

Chavacano Reader

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Edited by R. David Zorc

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Chavacano Reader

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Preface

This reader is intended to provide the beginning or intermediate student of Chavacano with a broad selection of articles together with all necessary lexical and grammatical information. The selections are rated between levels 2 to 3 plus according to the standards defined by the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) or American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The forty-five selections were taken from various sources including transcriptions of field interview recordings, *Sunstar Zamboanga* (a local daily published in Zamboanga City), books, literary pieces, and individual compositions.

Every effort has been made to offer the widest range of genres encountered in different settings: Culture and Society, Politics and Economics, Science and Technology, Defense and Security, Geography, and the Environment. The selections have not been edited or abbreviated from their originals.

The first part of this book contains the forty-five selections. Each reading is accompanied by an individual vocabulary and grammatical and/or cultural notes. Words are entered in the vocabulary for each selection in the order of their first appearance. Note that after each Chavacano entry is given the accentuation of the form; the capitalized letter represents the accented vowel to guide the user as to its correct pronunciation. At the very end of each entry the language from which the Chavacano word or phrase derives is given.

kyen ... who? ... [Span **quién**]

telepono ... telephone ... [Span **teléfono**]

In the case of Spanish (or other donor languages such as English), if the Chavacano form is spelled identically, then the abbreviation Span (or Eng) occurs alone to avoid needless repetition, e.g.,

por favor ... please ... [Span]

hello [Eng]

The second part of this book consists of translations of each selection.

The third and final part contains an index of grammatical terminology, an overall glossary, and a frequency list.

Abbreviations

~	ditto (same word as in the main column)
>	revised spelling of the same word
<	derives from
« »	the way the word or form is spelled
//	how the word or form is pronounced
abr	abbreviation
abs	abstract
adj	adjective
adr	used to address a person [<i>cf.</i> ref]
adv	adverb
age phr	age phrase
Akl	Aklanon
Arb	Arabic
art	article
atr	attributive
aux	auxiliary verb
Bis	Bisayan
card	cardinal number
caus	causative
CCE	<i>Chabacano-English Wordlist</i> (Chambers. 2003)
Ceb	Cebuano (Wolff. 1972)
CEC	<i>English-Chabacano Dictionary</i> (Chambers. 2003)
<i>cf</i>	Confer with
Chav	Chavacano
cm	case marking particle
cmp	compound
col	collective
colloq	colloquial
com	common (noun)
conj	conjunction
cop	copulative verb (a form of the verb "to be," English am , are , is , was , etc., Chavacano era , esta , estaba , syendo)
crfx	circumfix
DCF	<i>Diksyunaryong Chabacano-Filipino-Ingles</i> (2002)
def	definite
dem	demonstrative pronoun or deictic
dp	discourse particle
Eng	English
enum	enumerative (e.g., some, all, many)
excl	exclusive (first person pronoun we , but not you)
exis	existential (have, not have, be none)
ext	extended meaning
fam	familiar or intimate form
fem	feminine

fig	figurative
fut	future
ger	gerund (- <i>ing</i> form of a verb)
hybrid	hybrid (incorrect) spelling
Hil	Hiligaynon, Ilonggo
idiom	idiom or idiomatic expression
incl	inclusive (first person pronoun we , including you)
indef art	indefinite article
indef pro	indefinite pronoun
intj	interjection
kin	kinship term [see also: adr, ref]
lit	literally, a literal translation
loc	locative
masc	masculine
Mex	Mexican Spanish
mkr	marker
n	noun
n-abs	abstract noun
n-col	collective noun
NDR	no data recorded
neg	negative
nom	nominative (case)
num	number
obj	object (case)
obj pro mkr	object pronoun marker
obl	oblique case
ord	ordinal number
OSD	<i>Oxford Spanish Dictionary</i> (2003)
OSV	Object + Subject + Verb word order
part	participle (- <i>ed</i> past form of a verb)
pass	passive (verb)
PCS	<i>Philippine Creole Spanish</i> (Riego de Dios. 1989)
pers	person; personal
Phil	Philippine word (common to many central & southern languages)
phr	phrase
pl	plural; pluralizer
plc name	place name
poss	possessive case
pred	predicate
prep	preposition
prep phr	prepositional phrase
preverb mkr	pre-verb tense marker
prf	prefix
pro	pronoun
pro 1-sg	first person singular pronoun

pro 1-pl excl	first person plural exclusive pronoun
pro 1-pl incl	first person plural inclusive pronoun
pro 2-sg	second person singular pronoun
pro 2-pl	second person plural pronoun
pro 3-sg	third person singular pronoun
pro 3-pl	third person plural pronoun
qw	question word, interrogative
recip	reciprocal noun or verb (man- prefix)
redup	reduplication
ref	used to refer to a person [<i>cf.adr</i>]
refl	reflexive
rel pro	relative pronoun
sg	singular
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics
slg	slang
s.o.	someone
sp	spelling; spelled
Span	Spanish
s.t.	something
st	stative, state of being X
suf	suffix
sup	superlative adjective
SVO	Subject + Verb + Object word order
Tag	Tagalog
Tsg	Tausug
v	verb
v-intr	intransitive verb (has no object)
v-man	man- distributive verb
v-tr	transitive verb (takes an object)
var	variant, an alternate form
var sp	variant spelling
vn	verbal noun
VSO	Verb + Subject + Object word order

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Spelling

The spelling of Chavacano words throughout this book has been modified or regularized to reflect Philippine orthographies, i.e., not just that of Tagalog or Filipino, but also those in use for Cebuano, Hiligaynon, or Tausug, all of which are donor languages for adopted Austronesian, Philippine, Central Philippine, or Bisayan words.

First, this was done because Chavacano, one of three varieties of Philippine Creole Spanish, is truly a **Philippine language**. Where Spanish failed to provide culture-specific words or grammatical forms, such as in the inclusive /**kitá**/ vs. exclusive /**kamé**/ first person plural pronouns and the many discourse particles, Central Philippine words have been incorporated.

Second, while Spanish letters (graphemes) could handle most requirements of the Chavacano system, Spanish spelling itself is not without its own inconsistencies, sometimes in the same word. For example, the letter «c» has the phonemic value of both /k/ and /s/: Span «**cinco**» /**siŋko**/ or «**cerca**» /**serka**/. The word «**hojas**» "leaves" is actually pronounced /ʔóhas/ -- «**h**» is silent, yet «**j**» is pronounced [h].

Third, some authors originally wanted to insist that Spanish words be spelled the Spanish way, while Philippine words be spelled the Filipino way. However, this would yield confusing results such as «**kita**»: Bis **kitá** "we (inclusive)" vs Span **quitá**(r) "remove." This would have put an enormous burden on local authors who may not be fluent or conversant in Spanish. Other problems include the silent «**h**» of Spanish: «**horas**» = /ʔóras/ "hours," «**hermano**» = /ʔermáno/ "brother," «**hace**» = /ʔasé/ "do, make" as opposed to the /h/ articulation of both «**j**» and initial «**g**»: «**jugár**» = /hugáh/ "play; gamble," «**juramentar**» "swear in, administer an oath to" = /huramentáh/ "go beserk," «**mujer**» = /muhér/ "wife, woman," «**gigante**» = /higánte/ "giant," «**gente**» = /hénte/ "person, human being."

