (Paul, 2008), Nigerian languages (Stewart, 2003), and Korean (Chung & Kim, 2008). Since the 1990s, serialization has also attracted attention in sign language research, as reflected in studies such as Supalla (1990), Benedicto et al. (2008), Bos (2016), and Couvee and Pfau (2018) (Lovestrand, 2017).

Although Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) have been widely studied across Austronesian, Papuan, creole, African, and sign languages, the morphosyntactic characteristics of SVCs in Acehnese remain insufficiently explored. Previous studies on Acehnese have primarily focused on phonology, morphology, and general clause structure, with limited attention to the syntactic and morphological properties of serialization. In particular, subject-marking patterns, argument sharing, derivational morphology, and the structural integration of serialized verbs have not been systematically investigated. Addressing this gap, the present study examines the syntactic and morphological characteristics of Acehnese SVCs in order to contribute to a deeper understanding of serialization in Austronesian languages.

3. Research Method

This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach and combined fieldwork with library research. A qualitative descriptive design is appropriate for investigating and describing linguistic phenomena as they naturally occur (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The data consisted of both spoken and written sources. The spoken data were collected through elicitation and unstructured interviews with four native speakers of the North Aceh (Pasai) dialect. The written data were obtained from Acehnese-language books and other relevant linguistic references.

Data collection involved observation and interview techniques, corresponding to the observation (*simak*) and interview (*cakap*) methods commonly employed in linguistic research

(Sudaryanto, 2015). The process was supported by audio recordings, field notes, and interview guidelines. During the elicitation sessions, the four speakers were asked to produce and evaluate examples of serial verb constructions in different linguistic contexts. The written sources were used to supplement the spoken data and provide additional examples for analysis and verification.

The data were analyzed using the distributional (*agih*) and identity (*padan*) methods (Sudaryanto, 2015). The distributional method was employed to examine the internal linguistic structure of serial verb constructions, particularly the distribution and behavior of person-marking prefixes, derivational affixes, and other morphological elements occurring within the verb sequence. Meanwhile, the identity method was used to determine the syntactic functions and grammatical relations of the constituent verbs based on their relationship to elements outside the construction (Sudaryanto, 2015). The analysis focused on both morphological and syntactic aspects of serial verb constructions. Morphologically, attention was given to the distribution of person-marking prefixes such as *lôn-*, *ka-*, and *geu-* across serialized verbs and to the occurrence of derivational and aspectual markers. Syntactically, the analysis examined argument sharing and the extent to which a sequence of verbs functions as a single predicate within a clause, following commonly recognized characteristics of serial verb constructions (Aikhenvald, 2006; Kroeger, 2018).

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Result

Based on the analysis of the data, Acehnese Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) exhibit a number of syntactic and morphological characteristics that distinguish them from other verbal constructions. The findings indicate that the verbs forming an SVC are not only syntactically integrated within a single clause but also display strong morphological cohesion through subject-marking systems, affixation, and other morphological processes. These characteristics are presented below.

4.1.1 Syntactic Characteristics of Acehnese Serial Verb Constructions

a. Consisting of Two or More Verbs

One of the defining characteristics of Acehnese Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) is the occurrence of two or more verbs within a single construction. The serialized verbs function as equal predicates and jointly encode a single event. This characteristic can be observed in the following examples.

Example 1

Loen **duek meusila**

1SG sit cross-legged

'I sit cross-legged.'

In this construction, *duek* 'sit' functions as the first verb (V1), while *meusila* 'sit cross-legged' functions as the second verb (V2). Both verbs contribute equally to the predicate and together describe a single posture-related event.

Example 2

Adek **woe jak me'en**

Adek return go play

'Adek returned from playing.'

This example contains three serialized verbs: *woe* ‘return’, *jak* ‘go’, and *me’en* ‘play’. The verbs occur consecutively and collectively represent a sequence of actions conceptualized as one event.

Example 3

Geuteuka di Jawa geujak ngieng kalon beu deuh

3SG.come from Java 3SG.go see observe so.that visible

‘He came from Java to see and observe so that it would become visible.’

