

Strategies of Nominal Modification in Tagalog

In this talk, an overview over the different strategies of nominal modification in Tagalog will be given. For Tagalog as a strongly verb-initial language, we expect a rather right-branching word order, meaning that modifiers follow their nominal head. There are three morphologically different strategies of modifying a nominal head: A prepositional phrase can be postposed to the noun expressing location, goal or temporal attributes (1), a nominal phrase marked by the non-subject marker can follow the noun to code possession or compounds (2), and a modifier can be linked to the nominal head by the ligature *na*, with the order of head and modifier being flexible in the case of adjectives, relative clauses and demonstratives (3a and 3b).

(1) *ibon sa puno*

ibon sa=puno
bird PREP=tree

‘bird in the tree’

(2) *aklat ng guro*

aklat ng=guro
book NSBJ=teacher

‘teacher’s book’

(3) (a) *malinis na tubig*

ma-linis=na tubig
ST-clean=LK water

‘clean water’

(b) *tubig na malinis*

tubig=na ma-linis
water=LK ST=clean

‘clean water’

The talk will first discuss the definition of word classes in Tagalog to set the frame for the analysis of nominal phrases (NP) in Tagalog. The three above mentioned strategies of nominal modification will be described in more detail and examples of how the strategies are used to code adnominal possession in addition. The few existing approaches as to how the differences in word order within a *na*-modified nominal phrase can be accounted for and which factors might influence the word order will be discussed, and the need to investigate further will be argued for.