Fourth, not all speakers are sufficiently aware of the Spanish or non-Spanish origin of words. For example, Span «**cerveza**» /**serbésa**/ "beer" is variously spelled in a hybrid fashion: «**cerbeza**», «**cerbesa**» or «**serbeza**», and Span «**ansina**» /ʔansína/ "thus, this way, that way" has a hybrid «**ancina**». Tagalog /**hindí**?/ "not" is spelled in a hybrid or quasi-Spanish way «**jende**», rather than «**hende**» or «**hinde**», and Bis /**kay**/ "because" is sometimes spelled as «**cay**», while Tag /**daw**/ "it is said, they say" is spelled «**dao**».

The spelling of the language name is itself problematic. Five versions of this Zamboangeño dialect coexist. Frequency results from two outputs of a Chavacano corpus and two chronologically separate Internet searches illustrate these problems.

Grammar Overview

SPELLING	GOOGLE1	GOOGLE2	CORPUS1	CORPUS2
Dates	2006.07.24	2009.02.24	2003.08	2004.05
Chabacano (hybrid)	221,000	649,000	748	526
Chavacano (Spanish)	46,400	553,000	843	585
Chabakano (Filipino)	600	3,720	nil	nil
Chavakano (hybrid)	114	549,000	nil	nil
Chabcano (fruit~typo)	18	631,000	03	02

Articles or books that can be found in the **References** section utilize just two of these spellings. The authors of this book have opted to use the Spanish rendition, rather than either of the hybrid or Filipino versions.

«Chavacano»

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 Ministry of Education and Culture and SIL. 1979. *Languages of the Southern Gateway: A Phrase Book of Chavacano, Sinama, Tausug, Yakan...*
 Cruz. 1985-86. *Review: Languages of the Southern gateway...* (just above).
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 Mayer. n.d. "Written explanatory discourse in Zamboanga Chavacano."

«Chabacano»

- Forman. 1967. *Introduction to Chabacano*.
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Table 1. Orthographic versus Phonemic Notation

Graphemic Symbol	Phonemic Notation	Spanish Spelling	Notes, comments, etymology, or alternate forms
- (hyphen) ' (final)	ʔ (glottal stop)	(nil)	All vowel-initial words actually begin with ʔ sa-gang chin /saʔgáŋ/ (Tsg) bata' child /bátaʔ/ (Phil)
a	/a/	a	akél that < aquél silá they (Bis, Tag)
b	/b/	b v [below]	byén good < bien sábe know < saber
ch	/č/	ch ti [below]	chísmis gossip < chismes nóche night < noche
d	/d/	d	dále give < dar [imperative] endenántes before
E	/e/	e	del of < del esté this < éste sédula certificate < cédula
f	/f/ /p/	f	famílya family < familia opisína office < oficina
g	/g/	g	gastá spend < gastar gránde large < grande pagá pay < pagar
h	/h/	j g / e, i	hugá play < jugar hénte person < gente rehiyón region < región
i	/i/	i	akí here < aquí míyo my, mine < mío subí go up, increase < subir
j	/dy/	diV	médyo middle < medio estudyá study < estudiar
k	/k/	c k qu	kósa thing < cosa kílo kilogram < kilo ké that, which < que

Grammar Overview

Graphemic Symbol	Phonemic Notation	Spanish Spelling	Notes, comments, etymology, or alternate forms
l	/l/	l	alsá raise < alzar lugár place < lugar
ly	/l/ ~ /ly/	ll	alyá yonder < allá lyamá call < llamar
m	/m/	m	mirá look at < mirar kómo as, like < como
n	/n/	n	konél [direct obj] < conél nómbre name < nombre
ny	/ñ/ ~ /ny/	ñ	ányo year < año dwényo owner < dueño insinyá teach < enseñar
ng	/ŋ/	(usually nil) n / c, qu	ngangá' chew betelnut ságing banana síngko five < cinco awngké although < aunque
o	/o/ ~ /u/	o	korasón heart < corazon ótro other < otro
p	/p/	p	péro but < pero despwés after < después
r	/r/ (flap) /r/ (trill)	r rr	ríyo river < río retráto picture < retrato baríga stomach < barriga chéra soil < tierra
s	/s/	c / e, i s	séro zero < cero syudád city < ciudad ése that < ese salé depart < saler
t	/t/	t	tú you < tú kitá eliminate < quitar
ty ~ ch	/ty/ /č/ (above)	tiV	tyángge market < tianguis sítyo spot, place < sitio

Grammar Overview

Graphemic Symbol	Phonemic Notation	Spanish Spelling	Notes, comments, etymology, or alternate forms
u	/u/ ~ /o/ /w/	u	ún one < un bús bus < bus kwándo when? < cuando
v	/b/ ~ /v/	v = [b, β]	bolbé return < volver nwébo new < nuevo
w	/w/	CCu Vo	eskwéla school < escuela peskáw fish < pesca(d)o
x	/ks/	x	ekspliká explain < explicar séksto sixth < sexto
y	/y/	y- iV ~ Vi	yó I < yo yúnke anvil < yunque yélo ice < hielo pamílya family < familia díya day < día
z	/s/ ~ /z/	z	zéro ~ séro zero < zero kabésa head < cabeza bés time, instance < vez résa pray < rezar

Table 2. Noun Case-Marking Particles

Number	Subject Case	Object Case	Locative Prepositions	Possessive Case
com sg	el	konel	na towards de from	del
com pl	el maga	konel maga	na maga de maga	del maga
pers sg	si	kon	kon	di , var: de
pers pl	kanda	** NDR	kon kanda	** NDR

Use of the Hyphen

A hyphen is used to separate a prefix from all vowel-initial roots. It is also used before English loanwords to keep the Chavacano separate.

Grammar Overview

Pluralization

There are three ways to pluralize a noun in Chavacano.

