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The Systematization of Tagalog Morphosyntax

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## Abbreviations

AF	agent focus
AFF	affective focus
BF	benefactive focus
CeeF	causee focus
CF	cause focus
CRCF	causative reciprocal focus
CRF	cause reciprocal focus
DF	directional focus
ECF	experiencer cause focus
EF	experiencer focus
EFO	experiencer focus with a local complement
GF	goal focus
IF	instrumental focus
impf	imperfective
INV.ACF	involuntary actor focus
FIN	final (conjunction)
LF	locative focus
LK	linking particle
non-T	non-topic
OF	object focus
PA	personal article
perf	perfective
RCF	reciprocal focus
stat	stative
TOP	topic

## 1. Introductory Remarks

In the last two decades Philippine languages, and of these especially Tagalog, have acquired a prominent place in linguistic theory. A central role in this discussion was played by two papers written by Schachter (1976 and 1977), who was inspired by Keenan's article on the subject from 1976. The most recent contributions on this topic have been from de Wolff (1988) and Shibatani (1988), both of which were published in a collection of essays, edited by Shibatani, with the title *Passive and Voice*. These works, and several works in-between, deal with the focus system specific to Philippine languages. The main discussion centers around the fact that Philippine languages contain a basic set of 5 to 7 affix focus forms. Their exact number varies not only in the secondary literature, but in the primary sources, i.e. Tagalog grammars, as well, where considerable differences in the number of affix focus forms can be found. All of these works, however, do agree on one point: the Philippine focus system basically consists of agent, patient (=goal or object), benefactive, locative, and instrumental affix forms. Schachter/Otanes (1972) list a number of further forms, and in Drossard (1983 and 1984) we tried to show (in an attempt similar to those of Sapir 1917 and Klimov 1977) that the main criterion for a systematization of the Philippine focus system consists in the difference between the active and stative domains, an attempt which in our opinion was largely misunderstood (cf. the brief remarks in Shibatani (1988) and de Wolff (1988)). The present paper is thus, on the one hand, an attempt to repeat and clarify our earlier position, and on the other, a further step towards such a systematization. A first step in this direction was an article on resultativity in Tagalog from 1991. In the present paper this approach will be extended to reciprocity. In the process we will show that it is valid to make a distinction between an active (=controlled action) vs. a stative (=limited controlled action) domain. First, however, we will take a brief look at what makes up the active and stative voice systems.

## 2. Two voice systems: active vs. stative

In the following we will use the term active to denote controlled actions, i.e. those actions which are performed by the actor on purpose or under his or her conscious control. As opposed to this we will employ the term stative for:

- a) those actions in which the conscious/purposeful control of the actor is limited
- b) certain roles which by means of their marking are already coded as "non-actional" (e.g. EXPeriencer)

## 2.1 The active voice system

As described above Philippine languages are often said to have a minimal focus system consisting of agent, patient, benefactive, locative, and instrumental affix forms. This minimal system corresponds to the active voice system which by means of minor additions can be expanded and, depending on the source, may be subject to terminological differences. Thus, a good deal of variation exists in the quantity and quality of the focus forms found in the individual grammars.

