The Marked Topic Slot in Ayta Abellen

BY ROGER STONE, GIAL STUDENT
SIL Philippines

ABSTRACT

This paper will show that Ayta Abellen has a preposed position which is to a large degree similar to the *ay*-inversion pattern of Tagalog and the *yay/hay* patterns in the related Sambalic languages. Four tests for topichood will be used to determine whether this construction is the topic.

0. Introduction

Philippine languages are known to allow fronting of information such as through the "ay-inversion" in Tagalog. While there is now much agreement that the information preceding *ay* in Tagalog is a marked topic, this has not always been the case. In 1958 McKaughan had labeled the *ang* phrase as the Topic and many linguists such as Wolfenden (1961), Schachter & Otanes (1972) and Naylor (1975) followed suit. McKaughan changed his position in 1973 and subsequent work by Kroeger (1993), Kaufman (2005) and Hirano (2006) has since proven that the *ay*-inversion construction is really what marks Topic in Tagalog. This conclusion, that the *ay*-inversion construct marks topic, fits well with the data to be presented in this paper regarding the Ayta Abellen language, a member of the Sambal language family on Luzon. Other members of the Sambal language family are: Ayta Ambala, Ayta MagIndi, Ayta MagAnchi, Ayta Magbukun, Bolinao, Botolan Sambal, and Tina Sambal. A quick survey of work related to fronted information in these other Sambal languages might be helpful.

In Antworth's published grammatical sketch of Botolan Sambal (1979) he labeled the preposed *hay* marker in Botolan Sambal as a "full nonpersonal nominative case marker". But later in his discussion on topicalization he gives examples of the *hay* marker occurring in left-dislocation and he refers to the information that follows it as the topic.

Ramos and Chiu (2005) have labeled *hay* in Ayta Ambala as a Determiner for non-personal subjects. But example sentences in their paper have definite structural similarities with examples from Botolan Sambal, Tina Sambal and Ayta Abellen. *Hay* in Ayta Ambala appears preposed before a noun phrase that has a comma (pause) after it in the English gloss.

Goschnick says that in Tina Sambal fronting is used when there is a change of topic/theme. She describes the structure of the fronted position by saying that "these fronted items have to be definite and are therefore marked by *yay* just like the focused parts of a clause. New themes are usually separated from the rest of the clause by the particle *ay* or *kot* or by a pause." (Goschnick 2005:8).

This paper will show that Ayta Abellen also has a preposed position followed by a pause which is to a large degree similar to the *ay*-inversion pattern of Tagalog and the *yay/hay* patterns in the related Sambalic languages. Four tests for topichood will be used to determine whether this construction is in fact the topic of the sentence.

The Ayta Abellen data for this paper comes primarily from stories recorded by native speakers Rodante Capiendo, Efren Capiendo, Emilio Laurzano, and the late Leonardo Francisco. But several other recorded stories as well were consulted along with a large corpus of translated material which was repeatedly checked for naturalness by three native speakers. In addition to this, the author has lived with the Ayta Abellen people for almost three years and has tested as an FSI level 3 speaker of the language.

1. Topic Definitions

Lambrecht (1994) has described topic in these words, "A referent is interpreted as the topic of a proposition if in a given discourse the proposition is construed as being about the referent, i.e. as expressing information which is relevant to and which increases the addressee's knowledge of this referent."

Barlaan (1999), working from a Comment-Topic paradigm, concludes that "fronting an NP in Isnag is *not topicalization*, since I consider topicalization as putting an NP not normally in a topic position

into the topic position." He concludes that "fronted information is new, asserted, negatable, and questionable information" which is characteristic of a Comment rather than a Topic.

Shi (2000) has said with regard to Chinese that "the topic is an unmarked NP (or its equivalent) that precedes a clause and is related to a position inside the clause; a topic represents an entity that has been mentioned in the previous discourse and is being discussed again in the current sentence." This definition, however, would not permit a speaker to introduce a new marked topic and then begin discussing it.

