

PROTO-MANOBO PRONOUNS AND CASE MARKING PARTICLES¹

CAROL W. HARMON

1. INTRODUCTION

Manobo refers to a group of languages and dialects spoken primarily in the southern Philippines, specifically in Mindanao and its offshore islands. Kagayanen, a language spoken in the Cagayan Islands and Palawan in the central Philippines, has also been identified as Manobo (Elkins 1974, Zorc 1974, Harmon 1977). Twenty-two languages have been identified by Fox and Flory (1974) as Manobo. Data on eight of these Manobo languages is not available to me. The comparative work on which the reconstructions here presented are based includes data from fourteen Manobo languages and dialects. The languages which have been compared are: Ata, Augusan, Binukid, Blit, Cotabato, Dibabawon, Ilianen, Kagayanen, Obo, Sarangani, Tagabawa, Tigwa, and Western Bukidnon. Pronominal and case marking particle data on only seven of these are presented in this paper. These languages are Ata (ATA), Binukid (BKD), Kagayanen (KAG), Cotabato (CTM), Dibabawon (DIB), Sarangani (SAR), and Western Bukidnon (WMB). Western Bukidnon represents Western Bukidnon, Ilianen, Obo, and Tagabawa because, generally speaking, the same changes have occurred in these languages. For the same reason Ata represents both Ata and Tigwa; Cotabato represents Cotabato, Blit, and Tasaday; and Dibabawon represents Dibabawon and Agusan. Restricting the data presented to seven languages has avoided unnecessary duplication and has allowed clearer, more concise descriptions of many phonological and analogical changes.

The purpose of this study is twofold: to reconstruct the Proto-Manobo pronouns and case marking particles and to determine the possible groupings of the various Manobo languages within the Manobo subgroup.