

Word Formation Processes in Masbatenyo

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Abstract

Masbatenyo (also called *Masbateño* or *Minasbate*; ISO 639-3 identifier *msb*) refers to the language spoken in the island province of Masbate in Bicol Region, the Philippines. This paper is drawn from an endogenous ethnographic study conducted by the lead author which utilized a 400,000-word corpora from written, actual spoken, and narrative data gathered from 2017-2019 in the province of Masbate. Specifically, this presentation focuses on Masbatenyo's word formation processes, which include the following: stem-based affixation (stem-forming affixes ka-, pag-, taga-/paga-, paN-, paka-, pakig-), compounding (endocentric, exocentric, synthetic, copulative), reduplication (nouns, adjectives, verbs, other lexical categories), and prefixation (uru-, Curu-). Pedagogical implications particularly in the teaching of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) are provided in light of the findings of this study.

1 Introduction

Aimed at contributing to the Philippine linguistic ecology particularly in the dearth of local literature, this study has been conducted to document the Masbatenyo language, which is a language spoken in the island province of Masbate in the Bicol Region, Philippines. Eberhard et al. (2022) classifies Masbatenyo as Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Central Philippines, Central Philippines, Bisayan, Central, Peripheral. It also rates Masbatenyo's language status as 3 (Wider communication) based on EGIDS or Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale, which means that it is a language used for wider communication at various domains such as home, work, and market. Situated at the center

of the Philippine archipelago and at the linguistic crossroads of surrounding islands of Bicol, Southern Tagalog, Romblon, Panay, Cebu, and Samar-Leyte, Masbate is a melting pot of dialects and cultures, making it a plurilingual/multilingual province with diverse tongues and competing grammatical systems.

2 Method

This study adopted an endogenous ethnographic study (Ginkel, 1994), which is a type of ethnography that allows a researcher to examine their own culture using an insider lens. With this approach, the primary author, as an endo-ethnographer who is a Masbatenyo native speaker, is put in a privileged position because of his a priori intimate knowledge and comprehensive view of my own culture and society. Following the tenets of ethnographic research, this approach requires methods such as field work, participant observation, interview, and examination of materials, texts, or artifacts to obtain data. Recording occurred in multiple narrative, text, voice, and video formats (DePoy & Gitlin, 2016). This paper has adapted theoretical frameworks as described in the syntactic typology of Philippine languages (Reid & Liao, 2004) and the Philippine transitivity and ergativity (Payne, 1982). Other frameworks on phonology and morphosyntactic principles helped facilitate the analysis and understanding of the morphosyntax of Masbatenyo, and these include morphosyntax (Payne, 1997), clause types Dixon and Aikhenvald's (2000), and morphosyntactic studies on Philippine languages such as nominals and noun markers (Dita, 2007), and clitics (Tanangkingsing, 2017).

3 Findings

3.1 Masbatenyo Word Formation Processes

While the authors posit that there is no clear-cut classification of word parts into nouns, adjectives, and verbs in Masbatenyo, the authors subscribe to Nolasco's (2007) observation that the interrelationships among roots, affixes, and particles and their use in discourse determine their classification. Using Nolasco's (2007) stem-based system analytical framework (also called "sapin-sapin hypothesis") the following subsections describe how affixes affect the classification of Masbatenyo root words into the different word classes such as nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Compounding and reduplication are also discussed. A root or root word is the core of a word that is irreducible into more meaningful elements (Katamba, 2006). It is the "basic element" (Fortes, 2002, p. 17), which can be left bare or to which a prefix or a suffix can attach (Kemmer, 2018). A morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit in the grammar of a language. A root contains either a free or a bound morpheme. A free morpheme can function independently as words (*kanam* 'play', *surat* 'write, letter'), while a bound morpheme appears only as part of a word, always in conjunction with a root and sometimes with other bound morphemes. Meanwhile, a stem is where the last affix is added, and it can either be in free form with only a root, or it can be in bound form with a root and a derivational stem-forming affix (Nolasco, 2005).