Kroeger (2004) says that the "TOPIC is often defined intuitively as the thing which the sentence is 'about.' Now, in order to say something about a particular entity, the speaker must assume that the hearer can identify that entity. Thus the topic is normally something that the hearer has some knowledge about." This is the definition that will be used for this paper with the assumption that new information to the discourse can be marked as topic if it is "something that the hearer has some knowledge about" or if the information is sufficiently introduced so that it can become what the matrix clause "is about".

2. Ayta Abellen left-dislocation structure

Ayta Abellen has three morphological case markers, which I have labeled Nominative (NOM), Genitive (GEN), and DAT (Dative).[1] The forms of the case markers are listed below:

	NOM	GEN	DAT
Common noun markers	**ye, ti**[2]	**nin**	**ha**
Personal name markers(Sg)	**yay**	**nan**	**kanan**
Personal name markers(PL)	**hilay**	**lan**	**kanlan**

Ayta Abellen, like other Philippine languages, has a basic VSO word order as illustrated in 1. Nouns cannot precede the verb unless they appear in a left-dislocation position followed by a pause. The sentence 1 example would only be said when Pabling is known as a participant in the scene. If Pabling had not previously been mentioned in the story we would get sentence 2. Ayta Abellen has a marker *hiyay* which precedes nominals in the left-dislocation position. It can mark personal proper names (2) which are then referenced with a resumptive pronoun or a nominalized clause (3) which has no resumptive pronoun.

1)   Namiay   yay   Pabling nin   haa   ha   katongno na.
       Give-PERF NOM Pabling GEN banana DAT sibling   3S
       'Pabling gave a banana to his sibling.'[3]

2)   Hiyay Pabling, nakew ya ha   banwa.
       TM   Pabling went 3S DAT town
       'Pabling went to town.'

3)   Kaya-bay hiyay dinyag   ko kanan hiyain, nakew   ako nin   nangwan binila
       So-DP   TM   do-PERF 1S DAT this   go-PERF 1S COMP take-PERF rattan
       ta   kinalot   kon tampol ye   o   na.
       and tie-PERF 1S   quickly NOM head 3S
       'So what I did at that time, I went to get rattan and I quickly tied up its head.'

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[1] Nitsche had originally labelled these as ABS, ERG/GEN, and OBL.

[2] The use of *ti* is an obvious borrowing from Ilokano.

[3] Abbreviations used in this paper are: PERF = Perfective, CON = Contemplated, IMP = Imperfect, REQ = Request, NOM = Nominative, GEN = Genitive, OBL = Oblique, 1S = 1st person singular, 3S = 3rd person singular, 3P = 3rd person Plural TM = Topic Marker, NEG = Negator, EXT = Existential, PL = Plural, REL = Relativizer, LK = Linker, 1PEXCL = 1st person plural exclusive, DP = Discourse Particle, COMP = Complement, EMPH = Emphatic clitic, AV = Active Voice, OV = Objective Voice.

The *hiyay* construction occurs almost exclusively in left dislocation. I say almost exclusively because it can occur to the right of the pause in exceptional equative clauses (see section 6). But the normal pattern is that *hiyay* cannot mark NPs in the matrix clause (4). When the agent is already known, the name of the agent is marked with *yay* in the matrix clause (5).

4)   *Nakew   hiyay Pabling ha   banwa.
    Go-PERF TM   Pabling DAT   town
    'Pabling went to town.'

5)   Nakew   yay   Pabling ha   banwa.
    Go-PERF   NOM   Pabling DAT town
    'Pabling went to town.'

For coordinate clauses in a single sentence, another *hiyay* left dislocation (delimited by a pause) can be inserted after the coordinating conjunction and then referenced with a resumptive pronoun (6).

6)   Main oowel   a   ahe   angkatey boy hiyay apoy ihtew, ahe   ya angkalep.
    EXT   PL-worm REL NEG IMP-die   and TM   fire   there   NEG 3S IMP-go out
    'There are worms which are not dying and the fire there, it does not go out."

