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STANDARD BIKOL.

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THE DIALECT OF BIKOL SPOKEN IN NAGA CITY, THE PHILIPPINES, IS DESCRIBED IN THIS SHORT ANALYSIS OF THE MOST BASIC BIKOL STRUCTURAL PATTERNS. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE READER HAS LINGUISTIC TRAINING OR IS A STUDENT OF BIKOL (SEE ALSO AL 000 502, "BIKOL LESSONS"). PHONOLOGY AND DIALECT DIFFERENCES ARE VERY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED. EXAMPLES ARE GIVEN FOR EACH GRAMMAR POINT. (JD)

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What follows is an attempt to describe Standard Bikol  
in broad, general terms of its major structural patterns. I  
am grateful for the help of the following people:

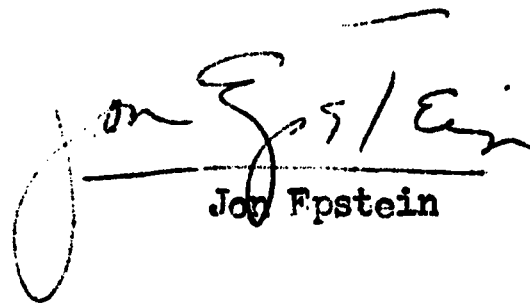
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## STANDARD BIKOL

The kind of Bikol which is understood, respected, and acceptable through<sup>out</sup> the Bikol provinces is that spoken in Naga City and certain other areas (including Legazpi City). This is "Standard Bikol," referred to by the people of the Bikol provinces as "pure" Bikol, "national" Bikol, and "Naga" Bikol, since it is most readily associated with the speech of people from Naga City in Camarines Sur.

The grammatical description which follows is an attempt to describe only the most basic structural patterns of Bikol as it is spoken in Legazpi and Naga.

## DIALECT AREAS

Bikol dialects can be roughly divided into six areas:

- (1) Standard Bikol, spoken through-out Camarines Sur (except for the Rinconada section), easternmost Albay, and four municipalities in Sorsogon. In Camarines Norte, although Standard Bikol is spoken in some areas, Tagalog is dominant. Daet, it is said, is half Tagalog-speaking and half-Bikol-speaking.
- (2) The Rinconada dialects of Bula, Buhi, Baco, Nabua, ~~Basud~~, and Iriga, clustered together at the southern base of Camarines Sur.
- (3) Northern Catanduanes
- (4) Southern Catanduanes
- (5) The Central and western sections of Albay
- (6) Sorsogon, portions of which have been much influenced by Waray-Waray from neighboring Samar.

The language and dialects of Masbate are basically Visayan, with the major influence being Cebuano.

ROUGH DIALECT MAP OF BIKOL

CAMARINES NORTE

NORTHERN CATANDUANES

SOUTHERN CATANDUANES

TRINCONADA

WESTERN A<sup>ab</sup>BAY

EASTERN A<sup>ab</sup>BAY

(STANDARD BIKOL)

SORSOGON

MASBATE

SAMAR

## DIALECT DIFFERENCES

The major differences between <sup>the</sup> dialects are lexical first, and then phonological differences (largely intonation patterns). The structural patterns remain, generally, much the same, with occasionally alternate forms with identical functions, e.g. NAGA- in Daraga functions the same as NAG+cv. Lexical items, differing among various dialects, which will cause the most trouble <sup>re-</sup> learning will be these items of extremely high frequency, such as words for negation, deictics, demonstratives, function words (subject markers, goal markers) etc.

## LITERARY BIKOL

There is a particular kind of Bikol, called Deep Bikol (hararom na Bikol) by Bikolanes, which stands apart from the colloquial speech of everyday use. This literary Bikol, with its special vocabulary and structures reserved for its uses, will be found in writing, speeched, "novenas," poetry, and <sup>may be</sup> used by <sup>older</sup> people in their seventies and upwards. In a speech, for example, BALAKID might be used for DAKUL, <sup>(more many)</sup> the colloquial form; HULI TA for TA (because), ASIN (and) for SAKÁ/BUDÁ (and), etc.



## ON BIKOL DIALECTS

The following was taken from an article written for the Bicol Teachers' College student magazine. It was written by Miss Iluminada Bite, whose junior year phonetics students have gathered, over a five-year period from 1962 to 1967, an impressive six volumes analyzing the phonology of Bicol dialects in seventy-eight Bicol-speaking towns.

The analyses of the Bicol spoken in the aforementioned (78) towns which were done with great interest by the students to the satisfaction of their instructor, showed that the Bicol segmental phonemes include: 16 to 17 consonants, 3 to 6 vowels, and 4 to 8 diphthongs. The consonants common to most of the Bicol varieties are: /b k d g h l m n ng p r s t w y ʔ/. A unique voiced velar sound, which is a cross of the /g/ and the /y/ sounds, is found only in Buhi. The /y<sup>1</sup>/, a dental-palatal sound which is a cross of the /y/ and the /l/ sounds, is found in the towns of Virac, Bato, Baras, San Miguel, and Gigmote, in Catanduanes.

The vowels common to most varieties are: /i e a o u/. A sixth vowel is found in the dialects of Daraga, Camalig, Jovellar, Guinebatan, Pieduran, Ligao, Oas, and Polangui, in Albay; Donsol, in Sorsogon; and Buhi and Iriga, in Camarines Sur. This vowel is produced in the same point in the mouth as the English /U/ in book, but the lips are spread rather than slightly protruded. Other findings about Bicol vowels are that the Nabua dialect has only three vowels: /i a u/; Daraga, Guinebatan, Donsol, Buhi, and Iriga, have four: /i a u U\*/; Polangui has five: /i a o u U\*/; and Camalig, Ligao, Oas, and Jovellar have six: /i e a o u U\*/.

The common diphthongs are? /iw aw ay oy uy/. The dialects that have the /U\*/ sound have other diphthongs that involve this sound. Buhi has a unique diphthong sound that involves the special consonant in its sound system, found in its term for asthma. Virac and other towns that have the /y<sup>1</sup>/ sound have the additional diphthongs, /oy<sup>1</sup>/, found in /bagey<sup>1</sup>/, meaning coconut shell; and /ayl/ found in /kuday<sup>1</sup>/, meaning fence.

Consonant clusters are very rare in Bicol. The few that occur in initial position are: /bl br bw by kl kr kw ky pl pr pw py dr dw dy gl gr gw tr ts tw ty sw sy rw ry lw ly mw hw/. The majority of these are found in words borrowed from English or Spanish. Some of these occur in the final position when a prefix, like ka-, or mag-, is used in the word. Examples are: /kaklase/, meaning "classmate"; and /mag-pyano/, meaning "to play the piano!".

Consonant clusters never occur in final position. Only in the speech of those whose knowledge of English pronunciation is quite good will one hear a final consonant cluster in words adopted from English.

The suprasegmental phonemes presented in the comparative charts are practically the same for all the varieties of Bicol.

## Phonology of Standard Bikol

CONSONANTS: / p b t d k g m n ng r s w y h l ? /

The voiceless stops / p t k / are unaspirated.

Velar-nasal /ng/ occurs word initial.

Consonant /r/ is a single-tap /r/.

Glottal stop /?/ precedes words vowel initial.

VOWELS: / i e a o u /

Vowel /i/ has two allophones [i] as in "beat"

[i̠] as in "bit"

Vowel /a/ has a single allophone [a] as in "tat," "father"

Vowel /u/ has two allophones [u] similar to "book"

[u̠] similar to "bought" but shorter and made higher and farther back.

Since /e/<sup>\*</sup> does not contrast minimally with /i/, it could also be presented as an allophone of /i/. In the dialects that use /e/ (many areas substitute /i/ for /e/) the sound is usually represented by "e" in the orthography: KAHERAK (pity), MAHALÈ (go out).

Since /u/, similar to "book", does not ~~contrast~~ contrast minimally with allophones [u] or [u̠], then it too could be presented as a third allophone of /u/. This sound [u̠] is generally required when the accepted orthography uses "u:" DAKUL (much, many), GULPI (plenty), UTANG (borrow).

\* similar to "e"



**STRESS;** Bikol differentiates between strong stress and weak stress. In the following grammatical description strong stress is marked / ˈ /.

/ ˆ / signals strong stress followed by a glottal stop:

SIRÂ (fish)

SAKÔ (mine)

/ \ / signals primary stress on the penultimate syllable and a glottal stop on the marked syllable:

NAMONDÒ (got sad)

NABUTÀ (went blind)

Between vowels a hyphen / - / signals a glottal stop:

ANÍ-ON (here)

KA-ÁN (that)

In standard orthography such words are written ANION, KAAAN. A few words have been transcribed with no indication of a glottal stop: ■ DAÍ (DA-I), TATAÓ (TATA-O).

Where a vowel is reduplicated it is assumed there is a glottal stop between them: NAG-IINUM (drinking) is pronounced NAG-Í-INUM.

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MAG- verbs

past	present	future	imperative-plus
NAG-	NAG+cv	MA-	MAG-
-UMIN-			-UM-
			root alone

The MAG- affixes express volitional - voluntary - action.

Past action is formed by NAG + ~~the~~ the verb root. This signals completed action and corresponds to the English past tense.

NAGSÚRAT	wrote
NAGT RABÁHO	worked
NAG-ABÓT	arrived
NAGDALÁGAN	ran

Present action is formed by NAG+cv. CV stands for the reduplicated first syllable of the verb root, C being the first consonant, V the first vowel.

NAG +cv signals an imperfective or not-necessarily completed action.

From verb roots SÚRAT, BÁSA, DALÁGAN:

NAGSUSURAT	writing
NAGBABASA	reading
NAGDADALÁGAN	running

Because all Bikol words beginning in a vowel are preceded by a glottal stop, all verb roots are considered as beginning with CV. Thus, the first syllable of roots INUM (drink) and ABÓT (arrive) is "ʔi" and "ʔa," each vowel preceded by a glottal stop which is considered a consonant. From these roots:

NAG-IINOM	drinking
NAG-AABÓT	arriving

with verb roots beginning in a consonant cluster the first vowel is reduplicated. From TRABAHO (work):

NAGTATRABAHO working

The present action forms, signalling imperfective (not-necessarily completed) action, correspond to a number of English tenses. NAGSUSURAT AKO, depending on the context, could be translated in the following ways:

1. Simple (habitual) present tense

NAGSUSURAT AKO AGA-AGA. I write every morning.

2. Past habitual ("used to/would")

KAN AKO SADIT PA, NAGSUSURAT AKO. When I was a child I used to write.

3. Present progressive

NAGSUSURAT AKO NGUNYAN. I'm writing now.

4. Past progressive

NAGSUSURAT AKO KAN MAG-ABOT KA. I was writing when you arrived.

5. Present perfect progressive

MADUWANG ORAS NA AKONG NAGSUSURAT. I've been writing for two hours.

6. Past perfect progressive

MADUWANG ORAS NA AKONG NAGSUSURAT I had been writing for two hours  
KAN MAG-ABOT KA. when you arrived.

Thus, NAG+cv can signal both habitual action (present and past) and continuing action (present and past). The term "present" is used for this form because its most frequent uses are for present actions - both habitual and continuing.

Future action is formed by MA 'the verb root. This signals action that "will" happen or is "going to" happen.

