# The Syntax and Semantics of Stative Verbs in Kavalan

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# Outline

- 1. Introduction

- 2. Verbs and verb classification in Kavalan

- 3. Morphosyntax and semantics of each subclass of stative verbs in Kavalan

- 4. Conclusion

# 1. Introduction

◈ Previous studies on verb classification either focus on large-scaled classification of verbs in general (cf. Vendler 1957, 1967; Dowty 1979), or focus on the syntactic properties of some specific types of verb classes, e.g.,

◈ Fillmore (1970): *hitting* and *breaking* types of verbs in English.

◈ Levin & Rappaport Hovav (1991): *wipe* and *clear* in English.

◈ Kroeger (2010): *hitting*, *breaking* and *cutting* in Kimaragan Dusun .

# 1. Introduction

- Most, if not all, of these studies, are devoted to the classification of **dynamic verbs.**

- Stative verbs: one single class of homogeneity and conformity.

# 1. Introduction

- The main purpose:

- To investigate the subclassification of the stative verbs in Kavalan.

- To explore the syntax and the semantics of each subclass of stative verbs in the language.

# 1. Introduction
# A Brief Sketch of the Languages investigated

**The Kavalan Population: 1,472**

**(Council of Indigenous Peoples, Taiwan, July 2018)**

# A Brief Sketch of the Kavalan Language

- 1. belongs to the big Austronesian language family

- 2. predicate-initial language

- 3. makes do with a fairly limited repertoire of grammatical categories, making **no syntactic distinction** among such categories as **verb, adjective, adverb**, and **preposition**.
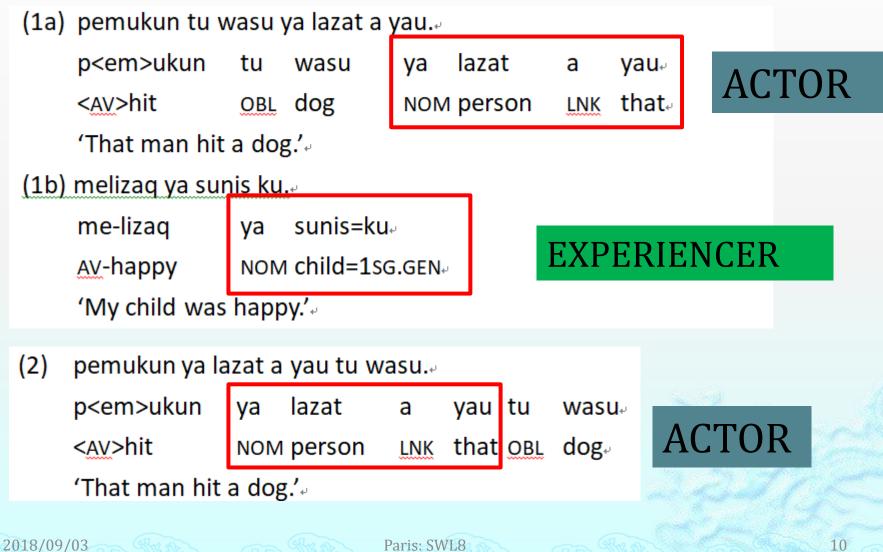
# A Brief Sketch of the Kavalan Language

◈ lexical items that denote such concepts as MANNER, FREQUENCY, SCOPE, TIME or ATTRIBUTE, which other languages frequently lexicalize as adverbs or adjectives are **verbs** in Kavalan.
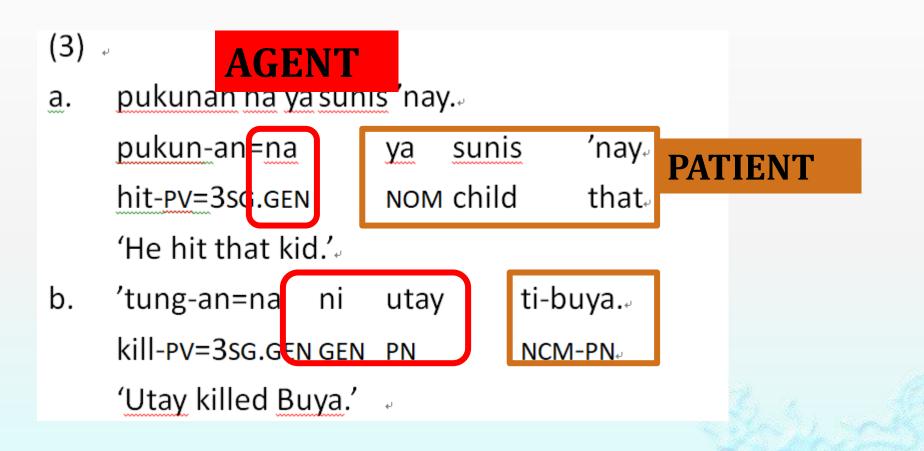
# A Brief Sketch of the Kavalan Language

