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The Functions of *hay* in Aklanon Narrative Discourse

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0. Introduction

This article discusses the *hay* particle as it occurs in narrative discourse in Aklanon:¹ what kinds of grammatical constructions *hay* occurs in; where in a text *hay* constructions are found; what kinds of information are contained in *hay* constructions; and what functions *hay* constructions perform.

The *hay* particle performs two main functions in narrative discourse: (1) it signals a pause, and (2) it signals an inverted clause.

1. *hay* as pause

The first main function of *hay* is to signal pause. The pause may be one of two kinds: first, a grammatical pause when it comes between a noun phrase and a following independent clause or a dependent clause and a following independent clause; second, a hesitation at the beginning of a sentence or a quote.

1.1. *hay* as grammatical pause

When *hay* functions as a grammatical pause, it can occur between a preposed noun phrase and an independent clause. It can also occur between a dependent clause and an independent clause when the dependent clause precedes the independent clause. When *hay* acts as a grammatical pause, it

¹ The Aklanon language is spoken by the 350,000 residents of Aklan province in the Republic of the Philippines. It is part of the Malayo-Polynesian language family.

The texts used in this paper were gathered by Poul and Kris Jensen. The texts were collected between 1983 and 1987 in Aklan under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The analysis was done during a discourse workshop held by the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya, Philippines, in October 1987. The workshop was directed by Michael R. Walrod, and the linguistic consultants were Rodolfo R. Barlaan and Sherri Brainard.

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functions much the same way as does the English comma when it occurs between dependent and independent clauses.

When *hay* signals a grammatical pause, it is optional. If *hay* is present, it occurs with a phonological pause. If *hay* is not present, the phonological pause alone occurs. It should be noted, however, that in fast speech the phonological pause is virtually imperceptible.

Sentence 1 shows *hay* signaling a pause between a preposed noun phrase and an independent clause. The preposed noun phrase, 'When it was already time to eat', is separated by *hay* from the independent clause, 'the animal keeper was also called'.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) <i>Tag oras eon nga gakaon hay gintawag man ro</i>
when time already LIG eat PAUS call also F ²

<i>bakero para magkaon.</i>
animal.keeper in.order.to eat | When it was already
time to eat, the animal
keeper was also called
in order to eat. |
|---|--|

Sentence 2 shows *hay* signaling a pause between a dependent clause and an independent clause. The dependent clause is 'and when I see that the jellyfish has no more bones'; it is separated by *hay* from the independent clause which follows.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (2) <i>Ag kon hikita ko nga owa eon it tue-an si Buroe</i>
and when see I LIG none anymore LIG bones F jellyfish

<i>hay gamayad eon ako.</i>
PAUS get.well already LF | And when I see that
jellyfish has no more
bones, then I will get
well. |
|--|---|

In the available texts, several kinds of information occurred in the preposed noun phrases and dependent clauses that were followed by the *hay* particle. Preposed noun phrases contained time information and statements of attribution. Dependent clauses also contained time information as well as conditions and reasons. Of the different kinds of information stated in these prenuclear constructions, time information was the most common (fourteen out of twenty-one occurrences). Because the prenuclear constructions followed by *hay* so often presented time information, the sentences in which they occurred were frequently found at the beginning of texts along with other sentences that presented setting information. They also occurred in the first sentences of new paragraphs when the sentences indicated a change in time.

Sentences 1 and 2 are examples of a preposed noun phrase and a dependent clause that contain time information. Sentence 3 is an example of a preposed noun phrase followed by *hay* which contains attribution information. The attribution credits another person with the information contained in the independent clause. The phrase is often used to disclaim responsibility for the truthfulness of the information. In sentence 3 the author attributes what she says to the animal keeper rather than herself.

² The following is a list of the abbreviations and symbols used in the interlinear gloss of the examples:

EMPH	emphasis
F	focus
INV	inversion
LIG	ligature
PAUS	pause or hesitation
PL	plural
REF	referen
-	glottal before vowel
'	glottal before consonant

- (3) *Suno sa bakero, hay kilaea'ta nana nga*
 according.to REF animal.keeper PAUS know he LIG
mayad ro magueang nga tawo nga nagtago kana.
 good/well F old LIG person LIG hide him
 According to the animal keeper, he knew very well the old man who had hidden him.