In the following we will start from the assumption that the active focus system is made up of the following three basic agent affixes: *mag-*, *-um-*, and *mang-*. On the basis of these three forms, a series of "affix correspondence classes", as proposed by Schachter/Otanes (1972: 293ff), can be established, differentiated according to whether they are two or three place verbs. In this case we find that — depending on the verb class involved — patient focus forms (or, as Schachter/Otanes call them, object focus forms) have a relatively wide semantic range. They may add: 1) an *-an* suffix (e.g. to *anyaya* "to invite", *laba* "to wash", *walis* "to sweep"); 2) an *i-* prefix (to *handa* "to prepare", *luto* "to cook"); 3) the suffix *-in*, the latter probably being the most commonly used patient affix (to *hiwa* "to cut", *dala* "to pull"). In addition, we also occasionally find the prefix *ipag-*, an affix which is normally used to express benefactive focus (e.g. with *kanulo* "to deceive"), as well as *pag-...-an* (with *tiis* "to endure"). Semantic criteria, of course, determine the exact choice of the affix form used. In general grammatical summaries, only *one* verb form is usually given, i.e. one belonging to a particular verb class and thus to a particular focus form. This is not normally, however, misleading, since in most cases it is an attempt to demonstrate the morphosyntactic mechanisms of the language. In all of the above examples, i.e. with *-in*, *-an*, etc., focusing the object does not change the overall active character of the sentence. The focus system is a pragmatic-discourse regulated system that shifts the topic (or, as Foley/van Valin (1977) call it, the prominent peak) of the sentence to an object in order to move the emphasis from the peak of a no longer focused but still existing controlling agent to the object affected by it (cf. Drossard 1984). Thus, a sentence with benefactive focus maintains its active character. Putting it simply: who would be the beneficiary of an action if there was no "benefitter" (=agent)? Benefactive focus affix forms are generally listed as having an *i-* prefix (corresponding to verbs with an *-um-* stem) or an *ipag-* prefix (for *mag-* verbs). Considering the fact that these verbs have a triple valency (=three slots), we may also view the third slot as an indirect object (in the broadest sense). This grammatical relation of indirect object also applies to the directional focus of Schachter/Otanes and the locative focus of Ramos (1971,1974), respectively. These latter forms also differ in affixation: *-an* (for *abot* "to give something"), *-in* (for *alok* "to offer something"), *pag-...-an* (for *mag-bili* "to sell"). Instrumental focus can only be expressed by means of one affix: *ipang-*.

We thus arrive at a classical five-part system which, with the help of artificially constructed sentences, can be depicted in various ways, all of which confirm the system's basic premises. Let us cite a few examples from Schacher/Otanes (1972):

Example: *bigay* "to give"

1a)

AF: Nag-bigay siya sa akin ng surat  
 AF-give 3sg LOK 1sg LK letter  
 perf TOP  
 "He gave me a letter"

1b)

OF: B-in-igay niya sa akin ang surat  
 OF-give 3sg LOK 1 sg TOP letter  
 perf nonT  
 "He gave me the letter"

1c)

DF: B-in-igy-an niya ako ng surat  
 DF-give 3sg 1sg LK letter  
 perf nonT TOP  
 "He gave me a/the letter."

For Schacher/Otanes the last example demonstrates how "directional focus" focuses the addressee of an action. Furthermore, in these examples we find the three basic constituents of a Tagalog sentence: a) the topic with *ang* for common nouns (*si* for personal names and the corresponding "*ang*" pronouns for 1sg, 2sg, etc., i.e. *ako* for 1sg), b) the *ng* slot which as the second most important syntactic position introduces, *inter alia*, a non-focused object (and like *ang* has special forms for the personal article and pronouns), and finally c) the *sa* complement (with its own special forms for the personal article and pronouns) on the basis of which further syntactic positions may be created such as *para sa* for benefactives or *dahil sa* for causal relations.

Thus, the active domain may be systematized as follows (with OF=PF, DF=LF):

AF: *mag*, *-um-*, *mang-*

PF: *-in*, *-an*, *i-*

BF: *i-*, *ipag-*

LF: *-an*, *-in-*

IF: *ipang-*

As mentioned above it must be remembered that, statistically, the majority of object focus forms are expressed by means of *-in* affixes, whereas the majority of locative focus

forms use *-an*. This latter fact is of particular importance for establishing correspondences in the stative voice system.

## 2.2 The stative voice system

### 2.2.1 Fixed stative marking

With the idea of fixed stative marking we mean that there are a considerable number of verbs which only take stative coding, i.e. a *ma-* affix. This group is especially made up of those verbs which express uncontrolled actions or feelings (INV-AG or EXP). Thus, whereas it is theoretically possible to stativize every active verb (i.e. those containing an *-um-*, *mag-*, or *mang-* affix), there are a certain number of verbs, which do not allow for *-um-*, *mag-* or *mang-* affixation, i.e. are restricted to their inherently stative *ma-* form. Since such verbs have generally been neglected, if not to say ignored, in the scientific literature, the following should only be taken as a representative sample:

#### MA-

*-awa* “to pity, have pity on”, *-bakla'* “to become worried about”, *-bako* “to fall into a hole, to have a disappointment”, *-bahala'* “to be worried”, *-bahaw* “to heal, to be healed”, *-baliw* “to be crazy”, *-bigala* “to be surprised, astounded”, *-bugnot* “to lose one’s temper”, *-habag* “to pity”, *-hilo* “to become dizzy”, etc.

