

## Imperative Sentences in the Bugis Language, Sawitto Dialect"

**Mutahharah Nemin Kaharuddin, Pammuda, Sumarlin Rengko HR, Basiah, Andi Tenri  
Bali Baso**

<sup>12345</sup>Department of Regional Literature, Hasanuddin University, Indonesia

Email: [mutahharahneminkaharuddin@unhas.ac.id](mailto:mutahharahneminkaharuddin@unhas.ac.id), [pammuda@unhas.ac.id](mailto:pammuda@unhas.ac.id), [sumarlinrengko@unhas.ac.id](mailto:sumarlinrengko@unhas.ac.id),  
[basiah@unhas.ac.id](mailto:basiah@unhas.ac.id), [anditenribalibaso@unhas.ac.id](mailto:anditenribalibaso@unhas.ac.id)

### ARTICLE INFO

**Keyword :** Imperative sentences, Bugis language of Sawitto dialect. Imperative sentence is one of the Bugis language, Sawitto dialect, sentence forms that functions to give orders, invitations, requests, or prohibitions to the interlocutor. The research method used is Syntax.

©2025 Mutahharah Nemin  
Kaharuddin, Pammuda, Sumarlin  
Rengko HR, Basiah, Andi Tenri  
Bali Baso

: This is an open-access article  
distributed under the terms of  
the Creative Commons Atribusi  
4.0 Internasional.

### ABSTRACT

*This research aims to describe the types of imperative sentences in Bugis language of Sawitto dialect. Imperative sentence is one of the sentence forms that functions to give orders, invitations, requests, or prohibitions to the interlocutor. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with observation and recording techniques of the native speakers of Sawitto dialect. The results show that there are three main types of imperative sentences, namely (1) imperative command sentences, (2) imperative appeal sentences, and (3) imperative prohibition sentences. These three types of imperative sentences are used productively in the oral communication of the Sawitto community. The imperative sentence of appeal is the most productively used imperative sentence.*





## INTRODUCTION

A sentence is one of the complete units of language, both grammatically and semantically. A sentence is also defined as “the smallest unit of language that can relatively stand alone, having a final intonation pattern in spoken form and adhering to specific conventions such as beginning with a capital letter and ending with a punctuation mark in written form.” Similarly, a sentence can be defined as the largest syntactic unit consisting of a sequence of words that has meaning and ends with a period (in written language) or begins and ends with pauses (in spoken language). A sentence can also be described as “a unit of speech composed of meaningful words used to express thoughts or feelings, which consists at minimum of a subject and predicate and has a final intonation.”

In relation to this, sentences can be classified into several categories. Sentences may be classified based on:

- (a) the number of clauses (simple and compound sentences);
- (b) their internal structure (complete and incomplete sentences);
- (c) the type of response expected (declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences);
- (d) the nature of the relationship between the actor and the action (active and passive sentences); and
- (e) the presence or absence of negative elements (affirmative and negative sentences).

In addition, some scholars suggest that sentences can be classified only into two categories: based on the number of clauses (simple and compound sentences) and based on the function or purpose of the sentence (declarative, interrogative, imperative, and interjectional sentences).

Each of these classifications has its own function and characteristics. One type of sentence based on its function is the imperative sentence. Generally, an imperative sentence is understood as a command. However, its scope is broader than mere commands. Imperative sentences are used to express commands, invitations, warnings, prohibitions, requests, or prayers. Furthermore, an imperative sentence is also defined as a sentence that asks the listener or reader to perform an action. Therefore, imperative sentences are used to prompt the listener or reader to take action, whether through commands, invitations, warnings, prohibitions, or requests. Consequently, imperative sentences are categorized into commands, polite commands, requests, invitations, prohibitions, and permissions. Numerous studies have been conducted on imperative sentences. Research on imperative sentences often focuses on their use in advertisements, such as the study titled “Imperative Sentences in Snack Advertisements” written in 2024 by Dita Franesti and Sudaryanto. The results of this study revealed that two types of imperative sentences were found in snack advertisements: command imperatives and request imperatives. Command imperatives included firm, neutral, and polite commands, while request imperatives were marked with exclamation marks (!) to express a strong intonation.