The serial chain consists of *geuteuka* ‘come’, *geujak* ‘go’, *ngieng* ‘see’, and *kalon* ‘observe’. These verbs form a complex event structure and illustrate the productivity of serial verb constructions in Acehnese.

b. Absence of Conjunctions

Another important characteristic of Acehnese SVCs is the absence of conjunctions between serialized verbs. The verbs occur directly adjacent to one another without coordinating or subordinating conjunctions.

Example 4

Baroe gobnyan geujak saweue aneuk geuh nyan tinggai di Langsa

Yesterday 3SG 3SG-go visit child 3SG live in Langsa

‘Yesterday, he/she went to visit his/her child who lives in Langsa.’

Example 5

Adek jak plueng jak seutot kakak

NAME go run go follow NAME

‘Adek ran to follow his/her older sibling.’

In Example (4), the verbs *geujak* ‘go’ and *saweue* ‘visit’ occur consecutively without any linking element. Similarly, Example (5) contains four serialized verbs (*jak*, *plueng*, *jak*, and *seutot*) that appear in direct sequence. The absence of conjunctions demonstrates that the relationship between the verbs is established through serialization rather than through clause coordination or subordination.

The absence of conjunctions reinforces the monoclausal status of Acehnese SVCs. If a conjunction is inserted between the verbs, the relationship changes from serialization to a relationship between separate clauses, thereby eliminating the serial verb construction. Consequently, asyndetic linkage constitutes one of the defining syntactic properties of Acehnese SVCs.

c. Sharing a Common Subject

A further syntactic characteristic of Acehnese SVCs is the presence of a shared subject. All verbs within the serial construction are controlled by a single subject.

Example 6

Haba nyan loen deungo watee teungoh duek piyoeh di lampoh

story DEM 1SG hear when PROG sit rest in field

‘I heard that story while I was resting in the field’

In Example (6), the subject of the sentence is *loen* ‘I’, which appears in the main clause (*loen deungo* ‘I heard’). Although the subject is separated from the serial verb construction by the elements *deungo* ‘hear’, *watee* ‘when’, and *teungoh* ‘progressive marker’, it remains the

agent of both verbs in the serial construction *duek piyoe*h ‘sit and rest’. This demonstrates strong **subject-sharing** within the construction. It would be semantically and syntactically unacceptable to interpret *loen* as the hearer while assigning a different subject to *duek piyoe*h. Therefore, the example illustrates how a single subject can control an entire verbal sequence even when there is some distance between the subject and the serialized verbs.

d. Expressing a Single Event

The concept of **Single Eventhood** refers to the notion that although speakers use two or more verbs, the sequence of actions is cognitively perceived as a single unified event rather than as separate events. In other words, the actions are conceptualized not as Event A followed by Event B, but as a single integrated Event AB. In Acehnese, Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) are regarded as expressing a single event because they satisfy this criterion. The following examples illustrate this phenomenon.

Example 7

Adek nyan jijak beuet, mangat jeut keu ureung teuma

Adek DEM 3SG-go study.Qur'an so.that become person future

‘That child goes to study the Qur’an so that he/she may become a useful person in the future.’

‘That child pursues knowledge in order to become a useful person in the future.’

Example 8

*Malam ka jula, tapi kamoe hana meupiyoe*h *peugot laporan nyoe*.

night already late but 1PL NEG stop make report DEM

‘Although it is already late at night, we do not stop working on this report.’

In Example (7), the verbs *jijak* ‘go’ and *beuet* ‘study the Qur’an’ constitute a single event sequence rather than two separate events. The action of going is inherently directed toward the activity of studying, and both verbs together express one integrated event. Likewise, in Example (8), the combination *meupiyoe*h *peugot* ‘stop making’ does not describe two independent activities (e.g., “we stop” and then “we make”), but rather a single continuous activity conceptualized as one unified event. These examples demonstrate that Acehnese serial verb constructions encode complex actions as a single event within the speaker’s cognitive representation.

e. Monoclausal Structure

The findings further indicate that Acehnese SVCs are monoclausal in nature. All verbs occur within a single clause and collectively form a complex predicate. No clause boundary exists between the serialized verbs. Consequently, all verbs operate within the same syntactic domain in terms of subject, object, and predicative function.

