



## **Semantic Structure of Verbs ‘Touch’ in Indonesian and Batak Toba Language**

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### **Authors’ contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author SS designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author Mulyadi managed the analyses of the study. Author EMBS managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study discusses the semantic structures of the verbs “touch” in Indonesian and Batak Toba Language. This study applied the Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory by Wierzbicka. The data were collected through observation and interview methods. The findings are four parts of the verbs “touch” found in Indonesian and Batak Toba Language, they are: a) touch – feel; b) touch – press; c) touch – beat; d) touch – rub. The semantic structures of the verbs “touch” in Indonesian and BTL are mostly similar. However, there are three verbs which are different in the semantic structures, they are: *meremas (mamisat)* ‘squeeze’, *menepuk (manompuk)* ‘pat’ and *mencubit (manggotil)* ‘pinch’. The semantic structure differences in Indonesian and BTL occur because the two societies are distinctive and the different use of the language is diverse.

**Keywords:** *Touch; meaning; semantic structures; Indonesian; Batak Toba Language.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The meaning plays an important role in connecting thoughts between speakers in the same language. Language is used to interact in social communication. However, it not only used in oral interactions but also in written expressions. When communicating, the speakers convey their thoughts and the hearer acquires the meaning. In this study, we analyze the verbs 'touch' in Indonesian Language (IL) and Batak Toba Language (BTL). This study is innovative because the research of semantics the structure 'touch' in IL and BTL had never been conducted before.

The semantic verb consist of three aspects, they are: (a) aspect verb; (b) transitivity verb and (c) motion verb. Moreover, motion verb involves three parts, such as (a) verbs of state; (b) verbs of process; and (c) verbs of action. One type of the action verb is motion verb. In [1], Frawley states that motion is the movement of several entities or changing position. Moreover, Goddard defines that motion as the changing position (or as the spatial changing) [2]. Action verb is focused on verb 'touch'. The presence of verb is important in BTL sentences. That is why grammatically the verb always put in the beginning of sentence. For instance, *goit ma tanganni donganmi* (poke your friend's hand). The word 'goit' is verb of touch. BTL has a number of lexicons in verb of touch and specific meaning. The meaning of each lexicon is influenced by the way and touch instrument. However, mostly the using of verb lexicon in BTL and the understanding of verb lexicon meaning are still indicating doubts. Semantically, there are some differences found between IL and BTL words. When the meaning of a language corresponds one versus one with the meaning of another language, the two languages are semantically considered isomorphic or has the same semantic structure [3]. For example, in the word 'touch' there are some verbs in Indonesian which have different semantic structures with BTL, e.g., the verbs 'mengelus' in IL; 'manghao' and 'mangapus' in BTL.

- (1) a. Dia senang mengelus anjing itu.  
b. Lomo rohana manghao biang i.  
'She liked stroking the dog'
- (2) a. Dia senang mengelus kepala abangnya itu.  
b. Lomo rohana mangapus simajujung ni abang na i.

- c. ?? Lomo rohana manghao simanjujung ni abang na i.  
'She liked stroking her brother's head'

The verb 'mengelus' in (1a) and (2a) can be accepted in IL because these are normally used by native and can be done to animate entity (human and animal). but 'manghao' can be done only to animal, as we can see in (1b). The meaning becomes unacceptable if use for human who is older than us. It happens because in Toba Batak society, physical contacts are impolite. Therefore, the semantic structures of the verbs can be seen below.

- Mengelus: (a) X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his fingers.  
(b) because X feels something at Y.  
(c) X wants Y to feel something.  
(d) Y feels something because of X.
- Manghao: (a) X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his fingers.  
(b) NOT because X feels something at Y.  
(c) X does not want Y to feel something.  
(d) Y feels something because of X.

