
Morphological Paradigm of Nouns and Verbs: Meaning and Functions in Bisakol, a Philippine-type language

Ana Cristina G. Fortes
Sorsogon State University
Sorsogon City, Philippines
anacristinafortes05@gmail.com

Abstract

The linguistic documentation of Philippine-type languages and efforts to revitalize them have increased with the introduction of the MTB-MLE to the primary grades. Language varieties in Sorsogon, including the Southern Bisakol, are widely used but less studied by native speakers. Among the grammatical categories investigated are nouns and verbs. They are content words and are usually introduced in the primary grades. Using Payne's (1997) morphosyntax and Nolasco's (2007) stem-based hypothesis, this descriptive study employed structural analysis on the transcribed and compiled Bisakol corpus. Significant findings show that nouns and verbs are derived forms with specific morphemes that may be attached either to the root or to the stem. The affixes of Bisakol have some conditioning and restrictions in the linguistic environment. Hence, Bisakol morphemes, especially their affixes, are highly multifunctional with every affix carrying a meaning that may either modify the semantics of the root or change the concept category of the new form entirely.

1 Introduction

Philippine-type languages (PL) have many complexities and intricacies that entice many scholars of linguistics to investigate. Among the many Philippine-type languages that exhibit diversity and complexity are the Bikol and Visayan languages. Bikol is a macro language that has widely varying dialects and closely related languages. The individual languages that correspond to a macro language are very closely related, and there must be some domain in which only a single language identity is recognized (Lewis, Simons, & Fenning, 2015). In many areas in the region, speech varies dramatically over a few kilometers from one town to the next (Lobel and Tria (2000).

Interesting in Sorsogon, a province in the Bicol region, is the language variety that the speakers themselves believe to have been a mixture of Bikol and Binisaya languages. Natives would name their language Bisakol. Ethnologue names this language as Sorsoganon, Northern; Sorsoganon, Southern; and Masbateno. Earlier linguistic studies particularly, McFarland (1974) and Zorc (1977) confirmed that Southern dialects including the Northern Masbate, Northern Sorsogon and Southern Sorsogon or Gubat belong to the Central Visayan subgroup, of which Hiligaynon and Samar-Leyte are members (p. 299). The geographical location of the province has a major contribution to why these varieties are linguistically Visayan rather than Bikol. The absence of the speaking roads that linked Bikol towns with one another for a long period of time, and the transportation by water brought about this present-day linguistic situation. The proximity of Sorsogon to Samar and Masbate and the water transportation that happened from Samar to Sorsogon, and vice versa, can explain the mixture of Binisaya and Bikol in the dialect in Southern Sorsogon.

At present, there has been a dearth of studies on the languages spoken in Sorsogon area. The differences among the varieties of Bikol Sorsogon are validated in the dialectology of Cunanan (2015). Escalante (1978) and Nolasco (1994) made studies on the grammar of Sorsogonan. Escalante made a description of the internal structures of South Sorsogon verbs and Nolasco worked on the grammar sketch of the language.

2 Morphology of Philippine-type languages: Theoretical Views

Morphological structures of Philippine-type languages are diverse both in their uses and meaning. Segmenting words into meaningful parts, the morphological shapes revealed some systematic covariation in form and meaning (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010). The adjustment in the shapes of the words depends on the way the speakers intend their

utterances to be interpreted (Payne, 1997). In Tagalog, for instance, some affixes, when attached to another morphological form, express clearly their language-specific meanings. Philippine-type lexical bases and their meaning change via affixation (Himmelman, 2008). The lexical bases can be syntactically subcategorized as content words, such as nouns and verbs. Classifying a root or a base either a noun or a verb in Philippine-type languages appears to be challenging. The concept of precategoriality indicates the idea that for any root to be classified as either noun or verb, it should be affixed or case marked. Foley (1998) expressed the lack of noun-verb distinction of roots in Philippine languages.

To some scholars, nouns and verbs in Philippine-type languages have language-specific features. For Payne (1997, 2021), to determine the grammatical category of a given lexicon, the linguist needs to identify the morphosyntactic characteristics of the prototype. Payne proposed the morphosyntactic analysis with its two important properties: distributional and structural properties. “Distributional properties show how words are distributed in phrases, and clauses and texts. Structural properties illustrate the internal structure of the word itself” (p.33).

