The Structure of Interrogative Sentences in Langkat Malay: An Analysis of X-Bar Theory

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Abstract- This research discussed the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay. Langkat Malay is one of local language in Indonesia which is still used in Langkat but the Langkat Malay just understand by the old people because this language doesn't teach to the younger population in Langkat. Beside that the problem of this study is how the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay. This research is analyzed using X-bar theory. This research was done because of there is question words have function as complemetizer but question words usually as a specifier. This research used a qualitative approach. Data collection was done by observation and interview methods. Data analysis used the Agih method. which is a determining tool that refers to the language or part of the language such as words, syntactic functions, clauses, word syllables, pitch, etc (Sudaryanto, 2015). The presentation of data results is done using formal and informal methods. The results showed that rules are produced in interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay are: 1) C + Spec + I + Comp, 2) Spec + I + Comp, 3) Spec + Comp, and 4) C + Spec + Comp.

Keywords: Interrogative Sentence, Question words, Langkat Malay, X-bar Theory

I. INTRODUCTION

Interrogative sentences have function to ask for information to another person. The mention of interrogative sentences as interrogative sentences (Alwi, 2017) is due to the fact that interrogative sentences are commonly used to ask questions, which in Indonesian are formally characterized by the presence of question words such as what, who, how, when, how, and where with or without the -kah particle as emphasis. Besides that, the structure of interrogative sentences also varies based on the type of interrogative sentence itself, such as polar interrogative, content interrogative, and alternative interrogative (Caesar, 2016; Siemund, 2001).

Interrogative sentences have different structures in different languages, both local or regional languages and national languages. Due to the difference in structure, interrogative sentences have become a study that has attracted much attention from previous researchers. Some previous studies examined the structure of interrogative sentences in various languages, both in foreign languages such as French (Gazdik, 2008), Dangme language in Ghana (Caesar, 2016), English (Sklyarova, 2013), Tibetan language (Ban et al., 2021), Uwu language in Nigeria (Adeoye, 2018), Persian language (Rezai and Hooshmand, 2012)

As well as regional languages in Indonesia, such as Sundanese (Gumilar, 2009), Minangkabau (Mayora et al., 2015), Bima (Nurjahratulhayati, 2016), Tamiang dialect

Malay (Hafrianto and Mulyadi, 2018), Mandailing (Zahra and Mulyadi, 2019), Serawai (Joyo, 2020), Serdang Malay (Ritonga, 2021), and Javanese (Habib et al., 2021). In addition, some other studies examine the comparison of interrogative sentence structures in two different languages, such as English and Chinese (Xiaoting and Jixin, 2016), English and Uzbek (Turdikulovna, 2021), Finnish and Swedish (Toropainen and Lahtinen, 2014), and English and Ukrainian (Sitko and Struk, 2018).

Langkat Malay is one of the local languages found in Langkat Regency and has an interrogative word like Indonesian. In Langkat Malay, there are several types of interrogative words, namely maya 'what,' mengkala 'when,' sapa 'who,' macem mana 'how,' kat mana 'where,' ngapa 'why' and so on. In Langkat Malay, question words are found which function as complements (Pm). One example of an interrogative sentence that functions as a complement (Pm) in Langkat Malay is "Kat mana akak letak sepatuku?", which is meaned, "Di mana kakak meletakkan sepatuku?". In the X-bar theory (Haegeman, 1994), interrogative sentences are usually in the position of specifiers, usually located at the beginning of interrogative sentences. However, in Langkat Malay, interrogative words function as complementizer at the beginning of interrogative sentences, such as the data below.
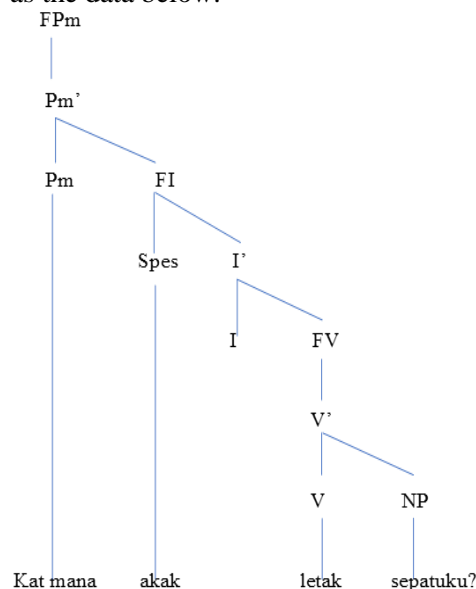
Picture 1. The Structure of Interogative Sentences