This literature review explores the concept of motions and Natural Semantic Metalanguage. Motion is position changing. In [4], Goddard states that motion as 'change of place' (or of distance). An example of motion is touch. Verbs of 'touch', such as pressing action 'mandampol'(mangurut) and beating action 'mamastap' (menampar), or another action that is analyzed from the natural semantic DO and HAPPEN. Goddard in [3] illustrates the relationship between exponent and 'If X do something to Y, something happen with Y' so the meaning on them can be distinguished by using NSM.

This study used Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) by Wierzbicka. The meaning lies in the notion of semantic primitives (or semantic primes) (see [5] and [6]). Semantic primitives presented in the NSM theory are based on English exponents. The following is the table of semantic primitives [6].

The semantic primitives devices are universal because it can reflect the basic human mind in various culture [6]. The universal itself will find the perfect meaning if two or more languages are compared.

**Table 1. The semantic primitives grouped into related categories**

<b>Substantives</b>	<b>I, You, Someone, Something/Thing, People, Body</b>
Relational Substantives	Kind, Part
Determiners	This, The Same, Other/Else
Quantifiers	One, Two, Some, All, Much/Many
Evaluators	Good, Bad
Descriptors	Big, Small
Mental predicates	Know, Think, Want, Feel, See, Hear
Speech	Say, Words, True
Actions, events, movement, contact	Do, Happen, Move, Touch
Location, existence, possession	Be (Somewhere), There Is, have
Specification	Be (Someone/Something)
Life and death	Live, Die
Time	When/Time, Now, Before, After, A Long Time, A Short Time, For Some Time, Moment
Space	Where/Place, Here, Above, Below, Far, Near, Side, Inside
Logical concepts	Not, Maybe, Can, Because, If
Intensifier, augmentor	Very, More
Similarity	Like/Way

Source: Li et al. [12]

The previous studies are conducted by Syahputra and Sinar (2018), Dewi, et al. (2016), Fitriyani (2018) and Nurhayati (2017). In [7], there are four original meaning which holds a stake in touch verb formation, namely: [FEEL], [BEAT], [PRESSING] and [RUB]. The other components that make up the touch verb is 'someone' and 'something'. The study analyzed semantic structure and role of verb 'touch' in Bali language and IL with subtype do-happen [8]. Each lexicon has metalanguage which analyzed based on the verb lexicon ways of working such as direction of movements, number of movements, speed of movements, strength of action, body parts used as instruments [9]. Furthermore, in [10] also compare semantic structures of the verb touch in Indonesian and Minangkabau language. It can be found that the semantic structure of the verb touch in Indonesian and Minangkabau language are mostly similar and there are two semantic primitives of the verb touch, they are FEEL and TOUCH. The objective of this study is to explore the semantic verb of 'touch' in Indonesian and Batak Toba Language.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The method of this study was qualitative descriptive method. This study involves 3 subjects; they are the native speakers of Indonesian and Batak Toba language. The range of subjects' ages was from 40 to 70 years old. They are asked about how to utter some clauses or sentences which construct with the verb

"touch" in Indonesian and Batak Toba language. The data was collected through observation and interview methods. The subjects were asked to say the clauses or sentences based on the parameter of the verb "touch" as follow:

- (a) X touches Y with the part of his body (the palm of his hand, the front of his fingers, or his tongue) or with something (a tool).
- (b) X touches Y because X feels something at Y.
- (c) X gives effect to Y which makes Y get or feel something.

**Table 2. The verbs "touch – feel" found in Indonesian – Batak Toba language**

<b>Touch - Feel</b>	
<b>Indonesian language</b>	<b>Batak Toba language</b>
<i>mengusap</i>	<i>mangapus</i>
<i>mengelus</i>	<i>manghao</i>
	<i>mangapus</i>
<i>meraba</i>	<i>mandadap</i>
<i>menjamah</i>	<i>manghurtik</i>
<i>menyentuh</i>	<i>mandais</i>
<i>menjilat</i>	<i>mandilat</i>

Furthermore, the subjects were interviewed about the verbs "touch" in Indonesian and Batak Toba language. The subjects were asked to compose sentences contain verbs "touch". There are four parts of the verbs "touch" found in Indonesian and Batak Toba language, (1) touch – feel, (2) touch – press, (3) touch – beat, (4) touch – rub. The following are the table of the data collected.