There can never be two occurrences of *hiyay* in a left dislocation (7) position unless *hiyay* marks individuals connected with a coordinating conjunction who will later be referenced together in the predication through the resumptive 3P pronoun *hila* (8).

7)   *Haanin, hiyay Juan, hiyay Carmelita, nakitongtong   hila kana.
    Now   TM   Juan TM   Carmelita   PERF-REQ-talk 3P 3S
    'Now Juan and Carmelita talked to him.'

8)   Hiyay Santiago boy hiyay Juan, hinomaley   hila kanan Apo Jesus.
    TM   Santiago and TM   Juan PERF-near 3P   DAT   Lord Jesus
    'Santiago and Juan, they went near to Jesus.'

Wilhelm Nitsche labeled the function of *hiyay* as one of prominence and gave the following chart of "pronominal cross references". Nitsche also hypothesized that *hiyay* is derived from *hiya ye* where *ye* is what he labeled the Class I Absolutive case marker (but which I have been labeling NOM). While the use of *hiyay* is obviously related to discourse prominence, this paper will show here that it is actually marking Topic while at the same time serving as a pronominal cross reference.

Number	Class 0 (TOP)	Class I (NOM)	Class II (GEN)	Class III (DAT)
Singular	hiyay = hiya ye	yay = ya ye ya ti	nan = na nin	kanan = kana nin
Plural	hilay = hila ye	hilay = hila ye	lan = la nin min = mi nin	kanlan = kanla nin

Another construction that matches Nitsche's conclusion about the derivation of the topic marker *hiyay* can be seen in 9 where instead of finding *hiya* linked with the nominative marker *ye* to form *hiyay* we see *hiya* linked with the dative marker to form *hiya ha*. This fronted adverbial clause has no resumptive pronoun.

9)   Hiya ha   anti   ko ha   lale, ampamahaka ko ha   matondol nin Naboko.
    TM   DAT present   1S DAT forest am-going-up 1S DAT hill   GM Naboko
    'When I was in the forest, I was going up the mountain of Naboko.'

A deictic connected to an NP can also appear in left dislocation (10). It can be referenced anaphorically in the matrix clause as in 10 or through a resumptive pronoun as in 11. The difference between the use of *hiyay* and the deictics is in the level of specificity. Deictics refer to more specific information in that the object referenced is in some sense visible to the speaker.

10) Yabayin   a maambal, antibeen   lan aho ko.
    This-EMPH LK python   IMP-bark 3P dog 1S
    'That python, [it] is being barked at by my dogs.'

11) Yain a   anak, ahe   ya natey,   no aliwan angkatoloy yan bengat.
    This LK child NEG 3S PERF-die if   NEG   IMP-sleep 3S only
    'This child, she has not died, but rather she is just sleeping.'

So now we see that there are six different words which can precede the left-dislocated construction.

Hiyay	Hiya + nominative marker	Singular
Hilay	Hila + nominative marker	Plural
Hiya ha	Hiya + dative marker	Adverbials
Yatin a	Deictic + linker	Near speaker
Yain a	Deictic + linker	Near hearer
Yatew a	Deictic + linker	Far from speaker and hearer

Pronouns can also occur in the left-dislocation position, but only pronouns of a specific class. Nitsche said that "The prominence pronouns (Class 0) may be viewed as derived from class I pronouns and prefixed with *hi-*." (Nitsche 1998:13) These pronouns, called emphatic pronouns by other Philippine linguists, are then referenced through resumptive pronouns in the matrix clause as we see in 12.

		Class 0
number	Person	PROM (TOP)
non-plural	1	**hiko** P1S
	2	**hika** P2S
	1+2 (incl.)	**hikita** P12S
	3	**hiya** P3S
plural	1 (excl.)	**hikayi** P1P
	2	**hikawo** P2P
	1+2 (incl.)	**hikitawo** P12P
	3	**hila** P3P

12) Hiko, katapolan akon magdanah   nin   malabong a   kaidapan.
            P1S   must   1S   CON-experience GEN many   LK difficulty
    'As for me, I must experience many difficulties.'