Bound morphemes can further be classified as derivational or inflectional morphemes. Derivational morphemes change the semantic meaning or part of speech of the affected word when combined with a root, whereas inflectional morphemes modify the tense, aspect, mood, person, or number of a verb; or the number, gender, or case of a noun, adjective, or pronoun without affecting the word's meaning or class (Baerman, 2015). Affixes are bound morphemes added to the root or stem to form a new word. Affixes can be attached before a root or stem (prefixes), after a root or stem (suffixes), within a root or stem (infixes), and before and after a root or stem (circumfixes).

Examples of derivational affixes are in the word *pagpaarado* 'plowing a field', as used in the following example:

May aram=ka sa pagpaarado?
EXI IPERF-know=ABS.2s OBL IPERF-plow.a.field
'Do you know anything about plowing a field?'

The root *arado* 'plow', a noun, is a free morpheme. It becomes a bound morpheme with the addition of a causative prefix *pa-* to derive *paarado* 'to plow a field', a verb. The addition of the prefix *pag-* to this derived form *paarado* makes it a stem for the derivation of *pagpaarado* 'plowing a field', a verb and a noun. The next section discusses stem-based affixation.

3.1.1 Stem-based affixation

Stem-based analysis predicts that a word with multiple affixes will have layered structures. Nolasco (2008, 2011) proposed a simplified stem-based system to analyze voice forms in verbs with the same root or stem but with different voice affixes in Philippine languages. Nolasco posited that the stem-based analysis is a neater approach to word-formation and word analysis because it shows the formal and functional relationship between words with the same root. With stem-based analysis, attaching simultaneously the different affixes found in a word is not needed. Furthermore, the proximity or remoteness of meanings of words with the same root depends on the similarities of their stems (Nolasco, 2008).

Following Nolasco's (2011) stem-based analysis, the most productive of stem-forming affixes for verbs are *ka-*, *pag-*, *paN-*, *paka-*, and *pakig-*, which prepare the constructions for the attachment of new affixes to form new verbs. With this analysis, the root-based affixes are simplified into four voice forms: *an-*, *i-*, *-on* (the reflex of *in-* affix in Tagalog), and *-um-~m-* (where *m-* is a replacive affix and is an allomorph of *-um-*). The *m-* replaces the first sound of *ka-*, *pag-*, *paka-*, *pakig-*, and *paN-* stems which produce the *ma-*, *mag-*, *mang-*, *maka-*, and *makig-* verbs. Employing this analysis, a verb in an intransitive construction has the voice affixes *-um-~m-*, whereas a verb in a transitive construction contains the voice affixes *-an*, *i-*, and *-on*. Aside from its application in verb formation processes, the stem-based analysis can also be applied in the analysis of noun and adjective formation.

Adopting Nolasco's (2006, 2008) stem-based analysis system, the following sections provides examples of applications of the stem-

forming system of affixation in Masbateno to form verbs, nouns, and adjectives.

3.1.1.1 Stem-forming affixes

Stem-based affixation is evident in some Philippine languages like those presented by Nolasco (2006, 2008) such as Sorsoganon, Tagalog, Ilokano, Cebuano, and Agusan Manobo. His examples show that these languages commonly use the stem-forming

affixes *ka-*, *pag-*, *paN-*, *paka-*, and *pakig-* in producing nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The following subsections provide examples of these stem-forming affixes as employed in the present data of Masbateno.

3.1.1.1.1 The stem-forming affix *ka-*

When the stem-forming affix *ka-* is attached to roots and other affixes, it results in the formation of nouns, adjectives, and verbs, as shown in the table below.