**Table 3. The verbs “touch – press” found in Indonesian – Batak Toba language**

Touch - Press	
Indonesian language	Batak Toba language
<i>memijit</i>	<i>mandampol</i>
<i>menggenggam</i>	<i>manggolom</i>
<i>mencubit</i>	<i>manggotil</i>

**Table 4. The verbs “touch – beat” found in Indonesian – Batak Toba language**

Touch - Beat	
Indonesian language	Batak Toba language
<i>menepuk</i>	<i>manompuk</i>
<i>menampar</i>	<i>mamastap</i>
<i>memukul</i>	<i>mangantuk</i>

**Table 5. The verbs “touch – rub” found in Indonesian – Batak Toba language**

Touch - Rub	
Indonesian language	Batak Toba language
<i>menggosok</i>	<i>mangosos</i>
<i>menggelitik</i>	<i>manggeohi</i>
<i>menggaruk</i>	<i>manggarut</i>

The data will be analyzed by using distributional method and substitutional technique [11]. Substitutional technique is used to perceive the suitable semantic structure of the verbs “touch” in the sentences.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 The Verbs “Touch – Feel”

The verbs “touch –feel” describe the meaning of someone’s feels when touches something or someone. The touches can be conducted with the parts of body, like the palm of his hand, the front of his finger, the nail, the elbow, lips, and his tongue, which makes someone feels something. There are six verbs “touch –feel” in Indonesian whereas in Batak Toba language consist of eleven verbs, they are: “*mengusap (mangapus)*” ‘wipe’, “*mengelus (manghao)*” ‘stroke’, “*meraba (mandadap)*” ‘grope’, “*menjamah (manghurtik)*” ‘touch’, “*menjilat (mandilat)*” ‘lick’, “*mencium (mangumma)*” ‘kiss’.

#### **Mengelus (mangapus) and (manghao)**

The verb “*mengelus (mangapus)*” is a kind of touching activity by using the palm of his hand and the people who are subjected to the activity of touching feel something. The palm of hand

gesture is slowly and gently because the purpose of gesture is to show an emotion, like care, love, etc.

- (3) a. Dia senang mengelus kepala abangnya itu.  
 b. Lomo rohana mangapus simajujung ni abang na i.  
 ‘She liked stroking her brother’s head’
- (4) a. Dia senang mengelus anjing itu.  
 b. Lomo rohana manghao biang i.  
 ‘She liked stroking the dog’

The previous sentences shown that the verb *mengelus* in Indonesian can be done to animate entity (human and animal), but *mangapus* in BTL can be done only to human, whereas the verb *manghao* in BTL language can be done only to animal.

#### **Meraba (mandadap)**

“*Meraba (mandadap)*” is an activity of touching to parts of body with the palm of hand and fingers. This activity can be done by animate entity to both animate and inanimate entities.

- (5) a. *Dia meraba wajahnya yang memerah.*  
 b. *didadap ibana bohina na marrara i.*  
 ‘She groped her face flushed’
- (6) a. *Lukman meraba sakunya.*  
 b. *didadap si Lukman sakkuna.*  
 ‘Lukman groped his pocket’

The sentences (5) and (6) shown that the meaning of *meraba* in Indonesian and *mandadap* in BTL have a similar meaning, i.e., touching someone’s or something by using the palm of hand and fingers.

#### **Menjamah (manghurtik)**

Menjamah (manghurtik) is an activity of touching to someone’s part of body with the palm of hand or the front of fingers. This activity is objected to animate and inanimate entities. The object X does not have the same feel with the subject.