This monoclausal property differentiates SVCs from complex sentences. In complex sentences, each clause contains its own predicate structure, whereas in SVCs the verbs merge into a single predicate unit. Therefore, Acehnese verbal serialization exhibits a high degree of syntactic integration.

f. Sharing the Same Scope of Tense, Aspect, and Negation

The data reveal that all verbs within an Acehnese SVC fall under the same temporal and aspectual scope. Temporal markers such as *baroe* ‘yesterday’ and aspect markers such as *ka* ‘already’ apply to the entire verb sequence rather than to a single verb.

Example 9

Baroe gobnyan geujak saweue aneuk geuh nyan tinggai di Langsa
yesterday 3SG 3SG-go visit child 3SG REL live in Langsa
'Yesterday, he/she went to visit his/her child who lives in Langsa.'

In this example, the temporal adverb *baroe* 'yesterday' modifies the entire serial verb construction *geujak saweue* 'go visit'. In other words, both the action of *going* and the action of *visiting* took place yesterday. The temporal reference applies to the whole verbal sequence rather than to an individual verb. This illustrates one of the defining properties of Acehnese Serial Verb Constructions, namely that all verbs within the construction share the same tense and temporal scope. Consequently, a temporal expression cannot intervene between the serialized verbs, since doing so would disrupt the unity of the construction and its interpretation as a single event.

A similar phenomenon is observed with negation. Negative markers such as *hana* or *han* typically occur before the first verb and scope over the entire serial construction. This indicates that the verbs do not function as independent grammatical units but rather as components of a unified syntactic structure.

Example 10

Pakön han kabeudöh kajak angköt aneuk batèe
why NEG 2SG-wake.up 2SG-go carry gravel
'Why do you not get up to go and carry gravel?'

This example clearly illustrates how a single negation marker can scope over an entire serial verb construction. The negative marker *han* 'not' occurs immediately before the first verb, *kabeudöh* 'wake up'. However, its scope is not limited to the action of waking up alone; rather, it negates the entire sequence of actions represented by the serialized verbs *kabeudöh* 'wake up', *kajak* 'go', and *angköt* 'carry'. If the first action (*beudöh* 'wake up') does not occur, the subsequent actions (*jak* 'go' and *angköt* 'carry') cannot occur either. Consequently, the negation effectively cancels the entire event chain encoded by the serial verb construction. This demonstrates that negation in Acehnese SVCs operates over the whole verbal sequence rather than over individual verbs. Structurally, the pattern can be represented as [NEG + V1 + V2 + V3].

4.1.2 Morphological Characteristics of Acehnese Serial Verb Constructions

a. Productive Subject-Marking System

The most prominent morphological characteristic of Acehnese SVCs is the use of person clitics as subject markers. These markers may appear on all verbs in a serial sequence or only on the first verb.

Table 3.1 Acehnese Personal Pronouns and Their Clitic Forms

Original Pronoun	Meaning	Politeness Level	Proclitic (Prefix Position)	Enclitic (Suffix Position)
Kee	I / me	Informal / Very Familiar	ku-	-ku
Lôn / Ulôn	I / me	Polite / Neutral	lôn-	-lôn
Kah	You (singular)	Informal / Very Familiar	ka-	-keuh
Gata	You	Polite (addressing someone younger)	ta-	-teuh
Droeneuh	You; Sir/Madam	Respectful (addressing elders or highly respected individuals)	neu-	-neuh
Jih	He / She	Informal / Familiar	ji- / i-	-jih
Gobnyan	He / She (honorific)	Respectful	geu-	-geuh

Two major subject-marking patterns are found in the data. The first is full concordance, where all verbs receive identical subject markers.