- 4. Most of the Austronesian languages display a four-way distinction in their voice/focus systems:

- **AV**: Agent voice      **PV**: Patient voice

- **LV**: Locative voice

- **IV/BV**: Instrumental/Beneficiary

- Kavalan displays only a two-way distinction:

- **AV**: Agent voice      **PV**: Patient voice

# AV (*me-/<em>*) clauses

(1a) pemukun tu wasu ya lazat a yau.

   p<em>ukun    tu    wasu    | ya    lazat       a    yau |
   <AV>hit       OBL  dog     | NOM person     LNK  that |

   'That man hit a dog.'

ACTOR

(1b) melizaq ya sunis ku.

   me-lizaq      | ya    sunis=ku |
   AV-happy      | NOM child=1SG.GEN |

   'My child was happy.'

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(2) pemukun ya lazat a yau tu wasu.

   p<em>ukun    | ya    lazat       a    yau | tu    wasu
   <AV>hit       | NOM person     LNK  that | OBL  dog

   'That man hit a dog.'

ACTOR

# PV (-*an*) clauses

(3)

**AGENT**

a.   pukunan na ya sunis 'nay.

pukun-an=na

hit-PV=3SG.GEN

ya    sunis    'nay

NOM child    that

**PATIENT**

'He hit that kid.'

b.   'tung-an=na   ni   utay   ti-buya.

kill-PV=3SG.GEN GEN   PN   NCM-PN

'Utay killed Buya.'

# 2. Morphosyntactic criteria for a verb in Kavalan

- (i) appears in sentence-initial position;
- (ii) attracts bound pronouns and aspectual markers;
- (iii) has various verbal (focus/voice) derivations;
- (iv) able to take imperative markers.

# 2. Major verb classes in Kavalan

◈ (i) **dynamic verbs**,

   e.g. *qan* 'to eat', *bedung* 'to break' , *pusenizas* 'to roof', *bassing* 'to sneeze'

◈ (ii) **stative verbs,**

◈ (iii) **adverbial verbs**

◈ each of which can be further classified into several subcategories based on the shared semantic functions and morphosyntactic behavior.

# 2.2 Adverbial verbs: FREQUENCY

(4)

a.  ngisaw ika temunuR, mai ti kalingunan na.

ngisaw-ika                t<em>unuR                mai=ti
constantly-IMP.PV         <AV>exhort               NEG=INCHOL

kalingun-an=na
forget-PV=3SG.GEN

You need to exhort him repeatedly (so that) he won't forget (it).

b.  naRin mengisaw temamak tu buqes, qasukaw tu mata.

naRin        me-ngisaw        t<em>amak       tu       buqes,
NEG.IMP      AV-often         <AV>dye          OBL      hair

qa-sukaw         tu          mata
IRR-bad          OBL         eye

Do not dye hair too often; it will harm eyes.

# 2.2 Adverbial verbs: FREQUENCY

(4)

c.  ngisawan su meqila, mai ti mipil aizipna.

| ngisaw-an=su | me-qila | mai=ti | m-ipil | aizipna |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| often-PV=2SG.GEN | AV-scold | NEG=INCHO | AV-listen | 3SG.NOM |

'You scold him too often; (that's why) he does not listen to you.'