Table 1

The Stem-forming Affix ka-

	Affixes	Root	Gloss	Affixed	Gloss
Noun	<i>ka-</i>	ayo	‘kaayo’	<i>ka-</i> ayuhan	‘goodness’
		takin	‘side’	<i>ka-</i> ta(ra)kin	‘neighbor’
		manghod	‘sibling’	<i>ka-</i> ma(ra)nghod	‘siblings’
Adjective	<i>-um-~m</i>	pawa	‘light, bright’	<i>m- +ka-</i> pawa	‘bright’
		lisod	‘difficult’	<i>m- +ka-</i> lisod	‘difficult’
Verb	<i>-um-~m</i>	kadumdum	‘to remember’	<i>n- +ka-</i> dumduman	‘remembered’
		balyo	‘to exchange’	<i>n- +ka-</i> balyuan	‘exchanged’

As can be seen from Table 1, the stem-forming affix *ka-* may attach to a root to form common nouns, as shown in the following sentences:

Sin-o an imo **katakin** yana?
 who DET GEN.2s neighbor now
 ‘Who is your neighbor now?’

The *ka-* may also be attached to a suffixed root to form abstract nouns, as illustrated in (4.4). Note that the affix *ka-* is attached to *ayo* ‘good’ to form *kaayo* ‘good’, then *kaayo* is suffixed with *-an* to form *kaayuhan* ‘goodness.’

Ginapangamuyo=ko gayod pirmi na sira puro la **kaayuhan**
 IPERF-pray=ERG.1s PAR always LIG hope pure PAR
 goodness
 an mag-abot sa aton buhay.
 DET IPERF-come OBL GEN.1pi life
 ‘I always pray that only pure goodness comes to our life.’

To form an adjective, the affix *ka-* may also be attached to the replacive *-um-~m*, as shown in (4.5). In this example, *kapawa* ‘bright’ is formed by affixing the derivational affix *ka-* to

pawa ‘brightness’. Then *m-* replaces the initial *k-* to form *mapawa* ‘bright.’

Kadayaw siguro kay **mapawa** an kalangitan.
 full.moon perhaps TL bright DET sky
 ‘Perhaps it’s full moon because the sky is bright.’

Following the same process, the affix *ka-* may also be attached to a root for a verb, as exemplified below with the word *nabalyuan* ‘exchanged’. The word *kabalyo* ‘exchange’ comes from *ka-* + *balyo* ‘exchange’. This in is attached to the suffix *an-* to form *kabalyuan* ‘exchange partner’ or ‘something in exchange’. Finally *n-* replaces the initial *k-* to form *nabalyuan* ‘exchanged.’

Baga an **nabalyuan** gad ini na akon yamit.
 seem DET exchanged PAR this LIG OBL.1s clothes
 ‘It seems like my clothes has been exchanged.’

3.1.1.1.2 The stem-forming affix *pag-*

When the stem-forming affix *pag-* is attached to roots and other affixes, it forms nouns and verbs.

Table 2

The Stem-forming Affix pag-

	Affixes	Root	Gloss	Affixed	Gloss
Noun	<i>-um-~m</i>	tuba	‘coconut wine’	ma(g)nuba+R	‘coconut wine maker’
Verb	<i>-um-~m</i>	pangamuyo	‘prayer’	<i>pag-</i> pangamuyo, <i>mag-</i> pangamuyo	‘praying’

Table 2 illustrates that the new words are formed when the replacive *m-* for nouns and the replacive *m-* for verbs are attached to derived stems. The process of forming the derived form *manunuba* ‘coconut wine maker’ starts with *pag-* + *tuba* ‘coconut wine’. Reduplication transforms *pagtuba* into *pagtutuba* ‘to make coconut wine’. The *m-* replaces the initial *p-* of the stem.

Manunuba an ama=ko.
coconut.wine.maker DET father=GEN.1s
‘My father is a coconut wine maker.’

