Kinaray-a Discourse Particles

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Abstract

Discourse particles are syntactically dispensable but are widely present in daily conversation as well as in written discourses. Their meanings are frequently ambiguous and reliant on syntactic structures and pragmatic roles. Particles can have a variety of purposes within the text; they can establish and negotiate authority in talks, convey varying degrees of conviction, and appreciation, stress important ideas, strengthen tone, draw attention among others. This study attempts to explicate the common discourse particles of Kinaray-a, a widely spoken language in Antique Province, Philippines. The analysis is based on spoken and written corpora, which include utterances in naturally occurring conversations, spoken-like narratives, Kinaray online news reports, and literary texts. A summary of identified particles is presented with examples of how these lexicons are used in context. Based on the data, the discourse particles of Kinaray-a are classified into four: emphatic, temporal, confirmation markers, and modal articles. The authors conclude that one can only rely on their linguistic intuitions to dissect the purposes of these particles in different sentences and context.

1 Introduction

Discourse particles are a subject of significant linguistic interest, largely due to their distinctive and often unpredictable behavior in everyday communication. These particles are characterized by their fluid and context-dependent meanings, which vary according to their pragmatic functions and syntactic roles within speech. Unlike more stable linguistic units, discourse particles can fulfill a wide range of functions within a text, such as expressing varying degrees of certainty, surprise, and appreciation; establishing or negotiating conversational dominance; emphasizing key ideas; modulating tone; and drawing attention to specific elements. Due to their inherent variability and context-specific meanings, these particles often resist straightforward translation or morphological analysis, as noted by Nolasco (2005).

Given the unique properties of discourse particles and their pervasive presence in spoken and written texts, exploring their meanings in various contexts offers valuable insights into the sociolinguistic dynamics that shape their use. This paper seeks to identify the most commonly used discourse particles in Kinaray-a, based on a carefully curated corpus, and to analyze their functions within the specific contexts in which they occur. The analysis will focus on how these particles operate within daily speech and their positioning within phrases.

The study distinguishes between two types of particles: lexical and grammatical (Spitz, 2001). Lexical particles are those that enhance meanings of phrases and clauses depending on the context, while grammatical particles signal syntactic constructions. This paper is limited to the discussion of lexical particles.

The paper is anchored on Tanangkingsing's (2009, p.2) Discourse-functional Linguistics framework, which follows Huang's argument stating that "transitivity cannot be prespecified in the lexicon,

but emergences from discourse". This perspective suggests that language is not governed by a fixed set of grammatical rules but is shaped by discourse dynamics and speaker's lived experience with the language. To accurately descrive the real-world usage of Kinaray-a, this study prioritizes spoken data gathered from interviews and narratives, supplemented by written texts. Through this approach, the research aims to provide a more authentic representation of how discourse particles function in everyday Kinaray-a communication. MS Word formatting instructions

2. Methodology

2.1. Corpus

The corpus of this study is categorized into two distinct types: spoken and written. The spoken data comprise natural conversations, spoken-like narratives in contexts such as treating illness and cooking dishes, and pear stories. Natural conversations provide a rich source of spontaneous language use and interaction patterns, essential for linguistic analysis (Labov, 1972). Narratives about treating illness and cooking dishes offer valuable insights into cultural practices and terminologies specific to these everyday activities (Heath, 1983). Additionally, pear stories, which are structured narrative tasks where participants describe a series of events depicted in a video, allow for examining narrative structures and linguistic features across different speakers (Chafe, 1980).

The written corpus, on the other hand, includes select literary pieces authored by renowned Antiqueño literary writers. These literary texts are significant as they reflect the artistic and creative use of the Kinaray-a language, preserving cultural heritage and showcasing stylistic variations (Newell, 1980). Furthermore, the corpus comprises Kinaray-a news reports published online. These news reports are crucial for understanding contemporary language use, journalistic styles, and the dissemination of information within the Kinaray-a-speaking community (Bell, 1991).

