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RELATION MARKERS IN KALAGAN

F. B. Dawson

Kalagan is a Malayo-Polynesian language spoken in the provinces of Cotabato and Davao in Mindanao, Philippines. The terminology as well as the general format of this paper will follow that of H. P. McKaughan in his work on Maranao.¹ The purpose of this paper is to show the relationship of the affixes of the verbs with the particles that introduce substantive phrases. The affixes on the verbs mark the voice of the utterance in which they occur; that is, they mark the relation between the topic of the utterance and the verb. They also indicate the permitted substantive phrases that follow the verb. The topic is the substantive phrase that is "talked about" or "highlighted" in the utterance. Verbs are inflected forms that occur as predication centers, i.e., verb constructions not introduced by a case marking particle.² Substantive phrases are constructions that are introduced by a case marking particle.

The following shows the verb plus the possible substantive phrases of an expanded action type statement.

V ± Subject (position of ± Object ± Instrument ± Location ± Beneficiary
substantive
phrase marked
as topic)

Note: the topic is not another substantive phrase. Any substantive phrase may be the topic of an utterance (according to the voice marker in the verb). The topic is shown here in the preferred position and when a substantive phrase is the topic of an utterance, it is taken from its regular position and placed in the topic position.

VOICE MARKERS: There are four different voices marked in the verbs: (1) subjective voice, indicating that the subject (actor of the action) is the topic of the utterance; (2) objective voice, indicating that the object (goal of the action) is the topic of the utterance; (3) instrumental voice, indicating that the instrument of the action is the topic of the utterance; and (4) referential voice, indicating that the location of the action or the beneficiary of the action is the topic of the utterance. All verbs are inflected to indicate one of the above voices. The affixes used to mark each voice are: subjective, mag-; objective, -en; instrumental, pag-; and referential, -an.

CASE MARKERS: The five case relations between verbs and substantive phrases are marked by the following particles: na, marking the actor and the instrument; sa, marking the object (note chart below for exception); adti, marking location; and sa/kan na, marking the beneficiary. The topic is marked with ya. When a substantive phrase is the topic of an utterance, the particle ya replaces the regular case marker introducing that phrase and the phrase is put into the topic position of the utterance. In this instance ya marks both topic and case.

¹. McKaughan, H.P., The Inflection and Syntax of Maranao Verbs, Manila, Institute of National Language, 1958.

----- "Relation Markers in Maranao Verbs", SIL Work Papers, University of North Dakota, 1957.

². See case markers below.

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The following chart shows the voice markers in the verb and the case markers that introduce substantive phrases that follow the verb.

Voice in verbs:	SUBSTANTIVE PHRASES					
	Subject (actor of the action)	(TOPIC)	Object (goal of the action)	Instru- ment (in- strument of the action)	Referent (location of the action)	(beneficiary of the action)
Subjective <u>mag-</u>	-----	ya	sa	na	adti	kan na
Objective <u>-en</u>	na	ya	----	na	adti	sa/kan na
Instrumental <u>pag-</u>	na	ya	sa	----	adti	sa/kan na
Referential <u>-an</u> (location) (beneficiary)	na	ya	na	(not found)	----	sa/kan na
	na	ya	sa	na	adti	----

Each of the substantive phrases above is optional, i.e., any one or all of them may be omitted. If the topic is omitted, it must be understood by some context.

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Following are examples showing the use of the voice markers in a verb with the case markers introducing the substantive phrases that follow it. The underlined phrase of the free translation shows the topic.³

Subjective: mag-make ya man sa house na saw adti farm kan na chief
The man makes the house with a saw at the farm for the chief.

Objective: make-en na man ya house na saw adti farm kan na chief
It is the house that the man makes with a saw at the farm for the chief.

Instrumental: pag-make na man ya saw sa house adti farm kan na chief
It is a saw the man uses to make the house at the farm for the chief.

Referential:

Location: make-an na man ya farm na house sa chief
It is at the farm that the man makes the house for the chief.

Beneficiary: make-an na man ya chief sa house na saw adti farm
It is for the chief that the man makes the house with a saw at the farm.

Note that sa may be used to introduce the beneficiary in any voice but subjective. When another sa is present, however, the ambiguity may be overcome by using kan na instead of sa to mark the beneficiary.

Inventory for above examples:

imò	'make'
utaw	'man'
balay	'house'
gabás	'saw' (tool)
pawà	'farm'
datù	'chief'

3. One very seldom finds more than three such phrases attributive to a predicate center. This example has been expanded to show the possibilities, i.e., all may occur as indicated, and if all should occur this is the preferred order.