A quick glance tells us that this list contains one and two place verbs. As our “experience” with the active voice system shows, two or more place verbs are characterized by focus variation. This means: if *-um-* or *mag-* affixes are the basis of certain benefactive, locative, or instrumental forms and these regularities can be related to “affix correspondence classes”, then the *ma-* base may serve as the starting point for further variants, which, together with *ma-*, themselves constitute “affix correspondence classes”. If we assume that *ma-* in the context of two-place verbal relations always focuses a limited affixed object then the variants are in every case — in the sense of Foley/van Valin (1984) — modifications of an ACTOR role.

The first major correspondence is between *ma-* and *maka-*.

### 2.2.1.1 “EXPeriencer” focus (=EF)

The standard example is the verb for “to see”. If the thing being perceived is focused, the affix *ma-* is used:

- 2a) Na-kita mo ba ang aksidente?  
 OF-see 2sg Q TOP accident  
 perf/stat nonT  
 “Did you see the accident?”

If the EXPeriencer is focused we get:

- 2b) Naka-kita ka ba ng aksidente?  
 EF-see 2sg Q LK accident  
 perf/stat TOP  
 “Did you see an accident?”

To this *ma-* : *maka-* correspondence belong *dinig* “to hear”, *halata*, *pansin* “to notice, become aware of”.

### 2.2.1.2 CAUSE (or natural force) focus (=CF)

Here we find a correspondence between *ma-* : *ika-*. *ma-* again focuses the object, whereas with *ika-* it is the cause (or natural force):

- 3a) Na-sira' ng bugso ang dampa  
 OF-destroy LK storm TOP hut  
 perf/stat  
 “A storm destroyed the hut”
- 3b) I-k-in-a-sira' ng dampa ang bugso  
 CF-destroy LK hut TOP storm  
 perf/stat  
 “The storm destroyed a/the hut”

It should be noted that *sira'* — if used with an agent in complete control of the situation — is always an *-um-* verb. Thus, the opposition *s-um-ira'* vs. *ika-sira'* (human causer vs. non-human causer) serves once more as a means of showing the fine line that separates the coding of the active and stative voice systems.

### 2.2.1.3 “EXP-CAUSE” focus (=ECF)

A correspondence exists between *ma-* and *ka-...-an* affix forms. In the first example a *sa* complement is added to an EXP verb in order to express the “object” that feelings are being shown for. With a *ka-...-an* affix, the *sa* complement advances to topic position and becomes part of an “EXP-CAUSE” construction:



- 4a) Na-awa sila sa pulubi  
 EF-pity 3pl LOK beggar  
 perf/stat TOP  
 “They felt pity towards a/the beggar”
- 4b) K-in-a-awa-an nila ang pulubi  
 ECF-pity 3pl TOP beggar  
 perf/stat nonT  
 “They pitied the beggar” or “The beggar caused them to feel pity”

Schachter/Otanes (ibid:314 ff) list the *ka-...-an* affix within the framework of a more general AF-LF (agent focus vs. locative focus) correspondence, i.e. as part of the same affix correspondence which includes *um- : pag-...-an* or *mag- : pag-...-an*.

Our distinction, however, between an active and a stative domain provides us with a more plausible solution. Since the *ka-* affix is often used in order to express actor relations (as, for example, in cause focus constructions, but also in EXP focus constructions), *ka-...-an* forms should be seen as expressing EXP- CAUSE focus, i.e. an actor role instead of the locative role proposed by Schachter/Otanes.

Verbs which behave similarly to *awa* are *gulat* “to be surprised”, *inis* “to be annoyed”, *galit* “to become angry”, *tuwa* “to be happy about sth.”

## 2.2.2 “Shifting” from active to stative

A fundamental and characteristic feature of Tagalog (and other Philippine languages) is the fact that it differentiates between purposefully and non-purposefully performed actions, on the one hand, and between spontaneously performed actions and those accomplished “with effort” on the other. From a morphological point of view, active codings are “shifted” to stative codings. Since in many cases we are dealing with two-place verbs, the following correspondences arise.