The morphological process particularly affixation is highly noticeable in Philippine-type languages. The stem-based hypothesis introduced by Nolasco (2007) demonstrates the layering of morphemes in nouns and verbs in Tagalog. This method of analysis clearly shows that word forms in Tagalog and other Philippine-type languages have similar meanings since they are linked to one stem, although the word forms may differ in the arguments that they co-index in the clause construction.

Bisakol, a Philippine-type language demonstrates the same morphological features as that of Tagalog. By morphological form alone, nouns and verbs in Bisakol may demonstrate the same features. However, building the analysis on Payne’s (1997) morphosyntactic operations in determining the meaning and functions reveals the language-specific features of nouns and verbs in this language. Bisakol words are formed by several morphological processes such as affixation and reduplication and these word forms have multiple affixes layered in their structure.

3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to (1) analyze and describe the morphological features of nouns and verbs in Bisakol along with the different morphological processes in the language, and (2) establish a morphological paradigm that would guide mother tongue teachers in Bisakol in designing their learning content in mother tongue-based teaching.

4 Methodology

This study is a typological investigation of the linguistic features of the language variety in Southern Sorsogon. The study analyzes the morphological structures of the nouns and verbs through the morphosyntax framework of Payne (1997) and the stem-based hypothesis’ of Nolasco (2007).

As the researcher has been building corpus of Bisakol from spoken and written text, this study made use of the existing eighty-two thousand corpus collected since 2016. The spoken texts are stories of the informants, conversations among college students and family members, and public speeches made by candidates during the 2016 national election. The oral texts were recorded, transcribed, and secured in an electronic file. Likewise, the online discourse particularly those found in the online group pages and accounts of some Bisakol speakers are also added to the collected Bisakol corpus. These social media group pages are accessible online. Another data collection procedure used by the researcher is wordlist and elicitation. Using the word list provided by Reid (2016), two informants provided the word list equivalent in Bisakol. In addition, using some sentences in Tagalog, the researcher requested two informants to translate each into Bisakol.

5 Analysis and Findings

Affixation and reduplication are morphological processes in Bisakol that allow for a word to be formed. Despite some claims of scholars on the lack of noun-verb distinction (Foley, 1998) of roots in Philippine-type languages, findings of this study reveal that nouns and verbs are distinct categories. The morphological analysis reveals that nouns are formed by nominalizing affixes and verbs are affixed for voice, aspect, and mode. Affixation and reduplication, the morphological processes, are operationalized by the syntactic conditions or restrictions in the language.

5.1 Morphological Features of Bisakol Nouns

In Bisakol, nouns become complex when it is composed of the root or stem and an affix. Complex forms of nouns are those that undergo a certain morphological process and change the word class, say verbs to nouns. Commonly, they are derived forms or nominalized forms. Nominalization is a morphological derivation that creates or forms a noun stem. The new stem derived from verbs or adjectives belongs to the noun class (Payne, 2006).

Bisakol nominalizing affixes are grouped according to their morphological behavior. First, the prefixes *pag-*, *paN-*, *para-*, *ka-*, *taga-*, *tig-*, *tag-* are attached to Bisakol root or stem to form words. Second, the fused affixes namely *pag+pa-*, *pag+ka-*, *paN+pa-* are placed before the root or stem. Interestingly, the affixation of *pa-* and *ka-* is permitted to be fused when the morphemes *pag-*, and *paN-* are added to the root or stem. This process is called morphological layering. It is a process in which an affix is required to be attached to the stem first before another affix can be added. Third, Bisakol has circumfix, *ka...-an* in which the *ka-* is added before the root and *-an* is added at the end of the root. Lastly, voice nominalizing affixes are attached to Bisakol root or stem. They are the null \emptyset (where *m-* / *-um* are replacive affixes), (*h*)-*an*, *i-*, *-un*, and *-in* (see Table 1). Illustrating the morphological structure of nominalized forms, some examples of Bisakol nouns are shown in (1)-(4).

