Determining DISCOURSE PARTICLES and distinguishing them from other parts-of-speech:

\* POSITION = ENCLITIC: they always follow the word (or phrase) they are linked to

\* CAN NEVER BE MEANINGFULLY UTTERED IN ISOLATION

\* FULFILL SOME DISCOURSE FUNCTION AT THE PRAGMATIC LEVEL

The following are all the known DISCOURSE PARTICLES in Aklanon.

**ábi'** {excuse ~ explanation} 'well...', 'because...'

**akí** {empathy; assertive} 'Aw', 'Gosh'}

**ayhan** {emphasis} 'of course!', 'really!', 'is it so?'

**ánay** {patience} 'first', 'just a minute', 'please'

**baeá** {query} 'really?, is it so?'

**baná'** {interrogative} 'Is that so?'

**dáyon** {consequential} 'consequently', 'subsequently', 'thereupon'

**eágih** {impatience} 'right away', 'immediately', 'quickly'

**eámang** {limiting} 'only', 'just'

**eang** {limiting} 'only', 'just' {Shortened: **eámang**}

**eon** {completive ~ realis} 'now', 'already' (has begun; currently relevant)

**eónlang** {realis + limiting}

**galí'** {discovery} 'oh!'

**gang**  {apologetic} {Shortened: **ugáling**}

**gi'áto'** {possibility} 'may, maybe, might' (total ignorance of outcome)

**gid** {intensive} 'very', 'definitely', 'really'

**gídlang** {intensive + limiting} ‘just because’

**háeos** {deemphasis} 'barely, hardly, rarely', 'almost, just about'

**híngan** 'almost', 'closely', 'likely'

**ki**  {empathy; assertive} 'Aw', 'Gosh'

**kunóh** {quotative} 'they say', 'it is said', 'reportedly'

**kúnta'** {optative} 'hopefully,' 'would like,' 'if only', 'God willing'

**mákon** {quotative-pro-1-sg} 'I said; I thought'

**man** {answer ~ response} 'also; too'

**mána** {quotative-pro-3-sg} 'he said (that)'; 'it could be said'

**mánlang** {answer + limiting}

**máton** {corrective-pro-1-incl} 'you mean... {correction; lit: 'we should say'}

**ngáni'** {certainty ~ veracity} 'indeed'

**ngi'** {certainty ~ veracity} 'indeed' [Reduced form of **ngáni'**]

**pa** {incompletive ~ irrealis} 'still', 'yet' (ongoing, not yet terminated)

**paeáng** {irrealis + limiting}

**patí'** 'also; too'

**ráyon** {consequential} = dáyon (variant) 'after', 'next'

**ron** {direct answer}

**sabón** {uncertainty} 'perhaps', 'might'

**ugáng** {apologetic} 'unfortunately' (Shortening of **ugáling**)

WORD ORDER = WHEN ENCLITICS OCCUR WITH ENCLITICS!

[Best guesses with native speakers back in 1969.]

ENCLITIC  
PRONOUN (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

**ka** **eon** **man** **eang** **haeos** **gid** **abi'** **anay** **ngani'** **kuno**

**ko** **na** **lang** **hingan** **ki** **baea** **gali'** **makon**

**mo** **pa** **mana**

**na** **maton**

**ta**

CONTEXTUAL EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE MAJOR DISCOURSE PARTICLES:

FRAME: **Hu-o + [dp]** "Yes" ...

**Hu-o ábi'**. "But, of course, yes."

**Hu-o ánay**. "Yes, but just a minute please."

**Hu-o áyhan**. "It is said, 'yes'."

**Hu-o baeá**? "Yes, isn't that right?"

**Hu-o eon**  "Yes, for the present."

**Hu-o eonlang**! "So alright already!"

**Hu-o gid**. "Yes, indeed!"

**Hu-o kunóh**. "They said 'yes'."

**Hu-o kúnta'** "Hopefully (the answer will be) yes."

**Hu-o mákon** "I said, 'yes'."

**Hu-o mána** "He said, 'yes'

**Hu-o máton** "You mean 'yes'."

**Hu-o pa**  "(The answer is) still yes."

**Hu-o man** "Yes, again."

**Hu-o sabón**. "Yes, maybe..."

EXAMPLES OF EXTREME DISCOURSE-PARTICLE COMPOUNDING:

**Owá' pa ngáni' na'íla' 'akó**. 'Well, I certainly still don't like (it).'

**Maeágko' gid híngan ro 'ísda'** 'The fish is really quite big.'

**Ginbakáe mo manlang 'ábi' ro sapátos?** 'Well, did you only just buy the shoes?'

**Postá'an ta man 'ánay mána**. "First," he said, "we will bet (on it)."

**Owá' pa eang gid ábi' ánay ngáni' mákon nahá'om, ha?** 'But, I said that it was still just absolutely not ready, didn't I?

There is a loanword that may seem like a discourse particle but operates uniquely:

**mísmo** {reflexive} 'self' ('myself', 'yourself')

There is a MODAL series (reduction of marker **it** +singular possessive pronoun) that marks a personal reaction that is contrary to one's expectation:

**t'a** {modal marker) [< **it** + pronoun 3-sg **ana**)] ‘as for him...’

**t'ang** {modal marker) [< **it** + pronoun 1-sg **akon**)] ‘as for me...’

**t'ing** (modal marker) [< **it** + pronoun 2-sg **imo**)] ‘ as for you...’

These particles are clause INITIAL or PREPOSITIVE, they always come at the beginning of their clause and are therefore CONJUNCTIONS or CONJUNCTIVES. They are not discourse particles.