(1) The most common way is with the widespread Philippine variety marker /**maɲá**/, spelled «**maga**», «**mana**», or «**mga**».

maga anak children
maga appointment appointments
otro maga familya other families
el maga tyempo the times
maga dwende dwarves
maga estudyante students

(2) The second way is with the Spanish or English plural suffix /-s/ or /-es/.

beses times
kustumbres customs
tradisyon traditions

(3) The third way is the redundant use of BOTH the Philippine /**maɲá**/ and the Spanish or English /-s/ ~ /-es/.

dimiyo **maga mayores** my parents
maga ihos children (R7)
diila maga things their things
maga bibyentes de Zamboanga residents of Zamboanga

Sometimes a Spanish noun has been borrowed in its plural form and is always used with the –s suffix even though a singular noun is intended. Such instances can be called the GENERIC PLURAL.

ahos garlic (one clove or a whole bunch)
armas weapon, weapons
chinelas slipper, slippers
chismis gossip, small talk
gastos expense, expenses
ohos eye, eyes
orehas ear, ears
sapatos shoe, shoes
sehas eyebrow, eyebrows

Conversely, some forms that end in –s in Spanish, whether they be plural or simply a form that happens to terminate in the consonant **s**, may be reinterpreted without that –s when borrowed.

tyangge small public market < Mex Span < Nahuatl **tianguis**
kompleanyo birthday < Span **cumpleaños**
kompleanyos birthdays [true plural intended]

It should be noted that pluralization is not always obligatory.

beynte nwebe anyos twenty-nine years (R2)

beynte kwatro ora(∅) twenty-four hours (R13, R15)

Lastly, some forms that do not have an –s in Spanish are borrowed under the influence of English.

censos census [Span **censo**]

Uranus (planet) [Span **Urano**]

Grammar Overview

Table 3. Personal Pronouns

Person & Number	SUBJECT CASE		OBJECT CASE		POSSESSIVE CASE	
	Eng	Chav	Eng	Chav	Eng	Chav
1 st sg	I	iyoyo [clitic]	me	connmigo konmigo komigo	my, mine	dimi dimiyo
2 nd sg	you	itu, etutu [clitic] tuyoyuste, usted bo, ebo, ebos ka [clitic]	you	contigo kontigo con uste conuste konuste conusted konusted con bos conbos kombos konbos	your, yours	ditu dituyo diuste debos mo [clitic]
3 rd sg	he, she	elele [clitic]	him, her	con ele conele konele con su consu konsu	his, her, hers	disu su [clitic] disuyo
	it = that [dem]	ese se [clitic]	it	con ese conese konese	its	diese
1 st plural [exclusive]	we	kame	us	kanamon konamon	our, ours	diamon amon [clitic]
1 st plural [inclusive]	we	kita	us	kanaton konaton	our, ours	diaton aton [clitic]
2 nd plural	you	ustedes vosotros kamo	you	konustedes kaninyo	your, yours	diustedes diinyo
3 rd plural	they	sila esos elyos	them	kanila konila konelyos	their, theirs	diila

Table 4. Demonstrative Pronouns (Deictics)

Deictics	Subject		Object		Possessive	
	sg	plural	sg	plural	sg	plural
1 st Pers this	este 'ste [clitic]	este maga, estos	con este coneste kuneste cuneste koneste	este maga maga este konestos	de este deeste deeste	de maga estos destos deestos
2 nd Pers that (near you)	ese 'se [clitic]	ese maga esos	con ese conese cunese kunese konese conece	ese maga maga ese konesos	de ese deese dese	de maga esos desos
3 rd Pers that, yon (far away)	akel 'kel [clitic]	akel maga akelyos kelyos	con aquel cunaquel kunaquel kunakel conaquel cunakel con akel conakel konaquel konakel	akel maga maga akel konakelyos	de akel deakel dekel	de maga dekelyos dekellos

Note that the OBJECT forms have many variant spellings (including **c** vs. **k**, **o** vs. **u**), and the use of space between the preposition and deictic. After the first occurrence in each box, which was the form preferred by authors in a seminar on spelling the language, they are listed in the order of their frequency in the Chavacano Corpus.

Locative Deictics	Adverb	Predicative
1 st Pers here (near me)	aki	taki
2 nd Pers there (near you, not far)	alyi	talyi
3 rd Pers there, yonder	alya	talya

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Table 5. Cardinal Numbers

Chavacano	Pronunciation	English	Spanish
uno, un	/ʔUnoh/ - /ʔUn/	one, 1	uno, una, un
dos	/dOs/	two, 2	dos
tres	/trEs/	three, 3	tres
kwatro	/kwAtroh/	four, 4	cuatro
singko	/sIŋkoh/	five, 5	cinco
sais	/saʔIs/ ~ /sEys/	six, 6	seis
syete	/syEteh/	seven, 7	siete
ocho	/ʔOčoh/	eight, 8	ocho
nwebe	/nwEbeh/ ~ /nwEveh/	nine, 9	nueve
dyes	/dyEs/ ~ /diEs/	ten, 10	diez
onse	/ʔOnseh/	eleven, 11	once
dose	/dOseh/	twelve, 12	doce
trese	/trEseh/	thirteen, 13	trece
katorse	/katOrseh/	fourteen, 14	catorce
kinse	/kInseh/	fifteen, 15	quince
disisais	/dIsisEys/	sixteen, 16	dieciséis
disisyete	/dIsisyEteh/	seventeen, 17	diecisiete
disiocho	/dIsiochoh/	eighteen, 18	dieciocho
disinwebe	dIsinwEbe/	nineteen, 19	diecinueve
beynte	/bEynte/	twenty, 20	veinte
beynte-nwebe	/bEyntenwEbe/	twenty-nine, 29	veintinueve
treynta	/trEyntah/	thirty, 30	treinta
kwarenta	/kwarEntah/	forty, 40	cuarenta
kwarenta y singko	/kwarEntah'singko/	forty-five, 45	cuarenticinco
singkwenta	/singkwEntah/	fifty, 50	cincuenta
sesenta	/sesEntah/	sixty, 60	sesenta
setenta	/setEntah/	seventy, 70	sesenta
ochenta	/ʔochEntah/	eighty, 80	ochenta
nobenta	/nobEntah/	ninety, 90	noventa
syento	/syEnto/	hundred, 100	cien
mil	/mil/	thousand, 1,000	mil
milyon	/milyOn/	million, 1,000,000	millón
bilyon	/bilyOn/	billion, 1,000,000,000	mil millones, billón

Table 6. Ordinal Numbers

Chavacano	Pronunciation	English	Spanish
primero	/primEroh/	first, 1st	primero
ika-dos	/ʔikadOs/	second, 2nd	segundo
ika-tres	/ʔikatrEs/	third, 3rd	tercero; tercer
ika-kwatro	/ʔikakwAtroh/	fourth, 4th	cuarto
ika-singko	/ʔikasInkoh/	fifth, 5th	quinto
ika-sais	/ʔikasaʔIs/ ~ /ʔikasEys/	sixth, 6th	sexto
ika-syete	/ʔikasyEteh/	seventh, 7th	séptimo
ika-ochó	/ʔikaʔOčoh/	eighth, 8th	octavo
ika-nwebe	/ʔikanwEbe/ ~ /ʔikanwEve/	ninth, 9th	noveno
ika-dyes	/ʔikadyEs/ ~ /ʔikadiEs/	tenth, 10th	décimo
ika-onse	/ʔikaʔOnseh/	eleventh, 11th	undécimo, onceavo
ika-dose	/ʔikadOseh/	twelfth, 12th	duodécimo
ika-trese	/ʔikatrEseh/	thirteenth, 13th	decimotercero
ika-katorse	/ʔikakatOrseh/	fourteenth, 14th	decimocuarto
ika-kinse	/ʔikakInseh/	fifteenth, 15th	decimoquinto
ika-disisais	/ʔikadIsisEys/	sixteenth, 16th	decimosexto
ika-disisyete	/ʔikadIsisyEteh/	seventeenth, 17th	decimoséptimo
ika-disiocho	/ʔikadIsiochoh/	eighteenth, 18th	decimoctavo
ika-disinwebe	/ʔikadIsinwEbeh/	nineteenth, 19th	decimonoveno
ika-beynte	/ʔikabEynteh/	twentieth, 20th	vigésimo
ika-beynte-nwebe	/ʔikabEyntenwEbe/	twenty-ninth, 29th	vigesimonoveno
ika-treynta	/ʔikatrEyntah/	thirtieth, 30th	trigésimo
ika-kwarenta	/ʔikakwarEnta/	fortieth, 40th	cuadragésimo
ika-singkwenta	/ʔikasingkwEntah/	fiftieth, 50th	quincuagésimo
ika-sesenta	/ʔikasesEntah/	sixtieth, 60th	sexagésimo
ika-setenta	/ʔikasetEntah/	seventieth, 70th	septuagésimo