By analyzing both spoken and written corpora, this study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the Kinaray-a language, capturing its use in everyday communication as well as in literary and journalistic contexts.

2.2. Scope

The Kinaray-a variety under examination in this study is prominently utilized in the southern region of Antique Province, Philippines. Specifically, it is widely spoken in the municipalities of Anini-y, Tobias Fornier, San Jose de Buenavista, Sibalom, and Bugasong. Evidently, the province of Antique, located in Panay Island within the Western Visayas region, consists of 18 municipalities, each potentially harboring various dialects of Kinaray-a (Casalan & Dita, 2022).

The linguistic diversity within Kinaray-a can be attributed to the geographical and sociocultural landscape of the province. According to recent research by Casalan and Dita (2022), the different dialects of Kinaray-a represent the rich tapestry of linguistic varieties that coexist within Antique. The language is not only a means of communication but also a carrier of cultural heritage and identity for the local inhabitants.

Linguistic studies, such as those by McFarland (1996) and Lobel (2013), emphasize the importance of understanding regional language variations to appreciate the full linguistic and cultural complexity of an area. For Kinaray-a, the dialectical differences may affect phonology, vocabulary, and even certain syntactic structures, reflecting how language evolves in response to both historical influences and contemporary socio-economic interactions.

Furthermore, language preservation and promotion efforts, as highlighted in the work of Zorc (2020), point to the critical need for documentation and support for regional dialects. The recognition and study of these dialects contribute to a broader understanding of the linguistic heritage and encourage the younger generations to value and maintain their linguistic identity.**Error! Reference source not found.** s pecifies what font sizes and styles must be used for each type of text in the manuscript.

2.3. Participants

To maintain the quality and integrity of the data in the study, the researchers rigorously defined inclusion criteria for the informants. In addition to being literate in Kinaray-a, the informants were required to possess a deep understanding of

Antique culture and traditions. Specifically, the following criteria were set to identify informed and suitable participants:

a) Age. In terms of age, the informants must be at least 18 years old.

b) Language spoken. Kinaray-a should be the first and dominant
language of the speakers.

c) The Kinaray-a variety spoken is observed in the southern part of Antique Province

d) Ethnicity. The informants should be pure Antiqueño, which means
that both parents are Antiqueño and/or the participants' birth place should be in the identified municipalities (i.e., in the southern part of Antique), and they must have lived in the place for at least 10 years.

2.2. Data Gathering and Analysis

To fulfill the study's objectives, the recorded conversations and narrations were meticulously transcribed, classified, and segmented into clauses. The spoken, written, and narrative data underwent verification by Kinaray-a native speakers. Coding was employed to ensure precise identification of the Kinaray-a discourse particles within the data.

During the data gathering process, the research ethical principles were observed. The researchers secured informed consent forms from the informants containing details about the purpose of the study, description, benefits they get as participants, confidentiality, right to refuse or withdraw, and right to ask questions and report concerns.

3. Results and Discussion
3.1. Emphatic particles

Emphatic particles are prevalent in Kinaray-a daily discourse. They usually express added certainty and conviction to an utterance. The most common emphatic particles in Kinaray-a are gid. run, gali, and bay which may carry various meanings or enhance the meanings of neighbor words depending on the context.

3.1.1. gid

Emphatic particles are prevalent in Kinaray-a daily discourse. They usually express added certainty and conviction to an utterance. The most common emphatic particles in Kinaray-a are *gid, run, gali,* and *bay,* which may carry various

meanings or enhance the meanings of neighbor words depending on the context.

3.1.1 *gid*

This particle is common among Visayan languages like Cebuano (Tanangkingsing, 2009), Hiligaynon (Santos, 2012), and Aklanon (dela Cruz & Zorc, 1968). Like in these Visayan languages, gid emphasizes a concept in an utterance and may function as an adverbial meaning 'certainly', 'very', or 'really' in different contexts. They are pre-nominal and usually occur with adverbs or adjectives as shown in the following sample utterances:

1. *Pirme gid   may   espeho ang dresser.*
   Always PAR POS. EXI mirror   ABS dresser
   'Dressers certainly always have mirrors.'