- (7) a. *Jangan menjamah kaki kuda.*  
 b. *Unang ho manghurtik pat ni hoda.*  
 ‘Don’t touched the horse’s leg.’
- (8) a. ?? *Anak-anak itu bermain sambil menjamah tanah.*  
 b. ?? *marmeam dakdanaki huhut manghurtik tano.*  
 ‘The children play and touch soil’

**Table 6. The semantic structures of “mengelus” in Indonesian and “mangapus and manghao” in BTL**

<b>Mengelus</b>	<b>Mangapus and Manghao</b>
(a) X touches Y on the parts of body (head)	(a) X touches Y on the parts of body (head or back)
(b) X touches Y with the palm of hand	(b) X touches Y with the palm of hand
(c) because of that, something happens to Y	(c) because of that, something happens to Y
(d) X touches Y to make Y feels or gets somethings	(d) X touches Y to make Y feels or gets something

**Table 7. The semantic structures of “meraba” in Indonesian and “mandadap” in BTL**

<b>Meraba</b>	<b>Mandadap</b>
(a) X touches Y with the palm of hand and fingers	(b) X touches Y with the palm of hand and fingers
(b) Because X wants to feel Y	(c) X touches Y with the palm of hand
(c) or X wants to get something	(d) or X wants to get something
(d) Y feels X	(e) Y feels X

**Table 8. The semantic structure of “menjamah” in Indonesian and “manghurtik” in BTL**

<b>Menjamah</b>	<b>manghurtik</b>
X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his fingers	X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his fingers
Because X feels something at Y	Because X feels something at Y
Y does not certainly feel the same as X does	Y does not certainly feel the same as X does
Y feels uncomfortable	Y feels uncomfortable
	Y does not feel anything

**Table 9. The semantic structures of “menjilat” in Indonesian and “mandilat” in BTL**

<b>Menjilat</b>	<b>Mandilat</b>
(a) X touches Y with tounge	(a) X touches Y with tounge
(b) Because X wants to feel Y	(b) Because X want to feel Y
(c) or X ate something on plate greedily	(c) or X ate something on plate greedily
(d) Y gives effect to X	(d) Y gives effect to X

The sentences above show that Indonesian language is similar in using verb ‘*menjamah*’ (*manghurtik*). In BTL the verb *manghurtik* can be done to animate entity and in Indonesian the verb *menjamah* also can be done to animate entity. The verb *menjamah* ‘*manghurtik*’ cannot be done to inanimate entity. The meaning of *menjamah* ‘*manghurtik*’ is touching something to see the reaction of object. In sentence (7) is a warning for someone do not touch because the object will give aggressive reaction, while the sentence (8) show that there is no reaction from the object.

#### **Menjilat (mandilat)**

*Menjilat (mandilat)* is an activity of touching someone or something with tongue. The purpose

of licking is to show greediness. This activity needs two arguments. One argument is as subject (animate entity) and another as object (inanimate entity).

- (9) a. *Dia menjilati piring itu sampai bersih.*  
 b. *Didilati ibana piring i sampe ias.*  
 ‘He licked the plate clean’
- (10) a. *Anjing itu menjilati kaki tuannya.*  
 b. *didilati biang i pat ni tuanna i.*  
 ‘The dog licked it’s owner’s leg’

From the sentences (9) and (10), the verb *menjilat* in Indonesian language has similar meaning to BTL, i.e., touching something or someone with tongue to show greediness. *Menjilat (mandilat)* also has another meaning when it is done by animal. It means to feel be spoiled.

### 3.2 The Verbs “Touch-Press”

The activity of touching with the part of body, like palm of hands and the front of fingers, which gives effect to Y, is kinds of the verbs “touch-press”. It happens when X touches Y, X presses Y with the parts of with the part of body. The example of verbs “touch-press” are “*memijit (mandampol)*” ‘massage’, “*meremas (mamisat)*” ‘squeeze’, “*mencubit (manggotil)*” ‘pinch’.

#### **Memijit (Mandampol)**

“*Memijit (mandampol)*” is an activity of touching someone by pressing them with the part of body, such as the palm of hands and the front of fingers. This activity needs two arguments. One is as subject and the other as object. The two arguments are an animate entity. *Memijit (mandampol)* gives effect to object because it is intended to make object feel better.