There are three basic ways of marking topic: morphologically (topic marker), syntactically (fronted position), or phonologically (pause afterwards). These three corroborate in Ayta Abellen and set forth the initial hypothesis of topic marking because there is sufficient evidence of morphological markers in fronted

position followed by a pause. What is still needed is evidence to prove that the information encoded between *hiyay* and the pause is in fact a topic. This will be the focus of section 4.

3. What can be Marked in the Left-Dislocation position

Only the SUBJ can occur in the left-dislocation position. A variety of NPs with different semantic roles can occur in this position such as: agent NP (13), theme NP (14), patient NP (15), and location NP (16). Further research may discover other semantic roles which can occur in this position. But all of these are grammatical SUBJ.

13) Haanin, hilay tataon nanyag tori, nangaiigat hila.
Now TM people made tower PERF(AV)-surprise 3P
'Now, the people who made the tower, they were shocked.'

14) Ta hiyay tori, intagay lan intagay.
For TM tower PERF(OV)-raise 3P raised
'For the tower, they raised [it] and raised [it].'

15) Hilay tataon ampaghakit nin hadi-hadi, pinataah na hilan Apo Jesus.
TM people are-sick of various CAUS-PERF(OV)-heal 3S 3P Lord Jesus
'The people sick with different kinds of diseases, Jesus healed them.'

16) Hiya ha anti ko ha lale, ampamahaka ko ha matondol nin Naboko.
TM DAT am-present 1S DAT forest am-going-up 1S DAT hill GM Naboko
'When I was in the forest, I was going up the mountain of Naboko.'

In example 17 we can see that possessors can also be preposed. The topic phrase (in this case a pronoun) is the possessor of *bi-ay* 'life' in the following temporal phrase.

17) Hiko, ha pinangibatan nin bi-ay ko, wanabay ya.
1S DAT NOM-PERF-from GEN life 1S like-this 3S
'I, at the beginning of my life, it was like this.'

4. Testing the *hiyay* topic hypothesis

4.1 WH-question test

WH-question words can never occur in the left dislocation position and can never be marked with *hiyay* (18). This ban on the use of interrogatives in the *hiyay* marked left-dislocation slot suggests that focused information in general is not permitted in this position.

18) *Hiyay hinya, nakew ha banwa.
TM who PERF-to DAT town.
'Who went to town?'

Kroeger says that "Our basic assumption is that a single element cannot function as both topic and focus at the same time, since the same piece of information cannot be simultaneously old and new in a single context." (Kroeger 2004:162) Since we know that a question word places pragmatic focus on the part of the answer that replaces the WH-question word, we want to find out if *hiyay* ever marks the pragmatically focused part of an answer.

In response to the question in 19 we can see that the focused information of the *kalatkat* 'backpack' can occur after the verb (20) but it cannot occur before the verb through topicalization (21). We could, however, have pseudo-cleft answers where the presupposed information appears in the left-dislocation and the focused information occurs after the pause (22 and 23).

19) Ayay dinyag mo ihtew?
What-NOM PERF-do 2S there
'What did you do/make there?'

20) Nanyag kayin kalatkat ihtew.
PERF-do P1P-GEN backpack there
'We made a backpack there.'

21) *Hiyay kalatkat, dinyag mi ihtew.
TM backpack PERF-do P1P there
'The backpack, we made it there.'

22) Hiyay dinyag mi ihtew, nanyag kayin kalatkat.
TM PERF-do P1P there PERF-do P1P-GEN backpack
'What we did there, we made a backpack.'

23) Hiyay dinyag mi ihtew, kalatkat.
TM PERF-do P1P there backpack
'What we made there is a backpack.'

If the information brought into focus through a WH-question is a location (24) coded with an OBL, we get similar results. The focused OBL can occur after the verb (25). The focused OBL cannot be fronted either with a pause (26) or without a pause (27). The OBL cannot take the marker *hiya* (28). Finally the voice can be changed for the presupposed information from the question and that information marked as topic (29), resulting in just the location appearing on the other side of the pause.