# 2.2 Adverbial verbs: SCOPE

(5)

a. niz ika qeman, naRin izawan, qabangti ti.

| niz-ika | q<em>an | naRin | izaw-an |
|---|---|---|---|
| all-IMP.PV | <AV>eat | NEG | be.left.over-PV |

qa-bangti=ti

IRR-go.stinky=INCHO

'Eat (them) all; do not make any leftovers, or they will go stinky.'

b. meniz imi matiw manmu qaykasa saleppawan.

| me-niz=imi | matiw | manmu | qay-kasa |
|---|---|---|---|
| AV-all=1EPL.NOM | AV.go | AV.help | pick-mung.bean |

saleppawan

family

'All our family went to help pick mung beans.'

# 2.2 Adverbial verbs: SCOPE

(5)

c.    nizan su mala, qunian ti ta tuRuz ay?

niz-an=su        m-ala,      quni-an=ti           ta     tuRuz=ay

all-PV=2SG.GEN  AV-take    do.what-PV=INCHO  LOC  back=REL

'(If) you took all (the dishes), what would the people that line behind you

do (eat)?

# 2.2 Adverbial verbs: MANNER

(6)

a. mengasan isu semaqay, qumni ita qaseq?

| me-ngasan=isu | s<em>aqay | qumni=ita | qaseq |
|---|---|---|---|
| AV-slowly=2SG.NOM | <AV>walk | when=1IPL.NOM | arrive |

'You are walking so slowly; when will we arrive?'

b. ngasanan ku pasaqay tu qitun ,mai ti isu menguda .

| ngasan-an=ku | pasaqay | tu | qitun |
|---|---|---|---|
| slowly-PV=1SG.GEN | drive | OBL | vehicle |

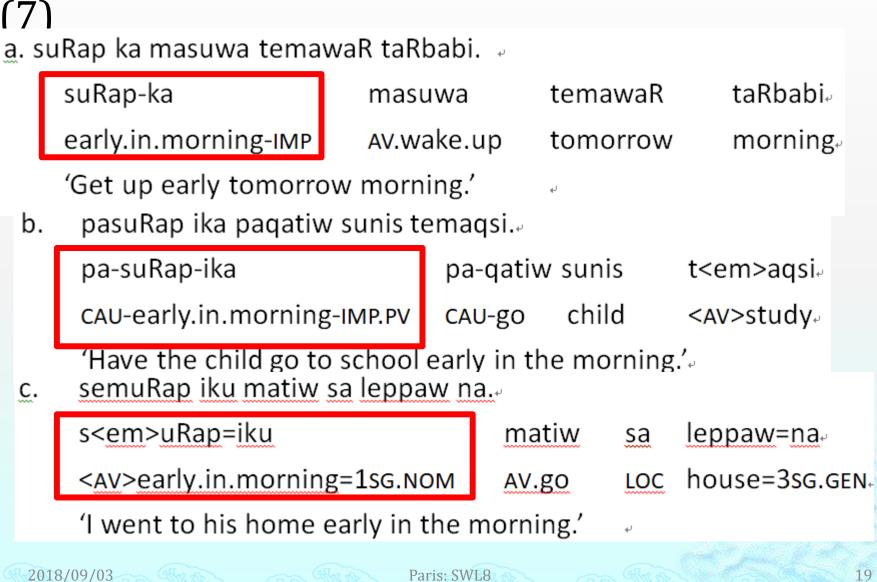| mai=ti=isu | me-nguda |
|---|---|
| NEG=PERF=2SG.NOM | AV-motion.sickness |

'I will drive slowly (so that) you won't feel carsick.'

# 2.2 Adverbial verbs: TIME

(7)

a. suRap ka masuwa temawaR taRbabi.

| suRap-ka | masuwa | temawaR | taRbabi |
|---|---|---|---|
| early.in.morning-IMP | AV.wake.up | tomorrow | morning |

'Get up early tomorrow morning.'

b. pasuRap ika paqatiw sunis temaqsi.

| pa-suRap-ika | pa-qatiw | sunis | t<em>aqsi |
|---|---|---|---|
| CAU-early.in.morning-IMP.PV | CAU-go | child | <AV>study |

'Have the child go to school early in the morning.'

c. semuRap iku matiw sa leppaw na.

| s<em>uRap=iku | matiw | sa | leppaw=na |
|---|---|---|---|
| <AV>early.in.morning=1SG.NOM | AV.go | LOC | house=3SG.GEN |

'I went to his home early in the morning.'

