

# Nirergative Verbs in Novels "Laskar Pelangi" by Andrea Hirata and "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" by Asma Nadia

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## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to compare the use of nirergative verbs in two famous novels in Indonesian literature, namely "Laskar Pelangi" by Andrea Hirata and "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" by Asma Nadia. Nirergative verbs, which do not require an object in the sentence, play an important role in stretching the story and characters in a narrative. This study analyzes the context of the use of nirergative verbs in the two novels, focusing on their influence on plot development, characterization, and theme. The results of the analysis show differences in the use of nirergative verbs in the two novels. "Laskar Pelangi" tends to use nirergative verbs to describe the character daily lives in the context of their school and neighborhood. On the other hand, "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" emphasizes the use of nirergative verbs to explore the spiritual aspects and internality of its main characters, creating a more introspective feel. This study also discusses the implications of the use of nirergative verbs on the reader's understanding of the narrative and the message the author wants to convey. This comparison reveals that although both novels use nirergative verbs to achieve different literary effects, they both succeed in creating immersive stories and make significant contributions to Indonesian literature. This comparison provides a deeper insight into the use of non-nergative verbs in Indonesian literature and how their use can affect the narrative and the reader's understanding.*

## KEYWORDS

*split intransitivity; nirergative verbs; novel*

## INTRODUCTION

Split intransitivity is a linguistic phenomenon that occurs when an intransitive verb can have or not have a patient argument, depending on the context. Intransitive verbs are categorized into two types, namely transitive verbs and intransitive verbs. Transitive verbs are verbs that have a patient and argument, while nirergative verbs are verbs that don't have a patient argument (Saleh, 2019). Arguments are elements that complete the verb to form a meaningful sentence. Some of the characteristics of nirergative verbs are, it cannot be passivized because nirergatif doesn't have a patient argument, then nirergatif cannot be added with a direct object because it doesn't have a verb symbol. So it can be concluded that nirergative verbs are used to describe states or processes that occur to the subject, such as moving, changing state, behaving, and sounding (Comrie, 1976).

An intransitive active sentence is a type of active sentence that does not require an object in its sentence structure (Lubis & Mulyadi, 2019). The characteristics of intransitive sentences, they have no object, usually use intransitive verbs because they cannot be

converted into passive sentences. In intransitive sentences, the meaning of the sentence is complete without an object. Whereas in transitive sentences, an object is needed to complete the meaning of the sentence Zainuddin (2023).

Sweetser (1990) studied nirergative verbs in English and Spanish. Sweetser argues that nirergative verbs can be used to express a variety of meanings, such as state change meaning, process meaning, and state meaning. Change of state meaning nirergative verbs can be used to express state change meaning. In this case, the subject of a nirergative verb undergoes a change in state as a result of the process that the verb symbolizes. For example, the verb grow in Indonesian can be used to express the meaning of change of state. In the sentence "The plants in the garden grew vigorously," the verb grow describes the change in the state of the plants, which is to increase in size and develop.

Nirergative verbs can also be used to express process meaning. In this case, a non-ergative verb describes a process or action performed by the subject, but there is no argument of the patient undergoing a change of state. For example, the verb walk in Indonesian can be used to express process meaning. In the sentence "The child walks to school," the verb walks describes the process or action of the child walking, but there is no patient argument that undergoes a change of state.

Nirergative verbs can also be used to express state meaning. In this case, a nirergative verb describes the state of the subject, but no process or action takes place. For example, the verb fly in Indonesian can be used to express state meaning. In the sentence "The bird flew in the sky," the verb fly describes the state of the bird flying, but no process or action occurs. Sweetser's (1990) understanding of nirergative verbs has provided new insights into the meaning of nirergative verbs. Sweetser's shows that nirergative verbs can be used to express a wide range of meanings, not just static ones.

