



1957

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Recommended Citation

McKaughan, H. P. (1957) "Relation markers in Maranao verbs," *Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session*: Vol. 1 , Article 7.

DOI: 10.31356/silwp.vol01.07

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/sil-work-papers/vol1/iss1/7>

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Relation Markers in Maranao Verbs
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Maranao is a Malayo-Polynesian language spoken by some 250,000 persons living in the province of Lanao in the island of Mindanao, Philippines. The purpose of this paper is to show that verb affixes mark two types of relationships: syntactic and paradigmatic. A syntactic relation is one which ties items together in a sequence; a paradigmatic relation is one which ties items together in a class or paradigm. Our emphasis here is to describe first and more completely those affixes which mark syntactic relations, since though part of verb inflection, these particular affixes must be considered in dealing with the syntax of the language rather than in a traditional morphology.

We refer to verb affixes which mark syntactic relations as "voice markers". A verb may be defined or identified as a form marked for the four categories of tense, aspect, mode, and voice, and which may occur as the center of a type of sentence¹ where other syntactic classes may not occur. For example: Tabasen o mama' so karabao. 'The carabao is what the man will kill.'² The unit tabasen contains the suffix -en, marking the objective voice, and is the center of the sentence. Other syntactic classes such as nouns, substitutes, and particles, may not occur as the center in such an environment.

Voice markers indicate voice relations between the topic of a sentence and the verb. The topic if actualized, is marked either by the particle so introducing a substantive phrase, or by one of certain pronouns. The voice relations between topic and verb are subjective, objective, referential, and instrumental. The subjective relation indicates that the topic is the originator of the action; the objective relation indicates that the topic is the recipient of the action; the referential relation indicates that the topic is the beneficiary or location of the action; and finally, the instrumental relation indicates that the topic is the means used to bring about the action. All verbs mark one of these syntactic relations.

Subjective predications contain a subjective verb marked by /-om- (where the slash indicates that the morpheme has various alternants). S(om)ombali' so mama' sa manga manok. 'The man will kill some chickens.' The substantive phrase, so mama' 'the man', is the topic of the sentence as marked by particle so. The relation between topic and verb is subjective: i.e. 'the man' originates the action.

Objective predications contain an objective verb marked by /-en. Sombali'(in) o mama' so manga manok. 'The chickens are the things that the man will kill.' Here particle so introduces the topic of the sentence, suffix -in (a variant of -en) marks the objective voice, indicating that the chickens as topic, are the recipients of the action.

¹ A sentence is any form which is not in construction with any other form.

² Tabasen 'it will be cut' is also neutral in tense, general in aspect, and non-obligatory in mode as indicated by the absence of tense, aspect, and mode morphemes.

Referential predications contain a referential verb marked by /-an.

Sombali '(an) o mama' sa manga manok so kapekaoma o maior. 'It is for the arrival of the mayor that the man will kill chickens.' In this example, the topic is the phrase so kapekaoma o maior 'the arrival of the mayor'. The referential voice marker -an indicates that this topic is the beneficiary of the action.

Finally, instrumental predications contain an instrumental verb marked by prefix i-. (I)sombali' o mama' so gelat ko manga manok. 'It is with a knife that the man will kill the chickens.' The topic is again identifiable by the particle so. The voice marker i- marks the instrumental relation between so gelat 'the knife', and isombali' 'will kill with': i.e. the knife is used to effect the action.

Voice markers also indicate the permitted sequences of substantive phrases or pronouns which may occur attributive to the verb. Four different case-like relations may so occur. These case-like relations are indicated either by particles or certain sets of pronouns. The particles include the so mentioned above, which marks the topic, or focus of attention in the sentence. Other particles are o marking subject³ (always the actor), sa usually marking object, and ko usually marking referent or instrument.⁴ One set of pronouns may replace phrases introduced by so; another set may replace o phrases; a third set may replace sa or ko phrases.

The following limitations occur in the permitted sequences attributive to a verb. When the verb is subjective, the o-phrase may not occur as subject since the topic occurs in that relation. When the verb is objective, a sa-phrase may not occur to mark that relation. When a verb is referential, a ko-phrase may not occur in the referential relation, but may occur with the instrumental relation. When a verb is instrumental, the topic occurs as the instrument, and ko may not so occur, but particles ko and sa may occur either as object or referent. The following chart indicates the voice relations and permitted sequences.