- (11) a. *Ibu memijit tangan adik yang sakit karna keseleo.*  
 b. *Oma mandampol tanganni anggi na hansit alani na tarbaliksu.*  
 ‘Mother massage sister’s hand which is hurt because sprain’

From the sentences (11) above, it can be seen that the meaning of *memijit* in Indonesian and *mandampol* in BTL are similar. The meaning of *memijit (mandampol)* is touching by pressing someone’s parts of body, like hands, legs, head, back, and etc) with palm of hand and the front on fingers to makes people recover and feel better.

#### **Meremas (Mamisat)**

“*Meremas (mamisat)*” is an activity of touching someone by pressing them with the part of body, such as the palm of hands and the front of fingers. This activity needs two arguments. One is as subject and the other as object. The two arguments are an animate entity and inanimate entity. *Meremas (Mamisat)* gives effect to people who are subjected to the activity of touching do not feel the same as the X feels and do not want to be treated like that. Another meaning of *meremas (mamisat)* is to make something mushy.

- (12) a. *Lelaki itu meremas pahammu ketika kamu berada di angkutan umum.*  
 b. *dipisat baa i hae-haem tikki na di motor i ho.*

‘That man squeezed your thigh when you were at the public transportation’.

- (13) a. *Dia meremas-remas daun itu sampai lembut.*  
 b. *?? dipisati ibana bulung-bulung i sampe lamot.*  
 ‘She squeezed the leaves soft’

From the sentences above, we can explain that *meremas* in Indonesian can be done to both animate and inanimate entity, but the *mamisat* in BTL can be done only to animate entity.

In Indonesian language, *meremas* means touching something because there is feeling on it, i.e., lust, furious, and etc. When this activity is done either to human or animal, there is a lust in doing that. In BTL, *mamisat* means similar to *meremas* in Indonesian when it is subjected to animate entity, but it is not normal to touch inanimate entity. The meaning becomes unacceptable in BTL (13b).

#### **Mencubit (Manggotil)**

“*Mencubit (Manggotil)*” is an activity of touching that someone does to other people usually with the index finger and thumb together. It means to punish someone and to show anger, resentment, and etc. *mencubit (manggotil)* also means to take something a little. It needs two arguments in which one argument is as subject, and another is as object. The subject is an animate entity and object can be animate and inanimate entity.

- (14) a. *Ibu mencubit tangan adik.*  
 b. *Digotil oma tanganni anggia.*  
 ‘Mother pich sister’s hand’  
 (15) a. *??Ku cubit sedikit dagingmu.*  
 b. *Hugotil otik ikkan jagal mi.*  
 ‘I pinch a little bit your meat’.

From the sentences above, we can see that *mencubit* in Indonesian can be done only to animate entity, but the *manggotil* in BTL can be done to both animate and inanimate entity.

In Indonesian language, *mencubit* means touching that someone does to other people usually with the index finger and thumb. The purpose of the touching is to give punishment and show anger and resentment. Sometimes the result of touching is weeping and pain. The object of the touching in BTL can be animate and inanimate entity and in Indonesian the object must be animate entity.

**Table 10. The semantic structures of “memijit” in Indonesian and “mandampol” in BTL**

<b>Memijit</b>	<b>Mandampol</b>
(a) X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his finger	(a) X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his finger
(b) X does it by pressing Y’s part of body (hands, legs, head, back, and etc.)	(b) X does it by pressing Y’s part of bodies (hands, legs, head, back, and etc.)
(c) X gives effect to Y	(c) X gives effect to Y
(d) Y feels something because of X	(d) Y feels something because of X

**Table 11. The semantic structures of “meremas” in Indonesian and “mamisat” in BTL**

<b>Meremas</b>	<b>Mamisat</b>
(a) X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his fingers	(a) X touches Y with the palm of his hand and the front of his fingers
(b) because X feels something at Y	(b) because X feels something at Y
(c) Y does not certainly feel the same as X does	(c) Y does not certainly feel the same as X does
(d) Y does not want it	(d) Y does not want it
	(e) Y does not feel anything