- (1) $\text{pag}_{[\text{affix}]} + \text{kaon}_{[\text{root}]} \text{ 'eat' } > \text{pagkaon} \text{ 'food'}$
 (2) $\text{pag}_{[\text{affix/layer1}]} + \text{pa}_{[\text{affix/layer2}]} + \text{daku}_{[\text{root}]} \text{ 'big' } > \text{pagdaku} \text{ 'growth' } > \text{pagpadaku} \text{ 'to raise a child'}$
 (3) $\text{ka}_{[\text{affix}]} + \text{tuyu}_{[\text{root}]} \text{ 'intent' } + (\text{h})\text{an}_{[\text{affix}]} > \text{katuyuhan} \text{ 'intention'}$
 (4) $\text{bayle}_{[\text{root}]} \text{ 'dance' } + (\text{h})\text{an}_{[\text{affix}]} > \text{baylehan} \text{ 'a place to dance'}$

Clauses (5) and (6) are presented to show the nominalized forms in Bisakol syntax. In (5) and (6), the nominalized forms are *pagkakonsehal* and *pag-eskwela*. The nominal function of these two forms is case marked by the determiners **sa** in (5) and **an** in (6). Absolute determiner, **an** marks nouns and noun phrases (NP) in Bisakol. The determiner **sa** in Bisakol marks spatial location, temporal location, a nominal expressing goal as its macrorole. Similarly, nominal forms in Tagalog and other Philippine-type languages are case-marked by absolute determiners (Dita, 2010b) or by locative determiner.

Affixes	Type	Position
pag-; paN-; para-; ka-; taga-; tig-; tag-	derivational	Prefix
pag+pa-; pag+ka-; paN+pa	derivational	Prefix
ka...an	derivational	circumfix
\emptyset (m-/um); in-/in	derivational	prefix/ infix
-an; -un	derivational	suffix
-i	derivational	prefix

Table 1: Affixes in Bisakol Nouns

- (5) ...nagdalagan sa pagkakonsehal si Papa.
 nag- dalagan sa **pag-ka- konsehal** si Papa
 ASP- run LOC NMZLR-ABL councilor ABS father
 '[My] father ran for [municipal] councilor.'
- (6) Mahal an **pag-eskwela** sa Manila
 mahal an **pag-** eskwela sa Manila
 expensive ABS NMZLR- schooling LOC Manila
 'It is expensive to study in Manila.'

5.2 Morphological Features of Bisakol Verbs: Aspect, Voice, and Mode Affixes

The morphology of verbs in Bisakol is complex because of the of the considerable morphophonemic fusion and alternations of affixes in the language. The verbs are affixed with morphemes that inflect for voice, aspect, and mode. Thus, verbal affixes are grouped according to their coded syntactic functions. The first group of affixes that inflect for voice include *i-*, *-an*, *-in*, *-a*, \emptyset > *um* / *-m* (replacive affix *m* / *n*). The second group of affixes inflects for aspect. Aspectual affixes include the *mag-*, *nag-* and *in- / <in>*. The mode affixes are *pag-*, *-ang*, *ka-*, *pa-*, *paki-*, *<Vlr>*.

Voice Affixes: For Cena (2014) voice refers to the “affix in the verb that imposes a thematic role reading on the subject which refers to the absolutive nominal” (p.200). Putting it simply, the manifestation of voice is found in the affix attached to the verb in which the affix co-indexed a noun as the most affected entity of the action expressed by the verb or the most agentive or the instigator of the action. To present the morphological structure of verbs inflected with voice affixes, examples (7)-(10) are provided. The actor, patient, and locative voice affixes are attached after the root. The alternative morphological structure is shown in (10) or the instrument voice. The affix *i-* can be attached before the root or after the root.

Verbs indicate an actor voice (AV) with the null affix (\emptyset) attached to the them. In cases when the verb changes aspect, the replacive affixes *m-/n-* appear in the stem. The argument bears the actor macro role or the undergoer of the process of the action. The patient voice with the *-un* affix co-indexes the patient or goal. The locative voice in Bisakol is marked by the affix *-an* attached to the verb. This affix co-indexes an argument which may express semantic roles such as, location, recipient, benefactive, or goal. When a verb is voiced-mark by *i-* affix, the action is directed towards the argument which may have the semantic roles of the instrument or the transported theme (Tanangkingsing, 2009).

