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Semantic Roles and Valency in Pidie Acehnese

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ABSTRACT
This article describes semantic roles and predicate valency in Pidie Acehnese, focusing on one-argument and two-argument constructions. The dataset comprises 35 Acehnese sentences documented in the underlying research. The reported data-collection techniques are semi-structured interviews with native speakers, translation elicitation from Indonesian into Acehnese, and participatory observation. The analysis follows Kreidler's semantic-role framework and classifies each clause by argument number before interpreting the role of each argument in relation to predicate meaning. The examples show that one-argument predicates may encode actor, affected, or theme relations, while two-argument predicates include agent–affected, agent–effect, actor–place, affecting–affected, affected–affecting, and theme–associate configurations. The findings suggest that valency count alone does not determine semantic interpretation; role assignment depends on the lexical and relational meaning of the predicate. The article contributes a focused descriptive account of predicate–argument patterns in Pidie Acehnese. The dataset is limited to 35 examples, and the available materials do not specify participant numbers or an independent validation procedure; the findings should therefore be treated as preliminary and example-based.

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1. Introduction

Language provides a particularly revealing domain for examining how human communities organize experience into interpretable structures. Within linguistics, semantics and syntax meet most visibly in the predicate–argument relation: predicates introduce events, states, relations, or properties, while arguments identify the entities that participate in those situations. The analysis of semantic roles therefore provides a bridge between the formal organization of a clause and the interpretation assigned to its participants. This interface is especially important in languages whose grammatical systems have received comparatively less detailed description.

Acehnese is an Austronesian language spoken primarily in Aceh, at the northern end of Sumatra, Indonesia. The Pidie area is one of the important regional settings in which Acehnese is used, and the Pidie dialect shares substantial similarities with varieties spoken in other Acehnese districts while retaining locally meaningful patterns. The underlying study emphasizes that semantic research on Acehnese remains less extensive than research on many larger or more widely documented languages. A detailed account of predicate–argument relations is consequently valuable not only for theoretical linguistics but also for language teaching, translation, documentation, and the preservation of local linguistic knowledge.

Semantic-role analysis asks what an argument does, undergoes, represents, or relates to with respect to a predicate. In the present study, the categories are based primarily on Kreidler's framework, which distinguishes actor, affected, affecting, agent, associate, effect, place, and theme. These categories are particularly useful for the Acehnese data because the same broad syntactic position does not necessarily correspond to the same semantic role. A single preverbal argument may function as an actor in an action predicate, an affected participant in a change-of-state predicate, or a theme in a stative or descriptive predicate.

Valency adds a second dimension to this analysis. A predicate's valency concerns the number and type of arguments associated with it. In the underlying research, valency one and valency two constitute the principal analytical scope. This limitation is productive because it permits a close examination of how different semantic configurations are realized with one or two arguments rather than treating all clause types as a single undifferentiated category.

The empirical importance of this issue becomes clear in examples such as Gobnyan geu-khem 'He/she laughs' and Aneuk manyak nyan ji-peu-bukah pot 'The little child broke the vase.' The first contains a single participant associated with an intransitive action predicate, whereas the second contains an agent and an affected participant. Yet the contrast is not exhausted by counting one versus two arguments. The two clauses encode fundamentally different event structures: the first presents an activity centered on one participant, while the second presents an action extending from one participant to another.

Previous research provides important foundations for analyzing semantic roles and argument structure, including work on Acehnese grammatical constructions and comparative studies of Austronesian languages (Brodkin, 2022; Fata et al., 2022; Garcia & Kidd, 2022; Lestari & Mulyadi, 2023; Taib & Mulyadi, 2023). However, the sources reviewed here do not provide a unified account of how the eight role categories adopted in this study are distributed across one-argument and two-argument predicates in the Pidie variety. The present article addresses this descriptive gap by analyzing a set of 35 documented sentences and relating role assignment to predicate meaning, rather than inferring semantic roles from grammatical position alone. Because the dataset is limited, this contribution is best understood as a focused empirical description, not an exhaustive account of Pidie Acehnese argument structure.