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ika-ochenta	/ʔikaʔochEntah/	eightieth, 80th	octogésimo
ika-nobenta	/ʔikanobEntah/	ninetieth, 90th	nonagésimo
ika-syento	/ʔikasyEnto/	hundredth, 100th	centésimo
ika-mil	/ʔikamil/	thousandth, 1,000th	milésimo
ika-milyon	/ʔikamilyOn/	millionth, 1,000,000th	millonésimo

Table 7. Time Nouns – Days of the Week

Day	Pronunciation	English	Spanish	Sel
Lunes	/lUnes/	Monday	lunes	31
Martes	/mArtes/	Tuesday	martes	Ø
Miyerkoles	/myErkoles/	Wednesday	miércoles	Ø
Huwebes	/hwEbes/	Thursday	jueves	Ø
Biyernes	/byErnes/	Friday	viernes	31
Sabado	/sAbadoh/	Saturday	sábado	1
Domingo	/dumIngoh/	Sunday	domingo	44

Spanish does not capitalize the names of the days of the week or the months of the year. Chavacano follows English in this regard.

Table 8. Time Nouns – Months of the Year

Month	Pronunciation	English	Spanish	Sel
Enero	/ʔenEroh/	January	enero	Ø
Pebrero	/pebrEroh/	February	febrero	Ø
Marso	/mArso/	March	marzo	24
Abril	/ʔabrIl/	April	abril	Ø
Mayo	/mAyo/	May	mayo	18
Hunyo	/hUnyoh/	June	junio	22, 24, 32
Hulyo	/hUlyoh/	July	julio	Ø
Agosto	/ʔagOstoh/	August	agosto	Ø
Septyembre Setyembre	/septyEmbreh/ /setyEmbreh/	September	septiembre setiembre	Ø
Oktubre	/ʔoktUbreh/	October	octubre	Ø
Nobyembre	/nobyEmbreh/ /novyEmbreh/	November	noviembre	Ø
Disyembre	/disyEmbreh/	December	diciembre	29

Table 9. Preverbs

Verb type	Present Durative	Past Punctual	Future	Infinitive Imperative
Ø Root verbs	ta	ya	ay	Ø
man- Distributive	tan ta man-	yan ya man-	** NDR ay man-	man-
ase Causative	ta ase	ya ase	ay ase	Ø ase

Passive Equivalent Constructions

There is no overt marking of a passive construction in Chabakano, i.e., no prefix, infix, or suffix as in other Philippine languages. Rather, the interpretation is based on a given context. For example, a verb that occurs without an **el** subject is understood to be passive.

Si ya proposa sila el regla del kasa, ta reganya y ta konseha por medyo de kombensar embwenamente. If they have broken the house rules, they are scolded and counseled by means of a good talking to. (S7)

When a subject is stated, a passive interpretation may be more appropriate in a certain context, even if the construction is essentially active.

ke kombyene sigi el maga anak which must be obeyed by the children (S7) [active translation: which the children must obey]

Following the existential predicate **chene**, a passive interpretation is often warranted when the subject is unmarked.

Un diya chene kompetisyon ya ase na plasa del un pweblo. One day, there was a competition held at the town plaza. (S5)

The construction **al** + VERB may also have a passive interpretation.

al resibir el sweldo upon the salary being received

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Table 10. Negatives

Part of speech	Chavacano	English translation	Tag	Bis (Ceb)
Imperative verb	no	don't	huwág	ayáw
Possibility verb	nopwede nupwede	cannot	hindí: pwede	díli? ma- hímu?
Knowledge verb	nusabi nusabe	(I) don't know (dp ignorance)	éwan	ambút
Desire verb	no kyere	don't want, don't like	áyaw	díli? gústu
Present or Future	hende'	does not, will not	hindí?	díli?
Past verb	nuway	did not	hindí?	walá?
Existential statement	nuway	none	walá?	walá?
Predicative statement	nuway mas	be no more; be all gone	walá: na	walá? na
Predicative verb	nuway nada	There is/was nothing	talagáng walá'	walá? gayúd
Durative verb	nuway ma ya nwayma	no more, no longer	hindí:-na	díli? na
Personal noun	ninguno nadye ni nuway kyen	nobody, no one	waláng sinumán	waláy táwu waláy'y bisan kinsa
Common noun	nada nuway kosa ni nuway kosa	nothing	waláng	walá? ug waláy'y
Time noun	nungka	never	hindí? ka- ilanmán	nungka
Possessive statement	ni nuway	not have, would not have; have no ...	walá: man	walá? gayúd
Quantitative	sin	without, having none	waláng	waláy, way
Conjunction	ni (... ni)	neither (... nor)	ni (... ni)	ni (... ni)
Verb	numa	not do, refrain from	huwág	ayáw

Table 11. Discourse Particles

DISCOURSE PARTICLES add color, inject mood, state an opinion, indicate relative time, or give some form of contextual meaning to spoken or written speech. Sometimes they are very difficult to translate into English. Note that most of them follow the word or phrase they modify. These can be subdivided into the following basic functions:

Discourse Particle	Approximate Meaning	Usage	Tag	Bis
amó	truly, indeed, really; thus, the very one, like that; right, correct; that's it!	stresses factuality or correctness; not equivalent to Eng copula <i>is/are</i> [PCS:59]	ganyán; táma'	Hil amó ; Ceb ma?ú
ánay PATIENCE	first, next; in a minute; please	action to follow [PCS:25]	múna	Hil ánay ; Ceb úsa?
ba QUESTION	is it?	marks a question with an overtone of seeking information, agreement, or confirmation [PCS:25]	ba	balá
baká? bási? POSSIBILITY	might, maybe, perhaps, possibly; I wonder	indicates some possibility [PCS:25]	baká? tíla yáta?	bási?
daw QUOTATIVE	as they say; it seems; according to he/she said	marks a rumor [PCS:25]; marks a report; marks a quotation	umanó aní daw, raw	kunó
dáyun IMMEDIATE	immediately, right away	immediate action necessary	agád	dáyun
di? ba TAG	isn't it?	marks a question where agreement is sought	di? ba	díli? balá
éra DESIDERATIVE HYPOTHETICAL	it would be nice if; would, should	politeness in a question, hopes for a positive outcome [PCS:25]	sána	kúnta?
galé? DISCOVERY	oh!; so!; really?	indicates surprise or discovery [PCS:25]	palá	galí?