(7) actor voice: \emptyset + root

\emptyset ~mag-[affix]+hatag[root] ‘give’ > maghatag ‘give something’

\emptyset ~nag[affix] +kadi[root] ‘come’ > nagkadi ‘came’

(8) patient voice: root + -un

hatag[root] ‘give’ + -un[affix] > hatagon ‘give something to someone’

sabut[root] ‘understand’ + -un[affix] > sabuton ‘make one understand something’

(9) locative voice: root + -an ~-a

hatag[root] ‘give’ + -an[affix] > hatagan ‘give someone something’

himu [root] ‘give’ + -an [affix] > himuan ‘make someone something’

(10) instrument voice: *i-* + root

i-[affix] + hatag [root] ‘give’ > ihatag ‘give [directed someone] something to someone’

root + -i

butang[root] ‘put’ + -i [affix] > butangi ‘put/pour something onto something’

Clauses (11), (12), and (13) illustrate the morphosyntax of the voice affixes in the language. The clauses show the transitive construction with two core arguments marked by the verb *hatag* ‘give’. When affix *-an* is inflected, locative voice is expressed. The argument, *an phrase*, is the recipient of the verb which semantically implies morphosyntax of the voice affixes in the language. The clauses show the transitive construction with two core arguments marked by the verb *hatag* ‘give’. When affix *-an* is inflected, locative voice is expressed. The argument, *an phrase*, is the recipient of the verb which semantically implies that there is a movement of the object from someone to another one (11). Meanwhile, the *i-* affix implies instrument voice (12), and affix *-un* marks the two core arguments *mu* and the *an-phrase* in which the *allowance* is the transported theme (13).

(11) Hatagan ku si mama kwarta.

hatag-an= ku si mama \emptyset kwarta
give-VOICE.LV=ERG.1s ABS mother OBL money
‘I will give [my] mother [some] money.’

(12) Ihatag mu an kwarta kay mabayad aku sa eskwelahan.

i- **hatag**=mu an kwarta kay
VOICE.IV-give =ERG.2s ABS money because
ma- bayad=aku sa eskwelahan
ASP-pay =ABS.1s LOC school
‘Give me that money because I have to pay [something] in the school.’

(13) Hatagun mu na lang an allowance kaniya.

hatag-un =mu= na=lang an
give-VOICE.PV=ERG.2s=PAR=PAR ABS
allowance kaniya
allowance OBL.3s
‘[Just] Give her the allowance.’

Aspectual Affixes: Aspect means the different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of the situation (Holt, 1943 in Comrie, 1976). Unlike tense which relates to the time of situation referred either to moment of speaking or to some other time, aspect is concerned with the features of completion, durability, perfectivity, or imperfectivity of the action or process. In Philippine languages, aspect is highly referred than tense. Speakers of PLs, particularly, of Bisakol, are not mainly concerned with the temporal relation of the action relative to the moment of speaking but rather with the internal temporal constituency of one situation or action. The situation of internal time shows whether the action started yet unfinished; it started and finished, or haven’t started yet. The six aspects of Bisakol are expressed morphologically. Aspectual affixes include the *ma-*, *mag-*, *na-*, *nag-*, and *in-/<in>*. Reduplication is highly used in verbs

to express aspect. Morphological structure of each aspect is shown in (14) to (19).

(14) neutral/infinitive_{[-beg],[-fin]}:

INTR: mag + root

mag-[affix] + surat_[root] 'write' > magsurat 'to write'

< ~um > + root

s<um>[affix]urat_[root] > sumurat 'to write'

(15) perfective aspect_{[+beg],[+fin]}

INTR: nag- + root

nag[affix] + surat_[root] 'write' > nagsurat 'wrote'

TR: in- + root

in-[affix] + bakal_[root] 'buy' > inbakal 'bought'

TR: <in> + root

h<in>[affix] atag_[root] 'give' > hinatag 'gave'