2. *Duro gid   nga salamat.*
   Much PAR LIG   thank
   'Thank you very much.'

3. *Nasadyahan gid ako sa   ginhimo mo.*
   Grateful   PAR ABS.1s OBL PERF-do GEN.1s
   'I am really grateful for what you did.'

In these sentences, gid functions as an intensifier in most cases. However, this particle behaves differently in the following sample sentences:

4. *Syempre gid lang.*
   Of course PAR PAR
   'Of course.'

5. A: *Sin-o to?*
   Who MED
   Who (is) that?

   B. *Si Albert   gid man.*
   ABS Albert   PAR PAR
   'I told you (that is) Albert.'

6. *Amo gid man   ra tana?*
   MED PAR PAR MED ABS.3s
   'Is he really like that?'

7. *Si nanay   gid man to?*
   ABS mother PAR PAR MED
   'Is that really mother?'

8. *Bukot pa   gid man   kita?*

Not   PAR   PAR   PAR   ABS.1p.incl
'Are we not together (in a relationship) yet?'

It is noticeable that in these sentences, *gid* occurs with other particles such as *lang* and *man*. In sentence (5), *gid lang* adds conviction to the expression 'of course', which may be equivalent to 'no doubt' or 'without a doubt' in English. Whereas, in sentence (6), *gid man* denotes affirmation of a previous utterance, and may also be an expression of subtle irritation. It functions like the discourse particle *nga* in Tagalog. In sentences (7), (8), and (9), *gid man* signifies a clarification of previous perceptions or observations. Thus, when it is used for this purpose, the utterances become interrogatives. In this case, it functions like the particle *ba* in Tagalog. In addition, gid man usually occurs postnominal but precedes demonstratives. When two-word demonstratives are used like *amo ra* meaning 'that', *gid man* splits the demonstrative as seen in sample sentence (7).

3.1.2. *run*

This particle may be used to declare something with some degree of emphasis or to point out an observation as shown in the following examples:

9.   *Raha   run!*
     Cooked PAR
     'It's already cooked!'

10. *Sunog run ang tinig-ang.*
     Burnt   PAR ABS   rice
     'The rice is already burnt.'

11. *Sobra   run ri-a.*
     too much PAR MED
     'That's too much already.

12. *Husto   run, salamat.*
     Enough PAR thanks
     '(That's) enough already. Thanks.'

In these sentences, *run* may be roughly translated to 'already'. In sentence (10), *run* indicates the completion of an action, while in (11), run adds a sense of urgency to the declarative. In sentences (12) and (13), *run* carries an illocutionary act of halting or stopping something.

Another use of *run* is to function as an intensive to express impatience as evident in sentence (14).

13. *Barato run dya!*
     Cheap PAR PROX
     'This is already cheap!'

The same particle may also be used when calling someone's attention, as seen in (15). Removing the particle *run* will make the sentence incomplete and unnatural.

14. *Ikaw run sunod.*
     ABS.2s PAR next
     'You're next.'

An unusual *run* behavior may be observed when attached to the lexical item *sige*, which means 'okay' in English, as illustrated in sentence (16).

15. *Sige run.*
     okay PAR
     'Go ahead' or 'Pretty please.'

The addition of run completely changes the semantics of *sige*. It may be used to mean two different pragmatic functions. First, it may imply permitting someone to do something. It is equivalent to 'go ahead' in English. Second, it may signify a request or convince someone to do something (e.g. a favor). This is similar to 'pretty please' in English. Both sentences are far from the meaning of *sige* when used in isolation.

3.1.3 *gali*

Adding *gali* in sentences may denote different emphatic expressions. For instance, in sentence (17), *gali* is used to express surprise, disbelief, and exclamation.