The article has two objectives. First, it describes the sentence structures associated with one-argument and two-argument predicates in Pidie Acehnese. Second, it identifies and interprets the semantic roles associated with those arguments. The central claim emerging from the data is that valency and semantic role are mutually informative: the number of arguments provides a structural profile of the predicate, while the semantic roles reveal how the predicate conceptualizes the relation among those participants.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Semantic Roles and Predicate–Argument Structure

Semantic roles have long been used to describe recurring relations between predicates and their participants. Fillmore's case-role approach established the importance of representing participants according to their semantic contribution rather than treating grammatical subject and object as sufficient descriptions (Fillmore, 1968). Van Valin and related approaches further developed the idea that semantic roles mediate the relationship between lexical meaning and syntactic realization (Van Valin, 1999). Jackendoff (1990) likewise demonstrated the importance of semantic structure in representing relations among participants and events. In this tradition, a predicate is understood as a relational center whose lexical meaning constrains the interpretation and number of its arguments.

Kreidler's framework is adopted because it provides a practical inventory of semantic roles that can be applied consistently to the sentence patterns documented in this study (Kreidler, 1998). The purpose is not to claim that this inventory is universally superior to

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other role systems, but to use a transparent set of distinctions suited to the present descriptive questions. In particular, the framework helps distinguish an actor who performs an action, an agent whose action affects another participant, an affected participant that undergoes a state or change, and a theme that is characterized or identified. These distinctions are useful only when justified by predicate meaning and the interpretation of the complete clause.

The distinction among actor, agent, affected, and theme is central. The semantic status of a subject cannot be inferred from position alone. Gobnyan in Gobnyan geu-khem is an actor because the predicate presents laughter as an action centered on the participant. By contrast, Abusyik in Abusyik saket 'Grandfather is sick' is affected because the predicate describes a state that characterizes the participant rather than an action performed by it. Such contrasts illustrate why predicate semantics must remain central to role assignment.

2.2 Valency

Valency refers to the number and type of arguments associated with a predicate. Kreidler (1998) treats propositions as consisting of a predicate and referring expressions, with the number of arguments constituting the predicate's valency. Contemporary work on argument structure likewise emphasizes that predicates encode information about how many participants are licensed or required and how those participants map into clause structure.

Valency should not be equated mechanically with surface word count. A two-argument predicate may express very different semantic relations depending on its lexical meaning. In the present Acehnese data, agent–affected constructions such as 'the child broke the vase' differ from agent–effect constructions such as 'Mr. Raman makes a table.' Both are two-argument clauses, but the second argument in the latter is interpreted as a product brought into existence by the event. Likewise, motion predicates combine an actor with a place, while relational predicates combine a theme with an associate. This predicate-centered perspective is consistent with Kimmelman et al. (2019), Lestari and Mulyadi (2023), and Pujiyani et al. (2024), all of whom emphasize the relationship between predicate meaning, argument structure, and semantic roles.

Recent studies support this analytical perspective. Garcia and Kidd's (2022) study of Tagalog verb–argument structure demonstrates the importance of examining how argument position and thematic-role assignment vary within a Western Austronesian language. Brodkin (2022) shows that argument structure can be closely connected with voice morphology and the licensing of arguments in Mandar. Research on Batak Toba likewise demonstrates the usefulness of argument structure for describing typological properties of another Austronesian language (Manurung & Mulyadi, 2021). Romain (2022) further argues that argument-structure interpretation benefits from attention to the interaction among verbs, themes, and constructions rather than from treating the verb as the sole determinant.

2.3 Acehnese and Comparative Research

Previous research on Acehnese has examined grammatical patterns such as passive constructions, reduplication, and language contact (Fata et al., 2022; Taib & Mulyadi, 2023). These studies establish that Acehnese grammar can be approached from several complementary perspectives, but they do not, on the evidence reviewed for this article, provide a systematic classification of the Pidie sentence examples according to the semantic-role inventory used here. The current study therefore focuses narrowly on the relationship between predicate meaning, argument number, and semantic-role assignment.

Comparative studies provide a useful context for this description. Lestari and Mulyadi (2023) examine thematic categories of arguments in verbal clauses in Batak Toba, while Brodkin (2022) analyzes the relationship between voice and argument licensing in Mandar. A

recent study of the Aek Kanopan variety of Batak Toba also illustrates the continuing value of documenting argument structure in regional Austronesian varieties (Asridayani et al., 2026). These studies demonstrate the value of examining argument structure in individual languages without assuming that the same grammatical patterns occur in every language. The present article adds a focused description of Pidie Acehnese, while leaving broader claims about cross-linguistic similarities for future comparative research.