### 2.2.2.1 The INV-ACTOR focus (=INV.ACF)

Here again a *ma-* affix form is the basis upon which an object affected by an agent with limited control is focused, while a *maka* prefix — identical to the one used for EXP focus — focuses an INV-ACTOR:

- 5a) Na-bagsak ng bata' ang patalim  
 OF-drop LK child TOP knife  
 perf/stat  
 “The child accidentally dropped the knife”

- 5b) Naka-bagsak ng patalim ang bata'  
 INV.ACF-drop LK knife TOP child  
 perf/stat  
 "The child dropped the/a knife by accident"

The agent of a purposefully performed action would be focused by using an *-um-* affix form, i.e. *b-um-agsak*.

We should now consider how this shift from active to stative forms part of a larger system. Theoretically, every role in a sentence which is in some way connected to an agent can be put in the context of stativity.

### 2.2.2.2 Stativized benefactive focus

Schachter/Otanes (ibid: 330 ff) list no further affix forms for expressing "ability" or "involuntary action" other than object (=patient) focus. Bloomfield (1917: 287), on the other hand, provides us with a good example of stativized benefactive focus (which he, however, lists under "instrumental focus"):

- 6a,1) Ang pagkatawag ng kura sa mga pulis ay hindi niya ikanabute,  
 sapagkat sila (a)y kaunti lamang upang maipagtanggol siya sa mga magnanakaw  
 "The priest's having called in the police\*did him no good,  
 for they were too few to defend him from the thieves"

Here we find the form *ma-ipag-tanggol* in the *upang* clause:

- 6a,2) upang ma-ipag-tanggol siya sa mga magnanakaw  
 FIN stat-BF-defend 3sg LOK pl thief  
 TOP  
 "... in order to be able to defend him from the thieves"

*tanggol* is "normally" a *mag-* verb (thus the *ipag-* form for expressing benefactive focus). The stative variant of this verb, formed by adding a *ma-* prefix, has an "ability" connotation. Theoretically, we could shift the focus in 6a,2) from the benefactive to the object and get:

- 6b) upang ma-tanggol ang mga magnanakaw para sa kaniya  
 FIN OF-defend TOP pl thief for 3sg  
 stat  
 "...in order to keep the thieves away from him"

(We have translated *tanggol* with a different lexeme in order to better emphasize the focusing of thieves.)

### 2.2.2.3 Locative focus forms

Analogous to what was said in the foregoing sections about stativization, it is also an obvious fact that the stativization of *-an* yields *ma-...-an*. A cursory glance at the literature shows that this affix is normally treated as a special form, e.g. in Ramos (1974), where it is called affective focus (cf. Drossard 1984). In Schachter/Otanes we find several differing interpretations of *ma-...-an*, and Bloomfield lists at least two forms distinguishable on the basis of accent opposition which he labels "local passive".

One of these latter forms mentioned by Bloomfield (ibid. 297), i.e. the *má- ...-an* affix combination (with accent), corresponds to an "ability" variant of an originally active affix form and, in some cases, may even have a "happen to" connotation. Compare:

- 7) Ná-putul-an ko ng tabid ang kat(i)yaw  
 LF-cut from 1sg LK spur TOP rooster  
 perf/stat nonT  
 "I managed to cut off the rooster's spur"

In this example, the special active form of *putul-an* "to cut from", prefixed by *má-*, has an "ability" reading.

On the other hand, Bloomfield's non-accented form of *ma-...-an* corresponds to the affective focus construction described by Ramos. In this case we are dealing with a focus correspondence within the stative system itself (i.e. not one caused "by crossing the boundary" between active >>> stative).

- 8a) Na-matay ni Hwan ang tatay  
 OF-die PA John TOP father  
 perf/stat nonT  
 "The father of John died"
- 8b) Na-matay-an ng tatay si Hwan  
 AFF-die LK father TOP John  
 perf/stat  
 "John was affected by his father's death"

More detailed studies of this latter variant of the *ma-...-an* form show that numerous examples can be given in which the "affectedness" of an object having a local shade of meaning (whether animate or inanimate) is expressed. In some cases it is even possible to distinguish between two different forms, i.e. an accented "happen to" and a simple AFF variant:

- 9a) *ma-hangin-an* "to be exposed to the wind"
- 9b) *má-hangin-an* "to happen to be exposed to the wind"

Nevertheless, the accented form does not always have to have a “happen to” reading:

<i>má-ambag-an</i>	“to get donations”
<i>má-halik-an</i>	“to get a kiss”
<i>má-tulong-an</i>	“to get help”
<i>má-putik-an</i>	“to be covered with mud”

As these examples show, the accented variant does not always transmit the idea of an adversative situation (as often claimed for examples such as 8b).