"Laskar Pelangi" is the first novel by Andrea Hirata published by Benteng Pustaka in 2005. This novel tells the story of the lives of 10 children from poor families who attend a Muhammadiyah school in Belitung which is full of limitations. Meanwhile, Perempuan Berkalung Sorban is a novel by Asma Nadia published in 2001. This novel tells the story of the life struggle of Annisa, a Muslim woman who grew up in a "pesantren" environment. The two novels tell about the struggles in the lives of their respective characters by comparing the use of non-ergative verbs in the novels and how their use can affect the narrative and the reader's understanding.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### ***Nirergative Verbs***

Dixon (1994) divides the world's languages into nonergative and nirergative languages. languages that do not distinguish ergative case and absolute case on the subject of transitive sentences. Ergative case is the case used for transitive sentence subjects, while absolute case is the case used for intransitive sentence subjects, objects, and complements.

### ***Types of Nirergative Verbs***

Dixon (1994) categorizes non-ergative languages into two types, namely:

1. Nirergative absolutive languages, which are languages that do not distinguish ergative cases and absolute cases morphologically. For example, Indonesian and Javanese.
2. Ergative, nirergative languages that distinguish the ergative case and the absolute case morphologically, but the ergative case has no special syntactic function. For example, the Basque language.

In ergative absolute languages/verbs, the subject of a transitive sentence and the object have the same case, which is the nominative case. For example, in Indonesian, the subject of the transitive sentence "He ate rice" and the object "rice" have nominative case. In non-ergative and ergative languages, the subject of a transitive sentence has ergative case, while the object has absolute case. For example, in Basque, the subject of the transitive sentence "harik jaten dut" (I eat meat) has ergative case, while the object "haragia" (meat) has absolute case.

Nirergative verbs are a type of verb that does not require a subject. Examples of nirergative verbs can be found in various languages, such as Hokkien, Bima, Javanese and Sundanese. For example, in Sundanese, there are ergative (anti-active) verbs that have morphological characteristics in the form of ka-, ti-, and ka--an affixes, such as "Sukuna kacugak paku" (His foot was pierced by a nail) and "Sukuna titajong kana batu" (His foot hit a stone).

### **Classification of Nirergative Verbs**

Nirergative verbs can be classified into two types, namely: static nirergative verbs and dynamic nirergative verbs, static nirergative verbs describe the state of the subject that does not change, while dynamic nirergative verbs describe the process or action performed by the subject. nirergative verbs can have a patient argument, but the patient argument is not always explicit. This means that the patient argument of a nirergative verb can be implicit in the meaning of the verb. The patient argument of a nirergative verb can be implied in the meaning of the verb for several reasons: nonergative verbs can have a broader meaning than their literal meaning and the patient argument of a nonergative verb can be assumed to be already known by the hearer.

The meaning of change of state in non-ergative verbs can be used to express the meaning of change of state. In this case, the subject of the non-ergative verb experiences a change in state as a result of the process symbolized by the verb. The process meaning of non-ergative verbs can also be used to express the meaning of process, for example: moving, changing state, behaving, and sounding.

In this case, non-ergative verbs describe the process or action performed by the subject, but there is no argument of the patient experiencing a change of state. And the meaning of the state of non-ergative verbs can also be used to express the meaning of the state. In this case, the nirergative verb describes the state of the subject, but no process or action occurs. It can be concluded that the function of nirergative verbs can express various kinds of meanings, such as the meaning of state change, process meaning, and state meaning (Firth, 1957; Fillmore, 1968).

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study used qualitative research, data collection is done through literature study by identifying and extracting sentences containing nirergative verbs in both novels (Noor, 2017). This data can be obtained from the original text of the novels and can include diverse examples that will be used in the analysis. Qualitative research is to provide comprehensive and practical guidance for researchers who use qualitative data in their work. Their primary objectives include: Presenting data-analytic methods and techniques that are credible, dependable, and replicable in qualitative terms for emphasizing the importance of sharing the craft of qualitative research, including the explicit, systematic methods used to draw conclusions. Addressing the need for methods that are credible, dependable, and replicable in qualitative terms, as well as being grounded in real-world examples. Then, offering a practical methods sourcebook for all researchers who make use

of qualitative data, with a focus on data display as a critical and often underutilized means of analysis. The last is to explore various approaches such as the interpretive approach, collaborative social research, and social anthropology research.

The data analyzed to classify the niregative verbs based on their context of use in the novels. The classification may include types of niregative verbs, or state verbs, and other types of niregative verbs. Identifying the non-niregative verbs in the collected data is the next step. In this case, the research focuses on verbs that do not require an object to form a good sentence.