MABASA	will read/ going to read
MÁ-INOM	will drink/ going to drink
MAKANTA	will sing/ going to sing

Where English sometimes uses BE \_\_\_\_\_ING to indicate future meaning (e.g. "I'm graduating next June.") Bikol ~~will use~~ uses only one affix indicating future action:\*

MASAEN KA?	Where are you going?
MAHALÈ KA?	Are you going out?
MALÚWAS AKÓ.	I'm going outside.

Imperative-plus action is formed by MAG+ the verb root. One use of this affix is the command; "plus" stands for its other uses.

1. Commands.

MAG - , -UM- (an infix), and the verb root alone are all used to signal affirmative commands.

MAGSÚRAT KA.	Write.
MAG-INÓM KA.	Drink.
BUMALÍK KA.	Come again.
DUMÍGDI KA.	Come here.
TUKÁW.	Sit down.
DÁGOS.	Come in.

\* There is a second kind of future action signaled by MAG+cv, but this is used infrequently.

The pronouns KA and KAMO are used with MAG- and -UM- commands, but not when the root alone is used for the imperative.

For "Let's" (hortatory) commands, MAG- is used:

MAGDUMAN KITA. Let's go there.

MAGKAWAT NA KITA. Let's play now.

MAG- is used for all negative commands:

DAI KA MAGTUKAW. Don't ~~stand~~ sit down.

DAI KA MAGTINDOG. Don't stand up.

2. MAG- is used following certain "pseudo" verbs (uninflected helping verbs):

TATAÓ KA NA PALAN MAGBIKOL.  
So you're speaking Bikol now!

PUÉDE KAMONG MAGDUMAN PIRME.  
You can always go there.

GUSTO KO MAN MAGITOM.  
I want to get tan (black).

3. MAG- follows KAN ("when" with a past meaning), KON ("if/when" with a future meaning), MASKI ("even if" with a future meaning), and some other words which indicate that the action of the verb will occur in the future.

KON MAGTARAM KANG LUWAY-LUWAY MAKAKASABÓT AKÓ.  
If you speak slowly, I'll be able to understand.

KON AKÓ MAGDIGDI, MAKARÍGOS AKÓ.  
When I come here I'll take a swim (bath).

The above example contrasts with "when" in the habitual meaning:

KON AKO NAGDIGDI NAGKARÍGOS AKÓ.  
Whenever I come here I take a swim (bath).

NAG-AADAL AKÓ KAN MAG-ABÓT KA.  
I was studying when you arrived.



4. MAG- follows adjectives of manner:

MAGAYÓN KANG MAGBÁYLE.  
You dance beautifully.

MALÚWAY SIYANG MAGDALÁGAN.  
He runs slowly.

---

Other volitional verb forms

Past action: An infix, -UMIN-, carries the same signal as NAG- and indicates a completed (perfective) action. As with all infixes, -UMIN-- follows the first consonant of the root or precedes the root if it begins in a vowel:

KUMINU-Á AKÓNG BÓLA.  
I got a ball.

UMINTÁ KAMI SAÍYA.  
We went with him.

Present action: MINA-, a prefix corresponding to NAG cv in the habitual present meaning is a stylistic adornment:

DAI PAGLINGAWÁN AN A.B.C. GIN  
INUMÓN NA MINADULOT  
NIN HUSTONG KA-OGMAHAN.

Don't forget A.B.C. Gin,  
A drink that gives  
Real happiness. (from a radio commercial)

MINA-, colloquially, is used with KON to mean "whenever/  
everytime..."

KON MINATARAM AKÓ MAY SALÁ.  
whenever I speak I make a mistake.

**MINA-** may also be used to signal "was about to:"

**MINADIGDI KUTÁ AKO PERO NAG-ÚRAN.**  
I was about to come, but it rained.

**MINA-INUM SIYA PERO NAHÚLOG.**  
She was about to drink, but she fell down.

Used to express "to do X like a Y:"

**MINALANGUY SIYÁ GARÓ SIRÁ.**  
He swims like a fish.

**MINAKATUROG AKO GARÓ LANA.**  
I sleep like a log (oil).

---

**NOTES ABOUT STRESS:**

1. **MA-** becomes **MÁ-** when the verb root ends in a stressed syllable. The root, with **MA-** attached, loses its original primary stress.

**BAKÁL** becomes **MÁBAKAL**            will buy

**DUMAN** becomes **MADUMAN**            will go (there)

**IBA** becomes **MA-IBA**            will accompany

2. **NAG** cv becomes **NAG** cv when the abovementioned condition pertains; the root, in this case, maintains its original primary stress.

**NAGBÁBAKÁL**    **NAGDUDUMAN**    **NAG-IIBA**

Contrasting examples of colloquial MAG- (volitional) forms

Past

NAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ.  
I bought (some/a) fish.

BUMINAKAL AKONG SIRÁ.  
I bought (some/a) fish.

Present

NAGBABAKAL AKONG SIRÁ.  
I buy (some/a) fish.  
I'm buying (some/a) fish.  
I was buying (some/a) fish. etc.

Future

MABAKAL AKONG SIRÁ.  
I'll buy (some/a) fish.  
I'm going to buy (some/a) fish.

Imperative-plus

MAGBAKAL KANG SIRÁ.  
Buy (some/a) fish.

BUMAKAL KANG SIRÁ.  
Buy (some/a) fish.

TATAO }  
PUEDE } AKONG MAGBAKAL NIN SIRÁ.  
DAPAT }  
I know how to  
I can } buy (some/a) fish.  
I ought to }

KAIPOHAN  
GUSTO } KONG MAGBAKAL NIN SIRÁ.  
HAEO }  
I need to  
I want to } buy (some/a) fish.  
I don't want to }  
like to }

KAN MAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ...  
When I bought (some/a) fish.....

KON MAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ...  
When/if I buy (some/a) fish...

MÁSKI MAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ...  
Even if I buy (some/a) fish...

DAÍ KA MAGBAKAL NIN SIRÁ.  
Don't buy (any/a) fish.

MAGBAKAL KITANG SIRÁ.  
Let's buy (some/a) fish.

MATIBAY AKONG MAGBAKAL NIN SIRÁ.  
I'm good at buying fish.

---

Past

NAGGIBO AKONG KAWATAN.  
I made a toy.

GUMINIBO AKONG KAWATAN.  
I made a toy.

Present.

NAGGIGIBO AKONG KAWATAN.  
I make toys.  
I'm making a toy.  
I was making a toy. etc.

Future

MAGÍBO AKONG KAWATAN.  
I'll make a toy.  
I'm going to make a toy.

Imperative-plus

MAGGÍBO KANG KAWATAN.  
Make a toy.

GUHÍBO KANG KAWATAN.  
Make a toy.

DAÍ KA MAGGIBO NIN KAWATAN.  
Don't make a toy.

MAGGIBO KITANG KAWATAN.  
Let s make a toy.

TATAÓ  
DAPAT } AKÓNG MAGGÍBO NIN KAWÁTAN.  
PUEDE }  
I know how to  
I should/ ought to } make a toy.  
I can/may }

GUSTO  
KAIPOHAN } KONG MAGGÍBO NIN KAWÁTAN.  
HABÓ  
I want to/like to }  
I need to } make a toy.  
I don't want to }  
like to }

KAN MAGGÍBO AKÓNG KAWATAN...  
When I made a toy...

KON MAGGÍBO AKONG KAWATAN...  
When/if I make a toy...

MASKI MAGGÍBO AKONG KAWATAN...  
Even if I make a toy...

MAGAYÓN AKONG MAGGIBONG KAWATAN.  
I make toys beautifully.

---

ADDITIONAL USES OF MAG- affixes :

1. making verbs from borrowed nouns: MAGTAXI, MAG-FRUG
2. to speak a language: MAG-BIKOL, MAG-ENGLISH.
3. to play an instrument@: MAG-PIANO
4. to ride a vehicle: MAGBISIKLETA, MAGAEROPLANO
5. to express a quotation: NAG-HELLO SIYA ("He said 'Hello.'")

MAKA- verbs

past	present	future	imperative-plus
NAKA-	NAKAKA-	MAKAKA-	MAKA-

The MAKA- forms express potential and ability, among other things, and correspond most frequently to the English "can" and "be able to."

The past (perfective) form, NAKA- verb root, can express three things:

1. "was able to"

DAI SIYA NAKADUMAN.  
She wasn't able to go (there).

NAKA-ABOT AKO ALAS DDCE.  
I was able to arrive at 12 o' clock.

2. "have/had \_\_\_\_\_ed" corresponding to the English present/past perfect tenses (completed action).

NAKATARAM NA AKO.  
I have already spoken.

PAGHUNA KU NAKALINGAW KA NA.  
I thought you had forgotten.

HALOY KA NA DAI NAKADIGDI.  
You haven't visited (come by) in a long time.

3. "happened to \_\_\_\_\_," "accidentally \_\_\_\_\_."

NAKAHILING AKO SAIYA KASU-ODMA.  
I happened to see her yesterday.

This "accidental" meaning of NAKA- contrasts with the volitional meaning expressed by NAG-:

NAGTONGTONG AKO SA IKOG KAN IKUS.  
I stepped (intentionally) on the cat's tail.

NAKATONGTONG AKO SA IKOG KAN IKUS.  
I happened to step on the cat's tail.



The present (imperfective) form, NAKAKA- + verb root, generally corresponds to "can" and "be able to."

NAKAKABASA SIYA KI MARHAY.  
He can read well.

NAKAKABIKLNA SIYA.  
He can speak Bikol already.

The future form, MAKAKA- root, corresponds to "can (future)" and "will be able to."

INDA SANA KON NU-ARII AKO MAKAKADUMAN.  
I'm not sure when I can go.

MAKAKALAKAW-LAKAW KITA SA AGA.  
We can walk around tomorrow.

The imperative-plus form, MAKA root, is used in negative commands and other environments where MAG- is used (e.g. following "pseudo" verbs, KAN/KON/MASKI, adjectives of manner).

DAI KA MAKALINGAW!  
Don't forget!

GUSTO KONG MAKA-ABOT ALAS DOS.  
I want to be able to arrive at 2 o' clock.

---

MAKA- preferences: some verbs show a preference for the MAKA- affixes over the MAG- affixes. Some of these are the verbs for "to learn" (MAKANU-OD in Naga, MAKA-UKOD in Legazpi), "to forget" (MAKALINGAW), "to understand" (MAKASABOT), "to remember" (MAKAROMDOM). Verbs of the senses, especially "to see" and "to hear" tend to occur most frequently with the MAKA- affixes.

STRESS: NAKAKA- and MAKAKA- are always stressed on the second syllable. NAKA- and MAKA- are stressed NAKA- and MAKÁ- only when the verb root has primary stress on the final syllable.

NAKABAKAL, MAKABAKAL

NAKA-ABOT, MAKÁ-ABOT

MA- verbs

past	present	future	imperative-plus
NA-	NA - cv	MA - cv	MA-

MA- forms are intransitive and express involuntary (internal) action. The only kind of object MA- verbs take is a dative one:

NADAGIT SIYA SAKO.  
She got angry at me.

NAMOMONDO AKO SAIYA.  
I miss her.

NASUSUPOG SINDA SAIMO.  
They're embarrassed in front of you.

