

Title: **Grammatical Structures of Camalaniugan-Ybanag**

Institution: Cagayan State University

Address: Caritan Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

Researcher: **Romel L. Tagumasi**

E-mail Address: romeltagumasi@yahoo.com

Contact Number: 09163951172

The study was conducted to determine the grammatical structures that are commonly used by the speakers of Ybanag of Camalaniugan, Cagayan. It also determined the differences and similarities of the grammatical structures of Ybanag, Filipino and English languages.

This study used the descriptive method since it tried to determine only the structures of the Camalaniugan-Ybanag on the three sentence functions: declarative, interrogative, and imperative. It also used the comparative method since it tried to examine the similarities and differences of the grammatical structures of the three languages: Camalaniugan-Ybanag, Filipino and English. Further, qualitative research was also used since it discusses the grammatical structures of the three languages.

It is found out that most of the declarative sentences in Camalaniugan-Ybanag have subjects that come first before the verbs. Elliptical sentences are also being used. It is also fond of combining final sound of the first word and initial sound of the second word. Interrogative sentences also contain interrogative pronouns to introduce questions, sound combination of the final and initial sounds of words, and ellipsis. The imperative sentences emphasize the action by placing them at the beginning of the sentences.

Keywords: Grammatical Structures, Camalaniugan, Ybanag, Imperative, Declarative, Interrogative

Grammatical Structures of Camalaniugan-Ybanag

Introduction

The Ybanag is concentrated in the Provinces of Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela. The Ybanags are among the minority of Filipino people that live along the banks of the Cagayan River. In Cagayan, Ybanag is found in Tuguegarao, Abulug, Pamplona, Camalaniugan, Lal-lo, Amulung, Iguig, Penablanca and Aparri towns.

Though these communities use a common language – Ybanag – differences still exist. Some of these variations are the *afafe* (bitter gourd) of Aparri which is also used by other Ybanag speakers, *kafaya* (papaya), and *dufo* (banana), which are *ahahe*, *kahaya*, and *duho* respectively in Camalaniugan. The name of the language itself is different in this place. If other native speakers of Ybanag use *Ybanag* or *Ybanak*, Camalaniugan-Ybanag speakers name this language *Yvanak*. Some of the sentential differences are the following: Tuguegarao dialect - *Ari ka nga kuman ta illuk*; Isabela dialect - *Ammeng kumang tu illug*. For Camalaniugan-Ybanag speakers, they would say, “*Akkak ka kumat ta illuk*” or “*Kak ka kumat ta illuk*.” Hence, Camalaniugan-Ybanag language still has a distinct mark in terms of vocabulary, pronunciation and structures.

Camalaniugan is a 4th class municipality in the province of Cagayan, Philippines. According to the latest census, it has a population of 22,489 people in 4,106 households. It is politically subdivided into 28 barangays. Among these, there are only six barangays speaking Ybanag and the rest speak the Lingua Franca of Northern Luzon, Ilocano. And in these six Ybanag speaking barangays, Ilocano is still being used. This is one of the considerations of the researcher in pursuing this study – to publish information about Camalaniugan-Ybanag, which is in the verge of its extinction.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to examine the grammatical structures that are commonly used by the speakers of Ybanag of Camalaniugan, Cagayan. It also purported to determine the differences and similarities of the grammatical structures of Ybanag, Filipino and English languages.

Specifically, this study aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What are the grammatical structures of Camalaniugan-Ybanag on the following?
 - a. Declarative
 - b. Interrogative
 - c. Imperative
2. What are the similarities and differences of Camalaniugan-Ybanag grammatical structures with those of English and Filipino Languages?

Methodology

The researcher used the descriptive method because it tried to determine only the structures of the Camalaniugan-Ybanag on the three sentence functions: declarative, interrogative, and imperative. This research also used the comparative method since it tried to examine the similarities and differences of the grammatical structures of the three languages: Camalaniugan-Ybanag, Filipino and English. Further, this research is a qualitative research because it discusses the grammatical structures of the three languages based on the facts that were gathered and backed-up by the observations made by the researcher.

