

Table 3: Tense Inflection

Root	Infinitive	Future	Past	Continuous	Translation
puli'	<u>magpuli'</u>	<u>mapuli'</u>	<u>nagpuli'</u>	<u>nagpupuli'</u>	'go home'
sublí'	<u>subli'ón</u>	<u>susubli'ón</u>	<u>sinubli'</u>	<u>sinusubli'</u>	'borrow something'
ta'ó	<u>ita'ó</u>	<u>itata'ó</u>	<u>itina'ó</u>	<u>itinata'ó</u>	'give something'
imbitár	<u>imbitarán</u>	<u>iimbitarán</u>	<u>inimbitarán</u>	<u>iniimbitarán</u>	'invite someone'

ject, the prefix *mag-* is used. The three classes are illustrated below, with the verb root underlined in each case:

*-on*: sublí' 'borrow': magsublí', subli'ón

*i-*: ta'ó 'give': magta'ó, ita'ó

*-an*: imbitár 'invite': magimbitár, imbitarán

These forms are all infinitives. Bikol verbs are inflected for tense. The three basic tenses are future, past, and continuous (see Table 3 above). Tense inflection proceeds via reduplication (indicated in bold) and/or infixation.

Bikol verbs do not agree with their subjects. However, in order to emphasize that the subject is plural, the infix *-Vr-* is used (where V is a copy of the first vowel in the verb root): magpuli' 'to go home (singular)', magpuruli' 'to go home (plural)'.

Besides the basic verbal affix pairs, which can be called the regular series of affixes, Bikol has a large inventory of additional verbal affixes. These affixes show not only the role of the subject noun phrase, but also add an extra semantic dimension which is not included in the regular series of affixes. These affixes include the instrumental/benefactive prefix *i-*, the locative affix *-an*, the reflexive suffixes *-on*, and *-an*, and those in Table 4 on the next page, shown in relation to the regular affix series which they combine with or replace.

There are three classes of adjectives: those which take the prefix *ma-*, those which take the prefix *ha-*, and those which take no affixation. Adjectives which take the prefix *ha-* are adjectives of measurement showing height, length or depth: langkâw halangkâw tall. Examples of other adjectives are: gayón, magayón beautiful; sadít small. As with the verbs, the plural of adjectives is a matter of emphasis, and not of grammatical necessity.

Adjective plurals are formed in two ways. For adjectives which take the prefix *ha-* and those which take no prefix at all, *-Vr-* is infixed between the first consonant and vowel of the root. If, however, the root begins with an *l* or *r*, the sequence of *Vr* is prefixed to the root: halangkâw tall, haralangkâw PLURAL; sadít small; saradít PLURAL. For adjectives which take the *ma-* prefix, the first consonant and vowel of the root is reduplicated. The stress on such adjectives must be penultimate, that is, on the next to the last syllable: magayón beautiful, magagáyon PLURAL. The superlative is formed by prefixing *pinaka-* to the full adjective form: magayón beautiful, pinakamagayón most beautiful; halangkâw tall, pinakahalangkâw tallest; sadít small, pinakasadít smallest.

Degrees of intensification below the superlative are shown by suffixing *-on*: sadítón very small. Intensification may also be shown through reduplication of the adjective root: basóg full; basóg-básog very full. The comparative is formed by us-

## Basic Morphology

Bikol nouns may be either singular or plural. Nouns are pluralized by adding the particle *manga*, written *mga*: babáyi 'woman', mga babáyi 'women'.

Bikol nouns are not inflected for case, strictly speaking. However, there are four sets of syntactic markers which are functionally equivalent to case markers; for subject, agent, object/goal, indirect object/location. Each set includes singular and plural markers for personal names. Furthermore, each set (with the exception of the indirect object set) has one form used before nouns that have not yet been mentioned in a particular conversation or discourse, and another form used before nouns that have already been mentioned. Thus, *an babáyi* means roughly 'a woman (that we haven't yet mentioned)', and *su babáyi* means roughly 'the woman (we've already talked about)'; both of these are subjects.

Bikol has three sets of personal pronouns, corresponding to subject, agent, and object roles (the pronouns for direct and indirect object are the same): *akó* 'I', *ko* 'by me', *sakúya* '(to) me'. Bikol also distinguishes between inclusive and exclusive first person plural: *mi* 'by us (excluding the addressee)', *ta* 'by us (including the addressee)'.

