



Contrastive Analysis of Interrogative Sentences in English and Manggarai Language

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article history	This research aims to describe the types, the markers, and the differences and similarities of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language in terms of grammatical structure. The object of this research is interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language. The theory used in this research was proposed by Siemund to know the types and the marker of interrogative sentences and used contrastive method to know the differences and similarities of sentence structure both of languages. This research used the descriptive qualitative method. The technique of data collection used in this research is observation and documentation and the data analysis method such as identification; classification; analyzing; and inferring. The researcher found 30 interrogative sentences in English and 40 interrogative sentences in Manggarai language. There were dominant differences in terms of sentence structure between English and Manggarai language. In polar interrogative types, there are 12 English sentences which were marked by inversion and interrogative tags. While in Manggarai language there are 14 sentences which were marked by intonation, interrogative tags, and particles. In constituent interrogative types, there are 12 English interrogative sentences and 23 Manggarai interrogative sentences, both of them marked by interrogative words. In alternative interrogative types, there are 6 English interrogative sentences and 3 Manggarai language interrogative sentences, both of them marked by disjunction. Moreover, the differences from both languages are the interrogative markers, the placement of question words, tenses markers, the use of auxiliary verb. In addition, there are similarities between English and Manggarai language interrogative sentence such as the types of interrogative sentences and the function of question word to form constituent interrogative.
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1. Introduction

Language serves as a gateway for people to explore and understand the diverse cultures that exist around the world. It allows individuals to appreciate the unique characteristics and languages associated with each culture. In fact, within a single country or region, there can be many languages, each with its own unique characteristics and structures that distinguish it from others, including interrogative sentences.

Interrogative sentences are a type of sentence that asks a question or requests information (Cambridge Dictionary, 2025). They are essential for effective communication in daily human life. Interrogative sentences are formed differently across languages, reflecting their distinct grammatical and syntactical features. Therefore, understanding them can help individuals communicate more effectively.

English is used across countries, making it a key means of communication around the world, including Indonesia. In Indonesia, English is learned as a foreign language, and it is taught at almost all levels of education, ranging from elementary school to college and university, including in Manggarai.

Indonesia has a diverse ethnic population with varying languages across different regions. One of the local languages is Manggarai. As noted by Kosmas (2015), the Manggarai language is an ethnic language spoken in West Flores, located in East Nusa Tenggara Province. It is predominantly used across three regencies that embody Manggarai culture: Manggarai Regency, West Manggarai Regency, and East Manggarai Regency. Manggarai language is used by most of the people of Manggarai as a tool of communication in society in everyday life.

In this study, the researcher chose English and the Manggarai language as the objects that are discussed due to the fact that English is considered to be an international language, and it is widely used in various domains such as commerce, education, law, and government administration, as well as its adoption in computing science and technology, which has led more people to try to master English, including Manggarai people.

English and the Manggarai language have unique features and structures that set them apart from each other. One possible difference is grammatical sentence structures. In this context, Manggarai English learners or English students, especially beginners, encounter challenges and confusion in forming correct sentences. And this study specifically will be focused on interrogative sentences.

The variations between languages can be examined through the analysis of linguistic differences found worldwide. Many linguists engage in comparing these languages, and this comparative study is known as "Contrastive Analysis" (Syarifa, 2019).

According to Lado (1957), contrastive analysis is a linguistic approach that examines two or more languages to uncover their differences and similarities. By employing this

method, the researcher can gain insights into the unique features of each language being compared, ultimately concluding that each language possesses characteristics that can also be found in others.

Research comparing the linguistic elements of English with those of Indonesia's regional languages is particularly intriguing. Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing the contrast of interrogative sentences in English and the Manggarai language because this topic has received little attention from researchers.

Based on the background of the research, the study focuses on three primary questions: the types of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language, the markers used in these sentences for both languages, and the similarities and differences in their grammatical structures.

2. Research Method

In this study, the researcher employed descriptive qualitative approach. This study used descriptive qualitative research because this study uses non-numeric data that have the purpose to describe the types, markers, and the differences and similarities of interrogative sentences in Manggarai language and English in terms of grammatical structure. The data of this research are interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language.