# 3. The characteristics of the stative verbs in Kavalan

(8)

a. qaytalun iku matiw qawka suppaRan ku aizipna.

| qaytalun=iku | matiw | qawka | suppaR-an=ku | aizipna |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AV.third.time=1SG.NOM | AV.go | then | know-PV=1SG.GEN | 3SG.NOM |

I did not know him until I went there for the third time.

b. mezukat ita pasani, qasukaw senaqay ta, suppaR tiRus paqsuppaR timaitan.

| me-zukat=ita | pasa-ni | qa-sukaw | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AV-go.out=1IPL.NOM | toward-where | IRR-be.bad | |

| senaqay=ta | pa-q-suppaR | tiRus | timaitan. |
|---|---|---|---|
| luck=1IPL.GEN | CAU-STAT-know | divine.bird | 1IPL.LOC |

No matter where we are going, the divine bird will appear to tell us if something bad is going to happen to us.

# 3. Subclasses of stative verbs in Kavalan

not a homogeneous type

Four subclasses:

3.1 Verbs of Bodily Sensation (sensation verbs)

3.2 Adjectival Verbs

3.3 Cognition Verbs

3.4 Emotion Verbs

# 3.1 Verbs of Bodily Sensation (sensation verbs)

(9)

a. sessen iku, siqudusan ku qudus su.

| sessen=iku | si-qudus-an=ku | qudus=su |
|---|---|---|
| AV.cold=1SG.NOM | wear-clothes-PV=1SG.GEN | clothes=2SG.GEN |

'I was cold; (therefore) I put on your clothes.'

b. sebi ti sunis su, pasisu ika ta!

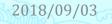| sebi=ti | sunis=su | pa-sisu-ika | ta |
|---|---|---|---|
| AV.hungry=INCHO | child=2SG.GEN | CAU-breast.feed-IMP.PV | PART |

'Your child is hungry; breast feed him.'

# 3.1 Sensation Verbs
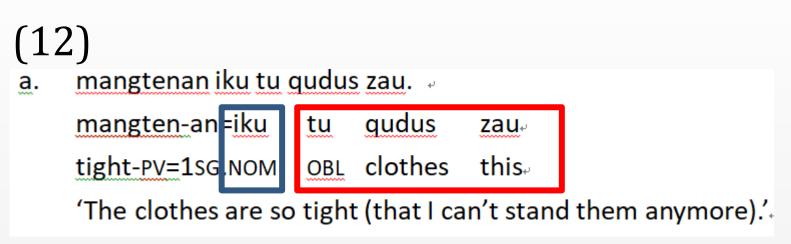
◈ (10) The argument configuration of Sensation Verbs:

◈ $$\textbf{\textit{V-an}}\textbf{(PV) + NOM}_{\textbf{Experiencer}} \textbf{ + OBL}_{\textbf{Stimuli}}$$

# PV *-an* clauses in Kavalan

(11)

**EXTERNAL FORCE/GENITIVE**

**PATIENT**

a. qadded[...]met ti.

qadded-an | na | qaqa=ku | kukuy=ku

sit-PV | GEN | brother=1SG.GEN | biscuit=1SG.GEN

ma-metmet=ti

MA-crush=PERF

*-an* clauses of other verbs

'My biscuits were sat by my brother and (therefore) got crushed.'

b. mammaqan aiku tu sezang zau.

mammaq-an | aiku | tu | sezang | zau

hot-PV | 1SG.NOM | OBL | sun | this

*-an* clauses of body sensation verbs

'It is so scorching hot that I am getting a heatstroke.'

**EXPERIENCER**

**EXTERNAL FORCE/ OBLIQUE**

# Sensation Verbs

(12)

a.  mangtenan iku tu qudus zau.

| mangten-an=iku | tu | qudus | zau |
|---|---|---|---|
| tight-PV=1SG.NOM | OBL | clothes | this |

'The clothes are so tight (that I can't stand them anymore).'

b.  qaRiman iku qeman tu mulu zau.

| qaRim-an=iku | q<em>an | tu | mulu | zau |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| sour-PV=1SG.NOM | <AV>eat | OBL | tangerine | this |

'This tangerine is so sour that I can hardly stand eating it.'

