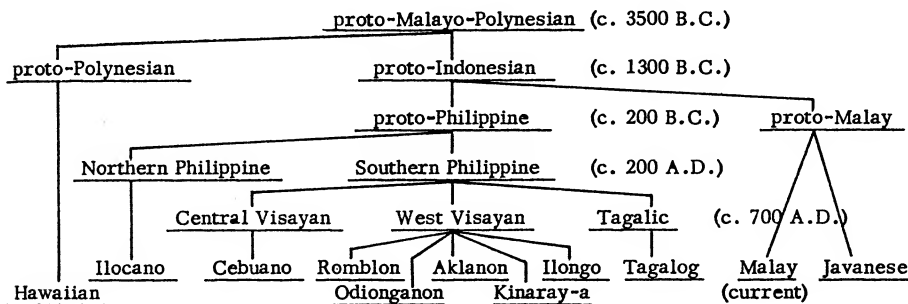


UNIT ONE: PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON AKLANON.

1. LOCATION OF AKLANON. Aklanon, which is spelled "Akeanon" by its writers, and pronounced /Akɣanon/¹ by its speakers; is spoken by some 360 thousand people in or bordering on the province of Aklan on the island of Panay in the Philippines. The dialect is somewhat understandable to the people of neighboring provinces and islands who speak any one of six West Visayan dialects.² These dialects are a family of dialects whose ancestor might be called proto-West Visayan, which in turn was a member of the Malayo-Polynesian family of languages, to which such languages as Tagalog and Cebuano belong.

2. CHART: THE MALAYO-POLYNESIAN FAMILY OF LANGUAGES. Before beginning any formal comparison of Aklanon to other dialects or languages, it would be best to see the dialect in its proper perspective, namely in its place today after many centuries of development.

Granting that language change is a long, slow process and that it is actually difficult if not impossible to determine an actual "stage" of development, the following chart is meant as an outline of a very difficult to define evolution of proto-languages into present day Aklanon:



It is our present purpose to show Aklanon's relationship to the other descendants of West Visayan. This examination will be cursory and no attempt will be made to go deeply into the problems of how or why the languages have changed since our purpose is merely to illustrate general similarities among these various sister dialects.

¹ See Unit Two for an explanation of our phonological transcription.

² These dialects are found variously throughout the six provinces of the Western Visayas: Aklan (Aklanon), Antique (Kinaray-a and Hinaray-a), Capiz (Capisnon, a Hiligaynon-variant), Iloilo (Ilongo, another Hiligaynon-variant), Romblon (Rombloanon on Romblon island and San Agustin, Tablas; Odianganon in Odiangan, Tablas; and Loocnon-Alcantaranon in Looc and Alcantara, Tablas respectively), and Negros Occidental (Hiligaynon). Despite the different names relating to the province in which the dialect is spoken, there are six basic dialects. All others are admixtures of two or more of the basic six dialects.