Based on the example sentence "Kat mana akak letak sepatuku?", if the sentence is tested with the x-bar theory, the question word in the sentence functions as a complementizer because the question word joins directly with FI/ IP

forming Pm'/C'. Although it is in line with the theory proposed by Haegeman (1994) that the question word functions as a complementizer, the position of the complementizer is in front of FI/IP with the pattern (Pm+ Spec). From the data above, it can be concluded that there is a shift in the grammatical function of the interrogative word in Langkat Malay when it is tested with the x-bar theory. Because of this, the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay must be observed by using X-bar theory.

X bar theory tries to identify syntactic features. X-Bar aims to simplify the sentence structure. X-Bar claims that among the categories of phrases, all languages share certain structural similarities that do not appear in traditional grammar. X-bar theory is a theory of phrase structure. X-Bar also aims to provide a systematic account of language sentences by proposing an indispensable grammatical analysis for an excellent grammatical description. One of the views contained in X-bar theory is that all phrases have a lexical core. The core is the final node that dominates the word. The core is also the lexical projection of the word category (Mulyadi, 2010).

In addition, there are two other reasons why research on the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay needs to be done. First, using the X-bar theory makes it possible to bring up a finding that contains the uniqueness of the structure of interrogative sentences in a language. Second, some previous studies revealed the uniqueness of Langkat Malay, such as intonation as one of the suprasegmental phonemes (Erwina, 2020), the existence of a task word consisting of only one letter /a/, which means "it" (Zulkifli et al., 1986), the existence of affixation with the letter /a/ which means "it,", the existence of affixation with the use of the insert or infix /-er-/ (Wahyuni, 2021), and the enactment of benefactive applicative constructions, recipient applicative constructions, and locative applicative constructions in the structure of Langkat Malay applicative constructions (Maharani and Mulyadi, 2023).

An interrogative sentence is a form of verb or sentence that is used to express a question, or in other words, an interrogative sentence is a sentence that contains the meaning of a question. Therefore, interrogative sentences function to obtain answers or information to the questions asked (see Kridalaksana 1987; Natalia, 2013; Rusyana, 1991; Siemund, 2001). Interrogative

sentences are also used to get a reaction in the form of an answer to a question or reinforce something that the asker already knows and also sentences that expect a verbal answer, which can be yes or no or in the form of a length explanation (Alwi, 2017; Gelderen, 2010; Lester 2009; Tarmini and Sulistyawati, 2019).

X-Bar Theory is an advanced theory of Generative Grammatical Transformation which aims to divide the grammatical elements systematically into one complete sentence. In the X-bar, there are several terms such as complementizer phrase (CP), complementizer (C), inflectional phrase (IP), inflection (I), specifier (Spec), adjunct (A), complement (Comp). Complementizer is an element of a subordinate clause that determines the type of clause that follows it. In interrogative constructions, complements are attached by questions word features. Complementizer determine the types of clauses and usually consisted of conjunction 'if' and 'whether'. Inflectional phrase (IP) consisted of a sentence. Inflection is helping verb, modal such as 'will', 'should' etc. Specifier is as indicator in a sentence and it is not same as head, complement or adjunct. Adjunct is adverb which is determine the object of a sentences. Complement is an internal argument located in an interrogative construction structure directly subordinated to the bar inflection and functions to realize lexical properties.

A specifier is also called a limiter/indicator in a sentence which functions to determine the status of a phrase/clause expression (Haegeman, 1994). An adverb is an adverb or phrase (phrase/speech) that explains the meaning of a verb, adjective or other adverb. Adjunct is anything that is not included in the main (head), complement (comp), or determiner/indicator (specifier) of a sentence (projection) which is usually optional.