16. *Ikaw   gali ra!*
     ABS.2s PAR MED/OBL
     'Oh! It's you!

This exclamation is usually used when meeting a friend or an acquaintance after not seeing them for a long time, unexpectedly meeting someone or recognizing an acquaintance in a public place. This particle may function like the interjection 'oh!' in English.

Another use of gali is to signpost an idea or a thought one has remembered. For example:

17. *Ay huod gali! May utang ako kana!*
     INTJ yes PAR POS.EXIST owe   ABS.1s OBL.3s

'Ah! I remember! I owe you (money)!'

In (18), *gali* is used not only to signpost an idea, but may also indicate a topic shift. For example, when two people are talking about something, and one suddenly remembers an idea, the following utterance would most likely use this discourse particle. This particle may also be used in acknowledging a fact as shown in the following sentence:

18. *Bukot gali   kita.*
    Not   PAR ABS.1p.incl
    'Oh right, we're not in a relationship.'

The declarative *bukot kita*, denotatively translated as 'not us' carries an embedded meaning of 'we're not in a (romantic) relationship' or 'there is no us' in English. Adding the particle *gali* indicates acceptance and recognition of this fact.

3.1.4 *man*

Translated in English, the Kinaray-a *man* may mean 'also' or 'too', as shown in sentences (20) and (21).

19.*Ginabitay man sa dingding ang mga diploma kag sertipiko.*
IMP-hang PAR OBL wall ABS PLU diploma and certificate
'Diplomas and certificates are also hung on the wall.'

20. *Ginagamit man ang mga ulonan, mga kapay kag mga moskitero.*
    IMP-use   too ABS PLU pillow PLU blanket and PLU mosquito net
    'Pillow, blankets, and mosquito nets are used too.'

Apparently, *man* may also be used to indicate irritation:

21. *Ano man?!*
    What PAR
    'What?'

The addition of *man* in sentence (22) signifies an added interjection of annoyance or frustration, which may be encoded by a simple rise in intonation in English.
The sample dialog below shows another function of man:
22. A: *Nagdaug tana?*
          PERF-win ABS.3s

'Did she win?'
B: *Huod man.*
      Yes   PAR
      'Maybe.'

Sentence B in (23) is an example of a response to a yes/no question. The particle *man* introduced a feeling of uncertainty to the initial response *huod* 'yes'. This is equivalent to 'maybe' or 'probably' in English but is more likely to assert the affirmative.

3.1.5 *bay*

The *bay* may also be used as an emphatic particle. In the sample dialog presented below, bay implies a certain degree of forcefulness or insistence to the negation.

23. A: *Andut indi timo magsunod?*
       Why not ABS.2s IMP-come
       Why don't you (want) to come?

    B: *Indi takun bay.*
       not ABS.1s PAR
       'I just don't!'

The use of *bay* in sentence B in (24) also indicates the speaker's refusal to explain a negative response, which may be equivalent to using 'just' in English. Furthermore, unlike the other emphatic particles, this particle commonly occurs after nominals, pronominals, and demonstratives.
Another example of the emphatic use of *bay* is found in an interrogative:

24. *Bukot tana ma-aram. Ikaw bay?*
    not   ABS.3s smart   ABS.2s PAR
    'She may not be smart, but are you?'

In this example, *bay* is a suggestive particle that underscores the message recipient's similar quality, 'not smart'.

3.2 Temporal particles

These particles are used in telling the exact time or adding temporal information to the event structure of the clause. Examples of temporal particles in Kinaray-a are *run, pa,* and *lang*.

3.2.1 run

As discussed previously in this article, run may be used as an emphatic particle. However, this may also be used in telling time or schedule as indicated in sentence (26) and (27), respectively.

25. *9:30 run.*
    9:30 PAR
    ' It's 9:30.'

26. *Oras run para magturog.*
    time PAR for   sleep
    'Time to sleep.'