Another study was conducted in 2019 by Anak Agung Sri Darmawanti, Made Sri Indriani, and I Made Astika, titled “An Analysis of Imperative Sentences in Clarin Hayes’ Skincare Tutorial Videos on YouTube and Their Relevance to Teaching Procedural Texts in High School.” The results of this study showed that Clarin Hayes’ skincare tutorials used five types of imperative sentences. The most frequently used type was the request imperative, consisting of 9 regular imperative sentences, 23 request imperatives, 5 permission imperatives, 9 invitation imperatives, and 15 directive imperatives.

In addition to advertisements, studies on imperative sentences have also been linked to novels, such as the research conducted by Sri Wulandari in 2021 entitled "Imperative Sentences in the Novel *Selena* by Tere Liye: A Syntactic Study." The results of this study revealed the presence of intransitive imperative sentences and identified eight meanings, namely: request imperatives, command imperatives, hope imperatives, prohibition imperatives, permission imperatives, invitation imperatives, and suggestion imperatives.

Similarly, a study entitled "An Analysis of Imperative Sentences in Short Stories" conducted in 2024 by Luk Luatul Ilmiyyah, Moh. Aqil Al-Munawwar, and Icha Fadhilasari found four types of imperative sentences, which were: request imperatives, command imperatives, hope imperatives, and prohibition imperatives.

There are also studies on imperative sentences in speech texts. One such study was conducted by Bherlian Tisofania and Sudaryanto in 2025 under the title "Imperative Sentences in the Speech Manuscripts of Yogyakarta Government Officials." The results indicated the presence of invitation and hope imperatives in the speeches, which conveyed messages and motivation aimed at influencing the audience or readers. The invitation imperatives encouraged the audience to take action, while the hope imperatives expressed wishes for something to happen.

In relation to this, imperative sentences also exist in regional languages, one of which is the Bugis language. The Bugis language is one of the regional languages spoken by the Bugis ethnic group. It has been used for a long time, dating back to the 14th century during the era of the Bugis Kingdom, where it served as the official language of the kingdom, a language of trade, and a means of communication among the nobility. Geographically, the Bugis-speaking region is located on the southwestern peninsula of Sulawesi, which generally includes the areas of Luwu, Wajo, Soppeng, Bone, Sinjai, Bulukumba (excluding Kajang and Bira), parts of Maros and Pangkep, Barru, and Pare-Pare.

In relation to this, the use of the Bugis language has spread across various regions, resulting in the emergence of several dialects. There are two main perspectives regarding the classification of Bugis dialects: one by Pelenkahu, who developed the Language Map of South Sulawesi, and another by Timothy and Barbara Friberg, who proposed a Geography of Bugis Dialects.

According to Pelenkahu's Language Map of South Sulawesi, the Bugis language consists of ten dialects, namely: Luwu, Wajo, Palakka, Ennak, Soppeng, Sidenreng, Pare-Pare, Sawitto, Tallampanuae (Campalagian), and Ugi Rawa. Meanwhile, in the Geography of Bugis Dialects by Timothy and Barbara Friberg, the Bugis language is divided into eleven dialects, including: Luwu, Wajo, Bone, Sinjai, Soppeng, Sidrap, Sawitto, Pasangkayu, Barru, Pangkep, and Camba.