The source of data came from a novel "Laskar Pelangi" by Andrea Hirata and a novel of "Perempuan Berkabung sorban" by Asma Nadia. The data taken from read the novel, understanding the meaning of the context, identified the text which is involved niregative verbs from both of the novel. Then write it down, make a list and underliner the text after that choose the text or classified the data which one contain niregative verbs. The next step is analyzed the data based on the (Comrie 1976; Bachruddin 2023). Data analysis is the process of examining and processing data to convert it into useful information, draw conclusions, and help in solving a problem.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter provides data analysis of research result obtained by researcher through data collection methods. Data collection method used in this study has written text, all the data collection come from the novel. Based on the explanation above, the research focused to niregative verbs that occurred in both of novel.

### ***Niregative in Laskar Pelangi Novel***

In the novel "Laskar Pelangi" by Andrea Hirata, there are many uses of niregative verbs. These niregative verbs are used to describe various states and processes that occur to the subject. The result of used of niregative verbs in the novel "Laskar Pelangi".

A. To describe the state or process that happens to the subject:

- a. Page 1: "Di sebuah desa terpencil di Belitong Timur, *hiduplah* sekelompok anak laki-laki yang disebut Laskar Pelangi." (In a remote village in East Belitong, there *lived* a group of boys called Laskar Pelangi)

Combining these elements (prefix "hidup-" and the suffix "-lah") "hiduplah" can be translated as "live" or "live on" in English. The use of the imperative form suggests a command or encouragement to continue living, often implying resilience or perseverance in the face of challenges.

- b. Page 4: "Lintang *berjalan* menuju ke sekolah, diiringi oleh suara ocehan burung-burung di pepohonan." (Lintang *walked* to school, accompanied by the sound of birds singing in the trees)

These elements "berjalan" can be translated as "walking" or "is walking" in English. The use of the prefix "ber-" suggests that the action is ongoing or in progress. In morphology, the analysis of "berjalan" showcases the addition of a verbal prefix to the base verb, contributing to the formation of a present participle or gerund form. This type of linguistic construction is common in Indonesian and is essential for understanding the temporal aspect and nature of the action described.

- c. Page 10 "Kelas kami riuh rendah, penuh *tawa dan canda*."

(Our classroom was boisterous, full of *laughter and jokes*) "Riuh"

"Riuh" means "boisterous" or "loud" in English. In this context, it represents the overall noise or liveliness in the classroom. "Penuh" (Base Verb: "Penuhi"), "Penuh" means "full" in English. It is used here to describe the classroom as being full of

laughter and jokes. "Tawa" (Base Verb: "Tawahi"), "Tawa" means "laughter" or "laughter-filled" in English. It represents the joyful and laughter-filled nature of the classroom.

"Canda" (Base Verb: "Candai") "Canda" means "jokes" or "joviality" in English. It complements "tawa" to emphasize the playful and humorous atmosphere.

In morphology, these words demonstrate the usage of non-negative verbs to describe the characteristics of the classroom. The verbs are not negated or modified to indicate a negative aspect.

B. To give a more lively and dynamic impression:

a. Page 13 : "Angin bertiup kencang, menerpa wajah mereka."

"The wind blew strongly, *hitting* their faces."

b. Page 25: "Lautan luas *membentang* di hadapan mereka, biru dan berkilauan."

"The vast ocean *stretched* out before them, blue and shimmering."

c. Page 37: "Matahari terbenam di ufuk barat, meninggalkan jingga yang memukau."

"The sun set on the western horizon, *leaving* a mesmerizing orange."

The word "Hitting" (menerpa) is the gerund form of the base verb "hit," which means to strike or come into contact forcefully with something. In morphology, this is a niregative verb, as there is no negation or modification of the action. "Stretched" is the past participle of the base verb "stretch," which means to extend or straighten something to its full length. Similar to the gerund "hitting," verb "stretched" is a niregative verb in morphology as it doesn't involve negation. "Leaving" is the gerund form of the base verb "leave," which means to go away from a place, it's describing an action without any negation.