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gáne? gáni? EMPHATIC	it is so!; well!; even	indicates strong personal emphasis [PCS:25]	nga?	gáni? ngáni?
gat gayód gayót INTENSIFIER	indeed; very much so; really ...	indicates empha- sis of a fact [PCS:25]	talagá	Ceb gayód Hil gid
kahá? gahá? CONDITIONAL	perhaps, maybe, just possibly; in case, by chance	indicates uncer- tainty, wondering, or wishfulness on the part of the speaker [PCS:25]	sakáli?	Ceb kahá? kayhá?
kasí EXCUSE	because, after all	used when one is giving an excuse	kasí	ábi?
kompare komare	buddy, pal, mate; sis, miz, ma'am	shows medium degree of respect; some intimacy	ho?	páre máre
kwan HESITATION or FILLER	er..., uh..., whatchama- callit, whats- his-name	used when one is unsure of or un- able to find the correct word or proper way of saying something; it can be placed in any part of a sentence replacing a word or several words	kuwán kwan	kuwán kwan
lang LIMITING	only, just	limits the scope of a word [PCS:25]	lámang, lang	lang
man ¹ ANSWER man ² EXCUSE	also, too SUBSEQUENT; since, because;	in giving an ans- wer or response; marks an excuse or reason;	din, rin kasí	Ceb sab Hil man ábi?
man ³ POLITENESS	please, would you mind?;	politeness in a question or request	múna	ánay
man ⁴ CONFIRMATION	really! also, besides, moreover	emphasis in giving a confir- mation [PCS:25]	man	man
man tamen CONTRAST		contrastive obser- vation	namán	man

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nyor nyora RESPECT	sir madame	shows high degree of respect	po?	-- NDR
ole ITERATIVE	again	marks repetition or reiteration [PCS:25]	din, rin	Ceb sab Hil man
pa IMPERFECTIVE	yet, still	marks imperfec- tive or incomplete state; contrasts with ya [PCS:25]	pa	pa
pirmi pirme permi firme PERPETUAL	always	applies all the time	lági palági	pirmi
sána DISIDERATIVE	hopefully; I hope	marks speaker's wish or hope [PCS:25]	sána	kúnta?
sigúro	maybe, perhaps	communicates uncertainty	sigúro	sigúro
syémpre AFFIRMATION	certainly!, indeed!, of course!	indicates an affirmation on the part of the speaker	kayá? syém- pre	syémpre
tamén	again, also, too, likewise	subsequent action or relationship [PCS:25]	na na- mán	man gayód
ya PERFECTIVE	now, already, presently, currently	marks perfective or currently rele- vant state; contrasts with pa [PCS:25]	na	na

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Word Order

Perhaps the most significant change from Spanish is the order of words. In Spanish (as in English), the typical structure of the sentence is Subject – Verb – Object (SVO). However, in Chavacano (as in most other Philippine languages) the usual or unmarked word order is VSO — that is, the verb comes first, followed by the subject, and then the object. There may be additional material such as a beneficiary (in the examples immediately below), an instrument, or a location.

Span **Ustedes enseñan a niños (SVO) para la escuela.**

Eng You all teach children (SVO) for the school.

Chav **Ta insinya ustedes na mga bata (VSO) para na eskwela.**

Moreover, in Spanish, most adjectives follow an unmarked noun.

hora libre	free period
horas libres	free time, spare time
miedo grande	great fear
fruta del tiempo	fruits in season

Whereas in Chavacano this order is usually reversed, sometimes following the pattern of English and/or other Philippine languages.

libre ora	free time (S6)
grande myedo	great fear (S18)
tyempo pruta	fruit season (S9)

Selections

Na Telepono

- 1: Hello.¹ Si Trisha 'ste.² Kyen 'ste, por favor?³
 2: Mrs. Belards Wong. Este ba⁴ el opisina de Father DJ?
 1: Si, amo ya este. Bwenas diyas, Mrs. Wong. Si Trisha 'ste. Ta akorda tu konmigo, el sekretarya?
 2: Ay, Trisha, etu gale.⁵ Si, ta akorda yo. Talyi ba si Father?⁶ Kyere yo mangkwento konele.⁷
 1: Nuway le aki ara. Ya anda le na Ayala, kay chene kasamyento alya.⁸
 2: Ansina ba? Ke ora le bolbe?
 1: Nosabe yo. Pero chene le otro pa maga appointment este tarde. Basi⁹ kyere tu man-leave un message para konele?
 2: Kwan, ... pwede tu¹⁰ dale konmigo el disuyo cellphone, si sabe tu kosa el number?
 1: Nuway le lyeba disuyo cellphone. Kay hende gat le pirmi ta usa el cellphone. Kosa era kel, Mrs. Wong?
 2: Kwan, kay kyere yo manpamisa. Pero na Sabado pa, si pwede na tarde. Libre pa kaha si Father? Kay kyere gayot yo man-request konele, kay anibersaryo dimiyo nana.
 1: Ansina ba? Un rato lang, Mrs. Wong. Ay mira lang yo na schedule book.
 1: Mrs. Wong, nuway problema kay libre pa ele. Y sabe ya tu ke na todo Mass request ta man-respond gayot ele. Ansina ya lang kaha: pone yo koneste na schedule y man-confirm¹¹ yo kon Father si lyega le. Kabar lyama yo kontigo.
 2: Ansina. O sigi, ta espera ya lang yo. Muchas gracias, Trisha.
 1: De nada, Mrs. Wong. Y muchas gracias tamen.

Vocabulary

na /nAh/ *cm com def loc ~ prep* on, in, at, to, from, out of; according to; concerning, about [Asturian (not Spanish) **na** in]

telepono /telEponoh/ *n* telephone [Span **teléfono**]

si /slh/ *cm name nom sg* (marks singular personal names that serve as subjects) [Phil loan: **si**]; *intj* yes; *conj* if, when [Span **si**]

Trisha *name fem*

'ste /ʔestEh/ ~ /ʔistEh/ *dem-1-sg nom short* this [Span loan & var sp **este**]

kyen /kyEn/ *qw* who?; *rel pro* who, whom, whose [var sp **ken, kien**; Span **quién**]

por favor /por-favOr/ ~ /por-pabOr/ *intj* please [Span,¹² used to make a polite request]

por /pOr/ *prep* for, to, by, through [Span]

favor /favOr/ ~ /pabOr/ *n* favor [var: **pabor**; Span]

Mrs. Belards Wong *name fem*

Belards *name* (nickname for Abelarda)