	Voice	Subject(actor)	Object (goal)	Referent	Instrument
1.	Subjective	<u>so</u> -topic	<u>sa</u> -phrase	<u>ko</u> -phrase	
2.	Objective	<u>o</u> -phrase	<u>so</u> -topic	<u>ko</u> -phrase	<u>ko</u> -phrase
3.	Referential	<u>o</u> -phrase	<u>sa</u> -phrase	<u>so</u> -topic	<u>ko</u> -phrase
4.	Instrumental	<u>o</u> -phrase	<u>sa</u> or <u>ko</u> phrase	<u>sa</u> or <u>ko</u> phrase	<u>so</u> -topic

The above substantive phrases (or pronoun substitutes) are optional:

³ I am indebted to Mr. Ernest Lee for the relational terms "subject" for actor, and "object" for goal instead of my original suggestion of actor and goal.

⁴ These same relations are marked by particles si, i, and ki corresponding to so, o, and ko, but contrasting in that the former indicate a personal name or title.

i.e. any one or all may be omitted, leaving the verb as the complete sentence. (Such omission may depend on factors outside of the immediate sentence.) When there is a choice of sa or ko, sa is indefinite, and ko is definite. Inisombali' aken ko manok so gelat. 'It is with the knife that I killed the chicken.' The phrase ko manok refers to a specific chicken. Inisombali' aken sa manok so gelat. 'It is with the knife that I killed chickens (or a chicken).' The phrase sa manok refers to any chicken, or some chickens, with no specific chicken in view.

Substantive phrases or pronouns usually follow the verb. The subject, whether topic or not, usually follows the verb directly, but the other substantive phrases may occur in any order. When certain particles such as di 'no, not', anda 'where', da 'none', etc. precede the verb, the originator of the action, and optionally any of the other substantive phrases or pronouns also precede the verb. The following is illustrative: Di aken seka peleka'an. 'I will not open it for you.' The pronoun aken 'I', marks the o or subject relation. Pronoun seka 'you' marks the so or topic relation. The latter could occur after the verb as well as before without a change in structure. We conclude that relative order is not structurally significant, but used only to indicate emphasis or the like.

Bound affixes in Maranao are paradigmatic relation markers in that they mark the members of a class or paradigm we have referred to as verbs. The voice markers indicate subdivisions of this class by setting up subjective, objective, referential, and instrumental verbs. The other class markers indicate tense, aspect, and mode. There are three morphemes indicating tense: -i- past, e (a replacive) immediate future, and pe- with e indicating present progressive. Thus tiabasan, tebasan, and petebasan from stem tabas 'to cut' indicate past, immediate future, and present progressive respectively of the referential verb. A fourth tense, neutral, is marked by the absence of any of the tense morphemes, and is non-past, non-immediate future, and non-present progressive. Thus tabasan is neutral tense, usually glossed by English future 'will cut for someone'.

Aspect morphemes are /ka- aptative, /pa- with ka- or ki- causative, /paN- distributive, and /ka with /pa- plus ki- aptative-causative. A general aspect is marked by the absence of these morphemes and is non-aptative, non-causative, non-distributive, and non-aptative-causative. Examples with stem tabas again are katabasan 'can cut for', pakitabasan 'cause to cut for', panabasan 'cut for a number of people, a number of times, or into a number of pieces', and kapakitabasan 'can cause to cut for'. The form tabasan 'cut for' is general in aspect as indicated by the absence of aspect morphemes.

Finally, two modes occur; obligatory, marked by certain structurally portmanteau morphemes: -i marking obligatory mode as well as referential voice, and -a marking obligatory mode and objective voice. The non-obligatory mode is indicated by the absence of the above markers.

5 The morphophoneme N indicates a nasal at the point of articulation of the initial consonant of the stem (which N replaces), or a velar nasal before initial vowels.

Thus tabasi 'must cut for', and tabasa 'must cut it' are referential verbs with obligatory mode. The form tabasan is non-obligatory.

In summary, voice markers indicate syntactic relations between topic and verb, and these, as well as the tense, aspect, and mode morphemes are class markers helping identify verbs as well as subclasses of verbs.

This manuscript will be read at the Pacific Science Congress in November 1957.