In addition, other scholars suggest a broader classification of Bugis dialects, including the Bone dialect, Pangkep dialect, Makassar dialect, Pare-Pare dialect, Wajo dialect, Sidenreng Rappang dialect, Soppeng dialect, Sinjai dialect, Pinrang dialect, Malimpung dialect, Dentong dialect, Patinjo dialect, Kaluppang dialect, Maiwa dialect, Maroangin dialect, Wani dialect, Bugis Kayowa dialect, Buol Pamoyagon (Bugis Pomayagon) dialect, Buol Bokot (Bugis Bokot) dialect, Jambi dialect, South Kalimantan dialect, Lampung dialect, Southeast Sulawesi dialect, Bali dialect, Central Sulawesi dialect, Riau dialect, and Kalimantan dialect.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of imperative sentences has attracted significant scholarly attention due to their pragmatic and syntactic importance in both spoken and written communication. In general linguistics, imperative sentences are defined as utterances that express commands, requests, suggestions, prohibitions, or appeals, typically directed toward the listener to carry out a particular action (Kridalaksana, 2001). According to Chaer (2007), imperative sentences are syntactic structures that involve speaker intent and are often marked by distinctive verb forms, intonation patterns, or specific markers in a given language. Previous studies have examined imperative sentences in various contexts and genres. For instance, Franesti and Sudaryanto (2024) analyzed imperative sentences in snack advertisements and identified both command and request types, often marked with strong punctuation or modal verbs. Similarly, Darmawanti et al. (2019) explored imperative forms in YouTube skincare tutorials and found five categories: command, request, permission, encouragement, and advice, indicating that imperative sentences are functionally diverse in digital instructional media. Imperative structures have also been studied in literary texts. Wulandari (2021) identified the presence of multiple imperative meanings in Tere Liye's novel *Selena*, including hope, prohibition, and suggestion. Ilmiyyah et al. (2024) analyzed short stories and found four types of imperative sentences, namely command, request, hope, and prohibition imperatives. These studies suggest that imperative forms are context-sensitive and may reflect various interpersonal functions beyond mere command.

The study of imperative sentences has also extended to political and ceremonial speeches. Tisofania and Sudaryanto (2025), for example, investigated government speech transcripts and found that imperative utterances were used to motivate or influence the audience, with a focus on encouragement and wishful statements.

In addition to studies conducted in Indonesian and English, scholars have also explored imperative forms in regional languages. The Bugis language, one of the major regional languages in South Sulawesi, is rich in syntactic and semantic variations, with a number of dialects identified by researchers such as Pelenkahu (2015) and Friberg & Friberg (1991). These dialects include Luwu, Wajo, Bone, Soppeng, Sawitto, and others, each with unique phonological and grammatical characteristics. However, there is limited research that specifically investigates imperative sentence structures in the Bugis language, especially in the Sawitto dialect. While previous studies have focused on general syntactic features or phonological variations across Bugis dialects, a detailed analysis of how commands, requests, prohibitions, and suggestions are expressed in Sawitto Bugis remains underexplored. This gap is particularly important to address, as it contributes to the preservation and deeper understanding of local linguistic diversity in Indonesia. Therefore, this study aims to fill the existing research gap by describing the forms, types, and functions of imperative sentences in the Bugis language, Sawitto dialect. It is expected that the findings will provide insights into the syntactic and pragmatic features of regional languages and support further documentation and revitalization efforts of Bugis language varieties.

## METHOD

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method with the aim of identifying and analyzing the forms and functions of imperative sentences in the Bugis language, specifically the Sawitto dialect. The qualitative approach was considered appropriate due to the linguistic and cultural nature of the data being examined. The focus was on naturally occurring speech rather than artificially elicited responses, allowing for an in-depth understanding of how imperative forms function in daily communication among native speakers.

The data collection techniques involved observation and audio recording of conversations from native speakers of the Sawitto dialect. The selection of participants was purposive, involving individuals from various age groups and levels of social activity, particularly those who frequently engage in spoken interactions in community settings. This approach ensured that the data reflected authentic and diverse usage of imperative forms in real-life contexts.

Following data collection, the utterances were transcribed and analyzed using a syntactic approach to identify the structure and categorization of imperative sentences. The analysis focused on classifying the data into three major types of imperative sentences: command imperatives, appeal imperatives, and prohibitive imperatives. Each type was examined in terms of its linguistic markers and social function, with findings indicating that appeal imperatives are the most frequently used, reflecting the polite and persuasive communication style characteristic of the Sawitto-speaking community.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Bugis language of the Sawitto dialect is one of the Bugis dialects spoken by the people of Pinrang. Among the various types of sentences used in this dialect, imperative sentences are quite productively employed. The types of imperative sentences found in the Bugis Sawitto dialect include command imperatives, advisory (appeal) imperatives, and prohibitive imperatives.