Several studies related to interrogative sentences have been done in other languages. Mukramah and Mulyadi (2022) studied interrogative constructions in Acehnese: X-bar theory which aims to describe the functional categories of question words and formulate structural rules for interrogative constructions in Acehnese using X-Bar theory. The results are shown in the functional categories of interrogative constructions in Acehnese interrogative constructions, namely complement and complementizer. The complementizer function as an interrogative construction is

occupied by the yes-no interrogative, the interrogative construction with a question word, then the function of the interrogative construction as a complement is occupied by the echo/echo interrogative construction. The type followed is: KT → (Pm) + Spes + I + Komp + Pm + (Spec + I + Comp).

Rambe's (2017) research analyses Indonesian interrogative sentences using X-bar theory, which reveals the functional categories of interrogative words as complementizer and complements. Complementizer is used in yes-no and interrogative sentence with question words, while Complement is found in echo interrogative sentences. Another research was done by Hafrianto and Mulyadi's (2018) researched on interrogative sentences in the Tamiang dialect of Malay and found that total interrogative sentences require a "yes" or "no" answer, while partial interrogative sentences require explanation or information.

Zahra and Mulyadi (2019) used X-bar theory to study interrogative sentences in the Mandailing language. This research was conducted to find out the structure of interrogative sentences in the Mandailing language. The results of their research show that partial interrogative sentences in Mandailing language have the grammatical function of specifier and complement, while total interrogative sentences have the function of complement. Mandailing language interrogative sentences can be constructed by specifiers, complements and adverbials. Rois et al. (2021) used X-bar theory to study the structure of Javanese interrogative sentences using the film "Tilik" by Wahyu Agung Prasetyo as a data source. The problem of this research is to find out the structure of Javanese interrogative sentences using the film "Tilik" by Wahyu Agung Prasetyo. The results of this research use of interrogatives in the film "Tilik" consists of partial and total forms distributed with the X-Bar pattern FPm+Spes+I+Komp and I+Spes+Komp.

Based on the background and limitations of the research problem was done by researcher described above, the problem of this research is how is the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay using X-Bar theory? Langkat Malay which will analyzed are the interrogative sentence with question words and without question words while the interrogative sentences with questions words and without questions words will be analyzed by using agih method by using error technique, expansion technique and

reverse technique. The aim of this research is to find the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay using the X-Bar theory.

II. METHODS

This study is qualitative because the data collected is in the form of words described. Qualitative research aims to find answers to a phenomenon or question through the systematic application of scientific procedures systematically (Moelong, 2013). Qualitative research is research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the people being observed. This study is qualitative research because the data collected is in the form of words described. The data collected in this study are in the form of interrogative sentences or sentences containing questions or information for others in Langkat Malay. Langkat Malay is the language that is used by communities in Tanjung Pura and Stabat. The data sources in this study are oral data and written data. Oral data comes from 5 informants who are native speakers of the Langkat Malay language, while written data is collected from book or dictionaries of the Langkat Malay language.

The location of this research is in Stabat City, Langkat Regency. This is due to the establishment of the Langkat sultanate which is a Malay kingdom located in the Langkat Regency area, North Sumatra which was founded by Dewa Syahdan, the highest official of the Aru Kingdom (Aceh) in 1568 AD (see Windari, 2017). Apart from that, there are also native native speakers of Langkat Malay who still use Langkat Malay language in their daily lives. According to BPS Langkat data for 2020, there are around 15% of the Malay ethnic group spread across various sub-districts in Langkat Regency.

Data collection techniques used are interviews and triagulation (Sugiyono, 2010). Interviews are used to collect data, the subjects are asked about how to ask something or how to ask questions interrogatively in Langkat Malay, while triangulation is used to get data from different sources or informants but with the same data collection technique. Then, the data or interrogative sentences collected are grouped into interrogative sentences with question words and without question words.

This research uses the Agih method. The Agih method is a determining tool that refers to the language or part of the language (Sudaryanto, 2015). The determining tools in agih method are parts or elements of the language of the research object, such as words, syntactic functions, clauses, word syllables, pitch, etc. The using of Agih method is to analyze the interrogative sentences in the Langkat Malay.