**Table 12. The semantic structures of “mencubit” in Indonesian and “manggotil” in BTL**

<b>Mencubit</b>	<b>Manggotil</b>
(a) X touches Y with the index finger and thumb together.	(a) X touches Y with the index finger and thumb together
(b) X does it by pressing Y’s parts of body (arm, back, waist, thigh, and etc)	(b) X does it by pressing Y’s parts of body (arm, back, waist, thigh, and etc)
(c) X does it on purpose	(c) X does it on purpose
(d) Y does not want it	(d) Y does not feel anything
(e) Y does not feel anything	

**Table 13. The semantic structures of “menepuk” in Indonesian and “manompuk” in BTL**

<b>Menepuk</b>	<b>Manompuk</b>
(a) X touches Y with the palm of hands.	(a) X touches Y with the palm of hands
(b) because X feels something at Y	(b) because X feels something at Y
(c) X wants Y to feel something	(c) X wants Y to feel something
(d) Y feels something because of X	(d) Y feels something because of X
(f) Y does not feel anything	

### 3.3 The Verbs “Touch-Beat”

The activity of touching with the part of body, like palm of hands and arms, touching with a tool, which gives effect to Y, is kinds of the verbs “touch-beat”. It happens when X touches Y, X beat Y with the parts of with the part of body. The example of verbs “touch-beat” are “menepuk (manompuk)” ‘pat’, “menampar (mamastap)” ‘slap’, “memukul (mangantuk)” ‘hit’.

#### **Menepuk (Manompuk)**

“Menepuk (manompuk)” is an activity of touching someone by beating them with the part of body, such as the palm of hands. This activity needs

two arguments. One is as subject and the other as object. The two arguments are an animate entity and inanimate entity. *Menepuk (Manompuk)* gives effect to people who are subjected to the activity of touching feel the same as the X feels and want to be treated like that. Sometimes, someone pats other people because they want to give support and to calm down.

- (16) a. *Ayah menepuk punggung adik untuk menenangkannya.*  
 b. *Ditompuk bapa tanggurung ni anggikku asa so.*

‘Father taps my brother’s back to calm down him’

- (17) 1a. *Ibu menepuk kursi itu supaya bersih.*  
 b. ?? *Oma manompuk karosi i asa ias.*  
 'Mother pats the sofa to be clean'

From the sentences above, we can see that the verb *Menepuk* in Indonesian can be done to animate and inanimate entity. The purpose of this touching is to calm down someone and another meaning is to make something clean. In BTL, the verb *Manompuk* can be done only to animate entity. The animate entity is parts of body, i.e., back, chest, shoulder, thigh, and etc.

### **Menampar (Mamastap)**

"*Menampar (Mamastap)*" is an activity of touching that someone does to other people usually with the palm of hands. It is subjected to punish someone and to show anger, resentment, and etc. It needs two arguments in which one argument is as subject, and another is as object. The subject and object must be an animate and inanimate entity.

- (18) a. *Ibu menampar adikku.*  
 b. *Dipastap oma anggikku.*  
 'Mother slapped my sisters'  
 (19) a. ??*Ibu menampar meja.*  
 b. ?? *dipastap oma meja.*  
 'Mother slapped the table'.

From the sentences above, we can see that *menampar* in Indonesian and *mamastap* in BTL can be done only to animate entity. *Menampar (mamastap)* means touching that someone does to other people usually with the palm of hands. The purpose of the touching is to give punishment and show anger and resentment. Sometimes the result of touching is weeping and pain. The object of the touching must be animate entity.

### **Memukul (Mangantuk)**

"*Memukul (mangantuk)*" is an activity of touching that someone does to other people usually with hands and a tool. It is subjected to punish someone and to show anger, resentment, and etc. It needs two arguments in which one argument is as subject, and another is as object. The subject and object must be an animate and inanimate entity. It can be done by using a tool.