2.4 Analytical Framework

The broader linguistic motivation for the study follows the view that language is a structured system encompassing grammatical and semantic subsystems (Hurford, 2007). The use of contextual qualitative analysis is also consistent with research that treats semantic roles as meaning-bearing relations rather than as simple counts of lexical items (Tri Sukarsih et al., 2022). From a wider theoretical perspective, the study of argument structure remains relevant beyond natural-language description because the organization of predicates and their participants is central to how relational structure is represented (Bosc & Vincent, 2022).

The analysis follows a predicate-centered procedure. Each sentence is first segmented into predicate and argument(s). The predicate is then examined for the kind of event, state, description, movement, influence, or relation it expresses. Each argument is assigned a semantic role according to its contribution to that predicate. Finally, the number of arguments is used to classify the construction as valency one or valency two. This procedure avoids treating semantic roles as fixed grammatical labels and instead recognizes their dependence on predicate meaning and clause context.

Semantic role	Operational interpretation	Illustrative Acehnese pattern
Actor	Performs an action without affecting another entity	Gobnyan geu-khem
Affected	Undergoes a state/change or is impacted	Abusyik saket; pot in ji-peu-bukah
Affecting	Exerts influence on another participant	Penampilan jih teukeujot kuh
Agent	Performs an action that affects another participant	Aneuk manyak nyan ji-peu-bukah pot
Associate	Relational counterpart of a theme	Maryani aneuk dara Abu Gadeng
Effect	Entity/product brought into existence by the action	meja in geupeuget meja
Place	Location or spatial/temporal setting licensed by a predicate	jalan in meukoh jalan
Theme	Topic of a stative/descriptive or relational predicate	Siti meu-pep-pep

3. Research Method

This study uses a qualitative descriptive design to identify and interpret predicate–argument configurations in Pidie Acehnese. Its aim is not to estimate the frequency of semantic roles in a statistically representative corpus, but to provide a structured analysis of the examples documented in the underlying research. The analysis is therefore limited to the available data and should not be treated as an exhaustive grammar of the Pidie variety.

The underlying research reports three data-collection techniques: semi-structured interviews with native Acehnese speakers, a questionnaire in which Indonesian sentences were translated into Acehnese, and participatory observation of Acehnese use in social

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interaction. The article materials available for this revision do not specify the number of participants, their demographic profiles, recruitment criteria, interview duration, or the exact observation period. These details cannot be supplied reliably without confirmation from the authors and should be added from the original research records before submission. No participant count or demographic information is inferred in this article.

The analytical dataset comprises 35 Acehnese sentence examples numbered 1–35 in the underlying analysis and appendix. The examples were retained because they illustrate one-argument and two-argument predicates and the semantic-role categories addressed by the study. The available manuscript does not provide a separate selection protocol or an independent validation procedure for the translations. Accordingly, the examples are analyzed as documented in the source research, and the scope of the findings is restricted to this set of sentences. Before publication, the authors should verify each Acehnese form and English translation with the original records and, where possible, a competent Pidie Acehnese speaker. Analysis proceeded in three stages. First, examples relevant to predicate–argument structure were selected from the documented dataset. Second, each clause was classified by the number of arguments associated with its predicate. Third, each argument was assigned a semantic role based on the predicate's meaning and the contribution of that argument to the event, state, description, or relation expressed by the clause. For potentially overlapping categories, the analysis distinguishes agent from actor by whether the action affects another participant; affected from effect by whether the participant undergoes a change or is brought into existence; and place from associate by whether the predicate expresses motion toward/through a location or a static relational link. These are working analytical criteria and should be checked against the speakers' intended interpretations.

Glosses and abbreviations follow the conventions reported in the underlying research. The source materials available for this revision do not make it possible to verify the full source used for those conventions. Person-sensitive prefixes, aspectual markers, copular elements, and prepositions are therefore treated as supporting grammatical evidence, not as sufficient markers of semantic role on their own. The role assigned to an argument is based on the predicate–argument configuration as a whole.