This method was done by using error technique, expansion technique and reverse technique. The error technique is used to determine whether a sentence is grammatical or not by eliminating some words in the sentence. For example in sentence *Abah pulang terian?*. If the verb *pulang* is eliminated from this sentence, it becomes *Abah terian?*. This sentence is not grammatical because the verb *pulang* is eliminated but if the adverb *terian* is eliminated from this sentence, it becomes *Abah pulang*?. This sentence is still grammatical.

The expansion technique is used to determine aspects of meaning in certain lingual units by adding some words in the sentence (Sudaryanto, 2015). For example in sentence *Abah pulang terian*?. If the word *akan* is added in this sentence, it becomes *Abah akan pulang terian*?. This sentence is still grammatical because the word *akan* is in added before the verb *pulang*.

The permutation technique (reverse technique) is a technique that involves changing or moving sentence constituents (Sudaryanto, 2015). For example in sentence *Abah pulang terian*?. If the adverb *terian* is reversed in this sentence, it becomes *Abah terian pulang*?. This sentence is not grammatical because the adverb *terian* is in front of the verb *pulang*. In this research, the error technique is used to determine whether a sentence is grammatical or not, while the expansion and reverse techniques are used to analyze the position of question words as specifiers, complements or adverbs in the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the interrogative sentence in Langkat Malay language there are 11 interrogative words namely: maya 'what', sapa 'who', mana 'where', kat mana 'where', ke mana 'ke mana', dari mana 'dari mana', berapa 'berapa', ke berapa 'ke berapa', mengkala 'kapan', bile 'kapan', macam mana 'how', ngapa 'why'. In the interrogative sentence of Langkat Malay language, there is an interrogative word that functions as Complementizer (C), complement (comp) and Adjunct (A).

Interrogative Sentences Structure

Interrogative sentences in x-bar theory relates with 4 function grammatical such as complementizer (C), inflection (I), specifier (spec) and complement (comp). Complementizer (C) is question words feature that is included in the highest level. Inflection (I) is included such as modal (in English) and aspect (in Indonesian). Specifier (spec) is subject argument that is under with inflectional phrase (IP) while complement (comp) is internal argument that is under I'. The interrogative sentences structure in Malay Langkat language as below.

a) Spec + Comp

A simple interrogative sentence is formed if inflection is besided by specifier and complement. Specifier is usually placed by subject (NP) while complement is usually consisted of verb, NP, PP, AP, AdvP. This structure can be found in yes-no question. Complement in this structure are VP, AP, AdvP, dan PP.

    1) *Engko ne si Kelambai*?
       Engkau ini si Kelambai?
       'Engkau ini si Kelambai?'

In sentence (1) 'Engko ne si Kelambai?' is formed by inflection is removed. VP argument si *Kelambai* is a verb that is function as complement (comp). NP argument *engko* ne has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence.The structure can be described as below.
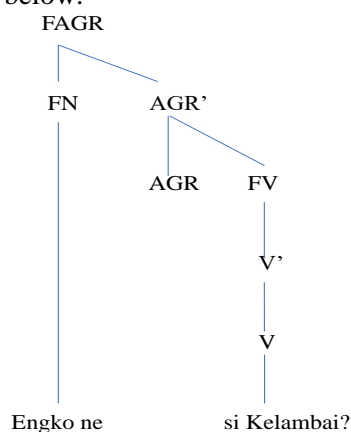

In x-bar schema, AGR which is removed, is combine with complement (comp) to form AGR'. Then FN engko ne combines with AGR' form FAGR.

    2) *Akak geser lemari ne*?
       Kakak menggeser lemari ini?
       'Kakak menggeser lemari ini?'