# Sensation Verbs

(13)

c.  bangtuan iku tu mangiR su, banaw ka tu zapan sul

bangtu-an=iku        tu          mangiR=su

smelly-PV=1SG.NOM  OBL        athlete's.foot=2SG.GEN

banaw-ka        tu          zapan=su

wash-IMP.AV      OBL        foot=2SG.GEN

'Your feet are so smelly that I cannot stand the smell anymore. Please wash your feet.'
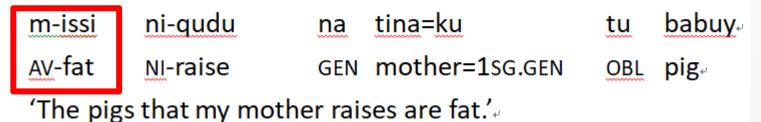
d.  dangtesan aizipna tu baut zau, taqan na ti qan.

dangtes-an                aizipna        tu      baut        zau

fish.like.smell-PV        3SG.NOM        OBL    fish        this

taqa-an=na=ti                      qan

unwilling-PV=3SG.GEN=INCHO    eat

'This fish is so smelly that he is unwilling to eat it.'

# 3.2 Adjectival Verbs

(14)

a. missi niqudu na tina ku tu babuy.

| m-issi | ni-qudu | na | tina=ku | tu | babuy |
|--------|---------|-----|---------|-----|-------|
| AV-fat | NI-raise | GEN | mother=1SG.GEN | OBL | pig |

'The pigs that my mother raises are fat.'

b. mebakes izip na qaqa ku.
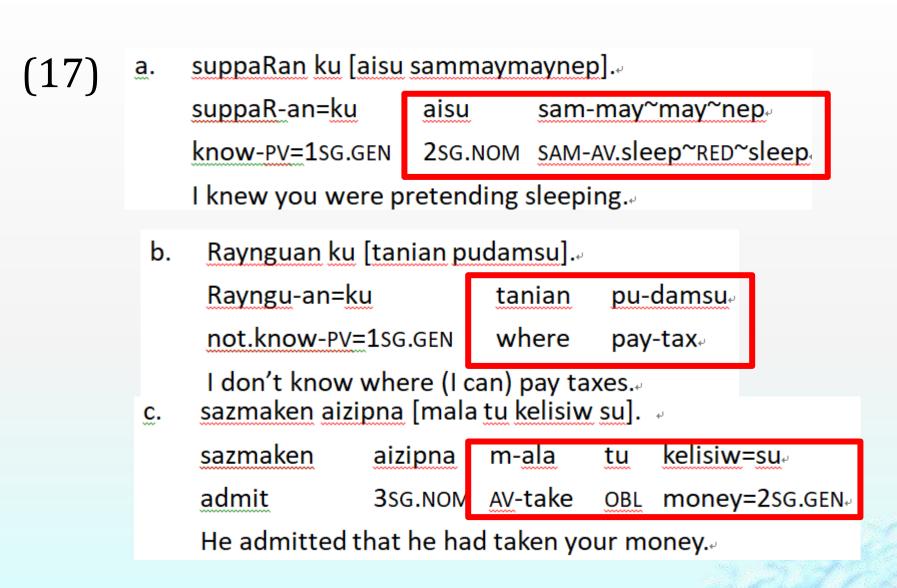
| me-bakes | izip | na | qaqa=ku |
|----------|------|-----|---------|
| AV-strong | body | GEN | brother=1SG.GEN |

'My brother is strong and sturdy. (lit.: My brother's body is strong.'

# The morphosyntactic characteristic of adjectival verbs in Kavalan

◈ The superlative prefix *sa-*

(15)

a. saqiwat ay aimi nansasuani wama aizipna.

| sa-qiwat=ay | aimi | nansasuani | wama | aizipna |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUPERL-thin=REL | 1EPL.NOM | siblings | only | 3SG.NOM |

'Of all the siblings among us, he is the thinnest.'

b.     sabakes ay lazat tazian wama aizipna.

| sa-bakes=ay | lazat | tazian | wama | aizipna |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUPERL-strong=REL | person | here | only | 3SG.NOM |

'Of all the person here, he is the strongest one.'