(16) Recent Perfective_{[+beg],[+fin]}

INTR: na-+ka-+ root

na-[affix] + ka-[affix] + surat_[root] 'write' :

nakasurat 'be able to write'

TR: ka- + (:) + {C1V1} [redup] + root + -a

ka:[affix][vowel leng] + {ba} + bakal_[root]

'buy'+ -a > kababakala 'has just bought'

(17) Actual Imperfective_{[+beg],[-fin]}

INTR: nag- + {C1V1} [redup] + root

nag-[affix] + {su} + surat_[root] 'write' >

nagsusurat 'is writing'

TR: -in- + {C1V1} [redup] + root

in-[affix] + {ba} + bakal_[root] 'buy' > inbabakal

'is buying'

(18) Conditional Imperfective_{[+beg],[-fin]}

INTR: na- + : + root

na: [affix][vowel leng] + surat_[root] 'write' >

na:surat 'have written'

TR: (k)i + : + root + -an

ki:[affix][vowel leng] + kaun_[root] 'eat' + -

an[affix] > ki:kaunan 'have eaten'

(19) Contemplative_{[-beg],[-fin]}

INTR: ma: + root

ma:[affix][vowel leng] + imod_[root] 'see' >

ma:imod 'will be watching'

INTR: mag- + {C1V1} [redup] + root

mag-[affix] + {su} + surat_[root] 'write' >

magsusurat 'will be writing'

TR: {C1V1} [redup] + root + -un/an

{ba} + bakal_[root] 'buy' + -un/an > babakaun /

babaklan 'will be buying'

TR: i- + {C1V1} [redup] + root

i-[affix] + {ha} + hatag_[root] 'give' > ihahatag
'will be giving'

The verbs in the neutral aspect are noted for an action has not started, therefore, no completion can occur. They are often referred to as infinitive forms. Perfective aspect indicates a completed action. For recent perfective, it denotes an action that has just been done or completed recently. In Bisakol, the affix ka- is added to the stem and the reduplication of C₁V₁ of the base. Actual imperfective aspect expresses an action that has begun but has not been completed. The conditional imperfective aspect expresses an idea that a certain action is performed when the person is in certain conditions or usual scenarios. Contemplative aspect refers to the action or state that has not started yet.

Affixes in Bisakol that carries the grammatical voice like *-un* and the aspectual affix *-in* are in complementary distribution. When the affix *-in* is added to the verb, the voice affix *-un* becomes null. The *in- /<in>* when inflected to verbs in the patient voice is sufficient to mark two important features of verbs in Bisakol, the voice and aspect. Guzman (1994) explains this phenomenon as the principle of minimal distinction or the inflected forms function identically in syntax even if the morphological paradigms are regular or irregular. Clauses (22) and (23) demonstrate this morphological feature.

(20) root + -un :

surat_[root] 'write' + -un_[affix] > suraton 'to write'

(21) -in + root + -un ~ Ø

-in_[affix] + surat_[root] + Ø_[affix] > insurat 'wrote'

(22) Suratun mu an ngaran niya sa papel.

surat-un=mu an ngaran=niya sa papel
write-PV=ERG.2s ABS name=GEN.3s LOC paper
'You write his name on the paper.'

(23) Insurat mu an ngaran niya sa papel?

in- surat-Ø= mu an ngaran=niya
ASP-write-PV=ERG.2s ABS name=GEN.3s
sa papel

LOC paper

'Did you write his name on the paper?'

Mode Affixes: Mode is one one feature of verbs in Bisakol. It relates to the manner of realization of the action. Two verbs may express similarity in aspect, and even voice, but their difference in mode is recognizable as a language-specific feature of Bisakol verbs. The imperative mode indicates command. The *-ang* mode affix expresses either extensiveness and intensiveness of how the action is performed by the agent or actor. The *ka-* affix expresses abilitative

mode. It refers to the ability of actor or agent to perform the action indicated by the verb. However, *ka-* expresses another mode of the verb in Bisakol such as motive, unexpected result and reason. Causative mode indicates that the actor or agent has caused the action to be done. The requestive mode expresses social, committative, and permissive sense. The distributive mode expresses an action that has been participated by all actors mentioned in the clause. The morphological structure of verbs expressing different modalities are shown in examples (24) to (30).