Finally, we may list a third occurrence of the *ma-...-an* form (in addition to the above “ability” and AFF variants), i.e. an object affix, listed by Schachter/Otanes under EXP focus, which focuses an object by adding *-an* to an EXP verb (which we call EFO). Schachter/Otanes list this form in connection with the affix correspondence: *ma- : ma-...-an*.

10a) Na-tu-tuto siya noon  
 EF-learn 3sg/ DEM/  
 impf/stat TOP nonT  
 “He is learning some of that”

10b) Na-tu-tutu-han niya iyon  
 EFO-learn 3sg/ DEM/  
 impf/stat nonT TOP  
 “He is learning that”

The above discussion of the *ma-...-an* affix shows that *ma-* forms, especially when used together with a second affix, do not always induce a “shift” to the stative domain, but have their own inherent semantic connotations within this system. Thus, any general attempt to systematize affix forms in Tagalog will have to vary in its choice between regularities and idiosyncracies. Nevertheless, “shifting” from active to stative does remain a regular feature of such a systematization.

### 2.3 Active affixes and their stativized correspondences

Correspondences between active and stative affixes may be established according to varying criteria: 1) the degree of control; 2) purposeful vs. accidental actions; 3) the idea of “factual” vs. “ability”:

	Active	Stative
Agent	<i>-um-, mag-</i>	<i>maka-</i>
Object	<i>-in-</i>	<i>ma-</i>
Benefactive	<i>i- / ipag-</i>	<i>ma-i-, ma-ipag-</i>
Locative	<i>-an</i>	<i>ma-...-an</i>
Instrumental	<i>ipang-</i>	<i>ma-ipang</i>

In addition to these possible “shifts” from active to stative (e.g. *-um-, mag- : maka- ... ipang- : ma-ipang*) we also have the “fixed” form for EF mentioned above (*maka-*). As for the latter form, a cross-language comparison is enough to show how close EXP and INV.AC really are. Compare, for example, the following case marking in German:

11a) Mir ist aufgefallen, daß er ziemlich blaß ist.  
 1sg:DAT be:3sg notice: PP that 3sg rather pale be:3sg (DAT for EXP)

11b) Mir ist plötzlich das ganze Geschirr hingefallen.  
 1sg:DAT be:3sg suddenly ART whole dishes fall:PP (DAT for INV. AC)

But now back to the diagram given above. One look at the literature on Tagalog affixes shows that Ramos (1971) — even when not expressly distinguishing between active and stative voice systems — is the one who most clearly demonstrates the interdependencies which exist between focus affixes in Tagalog. In section 3.1 (“Major affixes used in verbal formation”) she lists the individual focus forms and provides an additional “distributive”, “sociative”, “causative”, and “*aptative*” variant for each form (“Aptative” is the terminological equivalent of Schachter/Otanes’ “ability” focus.). In this way, Ramos is able to systematically provide “aptative” variants of benefactive and instrumental focus forms, as for example in the following stativized instrumental variant of a “normally” active *-um-* verb (*b-um-asa*):

12) Na-ipang-basa niya ng diyaryo ang aking salamin  
 BF-read 3sg/ LK paper TOP 1sg/ glasses  
 perf/stat nonT POSS  
 “He was able to read the newspaper with my glasses”

### 3. Causativity

As suggested in the foregoing section in connection with Ramos 1971, every focus affix form has a causative variant. And again Ramos is the only source where one immedi-

ately recognizes that for every active causative form there must be — in keeping with the system we are proposing here — a stative causative variant. But first a few words about causativity in the active domain.

### 3.1 Causativity in the active domain

Since this subject has already been dealt with extensively in the literature a schematic overview of the pertinent active forms will suffice:

	Active	Stative
Agent	<i>-um-, mag-</i>	<i>mag-pa</i>
Object	<i>-in-</i>	<i>i-pa</i>
Benefactive	<i>i-/ipag-</i>	<i>ipag-pa</i>
Locative	<i>-an</i>	<i>pa-...-an</i>
Instrumental	<i>ipang-</i>	<i>ipang-pa</i>

The following may serve as a representative example:

- 13) Pa-bil-han mo ng tinapay ang tindahan nila!  
 LF-buy 2sg LK bread TOP store 3pl  
 caus nonT  
 "Have (someone) buy bread from their store!"