24) Way-ihtew ka makew?
Where 2S CON-go
'Where will you go?'

25) Makew ako ha Angeles.
CON-go 1S DAT Angeles
'I will go to Angeles.'

26) *Ha Angeles, makew ako.
DAT Angeles CON-go 1S
'To Angeles, I will go.'

27) *Ha Angeles ako makew.
DAT Angeles 1S CON-go
'To Angeles I will go.'

28) *Hiya ha Angeles, makew ako.
TM DAT Angeles CON-go 1S
'To Angeles, I will go.'

29) Hiyay lakwen ko, Angeles.
TM go-CON(OV) 1S Angeles
'The place where I will go is Angeles.'

For the verbless example in 30 *Pabling* is the focused element and that name cannot be marked with *hiyay* (31) although the known information from the question can be repeated in a *hiyay* marked left dislocation and then the answer given after the pause (32).

30) Ayay ngalan mo?
What-NOM name 2S
'What is your name.'

31) *Hiyay Pabling.

         TM   Pabling
         'Pabling.'

32)   Hiyay ngalan ko, Pabling.
         TM   name 1S Pabling
         'My name is Pabling.'

So with both verbal and non-verbal sentences we can see evidence from the WH-question test that the left-dislocated information marked with *hiyay* has characteristics of being a Topic.

4.2 Negation test

We know that negation also generally takes scope over focused elements. So, we want to ask the question of whether negation can occur in the left-dislocation position with *hiyay*. Or to put it another way, we want to test if negation can ever take scope over something marked with *hiyay*. There are two negation words in Ayta Abellen but neither *ahe* (33) nor *aliwa* (34) can take scope over a constituent marked with *hiyay* in left-dislocation.

33)   *Ahe hiyay Emilio, nangan   ya.
       NEG TM   Emilio PERF-eat 3S
       (cf. Emilio did not eat.)

34)   *Aliwa hiyay Emilio, nangan   ya.
       NEG   TM   Emilio PERF-eat 3S

A thorough search through our data corpus reveals only a few rare instances where either of the Ayta Abellen negators (*ahe, aliwa*) ever occurs inside the left dislocation position. In these exceptional cases, though, the scope of the negation does not cover the marked topic. Rather the negation is merely a part of a headless relative clause (35). The overwhelming majority of cases of negation occur in the matrix clause (36) where topic marking doesn't occur.

35)   Hilay ahe   naghimba   talaga, naghimba   hila.
         TM   NEG PERF-worship truly   PERF-worship 3P
         'Those who really did not go to church, they came to church.'

36)   Ahe kitawo   no ahe   yay   Apo Dioh.
         NEG 1PEXCL if NEG NOM Lord God
         'We would not be if not for the Lord.'

4.3 Contrastive Focus Test

We can also find pragmatic focus in situations where old information is refuted as false and the new information bears focus. In example 37 a speaker has *tinapay* 'bread' for sale. In 38 the responder says that it is not bread that he wants to buy but rather *beyah* 'rice'. The information in focus here is *beyah*. It would not be a grammatical response to move *beyah* into the topic, or presupposed information slot (39). This test again shows the incompatibility of marked topic information with pragmatic focus.

37)   Main kayin tinapay.
         EXT P1P   bread
         'We have bread.'

38)   Aliwan   tinapay ye   labay kon   haliwen, no aliwan   beyah.
         NEG-GEN bread   NOM want 1S-GEN buy-CON if NEG-GEN rice
         'It's not bread I want to buy, but rather rice.'

39)   *Hiyay beyah, labay kon   haliwen. Aliwan   tinapay.

TM   rice   want 1S-GEN buy-CON NEG-GEN bread
'Rice, I want to buy. Not bread.'