(24) imperative

pag- + root
 pag-[affix]⁺ kaon_[root] > **pagkaon** (na) ‘you have to eat’

root + **-i**

hatag_[root] + -i_[affix] > hatagi ‘give someone something’

root + **-a**

hatag_[root] + -a_[affix] > hataga ‘give something to someone’

(25) extensive/intensive

m-/p- + **-ang** + root

m-[affix]⁺ -ang_[affix]⁺ limpya_[root] > **manglimpya** ‘will clean extensively’

p-[affix] + -ang_[affix] + limpya_[root] > **panglimpya** ‘to clean extensively’

(26) abilitative/aptative

m-/p- + **ka-** + root

ma-[affix] + ka-[affix]⁺ pasar_[root] > **makapasar** ‘to pass’

pa-[affix]⁺ ka-[affix]⁺ pasar_[root] > **pakapasa** ‘able to pass’

(27) causative

nag-/mag-/pag- + **pa-** + root

nag-[affix]⁺ pa-[affix]⁺ kaon_[root] > nagpakaon ‘feed someone/something’

(28) requestive/ committative

maki-/paki + root

maki-[affix] + huron_[root] ‘discuss’ > makihuro ‘discuss something about’

(29) Motive/unexpected

mag-/pag- + **ka-** + root

nag-[affix] + ka-[affix]⁺ hapdos_[root] ‘illness’ > nagkahapdos ‘got sick’

(30) Distributive/plurative

root + { **V₁r-** }

in_[affix]⁺ k- + {ar} on_[root] + -an_[affix] > inkaraunan ‘have something used for eating’

5.3 Layering of Affixes in Bisakol Verbs

Illustrating stem-based hypothesis to Bisakol morphology, word forms in Bisakol are multi-layered. An affix is added to the root to form a stem which prepares the word form for another affixation process. The layering of affixes is shown in example (31). The root *surat* ‘write’ is affixed with the nominalizing affix, *pag-*. The word form *pagsurat* ‘to write’ may express an infinitive aspect or imperative mode. When the *p-* is replaced with *n-*, the word form is *nagsurat* ‘wrote’. The *nag-* is an aspectual affix expressing perfective aspect. When the first syllable of the root is reduplicated and added to the stem, *nagsurat* ‘wrote’, the word form becomes *nagsusurat* ‘is writing’. The reduplication C₁V₁ expresses imperfective aspect. In the example, the final word that may be formed is *nagpasurat* ‘to have someone write something’. The word formed has several layered affixes such as *nag-* is an aspectual affix, *pa-* is a mode affix, reduplicated *-su-*, express imperfective aspect, and *pag-* is a nominalizing affix. Hence, this layering of morphemes reveals that Bisakol is a highly inflectional language in which affixes often fuse to code several grammatical functions and meanings.

(31) surat_[root] ‘write’

> pag-[nom.affix] surat_[root] ‘to write’

> nag-[asp.affix] surat_[root] ‘wrote’

> nag-[asp.affix]{su}[redup.asp] + surat_[root] ‘is writing’

> nag-[asp.affix]pa-[mode.affix]surat_[root] ‘has asked something to write something’

5.4 Multifunctionality of Bisakol Affixes

From the analysis, the study was able to determine that Bisakol affixes are highly multifunctional. Affixes in verbs expressing voice are also used as nominalizing affixes such as *-an*, *-un*, *i-*, and the null affix for intransitive construction. When these voice affixes are added to the root or stem, these affixes shape the meaning of the nominal forms to express the concept category associated to the root. By affix *-an*, the stem becomes a nominal form of a place of location and *-un* expresses a trait or a state or condition. The claim that these forms are nominalized forms grammatically functioning as nouns is asserted by the presence of absolutive case markers in Bisakol.