Verbs in Bikol are considerably more complex than the nouns. There are three groups of verbs, depending on which of three affixes is used to mark the object as the focus or subject of the sentence. If, instead, the agent is the focus or sub-

**Table 4:**

Function	Basic Affixes			
	mag-	-on	-i	-an
Potential	maka-	ma-	ika-, mai, ma-	ma- -an
Social	maki-	paki- -on	ipaki-	paki- -an
General	mang-	pang- -on	ipang-	pang- -an
Transitional	maghing-	hing- on	ihing-	hing- -an
Intensive	mag(pag)-	pag- -on	ipag-	pag- -an
Repetitive	magpara-	pagpara- -on	ipagpara-	pagpara- -an
Causative	magpa-, pa- -on	ipa-	ipa-	pa- -an
Consequential	-umin-			
Pending	mina-, na-	na-	nai-	na- -an
Reciprocal	mag- -an	(pag-) -an	(pag-) -an	(pag-) -an
Concomitant		ka- -on		
Developmental	magka-	magka-	magka-	magka- -an
Continous State	naka-			
Transitory State	magín			
Collective	mangag-			
Mitigating	Reduplication of Root			

ing the Spanish loan word *mas*, the Bikol particle *pa*, or using the two in combination for emphasis: *mas halangkaw* taller; *sadit pa* smaller; *mas magayon pa* even prettier.

### Basic Syntax

Bikol has three basic sentence types: verbal, equational and existential. A verbal sentence has a subject and a predicate. The subject comprises a subject noun phrase. The predicate comprises a verb phrase and a number of non-subject noun phrases. The role of the subject (whether it be the agent, object or goal, indirect object or location), is determined by the affix on the verb in the predicate. The predicate, however, is discontinuous. Unlike English, the subject actually falls between the various predicate phrases. In the following example, the verbal prefix *i-* indicates that the subject of the sentence, that is, the phrase preceded by one of the subject markers, is the goal or object.

Itina'ó ni Lúdy      an reló    ki Cárlos      sa haróng.  
i-verb agent      object    indirect object    location  
NON-SUBJECT    SUBJECT    NON-SUBJECT    NON-SUBJECT  
gave Ludy      a watch to Carlos      in the house  
'Ludy gave a watch to Carlos in the house.'

The subject of the sentence can be changed by changing the verbal affix. The type of emphasis desired by the speaker will have an effect on the word order used, and on the type of sentence chosen. In the following example, the verbal suffix *-an* indicates that the subject is the indirect object.

Tina'wán si Carlos nin reló ni Lúdy  
gave-an SUBJECT Carlos OBJ watch AGENT Ludy  
sa haróng.  
LOC house  
'Ludy gave Carlos a watch in the house.'

The subject of the above sentence can be changed to the agent with the affix *mag-*: *Nagta'ó si Lúdy nin reló ki Carlos sa haróng* 'Ludy gave a watch to Carlos in the house'.

An equational sentence comprises a subject and a predicate. The predicate here may be called a *complement* since it presents additional information about the subject, thereby "completing" its meaning. An equational sentence may have two noun phrases, one serving as the subject, and the other as the predicate:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PREDICATE</b> (COMPLEMENT)
<i>Si Cárlos</i> noun phrase Carlos	<i>an maéstro ko</i> noun phrase my teacher
'Carlos is my teacher.'	

An equational sentence is emphatic. When a speaker wishes to emphasize a particular phrase in a verbal sentence, he or she will generally change to an equational sentence type where the predicate as well as the subject will be represented as noun phrases. Even though the complete predicate in nominalized, that is, converted into a noun phrase, the prefix on the verb

still determines the role of the subject, just as it did in the verbal sentence: *Si Lúdy an nagta' ó nin reló ki Cárlos sa haróng* 'It was Ludy who gave a watch to Carlos in the house'. Equational sentences may also comprise an adjective phrase and a noun phrase: *Halangkáw si Carlos* (tall PERSONAL.ARTICLE Carlos) 'Carlos is tall'.

Existential sentences show either existence or possession. These sentences require the use of either *igwá* or *may*. Existential sentences have a subject and predicate. The predicate in sentences showing existence is a complement giving additional information about the subject. It is possible, however, for existential sentences to comprise only a subject, there being nothing further to be *predicated* or said. The analysis of existential sentences is complex and there is little agreement as to how this sentence type should be divided into a subject and predicate. In the analysis here, if the subject is general, as occurs in sentences showing existence, the particles *igwá* or *may* are part of the subject. If the subject is specific, as is the case with existential sentences showing possession, *igwá* or *may* are part of the predicate, e.g. *May relo* (EXIST watch) 'There is a watch', *May reló si lúdy* (EXIST watch PERSONAL.ARTICLE Ludy) 'Ludy has a watch'.

Existential sentences may also contain verbal phrases. These sentences pattern like the existential sentences showing possession. The predicate, as was the case with the verbal sentences, is discontinuous. The grammatical subject is always the noun phrase marked with one of the subject markers. The role of the subject is always agent. The affix on the verb indicates the role of the noun phrase which has been replaced by *igwá* or *may*. In the example which follows this role is the object or goal.

Igwá-ng itina'ó si Lúdy ki Carlos sa haróng  
 EXIST-LINKER gave SUBJ Ludy OBJ Carlos LOC house  
 'Ludy gave something to Carlos in the house.'

Bikol word order is difficult to characterize in terms of the relative order of verb, subject, and object. VSO order is common, but the subject can also appear between two nonsubject noun phrases.