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Hiligaynon

R Zorc, Language Research Center, McNeil Technologies Inc., Wheaton, MD, USA

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With Spanish verbs, final /r/ changes to [-h-]: *probár* ‘try’ > *probahán* ‘be tried’. Nasal final prefixes such as the distributive pang- yield nasal assimilation and consonant loss:

batí ‘hear’ > *památi* ‘listen to’, *tíndog* ‘stand’ > *panindúgan* ‘position’, *káhoy* ‘wood’ > *pangahóy* ‘gather firewood’

Table 1 Hiligaynon Sound System

Consonants	Labial	Apical	Velar	Glottal
Stops				
voiced	b	d	g	
voiceless	p	t	k	'
Fricatives	(f)	s		h
Affricates				
voiced		(j) [dy]		
voiceless		(ch) [ts]		
Continuants				
liquid		l		
rhotic		r		
semivowel	w	y		
Nasals	m	n	ng	
Vowels				
	Front	Central	Back	
High	i		u	
Mid	(e)		(o)	
Low		a		

Table 2 Hiligaynon Pronouns

Pronoun	Topic	Oblique Forms		
		preposed	postposed	Locative
I	akó	ákon	-ko / nákon	sa'ákon
you [singular]	ikáw / ka	ímo	-mo / nímo	sa'ímo
he/she	siyá	íya	níya	sa'íya
we [+you / incl]	kitá	áton	-ta / náton	sa'áton
we [-you / excl]	kamí	ámon	námon	sa'ámon
you [plural]	kamó	ínyo	nínyo	sa'ínyo
they	silá	íla	níla	sa'íla

Table 3 Hiligaynon Deictics

	Near me	Near you	Far away
Topic	iní	iná'	ató
Oblique	siní	siná'	sádto
Locative	dirí	dirá'	dídto
Existential	yári	yára'	yádto
Verbal	kari	kará'	kádto

Hiligaynon is the fourth largest language of the Philippines, representing approximately 10% of the national population. Its seven million speakers are located throughout Negros Occidental, southeastern Panay, Guimaras Island, and in urban centers of Mindanao (Davao and Zamboanga) and of Palawan (Puerto Princesa). It is a major trade language of the Western Visayan region (e.g., Antique and Aklan). Ilonggo, its alternate name, originally specified the dialect of Iloilo. It has many dialects with minor variations from town to town. The most distinct are Capiznon (Capiz Province) and Kawayan (south of Bacolod City). It is a member of the Central Bisayan subgroup along with Waray, Masbateño, and Romblomanon. These are, in turn, members of the Bisayan group of Central Philippine languages, including Tagalog and Bikol (Zorc, 1977), all of which are ultimately descended from Proto-Austronesian.

Although legends and fabrications abound (see Scott, 1984), nothing is known historically prior to the Spanish. Alzina recorded that the Hiligaynons of Oton (Panay) traced their origin to Leyte (Kobak, 1969–70: 22), which correlates with the subgrouping.

The basic phonology of Hiligaynon consists of 16 consonants and 3 vowels; accent (stress) is contrastive. Native speakers educated in Spanish and English have an additional three consonants /f, j, ch/ and two vowels /e, o/. Accent (/á, í, ú/ with vowel length) occurs in an open penult. The vowel [o] is an allophone of /u/ in final syllables but is phonemic in loans. Accent predictably falls on a closed penult: *táytay* ‘bridge’.

The glottal stop is written as a hyphen when it appears before another consonant: *bág-o* ‘new’, *búg-at* ‘heavy’, *gáb-i* ‘evening’. It is ignored word-finally in most local publications; linguists have spelled it with *q* or an apostrophe. Accent, which is also not represented in the orthography, is critical in distinguishing words or derivations:

<i>ámo</i> ‘boss’ {Spanish}	<i>amó</i> ‘thus, like that’
<i>sá'og</i> ‘crawl’	<i>sa'óg</i> ‘wear out by use’
<i>bílin</i> ‘remain, stay’	<i>bilín</i> ‘leftovers’
<i>pikot</i> ‘mend’	<i>pikót</i> ‘half-closed (eyes)’
<i>lútu</i> ‘to cook’	<i>lutú</i> ‘cooked’
<i>túbo</i> ‘pipe’ {Spanish}	<i>tubó</i> ‘sugarcane’

Various morphophonemic changes apply in inflection and derivation:

Intervocalic /d/ > [-r-]: *báyad* ‘pay’ > *bayáran* ‘be paid’