(32) **an** laba-{h}**an** ‘a place to do laundry’

ABS wash -NMLZR

- (33) **an** sugna **-an** ‘the place to do cooking’
 ABS cook- NMLZR
- (34) **sa** higda-**an** ‘the place to lay down’
 LOC lay NMLZR

In analyzing verbal affixes particularly those expressing mode, the affixes *pag-* and *ka-* are mode affixes, yet, nominalizing affixes too. The affix *pag-* expresses an abstract idea or a concept when used as nominalizer. The affix *ka-* expresses a commitative of partative entity in Bisakol nouns. However, *pag-* is a mode affix expressing imperative construction when added to the verb. The *ka-* is a mode affix expressing abilitative or aptative, motive, or unexpected occurrence.

- (35) *pag-* [nom. affix] vs *pag-* [verb affix]
- (35.1) *pag-* tubod>*pag*tubod ‘faith’
 NMLZR believe
- (35.2) *Pagkarigos* na.
pag- karigos =na.
 IMP- take a bath PAR
 ‘You take a bath now.’

- (36) *ka-* [nom. affix] vs. *ka* [verb affix]
- (36.1) *ka-* upod> *ka*pod ‘company’
 NMLZR join with
- (36.2) *Gustuhon* ku man makapasar sa exam ni sir.
 Gustu-(h)un=ku =man ma- ka- pasar
 Like -INTSFR=ERG.1s =PAR INF- ABL-pass
 sa exam ni Sir
 LOC exam GEN Sir
 ‘I really would like to pass in the exam [of Sir]’

Significantly, the mutual exclusivity of the affixes – *un* and –*in*<*in*> in Bisakol verbs reveals that an *affix* can carry two grammatical functions in the clause. The *in-* /<*in*> when used with patient voice is sufficient to mark two important features of verbs in Bisakol, the voice and aspect (see sample 22-23).

5.5 Morphological Paradigms in Bisakol

Stressing the argument of pre-categoriality or the lack or noun-verb distinction in Philippine-type languages, this study strongly states that nouns and verbs in Bisakol are two separate and distinct word classes. Nominalization occurs because the language has various morphemes that derive nouns from another word class, and so with verbalization. Nouns are case-marked by the determiners of the language such as *an*, *si*, *ni*, *san/sin*, or *sa* and these nouns fill the argument slots in the clause. Verbs in Bisakol are inflected for voice, aspect, and mode. Verbs do not fill any argument slot but index the number of arguments that are required to be present in the syntax of the language. Reduplication is another

morphological feature, especially in verbs. The reduplication marks a grammatical function, particularly in the aspect of verbs. Verbs in Bisakol are affixed to indicate how native speakers view time, manner, and transitivity in their language.

Grammatical Category	Morphological	
	Feature	Processes
Nouns	free and bound root and stem	Affixation (nominalizing affixes) Reduplication
Verbs	stems are highly layered with affixes inflecting for aspect, tense, and mode	Affixation (aspect, voice, mode) Reduplication

Table 2: Morphological Paradigm of Nouns and Verbs

6 Conclusion

This study presents the morphological characteristics of nouns and verbs in Bisakol. Bisakol affixes are highly multifunctional. Nouns are mostly derived forms. The affixes change the word forms into nominalized forms making them occupy argument slots in the clause. Verbs are a distinct category because they can be affixed only for voice, aspect, and mode. Significantly, the nominal and verbal affixes when attached to the root or stem create different concept categories. Word forms, especially verb forms are layered with several morphemes that code for different grammatical meanings and functions. With morphophonology, the affixes of Bisakol have some conditioning and restrictions, for instance, the affix *-in/ <in>*, although an aspectual affix, marks a patient voice too. Aspect, voice, and mode are verb features that are marked by affixes in which only Bisakol speakers and their intuition in their native language can capture the appropriate contextual meaning.

7 Implications to MTB-MLE in the Sorsogon

The scenario of the teaching of the mother tongue in the classrooms and the use of mother tongue in teaching other disciplines has been challenged by so many compelling factors. Among the many are the teachers’ knowledge and competence in their own L1

which is also the L1 of the learners. This study strongly considers that teacher's understanding of the grammar of language that they speak highly contributes to the success of the teaching-learning process and preparation of instructional materials in the mother tongue. By being equipped with the concept of how language works in L1, teachers can decipher how their learners cognitively and metacognitively process information and develop grammatical concepts in L1 and L2. Thus, teachers could properly introduce the concept of time in L1 which is more on aspect and the concept of time in English which is viewed more as a tense. Beyond differentiation of grammatical concepts, L1 teachers who will become aware of the morphological processes in the language can help learners build their L1 vocabulary, develop phonemic awareness, and phonic skills. The common underlying proficiency in L1 and L2 can be grounded in the mental ability of the L1 learners such that their morphological understanding will bridge them in learning the target language. Finally, grammar of any language should be explored from the inside (Payne, 2021), and not from the outside perspective.