4.4 Focus-Sensitive Adverbials Test

Kaufman has said that "focus sensitive elements will be ungrammatical if syntactically forced to associate with a topic as presupposed information should not be available for modification." (Kaufman 2005:180) The Ayta Abellen particle *agya* 'even' will be used for this test. It occurs phrase initial and automatically places focus on the phrase it precedes. In example 40 narrow focus is placed on the angels of God by the particle *agya*. What is confusing here is that we have one of the surface forms (*hilay*) which I said previously is a topic marker. This would seem to be an example showing that we have a topic marker modifying information which the focus sensitive adverbial takes scope over. But this is not really the case as *hilay* can be either a topic marker or a NOM case marker for plural nouns, which is the function in this case. This also is what Nitsche had proposed and he defended it with this footnote "The third person plural emphatic pronoun has the same form as the third person plural topic-pronoun, probably to avoid the reduplication of *hi-*, i.e. **hihila*." (Nitsche 1998:7)

40)   Agya hilay   aanghil   nan Apo Dioh, ahe la tanda.
        even NOM   PL-angel GEN Lord God   NEG 3P know
        'Even the angels of God, they don't know.

It would be better to apply the test on information marked with *hiyay* or a deictic. Here we see that we can never have *agya* associated with this type of information.

41)   *Agya hiyay Pabling, nakew   ya ha   banwa.
         even TM   Pabling PERF-go 3S DAT town
        'Even Pabling, he went to town.'

42)   *Agya yatew a   aho, ahe   ya nangan.
         even that   LK dog NEG 3S PERF-eat
        'Even that dog, it did not eat.'

So once again we see that the left-dislocation topic position is not compatible with focused elements. Based on the results of these five tests it seems appropriate to conclude that the information in this position is in fact the topic.

5. Establishing Order in the Left-Dislocation position

It is not just topics that can be preposed in Ayta Abellen. Locative phrases can be preposed (43) as can temporal phrases (44). It is possible to have more than one preposed temporal phrase, each separated by a pause (45) and usually both are preceded with the OBL marker *ha*.

43)   Ihtew ha   banwa, inlako   koy   hahaa   ko.
        There DAT town   sell-PER 1S-NOM   PL-banana 1S
         'There in town, I sold my bananas.'

44)   Hatew   a   mangaamot, nakew   ako ha   lale   nin   nanganop.
        Back-then LK day   PERF-go 1S DAT forest COMP PERF-hunt
        'On a day in the past, I went to the forest to hunt.'

45)   Ha hatew,   ha tiempo nin   Hapon boy gida, hiyay ahawa ko,
        DAT back-then DAT time   GEN Japan and war   TM   spouse 1S
        nakilaban   nin   hapon boy NPA.
        PERF-REQ-fight GEN Japan and NPA
        'Back then, in the time of the Japanese and the war, my husband, he fought against the Japanese and the NPA.'

When there is both a marked topic and a temporal or location phrase in the left-dislocation position, there seems to be a preferred ordering of the locative or temporal expression being first. I have found only one counterexample and it was in a translated text (rather than a natural text) so I hypothesize that while there may not be an absolute grammatical order rule, there certainly is a very strong preference to put the marked topic last, closest to the matrix clause (46).

46) Haanin,   ha   domondon a   biernes, hiyay Pabling, makew   ya ha   banwa.
     Now-DM DAT next   LK Friday   TM   Pabling go-PERF 3S DAT town
     'Now, next Friday, Pabling, he will go to town.'

Therefore, I propose that the general template for left-dislocation in Ayta Abellen looks like this:

	1 (**ha**)	2 (**hiyay**)	
Discourse Marker	(Deictic) + Temporal (Deictic) + Location	Hiyay + Topic Deictic + Topic	Matrix clause

But this template does not work for the topic pronouns. When a topic pronoun is used, it must precede the temporal and locative information as can be seen in example 47 (repeated from 16) and 48.

47) Hiko, ha   pinangibatan   nin   bi-ay ko, wanabay ya.
     1S   DAT NOM-PERF-from GEN life   1S   like-this 3S
     'I, at the beginning of my life, it was like this.'

48) *Ha   pinangibatan   nin   bi-ay ko, hiko, wanabay ya.
      DAT NOM-PERF-from GEN life   1S   1S   like-this 3S
     'At the beginning of my life, I was like this.'