Among these, advisory imperatives are the most frequently used, followed by command imperatives, and lastly, prohibitive imperatives. The following is a detailed discussion of each type:

### 1. Command Imperatives

Command imperatives express directives that require action from the listener. These sentences are typically marked by an intonation that indicates a command. Since they are direct in nature, the subject is often omitted, as seen in the following examples:

1. **Gattungi masiga** – Hang it properly.
2. **Gattungi kono? tu** – Hang it there.
3. **Lullu' sai katabanje** – Wipe the floor (specific to traditional stilt houses).
4. **Pinuŋgi susu deŋko** – Give the child Dancow milk.
5. **Rimpanu to karabau tama balana** – Herd the buffalo into the pen.
6. **Alako sanru? kaju** – Take the soup ladle.

In examples (1)–(5), the subject is implied. However, in (6), the subject **ko** ("you") is explicitly stated. This pronoun is the second-person form in Bugis, indicating that these commands are addressed directly.

There are also other command imperatives that include a reason following the directive:

7. **Pajaini jolo? mapattanni** – Stop playing, it's already night.
8. **Sellei, de? coco?, mabiccū i** – Change it, it doesn't fit, it's too small.
9. **Rempasairo coki e, aja? na teme kono? e** – Throw the cat so it doesn't pee here.
10. **Alliassai ampolo? daŋmu, meloi lao tau mate we** – Buy an envelope for your elder sibling; they want to attend a funeral.

These examples (7)–(10) differ from the earlier ones by including justifications after the imperative. This shows that in the Sawitto dialect, command imperatives can be accompanied by explanatory clauses, although this is not required.

## 2. Advisory (Appeal) Imperatives

Advisory imperatives are used to suggest or encourage actions in a persuasive, often more polite manner. In the Bugis Sawitto dialect, these sentences are varied; they may begin with the appeal followed by a reason, or vice versa.

Examples where the appeal precedes the reason:

11. **Leng pos e mupakeangngi, makanja tu a** – Use the glue, it works well.
12. **Alebbawanni racung sarri? namasitta mate** – Apply herbicide so the grass dies faster.
13. **Bukka i jendela i nattama angingnge** – Open the window to let air in.
14. **Accinokko macula to allo** – Take cover from the heat of the sun.
15. **Dongkara?i jolo nappa mabukka tomba-tomba? na** – Jack it up first, then open the fuel filter.
16. **Passu sai sakka? na tu bela** – Give out the charity.
17. **Taro i piccing na malunra** – Add MSG to make it tasty.
18. **Loro topi mulokka bolana ajimmu** – Go to your grandmother's house during the day.

Examples where the reason precedes the appeal:

19. **Baraduka mupo baja pi mu lao** – He is mourning, go tomorrow instead.
20. **Nako manrei tauwe silliq i babanqe** – If people are eating, close the door.
21. **Mega kasissi? pake ko dodo** – Wear a sarong, there are many mosquitoes.
22. **Ajemu makanja tuppui** – Use your leg to block it (because it's stronger).

This flexible structure indicates a culturally embedded preference for politeness and social awareness. These sentences are commonly used in everyday life and reflect the speakers' tendency toward indirect, yet effective communication.

## 3. Prohibitive Imperatives

Prohibitive imperatives are used to instruct the listener not to do something. In the Bugis Sawitto dialect, the prohibitive marker is typically **aja?**, meaning "don't." These are often straightforward and directly address the second person.

Examples:

23. **Aja? maccule piso na kireqko matuq** – Don't play with the knife; you might cut yourself.
24. **Aja? mupake baju kudara?, tangassoi** – Don't wear a green shirt at noon.
25. **Aja? mupatarri andrimmu** – Don't make your younger sibling cry.
26. **Aja? mujokka, tagabanne wi** – Don't go out; it's already late.