Sentences 4 and 5 are examples of dependent clauses followed by *hay* that contain information other than time. In sentence 4, the prenuclear dependent clause states a condition, 'So if you looked at the rice fields':

- (4) *Ngani nga kon imo nga tan-awon ro kaeanas-an ag ro*
 so LIG if you LIG look F rice.field and F
kabukiran sa libot it eanas hay malsa may
 mountains REF perimeter of rice.field PAUS seems.like there.is
fiesta, sa kaaboon it tawo nga nagalibot-libot nga
 fiesta REF abundance of people LIG wander.around LIG
nagatawag daea ro pag-inusoy sa ginhimaduea nga
 call at.the.same.time F search REF lost LIG
bakero.
 animal.keeper
 So if you looked at the rice fields and the mountains surrounding the rice fields, it would have seemed like a fiesta because of the many people that were going around and calling while they were looking for the animal keeper who was lost.

In sentence 5, the prenuclear dependent clause presents a reason for the action that is given in the independent clause.

- (5) *Ngani tungod palangga gid ni Haring Dragon ro anang asawa*
 so because cherish EMPH king dragon F his wife
hay ginpatawag dayon nana ro mga manogbueong it ginharian
 PAUS call then he F PL healer of kingdom
pero owa sanda it mahimo.
 but have.not they LIG ability
 So because King Dragon cherished his wife so much, he then called for the healers of the kingdom, but they were not able (to help).

1.2. *hay* as hesitation

A less common, but related, function of *hay* is to signal hesitation. It can signal a hesitation at the beginning of a sentence or a quote. In this case *hay* acts as a stalling device. Sentence 6 shows a typical occurrence of *hay* signaling hesitation at the beginning of the sentence.

- (6) *Hay ginaingaan imaw ku ana nga daywang ka igmanghod nga*
 PAUS warn he,F his LIG two LIG sibling LIG
babayi nga indi imaw rito magpangasawa sa babayi ngaron
 girl LIG not he,F there court REF girl that
ay ginasinghan nga aswang.
 because say LIG vampire.man
 Well, his two sisters admonished him not to court that girl because it was said that she was a vampire woman.

2. *hay* as an inversion particle

The second main function of *hay* is to signal that the normal word order in a clause has been inverted. In this case, *hay* occurs between the constituents of the clause. When *hay* signals an inverted clause construction it is obligatory.

In an inverted clause construction, one constituent of the clause is preposed to the beginning of the clause. Preposing the constituent to the beginning of the clause signals that this particular constituent is more important than the other ones in the clause. When *hay* occurs in an inverted clause construction, it separates the preposed clause constituent from the rest of the clause.

Sentences 7 and 8 illustrate the process of inverting a clause. Sentence 7 shows the most natural word order for an equational clause which equates 'my father' with 'farmer'. In sentence 8 the noun phrase 'my father' has been preposed, and *hay* has been inserted between the noun phrase and the rest of the clause. The English translation of both sentences is the same; that is, sentence 8 is not a cleft sentence, such as 'My father was the one who was a farmer.' Both sentences 7 and 8 are translated 'My father was a farmer.'

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| (7) <i>Mangunguma ro akon nga tatay.</i>
farmer F my LIG father | My father was a farmer. |
| (8) <i>Ro akon nga tatay hay mangunguma.</i>
F my LIG father INV farmer | My father was a farmer. |

It should be noted that the preposed constituent is always a noun phrase, and the noun phrase is always in focus. Also, when the noun phrase is preposed, there is no pronoun left behind to mark its original position in the clause.

The position of the inverted clause in the text is related to the kind of information that is preposed. Inverted clauses with *hay* usually occur in the setting and the conclusion of texts. There is one interesting text in which *hay* occurs throughout the text. This text will be discussed in section 2.3.

2.1. *hay* inverted clauses at the beginning of a text

hay inverted clauses that occur at the beginning of texts prepose two kinds of information: participants and locations. Of the two kinds of information, participants are the most common. In narrative texts, main participants are introduced in *hay* inverted clauses at the beginning of the texts. Sentence 8 in the preceding section illustrates this function.

Sentence 8 is the first sentence of a text about the kidnapping of an animal keeper by a vampire. The sentence introduces one of the main participants of the text, 'my father'. Because the father is a main participant, the noun phrase mentioning him is preposed to the beginning of the sentence. The preposed noun phrase signals that the father is more important than other participants in the text.