Appendices: The following are the linguistic symbols and abbreviations used in this study. They are presented in this paper alphabetically.

Appendix A. Symbols and Abbreviations

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
s	singular
p	plural
-	affix boundary
=	clitic boundary
< >	infix
ABS	absolutive
ASP	Aspect
ERG	ergative
INTR	intransitive
LOC	locative
OBL	oblique
PAR	particle
PV	patient voice
TR	transitive

References

- Cena, Resty (2014). A unified account of Tagalog verb and adjective affix system. In I. W. Arka, & M. Ni Luh Ketut , Argument realisation and related construction in Austronesian language (pp. 197-212). Australia: Asia- Pacific Linguistics.American Psychological Association. 1983. Publications Manual. American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.
- Comrie, Bernard (1976). Aspect: An introduction to the study of the verbal aspects and related problems. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cunanan, Farrah C. (2015). Ang Dialect Area ng Bikol. Daluyan: Journal ng Wikang Filipino, 32-62.
- Dery, Luis C. (1991). From Ibalon to Sorsogon: Historical Survey of Sorsogon Province to 1905. Quezon City: New Day Publisher.
- Dita, Shirley N. (2010b). A morphosyntactic analysis of the pronominal system of the Philippine languages. 24th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (pp. 45-59). Tokyo: PACLIC.
- Escalante, Antonio (1978). A Study of South Sorsogon Verbs. Diliman, Quezon City:University of the Philippines.
- Foley, William A. (1998). Symmetrical voice systems and precategoriality in Philippine languages. Paper presented at the 3rd LFG Conference, Brisbane.
- Guzman, Videia P. (1994). Verbal affixes in Tagalog: Inflection or derivation. Seventh International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (pp. 303-325). Leiden:Leiden Univ.
- Haspelmath, Martin, & Sims, Andrea. D. (2010). Understanding Morphology: Understanding Language Series (second edition ed.). London : Hodder Education.
- Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. (2008). Lexical categories and voice in Tagalog. In P. Austin, & S. Musgrave, Voice and Grammatical Functions in Austronesian Language (pp. 247-293). Stanford: CSLI.
- Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.
- Lobel, Jason William, & Tria, Wilmer Joseph (2000). An Satuyang Tataramon: A study of the Bikol Language . Naga City: Lobel & Tria Partnership Co.
- McFarland, Curtis Daniel (1974). The dialects of the Bikol area. Dissertation: Yale University.
- Nolasco, Ricardo (2007). Si maka-tangkay at sim aka-ugat: Dalawang tagasuri ng morpolohiyang Pilipino. Paper presented during the 4th National Natural Language Processing Research Symposium, Philippine Languages and Computation on July 14-16, 2007. De La Salle University College of St. Benilde, Manila.
- Nolasco, Ricardo D. (1994). Gramar ng Sorsoganon. Unpublished Masters' thesis. Diliman, Quezon City:University of the Philippines.
- Payne, Thomas E. (1997). Describing Morphosyntax: A guide for field linguists . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

-
- Payne, T. E. (2006). Exploring language structure: A student guide . New York: Cambridge University Press .
- Payne, Thomas. E. (2021). Twin Course Webinar on L1 based MLE. SIL, Talaytayan, and BALLT Webinar via zoom.
- Reid, L. A. (2016). Philippine languages- Pronominal System during the 2016 Linguistic Masterclass . National Museum. Manila: National Museum of Fine Arts.
- Tanangkingsing, Michael (2009). A Functional Reference Grammar of Cebuano. Dissertation. National Taiwan University.
- Zorc, David P. (1977). The Bisayan Dialect of the Philippines: Subgrouping and Reconstruction. Australia: Pacific Linguistics, s. C, no. 44.