Example 11

Bak soe pi kapeugah kakheun lagee nyan sit

to who ever 2SG-tell 2SG-say like that also

'To whomever you tell it, say it in the same way as well.'

The serial verb construction in Example (11) consists of two verbs: *kapeugah* 'tell' and *kakheun* 'say'. Both verbs carry the proclitic *ka-*, which is attached directly to each verb. This proclitic is derived from the full pronoun *kah* 'you' (second-person singular). The occurrence of the same subject marker on both verbs demonstrates a full concordance pattern, in which all verbs within the serial construction receive identical subject marking. This pattern indicates that both verbs share the same subject and function as components of a single serial verb construction.

The second is single marking, where only the first verb receives a subject marker while subsequent verbs appear in their bare forms.

Example 12

Lön lönjak tueng ie seumayang

1SG 1SG-go take water prayer

'I am going to perform ablution (wuḍū).'

This sentence is a classic example of a complete and polite Acehnese clause structure in which an independent subject pronoun and a subject clitic co-occur. The serial verb construction consists of two verbs: *lönjak* 'I go' (V1) and *tueng* 'take' (V2). Only the first verb carries the proclitic *lön-*, which is attached directly to the verb and derives from the full pronoun *lôn* 'I'. The second verb, *tueng*, appears without a subject marker. This pattern illustrates single marking, where subject agreement is expressed only on the first verb of the serial verb construction, while the following verb remains unmarked but still shares the same subject reference.

b. Use of the Derivational Prefix *peu-* and *meu-*

The prefix *peu-* is one of the most productive derivational affixes found in Acehnese SVCs. It typically forms causative verbs expressing meanings such as 'make' or 'cause'. The use of *peu-* demonstrates that Acehnese verbal serialization is not restricted to simple verb roots but also includes morphologically derived verbs.

Example 13

Na padum na tréb teuma geupuphôn tarék pukat

exist how.many exist long then 3SG-begin pull fishing.net

'How long has it been since he began pulling the fishing net?'

The serial verb construction in Example (13) consists of two verbs: *geupuphôn* 'begin' (V1) and *tarék* 'pull' (V2). Only the first verb carries the proclitic *geu-*, which marks a third-person singular respectful subject. In addition, the first verb contains the derivational prefix *peu-*, which undergoes phonological fusion and surfaces as *pu-* when attached to the following verbal root. As a result, the form *phôn* 'beginning' becomes *puphôn*, and with the addition of the proclitic *geu-*, the verb appears as *geupuphôn*. This example illustrates a single-marking pattern, in which subject marking occurs only on the first verb, while the second verb remains unmarked but

shares the same subject reference. It also demonstrates the productive use of derivational morphology within Acehese serial verb constructions.

Another productive affix in Acehese SVCs is *meu-*. This prefix commonly forms intransitive verbs, stative verbs, or verbs describing the manner in which an action is performed.

Example 14

Ureung nyan geujak meulikoet loen

Person DEM 3SG-walk INTR-back 1SG

'He walked with his back facing me.' / 'He walked away from me with his back turned toward me.'

The serial verb construction in Example (14) consists of two verbs: **geujak** 'walk' (V1) and **meulikoet** 'face away from' (V2). Only the first verb carries the proclitic **geu-**, a respectful third-person singular subject marker referring to *ureung nyan* 'that person'. The second verb contains the derivational prefix **meu-**, which derives **meulikoet** from the noun **likoet** 'back'. This prefix converts the noun into a manner verb describing the orientation of the action. Therefore, *geujak meulikoet* expresses not only the act of walking but also the manner in which the action is performed, namely with one's back facing the speaker.

e. Employment of Reduplication

Reduplication is another productive morphological process in Acehese SVCs. It may occur on either the first or the second verb and generally conveys durative, iterative, or intensive meanings.

Example 15

Zakir ka jeut ji-plung~plung ji-sipak bola

NAMA already can 3SG-run~RED 3SG-kick ball

'Zakir can already run around kicking a ball.'