In folktale texts, participants are introduced in existential sentences. These existential sentences can be followed by another sentence that occurs in the form of an inverted *hay* clause. The inverted *hay* clause contains information that further identifies the main participant.

For example, sentences 9a and 9b are found in a folktale that tells about the origin of vampires. Sentence 9a introduces the first three participants, two sisters and a brother. The sisters are minor participants and are never named, but the brother is the main participant of the story. Sentence 9b goes on to name him in an inverted *hay* clause.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (9a) <i>May tatlong ka magmaeanghod nga daywang ka bayi ag</i>
there.is three LIG sibling LIG two LIG girl and
<i>sambilog nga eaki.</i>
one LIG boy | There were three
brothers and sisters,
two girls and a boy. |
| (9b) <i>Ronduyon nga eaki ngaron ra ana nga ngaean hay si Baeahidyong.</i>
that LIG boy that F his LIG name INV F Baeahidyong | That boy, his name was
Baeahidyong. |

Locations can also be foregrounded by inverted *hay* clauses. In the text that tells why the jellyfish has no bones, the location of the story is first mentioned in an existential sentence. Additional

information about the kingdom is given in the next sentence. This sentence, seen in sentence 10b, is a *hay* inverted clause. The location, the kingdom, is stated in the preposed noun phrase. It is followed by *hay* and the rest of the clause which further describes the kingdom.

- (10a) *May isaeang ka ginharian sa idaeom it dagat.*
 there.is one LIG kingdom REF bottom of sea

There was a kingdom
 at the bottom of the
 sea. This kingdom was
 ruled by King Dragon.

- (10b) *Dayang ginharian hay ginadumaeahan ni Haring Dragon.*
 this kingdom INV head king dragon

2.2. *hay* inverted clauses at the end of a text

hay inverted clauses that occur at the end of texts prepose information in sentences that signals the impending conclusions of the texts. In the available data, there are three examples of *hay* inverted clauses occurring at the end of texts.

The first example is sentence 11, which is the last sentence in a text telling why mosquitos try to get into people's ears. The mosquito is one of the main participants in the text. Sentence 11 states the reason why mosquitos try to enter people's ears. The reason refers to the theme of the text. In stating the reason, the mosquito is mentioned again in a noun phrase. The noun phrase is preposed and followed by *hay*.

- (11) *Ngani nga hasta makaron ro namok hay nagasueod iya sa*
 so LIG until now F mosquito INV enter here REF
aton nga dueonggan ay ro eaom ku namok hay
 our LIG ear because F wrong.idea of mosquito PAUS
iya ro alimango nakasuhot.
 here F crab crawl.in

So, even up to the
 present time, the
 mosquito goes in our
 ears because the
 mosquito thinks that
 the crab has crawled in
 there.

The second example, sentence 12, comes from the text about the jellyfish. Sentence 12 is the last sentence in the text. It presents a summary of the theme of the story. The jellyfish, the main participant, is mentioned in the sentence. Again, it is the main participant that is preposed to the beginning of the inverted clause.

- (12) *Ngani, raya ro istorya kon ham-an ro buroe hay owa it*
 so this F story of why F jellyfish INV have.no LIG
tue-an o bisan bakog eon lang hasta makaron
 bones or even fish.bones just only until now

So, this is the story of
 why the jellyfish has no
 bones, or even fish
 bones, to this day.

The third example, sentence 13, occurs in the text about the kidnapping of the animal keeper. Sentence 13 is the last sentence in the text. In this example, sentence 13 is responding to the request that initiated the telling of the story. The speaker was asked to tell a personal experience story. She complied by giving the fantastic account about the kidnapping of an animal keeper by a vampire man. The speaker brings her story to a close by referring back to the request for a personal experience story. She testifies that even though the story sounds unbelievable, it really is a true happening.

- (13) *Raya nga istorya hay indi haeos mapatihan pero raya hay*
 this LIG story INV not almost believe but this INV
matuod nga natabo.
 true LIG happening

This story is almost unbelievable, but it is a true happening.

2.3. *hay* inverted clauses in the body of a text

As has been mentioned, *hay* inverted clauses usually occur at the beginning or the conclusion of a text. There is, however, one text that is an exception to this pattern. In this text, *hay* clauses occur not only at the beginning and the conclusion of the text, but throughout the prepeak section that leads up to the peak of the text.