Wong *surname* (very common Chinese family name in Zamboanga City)

este /ʔestEh/ *dem-1-sg nom* this [var: **'ste, ste**; Span]

ba /bAh/ *dp* is it? (marks a question with an overtone of seeking infor-

Selection One

- mation, agreement, or confirmation) [Tag]
- el** /ʔeI/ *cm com def nom sg* the (marks subject nouns or predicate nouns) [Span]
- opisina** /ʔopisIna/ ~ /ʔofisInah/ *n* office [hybrid sp **oficina**; Span loan & var sp **oficina**]
- de** /dEh/ ~ /dlh/ *prep* of, from [Span]
- Father DJ** *name*
- Amo ya** /ʔamo-yAh/ *dp expr* That's it!; You said it!; Precisely! (frequently used phrase that affirms or emphasizes the correctness of something just said or heard)
- amo** /ʔamOh/ ~ /ʔamUh/ *dp* truly, indeed, really; thus, the very one, like that; correct, right; that's it! [stresses factuality or correctness; Hil loan]; Contrast: /ʔAmo/ *n* master of a household [var sp **amu**; Span **amo**, -a]
- ya** /yAh/ *preverb* -ed (indicates past tense or completed action)
- ya** *dp* now, already, presently, currently (marks perfective or currently relevant state; contrasts with **pa**)
- bwenas diyas** /bwEnas-dIyAs/ *intj* Good morning!, Good day! (greeting used in the morning and upon coming into the presence of others) [Span **buenas días**; *cf.* Span **buenos días**]
- bwenas** /bwEnas/ *intj* Hello!, Good morning!, Good afternoon!, Good evening! (greeting used upon coming into the presence of others); [in speech, **bwenas** is preferred to **bwenas diyas**]; *n* luck; *adj* lucky [Span loan & var sp **buenas**]
- diyas** /dIyas/ *n pl* days [Span loan & var sp **días**]
- ta** /tAh/ *preverb* (indicates the present tense, a habitual act, or an action in progress)
- akorda** /ʔakordAh/ *v* remember [Span loan & var sp **acorda(r)** remind; *cf.* Span **acordarse** remember]
- tu** /tUh/ *pro-2-sg-fam nom* you [Span **tú**]
- konmigo** /konmIgo/ *pro-1-sg obj* me [var: **komigo**, **kumigo**; Span var sp **comigo**; Span loan & var sp **connmigo** with me]
- sekretarya** /sekretAryah/ *n* secretary [Span loan & var sp **secretaria**]
- ay** /ʔay/ *intj* Oh! (indicates surprise, fright, pain, or realization of an error); *fut preverb* will (indicates the future tense); *inversion mkr* as for [marks inverted word order for emphasis]
- etu** /ʔetUh/ *pro-2-sg fam nom* you [Span **tú**]
- gale** /galEʔ/ *dp* oh!; so!; really? (indicates surprise or discovery) [Bis loan: **galí**?; contrast: **gane**?]
- yo** /yOh/ *pro-1-sg nom* I [Span; var: **iyó**]
- talyi** /talyIh/ ~ /talIh/ *dem-2 pred* There (near you) is/was...., Over there are/were...; *adv* there (generally near the listener) [hybrid **talli**; *cf.* Span **está allí**]
- kyere** /kyEreh/ *v* want, like, desire; love [var sp **kere**; Span loan & var sp **quiere**, **quere**, **quire**]
- mangkwentó** /maŋkwEntoh/ *v-man* talk (with s.o.); narrate an experience or event; exchange stories
- man-** /mAn/ *prf* (attached to certain words to turn them into verbs; also attached to certain nouns to indicate some

- relationship between two or more persons)
- kwento** /kwEntoh/ *n* story [Span **cuento**]
- konele** /konEleh/ ~ /kunEleh/ *obj pro 3-sg* him, her [var sp **kunele**, **kon ele**; hybrid **conele**, **cunele**; cf. Span **con él**]
- nuway** /nuwAy/ *neg exis* none, not any (negates an existential predicate); did not (negates an action in the past, usually replaces the *preverb ya*) [var sp **nuay**, **nohay**; Span loan & var sp **no hay**; cf. **hende** (present or future neg)]
- le** /lEh/ ~ /lEy/ *pers pro 3-sg* he, she [var: **ele**; Span **él**]; *v* read [var sp **leh**; Span **le(er)**]; *n* law [Span loan & var sp **ley**]
- aki** /ʔakIh/ *dem-1 loc adv* here [var: **ki**; Span loan & var sp **aquí**]
- ara** /ʔArah/ *n* now, at present, today [in spoken Chavacano, **ara** is more often used than its variant **awra**; Span **ahora**; Span hybrid sp **aura**, **ahura**]; /ʔarAh/ *v* plow (for planting) [Span **ara(r)**]
- anda** /ʔandAh/ *v* go [Span **anda(r)**]
- Ayala** /ʔayAlah/ *plc name* (barangay of Zamboanga City about 16 kilometers northwest of City Hall, a large residential area on the west coast, economically important for its sardine canneries)
- kay** /kAy/ *conj* because [Bis loan; hybrid sp **cay**; cf. Span **porque**] Contrast: *v* drop, fall down; fail (an exam) [Span **cae(r)**]
- chene** /ʔEneh/ *v poss* There is / are...; There was / were...
- chene** *v poss* have [var: **tene**; var sp **tyene**; Span **tiene**, present of **tener** have; get]
- kasamyento** /kasamyEntoh/ *n* wedding ceremony, marriage [Span loan & var sp **casamiento**]
- myento** /myEntoh/ *suf* (forms process nouns from verb stems)
- alya** /ʔalyAh/ ~ /ʔalAh/ *adv* there [Span loan & var sp **allá**]
- ansina** /ʔansInah/ ~ /ʔansinAh/ *adv* this way, that way; like this, like that; thus, in this or that manner; **Ansina ba?** *qw* Is that a fact?, Is that so? (frequently used question) [hybrid sp **ancina**; old Span **ansina**]
- ke** /kEh/ *qw* what?; *rel pro* who, whom, that, which *rel conj* that, which [Span loan & var sp **que**]
- ora** /ʔOrah/ *n* hour, time; **Ke ora ya?** What time is it now? [Span loan & var sp **hora**]
- bolbe** /bolbEh/ *v* return, come back, go home [Span loan & var sp **volve(r)**]
- no** /nOh/ *neg adv* no, not [Span]
- sabe** /sAbeh/ *v* know, understand [Span **sabe(r)**]
- pero** /perOh/ *conj* but, yet [Span] /pEroh/ *n* dog [Span loan & var sp **perro**]
- otro** /ʔOtroh/ *enum masc* other (person or thing), another; different; respective [Span]
- pa** /pAh/ *dp* yet, still (marks imperfective or incomplete state; contrasts with **ya**) [Phil **pa**]
- maga** /magAh/ ~ /maŋAh/ *pl* (indicates more than one or a variety of something) *adv* approximately [var: **mana**; Tag & Bis var sp **mga**; Phil **maḡá**]
- tarde** /tArdeh/ *n* afternoon; *atr* late (in the day) [Span]
- basi** /bAsi?/ *dp* might, maybe, perhaps, possibly; I wonder (indicates some possibility) [Bis loan; var sp **basih**; var: **baka**]