MA- verbs generally correspond to the English "get/become/be adjective," e.g. "Get/become/be hungry."

past: NASUPOE SIYA. She got embarrassed.  
NAGUTOM SI LITO. Lito got hungry.

present: NASUSUPOG SIYA. She's embarrassed.  
NAGUGUTOM SI LITO. Lito's hungry.

future: MASUSUPOG SIYA. She'll get embarrassed.  
MAGUGUTOM SI LITO. Lito will get hungry.

imperative-plus: DAI KA MASUPOG. Don't be shy/ don't get embarrassed.  
HABO KONG MAWARA. I don't want to get lost.

---

Stress: The reduplicated syllable - CV - has a primary stress when the verb root has final stress. From WARA:

NAWARARA getting lost/ gets lost

MAWARARA will get lost

Past forms of some common MA- verbs:

NAPIROT SIYA.	He got sleepy.
NAPAGAL SIYA.	He got tired.
NAMONDU SIYA.	He got sad/ lonely.
NAGUTOM SIYA.	He got hungry.
NADAGIT SIYA.	He got mad/ angry. (Legazpi)
NA-ANGGOT SIYA.	He got mad/ angry. (Naga)
NASUPOG SIYA.	He got embarrassed.
NAWARA SIYA.	He got lost.
NATUROG SIYA.	He fell asleep.
NABUTA SIYA.	He went blind.
NABU-A SIYA.	He went crazy.
NABUNGOG SIYA.	He went deaf.
NALIPOT SIYA.	He got cold.
NATAKOT SIYA.	He got scared.

SUMMARY CHART OF MAJOR "ACTIVE" AFFIXES

	<u>past</u>	<u>present</u>	<u>future</u>	<u>imperative-plus</u>
"volitional"	NAG-	NAG cv	MA-	MAG- -UM- root alone
"potential"	NAKA-	NAKAKA-	MAKAKA-	MAKA-
"internal"	NA-	NA cv	MA+ cv	MA-

The three series of affixes already presented all belong to a category that will be referred to as the ACTOR FOCUS. These affixes, aside from the category they belong to, will be referred to as "active." Of these "active" series the MAG- group may be remembered as "volitional", the MAKA- group as "potential" affixes, and the MA- group as showing "internal" (rather than external) action.

Basically, Bikel verb affixes can be divided into two groups, those which form "active" constructions and those which form "passive" constructions. Of the former there is one major category, the ACTOR FOCUS, and of the latter there are three categories, a brief description of which now follows.

"PASSIVE" CONSTRUCTIONS

While it is important to understand the meaning of TENSE and how it relates to the English verb system, the same idea is present to a much lesser degree in Bikel. The important thing in Bikel (corresponding to the key importance of "tense" in English) is FOCUS.

In English the inflections (\_\_\_\_ed, \_\_\_\_\_ing, \_\_\_\_\_s) have to do with time.

In Bikel the inflections (Mag-, -UM-, Nakaka-, -IN- etc.) have to do with focus.

Focus has to do with what is being talked about. Which affix is applied to the verb root depends on what is being talked about or focused on.

With the "active" affixes (MAG-, MAKA-, MA-) it is the doer of the action - the actor - that is being talked about, focused on.

With the "passive" affixes it is the receiver of the action that is being focused on, talked about.

The following is the first of three major categories of "passive" construction in Bikel:

OBJECT FOCUS: -ON verbs

past	present	future	imperative-plus
-IN-	-IN- cv	cv -ON	-ON
PIG-	PIG- cv		-A

The infix -IN- alternates with PIG- in common usage with no difference in meaning.

The suffix -ON alternates with -A in affirmative commands. Roots ending in a vowel (not followed by a glottal stop) add -HON or -HA;

GIBOHON, GIBÓHA (from GIBO: make)

PAG- -ON is obligatorily used for negative commands.

OBJECT FOCUS (-ON) vs. ACTOR FOCUS (MAG-, MAKA-)

Object Focus affixes (OF) are used when the thing being talked about (focused on) is a specific, definite thing.

Actor Focus affixes (AF) are used when the thing being talked about (focused on) is a non-specific, indefinite thing.

(AF) MAGBAKAL AKO NIN SIRA.  
I boughta fish.

(OF) BINAKAL KO AN SIRA.  
I bought the fish.

An indefinite object in English is marked by "a," "some," or the plural. A fish, some fish, and fish (either plural or fish in general) are all indefinite, non-specific. In Bikol they will be marked by -NG (following and attached to a word ending in a vowel) or NIN (following a word ending in a consonant) or another non-specific object marker (such as KI, the preferred marker in Legazpi). These markers all indicate that the object is non-specific. The verb in such sentences will generally be affixed with one of the MAG- series or MAKA- series.

A specific, definite object in English is marked by the, or a demonstrative (this, that), a pronoun (her, them) (my house). In Bikol the specific object will be marked by a special subject marker - AN, SU (the preference in Legazpi), SI (the preference in Naga) before common nouns. If the specific object is a person it will be marked by SI. The only specific objects which are not marked as such are the nominative pronouns (AKO, IKA, SIYA, KITA, KAMI, KAMO, SINDA) and the nominative demonstratives (INI, IYAN, ITO). The verb in Bikol sentences that talk about a specific object will bear (generally) one of the -ON affixes.

Consider the following examples:

(AF) NAGGIBO SIYANG KAWATAN.  
He made a toy.

(OF) GINIBO NIYA AN KAWATAN.  
He made the toy.

The difference between the two sentences is one of focus. In the first sentence it is the action-doer (ACTOR) which is being talked about: SIYA. In the second sentence it is the specific object - AN KAWATAN - which is being talked about.

The pronouns are obligatorily different, since, in the first sentence, we have "He made a toy" and in the second "The toy was made by him."



Contrastive examples of actor focus (the focus is on the actor) and object focus (the focus is on the object) :

NAGBASA AKONG LIBRO. I read a book.  
BINASA KO AN LIBRO. I read the book.  
PIGBASA

LULUTO-ON KO AN KARNE. I'll cook the meat.  
MALUTO AKO NIN KARNE. I'll cook (some) meat.

NAGSUSURAT AKONG SURAT. I'm writing a letter.  
SINUSURAT KO AN SURAT. I'm writing the letter.  
PIGSUSURAT

MAGIBO SIYANG KAWATAN. He's going to make a toy.  
GIGIBOHON NIYA AN KAWATAN. He's going to make the toy.

---

The Object Focus affixes are generally used to express "X is the thing which is \_\_\_\_\_ed."

IYO IYAN AN LINUTO . That's what was cooked.  
PIGLUTO  
INI AN BINAKAL ? Is this what was bought?  
PIGBAKAL  
SIYA AN HINANAP MO? Is she the one you were looking  
PIGHANAP fer? ("who was looked for by you")

This last sentences shows that Object Focus can also deal with persons. For the sake of simplification it is not harmful to think that OF generally deals with objects, things.

Formation of Object Focus Verbs

past: The infix -IN- follows the first consonant of the root when root begins with a consonant, precedes the root when root begins in a vowel:

SINURAT lit. "thing that was written"

BINASA lit. "thing that was read"

ININUM lit. "thing that was drunk"

The prefix FIG- may be added to the root with no change in meaning:

FIGSURAT lit. "thing that was written"

FIGSABI lit. "thing that was said"

present: The first syllable of the root is reduplicated before adding -IN- or FIG-.

BINABASA lit. "thing that's being read"

PIGGIGIBO lit. "thing that's being made"

GINAGAMIT lit. "thing that's being used"

PIG-IINUM lit. "thing that's being drunk"

future: Reduplication of the first root syllable - CV plus the suffix -ON. (-HON if root ends in vowel w/o glottal stop)

GIGIB OHON lit. "thing that will be made"

LULUTO-ON lit. "thing that will be cooked"

PUPUTODON lit. "thing that will be cut"

IINUMON lit. "thing that will be drunk"

imperative-plus: with commands -ON- -HON (used with pronouns MO, NINDO) or -A -HA (used without pronouns).

with negative commands PAG- and suffix -ON- -HON.

with "plus" uses of imperative-plus (following "pseudo" verbs, etc.) the root plus -ON- -HON is used.

GIBOHON MO DAW. Do it.

GIBOHA. Do it.

DAI MO PAGGIBOHON. Don't do it.

ANO AN DAPAT KONG GIBOHON? What should I do? (lit. "What is the thing that ought to be done by me?")

LUTO-ON MO DAW. Cook it.

LUTO-A. Cook it.

DAI MO PAGLUTO-ON. Don't cook it.

ANO AN GUSTO MONG LUTO-ON? What would you like to cook?

---

Although there is no word for "it" in Bikol, this idea is covered by the -ON affixes, since "it" is implied by this focus when no particular object is mentioned.

OTROHON NINDO. Repeat it.

GINIBO KO KASU-ODMA. I did it yesterday.

BINAKAL KO NA. I already bought it.

INUMON MO SANA. Just drink it.

OBJECT FOCUS POTENTIAL: MA- verbs

Just as the MAG- verbs contrast with the -ON verbs, MAKA- verbs have their counterpart in the MA- verbs.

These MA- verbs have the same forms as the intransitive, "internal" action series except that they always take a specific object (stated or implied), like the -ON verbs.

<u>past</u>	<u>present</u>	<u>future</u>	<u>imperative-plus</u>
NA-	NA cv	MA cv	MA-

These MA- affixes carry the same meanings as the MAKA- affixes.

N AH ILING KO NA AN SINI.  
I've already seen the movie.

GUSTO KONG MALUTO AN BAGAS.  
I want to be able to cook the rice.

MABABAKAL MO INI SA SADAN ? (Naga)  
SA-OD. (Legazpi)  
Can you buy this at the market?

---

Contrasting sentences: MAKA- vs MA-

NAKABASA KA NANG LIBRO? Have you read a book yet?

NABASA MO NA AN LIBRO? Have you read the book yet?

MAKAKAPUTOL SINDANG KAHUY. They'll be able to cut a tree down.

MAPUPUTOL NINDA AN KAHUY. They'll be able to cut the tree down.

DAI PA AKO NAKAHILING NIN TAWO. I haven't seen anybody yet.  
(a man)

DAI KO PA NAHILING SU TAWO. (Legazpi) I haven't seen the man yet.  
SI TAWO (Naga)

"THE ONE WHO" (MAG-,MAKA-) vs. "THE THING WHICH" (-ON, MA-)

SISAY AN NAGSABI?  
Who said/told?

ANO AN PIGSABI?  
What was said/told?

SISAY AN NAGKAKANTA?  
Who's singing?

ANO AN PIGKAKANTA?  
KINAKANTA  
What's being sung?

AN NAGKANTA SI LITO.  
The one who sang was Lito.

AN NAKANTA "SARONG BANGGI."  
What was sung was "Sarong Banggi."

SISAY AN NAKASURAT?  
Who has written?  
AKO AN NAKASURAT.  
I'm the one who has written.

ANO AN NASURAT?  
What has been written?  
INI AN NASURAT.  
This is what has been written.

SISAY AN MASIMBAG?  
Who (is the one who) will  
answer?  
SIYA AN MASIMBAG.  
She (is the one who) will  
answer.

ANO AN SISIMBAGON MO?  
What will you answer?  
("the thing that will be answered")  
INI AN SISIMBAGON MO.  
This is what you'll answer.  
("the thing that will be answered.")