The text is the account of the animal keeper who is kidnapped by a vampire man. In brief, the speaker tells how her father's animal keeper disappeared one day. When the father realized that the animal keeper was missing, he soon had everyone searching for the man. They searched the whole day and were about to give up when they heard a shout. It was the animal keeper. When they found the man, he explained that he had been kidnapped by a vampire man and had only just then escaped.

As the story begins, the animal keeper is introduced in the first sentence in a *hay* inverted clause, as follows:

- (14) *Akon nga madumduman kat maisot pa ako, ro amon nga*
 I LIG remember when small still I F our LIG
bakero hay gintago it aswang.
 animal.keeper INV hide vampire.man

I remember, when I was still small, our animal keeper was hidden by a vampire man.

In the prepeak section following the first sentence, there are several occurrences of *hay* clauses. These clauses prepose several kinds of information. The use of the *hay* clauses in this section appears to be a rhetorical device for highlighting the theme of the story and for increasing the suspense as the story builds up to the peak. For example, the information about the news of the lost animal keeper occurs twice in *hay* clauses. The news that the keeper has disappeared refers to the theme of the story. The news is the preposed information as is seen in sentence 15.

- (15) *Ngani nga matsa nabantogan ro balita ku pagkaduea ku*
 so LIG seems.like well.known F news of lost of
amon nga bakero ag pati ro banwa hay nakasayod
 our LIG animal.keeper and including F town INV know
eon.
 already

So it seemed like the news that our animal keeper was lost was well known and even the town knew already.

Participants are also introduced in *hay* clauses in the prepeak section. In these clauses, however, the participants are not main participants, but minor ones. The question then is why are minor participants being introduced in *hay* clauses as though they were main participants. In the story, the speaker points out that everyone was searching for the lost animal keeper. She does this by naming all the different people who had joined in the search, the plowers, the villagers, the police, as well as others. She underlines the fact that many people were searching for the keeper by introducing each group of participants in *hay* clauses. Sentences 16 and 17 are examples.

- (16) *Ngani, owa mabuhayi, ro mga kasimaryo hay nagtibyog sa*
 so not long.time F PL fellow.villager INV join REF
pagtawag ag sa pag-usoy sa amon nga bakero.
 call and REF search REF our LIG animal.keeper
 So it did not take long for the other villagers to join together to call and look for our keeper.
- (17) *Haeos ro tanan hay nagbuylog sa pag-inusoy.*
 almost F all INV join REF search
 Almost everyone joined in the search.

The speaker illustrates how concerned everyone was about the disappearance of the keeper by noting that even the water buffalo were left unattended in the fields. To underline this point, she states the information in a *hay* clause as seen in sentence 18.

- (18) *Ro mga anwang hay owa eo't-a ngani madiparahi.*
 F PL water.buffalo INV not already take.care.of
 The water buffalo were not being taken care of anymore.

The reappearance of the animal keeper forms the peak of the story. The speaker highlights the peak by focusing on the keeper's physical condition. As she describes his rather battered appearance, she concentrates on one particular detail, his torn-off toenails. This information is given in two *hay* clauses as follows:

- (19) *Ro bakero hay nakita nga maeopsi, maabo nga lisgis ro*
 F animal.keeper INV see LIG pale many LIG scratch F
anang mga butkon, siki ag batiis.
 his PL arm foot and leg
 The keeper was pale, and had many scratches on his arms, feet, and lower legs.
- (20) *Ro kuko ku anang mga tudlo it siki hay nagkaeapaksi.*
 F nail of his PL toe of foot INV peel.off
 The nails on his toes had been peeled off.

Following the peak of the story is the keeper's account of what happened. He tells how he was kidnapped by a vampire man. Even though he could see and hear the people who were searching for him, he could not answer because he was in the grip of his captor. The vampire man had dragged him from place to place around the field. That is how his toenails were torn off.

After the peak, there is only one other occurrence of a *hay* clause. It is the last sentence (see sentence 13 in sec. 2.2) and concludes the text.

3. Conclusion

In Aklanon narrative discourse, *hay* performs two functions: (1) it indicates a grammatical pause, and (2) it marks an inverted clause construction. Its occurrence is not limited to narrative discourse; it is found in all discourse genres in Aklanon. More analysis needs to be done to determine its role in the other discourse genres. This is especially true for expository discourse in which *hay* occurs much more frequently than in narrative.

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