Selection One

man-leave /manIv/ *v-man* leave
[Phil **man-** + Eng]

un /ʔUn/ *indef art* a, an; *card one*
[Span]

para /pArah/ ~ /parAh/ *prep* to,
towards, for [Span **para**] /parAh/
v stand up, rise; stop, come to a
halt [Span **para(r)**]

kwan /kwan/ *dp* er..., uh...,
whatchamacallit (used when one
is unsure of or unable to find the
correct word or proper way of
saying something; can be placed
in any part of a sentence replacing
a word or several words) [var sp
kuan; Phil loan]

pwede /pwEdeh/ *v* can, may; be
able [var sp **puwede**; Span loan &
var sp **puede**]

dale /dAleh/ *v* give [Span
imperative singular of **dar**]

disuyo /disUyuh/ *pro-3-sg obl poss*
his, her, hers [var: **suyu**, **suyo**; var
sp **disuyu**, **de suyo**; Span **de suyo**
his (third person masculine
singular)]

cellphone *n* /sElfon/ cell phone
[Eng; var sp **selfon**, **cell phone**;
hybrid sp **celfon**]

kosa /kOsah/ *qw* what?; *indef pro*
what, which, something; *n* thing,
object [Span loan & var sp **cosa**]

lyeba /lyebAh/ ~ /libAh/ *v* bring,
take (along) [var: **liba**; Span loan
& var sp **lleba(r)**]

hende /hendEʔ/ ~ /hindEʔ/ *neg* not
(negates verbs in the present or
future tense, but never verbs in
the past tense) [var: **hinde**; Tag
loan: **hindiʔ**; hybrid sp **jende**; *cf.*
nuway (past neg)]

gat /gAt/ *dp* indeed; very much so;
really ... (indicates emphasis of a
fact) [var: **gayot**, **gayod**]

pirmi /pIrmih/ *adv time, dp*
always, every time, all the time
[Span **firme** firm, hard, steady]

usa /ʔusAh/ *v* use; wear [Span
usa(r)]

era /ʔErah/ *counterfactual dp* it
would be nice if; would, should
(introduces a note of politeness in
a blunt question, but hopes for a
positive outcome) [Span **era**
I/he/she was (in nature or identity,
past imperfect indicative form of
ser)]

kel /kEl/ *dem-3-sg nom short* that
[var: **akel**; Span hybrid sp **quel**;
Span **aquel**]

manpamisa, mampamisa
/manpamIsah/ *v-man* make a
request for a mass, have a mass
read

pamisa /pamIsah/ *n* Mass upon
request for some specific
occasion

pa- /pa-/ *caus prf* have an action
done (causative verb prefix)

misa /mIsah/ *n* (holy) mass [Span]

Sabado /sAbadoh/ *n* Saturday
[Span] See Front matter, Table 7
for TIME NOUNS–DAYS OF THE
WEEK

libre /Ibreh/ *adj* free; available, not
occupied; independent; *v slg* give
s.o. a treat [Span]

kaha /kahAʔ/ *dp* perhaps, maybe,
just possibly; in case, by chance
(indicates uncertainty, wondering,
or wishfulness on the part of the
speaker) [Ceb loan: **kaháʔ**; var:
gaha] Contrast: /kAhah/ *n* case,
box, container [Span **caja**]

gayot /gayOt/ ~ /gayOd/ *dp*
indeed; very much so; really ...
(indicates emphasis of a fact)
[var: **gat**, **gayod**]

<p>man-request /manrikwEst/ <i>v-man</i> request, ask (a favor) [Phil man- + Eng]</p> <p>anibersaryo /ʔanibersAryoh/ <i>n</i> anniversary (of birth, wedding, death, foundation, etc.) [Span loan & var sp aniversario]</p> <p>dimiyó /dimIyoh/ <i>poss pro 1-sg</i> my, mine [var sp dimio]</p> <p>nana /nAnah/ <i>n</i> mother; <i>cf.</i> /nanAʔ/ <i>n</i> pus</p> <p>un rato lang /ʔun-rAtoh-lAng/ <i>adv phr</i> Just a moment (used to ask someone to wait for s.o. or s.t.)</p> <p>rato /rAtoh/ <i>n</i> moment, a very short time interval [Span]</p> <p>lang /lAng/ <i>dp</i> only, just (limits the scope of a word) [Phil loan]</p> <p>ay mira /ʔay mirAh/ <i>v-fut</i> will look</p> <p>mira /mirAh/ <i>v</i> look at, see, watch [Span mira(r)]</p> <p>schedule book <i>n phr</i> appointment book, register [Eng]</p> <p>problema /problEmah/ <i>n</i> problem [Span]</p> <p>ele /ʔelEh/ <i>pers pro 3-sg</i> he, she [var: le; Span él] y /ʔIh/ [before a consonant] ~ /-y/ [before or after a vowel] <i>conj</i> and [Span]</p> <p>todo /tOdoh/ <i>enum</i> all [Span]</p> <p>man-respond /manrespOnd/ <i>v-man</i> respond, answer [Phil man- + Eng]</p> <p>pone /ponEh/ <i>v</i> put, place [Span pone(r)]</p> <p>koneste /konEsteh/ ~ /kunEsteh/ <i>dem-1-sg obj</i> this (thing or, at times, person) [var sp kon este, kuneste; Span var sp con este, coneste; Span hybrid sp cuneste]</p> <p>man-confirm /manʔkonfIrm/ <i>v-man</i> confirm [Phil man- + Eng]</p> <p>kon /kOn/ ~ /kUn/ <i>prep</i> with, to, for [var: kun; Span loan & var sp con]</p>	<p>lyega /ʔegAh/ ~ /lyegAh/ <i>v</i> arrive [Span loan & var sp llega(r)]</p> <p>kabar /kabAr/ <i>conj time</i> after, then, and then, and after that, afterwards [var: akabar; Span loan & var sp acabar]</p> <p>lyama /ʔamAh/ ~ /lyamAh/ <i>v</i> call, name [Span loan & var sp llama(r)]</p> <p>kontigo /kontIgoH/ <i>obj pro 2-sg</i> you [Span loan & var sp contigo; hybrid sp cuntigo]</p> <p>O sigi /ʔo-sIgiH/ ~ /ʔo-sigIh/ <i>I</i> agree!; Sure!; Well, okay! (frequently used phrase)</p> <p>o /ʔOh/ <i>intj</i> Oh! (somewhat equivalent to English)</p> <p>o <i>conj</i> or</p> <p>sigi /sIgiH/ ~ /sigEh/ <i>intj</i> okay!, sure!, all right! [var: sigé]; /sIgiH/ <i>adv</i> continuous, continuing; /sigIh/ <i>v</i> follow, obey; come with, go with [hybrid sp sigui, Span loan & var sp sigue, present of seguir follow, be guided by; continue]</p> <p>spera /ʔesperAh/ <i>v</i> wait for, await [Span espera(r)]</p> <p>muchas gracias /mUčas-grAsyas/ Thank you very much! (formal and polite phrase to express gratitude) [Span]</p> <p>muchas /mUčas/ <i>enum fem-pl</i> much, many, lots of [Span]</p> <p>gracias /grAsyas/ <i>n</i> thanks [Span]</p> <p>de nada /de-nAdah/ You're welcome; It's nothing (formal reply to muchas gracias) [Span]</p> <p>nada /nAdah/ - /nadAh/ <i>n</i> nothing [Span]</p> <p>tamen /tamEn/ <i>dp</i> again, also, too, likewise (subsequent action or relationship) [var: tambyen; Span loan & var sp tambien]</p>
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Selection One