According to Sugiyono (2009:30), humans are an instrument in qualitative research and have functions to determine the research focus, select informants as the data source, collect the data, evaluate the quality of the data, predict the data, analyze the data, and draw conclusions based on his/her findings. The key instrument of this study is the researcher herself as a data collector.

The researcher gathered the data using observation and documentation techniques. Observation is a method that the researcher used to gather the data for interrogative sentences in Manggarai language. The data was collected from daily conversations by the researcher herself with the Manggarai native speakers who are the participants that were selected. While documentation is a method that the researcher used to gather the data for interrogative sentences in English. The data was collected from English grammar books “*Pocket Book Grammar by Kasmini, M., & Kadarmo, S. (2019) and Excellent Grammar Book by Solahudin, M. (2018)*”.

The procedures of data collection techniques: 1) observing and recording; 2) reading; 3) listing or note taking; 4) translating the data of Manggarai language. After collecting the

data, the researcher analyzed them by using several steps: 1) identifying the data related to interrogative sentences in either English or Manggarai language that are found in the data source; 2) classifying or categorized the interrogative sentences in either English or Manggarai language based on their types; 3) analyzing the types of interrogative sentences in either English or Manggarai language and analyzed the sentence structure by using the theory of Siemund (2001); and 4) inferring or made a conclusion based on the result of the research.

3. Research Findings and Discussion

3.1 Research Findings

In this section, the researcher presents the data of interrogative sentences that was found in English and Manggarai language. There are lots of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language according to their types and markers. Based on the research result, the researcher successfully identified three types of interrogatives sentences found in English and Manggarai language: polar interrogative, constituent interrogative, and alternative interrogative. There are also the markers of interrogative sentences in both languages: inversion, intonation, particles, interrogative tags, interrogative words, and disjunction. markers, and the differences and the similarities of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language.

Based on Siemund's theory, there are three types of interrogatives depending on the kind of information requested: polar interrogatives, constituent interrogatives, and alternative interrogatives. Based on that theory, the researcher identified 30 data points of interrogative sentences in English consisting of 12 polar interrogatives marked by inversion and interrogative tags, 12 constituent interrogatives marked by interrogative words, and 6 alternative interrogatives marked by disjunction. In Manggarai language, the researcher identified 40 data points of interrogative sentences consisting of 14 polar interrogatives marked by intonation, interrogative tags, and particles; 23 constituent interrogatives marked by interrogative words; and 3 alternative interrogatives marked by disjunction.

Table 3.1 Interrogative Sentences in English

No	Types of Interrogative Sentences	Interrogative Markers	English Interrogative Sentences
1	Polar Interrogative	Inversion	1) a. (+) You are reading a magazine. b. (?) Are you reading a magazine? 2) a. (+) She is coming with us. b. (?) Is she coming with us? 3) a. (+) She has finished the project. b. (?) Has she finished the project? 4) a. (+) She can speak English. b. (?) Can she speak English? 5) a. (+) You need a lot of sugar. b. (?) Do you need a lot of sugar? (Aux. – S – P – O)
		Interrogative Tags	6) <i>She knows you, doesn't she?</i> S P O Neg. T 7) <i>I haven't seen you before, have I?</i> S Aux. P O Adv. Pos. T
2	Constituent Interrogative	Interrogative Words	8) <i>What are you saying?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P 9) <i>What are you doing there?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P Adv. 10) <i>What do you want to do today?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P IP Adv. 11) <i>Who is your English teacher?</i> Wh-w Aux. O 12) <i>Whose book is this?</i> Wh-w O Aux. Dem. 13) <i>Where did you find the keys?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P O 14) <i>Why do you look so sad?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P Adv. 15) <i>When will we meet again?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P Adv. 16) <i>How many photographs did you take?</i> Wh-w O Aux. S P 17) <i>How do I do this homework?</i> Wh-w Aux. S P O
3	Alternative Interrogative	Disjunction	18) <i>Would you like sunset or sunrise?</i> Aux. S P O Dis. O