Both sentences may be phrased without *run*. The function of run in these kinds of sentences is to describe the situation that exists in the present and may foreground an immediate action. Consequently, in sentences (27) and (28), *run* serves a crucial function in the syntactic construction of the clause in relation to its temporal connotation.

27. *Sanda run?*
    ABS.3p PAR
    'Are they finally in a relationship?'

28. *Ano run?*
    What PAR
    'What now?'

In (27), the addition of run to the pronominal, sanda 'they' forms a complete thought which is translated as '*they (are) finally?' in English. The particle in this example essentially indicates a result or outcome of a course of action (in this case, courtship) and signifies an impermanent state (being in a romantic relationship).

The same particle introduces a different temporal connotation. This is evident in sentence (29). Here, *run* highlights the urgency of the question *ano* 'what'.

3.2.2 pa

When *pa* is used with a negative existential, *wara*, it denotes an anticipation of something to happen:

29. A. Wara pa tana didya.
        NEG.EXIST PAR ABS.3s here
        'He's not here yet.'

    B.   Wara tana didya.

        NEG. EXIST ABS.3s here
        'He's not here.'

The particle *pa* in sentence 29(a) signals the possibility of someone's arrival. Whereas, as exhibited in 29(b), the statement is more definite. The same can be said in a similar construction as shown in 30. This particle may be similar to the English 'yet'.

30. *Wara pa ako nakasakay.*
    Not   PAR ABS.1s ride
    'I have not (found a) ride yet.'

Subsequently, when the particle is used with a positive existential, it may be interpreted as 'more' in English.

31. *May pagkaun   pa bilin gamay.*
    POS.EXIST food   PAR left   some
    'There's some more food left.'

The pa may also mean 'still', as shown in 32.

32. *Aga pa.*
    Early PAR
    '(It's) still early.'

33. *Duro pa dya.*
    a lot PAR PROX
    'This is still a lot.'

When it is used with an interrogative marker, *ano* 'what,' it translates to 'else'.

34. Ano pa?
    What PAR
    What else?

3.2.3 lang

This particle indicates the completion of an action done first, an action to be done for a while, or an action possibly done next time, depending on the context of a sentence. The particle *lang* may be used as a temporal connective indicating a polite expression of asking permission to do something (e.g. going, resting, checking) first (35), for a while (36), and next time (37).

35. *Mauna   lang ako.*
    IMP-Go first   PAR ABS.1s

'I'll go first.'

36. *Pahuway ta anay dali lang.*
    IMP-rest   ABS.1p.incl PAR   while PAR
    'Let us rest for a (little) while.'

37. *Turukun   ko   lang sa sunod.*
    IMP-check ABS.1s PAR   OBL   next time
    'I'll check it next time.'

3.3 Confirmation markers

Confirmation markers usually occur in the clause-final position. They are primarily used to obtain agreement or confirmation from the hearer. These markers are also consequently used when stressing an important matter or commenting on something. Examples of these markers are ha, no, and ay.

3.3.1 *no*

The function of the term no in the following sentences is equivalent to tag questions in English.

38. *Kasweldo   kaw   run no?*
    IMP-receive (salary) ABS.2s   PAR PAR
    'You already received your salary, didn't you?'

39. *May crush   kaw   kana no?*
    POS.EXIST crush ERG.1s ABS.1s PAR
    'You have a crush on him/her, don't you?'

40. *Ikaw   nag-utot   no?!*
    ABS.2s   PERF-fart   PAR
    'You farted, didn't you?'

In sample sentences (38), (39), and (40) above, *no* insinuates a subtle accusation based on the preceding context in each sentence. It is usually followed by an agreement or a denial from the hearer.

3.3.2 *ay*

This particle may be used to attract someone's attention, sometimes in an impolite manner as shown in sample sentences (41) and (42).

41. *Akun lamang   ra   ay!*
    GEN.1s only   MED/ABS   PAR
    'This is mine!'

42. *Tawag   ay!*
    IMP-call PAR
    '(Someone) is calling you.'