- (20) a. *Dia memukul adiknya.*  
 b. *Diantuk ibada adekna.*  
 'He hit his brother'  
 (21) a. *Satpam memukul tiang tanda sudah pagi.*

- b. *Satpam mangantuk tiang paboahon naung tiur ari.*  
 'Security hit the pole as sign of morning.'

From the sentences above, we can see that the verb *Memukul* in Indonesian can be done to animate and inanimate entity. The purpose of this touching is to punish someone. It shows the anger and resentment. Another meaning is to announce something. In BTL, the verb *mangantuk* can be done to animate and inanimate entity.

### **3.4 The Verbs "Touch-Rub"**

The verbs "touch-rub" explains the meaning when X touches Y, X rubs Y with the parts of body, like palm of hands, front of fingers and nails, or with something (a tool) which effect to Y. The example of verbs "touch-rub" are "*menggosok (mangosos)*" 'rub', "*menggelitik (manggeohi)*" 'tickle', "*menggaruk (manggaruk)*" 'scratch'.

#### **Menggosok (Mangosos)**

"*Menggosok (mangosos)*" is an activity of touching that someone does to other people or thing by rubbing them repeatedly with hands or a tool. This activity gives an effect to the people who/which are objected because it is intended to make people or something clean. It needs two arguments in which one argument is as subject, and another is as object. The subject and object must be an animate and inanimate entity. It can also be done by using a tool.

- (22) a. *Kakak menggosok pintu kaca itu dengan kain supaya mengkilap.*  
 b. *Akkang mangosos pittu kassa i dohot abit-abit asa marhillong.*  
 'Sister rub the glass door with towel to make them shiny'  
 (23) a. *Saya menggosok tangan saya sampai bersih.*  
 b. *hu osos tanganku sampe ias.*  
 'I rub my hands until clean'

From the sentence above, we can see that the meaning of *menggosok* in Indonesian and *mangosos* in BTL are similar. The purpose of this touching is to make clean. This touching is done repeatedly to get the satisfaction effect.

#### **Menggelitiki (Manggeohi)**

"*Menggelitik (Manggeohi)*" is an activity of touching that someone does to other people



usually with the index finger, middle finger and ring finger. Sometimes, someone tickles other people play fun. It means that someone wants to laugh together with other people. “*Menggelitik*

” needs two arguments in which one argument is as subject, and another is as object. Both subject and object arguments are an animate entity.

**Table 14. The semantic structures of “*menampar*” in Indonesian and “*mamastap*” in BTL**

<b><i>Menampar</i></b>	<b><i>Mamastap</i></b>
(a) X touches Y with the palm of hands.	(a) X touches Y with the palm of hands.
(b) X does it by beating Y’s parts of body (cheek, arm, back, waist, thigh, and etc)	(b) X does it by beating Y’s parts of body (cheek, arm, back, waist, thigh, and etc)
(c) X does it on purpose	(c) X does it on purpose
(d) Y does not want it	(d) Y does not feel anything

**Table 15. The semantic structures of “*memukul*” in Indonesian and “*mangantuk*” in BTL**

<b><i>Memukul</i></b>	<b><i>Mangantuk</i></b>
(a) X touches Y with hands and by using something (a tool).	(a) X touches Y with hands and by using something (a tool).
(b) X does it by beating Y	(b) X does it by beating Y
(c) X wants Y to feel something	(c) X wants Y to feel something
(d) Y feels something because of X	(d) Y feels something because of X
(g) Y does not feel anything	

**Table 16. The semantic structures of “*menggosok*” in Indonesian and “*mangosos*” in BTL**

<b><i>Menggosok</i></b>	<b><i>Mangosos</i></b>
(a) X touches Y with hands and by using something (a tool).	(a) X touches Y with hands and by using something (a tool).
(b) X does it by rubbing Y repeatedly to make Y clean	(b) X does it by rubbing Y repeatedly to make Y clean
(c) X gives effect to Y	(c) X gives effect to Y
(d) Y gets clean because of X	(d) Y gets clean because of X