Table 3.2 Interrogative Sentences in Manggarai Language

No	Types of Interrogative Sentences	Interrogative Markers	ML Interrogative Sentences
1	Polar Interrogative	Intonation	1) <i>Toko hi Selta?</i> ↑ P S 'Is Selta sleeping?'
			2) <i>One mbaru hi Nita?</i> ↑ Adv. S 'Is Nita at home?'
			3) <i>Ngo hau?</i> ↑ P S 'Are you going?'
		Interrogative Tags	4) <i>Poli hau hang ko toe?</i> Adv. S P Neg-T 'You have eaten, haven't you?'
			5) <i>Toe di pu'ung acara, toh?</i> Adv. P O Pos-T 'The event hasn't started yet, right?'
			6) <i>Nganceng aku tegi campe dite ke?</i> Modal S P O Part. 'Can I ask for your help?'
		Particles	7) <i>Buku dehau ho'o ko?</i> O Poss-Det Dem. Part. 'Is this your book?'
			8) <i>Cai ite bo ga?</i> P S Adv. Part. 'Have you arrived?'
			9) <i>Apa hitut ba dehau?</i> Q-w O P S 'What is that you are carrying?'
			10) <i>Hang apa hau bo?</i> P Q-w S Adv. 'What did you eat?'
			11) <i>Meu pande apas?</i> S P Q-w 'What are you doing guys?'
			12) <i>Co'o tae dite bo?</i> Q-w P S Adv. 'What did you say?'
			13) <i>Co'o krebade ende ema dehau?</i> Q-w S 'How are your parents?'
2	Constituent Interrogative	Interrogative Words	

No	Types of Interrogative Sentences	Interrogative Markers	ML Interrogative Sentences
			14) <i>Co'o tara retangm hau?</i> Q-w P S 'What makes you crying?' 15) <i>Co'o lehai bukan para ho'o bo?</i> Q-w S P O Dem. Adv. 'How did you open this door?' 16) <i>Ceing ata panded kue so'o bo?</i> Q-w P O Adv. 'Who made this cake?' 17) <i>Tombo agu ceing hau bo?</i> P Prep. Q-w S Adv. 'With whom did you talk?' 18) <i>Sepatu diong situt pake dehai?</i> O Q-w Dem. P S 'Whose shoes are you wearing?' 19) <i>Nia lehai na'an kunci?</i> Q-w S P O 'Where do you keep the key?' 20) <i>One pisa hau caim?</i> Q-w S P 'When did you arrived?' 21) <i>Cepisa meu ngo laat hi bapa Rudy?</i> Q-w S P O 'When will you go to visit Mr. Rudy?' 22) <i>Ata pisa meu?</i> Q-w S 'How many siblings do you have?' 23) <i>Pisa dod kerosi celong de meu meseng?</i> Q-w O P S Adv. 'How much money given by mother yesterday?' 24) <i>Pisad seng teing di ende meseng?</i> Q-w O P S Adv. 'How much money did mother give yesterday?' 25) <i>Pisa ntaung ite one Ruteng?</i> Q-w S Prep. O 'How many years you have been in Ruteng?'
3	Alternative Interrogative	Disjunction	26) <i>Ite inung kopi ko teh?</i> S P O Dis. O 'Do you drink coffee or tea?'

3.2 Discussion

From the data findings above, in this section the researcher provides comprehensive discussions about interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language based on the research problem of this research.

3.2.1 The Types and Markers of Interrogative Sentences in English and Manggarai language.

In this part, the researcher discusses the types and markers of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language based on Siemund's theory. According to Siemund, interrogative sentences are divided into three types depending on the kind of information requested, such as polar, constituent, and alternative interrogatives. There are also seven markers of interrogative sentences across the world's languages according to him such as intonation, interrogative particles, interrogative tags, disjunction, inversion, verbal inflection, and question words. However, verbal inflection is not found in both of languages.

1. Polar interrogative

Polar interrogative is a question that requires an expected yes/no answer (Siemund P., 2001). In this research, the researcher found the polar interrogative sentences in English are marked by inversion and interrogative tags. While in Manggarai language, they are marked by intonation, interrogative tags, and particles.