The *ay* in (41) and (42) is usually said in rising intonation and may sometimes convey irritation. Another function of ay would be to mark an imperative like in sample sentences (43) and (44).

43. *Ibhiman ako ay!*
    IMP-take ABS.1s   PAR
    'Take me with you.'

44. *Tawas ay!*
    Come   PAR
    'Come with me!'

Using *ay* in imperative sentences like (43) and (44), conveys the speaker's intention to convince the hearer. It adds force and influence to the request, thus compelling the hearer to adhere to the statement. This particle may also be used as an exclamation, like giving a remark or commenting on something. It may also be interpreted as an expression of disbelief.

This is also commonly said in rising intonation and may sometimes be accompanied by a sneer or a knowing grin.

3.3.3 *ha*

This confirmation marker is the opposite of ay especially when it occurs in imperatives.

45. *Dali lang ha.*
    moment PAR   PAR
    'Just a moment, ok?'

46. *Indi kaw   maugut sa ihambal ko   ha?*
    Don't ABS.2s get angry OBL IMP-say   GEN.1s PAR
    'Don't get mad for what I'm about to say, alright?'

The use of *ha* in both sentences (45) and (46) softens the imperatives. This may be considered a politeness marker, but it is not the same as 'please' in English. What it does to the sentence is it elicits an affirmative response from the hearer. It shows that the speaker is mindful of the hearer's views and sensitivities. Moreover, *ha* may also be used to check the hearer's understanding or assert a request as reflected in a sample sentence (47).

47. *Andaman   mo   ha?*
    IMP-take care ABS.2s PAR
    'Take care of it, ok?'

3.4 Modal Particles

Modal particles show the subjunctive or optative mood (Spitz, 2001). This consists of terms that express a doubtful condition or wishful thinking. The terms included in this list are *ayhan, kuno, daw,* and *sana.*

3.4.1. *ayhan*

The closest literal translation of *ayhan* in English is 'maybe'. However, the meaning may vary depending on how it is used in different sentences. For instance, *ayhan* may be an expression of pondering the possibility of rain in sentence (48).

48. *Mauran ayhan?*
    Rain   PAR
    'I wonder if it will rain.'

Another use of *ayhan* would be to confirm a belief or express an interest or annoyance, as in (49).

49. *Ayhan nag-adto tana   didya? Para mang-away?*
    PAR   come ABS.3s   here? to   mock
    'Is this the reason why he/she came here? to mock (me)?'

In this sample utterance, *ayhan* is used to convey annoyance but, at the same time, functions as an interrogative marker in the causative form. Sentences conveying annoyance using *ayhan* may also result in a different pragmatic function:

50. *Ayhan kung ikaw dya masarangan mo?*
    PAR if   ABS.2s PROX CONT-handle OBL.2s
    'How about you do this?'

Sentence (51) is a statement of challenge or daring someone to do something. This statement is commonly said when the speaker is exasperated by the hearer's banters (friendly or not). This may also be used in denoting curiosity or interest in an impression, as shown in sentences (51) and (52).

51. *Ambung   ayhan   tana?*
    Beautiful PAR   ABS.3s
    'Is she really beautiful?'

52. *Bahol run ayhan tana?*
    Grown up already PAR   ABS.3s
    'Do you think he's already a grown up?'

In (51) and (52), *ayhan* indicates the speaker's uncertainty on something that interests him or her.

3.4.2. *kuno*

This particle is a quotative marker. It implies that a statement is truthful based on a rumor or a second-hand information.

53. A: Nagdaug tana?
           PERF- win   ABS.3s
           'Did he/she win?'

    B: Kuno!
           PAR
           'So, they say.'

54. *Nagdaug kuno tana sa Miss Universe.*
    PERF – win PAR   ABS.3s OBL Miss Universe
    'They said she won in Miss Universe.'

The use of *kuno* in these statements indicates that the news or details here may be unverified or that it has been communicated from person to person.

