

# NOUN PHRASE MARKERS IN ABORLAN TAGBANWA

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

Noun phrase markers in Aborlan Tagbanwa are particles which introduce the phrases and may be considered as port-manteau signals, simultaneously marking three types of function.

First, the particles mark the relationship of noun phrases to the verb centre. This is the case-marking function of the particles.

Secondly, the particles mark their partners in the constitute as nouns.

Thirdly, the particles mark the following contrastive sets of phrase types: (a) Personal versus Impersonal; (b) Singular versus Plural; and (c) Specific versus General.

In this paper we shall deal with the first and third functions of these particles as well as with the demonstrative topic, locative phrase constructions, and included phrases.

## 1. CASE-MARKING FUNCTION

There are three noun cases in Tagbanwa: the Topic, the Accessory, and the Directive.

**1.1 Topic Case.** The clause is divided into two parts, the topic and the comment. A comment minimumally consists of a verb centre and optionally expands through other phrase types or substitutes. The topic phrase is marked by an allomorph of the topic marker morpheme <i>.

**Magpanaw i bakes.**

walk the-monkey  
The monkey walks.

**Magkatigbas mu i kapa it kayu.**

able-cut you the-axe tree  
With the axe you are able to cut a tree.

**1.2 Accessory Case.** A second phrase type is the Accessory marked by an allomorph of the accessory marker morpheme <it>. This marks an accessory relationship to the verb or predicate centre. When the accessory phrase is the goal, it usually occurs immediately following the phrase or substantive indicating causer or actor of the action. The accessory phrase also marks the instrument in the action.

**Matigbas mu i kayu it kapa kat uma.**

cut you the-tree axe in-field  
The tree in the field will be cut by you with an axe.

**Ipatigbas mu i kapa it kayu kat uma.**

cut you the-axe tree in-field  
With the axe you cut a tree in the field.

**1.3 Directive Case.** A third phrase type is the Directive, marked by an allomorph of the directive marker morpheme <kat>. This marks a directive relationship to the verb or predicate centre. The directive phrase occurs in position furthest from the predicate in the construction, and indicates location or referent of the action.

**Magbakal aku it babuy kat talun.**

spear I pig in-forest  
I spear a pig in the forest.

**Magapyat si Modistu kat kayu.**

climb-up Modesto in-tree  
Modesto climbs up in a tree.

**2. CONTRAST**

There are three sets of contrastive features of the noun phrase marking particles.

**2.1 Personal versus Impersonal.** The personal marking particles are **si**, **ni**, and **ki** which contrast respectively with the impersonal marking particles **i**, **it**, and **kat**. The markers **si**, **ni**, and **ki** indicate that the partner in the construction so marked is a personal title or name.

**Ipatigbas mu si Biug it kayu.**  
 cause-cut you Biog tree  
 You cause Biog to cut a tree.

**Magapyat si Mudistu it niug ni Dikar.**  
 climb-up Modesto coconut Dikar  
 Modesto climbs Dikar's coconut tree.

**Pabari aku it kayu ki Mudistu.**  
 cause-break I tree Modesto  
 I cause Modesto to break up wood.

**2.2 Singular versus Plural.** The phrase markers previously described are analyzed as singular markers.

The particles **na**, **kana**, and **manga** indicate plurality of the head of the phrases. The morpheme **na** marks both the topic and accessory phrases as being personal and plural. Context gives the clue as to its particular case function at that particular occasion.

**Magapyat si Mudistu it niug na Dikar.**  
 climb-up Modesto coconut Dikar (and companions)  
 Modesto climbs up a coconut tree of Dikar and his friends.

**Magtigbas aku it kayu na Imung.**  
 cut I tree Emong (and friends)  
 I cut Emong and his friends' tree.

The morpheme sequence **kana**, which breaks down into the morphemes **ka-** and **-na**, marks the directive phrase as being personal and plural.

**Tigbasan mu i kayu it yugut kana Imung.**  
 cut you the-tree bolo Emong (and companions)  
 You cut the tree with a bolo for Emong and his friends.

**Patigbas aku kana Imung it kayu.**  
 cause-cut I Emong (and companions) tree  
 I cause Emong and his friends to cut a tree.

	IMPERSONAL		PERSONAL	
	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
Topic	<b>i</b>	<b>i manga</b>	<b>si</b>	<b># na</b>
Accessory	<b>it</b>	<b>it manga</b>	<b>ni</b>	<b># na</b>
Directive	<b>kat</b>	<b>kat manga</b>	<b>ki</b>	<b>kana</b>

Key to the Table, on page 36.

