

TAGALOG -um- and mag-

AN INTERIM REPORT

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In a 13-page bulletin entitled "Scope and Uses of the Verbal Affixes -um- and mag-" the Filipino Language Section of the Instruction Division of the Philippines Bureau of Public Schools, summarizing the *Balarila* (official grammar) treatment of the subject, has compiled a first-class document of data on a major grammatico-lexical contrast which is but little known to speakers of European languages. This paper, identified as "Bulletin No.2 of the 1950 series" of the Department of Education's Bureau of Public Schools, contains a collection of contrastively organized evidence and illustrations which would dignify any structural grammar.

It seems desirable to add to the description, however, both a summary of its information and some grammatical notes which, though implicit in the illustrations, are not explicit in the document. These notes will, it is hoped, add a useful supplement to what is already a very valuable paper.¹ It must be added, however, that both the original paper and this summary suffer from incomplete transformation studies. We believe these to be indispensable to a satisfactory treatment of this subject. For that reason we have chosen to call this an "interim report". It will be useful as a suggestive guide to those who do the transform studies later.

Nearly all of the illustrations which follow are from the bulletin. The present author accepts responsibility, however, for the interpretations.

First, a brief summary must be made of the behaviour of -um- and mag-.

¹ The author is indebted to Dr Rufino Alejandro for a number of useful suggestions and additions to the present paper. An earlier version of it was read at the 1964 meeting, in Canberra, of the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. Special appreciation is due to my wife for alphabetizing and typing the entries, and to Mrs Mabel Pears for typing the manuscript.

-um- is a verbal infix which occurs immediately following the first consonant of a word base. The past tense of the verb and the imperative and infinitive modes consist of this arrangement. **bumilí** 'bought; buy; to buy' (from **bilí** 'to trade' plus **-um-**).

Word-initial glottal stop is not written, so words which appear in the standard orthography as beginning with **-um-** actually begin with glottal stop (**q**). Thus **qumulan** 'it rained' is written **umulan**. Penultimate stress is unmarked; other stress is marked with an acute accent. Grave accent marks word-final glottal; circumflex is stress plus glottal.

Future tense of **-um-** verbs consists of the verb stem, without **-um-**, plus reduplication of the first CV of the word base. **bumilí** 'to buy'; **bibilí** 'will buy'; **bumagsak** 'to drop'; **babagsak** 'will drop'.

Reduplication with **-um-** gives present tense. **bumibilí** 'buys; is buying'.

The present tense of stems beginning with glottal stop is no different from those beginning with other consonants: **qumuqulan** 'it is raining', but it looks different in standard orthography because both **q**'s are unwritten: **umuulan**.

mag- is **ag-** plus a nasal consonant which could be represented by a capital letter: **Mag-**. The reason for this is that a nasal component is always present, but it is **n** for non-future and **m-** for non-past and contemporary past.

nag- plus word base gives past tense. **nagbilí** 'sold'. Word-base-initial glottal stop is conventionally written with a hyphen when it occurs following **g**. **nag-abót** 'handed'.

mag- plus word base gives infinitive, imperative, and "contemporary" tense in subordinate clauses. **magbilí ka** 'you sell'. **Nagalit si Tatay nang ako'y mag-alis ng sapatos** 'Father got angry when I removed my shoes'.

nag- plus reduplication of the first CV of the word base gives present, customary, or continuous past. **nagbíbilí** 'is, was selling'.

mag- plus reduplication of the first CV of the word base is future tense. **magbíbilí** 'will sell'.

Some verb bases may occur with **-um-** but not with **mag-**, some with **mag-** but not with **-um-**, some with either **-um-** or **mag-**, a few with both **-um-** and **mag-**.

The following outline will summarize the subdivisions. Note, in reading it, that the numbers refer to numbered paragraphs of examples which follow.

