

Thesis & Dissertation Abstracts

A Grammar of Itneg Inlaud

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Itneg Inlaud is an Austronesian language spoken in Abra, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur in the northern Philippines. Facing rapid language loss and remaining largely undocumented, this study provides the first comprehensive grammatical description, situating the language within its social and linguistic context. Drawing primarily on natural texts from the Itneg Inlaud Language Documentation Project and supplemented by elicited materials, the study documents the sound system, core morphosyntax, and clause structures, including serial verb constructions (SVCs), subordination, and coordination, while placing these features within a wider typological comparison of related Philippine languages.

Adopting a functional-typological approach, the study links structural features to communicative functions and frames them within cross-linguistic comparison using typologically transparent descriptive categories. Findings are presented across ten chapters, covering Itneg

Inlaud's agglutinative morphology, ERGATIVE–ABSOLUTIVE syntax, and predicate-initial word order.

Its phonology is conservative, with 14 consonants, four vowels, phonemic stress, and common morphophonemic processes. Referential phrases and pronouns show rich case and number marking, while modifiers (adjectives, quantifiers, and adverbs) display intricate inflectional and syntactic behavior.

The grammar describes four non-verbal clause types (nominal, modificational, existential, and prepositional) and verbal clauses marked for modality and transitivity, alongside derived and pragmatically marked constructions such as INVERSE, NEGATIVE, IMPERATIVE, and INTERROGATIVE clauses. Valency-changing operations (e.g., detransitives and causatives) and clause-combining strategies, including motion-directional SVCs, complement and relative clauses, and varied coordination, are also examined.

Beyond description, the study advances typological and comparative research on Philippine languages. Itneg Inlaud's conservative phonology, distinctive pronoun system, and SVC patterns reveal both shared and unique traits within the Kalinga-Itneg group and the wider Cordilleran area. This grammar provides a vital foundation for future research, language teaching, and language revitalization—ensuring Itneg Inlaud's voice endures within the rich tapestry of Philippine languages.

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Imperative Constructions in Marinduque Tagalog

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This thesis investigates the morphosyntactic structure of imperatives in Marinduque Tagalog (MT), a regional dialect that retains the Proto-Central Philippine IMPERATIVE paradigm. It examines four key grammatical areas essential to the expression of imperatives: within the verbal complex, it analyzes voice, modality, and aspect; at the syntactic interface, it explores the behavior of the subject pronoun that indexes the addressee. Together, these features characterize the grammatical conditions under which imperative constructions are formed and interpreted.

The study shows that: (a) the IMPERATIVE voice system in MT, while largely intact, exhibits functional overlap and partial realignment in the distribution of its affixes; (b) IMPERATIVE morphology interacts systematically with modal elements that modulate directive force; (c) imperatives in MT may be inflected for the PROSPECTIVE aspect, contrary to widely held typological claims; and (d) the obligatory omission of the subject pronoun is licensed by an inherent reference to a singular second-person addressee encoded in the IMPERATIVE morphology.

Although this study focuses on a single language variety, the findings have broader implications for other Central Philippine languages that employ the same paradigm. The patterns observed in the data also point to a possible developmental pathway that may underlie the attrition of these forms in other dialects of Tagalog.

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Complex Constructions in Pangasinan

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Complex constructions are salient part of any comprehensive grammar description of any language. It does not only demonstrate the syntactic rules that come into play, but it, moreover, provides a clearer expression on how complex ideas and relationships between pieces of information are effectively conveyed through the combination of clauses. In this paper, complex constructions refer to compound and complex sentences in Pangasinan. Both constructions play a huge role in discourse and text production. This study does not only provide an overview of Pangasinan morphosyntax, but also provides a syntactic and semantic description on how complex constructions are formed in Pangasinan. The discussion also includes conjunctions, relativizers as well as complement-taking verbs (CTVs) used in forming coordinating, adverbial/subordinating, complement and relative clauses.

In Pangasinan, compound sentences are formed by connecting two clauses either with coordinating or subordinating conjunctions. Coordinating and adverbial/subordinating fall under this classification. The former speaks of the connection of two verbal clauses of equal grammatical status, whereas the latter attaches and adds some information to the already complete propositions (Payne, 1997). Coordinating clauses in Pangasinan are either additive or alternative, whereas adverbial/subordinating clauses are temporal, consequential and purposive. In contrast, complex sentences are formed when a particular construction is inserted into the matrix clause (MC)

either through the process of complementation or embedding. Complement and relative clauses belong to this typology. Complement clauses function as the object (O) argument of the verb in the matrix clause that is usually represented by NP. In Pangasinan, there are four complementizers: 1) *ya*; 2) *na*; 3) *no*; and 4) *no + WH*. Complement-taking verbs (CTVs) select clauses as complements and determine the CC type selection. Relative clauses (RCs), on the other hand, function as modifier in the MC. Pangasinan RCs are marked by relativizer *ya*. The MC and the RC share a common argument (CA) which functions as the binding element between the MC and RC, where the RC works as a modifier of the CA in the MC. The RCs in Pangasinan are usually adjacent to the CAs. Same relativizers are used regardless if the CA is the agent or the object in the RC. There are also no explicit changes observed regarding relativizers used regardless of the function of the CA in the RC.

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