C. Non-negative verbs to give the novel a poetic and artistic feel. For example, in the following sentence:

a. Page 16: "Laut biru *membentang* luas, sejernih kaca."

(The blue sea *stretches* wide, *clear* as glass)

In this sentence, the verbs "stretches" and "clear" are used to describe the beauty of the sea. The verb "stretches" describes the vastness of the sea, and the verb "clear" describes the clarity of the sea. Overall, the use of niregative verbs in the novel "Laskar Pelangi" is quite effective in describing various circumstances and processes that occur to the subject.

### ***Niregative in the Novel "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban by Asma Nadia"***

Niregative sentences used to describe the state or process that occurs in the subject. The result of the data:

A. To describe a state or process that happens to the subject:

a. Page 11 : ) "Annisa duduk di kursi, termenung."

(Annisa sat in the chair, pensive)

The word "Duduk" means "to sit" in English. In this context, it represents the action of Annisa sitting on the chair. "Termenung" means "deep in thought" or "contemplating" in English. It represents Annisa's activities and emotions. The word "Termenung" is derived from the base verb "menunggu," which means "to wait" or "to contemplate" in Indonesian. The prefix "ter-" indicates a state of being, and "menunggu" itself is a niregative verb, meaning it describes an action without negation.

b. Page 20: "Samsudin berdiri di depan pintu, memandangi Annisa."

(Samsudin stood at the door, looking at Annisa)

"Memandangi" (Base Verb: "Mandang"), "Memandangi" is derived from the base verb "mandang," which means "to look at" or "to gaze at." The prefix "me-" indicates the actor's action. "Mandang" is a non-negative verb, and when combined with the prefix, "memandangi" describes the action of looking at or gazing without negation.

- c. Page 30: "Annisa berjalan keluar rumah, menuju ke madrasah."

(Annisa walked out of the house, heading to the madrasah)

"Berjalan" is derived from the base verb "jalan," which means "to walk" or "to move." The prefix "ber-" indicates an ongoing or continuous action. "Jalan" itself is a niregative verb, and when combined with the prefix, "ber-jalan" signifies the continuous action of walking without negation.

- B. To give a more lively and dynamic impression:

- a. Page 13: "Angin berhembus kencang, menggerakkan daun-daun di pohon."

(The wind blew hard, moving the leaves on the trees)

The word "Berhembus" is derived from the base verb "hembus," which means "to blow" or "to waft." The prefix "ber-" indicates an ongoing or continuous action. "Hembus" itself is a non-negative verb, describing an action without negation. Thus, "berhembus" signifies the continuous action of blowing without negation. The word "Menggerakkan" is derived from the base verb "gerak," which means "to move." The prefix "meng-" indicates the actor's action. "Gerak" itself is a niregative verb.

- b. Page 25: "Laut bergemuruh, menerjang kapal-kapal yang berlayar di atasnya."

(The sea rumbled, crashing against the ships sailing on it)

The word "Bergemuruh" is derived from the base verb "gemuruh," which means "to roar" or "to thunder." The prefix "ber-" indicates an ongoing or continuous action. "Gemuruh" itself is a niregative verb, describing an action. Therefore, "bergemuruh" signifies the continuous action of roaring or thundering without negation.

- c. Page 35 : "Matahari bersinar terang, menyinari bumi."

(The sun shone brightly, illuminating the earth)

The word "Bersinar" is derived from the base verb "sinar," which means "to shine" or "to radiate light." The prefix "ber-" indicates an ongoing or continuous action. "Sinar" itself is a non-negative verb, describing an action without negation. Therefore, "bersinar" signifies the continuous action of shining or radiating light without negation.

- C. To make a sentence more concise and compact:

- a. Page 16: "Annisa melihat Samsudin."

(Annisa saw Samsudin)

The word "Melihat" is derived from the base verb "lihat," which means "to see" or "to look." The prefix "me-" indicates the actor's action. "Lihat" itself is a non-negative verb, describing an action without negation.

- b. Page 28: "Samsudin mendengar suara Annisa menangis."