Table 3

The Stem-forming Affix taga-/paga-

	Affixes	Root	Gloss	Affixed	Gloss
Noun	<i>taga-</i>	Masbate	‘Masbate’	<i>taga+stem</i> (Masbate)	‘from Masbate’
		uma	‘farm’	<i>taga+stem</i> (farm)	‘from the farm’
Verb	<i>-um-~m</i>	siyak	‘to shout’	<i>naga-siyak+R</i>	‘is shouting’
		giok	‘to thresh rice’	<i>naga-giok</i>	‘is threshing rice’

As can be seen from Table 3, *taga-* is attached to a locative noun root expressing the place of origin of a person, which could be a proper noun (e.g., *taga-Masbate* ‘from Masbate’) or a common noun (e.g., *taga-uma* ‘from the farm’).
Nag-arabot na an mga **taga-Masbate**.
IPERF-arrive PAR DET PLU from=Masbate
‘Those who are from Masbate have already arrived.’

Taga-uma ako pero dili ako maaram
from=Masbate ABS.1s CONJ NEG ABS.1s IPERF-know

maghasok kag magsanggi OBL corn
IPERF-plant CONJ IPERF-harvest sin mais.
‘I’m from the farm but I do not know how to plant and harvest corn.’

Meanwhile, when the replacive *n-* is used to replace the first sound of *paga-* stem, verbs in

Table 4

The Stem-forming Affix paN-

	Affixes	Root	Gloss	Affixed	Gloss
Noun	<i>paN-</i>	tanom	‘to plant’	<i>paN-(t)anom</i>	‘plant’
		kita	‘to see, income’	<i>paN-(+g)(k)ita</i>	‘work’
Verb	<i>paN-</i>	baligya	‘to sell’	<i>paN-(b)(m)aligya</i>	‘to sell’
		bakal	‘to buy’	<i>paN-(b)(+m)akal</i>	‘to buy’

Meanwhile, the stem-based affix *pag-* forms verbs that denote imperfective aspect when attached to roots, as shown in the following example.

Uupudan=mo sinda **pagpangamuyo** sa
PROS-accompany=ERG.2s ABS.3s IPERF-pray
OBL
simbahan niyan?
church later
‘Will you accompany them in praying in the church later?’

3.1.1.1.3 The stem-forming affix *taga-/paga-*

When the stem-based affixes *taga-* and *paga-* are attached to roots and other affixes, they form nouns and verbs.

imperfective aspect are formed, as in *nagasiyak* ‘shouting’ from *siyak* ‘to shout’, *nagagiok* ‘threshing rice’ from *giok* ‘to thresh’, and *nagakanta* ‘singing’ from *kanta* ‘song, to sing’.

Nano kay **nagasiyak**=ka dida?
why TL IPERF-shout=ABS.2s there
‘Why are you shouting there?’

Nagagiok siya myintras **nagakanta**.
IPERF-thresh.rice ABS.3s CONJ IPERF-sing
S/He’s threshing rice while singing.

3.1.1.1.4 The stem-forming affix *paN-*

When the stem-forming affix *paN-* is attached to roots and other affixes, it forms nouns and verbs.

There is no change if the roots begins with the consonant *r*. Likewise, there is also no change in this affix before words starting with the consonants *d*, *n*, *s* and *t*, although the first letter of the root is dropped, as in the noun *pananom* ‘plants’ from *tanom* ‘to plant’.

Nano an iyo mga **pananom** didi?
 what DET GEN.2p PLU plant here
 ‘What are your plants here?’

Meanwhile, the prefix *paN-* changes to *pang-* before *k* and the *k* drops, as in *kita* ‘to see, income’ to form the noun *pangita* ‘work’.

Maayo ini na imo **pangita** kay dako an kita.
 good this LIG GEN.2s work TL big DET income
 ‘It’s good that your work has a big income.’