So in the case of a pronoun as topic, the following template is the preferred order.

	1 (**Pronoun**)	2 (**hiyay**)	
Discourse Marker	Topic pronoun	(Deictic) + Temporal (Deictic) + Location	Matrix clause

6. Can *hiyay* ever occur outside of left-dislocation?

The *hiyay* topic marker can occur after the pause in a verbless equative sentence (49). It was noted earlier that *hiyay* can be used to introduce new prominent characters to the discourse. When *hiyay* occurs marking information that is not preposed, this function of introducing new characters is what is taking place. The preposed information in this sentence marked with *hiyay* is the topic while the information after the pause introduces new characters.

49) Hiyay pinaglamo   nan   Apo Jesus, hiyay Pedro, Santiago, boy hiyay Juan.
     TM   PER-NOM-accompany GEN Lord Jesus TM   Pedro Santiago and TM   Juan
     'Those Jesus had companion with him were Pedro, Santiago, and Juan.'

7. Philippine Cross-linguistic perspective on Topic marking

Katagiri has said that the issues regarding topic and focus will be clearer after studies with other Philippine languages have been completed. This paper helps clarify some of the features of Ayta Abellen topic marking. These features can now be compared with other Philippine languages.
     The Botolan Sambal marker *hay* only marks impersonal topics, while the Ayta Abellen *hiyay* marks both personal and impersonal topics.

Tina Sambal uses fronting to change the topic. But in that language both NP arguments in left-dislocation and NP arguments in the matrix clause are marked with the same *yay* case marker. In Ayta Abellen there is a contrast with *hiyay* in left-dislocation and *yay* in the matrix clause. So, while it does appear that Tina Sambal is using fronting to encode changing topics, it doesn't use a distinct marker to show this.

Topic marking in Ayta Abellen also has differences with Tagalog. In Tagalog the *ay* marker occurs after the preposed topic and roughly matches the position of the pause in Ayta Abellen. But Tagalog doesn't have any preposed marker like the Abellen *hiyay*.

We can summarize what we know at this point about the various surface structures like this:

Language	TM	Topic	Delimiter
Ayta Abellen	Hiyay/Hilay Deictic Topic pronoun		pause, ket[4]
Ayta Ambala	Hay		pause
Botolan Sambal	Hay Hi/Hili Deictic		ay
Tina Sambal	Yay		ay, kot, pause
Tagalog	-		ay

8. Conclusion

In this paper I have attempted to show that the information Ayta Abellen marks in left-dislocation is in fact the topic. While the topic precedes the verb, there are other types of information such as location and temporal points of departure which can also be preposed. These types of information are distinguished from topics by not being marked with *hiyay* or a deictic. Ayta Abellen personal topics are referenced through resumptive pronouns or zero anaphora.

The results of the WH-question, Negation, Focus-Sensitive Adverbials, and Contrastive Topic tests all point to the conclusion that this preposed information is a marked topic that cannot bear pragmatic focus.

Ayta Abellen only allows SUBJ and possessors to be marked as topic. When there is more than one preposed element, the preferred order is for the locative or temporal phrase to occur first before the topic. In the case of topic pronouns, the preferred order is reversed with the pronoun occurring before other preposed information.

Finally, we have seen that similar types of topic marking occur in other Sambalic languages and Tagalog. Further studies and comparisons will help clarify these similarities and differences.

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Anatomy of a Topic Marked Story
Tower of Babel Traditional Narrative
Told by Rodante Capiendo of Tangantangan, Maamot, Tarlac

All Topic marked NPs are in bold as well as their resumptive pronouns and anaphoric references.

1   Hatew,   main yan natongtong ti   bapa ko makaoli ha   hahabi,
       back-then   EXT 3S   said   NOM father my about   DAT languages

       taket a   malabong a   hahabi   boy malabong a   kalahi nin tao.
       why   that many   LK languages and many   LK kinds of people
       Back-then, my father said something about the languages, why there are many
       languages and many kinds of people.