Notes

1 The text is rich in frequently used phrases and expressions. Although the data is already in the glosses, someone beginning to learn Chavacano might be helped by the following common expressions:

Bwenas diyas.	Good morning.
Bwenas.	Good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening. Hello.
Amo ya.	Precisely! You said it! That is correct. That's right.
Ke ora ... ?	At what time ... ?
Ansina ba?	Is that so? Is that a fact? That way? Really?
Ansina (gale).	So that's it. Oh, that way. Like this.
Kwan.	Er...; uh ... (used when one cannot find the right word or phrase, the proper way of saying something, or when one is unsure).
Un rato lang.	Just a moment. Please wait a while.
O sige.	Sure. Well, okay. (Used to indicate agreement or acquiescence or the granting of permission.)
Muchas gracias.	Thank you very much.
Gracias.	Thank you.
De nada.	It's nothing. You are welcome.

2 This sentence illustrates one basic Chavacano sentence pattern which is used when the main idea is to link a subject noun or pronoun to some other noun, pronoun, or to an adjective. The subject noun or pronoun is usually (but not always) placed after the predicate noun, pronoun, or adjective. The pattern does not require a verb.

Here are a few other examples (all taken from the current selection).

Si Trisha 'ste.	Kyen 'ste, por favor?
Trisha this.	Who this, please?
This is Trisha.	Who is this, please?

Este ba el opisina de Father DJ? Si, amo ya este.	
This the office of Father DJ?	Yes, correct this.
Is this the office of Father DJ?	Yes, that is correct.

Ay, Trisha, etu gale.	Libre pa ele.
Oh, Trisha, you.	Free still he.
Oh, Trisha, it is you.	He is still free.

3 The opening exchanges in this telephone conversation contain four questions which in turn illustrate three of the several ways of forming questions in Chavacano. This sentence — **Kyen 'ste, por favor?** — illustrates one way. It uses the word **kyen**, an interrogative pronoun.

The second and the fourth — **Este ba el opisina de Father DJ?** and **Talyi ba si Father?** — make use of the question particle **ba**. The simple removal

of the **ba** turns the question into an ordinary sentence with the order of the individual words unchanged.

The third — **Ta akorda tu konmigo, el sekretarya?** — simply makes use of intonation to indicate a question. The removal of the intonation also turns the question into an ordinary sentence, albeit a rather strange one (even in Chavacano).

4 This **ba** is the first of thirteen **DISCOURSE PARTICLES** in this selection; the others are: **amo, basi, era, gale, gat, gayot, kaha, kwan, lang, pa, tamen,** and **ya**. They are used frequently throughout this book, in Chavacano conversations, and in all Philippine languages. Needless to say, they are very important and the student should become familiar with them from the outset. See Table 11 in the grammar section of the Front matter.

5 From this point on, once a previous acquaintance or relationship has been established, the tone of the conversation turns more informal. The discourse particle indicating discovery — **gale oh!** — is one such informalism.

6 The removal of the **ba** in **Talyi ba si Father?** results in the ordinary sentence **Talyi si Father**, which illustrates another basic sentence pattern which is used to predicate location. The pattern requires the use of either **taki, talyi,** or **talya** in front of the subject noun or pronoun. These three predicative demonstratives are related to the adverbs **aki** (here, near the speaker), **alyi** (near the listener, or within sight), and **alya** (very far away or out of sight). They each serve as a predicative verb.

Taki si Father.

Here Father. (= Father is here.)

Talyi si Father.

There Father. (= Father is there.) (Father is there, near you.)

Talya si Father.

There Father. (= Father is there.) (Father is over there.)

7 Of the first thirteen sentences in this telephone exchange, only three involve Chavacano verbs — **Ta akorda tu konmigo, el sekretarya?**; **Si, ta akorda yo;** and **Kyere yo mankwento konele**. The general pattern in these sentences is: a preverb tense marker, followed by the verb, then by the subject noun or pronoun, and then, if any, the direct object and other complements. There are three preverb tense markers in Chavacano: **ya, ta,** and **ay**. Certain verbs — like **kyere** and **pwede** — do not usually require a tense marker.

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Pattern

Mkr	verb	Subject
Ta	akorda	yo.
(present)	remember I.	(= I remember.)

Pattern

Mkr	verb	subject	object
Ta	akorda	tu	konmigo?
(present)	remember	you	me.
(= Do you remember me?)			

8 The clause **chene kasamyento alya** is a full sentence and illustrates another basic sentence pattern. The word **chene** is ordinarily the verb have. In this pattern, however, it is used to predicate the existence of something.

Chene kasamyento alya.

There is a wedding there.
(emphasis on the *existence* of a wedding)

Talya el kasamyento.

The wedding is there.
(emphasis on the *location* of the wedding)

9 The discourse particle **basi?** (borrowed from Bisayan) has exactly the same meaning as **baká** /bakA/ (borrowed from Tagalog). Chavacano uses **baka** more often and **basi** very rarely. Bisayan dialects such as Ilonggo, Cebuano, and Waray use **bási?** a lot more often.

Trisha's native language is Cebuano. For her part, and as her name indicates, Mrs. Wong is Chinese. Because they are in Zamboanga City, these two ladies learned to speak Chavacano.

10 Mrs. Wong's shift from **etu** to **tu**, is neither an inconsistency nor an error. Many native Chavacano speakers do not like to begin a new clause or a new speaking unit (after a pause) with **tu**. But when they must do so, they use **etu**.

11 Many Chavacano verbs are of the form **man-**(word). The text above is rich in such verbs. The words **mankwento** and **manpamisa** illustrate two Chavacano nouns turned into verbs by the prefix **man-**.

The verbs **man-leave**, **man-request**, **man-respond**, and **man-confirm** show that the stem does not even have to be a Chavacano word and thus also illustrates one easy way of adopting foreign words.

There are, of course, Spanish-based Chavacano words for leave, request, respond, and confirm, but having been formally trained in telephone

Selection One

manners using the English language, Trisha simply incorporates these words. In this she is joined by a very large number of office personnel and secretaries. Thus, these four English verbs are well on their way to becoming part of the Chavacano language.

12 As mentioned in the Preface, when the Spanish is spelled identically to the Chavacano, the Spanish form will not be repeated.