

IMPERATIVES IN ENGLISH AND ACEHNESE

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to explain the differences between imperatives in English and Acehnese and also to scrutinize the types and functions of imperatives in English and Acehnese. To achieve the objective of this study, the writer designed a qualitative study. The subject of this study was the people of Acehnese and the books of English and Acehnese, and the object of this study was imperative sentences. The writer collected some theories and opinions of experts from different resources to support the research. To collect the data, the writer used the following instruments: documentation and interview. The data were analyzed by applying a contrastive analysis to compare and find out the differences and similarities of imperatives in English and Acehnese. Based on the result, it was found that the types of imperatives in English and Acehnese are comparatively the same, i.e. positive imperative and negative imperatives. There are seven functions of imperative in English. They are as command, request, suggestion, prohibition, advice, invitation and direction. Meanwhile in Acehnese, there are nine functions of imperative. They are as command, prohibition, request, suggestion, invitation, advice, direction, compulsion and let imperative. Acehnese imperative sentence always use prefix of personal pronoun *neu*, *ta*, *ka*. From this fact, it can be concluded that there are slight differences of imperatives between English and Acehnese.

Keywords: *contrastive analysis, types of imperatives in English and acehnese, functions of imperatives in English and Acehnese*

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INTRODUCTION

In human communication, it needs two people at the minimum for communication to occur. When two people communicate, they have some communicative purpose. For example, if they need help from other people, they may express a request or if they want other people to do something, they may command. Language and communication cannot be separated from each other, for without language human beings cannot communicate with one another. Humans use language for social communication as well as maintaining their culture. Humans have got our native language since they are child; they got it from parents, friends or environment. And they use it as our first language. When they grow up, they get another language from their school such as English, and they use it as their foreign language.

English as foreign language become a need in the educational aspect as it is learned to students in Indonesia from elementary school up to university level. Learning English is not easy; students should be more concerned with sentences in the teaching learning process. They need to know how words collocate and which of the words have normal place in sentences. Therefore, they still do not know and understand it well. Students were often confused about distinguishing the verb which are used after “*no* and *don't*” in making prohibition, and they did not apply the rules correctly. For example, they often make a prohibition, such as “*no study here*”. The differences of language features between their native language and English becomes the problems are caused by students. Imperative sentence in English and Acehnese are somehow different in some ways. It is reasonable for learners to comprehend differences and similarities between Acehnese and English.

Comparing two languages is an approach to investigate problems which language learners may face. As Yarmohammadi (2002, p. 11) states in his book, in order to determine both differences and similarities between them, contrastive analysis is concerned with the comparison of two or more languages or subsystems of languages. The analysis in comparing both languages can be a possible way to solve the problem of interferences between Acehnese and English.

Based on the problem mentioned above, the writer intended to conduct a research about imperative sentence entitled “A Contrastive Analysis of Imperatives in English and Acehnese”.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Contrastive Analysis

Contrastive analysis is one of the methods which can be used for helping people who learn other languages in finding some differences and similarities between the source language and the target language which usually lead to some difficulties in the learning process encountered by the learner. According to Tarigan (2009, p. 5), contrastive analysis is an activity that attempts to compare and identify differences and similarities of both languages. It is a work procedure of language activities comparing the structure of the L1 and L2 or any languages and identifying their differences from the two languages.

Language learners encounter some difficulties in foreign language learning because they tend to transfer their native language to the language they are learning that have different features or words. Brown (2008, p. 272) says that “the main obstruction of second language acquisition is the interferences system of the first language and second language”. The interferences between two languages occur because the languages have similarities and differences. If students find similarities in the first and second or foreign language system, it will make them easier to learn afterwards. However, if they find some differences, it will make them face some difficulties in language learning.

An analysis to compare two languages and to support language teaching, contrastive analysis can be concluded. It makes students easier after finding out the differences to solve interference in foreign language learning.

Imperative Sentence

Imperative sentence is generally used as a sentence to ask people to do some action as a response to the speaker. Keraf (2001, p. 159) says that what is meant by the command is to ask people to do something that the speaker wants. It has a power for the speaker because when the speaker sends a message to the listener, the listener does something. In the form of writing, imperative sentences are often ended by the exclamation point (!) or the normal point (.). In the oral form, the sound is low high.

In English, positive imperative can be in various ways: giving advice, request, command, invitation, and suggestion. Negative is constructed with *do not* or (*don't*). As Hun (2000) said that in negative form it is always signaled by the markers *do not*, *do not be* and *no*

before imperative sentence. A simple verb is used in Acehnese imperative, such as *poh 'hit'* and *rom 'throw'* (Sulaiman, 1977, p. 38). According to Durie (1985), a negative command in Acehnese is formed in the same way as a positive one. The negative imperative in Acehnese is signaled by *bek*, just like *don't* in English as claimed by Asyik (1987).