Note that nasal assimilation occurs under the affix *paN-* where the letter *n* transforms to

Table 5

The Stem-forming Affix paka-

	Affixes	Root	Gloss	Affixed	Gloss
Noun	<i>-um-~m</i>	sala	‘sin’	<i>m-</i> ‘nominal affix’ + (<i>paka</i> + <i>sala</i>) + R	‘sinner’
Verb	<i>-um-~m</i>	batiag	‘to feel’	<i>m-</i> ‘verbal affix’ + (<i>paka</i> - + <i>batiag</i>)	‘feel’
		uli	‘to go home’	<i>m-</i> ‘verbal affix’ + (<i>paka</i> - + <i>uli</i>)	‘go home’

The attachment of the *m-* ‘nominal affix’ to *paka*+*sala* and reduplicating its first syllable results in a trait or characteristic exhibited by a person (i.e., *makasala* ‘sinner’).

Makasala an tanan na tawo sa kalibutan.
 sinner DET all LIG person OBL earth
 ‘All people on earth are sinners.’

Meanwhile, the attachment of *m-* ‘verbal affix’ to *paka*+*batiag* and attachment to the root denotes the imperfective aspect of the verb like in *makabatiag* ‘feel’ from *batiag* ‘to feel’ and *makauli* ‘go home’ from *uli* ‘to go home’, as shown in the following sentences.

Table 6

The Stem-forming Affix pakig-

	Affixes	Root	Gloss	Affixed	Gloss
Verb	<i>pakig-</i>	bulig	‘help’	<i>pakig</i> bulig	‘to seek help’
		upod	‘to get along’	<i>pakig</i> -upod	‘to get along with others’
		amigo/amiga	‘friend’	<i>pakig</i> - amigo/amiga	‘to make friends’

either *m* (i.e., from *pan-* to *pam-*) or to *ŋ* (i.e., from *pan-* to *paŋ-*) depending on the consonants following the affix, as shown in the following examples:

Maupod=ka **pagpamakal**=ko sin mga panakot
 PROS-go=ABS.2s IPERF-buy=ERG.1s OBL PLU ingredient

para sa aton mga ruluuon?
 CONJ OBL GEN.1pi PLU dish.to.be.cooked
 ‘Will you go with me to buy the ingredients for our dishes?’

Ginpamaligya na ninda an inda mga kadutaan.
 PERF-sell PAR ERG.3p DET GEN.3p PLU land
 ‘They already sold their lands.’

3.1.1.1.5 The stem-forming affix *paka-*

When attached to roots and other affixes, the stem-forming affix *paka-* forms nouns and verbs, as shown in the table below.

Dili=ka **makabatiag** sin sakit kun
 magtumar=ka
 NEG=ABS.2s IPERF-feel OBL pain CONJ IPERF-
 take=ABS.2s
 san imo bulong.
 OBL GEN.2s medicine
 ‘You can’t feel pain if you take your medicine.’

Makauli na kita kay tapos na man an
 misa.
 IPERF-go.home PAR ABS.1pi CONJ done PAR PAR DET
 mass
 ‘We can now go home because the mass has already ended.’

3.1.1.1.6 The stem-forming affix *pakig-*

When attached to roots, the stem-forming affix *pakig-* forms verbs. Some examples are presented in the table below.

Batiag=ko an iyo pakig-usad sa
 amon.
 feel=ERG.1s DET GEN.2p IPERF-to.be.one.with.others
 OBL.1pe
 'I can feel you're being one with us.'

3.1.1.2 Compounding

Compounding is a word formation process based on the combination of lexical elements (words or stems). This section adopts De Guzman's (2005) compound types in describing compounds in Masbatenyo. These include the following: (1) endocentric or headed compounds, (2) exocentric or headless compounds, (3) synthetic compounds, and (4) copulative compounds. The following subsections describe Masbatenyo compounds for at least three major classes of words, namely, N(oun), V(erb), and A(djective).

