

Table 3: Primary Affixes

Voice (case)	Past	Future	Tenseless
active volitional	<i>mipalít</i> 'bought'	<i>mupalít</i> 'will buy'	<i>mupalít/palít</i> 'buy'
active non-volitional	<i>nagpalít</i> 'bought'	<i>magpalít</i> 'will buy'	<i>magpalít</i> 'buy'
active progressive	<i>nagapalít</i> 'is buying'	<i>magapalít</i> 'will be buying'	<i>magapalít</i> 'be buying'
direct passive	<i>gipalít</i> 'bought it'	<i>palitún</i> 'will buy it'	<i>palitá</i> 'buy it'
local passive	<i>gipalitán</i> 'bought from it'	<i>palitán</i> 'will buy from it'	<i>palití</i> 'buy from it'
conveyance passive	<i>gipalít</i> 'used it to buy/buy for him'	<i>?ipalít</i> 'will use to buy, etc.'	<i>?ipalít</i> 'use to buy, etc.'

mutual action (involving two agents whose activities devolve on one another), plurality, accidental action, and other categories not describable in some simple way. The primary affixes indicate tense, aspect (or lack thereof), volitionality or inchoativeness, and case (the relation between the verb and a word to which it is oriented as the location, the direct object of the action, the time of the action, the place of the action, the beneficiary of the action, the thing conveyed in a direction away from the speaker, and other semantic relations not easily characterizable in simple terms). Table 3 above shows the primary affixes added to an unaffixed root. The tense meanings conveyed by the translations here only approximate the Cebuano meanings. The tenseless forms are used when the verb is preceded by another form which shows time or tense (e.g. the deictics, as shown below). We take *palít* 'buy' as our paradigm.

These affixes undergo complicated morphophonemic changes when added to stems which consist of a root plus some of the derivative affixes (but in the case of other derived stems, the inflectional affixes are added agglutinatively; they do not undergo morphophonemic alternations). Tables 4 and 5 on the next page show the paradigm of *papalít* 'cause to buy' (consisting of *pa-* plus *palít*, in which the inflectional affixes are added in an agglutinative way) and the root plus a potential derivative affix (in which the inflectional affixes combine with the derivational affixes with complex morphophonemics, so that neither is recoverable).

**Other Information on Morphology:** The deictics (particles meaning "here, there, where") are inflected for tense and motion. When following the phrase modified, the deictics distinguish the meaning "motion" from "non-motion" and for expressing the meaning "non-motion" use the form which is the same as the past tense form. When preceding the phrase modified, the deictics have tense meaning, but the meaning "motion" is not distinguished in this position, and the motion form does not occur preceding the word modified:

	Past	Present	Future	Motion
here (near me)	<i>dirí</i>	<i>dí?a</i>	<i>arí</i>	<i>ngarí</i>
here (near you and me)	<i>dinhi</i>	<i>ní?a</i>	<i>ánhi</i>	<i>ngánhi</i>
there (near you)	<i>dihá?</i>	<i>ná?a</i>	<i>ánha?</i>	<i>ngánha?</i>
there (far)	<i>dídtu</i>	<i>tú?a</i>	<i>ádtu</i>	<i>ngádtu</i>
where	<i>dí?ín</i>	<i>há?ín</i>	<i>?ása</i>	(none)

## Basic Syntax

The syntax of Cebuano, as is the case of all Philippine languages and in fact most of the Austronesian languages, is such that every word is free to occur in every grammatical construction—that is, there are subjects, predicates, and modifiers

## Basic Morphology

**Noun (and Adjective) Morphology.** There is no inflectional noun or adjective morphology—that is, there is no inflection for number, case, agreement, or gender in nouns and adjectives. There is an extensive and productive system of affixes which derive nouns and adjectives from roots of given semantic classes. All forms in the sentence are marked for case: nominative, genitive or dative/locative. In all classes of words except for the pronouns case is indicated by separate particles which precede the word marked. E.g. *babáyi* 'woman' *?aŋ babáyi* (nominative) and *sa babáyi* (genitive); *Huwán* 'John' *si Huwán* (nominative), *ni Huwán* (genitive), *kaŋ Huwán* (dative). The pronouns mark case inflectionally—that is, by special case forms, e.g. the first person singular 'I' *akú* or *ku* (nominative), *ku* or *náku?* (genitive), *áku?* (preposed genitive), and *kanáku?* or *náku?* (dative). Case relations are additionally expressed by verbal inflection (see directly below).

**Verb Morphology.** Verb morphology is elaborate, as is the case of all the Philippine languages, and the Cebuano verb system is in many ways similar to that of other Philippine languages. There is a small series of primary (inflectional) affixes and a fairly large number of productive secondary affixes. Secondary affixes indicate things like causation, potentiality,

Table 4: The Causative Paradigm with *pa-*

Voice (case)	Past	Future	Tenseless
active	<i>nagpapalít</i> 'had someone buy'	<i>magpapalít</i> 'will have someone buy'	<i>magpapalít/papalít</i> 'have someone buy'
direct passive	<i>gipapalít</i> 'had him/her buy'	<i>papalitún</i> 'will have him/ her buy'	<i>papalítá</i> 'have him/her buy'
local passive	<i>gipapalítán</i> 'had someone buy from'	<i>papalítán</i> 'will have someone buy from'	<i>papalítí</i> 'have someone buy from'
conveyance passive	<i>gipapalít</i> ' 'had it bought'	<i>?ipapalít</i> 'will have it bought'	<i>?ipapalít</i> 'have it bought'