Inversion or a change in the order of the basic constituents, typically involves moving the verb becomes the first word in the sentence before the subject for marking polar interrogatives. In English, inversion is restricted to auxiliaries and modals to convert sentences lacking such operators into polar interrogatives, for example the placing or the addition of auxiliary verb '*are, is, has, can, and do*' in the front of sentence before the subject (in data 1-5) above, aims to creating an inverted word order.

Next, interrogative tags are phrases or words added to the end of a statement for marking polar questions, often used to check for agreement or confirm information. There are negative tags that presuppose a positive answer and positive tags that bias expectation towards a negative answer. For example, in English the interrogative tag '*doesn't she*' is a negative tag from a positive statement, '*She knows you*' (in data 6). The speaker is expecting a 'yes' response, confirming that she does know the person. In data (7) the interrogative tag '*have I*' is a positive tag from a negative statement, '*I have not seen you before*'. The speaker is expecting a 'no' response, confirming that they indeed haven't seen the person before. Meanwhile, in Manggarai language the interrogative tag '*ko toe*' is

a negative tag from the positive statement '*poli hau hang/you have eaten*' (data 4). The speaker is expecting a 'yes' response, confirming that someone has been eating. The interrogative tag '*toh*' is a positive tag from a negative statement, '*toe di pu'ung acara/the even hasn't started yet*' (5). The speaker is expecting a 'no' response, confirming that the event has not started.

Intonation refers to the rising or falling pitch at the end of a sentence. In the context of polar interrogatives, there is usually rising intonation at the end of the statement to mark it as a question without changing the word order. While falling intonation is typically used in declarative sentences. In this research, the researcher employs an up arrow (↑) to denote rising intonation, indicating a question, such as in Manggarai language '*Toko hi Selta?* ↑ (in data 1), the use of rising intonation at the end of the sentence to mark it as a question.

Interrogative particles are expressions used for marking polar questions. In this research, the researcher found three different particles in Manggarai language (particle *ke*, *ko*, and *ga*). They are used at different levels, namely formal (*ko*), polite (*ga*), and intimate (*ke*). All of them are consistently placed at the sentence-final position.

2. Constituent interrogative

Constituent interrogative is a type of question used to query unknown information, specifying the type of information and requiring the addressee to provide adequate information for the variables being questioned, can inquire about various aspects, including people, objects, times, places, circumstances, etc. (Siemund P., 2001). In this research, the researcher found either English and Manggarai language, constituent interrogatives are marked by interrogative words. Based on the findings, interrogative words in English such as: *what* (asking for clarification, activities, and planning), *who* (asking people), *whose* (asking owner), *where* (asking place/location), *why* (asking reasons), *when* (asking time), *how* (asking about process/the manner), and *how many* (asking about quantity). While in Manggarai language, there are interrogative words are found such as: *apa* 'what', *coó* 'what', *nia* 'where', *ceing* 'who', *diong* 'whose', *cepisa/one pisa* 'when', *pisa* 'how many/much/far/long'. The question word '*apa*' and '*co'o*' in Manggarai language means 'what', but they have different function. The question word '*apa*' used to ask about things (data 9), activities (11), and to ask for

clarification. While the question word '*co'o*' is used to ask about conditions (data 13), reasons (data 14), manners (data 15), and to ask for clarification (data 12). Therefore, it means that in Manggarai language, both the question word '*apa*' and '*co'o*' / 'what' in function to ask for clarification are can be used in a sentence. While, the question word '*co'o*' / 'what' in function to ask for conditions, reasons, and manner, has the same function like the question word 'why' and 'how' in English. Next, the question word '*ceing*' / 'who' in Manggarai language is used to ask about subject such as in data (16 '*ceing ata panded kue so'o meseng?*' / 'who made this cake yesterday?') and object such as in data (17 '*tombo agu ceing hau bo?*' / 'with whom did you talk?'). Next, the question word '*one pisa*' and '*cepisa*' / 'when' in Manggarai language used to ask about the time in a sentence. But question word '*one pisa*' is used to ask about the time in the past such as in data (20 "*one pisa hau caim?*" / 'when did you arrived?'). While '*cepisa*' is used to ask about the time in the future (21 "*cepisa meu ngo la'at hi bapa Rudy?*" / 'when will you go to visit Mr. Rudy?').