I. -um- vs. mag- on identical stems:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.1 Non-reflexive | 1.2 Reflexive |
| 2.1 Non-causative | 2.2 Causative |
| 3.1 Centripetal | 3.2 Centrifugal |
| 4.1 Non-dual and non-reciprocal | 4.2 Dual or Reciprocal |
| 5.1 Non-repetitive | 5.2 Repetitive |
| 6.1 Intrinsic colour change | 6.2 External colour application |

II. -um- vs. mag- on different stems:

- | -um- | mag- |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Source</i> | |
| 7.1 Impersonal actions | 7.2 Personal and occupational actions |
| <i>Manner</i> | |
| 8.1 Gestural | 8.2 Verbal |
| 9.1 Physical | 9.2 Emotional and Intensive |
| <i>Quality</i> | |
| 10.1 Impulsive | 10.2 Deliberate (Volitional) |
| <i>Rank</i> | |
| 11.1 Creative | |
| 12.1 Elementary | 12.2 Secondary |
| 13.1 Regressive | 13.2 Progressive |
| 14.1 Multiplicational | |
| 15.1 Destructive | 15.2 Constructive |
| <i>Adjunct</i> | |
| 16.1 Locational | 16.2 Instrumental |
| <i>Quantity</i> | |
| | 17.2 Numeral |
| 18.1 Partitive | 18.2 Distributive |

III. mag- plus -um in tandem:

19. Augmentative.

I. -um- vs. mag- on identical stems

1. Of the verbs that may occur with either -um- or mag-, the following are reflexive when occurring with mag-, non-

reflexive when occurring with **-um-**. Those occurring with **-um-** are also, in all examples given, nominalized verbs, whereas those occurring with **mag-** are finite verbs.

1.1 *Non-reflexive*

gumupít to cut with a pair of scissors

gumamót to treat illness

umalíw to console others

umahit to shave others

sumanay to train others

kumamot to scratch

bumigtí to strangle (transitive)

kumurò to think

umisip to think

1.2 *Reflexive*

maggupít to do cutting work with a pair of scissors

maggamót to treat one's self for an illness

mag-alíw to enjoy one's self

mag-ahit to shave one's self

magsanay to train one's self

magkamót to scratch one's self (intensively)

magbigtí to commit suicide by hanging

magkurò to reflect

mag-isip to think intensively

2. The following verb bases are causative when occurring with **-um-**.

2.1 *Non-causative*

pumanhik to enter

umalís to leave

bumitíw to free one's hold

tumakas to escape

tumiwalág to leave a group; to sever one's connection

pumasok to enter

lumakad to walk

2.2 *Causative*

magpanhík to bring upstairs

mag-alís to remove

magbitíw to resign from office

magtakas to escape with something or someone

magtiwalág to remove from office

magpasok to bring in, to enrol, to help land a job

maglakad to hand-carry (e.g. papers)

3. The action of the following verb bases is centripetal (moving goal toward actor) when occurring with **-um-**, centrifugal (removing goal from actor) when occurring with **mag-**.

3.1 *Centripetal*

bumilí to buy

umabót to reach for

umamot to buy a part or portion of what someone else has bought

3.2 *Centrifugal*

magbilí to sell

mag-abót to hand over

mag-amot to sell a part or portion of what one has bought

4. The following verb bases have action which is dual or reciprocal (two subjects acting jointly or each on the other) when marked by **mag-**, non-dual and non-reciprocal transitive when marked by **-um-**.

4.1 Non-dual and non-reciprocal

sumalo to join another
bumati to greet another
kumamáy to shake hands with someone
sumapì to join or be a member of
sumiping to come near somebody
kumita to earn, to have a job

4.2 Dual or reciprocal

magsalo to share
magbatì to greet each other
magkamáy to shake hands with each other
magsapì to join in a partnership in business or any enterprise
magsiping to lie down near each other
magkita to see each other, to meet each other accidentally

5. Some verb bases display repetitive or intensive action when occurring with **mag-** in contrast to non-repetitive or less intensive action when occurring with **-um-**.

