

The Comparison of Modal Be Going to and Will Between English and Gorontalonese

Aryati Hamzah

Bina Mandiri Gorontalo University

Article Info

Article history:

Received Mar, 2024

Revised Mar, 2024

Accepted Mar, 2024

Keywords:

Comparative linguistics

Future actions

Language and culture

Language variation

Modality system

ABSTRACT

This study explores the differences and similarities in the use of modal expressions "be going to" and "will" between English and Gorontalonese, a language spoken in the Gorontalo region of Indonesia. The modal expressions "be going to" and "will" are commonly used in English to indicate future actions, intentions, or predictions. However, their usage may vary across languages and dialects. Through a comparative analysis of authentic language data, including texts and conversations, this research investigates how speakers of English and Gorontalonese employ these modal expressions in different contexts. The study examines factors such as grammatical structure, semantic nuances, and cultural influences that may contribute to the variation in the usage of "be going to" and "will" between the two languages. The findings provide insights into the linguistic features of modal expressions in English and Gorontalonese, shedding light on cross-linguistic differences and contributing to the field of comparative linguistics.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license.



Corresponding Author:

Name: Aryati Hamzah

Institution: Bina Mandiri Gorontalo University

Email: aryati.hamzah@ubmg.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the goals of learning a language is the ability to use language both spoken and written [1]–[4]. The problem that is usually faced by a human in applying their language skills is how language is used in communication [5]–[8]. The important aspect of learning a language is grammar.

In linguistics, grammar is the set of structural rules governing the composition of clauses, phrases, and words in any given natural language. According to Webster's dictionary (Websterdictionary.com, 2014) grammar is the art of speaking or writing

with correctness or according to established usage, speech considered with regard.

According to [9] Grammar itself has two parts: the first is morphology deals with the structure of words. The second is syntax deals with how words are combined.

Every language has its grammar, for example, in Indonesia. Indonesia consists of 34 provinces with different cultures and languages. every tribe or province has its language. For example: Java language, Batak language, Bugis language, Betawi language, Gorontalo language, etc. Every language has its grammar. The English language also has its grammatical system which has some aspects, such as parts of speech, phrases,

clauses, sentences, tenses, etc. Among those aspects, tenses are interesting, especially about modal.

Based on the reason above, the writer is interested in comparing the modal in the English language and Gorontalo language, especially Will and Be Going To.

Gorontalo language is used by the people who live in the province of Gorontalo. Gorontalo is the 32nd province in Indonesia. Previously, it was a district and municipality of North Sulawesi. It consists of 5 districts and 1 municipality, they are Boalemo, Pohuwato, Bone Bolango, Gorontalo, North Gorontalo, and Gorontalo City (wikipedia.org, 2014).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer presents some theories related to the topic of the research.

1. Grammar

Talking about language, we will not be apart from the use of grammar. In English grammar has two parts, are: morphology and syntax. Grammar is important because it is the language that makes it possible for us to talk about language. Grammars name the types of words and word groups that makeup sentences not only in English but in any language. According to an Encyclopedia Britannic Company (Mariem-webster.com), "*Grammar is the study of classes of words, their inflection, and their function and relation in the sentences*".

According to [10] *The process of describing the structure of phrases and sentences in such a way that we account for all the grammatical sequences in a language and rule out all the ungrammatical sequences is one way of defining grammar.*

When we construct a sentence in English, we should not forget about grammar. Without grammar, we will never know the English language well. In the grammar, there is a modal.

2. Modal and Semi-Modal

According to [9], *there are two syntactically different but semantically related types, Modal and Semi-Modal.*

a. Modal

Modals are helping verbs that express a wide range of meanings (ability, permission, possibility, necessity, etc.). Most of the modals have more than one meaning. They are generally used to indicate something potential or uncertain.

According to the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary (dictionary.com, 2014), "*Modal is a verb such as can, may, or will, etc. that is used with another verb (not modal) to express possibility, permission, intention, etc.*".

A modal must occur initially in such a chain. It cannot be preceded by any other verb in English. According to [11], modal are: can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, and would.