SISAY AN NAGBABAKAL?  
Who (is the one who) buys?

ANO AN PIGBABAKAL MO?  
BINABAKAL  
What do you buy?  
("the thing which is bought")  
INI AN PIGBABAKAL KO.  
BINABAKAL  
This is what I buy.  
("the thing which is bought")

SIYA AN NAGLUTO ~~NIYA~~; IYAN AN PIGLUTO NIYA.  
He's the one who cooked; that's what he cooked.

SINDA AN MABAKAL; IYAN AN BABAKALON NINDA.  
They're the one's who'll buy; that's what they'll buy.

SI LITO AN NAGIINUM; IYAN AN PIGIINUM NI LITO.  
Lito's the one who's drinking; that's what Lito's drinking.

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ANÓ AN PIGHILÍNG MO?

lit: "What was the thing seen by you?"

English equivalent: What did you see?

ANÓ AN NAHILÍNG NIYÁ?

lit: "What is the thing which has been seen by him?"

English equivalent: What has he seen?

ANÓ AN LULUTÓ-ON MO?

lit: "What is the thing that will be cooked by you?"

English equivalent: What will you cook?

GINÍBO KO INÍ KASU-BANGGÍ.

lit: This was made by me last night.

English equivalent: I made this last night.

SÍGE, DADARAHÓN KO SANÁ AN MGÁ KUNYÁN.

lit: Okay, the whatchamacallits will just be brought by me.

English equivalent: Okay, I'll just bring the whatchamacallits

SUMMARY CHART OF OBJECT FOCUS AFFIXES

	past	present	future	imperative-plus
"volitional"	(-IN-)	-IN- + cv	cv- -ON	-ON ~ -HON -A ~ -HA
	(PIG-)	PIG- + cv		(PAG- -ON)
"potential"	NA-	NA + cv-	MA + cv-	MA-



STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ACTOR FOCUS AND OBJECT FOCUS SENTENCES

1. First, all sentences with a true verb will have a specific subject. The subject may be one of the nominative pronouns or demonstratives or a noun (or part of speech used as a noun) marked by a subject marker.  
The subject markers in standard Bikol are SI before proper names and AN before common nouns (or words used as nouns).  
In Naga SI is used to mark identified common nouns; in Legazpi SU is used to mark identified common nouns.

So, either the subject is (1) a pronoun (AKO, IKA, etc. INI, etc.)  
or (2) it is marked by a subject marker (SI, SU, AN)

2. When MAG- or MAKA- (or MA- intransitive) verbs are used, the subject is the one doing the action.  
If there is an object it is generally a non-specific one, and marked as such by -NG, or NIN (or KI, as in Legazpi).
3. When -ON or MA- (transitive) verbs are used, the subject is the recipient of the action.  
The deer of the action is either (1) one of the genitive sets of pronouns (KO, MO, etc. KA-INI etc.)  
or (2) a noun marked by KAN (common noun) or NI (proper name).

There are three structural differences between AF and OF full sentences:  
(1) affixation (MAG-,MAKA- vs. -ON, MA-)  
(2) action deer (nominative vs. genitive)  
(3) object marker (non-specific vs. specific)

(1) MABAKAL	(2) AKO	(3) -NG NIN KI (Legazpi)	SIRÂ.	I'll buy (some/a) fish.
BABAKALÓN	KO	AN SU (Legazpi) SI (Naga)	SIRÂ.	I'll buy the fish.

In the first sentence the FOCUS (what the sentence is about) is the actor - ACTOR FOCUS.

In the second sentence the FOCUS (what the sentence is about) is the object - OBJECT FOCUS.

PRONOUN S

Nominative	Genetive	Dative	
AKÓ IKÁ ~ KA SIYÁ	KO ~ NYAKÒ MO NIYÁ	SAKÔ ~ SAKÚYA SÍMO ~ SA-ÍMO SA-ÍYA	"I" "you" "he/she"
KITA KAMI KAMO SINDÁ	TA ~ NYATÒ MI ~ NYAMÒ NINDO NÍNDÁ	SATÔ ~ SATÚYA SAMÔ ~ SAMÚYA SA-ÍNDO SA-ÍNDÁ	"we-inclusive" "we-exclusive" "you-plural" "they"
SI	NI	NI (Naga) KAY (Legazpi)	name particles

Nominative pronouns act as subjects:

In "active" constructions: NAGDUMÁN SIYÁ SA TÍWI.  
She went to Tiwi.

In "passive" constructions: NAHLÍNG KO SIYÁ KASU-BÂGONG ÁGA.  
I saw her just this morning.  
(lit. "She was seen by me...")

In "equational" sentences: MAGAYÓNON SIYÁ, ANÓ?  
She's very pretty, isn't she.

DOKTOR NA SIYÁ.  
He's a doctor now.

IKÁ is used alone and preceding a verb: SÍSAY? IKÁ?  
Who? You?

IKÁ AN MÁDUMAN.  
You're the one who'll go.

KA, the short form, follows verbs and negation:

MÁ-IBA KA?  
Will you go with (me)?  
accompany

DAÍ KA PA NAGKARÍGOS?  
Didn't you take a swim/bath yet?

SIYÁ means "he" and "she."

KITÁ means "we" and includes the person listening ("we-inclusive");

HOY, LÍTO. MÁ-ANO KITÁ?  
Hey Lite. What shall we (you and I) do?

K AMÍ means "we" but excludes the person listening ("we-exclusive")

HOY, LÍTO. MARARGA KAMÍ NGUNYÁN NA BANGGÍ.  
Hey, Lite. We (but not you) are leaving tonight.

SI is a particle which precedes proper names occupying the subject position of the sentence.

MAHALÈ SI LÍTO. Lite's going out.

---

Genetive pronouns:

(1) act as the action deers in "passive" constructions.

SINURÁTAN KO SIYA. I wrote him.

HALATÓN MO AKO. Wait for me.

DADARAHÓN TA AN MGA BÚRAK? Shall we bring the flowers?

The short forms KO, MO, TA, MI are preferred to the long forms and always precede when there are two pronouns together:

SASABIHAN	} KO	} SIYÁ.	} { I will tell him.				
				} MO	} You		
						} TA	} We (all)

If neither pronoun in this situation is a short form, then either word order is common:

NAHILÍNG SIYÁ NIYA. He saw her.  
NAHILÍNG NIYA SIYA. He saw her.

For the combination "I...you" (KO IKA) Bikol colloquially uses TA KA.

NAHILÍNG TA KA. I saw you.  
DAÍ TA KA AANOHON. I won't {do anything to you} {harm you.}

- (2) Genetive preouns, following nouns, indicate possession. The short forms KO, MO, TA, MI are preferred to NYAKO etc.

MÁSAEN SU TÚGANG MO? Where's your brother going?  
{SI} (Naga)

NAWARÁ SU AKÌ NÍNDÁ. (Legazpi)  
{SI} (Naga)  
Their child got lost.

The Dative preouns are used:

- (1) As objects net under focus:

O SÍGE, MÁ-IBA AKÓ SA-ÍMO.  
Oh, all right, I'll go with you.

NAGTARAM SINDÁ SAKÓ.  
They talked to me.

NAGBAKÁL SIYÁ SAKÓ NIN SIRÁ.  
{KI} (Legazpi)  
She bought me a fish.

BINAKÁL KO SU PAN SA-ÍYA. (Legazpi)  
{SI TINAPAY} (Naga)  
I bought the bread from her.

INÍNG BURAK PARA SA-ÍNDÓ.  
This flower is for you(pl.).

- (2) to indicate possession when preceding a noun or standing alone:

KISAY INÍ? (Naga)  
KAYSAY INÍ? (Legazpi) SAKÓ. or SAKÚYA.  
Whose is this? (It's) mine.

SI ALÍCIA AN SAKÓNG TÚGANG.  
SAKUYANG  
Alicia's my sister.

(3) In comparisons:

SI LITA BAKONG MAGAYÓN AROG SA-IMO.  
Lita's not as pretty as you.

Si ALICIA PAREHO SA-IYA.  
Alicia's the same as her.

In "active" constructions there will always be a nominative form.  
If there is another pronoun it will be dative.

MA-IBA AKO SA-IMO.  
I'll go with you.

In "passive" constructions there will always be a genitive form.  
If there is another pronoun it will be dative or nominative.

IBÁKAL KO SIYA KI PAN. (Legazpi)  
NIN TINAPAY (Naga)  
I'll buy her some bread.

BINAKAL KO SU SINGSING SAIYA.  
SI (Naga)  
I bought the ring from her.

Name particles precede proper names:

SI DANÍLO AN MADUMAN. Danilo's the one who'll go.  
KI  
KAY DANÍLO INÍ. This is Danilo's.

MA-IBA AKÓ KAY DANÍLO. I'll go with Danilo.  
(KI)

ITINAO SAIYA NI DANÍLO. Danilo gave it to her.  
TYAN AN POLO NI DANÍLO. That's Danilo's shirt.

MAS GWAPO SIYA KI (SINBAD). He's better looking than  
(KAY) (Neg.) Sinbad.

SISAY AN NAG-INUM KA-INI? SI ANTONIO.  
Who drank this? Antonio.

LOCATIVE FOCUS: -AN verbs

	past	present	future	imperative-plus
"volitional"	-IN- -AN	{ -IN-+cv -AN PIG- -AN PIG+cv- -AN }	cv -AN	-AN ~ -HAN -I ~ -HI  (PAG- -AN)
"potential"	NA- -AN	NA+cv -AN	MA+cv -AN	MA- -AN

When the subject of the sentence is the "person to/from whom" or "place from which" an action is done, the LOCATIVE FOCUS affixes are called for.

They are the same as the OF affixes, with the addition of -AN, the suffix which adds the meaning of "person to/from whom" or "place from which" to the verbs it attaches to.

BABAYADÁN "person to whom pay will be given"

PIGSASABIHAN "person to whom something is being said"

PIGSURÁTAN "person to whom something was written"  
SINURÁTAN

"person to whom"

BABAYADÁN MI NA SANÁ IKÁ, SIR!

We'll repay you sir!

(lit. "You are the person to whom pay will be given")

{ SINUSURÁTAN } KO SIYÁ NGUNYÁN.  
{ PIGSUSURÁTAN }

I'm writing to her now.



"person from whom"

BABAKALÁN KO SIYÁ. I'll buy from him.

SUSUBLI-ÁN KO SIYÁ. I'll borrow from him.

"place from where"

PIGKAKANÁN} KO AN PLÁTO. (Naga)  
PIGKA-ÓNAN} (Legazpi)  
I ate from the plate.

ÍINUMÁN NIYÁ INÍ.  
He drinks from this.

Contrasting examples: LOCATIVE FOCUS vs OBJECT FOCUS

I'll buy from him.  
I'll buy him.

BABAKALÁN KO SIYÁ.  
BABAKALÓN KO SIYÁ.

I already paid her.  
I already paid it.

PIGBAYÁDAN KO NA SIYÁ.  
PIGBAYAD KO NA.

I'll eat from the plate.

KAKAKANÁN KO AN PLÁTO.  
KAKA-ÓNAN (Legazpi)

I'll eat the plate.

KAKAKANÓN KO AN PLATO.  
KAKA-ÓNON (Legazpi)

I'll drink from this.  
I'll drink this.

ÍINUMÁN KO INI.  
ÍINUMÓN KO INI.

