

## 8. Tagalog

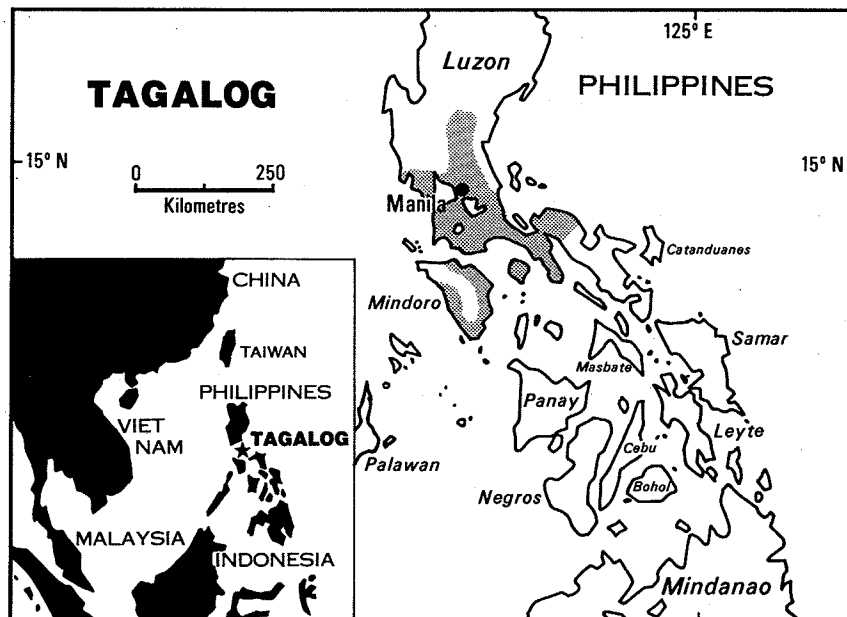
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### 1. Introduction

Tagalog is the major language of the southern part of the island of Luzon in the Philippines and has in excess of 14,500,000 speakers. The language and its speakers are said to be named *river folk* [*tága*- 'place of origin' + *ilog* 'river'].

As early as 1897 Tagalog was proposed as the National Language, due to the large number of speakers, a reasonably rich collection of native literature, and the fact that propaganda for the revolution against Spain and America was written in the language. In 1939, Tagalog was chosen as the basis for *Pilipino* (the official name for the national language). In 1973, the official language was re-christened *Filipino*, but was still to be based on Tagalog, incorporating a wider variety of its lexicon from other Philippine languages. Regardless of recurring opposition, some form of Tagalog is now spoken or understood by almost 70% of the Philippine population, the cumulative result



Map 8. Tagalog language area

of bilingual education, movies, comics, and news media (see Gonzalez 1980).

During the 1940s a period of purism set in with regard to the construction of Pilipino. Members of the Institute of National Language were prolific in their coinages such as *salumpuwít* 'seat' and *banyúhay* 'metamorphosis', which were introduced to replace already assimilated loans *silya* 'chair' (Spanish) and *metamòrposís* (English). Some such terms introduced in textbooks have been accepted and are in use. Recent trends have again been recognising Tagalog as the *koine* it is; Spanish, English, and numerous loans from other Philippine languages are freely being incorporated into Filipino.

Tagalogs have migrated throughout the archipelago (e.g. throughout the islands of Mindoro and Palawan, and cities like Cebu, Davao and Cotabato) in search of trade or employment, and there are large enclaves in the USA, especially in San Francisco and New York.

The dialect reported here is that of Manila, the capital of the nation as well as its commercial centre. Other dialects are associated with the provinces of Batangas, Quezon, Marinduque, etc. Some are quite divergent lexically, although all are mutually intelligible with the rest.

The closest relatives of Tagalog are the Bisayan (Visayan) and Bikol subgroups of Central Philippine languages (see Zorc 1977: 223-240).

Major sources for Tagalog include: Bloomfield (1917), De Guzman (1978), English (1977, 1986), Panganiban (1972), Santos (1983) and Wolfenden (1961).

## 2. Phonology

The following is a brief summary of Tagalog phonology. Additional discussion can be found in Schachter and Otones (1972: 1-30).