In example (15), the SVC consists of two verbs: the first verb is **jiplung-plung** and the second verb is **jisipak**. Both verbs take the prefix **ji-** (a marker of third-person singular agreement). The form **jiplung-plung** is not a sequence of two separate verbs (**jiplung** + **plung**), but rather a single verb derived through full reduplication (dwilingga reduplication). This reduplication functions to express a frequentative meaning (repeated action) or a casual, leisurely manner of action, while still occupying the first verb slot in the serial verb construction.

Importantly, reduplication does not alter the status of the verb as part of an SVC. Instead, it enriches the semantic interpretation of the serialized event. Therefore, reduplication constitutes a significant morphological feature of Acehese verbal serialization.

f. Prefix Coherence

The final morphological characteristic identified in this study is prefix coherence. When two or more verbs receive subject markers, all prefixes must belong to the same person category and politeness level.

Example 16

Chik geu-cok lham geu-kuh uruek

NAME 3SG-take hoe 3SG-dig grave

'Grandfather took a hoe to dig a grave.'

Sentence (16) is acceptable as a Serial Verb Construction (SVC) because it shows consistency in person marking. The subject *Chik* 'grandfather' is consistently referenced by the

prefix *geu-* on both verbs. The SVC in this example consists of two verbs. The first verb is *geucok* 'take', and the second verb is *geukuh* 'dig'. Both verbs use the prefix *geu-*, which marks third-person singular agreement and refers to the subject *Chik*. This consistency of person marking shows that the two verbs share the same subject and form a single serial verb

This finding suggests that Acehnese morphology serves not only grammatical functions but also reflects sociolinguistic norms concerning respect, social hierarchy, and politeness. Consequently, verbal serialization in Acehnese is closely connected to both grammatical structure and cultural values.

4.2 Discussion

The results indicate that Acehnese Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) exhibit a high degree of syntactic integration and morphological consistency. The serial verbs occur within a single clause, share the same subject, and express a unified event without the use of coordinating or subordinating conjunctions. These characteristics correspond to the cross-linguistic definition of serial verb constructions proposed by Alexandra Aikhenvald (2006), who defines SVCs as sequences of independent verbs functioning together within a single clause and describing a single event. Serialization serves as a grammatical strategy for encoding complex events while maintaining clause unity.

From a syntactic perspective, the Acehnese data strongly support a monoclausal analysis. In examples such as *Chik geucok lham geukuh uruek* ('Grandfather took a shovel to dig a grave') and *Zakir ka jeut jiplung-plung jisipak bola* ('Zakir can run around kicking a ball'), the serial verbs occur within one clause and are interpreted as parts of a single event. No conjunction or clause boundary appears between the verbs, and all verbs share the same grammatical subject. These findings are consistent with the criteria proposed by Aikhenvald (2006) and Robert Dixon (2006), who identify monoclausality and argument sharing as central properties of serial verb constructions.

The semantic relationships observed in the data demonstrate that Acehnese SVCs encode a variety of event structures. The serial verbs express motion, manner, instrument, purpose, and sequential action. For instance, in *geucok lham geukuh uruek*, the first verb (*geucok* 'take') functions as an instrumental action that facilitates the second verb (*geukuh* 'dig'). Likewise, in *jiplung-plung jisipak bola*, the first verb expresses manner of motion while the second denotes the principal activity. Such semantic combinations reflect what Aikhenvald (2006) classifies as asymmetrical serial verb constructions, where one verb contributes a modifying or supportive semantic role to the event encoded by the other verb.

A particularly significant finding concerns person-marking morphology. The data reveal that each verb in the serial construction may independently carry a person-marking prefix while referring to the same subject. In *Chik geucok lham geukuh uruek*, both verbs contain the prefix *geu-* indicating a third-person singular subject. Likewise, in *Zakir ka jeut jiplung-plung jisipak bola*, both verbs carry the prefix *ji-*. This pattern demonstrates that person agreement is realized on each verbal element within the serial construction rather than being restricted to a single finite verb. Similar observations have been reported by Mark Durie (1985, 1997), who notes that Acehnese verbal morphology frequently marks subject agreement on individual predicates while preserving overall clause unity.