The researcher used a recording device (mobile phone) for him to be able to easily analyze the conversations. He recorded eight different conversations with different topics, different people involved, and different lengths of discussion. After the recording, the researcher transcribed the

conversations for a more manageable analysis. He then translated the conversations in English and Filipino. Finally, he analyzed the grammatical structures of the transcribed Camalaniugan-Ybanag conversations by labeling the parts of each sentence.

Results and Discussion

This part focuses on the analysis of the common grammatical structures used in Declarative, Interrogative and Imperative Sentences in Camalaniugan-Ybanag and their similarities and differences to Filipino and English structures.

A. Declarative Sentences

1. Yal lara katatawag na y lalaki.
 V S DO
 She always talks to a man through the phone.
2. Istoryan na hagamma hagalaggaha kummu.
 V S
 She would still tell it.
3. Babbalak ku y sinummi ngamin.
 V S DO
 I wash all our clothes.
4. Maggapas gamma si kuwa, Johnny.
 V S S
 Johnny will have his rice plant be harvested.
5. Fu nilihe' tak kunnanga ay Afu yo yun nattayak ku. (compound sentence)
 V-S S V
 Lord, I looked at him and Lord, he was the man to whom I bet.
6. Ihala ta ka nga ka Johndee.
 V -S Prep Phrase
 I'll ask Johndee to take you.

The sentences above are stated in the manner where the subject comes first before the verb. Hence, Camalaniugan-Ybanag is similar to the English and Filipino languages particularly those sentences whose subjects come first before the verbs. The “kabalikang ayos” of Filipino such as “Siya ay umupo,” “Sila ay kumain,” and “Si Juan ay natutulog” have similar structure with that of Ybanag in as much as the placement of subject and verb is concerned. This is also true to most sentences in English.

1. Mahiya nikawange aza sinnum mu la y babbalammu. (Elliptical Sentence)

Adj Prep Phrase Sub Clause

It's good for you because you wash only your own clothes.

2. Yaya olu ay.(elliptical sentence)

S adv

It's (the) first.

3. Awag gamma haga tungngo makkumaw. (Elliptical)

Adv Adv S

There were no kidnappers yet before.

4. Mestru kanu mama. (elliptical sentence-no subject and no verb)

They say he is a teacher, Mama.

5. Aza kanu minassivurung. (elliptical-no verb)

S

They say that there are kidnappers.

Speakers of Camalaniugan-Ybanag also use elliptical sentences or sambitla in their declarative sentences. There are instances when their sentences have no subject or no verb or both. Unlike in this language, sentences in English always have a subject and a verb, though there are also a few instances of elliptical sentences. Filipino language has its “sambitla” which is defined by Santiago and Tiangco as “*isang pangungusap na may patapos na himig sa dulo*”.

Examples of this are “*Nanay!*” and “*Aray!*” The former calls his/her mother and the latter means that he/she is hurt.

1. Yal lara katatawag na y lalaki.

She always talks to a man through the phone.

2. Maggapas gamma si kuwa, Johnny.

Johnny will have his rice plant be harvested.

Yal or *ya*, *gamma* and *kuwa* are some words in Camalaniugan-Ibanag whose counterpart cannot be found in English and Filipino (their exact meaning). These words affect the structure being preferred by the speakers.

1. Yal lara katatawag na y lalaki.

She always talks to a man through the phone.

2. Azo duwam ma y kutsara na.

Here! He is using two spoons.

The foregoing sentences contain words whose final sound combines with the initial sound of the next word. *Yal lara* and *duwam ma* are examples of this case. Hence, Ibanag speakers are also fond of combining sounds.

1. Mahiya nikawange aza sinnum mu la y babbalam mu.

It's good for you because you wash only your own clothes.