*Table 1. Consonants*

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Alveo- palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	vl	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	( <i>ç</i> )	<i>k</i>	<i>ʔ</i>
	vd	<i>b</i>	<i>d</i>	( <i>ʝ</i> )	<i>g</i>	
Fricatives		( <i>f</i> )	<i>s</i>			<i>h</i>
Nasals		<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>		<i>ŋ</i>	
Laterals			<i>l</i>			
Trills			<i>r</i>			
Continuants		<i>w</i>	<i>y</i>			

Although *r* has phonemic status due to loan words, it is also the intervocalic allophone of *d*. Items in parentheses have a very low frequency and are generally the result of the adoption of loanwords from Spanish or English. Whether a sound is native or inherited can be seen in reduplications, e.g. *nag- $\phi$ i' $\phi$ es* 'is playing chess' [vs *nag-ti-' $\phi$ es*] or *nag-ji-'*jip** 'always rides a jeepney' [vs *nag-di-'*jip**].

Table 2. Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	<i>i</i>		<i>u</i>
Mid	<i>e</i>		<i>o</i>
Low		<i>a</i>	

Vowel length is phonemic and therefore differentiates root words:

<i>'bāga?</i>	'lungs'	<i>ba'ga?</i>	'abscess, boil'
<i>'hāpon</i>	'afternoon	<i>ha'pon</i>	'Japan(e)se'

Stress is a feature of penultimate vowel length (vs shortness) and of syllable shape. Long vowels can only occur in an open syllable. If, for example, the penult vowel is long, that syllable is accented, e.g. [tūbo] 'pipe, tube'. If the penultimate syllable is open and short, accent falls on the ultima, e.g. [tu'bo] 'sugarcane'. If the penult consists of a closed syllable, i.e. CVC, accent falls on the ultima, e.g. [tug'tog] 'play (a musical instrument)'.

Basic syllable shape is CV(C). There are no vowel initial syllables; a word spelled as beginning with a vowel actually begins with the glottal stop. Some sample types include:

CV	<i>sa</i>	[locative marker]
CVC	<i>may</i>	'there is' [existential marker]
CV.CV	<i>ma'ta</i>	'eye'
CV.CVC	<i>ta'lon</i>	'waterfall'
CVC.CV	<i>bag'yo</i>	'storm, typhoon'
CVC.CVC	<i>bag'sak</i>	'fall (of something heavy)'

### 3. Morphophonemic changes

1. NG assimilation. The morphophoneme NG assimilates to the point of articulation of the first consonant of the root:

<i>siNG-</i> + <i>bi'lis</i>	<i>simbi'lis</i>	'as fast as'
<i>paNG-</i> + <i>bāta?</i>	<i>pambāta?</i>	'for children'
<i>saNG-</i> + <i>da'li?</i>	<i>sanda'li?</i>	'just a moment'

2. N change. This morphophoneme assimilates to the point of articulation of the first consonant of the root, which is subsequently lost:

<i>maN-</i> + <i>pīlī</i>	<i>mamīlī?</i>	'choose, select'
<i>paN-</i> + <i>bāhaw</i>	<i>pamāhaw</i>	'eat breakfast'
<i>naN-</i> + <i>'da'ig</i>	<i>nana'ig</i>	'won, prevailed'
<i>paN-</i> + <i>tālo</i>	<i>panālo</i>	'victory'
<i>paN-</i> + <i>simbah</i>	<i>panimbah</i>	'worship'
<i>paN-</i> + <i>kāhoy</i>	<i>paṅāhoy</i>	'gather wood'
<i>paN-</i> + <i>'isda?</i>	<i>paṅisda?</i>	'go fishing'

3. Vowel loss occurs with several roots with closed final syllables when suffixation takes place:

<i>bigay</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>bigyan</i>	'be given to'
<i>bukas</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>buksan</i>	'be opened'
<i>ga'wa</i>	<i>-in</i>	<i>gawin</i>	'be made'
<i>lagay</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>lagyan</i>	'be put upon'
<i>masid</i>	<i>CinV--an</i>	<i>minamasdan</i>	'are being observed'
<i>sunod</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>sundan</i>	'be followed'
<i>sakay</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>sakyan</i>	'be ridden'
<i>sakit</i>	<i>na--an</i>	<i>nasaktan</i>	'was injured'

4. H insertion occurs on most root words that end in a vowel when suffixation takes place; before the suffix is added *h* is inserted.