2   **Hiyay habi nin   tatang ko**, "Ha hatew,   anak ko," wana, "ha   onan panaon,
       TM   word GEN father my   DAT back-then child my   he-said DAT first time

       labay lan aboten ti   langit   nin   tatao.
       want 3P reach NOM heaven GEN people
       What my father said, "Back then, my son," he said, "at the earliest time, the
       people wanted to reach heaven."

3   Ta labay la aboten ti   galing nan   Apo Dioh noba **hiyay Apo Dioh,**
       For want 3P reach NOM skill   GEN Lord God but TM   Lord God

       ampaolayan **na** kano,"   wanan tatang ko, "ampaolayan **nan   Apo Dioh**.
       disregarding he it-is-said   he-said father my disregarding GEN Lord God
       For they wanted to reach the skill of God but **God he** *disregarded [them] it-is-said,"*
       *said my father, "***God** *is disregarding [them].*

4   Oli   ha   kaboyotan nin   andiagen la, ampanyag hilan kagalingan.
       Because DAT long-time GEN doing   3P are doing 3P   good
       Because of the length of time of their working, they are making something good.

5   **Hiyay kagalingan a   dinyag la**, nanyag hilan tori.
       TM   good   which did   3P made 3P   tower
       The good which they did, they made a tower.*

6   Ihenbay nangibat   ti   hahabi   ha   tori.
       there   came-from NOM languages DAT tower
        There began the languages at the tower.

7   **Ta hiyay tori**,   intagay lan **0** intagay.
       For TM tower raised   3P   raised
       For the tower, they raised **[it]** and raised **[it]**.

8   **Hiyay palano la kano   nin   ampanyag tori**, labay lan agpalanting ha   galing
       TM   plan   3P it-is-said GEN making   tower want 3P reaching   DAT skill

       nin   Apo Dioh noba napoot yay   Apo Dioh kano.
       GEN Lord God   but angered NOM Lord God it-is-said.
       The plan of the people who are making the tower, they wanted to reach the skill of God but
       God became angry it is said.*

9   'Kano'   wangko ta habi nin   totoa ko.
       It-is-said I-say   for word GEN father my

'It is said', I say because [this is] the word of my parents.

10 Haanin, napoot yay Apo Dioh.
   Now angered NOM Lord God
   Now, the Lord God became angry.

11 "**Yain a tori a dinyag nin naboyot a panaon**, maghay kolap bengat
   This LK tower REL made GEN long LK time one second only

   a agwaten ko **0**," wana.
   that will-destroy I   he-said
   *This tower which was made over a long time period, one second only and I will tear **[it]** down," he said.*

12 Oli ha matagay a matagay, ahe na **ya** kalabayan nin Apo Dioh.
   Because DAT high LK high not 3S 3S desiring GEN Lord God
   *Because of it being very tall, God did not like **it**.*

13 In-agwat na **ya**n Apo Dioh ha maghay kolap bengat.
   Tore-down 3S 3S Lord God DAT one second only
   *The Lord God tore **it** down in just one second.*

14 Maghay kolap bengat, naagwat **ti** **tori**.
   One second only torn-down NOM tower
   *One second only, **the tower** was torn down.*

15 Haanin, **hilay tataon nanyag tori**, nangaiigat **hila**.
   Now TM people made tower shocked 3P
   *Now, **the people who made the tower**, **they** were shocked.*

16 Nangaigat.
   Shocked
   ***[They]** were shocked.*

17 Yatewi "Ah! Ah! Ah!"
   That ah ah ah
   That which is like "Ah! Ah! Ah!"

18 Nangaigat.
   Shocked
   ***[They were]** shocked.*

19 Ihtewbay kano ti   nangibatan ti habi a   malabong a habi,"
   There it-is-said NOM came-from NOM language which many LK language
   wanan tatang ko.
   he-said father my
   There it is said was the beginning of the many languages," said my father.

20 "Ihtewbay kano nangibat."
   There it-is-said came-from
   There it is said it began.