The repeated occurrence of identical person markers across serial verbs suggests the existence of a morphosyntactic requirement for agreement consistency. Every acceptable construction in the dataset exhibits the same person-marking prefix throughout the serial predicate. This consistency reinforces subject continuity and facilitates the interpretation of the

serial verbs as components of a single event. According to Talmy Givón (2001), subject continuity is one of the primary mechanisms through which languages maintain discourse coherence and event integration. The Acehnese data support this claim by showing that agreement morphology functions not only as a grammatical marker but also as a device for preserving syntactic cohesion within serial constructions.

Another important observation concerns the interaction between morphology and syntax. In many grammatical theories, agreement is assumed to be associated primarily with a single finite verb. However, the Acehnese data challenge this assumption because agreement markers occur on multiple verbs within a single clause. This finding shows that serial verb constructions often blur traditional distinctions between morphology and syntax. The serial verbs behave as separate morphological units while functioning together as a single syntactic predicate. Consequently, Acehnese provides valuable evidence for models of grammar that distinguish between morphological realization and syntactic constituency.

The analysis also highlights the role of reduplication in Acehnese serial verb constructions. The form *jiplung-plung* consists of a reduplicated verb that functions as a single lexical item within the serial construction. Although reduplication involves the repetition of phonological material, it does not create multiple verbs syntactically. Instead, it contributes aspectual meaning, such as repetition, iteration, or continuative action. This finding accords with the description of reduplication in Austronesian languages provided by John Crowley (1987), who argues that reduplication primarily serves morphological and semantic functions without necessarily affecting syntactic structure. Therefore, *jiplung-plung* occupies a single verbal position within the serial construction despite its reduplicated form.

Typologically, the findings place Acehnese among the major serializing languages of the world. The structural properties identified in this study resemble those found in languages such as Yoruba, Ewe, Thai, and Tok Pisin, where multiple verbs occur within a single clause to encode complex events (Aikhenvald, 2006). However, Acehnese differs from many of these languages through its extensive use of person-marking prefixes. Whereas serialization in Thai and several West African languages typically occurs without verbal agreement morphology, Acehnese combines serialization with systematic subject marking. This characteristic contributes a distinctive perspective to the typology of serial verb constructions and demonstrates that serialization can coexist with relatively rich agreement systems.

From an Austronesian perspective, the results contribute to broader discussions of predicate linkage and clause structure. Previous studies have documented serialization in several Austronesian languages, including Indonesian, Malay, and Tetun, but the Acehnese data reveal a stronger interaction between serialization and agreement morphology. This suggests that Acehnese occupies a unique position within the Austronesian family, where serial verb constructions are shaped by both syntactic and morphological mechanisms.

Overall, the findings confirm that Acehnese serial verb constructions constitute highly integrated predicate structures characterized by monoclausality, semantic unity, argument sharing, and consistent agreement morphology. The repeated use of identical person-marking prefixes across serial verbs reinforces subject continuity and supports the interpretation of the construction as a single syntactic unit. These results corroborate the typological criteria proposed by Aikhenvald (2006), Dixon (2006), Givón (2001), and Durie (1997), while also demonstrating the distinctive contribution of Acehnese to cross-linguistic research on serial verb constructions.

5. Conclusion

The findings reveal that Acehese Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) constitute highly integrated morphosyntactic structures. Syntactically, they are characterized by the occurrence of two or more verbs within a single clause, the absence of conjunctions, subject sharing, single-event interpretation, monoclausality, and a shared scope of tense, aspect, and negation. Morphologically, Acehese SVCs exhibit productive subject marking, derivational processes involving the prefixes *peu-* and *meu-*, reduplication, and prefix coherence across serialized verbs. These features demonstrate that Acehese SVCs function as unified grammatical constructions for encoding complex events within a single clause.

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