### 3.2 Causativity in the stative domain

As Ramos has correctly shown, the "shift" from controlled actions to less controlled actions (together with the "shift" from active to stative coding) is not only limited to non-causative contexts. Within the stative domain itself various "ability" (or, as Ramos calls them, "aptative") affix forms exist for expressing causativity.

- 14) AF/apt

Naka-pa-gawa ako ng bahay  
 AF-caus-build 1sg LK house  
 perf/stat TOP  
 "I was able to have a house built"

- 15) GF (=OF or PF)/apt

Na-pa-gawa ko ang bahay  
 GF-caus-build 1sg TOP house  
 perf/stat nonT  
 "I was able to have the house built."

## 16) BF/apt

Na-i-pa-gawa	ko	siya	ng bahay
BF-caus-build	1sg	3sg	LK house
perf/stat	nonT	TOP	

"I was able to have a house built for her/him"

## 17) LF/apt

Na-pa-gawa-an	ko	ng bahay	ang lupa ko
LF-caus-build	1sg	LK house	TOP lot 1sg/poss
perf/stat	nonT		

"I was able to have a house built on my lot"

## 18) IF/apt

Na-ipang-pa-gawa	ko	ng bahay	ang na-ipon	ko-ng	pera
IF-caus-build	1sg	LK house	TOP PF-find	1sg-LK	money
perf/stat	nonT		perf/stat		

"I was able to have a house built with the money I saved"

As could be seen in section 2.2.2 above (esp. 2.2.2.3 on the locative), some affix forms may establish — "independently" of any system of affix correspondences — their own individual shades of meaning. This is especially true of the *ma-pa* form found in 15). Whereas in 15) it is the object which is focused in a causative context having an "ability" shade of meaning, in 19a) it is a causee that has been compelled to react by an outside circumstance:

19a) Na-pa-balik      ang babae      dahil sa pagkakasakit      ng bata'  
 CeeF-caus-return    TOP mother      because of illness      LK child  
 perf  
 "Mother was forced to return because of the child's illness"

In such an example it is also possible to focus the cause. In this case we get the stative cause (*ika-*) focus which appeared in 3b):

19b) I-k-in-a-balik    ng babae      ang pagkakasakit      ng bata'  
 CF-return      LK mother      TOP illness      LK child  
 perf/stat  
 "The child's illness caused mother to return"

The form given in 19a) can be explained on the basis of its own inherent logic: The *ma-* element focuses an object which is at the same time both 1) the goal of an action performed by a non-controlling actor and 2) a "causee" requiring causative morphology (*-pa-*).

The *ma-pa* form can therefore be said to have a double interpretation similar to that of *ma-...-an* (cf. sect. 2.2.2.3 above).

#### 4. Reciprocity

One look at the scientific literature on Tagalog reveals that reciprocity — *per se* — has not yet received systematic treatment. A detailed discussion of this subject is valuable in that it allows us to further develop the systematization of Tagalog forms presented in the foregoing sections. This means that active reciprocal forms can be distinguished from their stative counterparts in both causative and non-causative contexts.

In a non-causative context active *mag-...-an* forms can be distinguished from stative *mag-ka-* forms.

<i>mag-...-an</i> (active)	denotes the reciprocity or sociativity of individuals acting with complete control
<i>mag-ka</i> (stative)	denotes reciprocity or sociativity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) between EXPERIENCERS</li> <li>b) between partners or entities in the same situation/position</li> <li>c) between inanimate actors</li> <li>d) between individuals acting unintentionally (“happen to”) or with limited control</li> </ol>

This general summary already suggests that the “shift” from active to stative coding is also relevant to reciprocal contexts (cf. especially variant d)).