4. Discussion

The empirical evidence reveals a system in which valency provides the structural skeleton of the clause, while semantic roles provide the interpretive substance. The thirty-five examples do not form a random collection of sentence patterns. Instead, they cluster into recurrent configurations that correspond closely to the lexical-semantic properties of the predicates. The discussion below therefore proceeds from one-argument predicates to the several two-argument configurations documented in the data, followed by an examination of morphological and discourse-related patterns that cut across those configurations.

4.1 Valency-One Predicates: One Argument, Multiple Semantic Configurations

The first major finding is that valency one in Pidie Acehnese is semantically heterogeneous. A one-argument clause does not automatically assign the same role to its single argument. The data contain at least four distinct configurations: actor–action, affected–event/change of state, theme–description, and theme–identity. This is an important empirical point because a purely syntactic account might group all four constructions together as 'intransitive' or 'one-place' predicates and thereby conceal meaningful differences.

Examples 1–3 illustrate the actor configuration: Gobnyan geu-khem 'He/she laughs'; Ilyas ji-klik 'Ilyas cries'; and Cicem nyan ji-meu-nari 'The bird dances.' In each case the predicate denotes an action or activity carried out by a single participant. The participant does

not act upon a separately expressed object. Gobnyan, Ilyas, and cicem therefore function as actors rather than agents. The distinction is consistent with Kreidler's definition: an actor performs an action, whereas an agent is an actor whose action affects another entity.

The contrast between actor and affected becomes visible in examples 4–6: Abusyik saket 'Grandfather is sick'; Bak kayee nyan ka rubah 'The tree has fallen'; and Lumo nyan ka mate 'The cow has died.' The predicates saket, rubah, and mate describe a condition or change experienced by the subject. Abusyik is not presented as performing the state of being sick; similarly, the tree and cow are represented as undergoing events. The underlying analysis therefore identifies these arguments as affected.

Examples 7–9 introduce another configuration. Siti meu-pep-pep 'Siti is fussy'; Rumoh tuha nyan meu-hantu 'The old house is haunted'; and Moto merah nyan i-plueng kop bagah 'The red car runs fast enough.' Here the predicate primarily characterizes the subject. The subject is the theme of the proposition: it is the entity about which a description is asserted. The distinction is especially important for evaluative predicates such as meu-pep-pep, because the predicate expresses a characterization rather than a directly observable physical action. The underlying study explicitly notes that some descriptive adjectives may involve subjective evaluation.

Examples 10–12 present one-argument identity constructions: Ayah jih nyankeuh peumimpen pasukan 'His father is an army leader'; Arabika ngen robusta nyankeuh kupi 'Robusta and arabica are coffee'; and Ureung agam nyan nyankeuh satpam 'The man is a security guard.' In these constructions, the predicate establishes identity or category membership. The subject is again treated as theme, while the predicate supplies a referential identity. The two elements can, in appropriate contexts, be reversed for emphasis, as the underlying analysis illustrates with peumimpen pasukan nyankeuh ayah jih.

These examples demonstrate that valency one should be interpreted as a structural property of the predicate rather than as a semantic role label. Actor, affected, and theme are all compatible with a single argument. Consequently, a robust analysis of Pidie Acehnese must preserve the distinction between argument count and semantic function, a distinction also relevant to contemporary semantic-role annotation and labeling research (Yan & Liu, 2022; Li et al., 2021).

4.2 Empirical Profile of Valency-One Constructions

Data	Acehnese	Predicate type	Argument role	Interpretation
1	Gobnyan geu-khem	Intransitive action	Actor	Laughing
2	Ilyas ji-klik	Intransitive action	Actor	Crying
3	Cicem nyan ji-meu-nari	Intransitive action	Actor	Dancing
4	Abusyik saket	State	Affected	Being sick
5	Bak kayee nyan ka rubah	Change of state	Affected	Falling
6	Lumo nyan ka mate	Change of state	Affected	Dying
7	Siti meu-pep-pep	Description	Theme	Being characterized as fussy
8	Rumoh tuha nyan meu-hantu	Description	Theme	Being described as haunted
9	Moto merah nyan i-plueng kop bagah	Description/action-state	Theme	Being described as fast-running
10	Ayah jih nyankeuh	Identity	Theme	Identified as army

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Data	Acehnese	Predicate type	Argument role	Interpretation
	peumimpen pasukan			leader
11	Arabika ngen robusta nyankeuh kupi	Identity/category	Theme	Identified as coffee
12	Ureung agam nyan nyankeuh satpam	Identity/category	Theme	Identified as security guard

The table makes visible an analytical pattern that is easy to miss when examples are discussed individually. Actor is restricted in the dataset to dynamic one-place actions, affected is associated with state or change-of-state predicates, and theme is associated with descriptive and identity predicates. The distribution is not evidence that these roles are immutable properties of particular grammatical positions. Rather, it suggests that predicate semantics provides the principal basis for role assignment.