5.1 Non-repetitive

kumain to eat
bumasa to read
sumulat to write

5.2 Repetitive

magkain to eat often
magbasa to study
magsulat to write much

I am indebted to Professor Tomas Aguirre for this set of contrasts.

6. Colour words, when occurring with **mag-**, mean 'to wear' a given colour. When occurring with **-um-** they mean 'to become' that colour.

6.1 Intrinsic colour change

dumiláw to turn yellow
pumulá to turn red
umitím to turn black

6.2 External colour application

mag-ilaw to wear yellow
magpulá to wear red
mag-itim to wear black

A seventh subset - *accidental vs. intentional* - should probably be identified, but because only one example - **pumatay** vs. **magpatay** 'to kill' is in our material, it has been included in paragraph 10.

II. -um- vs. mag- on different stems

In the much more numerous examples of word bases which occur with either **-um-** or **mag-** but not both, comparison is not so simple as it is with those on which **-um-** and **mag-** contrast. No doubt transform tests will reveal, in many cases, the relevant patterns. The division followed in this paper, however, has at least the benefit of the considerable quantity of examples from the original paper to support the analysis here proposed.

"Physical" entries are considered to include not only those actions which characterize non-human animals, but also human activity which is viewed as arising from other than rational causes. Impersonal-action verbs are regarded as contrasting with the distinctively human actions listed under "Personal".

The notoriously elusive nature of lexical analysis makes it good that a 3-way check can be kept on this part of the **-um-/mag-** description:

(1) The contrastive occurrence of **-um-** and **mag-** on different verb stems.

(2) A vertical lexical consistency throughout each subset (substitution list) of **-um-** or **mag-**, contrasting with

(3) A distinctive lexical consistency throughout each subset of the other side of the **-um-/mag-** opposition. Some, such as 11, 14, and 17, contrast with their own absence.

7. Some uses of **-um-** and/or **mag-** are no doubt derivational. All eight of the impersonal verbs in 7.1, for example, are paralleled by corresponding nouns without **-um-**. The extent to which this may be true of the rest of the data will need to be determined by transform tests. Note that the **-um-/mag-** contrast in the following paragraphs is between subsets of verbs rather than single verbs.

7.1 Impersonal actions

gumabí to grow late (in the afternoon)
humangin to blow (wind)
kumidlát to flash (lightning)
kumulóg to thunder
lumindól to quake
tumanghalì to grow late (in the morning)

7.2 Personal and occupational actions

mag-anluwagi to be a carpenter
mag-artista to be an actor
magbigás to deal in rice
mag-embahadór to be an ambassador
maghenerál to be a general
maghepe to be a chief

umaraw to shine (sun)
umulán to rain

maghuwés to be a judge
mag-isdâ to deal in fish
magkahoy to deal in lumber
magkalikim to be a secretary
magkutsero to be a rig driver
magmakatà to be a poet
magpangulo to be a president
magparè to be a priest

MANNER

8.1 Gestural

bumalikwás to spring out of bed
dumilat to open wide the eyes
humalakhák to laugh loudly
kumawág to move hands and legs as in swimming
kumundáy to move the hand
lumuhód to kneel
lumundág to jump
ngumangá to open the mouth
ngumisi to grin
ngumitî to smile
pumayag to agree
pumikít to close the eyes
sumulyáp to glance
tumanáw to look in the distance
tumangô to nod (yes)
tumapak to step (on ground)
tumawa to laugh
tumingalâ to look up
tumingín to look at
tumuntóng to step (up)
umibag to jump to avoid
umilag to dodge
umilíng to shake the head 'no'
yumukód to bow

9.1 Physical

bumahín to sneeze
dumahák to spit phlegm
dumuwál to retch (vomit)
kumagát to bite