Certain verbs will take an -AN affix (and not -ON) when the meaning is "thing which is \_\_\_\_\_ed." Some of these are "household" verbs:

HÚGAS: HUGÁSAN MO AN MGA PLÁTO.  
Wash the dishes.

TRÁPO: TRAPÓHAN MO AN LAMÉSA.  
Wipe/dust off the table.

SAMHÚD: SAMHUDAN MO AN SÁLOG.  
Sweep the floor.

PÁHID: PAHIDAN MO AN LAMÉSA.  
Wipe the table.

LAMPASO: LAMPASÓHAN MO AN SÁLOG.  
Scrub the floor.

SIRA: SIRAHAN MO AN PINTÓ.  
Close the door.

ABRI: ABRIHAN MO AN BINTANA.  
Open the window.

---

NOTE: As a locative suffix -ÁN is a productive noun-maker:

TUKAWÁN (place to ~~rest~~ sit: a seat)

KAWATÁN (place to play: playground)

DUMANÁN (place to go)

The LOCATIVE POTENTIAL series (MA--AN) CONVEYS THE SAME MEANINGS as the MAKA- series with the added meaning of "person to/from whom" and "place from where".

NATARAMÁN KO NA SIYÁ.  
I've already talked to him.  
(lit: He's the person to whom I've already talked.)

NABAYÁDAN KO NA BIYÁ.  
I (happen to) have paid him already.  
(lit: He's the person to whom...)

NATUKAWÁN KO NA IYÁN.  
I've already sat in that.  
(lit: That's the place on which I sat.)

NAINUMÁN KO IYÁN.  
{ I've drunk that.  
I happened to drink that.  
I was able to drink that. }  
(lit: That is the place from which I have drunk.)

MASUSUBLI-ÁN KO SIYÁ.  
I can borrow from him.  
(lit: He is the person from whom I will be able to borrow.)

Some verbs show a preference for the MA- -AN series (as opposed to the -AN volitional series); some of these are the verbs for "to remember, to forget, to know," "to understand."

DAÍ TA KA NAROROMDÓMAN.  
I don't remember you.

KON NA-ARÁMAN KO SANÁ...  
If I'd only known...

SEGÚRO MALILINGAWÁN MO NA KAMÍ.  
Maybe you'll forget us.

#### STRESS CHANGES IN OBJECT FOCUS AND LOCATIVE FOCUS

With the addition of a suffix, stress shifts over one syllable:

BAKÁL becomes BAKALÁN

SÁBOT becomes NASABÓTAN

BENEFACTIVE FOCUS: I- verbs

	past	present	future	imperative-plus
"volitional"	I-IN-	I-IN-cv-	I+cv-	I- (IPAG-)
"potential"	IKINA-	IKINA+cv-	IKAKA-	IKA-

The fourth and last focus category of Bikol is the BENEFACTIVE FOCUS (BF). It has three general uses:

- (1) It expresses "person for whom" something is done.

IBINAKÁL MIYÁ AKÓ {KI PAN. } (Leg.)  
   {NIN TINÁPAY} (Naga)  
 He bought some bread for me.

IDADARÁ TA KANG KAWÁTAN.  
 I'll bring you (for you) a toy.

- (2) It is used with certain verbs like "to toss, throw, put up, take down, push away" where the meaning is "action away from the speaker."

IBUGTÁK MO INÍ SA LAMÉSA.  
 Put this on the table.

IGAPÓ MO SAKÓ.  
 Throw it to me.

ITINAÓ KO SAIYA.  
 I gave it to him.

ITARAM MO AN TDTÚ-O.  
 Tell( speak out) the truth.

IPADARÁ MO AN GÁMIT KO.  
 Send my things.

IPAKÓ MO SA LANÚB.  
 Nail it to the wall.

- (3) It may be used in an instrumental sense meaning "thing to be used { to \_\_\_\_\_ }" { for \_\_\_\_\_ ing }

IPUPUTOL KO INI.  
I'll use this to cut with  
for cutting.  
(lit: This will be used for cutting by me)

IBINAKÁL KO AN KWARTA.  
I used the money for buying.

ISÚKRAY MO SANÁ IYAN.  
Just use that to comb with.

In negative commands IPAG- is used: DAÍ MO IPAGSÚRAT. Don't write it.

The potential affixes are used only with the meaning "Can be used { to \_\_\_\_\_ }" { for \_\_\_\_\_ ing. "

IKAKASÚRAT MO INÍNG LÁPIS.  
You can use this pencil to write with.  
(lit: This pencil can be used for writing...)

IKINATRAPO KO INÍNG PANYO INÍ.  
I was able to use this here handkerchief to ~~cut~~ dust with.

SUMMARY CHART OF FOCUS CATEGORIES

	"volitional"	"potential"	"internal"
(1) ACTOR FOCUS	MAG-	MAKA-	MA-
(2) OBJECT FOCUS	-ON	MA-	
(3) LOCATIVE FOCUS	-AN	MA- -AN	
(4) BENEFACTIVE FOCUS	I-	IKA-	

In the Bikel verb system there are four focus categories. One of them forms "active" constructions and focuses on the doer of the action - the actor. (ACTOR FOCUS).

The other three categories form "passive" constructions and focus on the recipient of the action.

For each of the four categories there is one set of "volitional" affixes and one set of "potential" affixes.

There is one set of affixes used intransitively and expressing internal action (MA-).

Additional affixes not presented all belong in one of these four categories. Other affixes which may attach themselves to these already presented (e.g. MAPA- , NAGPA- ) will also fall into one of the four categories.



FOCUS CONTRASTS

1. MAG-/MAKA- take non-specific, indefinite objects.  
-ON/MA- take specific, definite objects.

Do you want to read a book? BÚSTO KANG MAGBÁSA NIN LÍERO?  
Do you want to read the book? GÚSTO MON BASÁHON AN LÍBRO?

BAI I haven't seen a bus yet. DAI PA AKÓ NAKAHILING NIN BUS.  
I haven't seen the bus yet. DAI KO PA NAHILING AN BUS.

I bought (some/a) fish. NAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ.  
I bought the fish. BINAKAL KO AN SIRÁ.  
PIGBAKÁL

NOTE: When placing extra emphasis on a non-specific object (e.g. repeating something not heard), Object Focus can be used, provided the word order is changed:

LÍBRO AN BINÁSA KO. It's a book that I read.

BUS AN PIGHALÁT NIYA. It's a bus she waited for.

2. MAG- vs. -AN. (~~Object~~ Both Actor Focus and Locative Focus can express "person to/from whom" and "place from which." The choice depends on which item one wishes to talk about (focus on). Given the choice it is generally the Locative Focus which is chosen preferred.

In the following sentences AF makes the actor the subject, and LF makes the person or place the subject.

MASURAT AKO SAIYA. I'll write her.  
SUSURATAN KO SIYA. I'll write her.

BUMAKÁL (KA SAKÓ! (You) buy from me!  
MAGBAKÁL)  
BAKALAN MO AKÓ! Buy from me!

NAGÍINUM AKO SA BÁSO. I'm drink <sup>from</sup> the glass.  
PIGIINUM KO AN BÁSO. I'm drinking from the glass.

3. **MAG- vs I\***. Both AF and BF can express "person for whom". The choice depends on which item one is talking about, the actor or the recipient of the action. Given the choice the Benefactive Focus is generally preferred.

NAGBAKÁL AKÓ KA-INI PARA SA AKÍ. I bought this for the child.  
IBINAKÁL KO KA-INI AN AKÍ. I bought this for the child.

NAGGÍBO AKÓ KA-ÁN PARA SA-ÍMO. I made that for you.  
IGINIBO TA KA KA-ÁN. I made that for you.

MADARA AKÓNG KAWATAN PARA SA-ÍNDA. I'll bring a toy for them.  
IDADARA KO SINDANG KAWATAN. I'll bring a toy for them.

Bikel focuses only on specific subjects. If there is only one object in a sentence and that object is non-specific, then AF (MAG-, MAKA-) will generally be used. If there are two objects (direct and indirect object) and one of them is specific, ~~the~~ one of the "passive" constructions will be used.

#### More Contrasts

AF	NAGBAKÁL AKÓNG BAGÁS. I bought rice. AKÓ AN NAGBAKAL NIN BAGÁS. I was the one who bought rice. AKÓ AN NAGBAKÁL KAN BAGÁS. I was the one who bought the rice.*
OF	PIGBAKÁL BINAKAL KO AN BAGÁS. I bought the rice. NABAKAL KO AN BAGÁS. I've bought I happened to buy the rice. I was able to buy
LF	BINAKALÁN KO SIYÁ NIN BAGÁS. I bought rice from her. PIGBAKALÁN (KI) (Leg.) NABAKALÁN KO SIYÁ NIN BAGÁS. I've bought/ was able to buy/happened to buy rice from her. (KI)
BF	IBINAKÁL KO SIYÁ NIN BAGÁS. I bought rice for her. (KI)

\* expressing "X is the one who" with MAG-/MAKA- can take a specific object.

Who made this?	SÍSAY AN NAGGÍBO KA-INÍ?
Who was this made for?	SISAY AN IGINÍBO KA-INÍ?
Who's the one cooking?	SÍSAY AN NAGLULUTÒ?
What's being cooked?	ANÓ AN FIGLULUTÒ?
Who's being cooked for?	SÍSAY AN ILULUTÒ?
Who'll buy?	SÍSAY AN MABAKAL?
Who'll you buy from?	SISAY AN BABAKALÁN MO?
Who'll you buy for?	SÍSAY AN IBABAKAL MO?
What'll you buy?	ANO AN BABAKALÓN MO?
Who's reading?	SÍSAY AN NAGBABÁSA?
Who're you reading to?	SISAY AN FIGBABASÁHAN MO?
What're you reading?	ANÓ AN FIGBABASA MO?
Who's the one who cut?	SÍSAY AN NAGPUTÓL?
What did you cut?	ANO AN PINUTÓL MO?
What did you cut with?	ANO AN IPINUTÓL MO?

I'll buy you the ring from him.

(1) (2) (3)

(1) IBABAKAL TA KA KAN SINGSÍNG SAÍYA.

(2) BABAKALÓN KO {SU} SINGSING SAÍYA.  
{SI} (Naga)

(3) BABAKALÁN KO SIYA KAN SINGSING PÁRA SAÍMO.

We got them the book from the bookstore.

(1) (2) (3)

(1) IBINAKAL MI SINDA KAN LIBRO SA BOOKSTORE.

(2) BINAKAL MI SU/SI LIBRO SA BOOKSTORE PÁRA SAÍNDA.

(3) BINAKALAN MI SU/SI BOOKSTORE KAN LIBRO PÁRA SAÍNDA.