Imperative sentence includes expressions of command, invitation, suggestion, advice and prohibition. In accordance with Downing and Philip (2006, p. 192) write that the English imperative sentence can function to give an suggestion, invitation, prohibition and instruction. Those statement are strengthened by the statement of Azar (2003, p. 213) who states that English imperative sentence is used to give a command, to make a polite request, to give a direction, advice, prohibition and suggestion. In Acehnese, the marker *tulōng 'please'* is also used to soften a command, equivalent to the English 'please' (Asyik, 1987, p. 375). Rizki (2010, p. 15) says that the imperative form *jak 'go'* is very commonly used in suggestion. *Jak* is used as hortative 'come let us'. In English we would say 'Come on'. In prohibition, it signaled by the marker *bèk*, just like *don't* in English as claimed by Asyik (1987).

Based on the above definitions, the imperative is used for a number of purposes. It can be used for giving a command, invitation, advice, suggestion, request, giving a direction or instruction, and prohibition.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research belongs to qualitative research. This research was conducted by using the contrastive analysis method as the research method because the writer intended to compare and analyze two languages, i.e. Acehnese and English.

The object of this research is the imperative sentences of English and Acehnese. Because this research is qualitative, the data was taken from textbooks in English and Acehnese related to imperative sentence and other sources that are needed in the research. The Acehnese people were included as the source of data for this study.

In this study, two techniques were used to collect data, namely documentation and interview. After collecting the data from reading all of the sources and transcribing the recording of interview with the participant in written form, the writer applied a contrastive analysis to

find out the differences and similarities of imperatives in Acehnese and English as stated by Lado (1996).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The comparison of imperatives between English and Acehnese is discussed in this section. It also discusses whether there are similarities and differences of imperative sentence between English and Acehnese. The sub-sections that follow discuss in more detail the similarities and differences of imperative sentence between English and Acehnese.

Types of Imperatives in English and Acehnese

Positive Imperative between English and Acehnese with Non Subject Sentence

Positive imperative is a type of sentence that expresses a command or request, and gives instructions or advice. Table 1 presents the example of positive imperative sentence in English and Acehnese.

Table 1. Positive imperative sentences without subject in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Come here	Jak keudéh 'Go there'

The example above shows that positive imperative sentence in both English and Acehnese can be with non subject because it is clear for the addressee.

Positive Imperative between English and Acehnese with Subject Sentence

Positive imperative sentences in English and Acehnese can be with the subject. Table 2 presents another example of positive imperative sentence with the subject in English and Acehnese.

Table 2. Positive imperative sentences with subject in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	You get out	Neugrak ie siat (older person)

		Gata grak ie siat (same age) Kagrak ie siat (children) 'You take the water'
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The example above shows that the speaker wants to give emphasis to the listener, when the speaker takes the name or the subject in imperative sentence. Imperative sentence in Acehnese always use prefix of personal pronoun; *neu* (for older person or parents), *ta* (for same age), *ka* (for younger person or children).

Negative Imperative between English and Acehnese with Non Subject Sentence

In English, the form of negative imperative means that the addressee is prohibited from doing something. It also occurs in Acehnese. Table 3 presents the example of negative imperative sentence in English and Acehnese.

Table 3. Negative imperative sentences without subject in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Do not make a noise	Bèk jak keunan 'Don't go there'

The example above shows that negative imperative sentences between English and Acehnese can be with non subject because it is clear for the listener.

Negative Imperative between English and Acehnese with Subject Sentence

Similar to positive imperative, the subject can also be used in negative imperative sentence. Table 4 presents another example of negative imperative sentence in English and Acehnese.

Table 4. Negative imperative sentences without subject in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Do not everybody talk at once	Bèk neuduek disinoe (older person)

		Bèk taduek disinoe (same age) Bèk duek disinoe (children) 'Don't you sit here'
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The data of the table above shows that the subject is placed after the marker “do not” in English and “bèk” 'do not' in Acehnese.

Functions of Imperatives in English and Acehnese

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Command

In both English and Acehnese, imperative sentence is used as common command. Table 5 presents the example of imperative sentence as command between English and Acehnese.

Table 5. Imperative sentence as command in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Take the chalk	Cok buku nyan siat (children) Tacok buku nyan siat (same age) Neucok buku nyan siat (older person) 'Take the book'

Imperative sentences as command in English and Acehnese do not have certain markers. The form is like a common command.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Request

As request, imperative sentence in English and Acehnese has more polite meaning in giving a command. Table 6 presents the example of imperative sentence as request in English and Acehnese.