3.4.3 *daw*

The particle *daw* is a variation of *ayhan.* This may also be translated as 'seems'.

55. *Daw mauran.*
    PAR   IMP-rain
    'It seems like it will rain.'

56. *Daw masuka ako.*
    PAR   vomit   ABS.1s
    'I feel like vomiting.'

Using *daw* in these declarative sentences indicates the speaker's expectations of something likely to happen.

3.5 Limiting Particles

The particles under this category express limitation in both quality and quantity. The particles *lang, harus, medyo*, and *mga* restrict an inanimate thing, an action, or a concept in various occurrences.

3.5.1 *lang*

This particle may not only function as a temporal particle but also as a limiting particle. It is

prenominal, and its English counterparts are 'only' and 'just'.

57. May isara lang o darwa ka kwarto ang mga bahay.
POS.EXIS one PAR or two ABS room ERG PLU house
' Houses only have one or two rooms.'

58. *Talagsa lang ang mga kutson o matres sa barrio.*
Few PAR ABS PLU bed or mattress OBL downtown
'There are only few beds and mattresses downtown.'

59. *Simple lang ang party.*
Simple PAR ABS party
'The party is just simple.'

In (57) and (58), the use of *lang* limits the quantity of inanimate things like *kwarto* 'room', *kutson* 'bed', and *matres* 'mattress'. In contrast, in (59), the particle *lang* further moderates the modifier in the utterance.

3.5.2 *harus*
This particle usually precedes the nominals it modifies. It is equivalent to 'almost' or 'barely' in English and halos in Tagalog.

60. *Harus sangka kilo ang bugas.*
PAR one kilo ABS rice
'The rice is almost one kilo.'

61. *Harus malipong ako sa sakit.*
PAR IMP-faint ABS.1s OBL pain.
'I almost fainted from the pain.'

3.5.3 medyo
This limiting particle means 'a little', 'rather', or 'slightly' to modify the degree of the adjectives in the sentence. Sentences (62) and (63) illustrate its use.

62. *Medyo init kung gab-i.*
PAR hot at night
'It's a little hot at night.'

63. Medyo gamay ang sweldo kang bulig didya.
PAR low ABS salary OBL maid here
'A maid's salary here is rather low.'

3.5.4 *mga*

This term is more commonly used as nominal marker that indicates plurality. As a limiting particle, it indicates an approximation of a certain quantity. This particle translates to 'around' or 'about' in English.

64. Mga darwa kami ka simana nagbakasyon.
PAR two ABS.1p.incl ABS week ERF-go on vacation
'We went on a vacation for around two weeks.'

Like *harus* and *medyo, mga* usually precedes the adjectives and nominals it modifies. It is usually followed by a numerical expression of time, quantity, or ordinals.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, Kinaray-a discourse particles are discussed based on their linguistic functions in different uses, considering the pervasiveness of discourse particles in naturally occurring daily conversations. Described here are the five classifications of Kinaray-a discourse particles. These are emphatic, temporal, confirmation markers, and modal articles. One can only rely on their linguistic intuitions to dissect the purposes of these particles in different sentences and context.

It is worth noting that most of the Kinaray-a terms described and analyzed in this paper are also found in its sister languages, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Aklanon, and Tagalog. These discourse particles may be prepositive, prenominal, or postnominal, and some come at the very end of the clause. Their meanings are quite varied, and many of the literal translations in English cannot fully grasp the meanings of each term.

One limitation of this paper is the limited corpus-based data. It is therefore recommended to consider a larger corpus to study for a more comprehensive results and to understand the functions of discourse particles in appropriate contexts fully. The descriptions in this paper are primarily dependent on the linguistic experiences of the informants. Thus, other discourse particles may have been excluded in this paper. There may also be other uses of the mentioned discourse particles not illustrated in this paper. Further research and fieldwork on this matter are necessary to give a more detailed account of this grammatical unit of Kinaray-a language.

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