

North Bisayan- an Axis, not a Subgroup

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Normally, innovations should be indicative of subgrouping. However, they can arise in an environment where different language communities develop close trade or societal ties. The word ***bakál** 'buy' replaces PAN ***belih** and ***mayád** 'good' replaces PMP ***u-pia** in an upper loop from the Western Bisayas (Aklanon, Kinaray-a, and Kuyonon), Ilonggo, Masbateño, Sorsogon, and then several Bikol dialect areas. This is theoretically important because we have innovations that do NOT define a subgroup, e.g., "North Bisayan," but rather a highly interactive area or axis.