Table 7
Masbatenyo's Endocentric (headed) Compounds

	Pattern	Example	Compound	Gloss
Noun	N + N]N	tubig 'water' + uran 'rain' bunga=n(g) 'fruit' + kahoy 'tree'	tubig-uran bungan kahoy	'rainwater' 'fruit (from trees)'
	A + N]N	bag-o=n 'new' + tuig 'year'	bag-on tuig	'New Year'
Adjective	V + N]N	abri 'open' + lata 'can, tin'	abri-lata	'can opener'
	A + N]A	isip 'mind/thought' + bata 'young/child'	isip-bata	'immature'
		isip 'mind/thought' + gurang 'old/adult'	isip-gurang	'mature'
		baho=n 'smell like' + isda 'fish'	bahon isda	'fishy smelling'
		rasa=n 'smell like' + manok 'chicken'	rasan manok	'chicken tasting'
		tunga=n(g) 'half' + gab-i 'night' wara=n 'nothing' + alo 'shame' sira 'broken' + ulo 'head'	tungan(g) gab-i waran alo sira-ulo	'midnight' 'shameless' 'crazy'

Table 7 provides some examples of Masbatenyo endocentric compounds under noun and adjective categories. In forming an endocentric noun compound, two patterns are presented. The first pattern, N+N]N, combines two nouns (e.g., tubig 'water' + uran 'rain' = tubig-uran 'rainwater'), while the second pattern, V+N]N, combines verbs and nouns (e.g., abri 'open' + lata 'can/tin' = abri-lata 'can opener'), which all produce noun compounds. Meanwhile, the combination of adjective and noun forms adjective compounds, A+N]A (e.g., isip 'mind/thought' + bata 'young/child' = isip-bata 'immature').

Masalod kita sin tubig-uran niyan kay
 IPERF-catch ABS.1pi OBL rainwater later because

3.1.1.2.1 Endocentric (headed) compounds

Between the two words that usually form a compound word, one is said to function as the head and the other the non-head. Masbatenyo, just like Tagalog, is typically left-headed; that is, the category of the new compound word is typically the same as that of its headword. Depending on the category of the head, the function of the non-head in relation to its head can be determined, and given this relation, the meaning of the whole compound can typically be drawn. The following table presents some of Masbatenyo's endocentric or headed compounds.

baga=n tika-uran na.
 seem=DET IPERF-about.to.rain PAR

'Let's catch some rainwater later because it seems that's it's about to rain already.'

Nasira niya an abri-lata kaya wara lugod
 IPERF-break ERG.3s DET can.opener CONJ NEG PAR
 kami sin sura yana.
 ABS.1pe OBL viand now
 'S/He broke the can opener that's why we don't have a viand now.'

3.1.1.2.2 Exocentric (headless) compounds

Exocentric (headless) compounds have forms similar to the endocentric ones. Syntactically, most combinations appear to have a head and a modifier or a complement, but the functional relation between the constituents do not necessarily carry over to the semantic

interpretation of the whole compound word. For example, a N + N form such as *balay* ‘house’ + *bata* ‘child’ does not in any way mean ‘house of a child’ but rather it is a nominal meaning ‘uterus’. In this example, we see that the category of the supposed left head does not percolate to the compound. However, a closer analysis of the individual meanings of the two constituents together brings out the semantic content of the whole compound. In the previous

example, literally the meaning is ‘house of a child’ which suggests the nominal meaning of ‘uterus’ for it is a body part that ‘houses a child’. This indicates that with exocentric compounds, the semantic content transcends what the individual meanings of the constituents denote (De Guzman, 2005). The table below presents some of Masbatenyo’s exocentric compounds.

Table 8
Masbatenyo’s Exocentric (headless) Compounds

	Pattern	Example	Compound	Gloss
Noun	N + N N	balay ‘house’ + bata ‘child’	balay-bata	‘uterus’
	A + N N	patay ‘dead’ + gutom ‘hunger’	patay-gutom	‘a vagabond’
Adjective	A + V A	bag-o=n ‘new’ + salta ‘get.on.shore/land’	bag-on salta	‘ignorant’ (Lit., ‘newly landed’)
	N + N A	ugali=n ‘character’ + hayop ‘animal’	ugalin-hayop	‘rude, ill- mannered’
		isip ‘mind/thought’ + lamok ‘mosquito’	isip-lamok	‘stupid’
	V + N A	agaw ‘snatch’ + buhay ‘life’	agaw-buhay	‘dying’ (Lit., ‘to snatch life’)

Tuna san ginbiyaan siya san iya mga
since OBL PERF-abandon ABS.3s LIG GEN.3s PLU
ginikanan бага na siya an **patay-gutom**.
Parent seem LIG ABS.3s DET vagabond
‘Since s/he was abandoned by his/her parents, s/he seems
like a vagabond.’