SUMMARY CHART OF MAJOR AFFIXES

	past	present	future	imperative-plus
"volitional"	NAG-	NAG+ cv	MA-	MAG-
	-UMIN-			-UM- , rest alone
"potential"	NAKA -	NAKÁKA-	MAKÁKA-	MAKA-
"internal"	NA-	NA+ cv-	MA+ cv-	MA-
"volitional"	-IN- } PIG- }	-IN+ cv- } PIG+ cv- }	cv- -ON	-ON/A
"potential"	NA-	NA cv	MA+ cv-	MA-
"volitional"	-IN--AN } PIG--AN }	-IN+ cv-AN } PIG+ cv-AN }	cv- -AN	-AN/-I
"potential"	NA--AN	NA+ cv -AN	MA cv-AN	MA--AN
"volitional"	I-IN-	I-IN-cv-	I+ cv-	I-
"potential"	IKINA-	IKINA+ cv-	IKÁKA-	IKA-

RULES TO SIMPLIFY LEARNING

1. Learn the "past" forms. To make the "present" of volitional forms add cv to the verb root.
2. Learn the "imperative-plus" forms. To make the "future" forms add cv to the verb root.  
(Exception: MA\* - of the MAG- verbs)
3. All "present" and "past" passive volitional forms are signaled by -IN- or PIG-.
4. Learn the Object Focus -ON forms. To form Locative focus add -AN (and change -AN/-I for -ON/-A).
5. For every infix (-UM-, -UMIN-, -IN-) there is a common prefix alternative (MAG-, NAG-, PIG-).
6. MAG- volitional affixes contrast with -ON, -AN, I- affixes. MAKA- potential affixes contrast with MA-, MA--AN (and, to a limited degree, IKA-) affixes.

\*(\$d\*

SUMMARY OF IMPERATIVES

	AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
ACTOR FOCUS	MAG-, -UM-, root	MAG-
OBJECT FOCUS	-ON~ -HON/-A~-HA	PAG- { -ON -HON }
LOCATIVE FOCUS	-AN~ -HAN/-I~-HI	PAG- { -AN -HAN }
BENEFACTIVE FOCUS	I-	IPAG-

"YOU" IN COMMANDS

KA and KAMÓ follow MAG-/-UM-

MO and NÍNDO follow -ON/-AN/I-

Pronouns are not used when command form is root alone/-A/-I.

"LET'S" IN COMMANDS

KITÁ follows MAG-.

TA follows -ON/-AN/I- .

MAGBAKÁL KITÁ.      DAÍ KITÁ MAGBAKÁL.  
Let's buy.              Let's not buy.

BAKALÓN TA.          DAÍ TA PAGBAKALÓN.  
Let's buy it.            Let's not buy it.

BAKALÁN TA SIYÁ.      DAI TA SIYA PAGBAKALÁN.  
Let's buy from her.    Let's not buy from her.

IBAKÁL TA SIYÁ.      DAÍ TA SIYA IPAGBAKÁL.  
Let's buy for her.     Let's not buy for her.



### SUBJECT MARKERS

The function of subjects markers is to signal that the following word or phrase is to be interpreted by the listener as the noun subject.

The Standard Bikol subject markers are SI before proper nouns (names) and AN before common nouns (or words or phrases to be interpreted as nouns). For already identified nouns Naga Bikol uses SI and Legazpi Bikol uses SU before common nouns.

HAEN {<sup>(SI)</sup>(Naga)  
          (AN) AKI KO? Where's my child?  
          (SU)(Leg.)

Just as there is only one subject per clause, there can be only one subject marker per clause. If the subject of a clause is not a pronoun (personal or demonstrative), then it must be marked by one of the subject markers.

### GOAL MARKERS

Verb objects which are not under focus are marked by a goal marker. Naga Bikol uses -NG/NIN to signal a n indefinite object, while Legazpi Bikol uses an additional KI more frequently.

MAGGIBO KITANG {<sup>(NIN)</sup>(Naga)  
                          (KAWATAN). Let's make a toy!  
                          (KI) (Legazpi)

IBINAKAL KO SIYA KI PAN. (Legazpi)  
IBINAKAL KO SIYA NIN TINAPAY. (Naga)  
I bought her some bread.

KAN marks specific goals not under focus:

SIYA AN NAGLULUTÒ KAN GULAY.  
She's the one cooking the vegetables.

SÍSAY AN TATÓ KAN SÍMBAG?  
Who knows the answer?

AGENTS (ACTORS)

The agents, or actors, are the ones doing the action.  
In "active" constructions the agents - actors - are in the nominative (AKO, IKA, etc. ).  
In "passive" constructions the agents - actors - are in the genitive (KO, MO, etc.).

The nominative agent marking common nouns is AN/SU (Leg.)/SI (Naga).  
The genitive agent marking common nouns is KAN.

ANÓ AN PAGHUÑA MO NA DÁPAT GIBÓHON KAN MGA PARA-ÓMA?  
What do you think should be done by the farmers?

GINÍBO INÍ KAN MGA AKÌ.  
The children did this.  
This was done by the children.

KAN is also used to express "of/by/for the." It occurs in slots filled by KO (genitive) pronouns.

LIMÁ AN KWARTO KAN HARONG MI.  
Our house has five rooms.  
(Five are the rooms of our house)

SALÁNAT KAN PAGMÁNGNO MO SAKÓ.  
Thanks for the attention you're giving me,

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NEGATION

1. DA-Í (transcribed DAÍ) negates all forms of verbs.

DAÍ SIYÁ MĀDUMAN .	He won't go.
NAGDŪDUMAN.	He doesn't go.
NAGDUMAN.	He didn't go.
DAÍ KA MAGDUMAN!	Don't go!
HABŌ KONG MAGDUMAN.	I don't want to go.

In Legazpi DAÍ also negates deictics and existential sentences.  
In Naga this is done by MAYŌ.

DAÍNG KWĀRTA. There isn't any money. (Leg.)  
MĀYONG KWĀRTA. There isn't any money. (Naga)

DAÍ SINDĀ DĪGDI. They aren't here. (Leg.)  
MAYŌ SINDĀ DĪGDI. They aren't here. (Naga)

2. BAKŌ negates NUMER nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and demonstratives. The linker -NG which connects BAKŌ to the abovementioned may be dropped to give emphasis.

BAKŌ SIYÁ. It's not him.

BAKŌ MAGAYÓN. It's not pretty.

BAKŌNG AYAM. It's not a dog.

BAKŌNG MA-INĪTON. It's not very hot.

BAKŌ INĪ. It's not this one.

BAKŌ SI MARÍA. It's not Maria.

INĪNG MGA LIBRO INĪ BAKŌNG MAGABÁT.  
These books aren't heavy.

NAHILÍNG KO SIYÁ KASU-BANGGÍ, BAKŌNE PALÁN MAGAYÓN.  
I saw her last night, she's not so pretty after all.

HABÓ is the negative form of GUSTO and means "don't want to/ don't like to." It may be used as a one-word response:

GUSTO KANG MAG-IBA? HABÓ!  
Do you want to go with me? No, I don't want to(!

SIR, SHINE? HABÓ.  
Sir, (do you want a) shine? No (I don't want one).

HABÓ KONG MAGBAYLE.  
{ I don't want to dance. }  
{ I don't like to dance. }

INDÁ negates "know," and may be used as a one-word response:

MÁDUMAN DAW SINDÁ? INDÁ.  
"I wonder if they'll go!" "I don't know."

In Legazpi BAÍ (BA-Í) is used in certain <sup>expressions</sup> expressions:

BAÍ SAÑA. Never mind (a standard refusal, equivalent  
to "Oh, no thank you, don't bother")

BAÍ KA KA-ÁN. Don't do that.

BAÍ DAW DYAN. Stop that.

In Naga, HARÈ is a literary negative used only in church services <sup>as</sup> as ~~commandments~~ and is the common "Thou shalt not" used in the commandments.

## LINKERS

The linker -NG/NA connects:

- (1) nouns and adjectives: LÍBRONG PULÁ (red book)  
SARONG LIBRO (one book)  
TUGANG NA LALAKI (brother)  
MARHAY NA ÁGA (good morning)

-NG attaches to noun/adjective ending in a vowel;  
NA follows nouns/adjective ending in a consonant or  
diphthong.

- (2) "pseude" verbs to verbs. Only -NG is used, and it  
precedes the verb and attaches only to words ending  
in a vowel or glottal stop.

GÚSTO AKÓ KUTÁNG MAGDUMÁN.  
I'd really like to go (but...).

PUEDE KANG MAKADUMÁN?  
Will you be able to go?

But: GÚSTO KO MAN MAGITOM.  
I want to get tan (black).

- (3) demonstratives followed by nouns:

INÍNG PULÁ (this red one)

ITÓNG MGA KUNYAN  
(these whatchamacallits)

- (4) existential particle and nouns:

IGWA PANG BEER (There's still beer.)

DAÍNG { AGÓM. (There isn't any  
MAYONG } wife.)

NA serves as a conjunction ("that/ which/ who") linking clauses:

AN SINABI KU NA....what I said was that...

EXISTENTIAL SENTENCES

Existential sentences express the meaning "There is/are \_\_\_\_\_."  
In standard Bikol MAY and IGWA both express this in statements  
and questions.

MAY SARÓ SANÁ.      There is just one.  
MAY DUWA PA.      There are two more.

IGWANG } TOLÓNG LALÁKI.  
MAY }                      There are/were three boys.

IGWANG }  
MAY } TUBIG DYAN?      Is there water there?

Both MAY and IGWA express singularity and plurality in present, past,  
and future meanings.

A linker -N G joins IGWA to nouns, immediately preceding them; MAY  
is not linked to nouns.

IGWANG TUBIG?      Is there (any) water?

IGWA PA DAANG TUBIG.      There's still (some)  
water, they say.

Only IGWA may be used for a one-word affirmative response:

MAY MANÍ? IGWA.  
"Are there (any) peanuts?" "Yes, there are."

---

DAÍ (in Legazpi) and MAYÒ (in Naga) negate existential sentences;  
they are linked by -NG to nouns:

DAING } TÁWO DÍGDI.      (Leg.)  
MAYONG }                      (Naga)  
There isn't anybody here.

MAY BURAT DYAN? DAÍ (Leg.)  
MAYÒ. (Naga)  
Is there a letter there? No, there isn't any.  
No, there isn't any.



TO HAVE

"to have" is expressed in Bikol by MAY/ IGWA plus a nominative subject. The -NG linker precedes the noun possessed;

IGWA AKÓNG LÍBRO. I have a book.  
MAY LÍBRO AKO.

IGWA SIYANG TUGANG. She has a brother/sister.  
MAY TUGANG SIYA.

IGWA KANG SÁBON? Do you have any soap?  
MAY SÁBON KA?

Note the difference in word order when MAY and IGWA contrast.

The above examples illustrate the common way of showing possession of an indefinite object. "To have" a specific object may be expressed by NASA plus a dative subject:

NASA SAIMO AN LÍBRO NA ITINAÓ KO.  
You have the book I gave you.

NASA SAIYA AN KWARTA.  
She has the money.

DEICTICS

Deictics are words meaning "here, there." Standard Bikol has three sets of them.

	Direction <del>ni</del>	Pointing	Location <del>ni</del>
"Here"	DÍGDI	HUNO	ANÍ-ON
"There (by you)"	DYAN	HUYAN	NYÁ-ON ~ YÁ-ON
"There (far from us)"	DUMAN	HUTO	ITÓ-ON

The direction set is used to tell where you are going, have been, and have not been (it negates location):

MASAEN KA? DÍGDI BANÁ.  
Where are you going? Just here.

SAEN KA HALÈ? DUMAN SA DAGAT.  
Where have you been? There at the sea.

DAÍ SIYÁ DÍGDI KASU-ODMÀ.  
She wasn't here yesterday.