8.2 Verbal

magbadyâ to speak
magbalitâ to furnish
magbantâ to threaten
magbintáng to suspect
maghayág to reveal
maghingá to unburden
magkailâ to deny
magkánuló to betray
magparatang to accuse
magsabi to tell
magsakdál to file a complaint
magsalitâ to talk
magsumbóng to tell on a person
magsuplóng to denounce
magtapát to tell the truth
magwikà to say

9.2 Emotional

magbatá to suffer, bear, endure
magdamdám to feel (a remark)
magdusa to grieve, suffer

lumunók to swallow
ngumuyâ to chew
sumingá to blow one's nose
sumuka to vomit
tumakám to hanker for something
tumangis to weep
tumayô to stand
tumigil to stop
tumikím to taste
umamóy to smell
umiyák to cry
umubó to cough
umupô to sit

maglambíng to be foolishly nice or tender
magtampó to sulk
magtiís to suffer, bear, endure
mag-upasalà to vituperate, blame abusively

QUALITY

10.1 *Impulsive*

dumamay to aid (a person in sorrow or bereavement)
gumiliw to love
lumimot to forget
sumaklolo to aid (a person in danger or mishap)
sumalungát to contradict, disagree
sumamò to plead, entreat
tumulong to help
tumanggí to reject, decline
tumutol to protest
umasa to hope
umayon to conform, agree
umibig to love

10.2 *Deliberate (Volitional)*

mag-akalà to suspect
mag-alaala to worry
mag-aral to study
magbantáy to guard, keep watch
magbilin to order, request
maghatíd to conduct, convey, escort
magkutà to entrench
maglakbáy to tour
maglayág to sail
maglibáng to amuse
maglutò to cook
magsayáw to dance
magsikáp to be diligent
magsimbá to go to church
magsuri to analyze

Note also **-um** vs. **mag-** on **patáy**:

pumatáy to kill

magpatáy to kill (e.g. a chicken for a feast)

Some forms in this class occur primarily in passive (goal-focus with **-in**) rather than active (actor-focus with **-um-**) voice:

alalahanin to remember
tikisín to spite

magtanggól to defend
magwarì to meditate, consider

RANK

11. *Creative*

bumuhay to bring to life
bumuô to create completely,
 put together
yumari to finish, to construct

12.1 *Elementary*

bumukál to spring up (water)
bumalong to ooze out
bumahâ to flood
dumilím to grow dark
kumulimlím to be cloudy
lumagô to grow luxuriantly
lunitáw to appear
lumiwanag to brighten up (sky)
lumubog to set, disappear
 (sun, moon)
sumibol to germinate
sumikat to rise (sun)
sumipót to appear, show up
 (at a place)
tumubò to sprout
umagos to flow
umaliwalas to clear up
umuntol to be retarded
umusbóng to sprout, bud

13.1 *Regressive*

dumalang to become sparse, to
 diminish in frequency
lumiít to become small
numipís to become thin
pumayát to grow thin
umiklî to become short
umimpís to become deflated
kumauntî to decrease

12.2 *Secondary*

mag-apóy to burn hot
mag-asín to make salt, sell
 salt, turn into salt
magbató to harden like stone
magdugô to bleed
maglamán to grow flesh
maglupà to turn into soil
magnaknák to fill with pus
magputik to become muddy
magsugat to develop into a
 wound
magtubig to turn watery
mag-ugát to grow roots

13.2 *Progressive*

magbaging to grow vines
magbalát to grow a skin
magbatis to turn into a spring
magbunga to bear fruit
magdahon to grow leaves
mag-ilog to turn into a river
maglawà to turn into a pool
magpalong to grow a cockscomb
magsangá to grow branches
magsungay to grow horns
magtiník to grow thorns
mag-uhay to bear grain
mag-usbóng to grow shoots

14. *Multiplicational and Inversive*

All of these verbs except **gumising**, **tumubò** and **bumangon** have adjective transforms in which a **ma-** prefix replaces the

-um- infix. The adjective form of **gumising** is **gisíng**; of **tumubò** it is **tubò**. The corresponding form of **bumangon** is **nakabangon**. Very few of the **mag-** verbs appear to have adjective transforms.

