

# **Meteorological Verbs of Northern Subanen: A Study of Basically Zero Valent Verbs in a Philippine Language**

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Studies of verbs in a Philippine language often center on the morphosyntax of 'focus/voice' alternations as displayed by verbal clauses of the language, in general. Rare are in-depth investigations of the semantic and morphosyntactic processes that apply to particular semantic classes of verbs.

This paper examines the semantic class of meteorological verbs in Northern Subanen, a western Austronesian language spoken by approximately 30,000 people in the northeastern portion of the Zamboanga Peninsula in Mindanao, southern Philippines. It presents an inventory of roots of meteorological verbs in the language and the range of affixes that occur with each root. A basic or functionally unmarked affix is identified for each root and the function and meaning of every non-basic affix discussed.

The paper begins with an explanation of why the basic clause in which a meteorological verb occurs is an atransitive clause. As it progresses, it also offers explanations of why clauses derived by using certain non-basic affixes are typologically unusual clauses as well.