

# Clitic Pronouns in Masbatenyo

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This paper proposes to describe the placement of pronominal clitics in this Central Philippine (CP) language. Quite a few studies have dealt with clisis in CP, including Tagalog (Schachter 1973, Billings 2005); Bikol and Cebuano (Billings and Konopasky 2002); Tagakaulo, Kaagan, Mansaka, and Davawenyo (Lee 2004); and Tausug (Lee and Billings forthcoming a and b). On the other hand, Masbatenyo remains unexplored in this respect. Thus, this study fills in the CP-clitics picture somewhat. Two main issues, in comparison to other CP languages, are discussed: the distribution of clitic and nonclitic elements and the order within the clitic cluster.

Masbatenyo shows plenty of similarity with other CP languages in the external distribution of clausal clitics and nonclitics. To be precise, this language employs Wackernagel positioning. After examining about half of Wolfenden (2001), the following is the only crucial example of [adjunct *cluster* NEG **verb** ...] ordering so far.

- (1) Dugay                      *na kami wara*  
for.a.long.time              PRF EXCL1PL.NOM NEG  
**maka-kadto.**  
ABIL.AV-go.the.distance

'For a long time we have not been able to go there.' (Wolfenden 2001:34)

Wackernagel positioning is also attested in Tausug (Lee and Billings, forthcoming b). By contrast, verb-adjacent ordering (with additional non-initiality) is attested in most of CP. Interestingly, as in Tausug, complementizers can serve as the pre-clitic element:

- (2) ... *kay ako g<in>akalintura.*  
because 1SG.NOM <PV>have.fever

'... because I have a fever.' (Wolfenden 2001:20)

Turning to the ordering *within* a cluster, either prosodic weight or morphosemantic features (such as person, number, or case) could be the determining factor. CP languages differ in assigning priority to these factors. Prosodic weight determines clitic internal ordering in Masbatenyo, where a light pronoun precedes a heavy one. This is the only crucial factor detected so far.

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