Table 5: The Potential Paradigm

Voice (case)	Past	Future	Tenseless
active	<i>nakapalít</i> 'managed to buy'	<i>makapalít</i> 'can buy'	<i>makapalít</i> 'can buy'
direct passive	<i>napalít</i> 'happened to buy it'	<i>mapalít</i> 'can buy it'	<i>mapalít</i> 'can buy it'
local passive	<i>napapalítán</i> 'happened to buy from'	<i>mapalítán/kapalítán</i> 'can buy from'	<i>mapalítán/kapalitan</i> 'can buy from'
conveyance passive	<i>gikapalít</i> 'managed to use it to buy'	<i>?ikapalít</i> 'can use it to buy'	<i>?ikapalít</i> 'can use it to buy'

of various sorts and each word is free to occur in all three of those types of constructions without undergoing any morphological process. For example, a verb may modify a noun and when it does so it is not morphologically marked (that is, the verb is not transformed into something like a participle, as would be the case in Indo-European languages). There is no morphology which marks case, gender, number, or agreement, except that there are special verb derivations which refer to plural stems of various semantic types.

Cebuano has full words and particles which mark or modify full words. The markers are a small number which show grammatical relations (e.g. case, see above). Other particles are words which precede the full word they modify and those which follow them. Those which precede are the words meaning 'no' *díli?* and *walá?* and auxiliaries such as *kinahánglan* 'must', *mahímu* 'can', *gústu* 'want to', and a few others. Post-posed modifiers carry time or aspectual meanings or kinds of meanings carried by intonation in English. A sample list of some of these: *pa* 'still', *na* 'completed action', *gayúd* 'for sure', *man* 'because', *bítaw* 'you're right', *lagí* 'it is so the case', and so forth. Full words can only be modified if they are in the predicate.

**Case Marking of Major Constituents.** Full words can occur in any of the six types of construction which occur in Cebuano sentences: subject or theme, predicate (subject, theme, and predication are marked by the nominative case), attribute or appositive (marked by a linking particle *ya* (alternatively *η*), complement (marked by *sa* for specific complements and *?ug* for nonspecific complements), genitive (marked by *ni* in the case of proper nouns or *sa* for all other forms) and dative/locative (marked by *kaŋ* in the case of the proper nouns or *sa* for all other forms).

The **order of constituents** is free except that length of constituent influences the word order and complements and genitive

follow the forms they are in a phrase with. (There is also an alternative genitive which is placed immediately preceding the forms it is in a phrase with). However, there is a normal unmarked order, and other word orders thematicize or topicalize. The normal basic order is predicate + subject + dative/locative/time phrase: *gipalít ni Huwán ?aŋ líbru gahápun* (bought-it<sub>GEN</sub> John<sub>NOM</sub> book yesterday) 'John bought the book yesterday.'

The other alternative orders are also possible, but they thematicize the element put first: Time Predicate Subject, Time Subject Predicate, Subject Predicate Time, Subject Time Predicate, and Predicate Time Subject (although the latter two are unusual). Further, modifying particles and all pronouns except dative forms must occur immediately following the first word of the predicate or a time/location/dative form which comes ahead of the predicate. Thus for example, the above sentence could also have the Time phrase first (with an appropriate change in the verb form): *gahápun palítá ni Huwán ?aŋ líbru* (yesterday bought-it<sub>GEN</sub> John<sub>NOM</sub> book) 'Yesterday John bought the book.'

If a pronoun is substituted for *ni Huwan*, e.g., *níya* 'he (genitive)', then *níya* must come immediately after *gahápun* 'yesterday' or as close after it as possible: *gahápun níya palítá ?aŋ líbru* 'Yesterday he bought the book.'

If a modifying particle comes with the predicate, it is placed next to the preceding time-phrase or as close after it as possible: *gahápun pa níya palítá ?aŋ líbru* (yesterday already bought-it he.<sub>GEN</sub> NOM book) 'Yesterday he bought the book.' If a pronoun is substituted for *?ang líbru* 'the book', e.g., *na?* 'that (nominative)', then *na?* must come immediately after *gahápun* 'yesterday' or as close after it as possible: *Gahápun na? níya palítá*. 'It was yesterday he bought that.'

**Head Initial or Head-final Nature.** For appositions or ad-

jectival constructions there is no set order, and it is impossible to say which of the two or more forms in the phrase is the head. For example, in a phrase meaning ‘the big house’, the form meaning ‘big’ can come first or second: *?aŋ dakú ŋ baláy* ‘the big thing that is a house’ or *?aŋ baláy ŋ dakú?* ‘the house that is big.’ Another example: for ‘the book I asked him to buy’, the phrase meaning ‘I asked him to buy’ can come first or second: *?aŋ gipapalít náku? níya ŋ líbru* ‘the thing which I had him buy which was a book’ or *?aŋ líbru ŋ gipapalít náku? níya* ‘the book which I asked him to buy.’

Numerals must precede the words they modify, however. In the following phrase the word for ‘two’ *duhá* must come first: *duhá ka líbru* /two linker book/ ‘two books.’

**Negation.** There are two negatives: *walá?* (past, present verbs and location) and *dili?* (future verbs, adjectives, and nouns). Since *walá?* with verbs indicates past time, the tenseless form of the verb follows all verbs modified with *walá?*, as for example the form *palítá* ‘buy’ which is tenseless in the following example: *walá? palítá ni Huwán ?aŋ líbru* (NEG–PAST buy–it GEN John NOM book) ‘John didn’t buy the book.’

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