**ábi**  'Gimme!, Give...!'

**ámbi**  'Gimme!, Give...!'

**bási'** 'Maybe, Possibly'

**imáw** 'like'

**mahimo'** 'can, able to, permissible'

**mangá** [variety (plural) marker]

**máskin** 'even though'

**mátsa** 'seems like'

**médyo** 'appears to be, seems like'

**míngko** 'somewhat'

**pwéde** 'can be'

**saráng** 'may, allowed'

**síge** 'OK'

**sigúro** 'maybe'

**sigurádo** 'for sure'

**syémpre**  'of course'

These particles are TERMINAL or TAGS, they always come at the end of the clause or sentence with which they stand.

**a** {annoyance tag} 'ach!', 'yuck!', 'damn!'

**ah** {discovery tag} 'ah!'

-**a** {fused suffix after NANO(NG)... 'What X?', SIIN(G) ... 'Which X?'}

**aw'** {expletive tag}

**ay'** {disbelief tag} 'oh no', 'what?!'

**ha** {uncertainty ~ urging tag} 'huh?', 'OK', 'all right?'

**ho** {exhortatory tag} 'see', 'here'

**noh** {query tag} 'isn't it?', is he?}

INTERJECTIONS can stand alone and are therefore not the same as discourse particles, which never stand alone.

**abáh** {amazement} 'Oh, my!', 'Wow!', "Look at that!'

**abáw** {surprise} 'Wow!'

**abér** {challenge or disbelief} 'What do you mean?', 'Give me a break!'

**abí** {request} 'Give...", "Gimme"

**aháy** {resignation} 'Oh well'

**ámbih** {request} 'Give...", "Gimme"

**atáh** {surprise| 'Oh my goodness!'

**aw'** {expletive}

**ay'** {disbelief} 'oh no', 'what?!'

**halá** {encouragement} 'Go on!, Come on!'

**hay'** {contradiction} 'you see'

**kabáy** {wistful} 'hopefully'

**mam** (respectful) 'madam, Mrs.'

**sir** {respectful} 'sir, Mr.'

**syémpre** {always} 'of course, all the time'

**ta'óh** {ignorance} 'I don't know!'

A COMPARISON WITH TAGALOG OR "FILIPINO," the national language.

In the Dunwoody Press Reader series, I included the following charts:

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:

Tagalog forms are provided, but note that other Philippine languages have their own idiomatic expressions, some equivalent, some not.

Aklanon forms marked with an asterisk (\*) are not an exact match. Look up the entry in the alphabetical list above for a more refined distinction.

a. QUESTION & ANSWER PARTICLES:

Tag **ba** is it? (marks or makes a question) Akl **baeá \***

Tag **sána** hopefully (marks speaker's wish or hope) Akl **kúnta'**

Tag **din/rin** also, too (marks a reply or sequence) Akl **man**

Tag **kasí** since, because (explains or gives a reason) Akl **ábi'**

Tag **daw/raw** he/she said (marks a quotation) Akl **kunóh**

Tag **aní** according to (marks a report) Akl **mána \***

Tag **umanó** accordingly (marks a rumor) Akl **máton \***

Tag **po'** sir, madame (shows high degree of respect) Akl **sir \***

Tag **ho'** sir, madame (shows medium degree respect) Akl **mam \***

b. TIME-ORIENTED PARTICLES:

Tag **na** already, now (action or state has begun) Akl **eon**

Tag **pa** still, yet (action or state not begun) Akl **pa**

Tag **agád** right away (immediate action necessary) Akl **eágih**

Tag **namán** then; also (subsequent action/relationship) Akl **man \***

Tag **múna** first; next (action to follow) Akl **ánay**

Tag **lági** always (applies all the time) Akl **dáyon \***

c. LIMITING PARTICLES:

Tag **lámang** just, only, merely (limits the scope of word) Akl **eámang**

Tag **lang** just, only, merely [shorter alternate] Akl **eang**

Tag **sakáli'** in case, by chance (conditional) Akl **gi'áto'**

Tag **tíla** perhaps, it seems (some possibility) Akl **híngan**

Tag **baká'** maybe, "I wonder" (low possibility) Akl **sabón**

Tag **yáta'** maybe, could be (medium possibility) Akl **bási'**

Tag **sigúro** surely (probable, high possibility) Akl **sigúro**

Tag **sigurádo** of course (absolutely, highest possibility) Akl **sigurádo**

d. EMPHASIS PARTICLES:

Tag **palá**  oh!, really! (indicates discovery) Akl **galí'**

Tag **nga'** well, even (denotes personal emphasis) Akl **ngáni'**

Tag **kayá'** that's why; indeed (speaker is certain) Akl **ngi' \***

Tag **talagá** very, really (intensifies a word or phrase) Akl **gid**

The above list is reproduced (although slightly revised) from the Introduction to the *Tagalog Newspaper Reader* (1990:xvii. Annabelle M. Sarra & R. David Zorc. Dunwoody Press).