3. Alternative interrogative

An alternative interrogative is a type of question that presents two or more options for the answer, requiring the addressee to choose the correct one from a list of possible answers (Siemund P., 2001). In this research, either English and Manggarai language, the marker of alternative interrogative is disjunction. Disjunction is a statement expressing the relation of two or more distinct alternatives or choices. In English, it is often using words like 'or' such as in data (18 "*would you like sunset or sunrise?*". The disjunction 'or' in this sentence presents two distinct options about favorite views, allowing the respondent to choose between '*sunset*' and '*sunrise*'. While in Manggarai language, often use the word '*ko*', such as in data (26 "*Ite inung kopi ko teh?*" / 'do you drink coffee or tea?'). The disjunction '*ko*' presents two options, allowing the respondent to choose between 'coffee' and 'tea'.

3.2.2 The Differences and Similarities of English and Manggarai Language

In this section, the researcher discusses the differences and similarities between English and Manggarai language interrogative sentence structures. In this case, the researcher analyzes it using contrastive analysis. Johansson (2008) stated that contrastive

linguistics is the systematic comparison of two or more languages, with the aim of describing their similarities and differences. It is similar to James (1980), who defined contrastive analysis as a form of comparative linguistic that focuses on: (1) describe the differences and similarities between a pair of languages and (2) identifying linguistic patterns, including phonological, grammatical, and lexical differences.

Based on the data findings above, the researcher recognized that the interrogative sentences in both languages have similar types but differ in terms of grammatical structure. In addition, the other differences between English and Manggarai language interrogative sentence structure are also found in the tense marker and the use of auxiliary verbs. In English, the researcher found that the verbs in forming interrogative sentences are affected by tenses (the verbs can change based on their tenses). While the Manggarai language does not have tenses. Therefore, the formation of interrogative sentences in Manggarai language is not affected by tenses (the verbs cannot change). To state the time, adverbs of time are used, such as '*meseng/yesterday*', '*ho'o ga/now*' '*bao/bo/just now/a while ago,*' and '*diang/tomorrow*'. Next, the auxiliary verbs play a significant role in forming interrogative sentences in English. While in Manggarai language, the researcher found the auxiliary verb (modal auxiliary) is only used to form a polar interrogative placed at the beginning of the sentence, but this auxiliary verb is added by a particle at the end of the sentence, as in sentence (6), '*Nganceng aku tegi campe dite ke? / Can I ask for your help?*'

Besides the differences that explained above, the researcher also found the similarities between English and Manggarai language interrogative sentences, such as the types of interrogatives, the interrogative markers (interrogative tags, interrogative words, and disjunction) that are found in both languages.

4. Conclusion

The results of data analysis indicate that the types of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language consists of polar, constituent, and alternative interrogative. Next, the marker of interrogative sentences in both languages depend on their types. In English, polar interrogatives are marked by inversion and interrogative tags, constituent interrogatives are marked by interrogative words, and alternative interrogatives are marked by disjunction. In Manggarai language, the markers are intonation, particles, and interrogative tags (for polar interrogatives); interrogative words (for constituent interrogatives); and disjunction (for

alternative interrogatives). Then, the differences between English and Manggarai language interrogative sentence structures consist of 1) the interrogative markers; 2) the placement of question words; 3) tense markers; and 4) the use of auxiliary verbs. The similarity between English and Manggarai language interrogative sentence structures is the function of the question word to form a constituent interrogative.

In order to make this research perfect, the writer suggests that the study of contrastive analysis of interrogative sentences in English and Manggarai language is still rarely studied. Therefore, this research needed to be developed, so for the next researcher to conduct or explore more detailed/deeply about the interrogative sentence in Manggarai language, especially about their function and variations in the sentence.

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