These deictics are also used as verbs to mean "be here, be there, come (here)" and "go (there)":

NGATÀ TA DAÍ KA MADUMAN?  
Why aren't you going to go?

KON NAGDIDÍGDI SIYÁ, NAGTATAGÒ SINDÁ.  
Whenever he comes they hide.

The second set of deictics is used in pointing out:

HÁEN AN LIBRO KO? HUYAN.  
"Where's my book?" "There ist is (by you)."

HUNI.  
"Here it is."

HUTO.  
"There it is (over there)."

In some dialect areas the H is not pronounced.

The location set of deictics express "be here/ be there" with reference to any time.

HÁEN SIYÁ? ANÍ-ON.  
Where is he? He's here.

NYÁ-ON ~ YÁ-ON  
He's there (by you).

ITC-ON.  
He's there (far from us).

Another way of saying the same thing:

ANI-ON SIYÁ DÍGDI.  
NYA-ON SIYÁ DYAN.  
ITO-ON SIYÁ DUMAN.

In answering the question SAÉN KA KASU-ODMÀ?                      both location  
Where were you yesterday?  
and direction sets are used: ANÍ-ON or DÍGDI.  
YA-ON or DYAN,  
ITÓ-ON or DUMAN.

DEICTICS

Deictics are words meaning "here, there." Standard Bikol has three sets of them.

	Direction <sup>ng</sup>	Pointing	Location <sup>ng</sup>
"Here"	DÍGDI	HUND	ANÍ-ON
"There (by you)"	DYAN	HUYAN	NYÁ-ON ~ YÁ-ON
"There (far from us)"	DUMAN	HUTO	ITÓ-ON

The direction set is used to tell where you are going, have been, and have not been (it negates location):

MASAEN KA? DÍGDI EANA.  
Where are you going? Just here.

SAEN KA HALE? DUMAN SA DAGAT.  
Where have you been? There at the sea.

DAÍ SIYA DÍGDI KASU-ODMA.  
She wasn't here yesterday.

These deictics are also used as verbs to mean "be here, be there, come (here)" and "go (there)":

NGATA TA DAÍ KA MADUMAN?  
Why aren't you going to go?

KON NAGDIDÍGDI SIYA, NAGTATAGÒ SINDA.  
Whenever he comes they hide.

The second set of deictics is used in pointing out:

HAEN AN LIBRO KO? HUYAN.  
"Where's my book?" "There ist is (by you)."

HUNI.  
"Here it is."

HUTO.  
"There it is (over there)."

In some dialect areas the H is not pronounced.

DEMONSTRATIVES

	Nominative		Dative	
"This"	IN Í		KA-INÍ	
"That (near you)"	IYÁN~AN		KA-IYÁN ~ KA-ÁN-	
"That (far from us)"	ITÓ		KA-ITÓ	

demonstratives

The nominative ~~pronouns~~ are used where the nominative pronouns are used; likewise, the dative demonstratives occupy the same slots filled by the dative pronouns.

ANÓ INÍ? What's this?  
 ANÓ { IYAN? } What's that (near you)?  
           AN }  
 ANÓ ITÓ? What's that (far from us)?

\*

LIBRO INÍ. This is a book.  
 INÍ LIBRO.

BÚRAK IYAN/AN. That's a flower.  
 IYAN BÚRAK.

HÁRONG ITÓ. That's a house.

INÍNG BÚRAK This flower  
 IYAN NA BÚRAK That flower  
 ITÓNG BÚRAK That flower

INÍNG MGA BÚRAK These flowers  
 IYAN NA MGA BÚRAK These flowers  
 ITÓNG MGA BÚRAK These flowers

GÚSTO KO INÍNG PULÁ. I like this red one.  
                   IYAN NA PULÁ that  
                   ITÓNG PULÁ that

Demonstratives are linked to following nouns by -NG/NA.

\*This is the common word order

The dative series:

GÚSTO KONG MAGBÁSA KA-INÍ  
KA-IYÁN/KA-ÁN  
KA-ITÓ

I want to read this  
that  
that (Over there)

GIBÚHON MO ÁROG KA-INÍ  
KA-IYÁN/KA-ÁN  
KA-ITÓ

Do it like this  
that  
that

HABŪ AKÓ KA-INÍ.  
KA-IYÁN/KA-ÁN  
KA-ITÓ.

I don't like this (one).  
that (one)  
that (one)

AN is a short form of IYÁN and is never sentence initial.  
KA-ÁN is a short form of KA-IYÁN, and, like most short forms, may  
be expected as the more frequently used alternative where standard  
Bikol is spoken.



### ADJECTIVES

There are three major categories of adjectives, with regards to affixes.

- (1) Adjectives made up of root alone:
- |        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| DAKUL  | much, many, a lot |
| DAKULA | large, big        |
| SADIT  | small, little     |
| SALA   | wrong, incorrect  |
| TAMA   | right, correct    |
| POBRE  | poor              |
| GADAN  | dead              |
| BUHAY  | alive             |
| BAGO   | new               |
| LUMA   | old               |
| MAHAL  | expensive         |
| BARATO | cheap             |
|        | ...and others     |

- (2) Adjectives with a MA- prefix:

MAGAYON	pretty, beautiful
MARIBOK	noisy
MALIPOT	cold, cool
MALINIG	clean
MALUYA	"weak"
MA-INIT	hot
	...and others

- (3) Adjectives (describing dimensions of length, depth, distance...) with HA- prefix:

HALANGKAW	tall, high
HABABA	short, low
HARAROM	deep
HABABAW	shallow
HARAYO	far
HARANI	close, near
	...and others

The prefix MAKA- indicates "causing x" when forming an adjective from a noun base; e.g.

MAKAMONDO	saddening, pitiful (causing sadness)
MAKA-ANGGOT	maddening (causing anger)
MAKA-ATI	revolting
MAKA-UYAM	annoying, boring
MAKA-OGMA	enjoyable
MAKAPAGAL	tiresome
MAKASUPOG	embarrassing

COMPARISONS

X IS \_\_\_\_\_ER THAN Y

SI MARÍA MAS MAGAYÓN {KI ROSA. (Naga)  
{KAY} (Leg.)

Maria's prettier than Rosa.

MAS MAGAYÓN SIYA {KISA SAKO. (Naga)  
{KAYSA} (Leg.)

She's prettier than me.

INING LIBRO INI MAS MAGABÁT {KISA KA-ITÓ. (Naga)  
{KAYSA} (Leg.)

This book is heavier than that one.

X IS THE \_\_\_\_\_EST

SIYÁ AN PINAKAMAGAYÓN.  
She's the prettiest.

INI AN PINAKAMAGABÁT.  
This is the heaviest.

AS X AS Y

SI ALÍCIA KAPAREHO KAGAYÓN NI ROSA.  
Alicia's as pretty as Rosa.

{PAREHO} SIYA KAGAYÓN SAKO.  
{AROG}

She's as pretty as me.

INING LIBRO INI {PAREHO} KAGABÁT KA-ÁN.  
{AROG}

This book is as heavy as that one.

X IS LIKE Y

SI LITA PAREHO {KI ROSITA/ SAKO.  
{KAY}

Lita's like Rosita/ like me.

SI ALÍCIA {GARI} SI ROSA/ AKÓ.  
{GARÓ}

Alicia's like Rosa/ me.

INING LIBRO {PAREHO KA-IYAN.}  
{GARI/GARÓ IYAN.}

This book is like that one.

COMPARISONS (cont.)

NOT AS X AS Y

SI ROSA HAKÓNG MAGAYÓN {SÍRING} KAY (Leg.)  
{AROG } KI ALICIA/ SAKÔ.  
Rosa is not as pretty as Alicia/ no.

INING LIBRO HAKÓNG MAGABÁT {SÍRING} KA-IYÁN.  
{AROG }  
This book isn't as heavy as that one.

VERY X

MAGAYÓN pretty, beautiful  
MAGAYÓNON very pretty, very beautiful

MARIBÓK noisy  
MARIBÓKON very noisy

HARAYÔ far  
HARAYÔ-ON very far

DAKÚL many, much  
DAKÚLON very many, very much

Expressing moderation:

MAGAYON NIN DIIT (Naga)  
KI DIIT (Leg.)  
A little bit pretty

PATÁL SIYANG DIIT (Leg.)  
KADIKIT (Naga)  
She's a little stupid.

MEDYO MAGAYON  
kind of pretty

MAGAYON-GAYON  
kind of pretty

INIT-INIT  
kind of hot, a little hot

NOUNS

Some common noun affixes are

KA-		
KA-	-(H)AN	
	-(H)AN	denoting "place where"
TAG-		denoting "owner"
TIG-		denoting season, time of year
TAGA-		denoting "native of--"
TAGA-,	PARA-	denoting trade, livelihood
PARA-		denoting habit: "_____er"
	PARASIGARÍLYO	smoker
	PARADAYÁ	cheater
	PARA-CTIK	liar
	PARASUGAL	gambler
	PARABAYLE	dancer

---

FILLER WORDS

KUNYÁN - KUYÁN (and, where there has been a Tagalog influence -KUWÁN) are forms of a word used as a filler when the word sought cannot be quickly found. It may substitute for a word from any of the major word classes.

NAHILÍNG MO SI KUNYÁN?  
Did you see Whats-his-name?

DAÍ KO PA NAKAKUNYÁN .  
I haven't been able to whatchmacallit yet.

In the Legazpi area ÉSTE may be heard as a hesitation word ("uh") as well as "ANÓ" :

KASU-ARÍN KA...ANÓ...NAGDUMÁN SA...ANÓ, SA  
OPISINA?

When did you...uh...go to the..uh..office?

-ANO as a verb

MA-ANO KA? What are you going to do?

NAG-AANO KA? What are you doing?

NAG-ANO KA? What did you do?

MANGA-ANO SIYA? MAMAMAKOL? What's he going to do? Whip you?

NANGANO SIYA? What did he do?

NA-ANO SIYA? What happened to him?  
What was wrong with him?

NA-AANO KA? What's wrong with you?  
What's with you?  
What's happening to you?

MA-AANO KA? What's going to happen to you?

AANO HON KA NIYA? What's he going to do to you?

DAI MAN IKA NIYA AANO HON. He isn't going to harm you.  
do anything to you.

INANO KA NIYA? What did he do to you?

PIG-AANO KA NIYA? What's he doing to you?

ENCLITICS

Enclitic particles are particles which may not occur alone or sentence initial. These particles are of extremely high frequency and occur quite liberally throughout any colloquial conversation. Singly and in combination they are the spices that flavor normal utterances.

NA "already, now..(not in the adverbial sense)

MASINI KA NA?

Are you going to go to the movies now?

SIGE, TAPOS NA AKÓ.

Okay, I'm finished now.

NASURATAN KO NA SIYA.

I have already written her.

PA "still, yet, else, keep on King..."

NAGKAKAWAT PA SIYA?

Is he still playing?

DAI PA SIYA NAGDÍGDI.

He hasn't come yet.

ANÓ PA? SISAY PA?

What else? Who else?

MATRABAHO PA AKO.

I'll keep on working.

DAA (pronounced DA-A) "he says, they say, according to them" (reporting information; indicating that what is said is indirect discourse, reported speech)

IKA DAA AN MATAO KAN PREMYO.

You're the one, they say, who'll give the prize.

DAA

DAI PA, NAG-ABOT AN BARKO.