3.1.1.2.3 Synthetic compounds

Synthetic compounds are those forms in which one of the constituents is a deverbal N. One of the most common deverbalizing affixes in Masbatenyo is *pang-* which derives V into instrumental Ns, thus rendering the derived N with the meaning ‘used for V-ing’. Some Masbatenyo synthetic compounds are presented in the table below.

Table 9
Masbatenyo Synthetic Compounds

	Pattern	Example	Compound	Gloss
Noun	<i>pang-</i> V N + N N	<i>pang-</i> patay (=pamatay) ‘used.for.killing’ + kagaw ‘germ’	pamatay-kagaw	‘germ-killer’
		<i>pang-</i> patay (=pamatay) ‘used.for.killing’ + lamok ‘mosquito’	pamatay-lamok	‘mosquito- killer’

Maayo ini na sabon kay **pamatay-kagaw** ini.
good this LIG soap TL germ-killer this
‘This is a good soap because it’s a germ-killer.’

categories form a compound in which not one is head and their joint meanings comprise its composite meaning. Some forms of this type are allied to exocentric type in terms of the unpredictability of their meaning. Some Masbatenyo copulative compounds are presented in the table below.

3.1.1.2.4 Copulative compounds

Copulative compounds are those that are formed when two related words of identical

Table 10*Masbatenyo Copulative Compounds*

	Pattern	Example	Compound	Gloss
Noun	N + N N	limon ‘kalamansi’ + patis ‘fish sauce’	limon-patis	‘a mixture of kalamansi juice and fish sauce’
Adjective	V + V A	atras ‘backward’ + abanti ‘forward’	atras-abanti	‘indecisive, ambivalent’
Verb	V + V V	sakat ‘go up’ + lusad ‘go down’	sakat-lusad	‘to move up and down’
		unlod ‘sink’ + lutaw ‘appear’	unlod-lutaw	‘to appear and disappear’
		guwa ‘go outside’ + sulod ‘go inside’	guwa-sulod	‘to go outside and inside’

Kamakabaradli gani sani na mga bata sin
 annoying PAR this LIG PLU child ERG
 kakaguwa-sulod.
 IPERF-go.outside.and.inside

These kids are really annoying for going outside and inside repeatedly.’

3.1.1.2.5 Reduplication

Reduplication is a very distinct characteristic of Austronesian languages including the Philippine-type languages. Hurch (2005) defined reduplication as a morphological process in which the root or stem of a word or part of it or even the whole word is repeatedly exactly or with a slight change. Nevins and Vaux (2003) noted that reduplication is found in a wide range languages and language groups around the world, though its level of linguistic productivity varies. It is often used when a speaker adopts a tone more “expressive” or figurative than ordinary speech and is also

often, but not exclusively, iconic in meaning. In Masbatenyo, reduplication is probably one of the most dominant and interesting features. It occurs among nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and also numerals. Furthermore, the wide range of reduplication signals various meanings such as plurality, intensity, iterativity, frequency, limitation, inter alia.

Some examples of reduplication among word classes in Masbatenyo are presented in separate tables below. Note that the discussion of these word classes are subsumed in their own chapters in this dissertation.

3.1.1.2.5.1 Reduplication in Nouns

Masbatenyo noun reduplication usually indicates plurality. The reduplicant shape depends on the CV morphological structure of the base word. Some examples of the reduplicated nouns are presented below.