In sentence (2) 'akak geser lemari ne?' is formed by inflection is removed. VP argument geser is a verb that is function as complement (comp). NP argument *akak* has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence. The structure can be described as below.
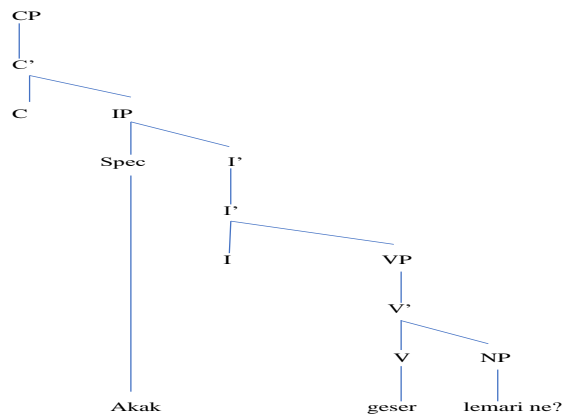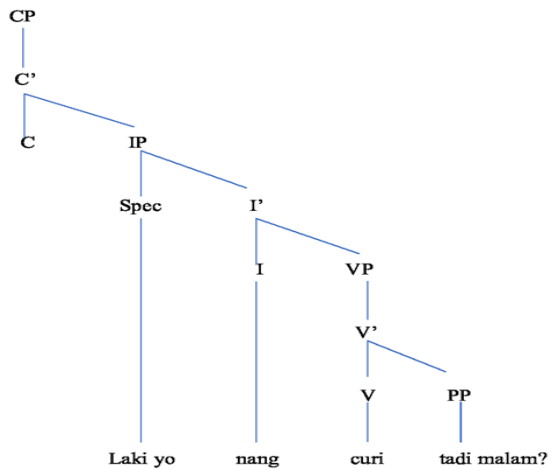

In x-bar schema, inflection that is removed combines with complement (comp) to form I'. Then, specifier NP *akak* combines whith I' forms IP.

b) Spec + I + Comp

A simple interrogative sentence is formed if inflection is besided by specifier and complement. Specifier is usually placed by subject (NP) while complement is usually consisted of verb, NP, PP, AP, AdvP. This structure is in yes-no question. Complement in this structure are VP, AP, AdvP, and PP.

    3) *Laki yo nang curi tadi malam*?
       Laki itu yang curi tadi malam?
   'Laki itu yang mencuri tadi malam?'

In sentence (3) 'Laki yo nang curi tadi malam?' is formed by inflection that is removed. VP argument *curi* is a verb that is function as complement (comp). Then PP argument *tadi malam* is a complement (comp) because it is under VP *curi*. NP argument *laki yo nang* has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence. The structure can be described as below.

In x-bar schema, inflection that is removed combines with complement (comp) to form I'. Then specifier laki yo nang combines with I' forms IP.

4) *Engko nang ngambek duren yo*?
   Kau yang mengambil durian itu?
   'Kau yang mengambil durian itu?'

In sentence (4) 'Engko nang ngambek duren yo?' is formed by inflection that is removed. VP argument *ngambek* is a verb that is function as complement (comp). Then NP argument duren yo is a complement (comp) because it is under VP *ngambek*. NP argument *engko nang* has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence.
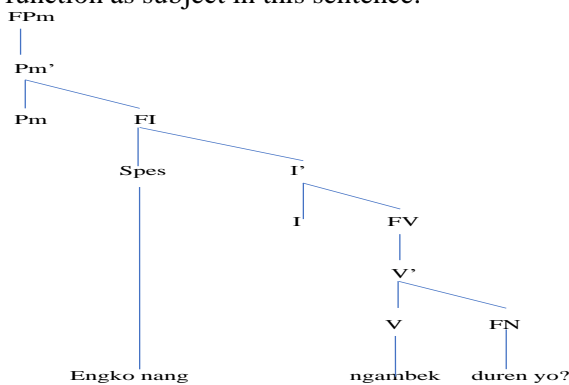

In x-bar schema, inflection that is removed combines with complement (comp) to form I'. Then specifier engko nang combines with I' forms IP.

c) **C + Spec + I + Comp**
   Another interrogative sentence structure can be formed by complementizer to form the higher level. Complementizer is usually placed by question words such as *'ngapa', 'mengkala'* etc. This structure can be found in yes-no question with the question word at the beginning.

5) *Ngapa mangga yo busuk*?
   Mengapa mangga itu busuk?
   'Mengapa mangga itu busuk?'