<i>tubu</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>tubuhan</i>	'sugarcane farm'
<i>sūso</i>	<i>pa--in</i>	<i>pasusūhin</i>	'be breastfed!'
<i>bili</i>	<i>-in</i>	<i>bilhin</i>	'be bought'
<i>dala</i>	<i>-in</i>	<i>dalhin</i>	'be brought'
<i>sara</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>sarhan</i>	'be closed'

5. R changes. A *d* becomes *r* when intervocalic after affixation takes place:

<i>dāgat</i>	<i>ka--an</i>	<i>karagātan</i>	'ocean, deep sea'
<i>tāwad</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>tawāran</i>	'be discounted!'

6. N addition. In a few roots, an *n* is inserted before a suffix:

<i>kuha?</i>	<i>-in</i>	<i>kūnin</i>	'be taken!'
<i>tāwa</i>	<i>-an</i>	<i>tawānan</i>	'be laughed at!'

Reduplication involves either the prefixation of the first consonant and first vowel to the root word (CV-) or the full reduplication of the root (R2). The former indicates ongoing or repetitive activity (as in the formation of the future or progressive tenses) while the latter (especially with the ligature *na* or *ŋ*) marks some form of intensification or emphasis:

<i>bi'li</i>		'buy'
<i>ma-</i>	<i>mabi'li</i>	'can be bought'
<i>maCV-</i>	<i>mabibi'li</i>	'may always be bought'
<i>R2</i>	<i>mabi'liŋ-bi'li</i>	'very popular'

#### 4. Verb morphology

Tagalog verbs are conjugated for one of four voices depending on the focus or agreement of the verb with the semantic role of the topic.

Active emphasises an actor (*datiŋ* 'arrive') or a meteorological event (*ulan* 'rain')

Passive emphasises an object affected or taken in (*bili* 'buy', *kā'in* 'eat', *patay* 'kill')

Instrumental emphasises an object moving away or parted with (*pag-bili* 'sell', *libiŋ* 'bury', *tāpon* 'throw away')

Local emphasises an object partially affected, cleansed, or removed (*hūgas* 'rinse', *laba* 'launder', *bāyad* 'pay', *tāwad* 'discount')

All verbs are inflected for four tenses. However, in the active voice, verbs fall into one of two classes: *-um-* (denoting intransitive or punctual actions amongst others) vs *mag-* (denoting transitive, durative, or reciprocal actions, amongst others, see Pittman (1966) or McFarland (1976)). The forms are as follows:

Active	Past	Progres.	Contingent	Future
-um- verb	-um-	Cum V-	-um-	CV-
mag- verb	nag-	nagCV-	mag-	magCV-

Following upon the identification of the appropriate active voice affix class, a verb may emphasise its object with any one of three passive forms:

Passive *-um-*

Direct pass.	-in-	CinV-	-in	CV--in
Instrumental	i-in-	iCinV-	i-	iCV-
Local	-in--an	CinV--an	-an	CV--an
Passive <i>mag-</i>	<i>pinag-</i>	<i>pinagCV-</i>	<i>pag--in</i>	<i>pagCV--in</i>
Direct pass.	<i>ipinag-</i>	<i>ipinagCV-</i>	<i>ipag-</i>	<i>ipagCV-</i>
Local	<i>pinag--an</i>	<i>pinagCV--an</i>	<i>pag--an</i>	<i>pagCV--an</i>

Additionally, nouns or adjectives can be used as stative or affective verbs, such as *na-gu'tom* 'was hungry' or *ma-layu?-an* 'found (X to be too) far away':

Stative	<i>na-</i>	<i>naCV-</i>	<i>ma-</i>	<i>maCV-</i>
Affective	<i>na--an</i>	<i>naCV--an</i>	<i>ma--an</i>	<i>maCV--an</i>

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