Table 6. Imperative sentence as request in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Please close the door	Tulōng buka jeuneula siat (children) Neutulōng buka jeuneula siat (older person) Tatulōng buka jeuneula siat (same age) 'Please open the window'

The markers in English as request are *please*, *would you* and *do you mind*. In Acehnese, showing politeness is identified by the use of the word *tulōng* 'please'.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Suggestion

In English and Acehnese, imperative sentence as suggestion means that the speaker suggests or commands the listener to do or not to do something together. Table 7 presents the example of imperative sentence as suggestion between English and Acehnese.

Table 7. Imperative sentence as suggestion in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Let's have a drink	Jak tajak u waterboom 'Let's go to waterboom'

The markers of imperative sentence as suggestion in English are *let's*, *why don't you*, *shall* and *you had better*. Besides, the use of *suppose* and *how/what about* is enabled for informal suggestions. In Acehnese, *jak tajak* 'let's go' is used to identify imperative sentence as suggestion.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Prohibition

As prohibition, imperative sentence in English and Acehnese has the function that the speaker prohibits the hearer from doing something. Table 8 presents the example of imperative sentence as prohibition between English and Acehnese.

Table 8. Imperative sentence as prohibition in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Do not sit over there	Bèk kaek bak kayèe nyan (children) Bèk neuk bak kayèe nyan (older person) Bèk taek bak kayèe nyan (same age) 'Do not you climb that tree'

The common markers which are used in English as prohibition are *don't*, *don't be*, *no + gerund*. While the signal word in imperative sentence as prohibition in Acehnese is *bèk 'do not'*.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Invitation

As invitation, the speaker gives a command to the hearer, but it means that he/she invites the listener by using imperative sentence. Table 9 presents the example of imperative sentence as invitation between English and Acehnese.

Table 9. Imperative sentence as invitation in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Would you like to come to my birthday party	Meunyo hana halangan sapeu neumeulangkah u rumoh (older person) Meunyo hana halangan sapeu meulangkah u rumoh (children) Meunyo hana halangan sapeu gata meulangkah u rumoh (same age) 'If you don't have any obstacle come to my house'

The marker of imperative sentence as invitation in English is *would you like to come*. While in Acehnese the markers are *meulangkah 'come'* and *piyoh 'come'*.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Advice

Imperative as advice means the speaker gives the opinion or idea to the addressee to do something better. Table 10 presents the example of imperative sentence as advice between English and Acehnese.

Table 10. Imperative sentence as advice in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	You had better not eat too much	Bèk neupiké nyan (older person) Bèk gatapiké nyan (same age) Bèk kapiké nyan (children) 'Don't think that'

The markers of imperative sentence as advice in English are commonly the marker of negative form or *should*, *must* and *had better*. It is quite similar to Acehese, where occasionally the marker of negative form *bèk 'do not'* is used in advice.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehese as Direction

As direction and instruction, the speaker gives some guidance to the listener to do something in a right way. Table 11 presents the example of imperative sentence as direction between English and Acehese.

Table 11. Imperative sentence as direction in English and Acehese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	Go past White street	Dari lorong nyoe neubelok u uneun (older person) Dari lorong nyoe tabelok u uneun (same age) Dari lorong nyoe kabelok u uneun (children) 'From this path, you turn right'

Imperative sentence as direction and instruction in English and Acehese does not have certain markers. The command is used to give a right way or right instruction to the listener.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehese as Compulsion

Imperative as compulsion and command have similar meaning, but it has more emphasis in compulsion. The listener must do the speaker's command. Table 12 presents the example of imperative sentence as compulsion between English and Acehese.

Table 12. Imperative sentence as compulsion in English and Acehese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	-	Beu kabayeue jinoe, meuhan matékeuh Beu neubayeue jinoe, meuhan matékeuh Beu tabayeue jinoe, meuhan matékeuh 'You must pay now or you die'

The marker of imperative sentence as compulsion in Acehnese is *beu*, which means *must* in English.

Imperative Sentence between English and Acehnese as Let Imperative

As let imperative, the speaker asks not to be banned. Table 13 presents the example of imperative sentence as permission between English and Acehnese.

Table 13. Imperative sentence as let imperative in English and Acehnese

No.	English	Acehnese
1	-	Bah meunan 'Let way that'

Imperative sentence as let imperative in Acehnese is *bah*, which mean *let* in English.

From the data above, there are some functions of imperative sentence in Acehnese which are different from those in English. In Acehnese, there are imperative sentences as compulsion and let imperative. The similarities of both positive and negative imperative sentence in English and Acehnese are that they can use the subject or non subject. It also has the same meaning as command, request, advice, prohibition, suggestion, direction and instruction, invitation and wishes in imperative sentence.