Table 11*Reduplication in Nouns*

Base	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
istakan	‘container’	<i>uru</i> -istakan	‘mini/toy container’
ingkudan	‘chair’	<i>uru</i> -ingkudan	‘mini/toy chair’
baruto	‘boat’	<i>buru</i> -baruto	‘mini/toy boat’
platito	‘saucer’	<i>puru</i> -platito	‘mini/toy saucer’
balay	‘house’	<i>balay</i> -balay	‘small house’; ‘households’
ido	‘dog’	<i>ido</i> -ido	‘toy dog’

3.1.1.2.5.2 Reduplication in Adjectives

Reduplication in adjectives encodes intensity, moderation, and superlativity. Consider the following examples.

Table 12*Reduplication in Adjectives*

Base	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
maputi	‘white’	maputi-puti	‘very white’
madulom	‘dark’	madulom-dulom	‘very dark’
manamit	‘delicious’	manamit-namit	‘very delicious’
maniwang	‘thin’	maniwang-niwang	‘very thin’
maarat	‘salty’	maarat-arat	‘somewhat salty’
maaslom	‘sour’	maaslom-aslom	‘somewhat’
matulin	‘fast’	matulin-tulin	‘very fast’
mahinay	‘slow’	mahinay-hinay	‘very slow’

3.1.1.2.5.3 Reduplication in Verbs

Reduplication in verbs signals the number of agents, iterativity of the action, and

frequency of action. The table below presents some examples of these verbs.

Table 13*Reduplication in Verbs*

Base	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
lakat	‘walk’	naglakat-lakat	‘keeps on walking’
inom	‘drink’	nag-inom-inom	‘keeps on drinking’
lumpat	‘jump’	Naglumpat-lumpat	‘kept on jumping’
tawa	‘laugh’	nagtawa-tawa	‘keeps on laughing’
balik	‘move back’	nagbinalik-balik	‘kept on coming back’
sayaw	‘dance’	nagsayaw-sayaw	‘keeps on dancing’
surat	‘write’	nagsinurat-surat	‘kept on scribbling’
hikap	‘touch’	naghikap-hikap	‘keeps on touching’

3.1.1.2.5.4 Reduplication in Other Lexical Categories

Reduplication in adverbs may also occur in Masbatenyo. The process seems to encode

intensity and emphasis. Consider the following examples.

Table 14*Reduplication in Adverbs*

Base	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
adlaw	‘day’	adlaw-adlaw	‘every day’
bulan	‘month’	bulan-bulan	‘every month’
dali	‘immediate’, ‘hurry’	dali-dali	‘immediately’, ‘hurriedly’, ‘haphazardly’
ungod	‘diligent’	ungod-ungod	‘diligently’
sutoy	‘continuous’	sutoy-sutoy	‘non-stop’

Numerals also exhibit reduplication, which primarily encodes ordinal or sequential and

limitative meaning. The examples below illustrate this.

Table 15*Reduplication in Numerals*

Base	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
isad/usad	‘one’	isad-isad/ usad-usad	‘one by one’, ‘individually’
duha/duwa	‘two’	duha-duha/ duwa-duwa	‘by pairs’

tulo	‘three’	<i>tulu</i> -tulo	‘by threes’
upat	‘four’	(tag-) <i>upat</i> -upat	‘four each’
pito	‘seven’	(tag-) <i>pitu</i> -pito	‘seven each’

4 Conclusion

This paper discussed some important features of Masbatenyo morphology. These include the word formation processes including affixation, compounding and reduplication process that happens in some Masbatenyo lexical categories such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, and other lexical categories such as adverbs and numerals. The findings offered may be used to provide richer characterization of the language, and as a reference in the preparation of instructional materials for the mother tongue-based multilingual education (MTBMLE), and for the creation of Masbatenyo orthography. As the discussion presented here is not exhaustive, future research may further explore the complex affix system of Masbatenyo across its dialects, particularly the semantic roles that are cross-referenced by the affixes.

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