The empirical pattern also indicates that the surface subject position in the Acehnese examples does not uniquely determine semantic interpretation. The same structural position hosts an actor in Gobnyan geu-khem, an affected participant in Abusyik saket, and a theme in Siti meu-pep-pep. This supports a predicate-centered account in which semantic roles are interpreted relationally.

4.3 Agent–Affected: The Prototypical Two-Argument Action Pattern

Examples 13–15 provide the clearest two-argument action pattern: Aneuk manyak nyan ji-peu-bukah pot ‘The little child broke the vase’; Mak tengoh geu-cang gule ‘Mom is cutting vegetables’; and Ureung yang maguen nyan geu-croh ungkot ‘The cook fries the fish.’ Each predicate introduces an agent that performs an action and an affected entity toward which that action is directed.

In example 13, the child is analyzed as an agent because the clause presents the child as carrying out the breaking event, while pot ‘vase’ is affected because it undergoes the resulting change. Examples 14 and 15 are analyzed similarly: Mak ‘Mom’ and Ureung yang maguen nyan ‘the cook’ are the action performers, while gule ‘vegetables’ and ungkot ‘fish’ are the participants toward which the actions are directed. These interpretations depend on the intended meanings of the predicates and the contexts in which the sentences were elicited; they should not be inferred from first-argument and second-argument position alone.

The importance of this pattern lies in the interaction of valency and semantic role. The predicates bukah, cang, and croh are interpreted as requiring or permitting an actional relation in which an actor’s activity extends to another participant. The first argument is therefore not merely ‘the subject’; it is semantically agentive. Likewise, the second argument is not merely ‘the object’; it is affected because the event is construed as having consequences for it.

The examples also support the observation in the underlying thesis that verb semantics strongly constrains semantic-role assignment. If the same nominal were placed in a different predicate environment, its role could change. Thus, semantic roles should be assigned after the predicate has been interpreted, not before.

4.4 Agent–Effect: Creation as a Distinct Two-Argument Configuration

Examples 16–18 reveal a crucial distinction from the agent–affected pattern. Abua Raman geu-peuget meja ‘Mr. Raman makes a table’; Masyik geu-anyam tika ‘Grandmother weaves a mat’; and Awak nyan ji-tuleh puisi ‘They wrote a poem.’ In these clauses, the second argument is interpreted not simply as an entity that undergoes an effect, but as the

result or product of the action. The underlying analysis consequently identifies meja, tika, and puisi as effects.

The distinction between affected and effect requires particular care. In the examples of making a table, weaving a mat, and writing a poem, meja, tika, and puisi are analyzed as effects because they are construed as products created by the event. By contrast, an affected participant is already identifiable in the event representation and undergoes a change or consequence. This distinction is plausible for the examples presented, but the authors should confirm that the Acehnese predicates and translations consistently support a creation reading.

The contrast between examples 13–15 and 16–18 therefore demonstrates that valency does not fully determine semantic structure. Both sets are two-argument clauses, but their role configurations differ: agent–affected versus agent–effect. This is precisely why a semantic-role analysis adds explanatory value beyond a simple transitivity classification.

From a typological perspective, the pattern is also useful because it provides a compact empirical basis for comparing Pidie Acehnese with other Austronesian languages. Research on argument structure in Batak Toba and Mandar similarly demonstrates that the identification of argument roles requires attention to predicate meaning and argument realization rather than to surface position alone.

4.5 Actor–Place: Motion and Spatial Relations

Examples 19–21 extend valency-two analysis beyond prototypical transitive actions. Kamoe meu-koh jalan ‘We cross the road’; Dosen nyan geu-tameng lam ruang ‘The lecturer enters the room’; and Siben ji-ek u cong kayee ‘The monkey climbs up the tree.’ The first argument is an actor because it performs the movement, while the second argument is interpreted as a place or spatial setting.