# 3.3 Cognition Verbs

Verbs denoting such cognitive processing as the formation of thinking or mental activities of memory retrieving.

(16) The argument structure of Cognition Verbs:

     (i) AV-**V + NOM**<sub>cognizer</sub> **+** *tu* **clause**

     **(ii) V-*an* (PV) + GEN**<sub>cognizer</sub> **+** *tu* **clause**

(17)

a. suppaRan ku [aisu sammaymaynep].

suppaR-an=ku      aisu      sam-may~may~nep

know-PV=1SG.GEN      2SG.NOM      SAM-AV.sleep~RED~sleep

I knew you were pretending sleeping.

b. Raynguan ku [tanian pudamsu].

Rayngu-an=ku      tanian      pu-damsu

not.know-PV=1SG.GEN      where      pay-tax

I don't know where (I can) pay taxes.

c. sazmaken aizipna [mala tu kelisiw su].

sazmaken      aizipna      m-ala      tu      kelisiw=su

admit      3SG.NOM      AV-take      OBL      money=2SG.GEN

He admitted that he had taken your money.

# 3.4 Emotion Verbs

Lexical items that describe a person's mental states or feelings, such as *melizaq* 'be.happy', *qumnut* 'be.angry', *meRetut* 'be.scared', and *maytis* 'be.afraid.of'.

(18) The morphosyntactic characteristic of Verbs of Emotion:

⬥         $V + NP_{experiencerer} + NP_{stimuli}$
          $V + NP_{experiencer} + Clause_{stimuli}$

# 3.4 Emotion Verbs

(19)

a.  maytis iku Raytunguzan na wasu.

maytis=iku      Raytunguz-an      na    wasu

AV.fear=1SG.NOM     bark-PV         GEN   dog

I am afraid of dog's barking (at me).

b.  mai iku sikawma tu naquni, manna qumnut isu timaikuan?

mai=iku            sikawma     tu    naquni

NEG=1SG.NOM       AV.say      OBL   what

manna     q<um>nut=isu        timaikuan

why       <AV>be.angry=2SG.NOM     1SG.LOC

'I didn't say anything; why were you angry at me?'

# Nominalization forms

(20)

a. **emotion verbs**:

    *qena-...(-an*); *qa-...(-an*):

    →the stimuli that arouse some certain emotional state in the experiencer

b. **other verbs**:

    *qena-...(-an*):

    → something that has been *V-ed*

# Nominalization of Emotion Verbs

(21)

a. aizipna qenaqenutan ku ay lazat masang.

| aizipna | qena-qenut-an=ku=ay | | lazat | masang |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3SG.NOM | QENA-angry-NMZL=1SG.GEN=REL | people | before |

'He is the person that used to make me angry.'

b. qalizaqan na Raqit ti siyang.

| qa-lizaq-an | na | Raqit | ti-siyang |
|---|---|---|---|
| QA-like-NMZL | GEN | all.people | NCM-PN |

'The one that everyone likes is Siyang.'

# Nominalization of other verbs

(22)

a.  qenametmet na kikay beRas zau.

| qena-metmet | na | kikay | beRas | zau |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| QENA-crush | GEN | machine | rice | this |

'This is the rice crushed by machine (not by hand).'

b.  qenapakil na bai ku masang zau.

| qena-pakil | na | bai=ku | masang | zau |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| QENA-wear | GEN | grandma=1SG.GNE | before | this |

'These are earrings that my grandma wore before.'

# Morphosyntactic characteristics of the four subclasses of stative verbs in Kavalan

| Subclass \ Characteristics | Sensation | adjectival | cognition | emotion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No genitive marked NP in –*an* clauses | V | X | X | X |
| Can be attached with *sa-* superlative prefix | V | V | X | X |
| Can take clausal complements | X | X | V | V |
| With *qena-...(-an)* nominals denoting stimuli | X | X | X | V |

# 4. Conclusions

◈ 1. . This study has shown that in Kavalan stative verbs are not of one homogeneous type.

◈ 2. Verb classification is a device that helps capture morphosyntactic patterns of a set of shared verbs.

◈ 3. Like noun classification, verb classification is a means to revealing human's categorization of actions, events and states.

# ◈Questions or comments??