2. Fu nilihe' tak kunnanga ay Afu yo yun nattayak ku.

The complete word for *kam* is *akkan*. Since the first letter of the next word *mu* is *m*, the *n* in *akkan* is replaced with *m.lag* is *lan* and *ga* is *gaha*. The same is done with these two words. *Ta* in the second sentence is *tatun* which means *there*. *Pagayamad* in the third sentence is *pagayaman* which means *play* but since the first letter of the next word is *d*, the *n* is replaced with *d*. *Ngan na* in the fourth sentence is supposed to be *ngana na*. This is another illustration of Ybanag language being fond of using “shortcuts” or word combinations. This language has more cases of word and sound combinations than English and Filipino have.

(Ngatta) Kehiya ha ngan na allimpiyam?
 Adv V-S (combined)
Why do you clean well now?

One similarity of the three languages is that they use subject-verb combination.

Allimpiyam is a combination of *allimpiya* and *ma* or *mu*. There’s a combination of words(like subject and verb) in the Ibanag language.

1. Ngatta pahanawan nu lagu?
 V S
Then, why do you ask (him/her/it) to leave?
2. Sito pagayamad da nganga?
 V S
Where will they play?
3. (Ngatta) Kehiya ha ngan na allimpiyam?
 Adv V-S (combined)
Why do you clean well now?
4. Ngatta nappalahalayu ka?
 V S

Why were you running?

5. Anni ma sa kuwamma?
V-S (Combined)
What are you going to do with it?

The interrogative sentences above are all introduced by demonstrative pronouns which are *ngatta* –why, *sito* – where, and *anni* – what. In all of these sentences, the verbs come first before the subjects. It is similar to the structure of **most** English interrogative sentences that are introduced by demonstrative pronouns-*verb comes first before the subject*.

1. Tori? Jadda Lou? (elliptical sentences)
There? At Lou's (place).
2. Anni yori? (elliptical sentences)
Prn S
What's that?
3. Egga ta si Pepeng?
S (No verb)
Is Pepeng there?

As evident in the sentences above, Ibanag uses elliptical sentences in some of the interrogative sentences. There are sentences that do not have subjects or verb or both. Elliptical sentences in question form are also evident in English and Filipino languages.

C. Imperative Sentences

1. Emmu labbi yo piyat ta danume.
V-S adv DO V Prep.Obj. of prep.
Will you fill this with water first.
2. Mano ka ta ta magituvang si Nung mu Me.

V S adv Sub. Clause
Vacate that (chair) so that (manong) Me will sit.

3. Ya innan nu gapasa' I kuwa ngut turi.

V S Inf. Phrase
You harvest that one first.

4. Tadde lan (nga kutsara ahan mu). (elliptical sentence)

Just one.

Ybanag speakers emphasize the verb or the action they want another person to do. Just like in English imperative sentences, which omit the subject “you”, these sentences in Ibanag have the verbs first, though they still contain their subjects, which is similar to the imperative sentences in Filipino.

In the first three sentences above, verb comes first before the subject and the last sentence above is also an elliptical sentence whose subject and verb are implied.

Conclusion

Most of the declarative sentences in Camalaniugan-Ybanag have subjects that come first before the verbs. Elliptical sentences are also being used. It is also fond of combining final sound of the first word and initial sound of the second word. Interrogative sentences also contain interrogative pronouns to introduce questions, sound combination of the final and initial sounds of words, and ellipsis. The imperative sentences emphasize the action by placing them at the beginning of the sentences.

Recommendations

Studies along this line should be conducted, especially on the following:

1. Identification of the differences of the Ybanag as spoken or used by the different municipalities mentioned herein.
 - a. Morphemes
 - b. Phonemes
2. Identification of the words that have no exact counterpart in Filipino and English.
3. Establishment of the grammatical rules of Camalaniugan-Ybanag.

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