(Samsudin heard Annisa crying)

The word "Mendengar" is derived from the base verb "dengar," which means "to hear" or "to listen." The prefix "men-" indicates the actor's action. "Dengar" itself is a niregative verb, describing an action of hearing or listening without negation.

The word "Menangis" is derived from the base verb "tangis," which means "to cry" or "to weep." The prefix "men-" indicates the actor's action. "Tangis" itself is a niregative verb, describing an action of crying or weeping without negation.

- c. Page 38:) "Annisa merasakan sakit di hatinya."

(Annisa felt pain in her heart)

The word "Merasakan" is derived from the base verb "rasa," which means "to feel" or "to sense." The prefix "me-" indicates the actor's action. "Rasa" itself is a nirergative verb, describing the action of feeling or sensing.

D. Nirergative verbs are used to give the novel a poetic and artistic feel. We can find out from the data below:

a. Page 12: "Rumah itu berdiri di tengah hamparan sawah yang hijau. Angin bertiup sepoi-sepoi, membawa aroma padi yang harum."

(The house stood in the middle of a green rice field. The wind blew lightly, carrying the fragrant scent of rice)

The word "Berdiri" is derived from the base verb "diri," which means "to stand" or "to be located." The prefix "ber-" indicates an ongoing or continuous action. "Diri" itself is a non-negative verb, describing an action. Therefore, "berdiri" signifies the continuous action of standing or being located. The word "Bertiup" is derived from the base verb "tiup," which means "to blow" or "to breeze." The prefix "ber-" indicates an ongoing or continuous action. "Tiup" itself is a nirergative verb, describing an action. Thus, "bertiup" signifies the continuous action of blowing or breezing. The word "Membawa" is derived from the base verb "bawa," which means "to bring" or "to carry." The prefix "me-" indicates the actor's action. "Bawa" itself is a nirergative verb, describing an action without negation. Therefore, "membawa" signifies the action of bringing or carrying without negation. In each case, these words represent nirergative verbs in morphology, describing ongoing or continuous actions without introducing negation or modification. They contribute to a neutral or positive portrayal of the elements in the description of the house, the green rice field, and the gentle blowing wind in the given setting. In this sentence, the verbs "blowing" and "carrying" are used to describe the beautiful and peaceful state of nature. The verb "blowing" describes the gentle movement of the wind, and the verb "carrying" describes the fragrant aroma of rice.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the analysis of nirergative verbs in the novels "Laskar Pelangi" and "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" reveals a nuanced exploration of language use within the context of the narratives. Both authors employ nirergative verbs strategically to convey a range of emotions, perspectives, and societal critiques. The linguistic choices contribute to the overall tone and atmosphere of the novels, enriching the reader's experience.

Nirergative verbs are used to describe the state or process that occurs in the subject, without involving the patient's argument. The examination of negative verbs in these novels allows for a deeper understanding of the characters' struggles, conflicts, and the socio-cultural backdrop against which the stories unfold. The linguistic choices serve as a powerful tool for authors to communicate complex themes and emotions, offering readers a more profound engagement with the narratives.

The novel "Laskar Pelangi" teaches us about the importance of the spirit of learning and never giving up in achieving goals. The novel also teaches us about the importance of education, even in the midst of limitations. The novel "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" teaches us about the importance of education, struggle, and love. It also teaches us about the importance of respecting women's rights.

Extend the study by conducting a comparative analysis of the use of nirergative verbs in these novels with works from different cultures or time periods to explore how linguistic choices vary across diverse literary landscapes. Then, investigate how the use of nirergative

verbs influences readers' interpretations and emotional engagement. Conduct surveys or interviews to gather reader responses to specific linguistic choices in the novels.

Explore the authorial intent behind the use of negative verbs, considering the societal and cultural context in which the novels were written. Investigate whether these linguistic choices reflect broader social issues or personal perspectives. The other suggestion is to analyze how gender plays a role in the use of niregative verbs in portraying characters and their experiences. The next, to explore whether there are gender-specific linguistic patterns in conveying emotions or challenges. The next suggestion is to investigate how the use of niregative verbs is translated into different languages. Examine whether the linguistic nuances are preserved or altered in translation and how this may affect the overall reception of the novels in diverse linguistic and cultural contexts.

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