##### 4.1 *mag-...-an*

This active form denotes reciprocity when the inherent semantics of the word stem are “bilateral” or sociativity when they are more “monovalent” (which results in a “together” connotation):

Reciprocal:	<i>mag-purik-an</i>	“to praise each other”
	<i>mag-tulong-an</i>	“to help each other”
	<i>mag-kamay-an</i>	“to shake hands with each other”
Sociative:	<i>mag-alis-an</i>	“to leave together”
	<i>mag-labas-an</i>	“to go out together”
	<i>mag-pitas-an</i>	“to pick fruit together”

Here a simple example of the above distinction:



## 20a) reciprocal

Nag-halik-an si Pedro at si Maria  
 RCF-kiss PA P. and PA M.  
 perf TOP TOP  
 "Pedro and Maria kissed each other"

## 20b) sociative

Nag-iyak-an si Pedro at si Maria  
 RCF-cry PA P. and PA M.  
 perf TOP TOP  
 "Pedro and Maria cried together"

The form *mag-...-an* represents a special variant of agent focus in which the "collectivizing" suffix *-an* occurs. Schachter/Otanes (1972: 99) call it: "Reciprocal or joint performance", Bloomfield (1917: 257) calls it an "action of two or more actors". It is important to note here that simple suffixation of the stem with *-an* normally results in a nominal form:

*um-away* >>> *away-an* "to fight" >>> "fighting together"  
*s-um-ulat* >>> *sulat-an* "to write" >>> "writing each other"

Adding *mag-* thus verbalizes, so to speak, this latter nominal expression.

We may now ask how focus may vary in a reciprocal context, similar to what we have described above for the non-reciprocal domain. In doing so the following questions arise:

- a) What is the reciprocal focus variant of a benefactive relation?
- b) What is the reciprocal focus variant of an instrumental relation?

Informants have difficulties translating a sentence such as:

"Maria and I gave each other presents"

since no special benefactive focus form exists in Tagalog for expressing a reciprocal relation. Instead, Tagalog speakers must code "iconically", i. e. the actions must be "split up":

21) I-b-in-ili ko ng regalo si Maria at i-b-in-ili ako ni Maria ng regalo  
 BF-buy 1sg LK present PA M. and BF-buy 1sg/ PA M. LK present  
 perf nonT TOP perf TOP nonT  
 "I bought a present for Maria and Maria bought a present for me"

Whereas, on the one hand, Tagalog possesses no special reciprocal forms for benefactive or instrumental focusing, it is, on the other hand, able to focus causal phrases in senten-

ces which contain lexical reciprocals. But first, a relatively simple form with agent focus and a non-focused *dahil sa* phrase:

- 22a) Nag-away si Ben at si Eddie dahil sa laruan  
 AF-fight PA B. and PA E. because of toy  
 perf TOP TOP  
 “Ben and Eddie fought because of the toy”

Focusing the *dahil sa* constituent requires either an *ika-* affix (cf. 2.2.1.2 above) or *ipag-*:

- 22b) I-p-in-ag-away ni Ben at ni Eddie ang laruan  
 CF-fight PA B. and PA E. TOP toy  
 perf nonT nonT  
 “The toy made Ben and Eddie fight”

#### 4.2 *mag-ka*

The existence of a stative reciprocal domain can be shown by the fact that:

- a) a *ma-* verb always takes an additional *ka-* affix in order to express a reciprocal or sociative connotation  
 b) actions performed with limited control, and therefore stative, also take a *mag-ka* affix

In the first case, a), there are not many *ma-* verbs which can be used in reciprocal constructions. In reciprocal EXPERIENCER contexts, however, *mag-ka* forms are used:

- input: *ma-galit* “to be angry” >>> *mag-ka-galit* “to quarrel with each other”  
 input: *ma-inggit* “to be envious” >>> *mag-ka-inggit* “to envy each other”

A simple example:

- 23) Nag-ka-galit si Pedro at si Ben  
 RCF-be angry PA P. and PA B.  
 perf/stat TOP TOP  
 “Pedro and Ben were angry at each other”

For the second argument b) we could also give an example with inanimate actors and a sociative connotation. We must however remember that, analogous to the active form with *mag-an*, the *-an* suffix is carried over to the stative domain:

- 24) Sa loob ng isa-ng ora nag-ka-dating-an ang apat na tren sa estasion  
 LOK inner LK one-LK hour RCF-arrive TOP four LK train LOK station  
 perf/stat  
 “Within one hour four trains arrived one after the other at the station”

Things, however, get complicated with *mag-ka* forms when there is an accent opposition. Analogous to what was said in section 2.2.2.3 above, the active *mag-yakap-an* “to embrace each other” can, by accentual means, be “shifted” to the stative domain (cf. the d) variant of *mag-ka* above):

- a) *mag-ká-yakap* “to happen to embrace each other”  
 (It sometimes happens that at large events with a mass audience euphoric people who do not know each other will fall into each other’s arms)

And, as a non-accented correspondence of this form, we get

- b) *mag-ka-yakap*

which expresses the idea of “to be in an embracing position” (i.e. the b) variant of *mag-ka*).