2 Hiligaynon

10020 **Table 4** Hiligaynon Verb Inflection

Verbs	Past	Progressive	Contingent	Future	Command
Active					
Punctual	-um-		-um-	ma-	mag-
Durative	nag-	naga-	mag-	maga-	pag-
Distributive	naN-	nagapaN-	maN-	magapaN-	magpaN-
Potential	naka-	naka-	maka-	maka-	
Passive					
Punctual	-in-		-(h)on	-(h)on	-a
Durative	gin-	gina-	pag—on	paga—on	pag—a
Distributive	ginpaN-	ginapaN-	paN—on	paN—on	
Potential	na-	na-	ma-	ma-	
Instrumental					
Punctual	-in-		i-	i-	i-
Durative	gin-	gina-	i(g)-	iga-	ipag-
Distributive	ginpaN—an	ginapaN—an	ipaN—	ipaN-	
Potential	(ki)na-	na-	ika-	ika-	
Local Passive					
Punctual	-in—an		-an	-an	-i
Durative	gin—an	gina—an	pag—an	paga—an	pag—i
Distributive	ginpaN—an	ginapaN—an	paN—an	paN—an	
Potential	na—an	na—an	ma-an	ma-an	

p0025 Vowel loss is common with suffixation:

inóm ‘drink’ > *ímnon* ‘be drunk,’ *sumúd* ‘follow’ > *súndun* ‘be followed’

p0030 Grammatical relations are shown by particles (*kag* ‘and’, *na* ‘now, already’, *mga* plural, *man* ‘also, too’, *lang* ‘only’) or affixes: prefixes (*pag-* temporal verb, *ka-* companion noun), infixes (*-in-* passive past), suffixes (*-un* direct passive, *-an* local passive), or circumfixes (*ka—an* abstract noun, *gina—an* local passive progressive).

p0035 Nominals are inflected for case: common nouns (marked by *ang* topic, *sing* indefinite oblique, *sang* definite oblique, *sa* locative) or personal names (*si* topic, *ni* oblique, *kay* locative; plural: *sanday* topic, *nanday* oblique, *kanday* locative). Demonstratives orient to person, locus, time, or anaphora. They have existential and verbal inflections.

p0040 Verbs are inflected for four voices (active, passive, instrumental, local), four tenses (past, progressive, contingent, future), three aspects (punctual, durative, distributive), and three moods (factual, command, potential).

p0045 Unmarked word order is V-S-O (verb-subject-object); because nominal constituents are case marked, word order can be free. Initial position by any nonverb usually serves to highlight or contrast.

(1) *kahápon* *si* *Hwaníng* *nag’abút*
yesterday TOP Johnny past active-arrive
‘It was yesterday that Johnny arrived’

p0050 Two other markers are: *nga* (*-ng* after vowels), a ligature uniting nouns with other constituents and *ka* after numerals.

(2) *matahúm nga babáyí*
pretty LINK woman
‘a pretty lady’

(3) *ma’áyo-ng ága*
ADJ-good-LINK morning
‘good morning’

(4) *duhá ka simána*
two NUM week
‘two weeks’

There are three negatives: *ayáw* ‘don’t!’ IMPERATIVE, *walá’* + TOPIC or *waláy* + OBJ ‘none’ EXISTENTIAL, ‘did not’ PAST or ‘doesn’t’ PRESENT, and *díli’* ‘will not’ FUTURE OF PREDICATIVE ‘is not so’; a fourth, *bukún*, negates nouns and adjectives in some dialect areas. p0055

(5) *Walá’ kitá sing baláy*
NEG-EXIS we (incl) OBL house
‘We have no house’

(6) *Waláy baláy kitá*
NEG-EXIS house we (incl)
‘We have no house’

(7) *díli’ siyá manggaránun*
bukún siyá manggaránun
neg-pred he/she rich
‘He is not rich’

See also: Austronesian Languages: overview (02123); Bikol (02133); Philippines - Language situation (01736); Tagalog (02141).

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Abstract:

This is an overview of Hiligaynon (also known as Ilonggo), the fourth-largest Philippine language. A description of the phonology includes inherited and borrowed sounds. Neither contrastive accent nor final glottal stop is represented in the orthography. Grammatical marking of common and personal nouns is accomplished with particles marking three cases: topic, oblique, and locative. Pronouns and deictics are illustrated in tables, as is the complex four-voice verb morphology. Unmarked word order (VSO) and fronting, linkers, and negatives are exemplified.

Biography:

After four years with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines (1965–69), R. David Zorc received his Ph.D. from Cornell University (1975) in linguistics and southeast Asian anthropology. He worked for two years (1974–75) in the Austronesian Genetic Classification Project directed by Prof. Isidore Dyen at Yale University and then for ten years (1976–86) with the School of Australian Linguistics. He has been a senior linguist with the Language Research Center of McNeil Technologies and Dunwoody Press since 1986. He has a broad list of publications in five language families: Austronesian (Aklanon grammar and dictionary, Tagalog reader and slang dictionary, Hiligaynon reader, Cebuano reader, Ilokano reader), Australian (Yolngu-Matha dictionary), Indo-European (Eastern Armenian reader, grammar, and dictionary), Cushitic (Somali textbook and dictionary, Oromo reader, and grammar), and Bantu (Sotho reader and grammar and Rwanda-Rundi reader and comparative grammar). He lives in Wheaton, Maryland, with his wife of 35 years (Nellie Reyes Prado) and their son (David Nicolas).



Keywords: Accent (phonemic), Affixes, Austronesian, Bisayan, Borrowed phonemes, Case marking, Circumfixes, Hiligaynon, Ilonggo, Linkers, Philippines, Subgrouping, VSO word order

Author Contact Information:

R David Zorc

Technologies, Inc.
3410 Glorus Place
Wheaton, MD 20902
USA
dzorc1@comcast.net