Example of modal:

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Can | : | I <i>can</i> speak English well
I <i>can</i> lend you my car till tomorrow
(google.com:2014) |
| Could | : | I <i>could</i> not open the suitcase then
It <i>could</i> compose a simple children's song
[11] |
| May | : | It <i>may</i> not rain tomorrow
John <i>may</i> be sick
[12] |
| Might | : | I <i>might</i> go to the movie
Tonight I <i>might</i> play cheese with Petter
[11] |
| Shall | : | I <i>shall</i> be late tomorrow
[13]
We <i>shall</i> buy some food for this evening [11] |
| Should | : | The tide <i>should</i> be turning now; I looked up the times before we came here
You <i>should</i> try harder
[14] |
| Will | : | I am tired. I think I <i>will</i> go to bed early tonight [13] |

I *will* repair my motorcycle [11]
 Would : I *would* sharpen the knife, but I could not do it.
 She *would* make omelets, however, she had no time

to do it.
 [11]
 Must : He *must* finish his homework
 I *must* pay my taxes
 (eslgold.com, 2014)

b. Semi-Modal

Semi-modal behaves like other secondary verbs in that they can occur at the beginning or in the middle of a chain, but not at the end. It can occur in an initial position; it does not then have the same import as the corresponding modal. Semi-modal often carries an "unconditional" sense, while modals may indicate prediction, ability, necessity, etc. [9].

According to grammar and composition (about.com), " a multi-word construction based on an auxiliary verb and having some of the same grammatical characteristics. Also known as a semi-modal or lexical auxiliary.

Semi-modal included having to, be able to, be going to, be about to, get to, be bound to, have got to.

Have to and : Necessity
 have got to
 Example : He will have to go
 He does not have to go

[9]
 Be able to : ability
 Example : she is able to dress herself now
 (blogspot.com:2014)

Be going to : prediction
 Example : he has to be going to start writing soon

[9]
 Be about to : imminent activity
 Example : he could be about to win

[9]
 Got to : achievement
 Example : you haven't got to go

[9]

1. Be going to

According to Wikipedia (wikipedia.com, 2014) *Be going to is a grammatical construction used in English to refer to various types of future occurrences.* It is made using appropriate forms of the expression to be going to. It is an alternative to other ways of referring to the future in English, such as the future construction formed with Will, in some contexts the different constructions are interchangeable., while in others they carry somewhat different applications.

Be going to originate by the extension of the spatial sense of the verb go to a temporal sense. Going to is more common in speaking and in informal writing than in formal writing.

One use for the modal auxiliary such as be going to is in showing someone's prediction about the future that someone speaks or writes about before they happen. Another use for be going to is in showing willingness or volition- being agreeable to the idea of doing something (escape com).

Be going to construction consists of the subject, a form of the Capula verb be, the word going, and the to infinitive of the main verb. It can be put into question and negative forms according to the normal rules of English grammar.

Example : The boys are going to fight (s + are + going + to infinitive)
 He is not going to make it (negative forms, scapula negative with the addition of not)
 Are you going to bring sue? (interrogative form)

In English grammar notes, the structure be going to is normally used to indicate the futures in English, we use this structure (grammarcl.com, 2014):

- 1) When we have already decided or intend to do something in the future.
Example: I *am going* to India next week
- 2) When there are definite signs that something is going to happen.
Example: it is so cold! I think it *is going* to snow
- 3) When something is about to happen
Example: Get back! the bomb *is going* to explode
According to [15] use *be going to* talk about plans and intentions. Yo may

wish to practice saying “*gonna*”, but also practice enunciating the full form.

2. Be Going To vs Will

In modal there is *will* and in semi-modal, there is *be going to*. *Be going to* and *will* mean the same when they are used to make predictions. And *be going to* (but not *will*) is used to express a prior plan. *Will* (but not *be going to*) is used to express a decision the speaker makes at the moment of speaking [15].