A closer look at Santos’ dictionary from 1990 confirms that there are about 90 verb pairs of this sort.

In principle, all accented as well as non-accented *mag-ka* forms belong to the group of *mag-ka* variants expressing limited control. Sometimes, however, we do not find a symmetric distribution of accent oppositions and their corresponding shades of meaning. This could be due to the fact that, if non-binary relations are involved (i.e. forms which do not belong to the 90 examples mentioned above), a simple form without accent is used, which itself can also be considered an example of limited control. An example for this is given by Bloomfield (ibid: 268).

- 25a) Nag-ka-ka-lipon ang mga langgam dahil sa puto  
 RCF-crowd TOP PL ant because of cake  
 impf/stat  
 “The ants ran together because of the cake”

This example clearly has a “sociative” reading. Since *lipon* also possesses an active version in the form of a lexical reciprocal, *mag-lipon*, the *mag-ka* form must be interpreted as a stative nuance. This agrees with the fact that: a) we are dealing with animals (and not human beings) b) the ants are seen as being “unconsciously” drawn to the cake. This becomes even clearer when the “causer” of their running together, i.e. the cake, is focused. Then we get the following construction:

- 25b) I-p-in-ag-ka-ka-lipon ng mga langgam ang puto  
 CRF-crowd LK PL ant TOP cake  
 impf/stat  
 “The cake made the ants run together”

### 4.3 Reciprocity in causative context

#### 4.3.1 Inanimate causers

By comparing the active examples 22a) and 22b) with the forms that occur here in examples 25a) and 25b) we obtain the following symmetry:

reciprocal active		reciprocal stative	
causer	causee (+control)	causer	causee (-control)
-TOP <i>dahil sa</i>	+TOP <i>mag-an + ang</i>	-TOP <i>dahil sa</i>	+TOP <i>mag-ka + ang</i>
+TOP <i>ipag + ang</i>	-TOP <i>ng phrase</i>	+TOP <i>ipag-ka</i>	-TOP <i>ng phrase</i>

In each of the above columns the “causer” is inanimate.

#### 4.3.2 Animate causers

Normally, there are only a few cases of a combined causative-reciprocal morphology with an animate causer. We must at the same time distinguish between active reciprocal and stative reciprocal actants. The former are expressed by means of a lexical reciprocal, e.g. *akap* “to embrace each other”:

- 26) P-in-a-pag-akap ni Ben si Maria at si Eddie  
 CRCF-embrace PA B. PA M. and PA E.  
 perf nonT TOP TOP  
 “Ben made Maria and Eddie embrace each other”

In this example it is only possible to express the focused causee, i.e. it is impossible to focus the causer (by means of *mag-pa*).

Stative reciprocal actants, on the other hand, can also occasionally be found in a causative context. By causativizing a *mag-ka* form to *pa-pag-ka...-in* (lit. *pinapagka*) we get:

- 27) P-in-a-pag-ka-galit ni Pedro si Juan at si Maria  
 CRCF-quarrel PA P. PA J. and PA M.  
 perf/stat nonT TOP TOP  
 “Pedro made Juan and Maria quarrel with each other”

### 4.3.3 Causative reciprocals — a brief summary

Such examples in which causativity and reciprocity are simultaneously morphologized on the verb, as in examples 25) – 27) above, are comparatively rare, but do in the end allow us to establish the following correspondences. These correspondences are of central importance to understanding the underlying principles of Tagalog morphology:

Causative Reciprocals			
Animate Causers		Inanimate Causers	
Active Causee <i>p-in-a-pag-</i>	Stative Causee <i>p-in-a-pag-ka-</i>	Active Causee <i>ipag-</i>	Stative Causee <i>ipag-ka-</i>

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Von 1968 an erschienen die von Prof. Dr. Hansjakob Seiler herausgegebenen Arbeitspapiere des Instituts für Sprachwissenschaft. Nach der Emeritierung von Prof. Dr. Seiler im März 1986 wurde eine neue Folge mit neuer Zählung und dem Zusatz "Neue Folge" (N. F.) begonnen. Herausgeber ist das Institut für Sprachwissenschaft.

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