## CONCLUSION

A sentence is the smallest unit of language that has structure and meaning. Sentences can be classified based on various aspects, including the purpose of their use. Based on their purpose, there are imperative sentences, which aim to give commands, invitations, requests, appeals, prohibitions, or hopes. In relation to this, imperative sentences have been widely studied using advertisements, novels, short stories, tutorial videos, or speech scripts as objects of analysis. Furthermore, in regional languages—particularly the Bugis language of the Sawitto dialect—imperative sentences also exist, each with its own unique characteristics. In the Bugis language of the Sawitto dialect, imperative sentences include commands, appeals, and prohibitions. Among these three types, appeal-type imperative sentences are used most frequently. This indicates that in daily interactions, speakers of the Sawitto dialect tend to prioritize persuasive and polite forms when using imperative sentences in social contexts.

## REFERENCES

1. Darmawanti, A. A. S., Indriani, M. S., & Astika, I. M. (2019). Analisis kalimat imperatif dalam video tutorial skincare Clarin Hayes di YouTube dan relevansinya pada pembelajaran teks prosedur di SMA. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 9(2), 324–333.
2. Fadhilasari, I., Al Munawwar, M. A., & Ilmiyyah, L. L. (2024). Analisis kalimat imperatif dalam cerita pendek. *Buana Bastra: Bahasa, Susastra, dan Pengajarannya*, 11(2).
3. Franesti, D., & Sudaryanto. (2024). Kalimat imperatif pada iklan camilan. *Lingua Rima: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 13(2), 227–232.
4. Kaharuddin, M. N. (2022). Bab 5 Sintaksis. In *Linguistik Umum* (pp. 42–91). PT Global Eksekutif Teknologi.
5. Kaharuddin, M. N. (2022). Pemerolehan sintaksis pada murid PAUD di Kecamatan Tamalanrea Kota Makassar. *Indonesian Journal of Early Childhood Education (IJECE)*, 2(1).
6. Kemendikbud. (n.d.). Bahasa dan peta bahasa di Indonesia. Retrieved from <https://petabahasa.kemdikbud.go.id/infobahasa2.php?idb=172&idp=Sulawesi> Selatan
7. Oktafianikoling, R. (2016). Konstruksi kalimat pasif dalam bahasa Muna. *Jurnal Bastra (Bahasa dan Sastra)*, 1(2).
8. Rahardi, K. (2010). *Kalimat baku untuk menyusun karya tulis ilmiah*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Universitas Atma Jaya.
9. Saadah, S. W. (2023). Kajian jenis-jenis kalimat dalam sintaksis: Studi kasus pada film *Dora and The Lost City of Gold*. *Calakan: Jurnal Sastra, Bahasa, dan Budaya*.
10. Sudaryanto, B. T. (2025). Kalimat imperatif pada naskah pidato pejabat pemerintah. *Belajar Bahasa: Jurnal Ilmiah Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 10(1), 21–29.
11. Wulandari, S. (2021). Kalimat imperatif dalam novel *Selena* karya Tere Liye (Kajian Sintaksis). *Jurnal Peneroka*, 1(1), 134–152.
12. Balai Bahasa Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan. (2022). *Kamus Bugis-Indonesia* (Ed. Revisi). Balai Bahasa Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan.
13. Alwi, H., Dardjowidjojo, S., Lapoliwa, H., & Moeliono, A. M. (2003). *Tata bahasa baku bahasa Indonesia* (3rd ed.). Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
14. Kridalaksana, H. (2008). *Kamus linguistik* (4th ed.). Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
15. Chaer, A. (2009). *Sintaksis bahasa Indonesia: Pendekatan struktural*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.



16. Kridalaksana, H. (1982). *Fungsi bahasa dan sikap bahasa*. Jakarta: Pustaka Sinar Harapan.
17. Yule, G. (2010). *The study of language* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
18. Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2011). *An introduction to language* (9th ed.). Boston: Wadsworth.
19. Lyons, J. (1981). *Language and linguistics: An introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
20. Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language* (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
21. Brown, P., & Levinson, S. C. (1987). *Politeness: Some universals in language usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
22. Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do things with words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
23. Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
24. Nadar, F. X. (2009). *Pragmatik dan penelitian pragmatik*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu.
25. Tarigan, H. G. (1986). *Sintaksis*. Bandung: Angkasa.