The boat hasn't arrived yet, they say.

MAKARAWON DAA AN MGA AKI DUMÁN.

They say the kids there are mischeivous.



**DAW** expresses doubt - "I wonder"; softens commands, questions; suggests a dare.

NGATÁ DAW TA DAÍ NAGDÍGDI SI ILUMINÁDA?  
I wonder why Iluminada didn't come.

GIBÓHA DAW INÍ.  
Do this.

"MAGAYÓN AKÓ MAG-ENGLISH!" "SÍGE DAW."  
"I speak English beautifully." Okay, go ahead." (a dare: Okay, go ahead: let's see, show me, prove it)

**MAN** also, too; softens commands, emphasizes statement of fact.

MADUMAN MAN AKÓ.  
I'll go too.

**PALÁN** expresses surprise at discovering something new - "Ah, so.....!" "by the way;" discovering one has been wrong and agreeing that the new information is correct.

O LÍLIA, ANÍ-ON KA <sup>NA</sup> PALÁN.  
Oh, Lilia, so you're here!

SÍSAY PALÁN AN KAIRIBA MO?  
Who was your companion by the way?

"GOOD MORNING, SIR. O, HAPON PALÁN!"  
Good morning, sir. Oh, it's afternoon!!

**SANÁ** just, only (LANG/LAMANG, from Tagalog, are also used)

PIRÁNG BIR AN GUSTO MO? DUWÁ SANÁ.  
How many beers do you want? Just two.

O, PÁRA. DIGDI SANÁ AKÓ/ DIGDI LANG AKÓ.  
Oh, stop. I'll just get off here.

- SI  
N GANI ANO NA NGANI SU NGARAN MO?  
What was your name again?
- IYO NA NGANI.  
Precisely, yes.
- SISAY NA NGANI?  
Who did you say it was? (when something is forgotten)
- LUGOD "hope, wish"  
MAGRAHAY NA MAN LUGOD SINDA.  
I hope they'll get better now.
- BAGA "you know" (an aside); used for emphasis - "indeed"  
SIYA BAGA AN MAKANTA DIGDI.  
She's the one, you know, who'll sing here.  
IYO HABA.  
Yes, of course.
- KUTA "would...(but); "would have....(but)"  
MA-IBA AKO KUTA PERO...  
I would like to go, but...  
KUTA  
MADUMAN-SIYA KASU-BANGGI, PERO...  
She would have gone last night, but...

---

Minimal contrasts

ANION NA SIYA.	He's here now/already.
ANION PA SIYA.	He's still here.
ANION DAA SIYA.	He's here, they say.
ANION DAW SIYA?	I wonder if he's here.
ANION BAGA SIYA.	He's here, Y'know.
ANION PALAN SIYA.	So he's here!
ANION MAN SIYA.	He's here, too.
ANION SANA SIYA.	He's just here.

SIGE. OKAY/ All right.  
SIGE NA. Go ahead (permission); C'mon (coaxing).  
SIGE PA. Keep on/ keep going/ go on.  
SIGE DAA. Okay, all right they say.  
SIGE DAW. Okay, let's see (a dare)  
SIGE NGANI. Oh, c'mon!! (urgent coaxing; wheedling)  
SIGE LUGOD. Okay, the hell with it/  
All right, go the hell ahead (angrily and impatiently giving into a request).

IYO NA. Yes, I have (she has, etc.; response to a question in the past form showing action has already been done).

IYO DAA. Yes, they say.  
IYO DAW? Really?  
IYO DAW. Yes (agreement).  
IYO MAN... Yes...(but uncertain)  
IYO BAGA! Yes, of course! Yes!!  
IYO NGANI. Yes (although not pleased about it).  
IYO MANANGGAB. Yes, it's really, really true.  
A, IYO PALAN! Oh yes! (discovering/ remembering something forgotten) Oh yes! (you're right, after all).  
IYO KUTA. Yes, I'd like to (but...)

Enclitic particles have further uses in idiomatic expressions:

MAYO?  
ANO PA? DAI NA.

What else? Nothing more/ nothing else.

BAI SANA. Never mind/ don't bother.

LUTO-ON MO NA SANA. You might as well cook it.

"PSEUDO" VERBS

Some of the verbs that act as "helping" verbs, remain uninflected, and are followed by the imperative-plus affixes are

GÚSTO	want to/ like to
HABÔ	don't want to/ don't like to
KAIPÓHAN	need to
TATAÓ	knew how to
PUEDE	can/ may
DÁPAT	should/ ought to

These verbs are linked to the following verbs by -NG, which occurs just before the inflected verb:

GÚSTO KONG MAGKAWAT.  
I want to play.

HABÔ NIYANG GIBÓHON.  
He doesn't want to make it.

Although GÚSTO and HABÔ may be followed by either nominative or genitive pronouns, only KO is used for "I."

PA- Causative

PA- is a causative particle used in both active and passive constructions meaning "cause to \_\_\_\_\_" and generally translated as "let/ ask to/ make/ have/ allow to \_\_\_\_\_." This is a quite productive affix.

PADISPONÉRA NA SIYÁ NIN MIKE.  
Let him get a microphone.

INÍ MAN NA KUNDÚKTOR NA INÍ PARA  
KAHOY MAPABAYAD PA.  
This conductor, just for that weed,  
will still have you pay  
  } .  
  } make you pay  
  } ask you to pay

SAÉN PA MAN DAW PAPTUKAWÓN? \*  
I wonder where they would be seated (TUKAW to sit  
down; PATUKAW, cause to sit - to seat).

PÂNO NA, MAPAIÚNAD PA!  
We're full already and they still let more ride!  
  allow      to ride

\*\* The examples on this page came from Speaking Bikol, a book of lively Legazpi conversations put together by Ray Mayer.

\*Notice the reduplication of PA rather than cv.

PLURALITY

**NOUNS:** The plural marker MGA\* (pronounced MANGA) precedes nouns:

MGA BÚRAK      flowers

MGA AKI          children

**ADJECTIVES:** Though infrequent, a reduplication of the first syllable of adjective roots expresses plurality:

KAGAGAYON KAN MGA BIKOLANA!  
How beautiful Bikol girls are!

**VERBS:** When KITA, KAMI, or SINDA refers to more than two people an optional plural marker -RV- is added to the root. R plus the first vowel is infixes after the root's first syllable:

MAKARAWAT NA KITA?  
Shall we play now?

TUMIRINDOG NA KAMO, MGA AKI.  
Stand up now, children.

NAGDADARALAGAN SINDA.  
They're running.

When the root begins in L, -RV- precedes the root and, where cv is called for, is reduplicated rather than the cv of the root.

MARALANGOY NA KAMO?  
Are you all going to swim now?

This -RV- indicating a plural agent is of frequent use, though not obligatorily used.

\* MGA is an accepted abbreviated form of MANGA



DIRECTIONAL MARKER: SA

SA, depending on the context, can be used in a locative sense to mean "at, in, to, on, from, by, with."

NAGBAKAL SIYA SA SA-OD. (Leg.)  
SADAN. (Naga)

He bought at the market.

NAGESTAR SIYA SA HARONG MI.

He lived in our house.

NAGHALAT SIYA SA KANTO.

He waited on the corner.

~~HE BORROWED FROM THE OLD MAN~~  
~~HE BORROWED FROM THE OLD MAN~~

NAGSUBLI SIYA SA GURANG.  
He borrowed from the old man.

NAG-AGI SIYA SA MAY SIMBAHAN.  
He passed by the church.

NAG-IHA SIYA SA AKI.  
He went with the little boy.

Bikol does, when called for, express location more explicitly:

- SA ITAAS      above, upstairs
- SA IBABA      below, downstairs
- SA IRAROM    underneath
- SA GILID      beside
- SA LAOG      inside
- SA LUWAS      outside
- SA IBABAW    on top of
- SA TAHAW     between

### EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

Exclamatory sentences - "HOW \_\_\_\_\_!" are formed by adding KA to the adjective root and using genitive forms following:  
adverb

KA-ATAB MO! How early you are.

KAHALANGKAW NI JON! How tall Jon is.

KATABILAN NI AIDA! How talkative Aida is.

KALINIG KAN HARONG NINDA(! How clean their  
house is.

KAPATAL KAN MGA ESKUELA! The pupils are so  
dumb!

KADAKUL KAN TAWO DIGDI! There are so many people  
here!

### VOWEL EXLISION

In the future and imperative forms of -ON, -AN verbs there is often a dropping of the final vowel in roots that are stress final:

HILÍNG becomes HIHILNGÓN ( will be seen)

KAPÚT becomes KAPTÁN (held!)

SUNÚD becomes SUSUNDÓN (will be followed)

KU-Á becomes KWA'ÓN (get)

TURÔ becomes TU'RÁN (teach). (Legazpi)

POLITE FORMS

PÔ (sir, ma'am) is much used in the Naga area to show respect. When an utterance is not heard and needs to be repeated, the listener's PÔ? (Sir/Ma'am?) or ANÓ PÔ? (What, sir/ma'am?) is considered much more polite than merely saying ANÓ? (What?).

In the Legazpi area TABI ("please") is the most frequent polite form. The equivalent of PÔ? and ANÓ PÔ? in Legazpi is TABI? (Please? i.e. Would you please repeat what you said.) and ANÓ TABI? (Pardon me, what?).

In imperatives MAKI- and PAKI- prefixed to verbs add politeness:

PAKISIRAHÁ MAN TABÌ AN PINTÔ.  
Would you please close the door?

Next on the scale would come -

SIRAHÁ MAN TABÌ AN PINTÔ.  
Please close the door.

The inclusion of MAN or DAW softens commands:

SIRAHÁ { MAN AN PINTÔ.  
          { DAW  
Would you close the door?

---

The placement of PÔ, along with tone of voice, can show either respect or disrespect.

MAHIGÚSON KA PÔ DAÁ MARÁY.  
They say you're a hard worker!  
MAHIGUSON KA DAÁ MARÁY PÔ.

The second sentence, with different intonation and different placement of PÔ can be used to make fun of someone.

Some Miscellaneous affixes

MA--AN: (locative focus potential) affected by elements of the weather.

NA-ORANAN KAMI.  
We were caught in/by the rain.

NA-INITAN AKO.  
I felt hot/ warm.

NABANGGIHAN SINDA.  
They had to stay overnight (They were "benighted.")

-PARA- to do X "too much/ so much/ continually"

NAGPARA-INUM AKO.  
I drank too much,  
so much

DAÍ KA MAGPARATARÁM.  
Don't talk so much.

DAÍ MO PAGPARAPIRÍTA AN HABÓ.  
Don't keep on forcing those who don't want to.

MAKI- "fond of"

MAKIDULCE "fond of sweets"

MAKIBURAK "fond of flowers"

MAKIBABAE "fond of girls"

PAKA- with verb root followed by genitive: "after"

PAKAHALÉ NI PEDRO, NAG-ABÓT SI MAKING.  
After Pedro left, Making arrived.

PAG- with verb root followed by genitive: "As soon as"

PAG-ABOT NIYA TOLOS....as soon as she arrives (future)  
PAG-ABOT NIYA.....as soon as she arrived (past)

with verb root following an inflected verb:

ANÓ MAG-IBA KITA PACHILÍNG?  
Shall we go together and see it?

(PAG- above could also be MAG-)