**Key to the Table on page 35:**

# is the zero allomorph of **si** and **ni** and signals a personalized head of the construction.

**ka-** is the allomorph of **ki** and signals a personalized head of the construction.

Although the particle **manga** is a portmanteau morpheme on the lexical level, we are here dealing with it only in its application as a pluralizer of the noun. (The second lexical function is as an approximator of the head of the construction.)

**manga duang elad**  
about two peso  
About two pesos.

The plurals of the impersonal particles **i**, **it**, and **kat** are formed by the addition of the particle **manga** to the interior of the noun phrase, immediately following the case-marking particle.

**Magpanigbas ka it manga kayu kat uma.**  
cut you plural tree in-field  
You cut trees in the field.

**Tigbasan mu i manga uma.**  
cut you the-plural field  
You cut the fields.

**2.3 Specific versus General.** The topic phrase is always specific.

Phrases of the general type are marked by the allomorphs of the accessory case-marking particle <**it**> and the directive case-marking particle <**kat**>.

The accessory and directive phrases may have their status changed from general to specific by replacing their respective marking particles <**it**> or <**kat**> with <**i**>.

**Tigbasen mu i kayu.**  
cut you the-tree  
You cut the tree.

**Tigbasan mu aku it kayu.**  
cut you I tree  
You cut a tree for me.

**Magapyat si Modistu kat kayu.**  
climb-up Modesto in-tree  
Modesto climbs a tree.

### 3. DEMONSTRATIVE TOPIC CONSTRUCTIONS

The demonstrative pronoun set <ini>, when introducing any noun phrase, substitutes for the impersonal specific marker *i* and occurs preceding the personal specific marker <si>. The members of the <ini> set are *ini* 'this (nearest speaker)', *itu* 'this (near speaker)', *ian* 'that (near hearer)', and *iti* 'that (far from both)'.

iti bakes

that monkey

that monkey

iti manga bakes

that plural monkey

those monkeys

iti si Bakes

that Monkey

that (is) Monkey

iti na Bakes

that Monkey (and companions)

those (are) Monkey and his friends

### 4. LOCATIVE PHRASE CONSTRUCTION

The locative phrase type construction has as its introducing particle a locative word, such as *duun* 'there', which is a locative pronoun, and is expanded by the addition of an accessory phrase in apposition to the locative introducer.

duun it balay it aka ya

there house elder he

there (at the) house of his elder sibling

### 5. INCLUDED PHRASES

These topic, accessory, and directive phrases may be included within other phrases to form expansions of the basic phrase types. *nga* is a ligature which functions as a relater, introducing one type of phrase included within the construction of a phrase on a higher level.

i manga balay it akà mu nga dua

the-plural house elder you two

the houses of your two elder siblings

Panawun mu na i bài nga asawa ku.

walk you now the-woman wife I

You go now to the woman who is my wife.

Further expansion of the basic phrase types may occur through the addition of the accessory and/or pronoun included phrase types.

i ulu tang ngaitu

the-head us this

This our leader

**it manga uripen ya ngaiti**

plural servant he that  
those his servants

Within the interior of the phrases, an included phrase, called a Co-ordinative phrase, may also occur.

**punti baw tubu**

banana and sugarcane

**si Don Juan baw si Don Pidru**

Mr John and Mr Peter

The preceding analysis gives the following matrix of noun phrase types. The vertical and horizontal dimensions manifest the following types of contrast: (a) personal versus impersonal; (b) singular versus plural; and (c) specific versus general; and the cells of the vectors are filled with the phrase types.

		IMPERSONAL		PERSONAL	
		<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<b>Specific</b>	Demonstrative Topic	$De_t I$	$De_t I_t Pl$	$De_t P I_{t\phi}$	$De_t P I_{t\phi} Pl$
	Topic	$T I I_t$	$T I I_t Pl$	$T P I_{t\phi}$	$T P I_{t\phi} Pl$
<b>General</b>	Accessory	$Ac I I_a$	$Ac I I_a Pl$	$Ac P I_{a\phi}$	$Ac P I_{a\phi} Pl$
	Directive	$Di I I_d$	$Di I I_d Pl$	$Di P I_{d\phi}$	$Di P I_{d\phi} Pl$

**Key:** Demonstrative Topic ( $De_t$ ), Topic ( $T$ ), Accessory ( $Ac$ ), Directive ( $Di$ ), Impersonal ( $I$ ), Personal ( $P$ ), Pluralizer ( $Pl$ ), Introdurers - **i** ( $I_t$ ), **it** ( $I_a$ ), **kat** ( $I_d$ ), **si** ( $I_{t\phi}$ ), **ni** ( $I_{a\phi}$ ), **ki** ( $I_{d\phi}$ ), **na** ( $I_{t\phi} Pl$ ), **kana** ( $I_{d\phi} Pl$ ).