The difference between *Be Going to* and *Will* (grammarbank.com, 2014):

Table 1. The different between Be going to and Will

No	Will	Be Going To
1	We use when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. Ex: I <i>will</i> have a glass of milk please	We use to talk about a planned activity for future. Ex: there is a good film on TV tonight. I <i>am going to</i> watch that
2	We use for prediction in the remote future. Ex: A: the bridge is not so safe. B: yes, one day it <i>will</i> break down.	We use prediction in the near future. The speaker is sure because there are signs about it. Ex: I think the lift <i>is going to</i> break down. Let's get out
3	We use for requests, invitations, and offers. Ex: <i>will</i> you shut the door, please?	
4	For prediction with the following verbs and phrases. Ex: I believe he <i>will</i> pass the axam	
5	We use with the adverbs perhaps, probably, certainly. Ex: perhaps they <i>will</i> suport you in the election	
6	We use to express promise, not going to. Ex: I <i>will</i> study medicine at university	
7	We use in a question tag after imperative, not going on. Ex: don't look at your friend's paper, <i>will</i> you?	
8	We use to give an order or state our whises, not be going to. Ex: <i>will</i> you turn on the light?	
9	We use to express an action in necessity in the future, not be going to. Ex: you <i>will</i> have to pay a fine if you do not pay your tax on time	
10	We use for threat, not going to. Ex: study hard or you <i>will</i> fail	

3. Gorontalo Language

Gorontalo language is the language spoken by the tribe of gorontalo in provimce of Gorontalo. Gorontalo language divided into some

dialect: East Gorontalo, Gorontalo city, Tilamuta, Suwawa, and West Gorontalo. Gorontalo language describe by Wilhelm Joest (1883) in his book title “Zun Holantalch Sprache”. It is

containing about phonological and followed by discussion about some classes of word in Gorontalolanguage. Gorontalo language use by people of Gorontalo in their daily life, such as in home, in school, in market and ceremonies.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

The methodology and technique of analyzing data which would be used in this research shows how data is retrieved and analyzed. For this purpose, the writer used the method and the technique of collecting data and analyzing data with two ways. The first is library research, the writer reads some books and other material which related to the title of this research. The second is field research, the writer give some sentences to

the people of Gorontalo and then they translate it into Gorontalo language. the data are given by Short Message Service (SMS).

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter covers the data presentation and data analysis. The writer present and analyzes the data that have been obtained from some people of Gorontalo. The writer gives some sentences.

In English language "*be going to*" and "*will*". There are almost same the same thing and interchangeable. Sometimes, there are some situations when one is used more than the other, their usage are different from each other. But in Gorontalo language is different with english language. We can see in the sentences below:

Table 2. Be Going To

No	Be English Language	Gorontalo Language
1	He is going to read the book (english-hilfen.de, 2014)	Tiyo mamu baca buku
2	I'm going to play voly (english-hilfen.de, 2014)	Watia mamu yitohu poli
3	I'm going to pain my badroom tommorow (blogspot.com: 2014)	Watia mamu madeto huwali latia lombu
4	I'm going to go to the bank tommorow (Azar,2003:68)	Watia mamu nao ode bank lombu
5	I'm going to work on my report (Azar,2003:56)	Watia mamu karaja tugasu
6	I'm going to watch TV tonight (Azar,2003:57)	Watia mamu milohe TV hui boti
7	They are going to cut down the tree (Martinus, 2008: 137)	Timongolio mamu luwodu ayu boito
8	Michele is going to attend the competition (Martinus, 2008: 136)	Michele mamu dudu'o lomba
9	She is going to visit the city of Beijing (google.com:, 2014)	Tiyo mamu dudu'o lomba
10	Becareful! You are going to spill your cofee. (englishgrammarsecret.com, 2014)	Po'opiyohe! Yio mamu bihuta kopi olemu

Table 3. Will

No	English Language	Gorontalo Language
1	The students will go for a tour (Martinus, 2008:130)	Ana sikola mamu pasiari
2	She will try to lie (wikipedia.com, 2014)	Tiyo mamu po'olata mohimbulo
3	He will buy book in the book store (Martinus, 2008:134)	Tiyo mamu tali buku to toko buku boito
4	I will safe my money in this bank (Martinus, 2008:134)	Watia mamu lahu doi'u to bank boti

5	The train will stop at the next station (Martinus, 2008:134)	Kereta api mamō tindongo to stasiun boito ma'ō
6	I will stop smoking (englishch-hilfen.de, 2014)	Watia mamō berendi molotopo
7	I will play football (slideshare.net, 2014)	Watia mamō yitohu bola kaki
8	I will join you (Azar, 2003:63)	Watiya mamō gabungia woli ngoli
9	I will stay home until the rain stop (Azar, 2003:65)	Watia mamō titola tobele sampe moti loma'ō didi
10	All her friends will come to her wedding (eslbase.com, 2014)	Nga'amila tamani lio mamō na'ō mayi de pesta lo nika liyo.