The second argument in these examples is analyzed as place because it identifies a path, destination, or spatial setting associated with motion. The distinction from associate is functional rather than positional: place is used here for a spatial participant selected by a motion predicate, whereas associate is used for a second entity that establishes a static location or another relation with the theme. Because the distinction can vary with predicate meaning and construction, the analysis should be checked against the intended readings of the Acehnese sentences.

The examples further indicate that prepositions contribute to the expression of the spatial relation. In Siben ji-ek u cong kayee, u introduces the upward destination or spatial target. The underlying findings note that motion verbs explicitly mark location and target, often through u. This suggests that semantic role assignment in Pidie Acehnese is supported by a combination of predicate semantics and relational morphology.

These clauses are also a reminder that ‘two arguments’ should not be reduced to ‘subject plus object.’ A predicate may establish a relation between an actor and a place, and that place may be structurally important to the interpretation even though it does not behave like a patient. The data therefore support a broader conception of valency in which spatially oriented predicates can license a second semantic participant.

4.6 Affecting–Affected and Affected–Affecting: Two Directions of Influence

Examples 22–24 introduce predicates of influence: Penampilan jih teu-keujot kuh ‘His performance surprised me’; Tingkah jih bingkeng teuh ‘His behavior irritates us’; and Jumoh awak nyan yo meuh ‘Their expression scared us.’ In these sentences, the first argument is the affecting entity, while the second is the affected or influenced participant. The semantic relation is therefore not a physical transfer but a causal or psychological influence.

The significance of this configuration is especially clear when it is compared with examples 25–27: Ampon Ziad iri keu adoe jih ‘Ampon Ziad envied his sister/brother’; Husen

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beungeh keu Kabir 'Husen was annoyed with Kabir'; and Pocut Maneh galak tempat piasan 'Pocut Maneh likes the entertainment place.' Here the order of semantic roles is reversed. The first argument is affected, because the emotion or psychological state is experienced by the subject, while the second argument is affecting or functions as the stimulus associated with that experience.

The pair of configurations demonstrates that semantic roles are not reducible to grammatical order. In 22–24, the first argument initiates or produces an effect on the second participant. In 25–27, the first argument experiences an affective state in relation to the second participant. The surface pattern is structurally similar—two arguments connected by a predicate—but the direction of semantic influence differs.

This finding is particularly valuable because it shows how lexical semantics determines argument interpretation. The predicates of surprise, irritation, and fear construe one participant as the source of influence and another as its experiencer or target. The predicates of envy, annoyance, and liking instead construe the first participant as the experiencer of an affective condition. A theoretically adequate description of Pidie Acehnese therefore needs semantic role labels that can represent directionality of influence.

4.7 Theme–Associate: Relational, Spatial, Temporal, Social, and Measurement Predicates

Examples 28–35 form the most internally diverse group of two-argument constructions. Rumoh lon i-likot Bank Aceh 'My house is behind the Aceh Bank'; Aceh na di ujong baroh pulo Sumatera 'Aceh is located at the northern tip of Sumatra'; Rapat geu-neuk peuget leuh seumbahyang isya 'The meeting will be held after isya prayer'; Glah selanjut jih bak poh dua 'The next class is at two o'clock'; Maryani aneuk dara Abu Gadeng 'Maryani is the daughter of Mr. Gadeng'; Abang lon toke jih 'My brother is his boss'; Yum bajee nyoe nyankeuh dua reutoh ribee 'The cost of this shirt is two hundred thousand'; and Brat breuh nyoe nyankeuh limong blah kilo 'The weight of this rice is fifteen kilos.'

The common structural property is a linking relation between two arguments rather than an action performed by one participant upon another. The first argument is treated as theme and the second as associate. In spatial clauses, the associate supplies the location relative to which the theme is situated. In temporal clauses, the associate supplies the temporal reference point. In kinship and occupational clauses, the associate identifies a social relationship. In measurement clauses, the associate provides a numerical value or measure.

