

INTRODUCTION

Sarangani Manobo is one of the languages comprising the Manobo subgroup within the Philippine branch of the Austronesian language family.¹ It is spoken by an estimated twenty thousand people living on the east coast of the Sarangani Peninsula and another ten thousand people living on the San Agustin Peninsula of southern Mindanao.

This Introductory Guide is a practical grammar of Sarangani Manobo. It is intended primarily to help those persons who are learning to speak Manobo as a second language by introducing them to the distinctive characteristics of the language in a progressive manner.

In contrast to traditional taxonomic (classificational) grammars, this monograph frequently shifts from one level or pattern to another and then back again, as necessary, to attain an easier progression from simpler to more complex material. As a reference aid, an outline of grammatical constructions at each level has been provided in Appendix C, with reference to sections of the text where particular units are described.

This Guide is the outgrowth of a structural linguistic analysis of the formal contrasts of the language, but the results of the analysis have been deliberately restated using terminology more readily understood by the nonspecialist reader. In that the Guide describes the basic grammar of the language, it will also be of interest to specialists pursuing linguistic studies of Philippine languages.²