The writer give 20 sentences to the respondent consists of 10 sentences used “*be going to*” and 10 sentences used “*will*”. All sentences translated to the Gorontalo language, and the most respondent used the word “*mamō*” before verbs.

In English Language : Gorontalo Language

S + BE GOING TO + V1 }
S + WILL + V1 } S + MAMO + VERB

I will stay home until the rain stop : *watia donggo motitola tobele sampe didi moti*

She is going to visit the city of Beijing : *tiyo mona'ō ode kota Beijing*

Mamō also we can say prefix because the place before verb. In other sentence we can see some people used “*mo + verb*”. The word “*mo*” here as abbreviation from “*mamō*”.

In English when we said the word “*akan*” we can use *be going to* or *will* but there

are express the different meaning. But in Gorontalo language the word “*akan*” we only use *mamō* in anything either the meaning or situation.

In English the word *will* we can used for prediction, request, invitations, offers, threat, promise, etc. While the *be going to* word we can used to talk about planned activity and prediction in the near future. But in Gorontalo language all situation they used the word *mamō*.

5. CONCLUSION

After the writer analyze the data, the writer find the different modal especially “*be going to vs will*” between Gorontalo language and English language. The different there is in the word “*Akan*” in English we can used *be going to* or *will* but in Gorontalo language we only used the word “*mamō*”.

REFERENCES

[1] J. Emig and J. Emig, “Writi ~ g as a m o d e of Learning,” vol. 28, no. 2, pp. 122–128, 2007.
 [2] D. Chun, B. Smith, and R. Kern, “Technology in Language Use, Language Teaching, and Language Learning,” *Mod. Lang. J.*, vol. 100, pp. 64–80, 2016, doi: 10.1111/modl.12302.
 [3] S. Angelil-Carter, “SLA of spoken and written English:Acquiring the Skeptron,” *Tesol Q.*, vol. 31, no. 4, 1997.
 [4] A. Rubin, “A theoretical taxonomy of the differences between oral and written language,” *Theor. Issues Read. Compr. Perspect. from Cogn. Psychol. Linguist. Artif. Intell. Educ.*, pp. 411–438, 2017, doi: 10.4324/9781315107493-22.
 [5] L. L. Tan, G. Wigglesworth, and N. Storch, “Pair interactions and mode of communication: Comparing face-to-face and computer mediated communication,” *Aust. Rev. Appl. Linguist.*, vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 1–24, 2010, doi: 10.2104/aral1027.
 [6] P. D. MacIntyre, Z. Dornyei, R. Clement, and K. A. Noels, “Conceptualizing Willingness to Communicate in a L2: A Situational Model of L2 Confidence and Affiliation,” *Mod. Lang. J.*, vol. 82, no. 4, p. 545, 1998, doi: 10.2307/330224.
 [7] M. Shahid Farooq, M. Uzair-Ul-Hassan, and S. Wahid, “Opinion of Second Language Learners about Writing Difficulties in English Language,” *A Res. J. South Asian Stud.*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 183–194, 2012.
 [8] H. T. Anh Tram, “Problems of Learning Speaking Skills Encountered By English Major Students At Ba Ria-Vung Tau University, Vietnam,” *Eur. J. English Lang. Teach.*, vol. 5, no. 4, pp. 39–48, 2020, doi: 10.46827/ejel.v5i4.3144.
 [9] J. R. Rodriguez, J. W. Dixon, J. R. Espinoza, J. Pontt, and P. Lezana, “PWM regenerative rectifiers: state of the art,”

- IEEE Trans. Ind. Electron.*, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 5–22, 2005, doi: 10.1109/TIE.2004.841149.
- [10] G. Yule, *The Study of Language*. 1998.
- [11] S. Martinus, *Cara Mudah Belajar dan Memahami Tenses*, VI. Yogyakarta: Indonesia Tera, 2008.
- [12] Betty Schramper Azar, "Fundamentals of English Grammar." 2003.
- [13] R. Murphy, *English Grammar in Use with Answers: A Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Students*. England: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- [14] P. Griffiths, "An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics," British: Edinburgh University Press Ltd, 2006.
- [15] B. S. Azar, "Fundamentals of English Grammar, Volume B," 1992.