The spatial examples show why place can be analyzed as a semantic role in actional motion predicates while associate can be appropriate in relational location predicates. Rumoh lon i-likot Bank Aceh does not depict the house as moving toward or acting upon the bank. Instead, it establishes a static spatial relationship. Similarly, Aceh na di ujong baroh pulo Sumatera establishes a locational relation between Aceh and the northern end of Sumatra.

The temporal examples broaden the notion of association. Rapat ... leuh seumbahyang isya places an event after a temporal reference point, while Glah selanjut jih bak poh dua identifies the next class with a clock time. The relation is not spatial or physical, but the same theme–associate logic remains: an entity or event is characterized through its relation to another conceptual reference point.

Examples 32 and 33 demonstrate that social relations are also naturally represented as two-place predicates. Maryani is identified through a kinship relation to Abu Gadeng, and Abang lon is identified as someone's boss. The underlying thesis correctly observes that a person cannot be a child, boss, or comparable relational status in complete semantic isolation; the relational status presupposes another participant or reference entity.

Examples 34 and 35 extend this relational pattern to measurement. The cost of a shirt is linked to a monetary amount, while the weight of rice is linked to a quantity. These examples are theoretically useful because they show that argument structure is not restricted to eventive verbs. Relational and measurement predicates also create two-place structures, and semantic roles provide a way to represent the nature of the relation.

4.8 Cross-Cutting Morphological Evidence

Several recurring grammatical patterns accompany the semantic-role configurations in the dataset. The forms ka, nyankeuh, u, and the prefixes geu- and ji-/i- are reported in the underlying research, but the present dataset is not sufficient to establish a complete grammatical analysis of these forms. They are therefore discussed as observations associated with the examples, rather than as categorical diagnostics of semantic role. The distinction between semantic roles and syntactic functions is also important in semantic-role research (Yan & Liu, 2022), while computational studies treat predicate–argument structure as a central representational object (Alam et al., 2021; Li et al., 2021).

A second pattern concerns nyankeuh, used in identity and measurement constructions. The underlying findings state that nyankeuh functions as a copula and is relatively rare in daily conversation, while appearing in effective or formal sentence constructions. Examples 10, 11, 34, and 35 illustrate its linking function. Its contribution is therefore best understood as relational rather than as a semantic-role marker in its own right.

A third pattern concerns person-sensitive verbal prefixes. The data distinguish forms such as geu- and ji-/i-, and the underlying findings associate these differences with the social or referential status of the subject. Gobnyan geu-khem contrasts with Ilyas ji-klik, and other examples use geu- or ji- according to the subject. This pattern is important because it demonstrates that morphosyntactic form may encode information about the referent while semantic role remains determined by the predicate–argument relation.

The data also contain object pronouns such as kuh, teuh, and meuh in examples 22–24. Their occurrence as second arguments demonstrates that semantic roles are not restricted to full noun phrases. In Penampilan jih teukeujot kuh, for example, kuh realizes the participant affected by the surprising performance. This is compatible with the broader observation in semantic-role research that argument realization can vary while the predicate–argument relation remains analytically recoverable (Larionov et al., 2019).

Finally, the thesis reports no general morphological distinction between singular and plural forms except where number is explicitly designated. This observation should be treated cautiously because the underlying dataset is limited and was not designed as a full number-morphology investigation. Nevertheless, within the documented examples, the absence of obligatory singular–plural alternation does not prevent semantic-role interpretation. Role assignment remains recoverable from predicate meaning, argument identity, and contextual relations.

4.9 What the Empirical Data Reveal About Valency

Taken together, the thirty-five examples support three broader conclusions about valency in Pidie Acehnese. First, valency is predicate-centered. The number and nature of arguments depend on the semantic and grammatical properties of the predicate. Second, semantic roles are more fine-grained than valency counts. The same valency value can host several different role configurations. Third, valency is not limited to prototypical transitivity: place, influence, identity, kinship, temporal reference, and measurement can all participate in two-argument structures.

The data can therefore be represented as a set of recurrent mappings: one-argument action predicates → actor; one-argument state/change predicates → affected; one-argument

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descriptive and identity predicates → theme; two-argument action predicates → agent + affected; productive predicates → agent + effect; motion predicates → actor + place; influence predicates → affecting + affected; affective predicates → affected + affecting; and relational predicates → theme + associate.