Discussion

In learning imperative sentence, a learner is expected to be able to understand the types and functions of imperative sentence well. English is a foreign language for Acehnese learners, and it has some differences to the Acehnese language. To reach this goal, language learners need a learning method that can solve their difficulties in the learning process. Thus, contrastive analysis is expected to solve learners' difficulties.

The results of comparison between two languages are needed in order for one to predict difficulties and errors in learning a foreign language. After the writer presents the similarities and differences of imperative sentence in English and Acehnese, the research findings indicate that both of the languages have some similarities and

differences. The findings of research are expected to give essential contributions to language learners, especially for beginners.

English and Acehese are two typologically distant languages. In spite of the fact that the two languages have differences in relation to the imperative, English and Acehese also have some similarities. Based on the informants' answers, the writer found some findings on the types of imperative sentence in Acehese. Acehese also has the same type as English – i.e. positive and negative. According to Durie (1985), a negative command is formed in the same way as a positive one. It is constructed with *bèk* and *hanjeut*. The negative imperative is signaled by *bèk*, just like *don't* in English as claimed by Asyik (1987).

Based on the informants' answers, the writer found slight differences of functions of imperative sentence between English and Acehese. From the responses of the informants, the writer concludes that there are 9 functions of imperative sentence in Acehese, i.e. as a command, as a request signaled by *tulōng*, *cuba* and *ci 'try'*; Asyik (1987, p. 375) states that the word *tulōng* is also used to soften a command, equivalent to the English *'please'*; as invitation signaled by *meulangkah 'come'*, *piyōh 'come'*, as suggestion signaled by *jak tajak 'let us'*; Rizki (2010, p. 15) says that the imperative form *'jak'* is very commonly used. *Jak* is used as hortative *'come let us'*. In English we would say *'Come on'*; as advice, as prohibition signaled by *bèk 'do not'*, *han/hana 'no'* and *hanjeut 'cannot'*, as direction and instruction, as compulsion signaled by *beu 'must'* and as let imperative signaled by *bah 'let'*.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the result of the data presentation and the analysis in the previous chapters, the conclusion of the contrastive analysis of imperative sentence in Acehese and English is that the types of imperatives in English and Acehese are comparatively the same, namely positive imperative and negative imperative. These types are usually non subject because the direct object has already been clear and understood by the listener. The functions of imperative sentence in English are as command, prohibition, request, suggestion, invitation, advice and direction. Meanwhile the functions of imperative sentence in Acehese are as command, prohibition, request, suggestion, invitation, advice, direction, compulsion and let imperative.

Both English and Acehnese have markers to show different functions of imperative sentence. In English, it is commonly signaled by modals, the question tag and hortatory words. To show a polite request, the markers in English are *please, can you, could you, would you, would/do you mind, and*. While in Acehnese they are signaled by the use of the modal of obligate *beu 'must'*, hortatory words *jak tajak 'let us'* and the presence of the prefix of second pronoun *neu, ta, ka*. To show a polite request, the markers in Acehnese are *tulōng 'please', ci and cuba 'try'*. To show prohibition, it signaled by the word *don't* and *no* in English. While in Acehnese, it signaled by the word *bèk 'do not'* and *hanjeut 'cannot'*.

Suggestions

In this part, the writer would like to propose some suggestions based on the conclusion of the study above for both teachers and learners, especially in teaching and learning imperative sentences between English and Acehnese. The suggestion for teachers is that they should give a clear explanation to students during the learning process about the rules of imperative sentence in both English and Acehnese, so that students will understand well when they use to communicate in speaking and writing. The teachers should be able to predict the difficulties faced by students based on the difficulty given by the teacher. They need to give extra drills to students. Teachers should give examples, and they should invite his/her students to be more active during the learning teaching process.

The suggestion for students is that they need to pay attention to the rules of the structure of language and be able to find out similarities and differences of imperative sentence between English and Acehnese, so that they will learn the foreign language well and solve difficulty in learning the language. Students can use imperative sentences of both English and Acehnese in spoken or written form and use contrastive analysis to overcome their problems in grammar patterns in English as a foreign language compared with Acehnese as their mother language. Students have to do many practice exercises in order that they can use them correctly to solve the problem in learning imperative sentence.

Regarding suggestions to other researchers, the writer hopes another researcher who will conduct a similar study can apply this research study as a reference. Besides, this research is still very simple and still far from perfect because it only discussed the types and functions of imperative sentence in English and Acehnese. Therefore,

other researchers are expected to develop this research. They can develop their research in other types of sentence or in other languages.

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