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.

a. QUESTION & ANSWER PARTICLES:

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

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

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

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

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

Tag **aní** according to (marks a report)

Tag **umanó** accordingly (marks a rumor)

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

Tag **ho'** sir, madame (shows medium degree of respect)

b. TIME-ORIENTED PARTICLES:

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

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

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

Tag **namán** then; also (subsequent action or relationship)

Tag **múna** firstly; next (action to follow)

Tag **lági** always (applies all the time)

c. LIMITING PARTICLES:

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

Tag **lang** just, only, merely [shorter alternate of **lámang**]

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

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

Tag **baká'** maybe, perhaps (low possibility; "I wonder")

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

Tag **sigúro** certainly (probable, high possibility)

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

d. EMPHASIS PARTICLES:

Tag **palá**  oh!, really! (indicates discovery)

Tag **nga'** well, even (denotes personal emphasis or opinion)

Tag **kayá'** that's why; indeed (indicates speaker's certainty)

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

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

ALPHABETICAL LIST

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

Tag **aní** according to (marks a report)

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

Tag **baká'** maybe, perhaps (low possibility; "I wonder")

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

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

Tag **ho'** sir, madame (shows medium degree of respect)

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

Tag **kayá'** that's why; indeed (indicates speaker's certainty)

Tag **lági** always (applies all the time)

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

Tag **lang** just, only, merely [shorter alternate of **lámang**]

Tag **múna** firstly; next (action to follow)

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

Tag **namán** then; also (subsequent action or relationship)

Tag **nga'** well, even (denotes personal emphasis or opinion)

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

Tag **palá**  oh!, really! (indicates discovery)

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

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

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

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

Tag **sigúro** certainly (probable, high possibility)

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

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

Tag **umanó** accordingly (marks a rumor)

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