These mappings are not claimed to constitute an exhaustive grammar of Acehnese. The underlying research explicitly limits its scope to valency one and valency two in the Pidie dialect. Nevertheless, the patterns are sufficiently recurrent within the documented dataset to support the conclusion that Pidie Acehnese possesses a systematic semantic-role architecture.
The findings also fit broader Austronesian research. Studies of Tagalog show that verb–argument structure and thematic-role assignment can vary across constructions; research on Mandar connects argument structure to voice and case licensing; and work on Batak Toba demonstrates the importance of mapping semantic roles to grammatical structure. Pidie Acehnese contributes another piece of evidence that Austronesian languages should be analyzed through careful attention to predicate semantics, argument realization, and the interaction of morphology with clause structure.

4.10 Implications for Linguistic Description and Language Preservation

The empirical findings have implications beyond theoretical classification. A language description that records only word meanings or isolated vocabulary does not capture how speakers construct relations among participants. By documenting predicate–argument configurations, the study provides information that can support the preparation of Acehnese learning materials, descriptive grammars, and dictionaries.

The examples also demonstrate why language preservation should include grammatical knowledge rather than vocabulary alone. Forms such as geu-, ji-/i-, ka, u, and nyankeuh carry information that contributes to the interpretation of clauses. Preserving such patterns helps maintain access to the linguistic system through which speakers organize events, states, identities, locations, and relationships.

From an applied perspective, the data could also support future computational resources. Semantic-role information can be useful for natural-language processing, especially in low-resource languages. Contemporary semantic-role research demonstrates the continuing importance of predicate–argument representations for computational systems, although the present study does not itself develop an automated semantic-role labeling system. A carefully annotated Acehnese dataset could eventually provide a foundation for such work.

At the same time, the findings should not be generalized beyond the evidence. The research focuses on the Pidie dialect, on valency one and two, and on a relatively small set of elicited and observed examples. Future work should examine larger naturally occurring corpora, additional dialects, valency three and other constructions, voice alternations, information structure, and the interaction between semantic roles and grammatical relations. Such research would test whether the patterns identified here remain stable across speakers, regions, genres, and discourse contexts.

4.11 Synthesis of the Empirical Findings

The strongest empirical contribution of the study lies in showing that the same numerical valency can support multiple semantic organizations. One argument may be an actor, affected participant, or theme; two arguments may instantiate agent–affected, agent–effect, actor–place, affecting–affected, affected–affecting, or theme–associate relations. The result is a system that is structurally economical but semantically expressive. Rather than treating semantic roles as labels attached mechanically to syntactic positions, the analysis shows that they emerge from the interaction of predicate meaning, argument identity, and

contextual interpretation. This predicate-centered perspective provides a coherent account of the full dataset and places Pidie Acehnese within a broader typological discussion of argument structure in Austronesian languages.

5. Conclusion

This article has described semantic roles and valency in Pidie Acehnese through 35 sentence examples documented in the underlying research. The first objective—describing sentence structures associated with one-argument and two-argument predicates—is addressed by identifying recurrent predicate classes in the dataset. The second objective—interpreting the semantic roles of their arguments—is addressed through the role configurations summarized below. Because the data are limited to one dialect and two valency levels, the findings should be understood as a focused description rather than a complete account of Acehnese argument structure.

The one-argument examples include actor–action predicates, affected–state or change predicates, and theme-based descriptive and identity predicates. The two-argument examples include agent–affected, agent–effect, actor–place, affecting–affected, affected–affecting, and theme–associate configurations. These patterns show that argument number alone does not determine semantic interpretation: role assignment also depends on predicate meaning and on how each participant is construed in the clause.

The examples also contain forms reported as ka in completed or change-of-state clauses, *nyakenuh* in linking constructions, u in motion-related spatial relations, and person-sensitive prefixes such as geu- and ji-/i-. The available data suggest that these forms contribute to clause interpretation, but they do not establish one-to-one correspondences between these forms and semantic roles.

The article's main empirical contribution is a predicate-centered description of semantic-role patterns in the available Pidie Acehnese examples. Its limitations include the small, example-based dataset, the absence of participant details in the available article materials, and the lack of a reported independent validation procedure. Future research should document participants and elicitation procedures transparently, test the analyses with additional speakers and naturally occurring data, and examine other dialects, higher-valency predicates, and voice-related constructions.

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