In sentence (5) 'Ngapa mangga yo busuk?' is formed by inflection bisa. VP argument *busuk* is a verb that is function as complement (comp). NP argument mangga yo has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence while *ngapa* has function as C because it is a question word. The structure can be described as below.
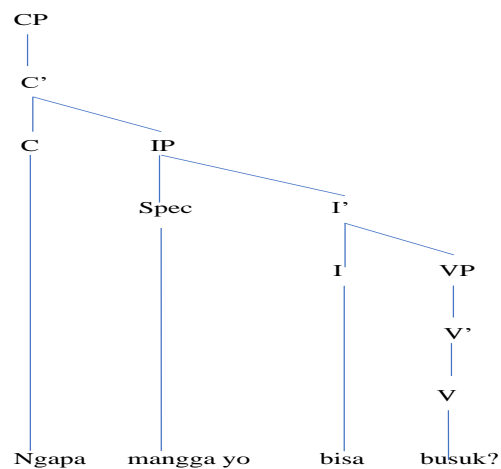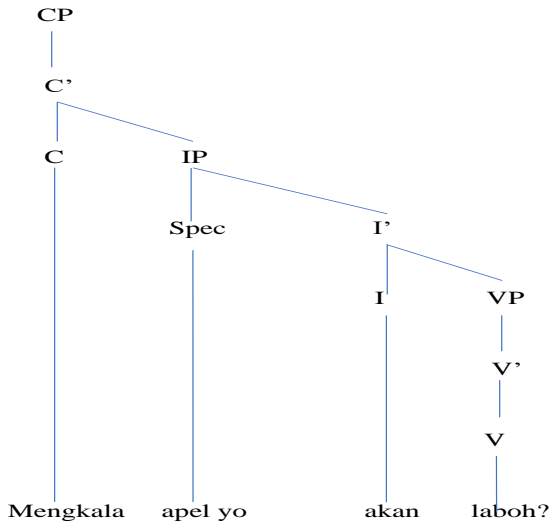

In x-bar schema, inflection bisa combines with complement (comp) VP busuk to form I'. Then specifier mangga yo combines with I' forms IP. Then IP combines with C ngapa.

6) *Mengkala apel yo laboh?*
   Kapan apel itu jatuh?
   'Kapan apel itu jatuh?'

In sentence (6) 'Mengkala apel yo laboh?' is formed by inflection *akan*. VP argument laboh is a verb that is function as complement (comp). NP argument *apel yo* has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence while *mengkala* has function as C because it is a question word. The structure can be described as below.
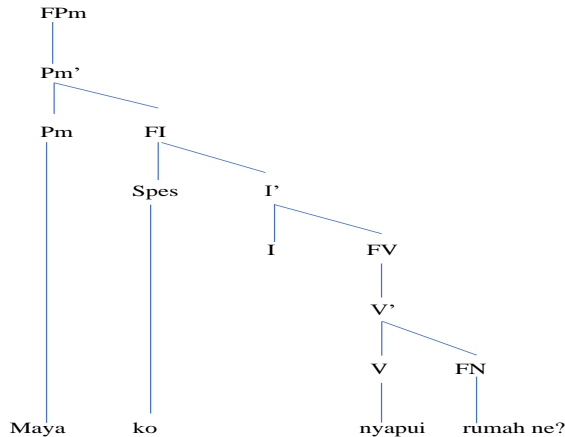
In x-bar schema, inflection *akan* combines with complement (comp) VP laboh to form I'. Then specifier apel yo combines with I' forms IP. Then IP combines with C mengkala.

d) C +Spec + Comp

Another interrogative sentence structure can be formed by complementizer to form the higher level. Complementizer is usually placed by question words such as *'maya', 'dari mana'* etc. This structure can be found in yes-no question with the question word at the beginning.

7) *Maya ko nyapui rumah ne?*
   Apa kau menyapui rumah ini?
   'Apa kau menyapui rumah ini?'

In sentence (7) 'maya ko nyapui rumah ne?' is formed by inflection is removed. VP argument *nyapui* is a verb that is function as complement (comp). NP argument ko has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence while *maya* has function as C because it is question word. The structure can be described as below.