bumaít to become good
bumangon to get up
bumuti to become good
dumalás to occur frequently
dumami to become many
gumalíng to get well
gumaspáng to become coarse
gumising to wake up
huminà to become weak
humabà to become long, to stretch (as a rubber band)
kumapál to become thick
lumakás to become strong
lumakí to grow big
lumalâ to worsen
lumupít to become cruel
pumaít to become bitter
pumintóg to swell, bulge, become inflated
pumutî to turn gray (hair), to turn white, to bleach
sumamâ to become bad
suminsín to become close or compact (as threads in weaving)
tumabâ to become fat
tumamís to become sweet
tumapang to become brave
tumubò to grow
yumaman to become rich

15.1 *Destructive*

bumaríl to shoot
dumurog to pulverize
gumibâ to demolish
pumanà to shoot with bow and arrow
sumuligì to pierce with a dart
sumibát to spear
bumalisóng to strike with a balisong

16.1 *Locational*

dumini to be here
dumito to be here

15.2 *Constructive*

mag-ani to harvest
magbahay to build a house
magbukid to farm
magginatán to make ginatan
maglagà to boil (transitive)
magpinipig to make pinipig
magpunlâ to sow seed
magsaing to cook rice
magsukà to make vinegar
magtaním to plant

16.2 *Instrumental*

mag-araro to plow
mag-awto to ride in an auto

dumiyán to be there (near)
dumoón to be there (yonder)
gumanitó to be in this position (< **gaya nito** - like this)
lumapit to approach
lumayóng to go further away
pumaibabaw to be above, to soar, to be on top
pumailanláng to soar
pumakaliwâ to turn left
pumakanan to turn right
pumalaot to steer into the open sea
pumanaw to disappear
pumarini to come here
pumarito to come here
pumariyán to go there
pumaroón to go there
sumaatín to be in us
sumakanyá to be in him
sumalangit to be in heaven
sumalahát to be received by all
sumapit to reach a destination
tumabí to step aside
yumao to pass away

This group includes in-
 fixed demonstratives
 (**dini** 'this', **dito**
 'here', **diyán** 'there',
doón 'there'), and in-
 fixed prepositional
 phrases beginning with
pa 'to, on' and **sa** 'to,
 at'. **pasa Maynila** 'to
 go to Manila; **pumasa May-
 nila** 'to go to Manila'.
d between vowels becomes
r.

magkakyâ to wear wooden
 shoes
magbangkâ (mamangkâ) to ride
 in a banca
magbapór to ride on a ship
magbarò to put on a dress
magkalabâw to ride on a
 carabao
magkalesa to ride in a rig
magsalamín to wear glasses,
 to look at one's self in a
 mirror
magsumbrero to wear a hat
magsapatos to wear shoes
magtrák to go by truck
magtrén to go by train

QUANTITY

17. Numeral

magdalawá to be two
mag-ilán to be (no matter)
 how many

mag-isá to be alone (one)

magsandaán to be 100

magsampû to be ten

magsarilí to live alone

18.1 *Partitive*

kumarit to cut with a sickle

lumagarì to saw wood

pumunit to tear

tumanggal to unfasten,
separate

tumastás to detach, dis-
assemble, dismantle

18.2 *Distributive*

mag-abót to hand

mag-abuloy to contribute

mag-ambág to contribute

mag-amot to sell a portion
of what is bought

magbiyayà to give lavishly
as a favour

maghandóg to offer, present

maglakô to offer for sale

III. *mag- plus -um- occur together in tandem on a few words*

19. *Augmentative*

hiyaw shout

maghumiyaw to shout at the top of
one's voice

unat stretch

mag-umunat to stretch one's self to
the limit

iyak cry

mag-umiyak to cry at the top of
one's voice

Note, in conclusion, that those of the foregoing categories which are confirmed by transform tests will constitute authentic lexical patterns, structurally determined.