**Table 17. The semantic structures of “*menggelitiki*” in Indonesian and “*manggeohi*” in BTL**

<b><i>Menggelitiki</i></b>	<b><i>Manggeohi</i></b>
(a) X touches Y by using the index finger, middle finger and ring finger	(a) X touches Y by using the index finger, middle finger and ring finger
(b) X does it by rubbing Y’s part of body (arm, back, waist, and etc.)	(b) X does it by rubbing Y’s part of body (arm, back, waist, and etc.)
(c) X wants to play fun with X and laugh together	(c) X wants to play fun with X and laugh together
(d) X gives effect to Y	(d) X gives effect to Y

**Table 18. The semantic structures of “*menggaruk*” in Indonesian and “*manggarut*” in BTL**

<b><i>Menggaruk</i></b>	<b><i>Manggarut</i></b>
(a) X touches Y with the front of his finger, middle finger, and ring finger	(a) X touches Y with the front of his finger, middle finger, and ring finger
(b) X does it by rubbing Y’s part of body (hands, legs, head, back, and etc.)	(b) X does it by rubbing Y’s part of body (hands, legs, head, back, and etc.)
(c) X gives effect to Y	(c) X gives effect to Y
(d) Y feels something because of X	(d) Y feels something because of X

- (24) a. *Dia menggelitiki temannya sampai tertawa kuat.*  
 b. *Digeohi ibana dongannai sampe margak-argak.*  
 'He tickles his friend until laugh of load'
- (25) a. *??Dia menggelitiki lemari itu sampe tertawa kuat.*  
 b. *??digeogi ibana lamari l sampe margak-argak.*  
 'He tickles the cupboard until laugh of load.'

From the sentences above, we can see that *menggelitiki* in Indonesian and *manggeohi* in BTL have a similar meaning, i.e., touching someone's parts of body by rubbing the index finger, middle finger, and ring finger. The purpose of this touching is to make someone tickled and laugh. This touching can make close relationship between one another. The object of the touching must be an animate entity. Since, inanimate entity cannot feel the effect of tickle.

#### **Menggaruk (Manggarut)**

"*Menggaruk (manggarut)*" is an activity of touching someone by rubbing them with the part of body, such as the front of fingers and nails. This activity needs two arguments. One is as subject and the other as object. The two arguments are an animate entity. *Menggaruk (manggaruk)* gives effect to object because it is intended to make object feel better.

- (26) a. *Ibu menggaruk tangan adik yang gatal itu.*  
 b. *Oma manggarut tanganni anggi na gatal i.*  
 'Mother scratched sister's hand which is itchy'
- (27) a. *??Ibu menggaruk handphonenya.*  
 b. *??Oma manggaruk handphone na.*  
 'Mother scratches her phone'

From the sentences above, it can be seen that the meaning of *menggaruk* in Indonesian and *manggarut* in BTL are similar. The meaning of *menggaruk (manggarut)* is touching by rubbing someone's parts of body, like hands, legs, head, back, and etc with the front of fingers, middle finger, and ring finger to makes people feel better.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The semantic structures of the verbs "touch" in Indonesian and BTL are mostly similar. However, there are three verbs which are different in the semantic structures, they are: *meremas (mamisat)* 'squeeze', *menepuk (manompuk)* 'pat', and *mencubit (manggotil)* 'pinch'.

In Indonesian, *meremas* can be done to inanimate entity, but *mamisat* in BTL can be done only to animate entity (human and animal) because there is an effect that produces of the touching. *Menepuk* in Indonesian can be done to animate and inanimate entity. But in BTL, *manompuk* can be done only to animate entity, because the verb *manompuk* is only subjected to parts of body, i.e., back, chest, shoulder, thigh, and etc. The purpose of the touching is to give support and to calm down. The verb *manggotil* can be done to animate and inanimate entity. It is done to explain picking something a little bit. But in Indonesian, *mencubit* can be done only to animate entity. The semantic structure differences in Indonesian and BTL occur because the two societies are distinctive and the different use of the language is diverse.

#### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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