In x-bar schema, inflection that is removed combines with complement (comp) to form I'.

Then specifier ko combines with C forms CP.

8) *Dari mana akak dapat bunga ne?*
   Dari mana kakak mendapat bunga ini?
   'Dari mana kakak mendapat bunga ini?'

In sentence (8) 'dari mana akak dapat bunga ne?' is formed by inflection is removed. VP argument *dapat* is a verb that is function as complement (comp). NP argument aka has function as specifier (spec) because it has function as subject in this sentence while *dari mana* has function as C because it is question word. The structure can be described as below.
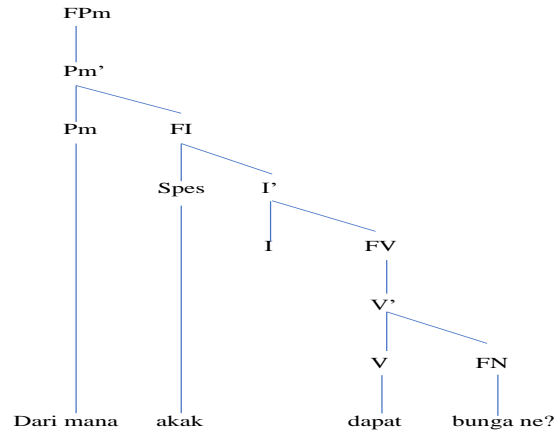

In x-bar schema, inflection that is removed combines with complement (comp) to form I'. Then specifier *akak* combines with C forms CP.

There are 11 questions words in Langkat Malay. Each questions words have a different pattern in X-Bar theory.

Kata Tanya	Spec +Comp	Spec + I +Comp	C + Spec + I +Comp	C + Spec + Comp
Maya	✓	✓		✓
Sapa	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mana	✓	✓		✓
Macem mana		✓		✓
Berapa		✓	✓	✓
Ngapa		✓	✓	✓
Mengkala /Bile	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kat mana	✓	✓		✓
Ke mana		✓		✓
Dari mana	✓	✓		✓

In pattern Spec+Comp, there are some questions words in it such as *maya, sapa, mana, mengkala, bile kat mana dan dari mana*. In pattern Spec+I+Comp, there are some questions words in it such as *macem mana, berapa, maya,*

sapa, mana, mengkala, bile, kat mana, ke mana, ngapa dan dari mana. In pattern C+Spec+I+Comp, there are some questions words in it such as *sapa, berapa, ngapa, mengkala dan bile.* In pattern Spec+I+Comp, there are some questions words in it such as *macem mana, berapa, maya, sapa, mana, mengkala, bile, kat mana, ke mana, ngapa dan dari mana.*

From this research can be concluded that interrogative sentences with question words placed complementizer (C) while interrogative sentence without question words placed specifier (Spec) because the subject in the sentences as noun phrase (NP) has functioned as doer (subject) who did activity. The findings of this research as same as Hafrianto and Mulyadi (2018) researched about interrogative sentences in Malay Tamiang by using X-bat theory and Mayasari and Mulyadi (2020) researched about interrogative sentences in Javanese by using X-bar theory. The results of Hafrianto and Mulyadi (2018) research that interrogative sentences with question words placed complementizer (C) while interrogative sentence without question words placed specifier (Spec) because the subject in the sentences as noun phrase (NP) has functioned as doer (subject) who did activity. While Mayasari and Mulyadi (2020) research that interrogative sentences with question words placed complementizer (C).

IV. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that question words in Langkat Malay are *maya, sapa, mana, kat mana, ke mana, berapa, dari mana, ngapa, macam mana, mengkala,* and *bile.* The rules produced in interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay are: 1) C + Spec + I + Comp, 2) Spec + I + Comp, 3) Spec + Comp, and 4) C + Spec + Comp.

This research just discusses about the structure of interrogative sentences in Langkat Malay to determine the interrogative sentences with question words are placed with complementizer, specifier or adjunct and how the structure of interrogative sentences is not used question words (NP) are placed with complementizer, specifier or adjunct. Because of this the researcher hope the research about Langkat Malay will be done further in another field.

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