PENEYRA, IRMA U. 1992. A Grammatical Sketch of the Tausug Language. Quezon City: Cecilio Lopez Archives of the Philippines and the Philippine Linguistic Circle. pp 55.

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This grammar sketch was written in 1972 by Professor Irma U. Peneyra as her thesis for the Master of Arts degree in Linguistics.

The author's stated purpose was primarily to describe the constituent structure of the simple sentences of Tausug, based on language data elicited from the dialect spoken in the town of Jolo. She has carefully and systematically accomplished this purpose, presenting the information clearly and concisely, with sample sentences to illustrate each possible construction presented. It should not be difficult for the reader of this grammar sketch to get a beginning grasp of the Tausug language.

Most of the analysis and terminology used in the grammar sketch will be familiar enough to be readily understood by a student of Philippine languages. The term "nominative" is used to refer to the part of a sentence which is equivalent to the Tagalog "ang" phrase. Although in Philippine linguistics this often goes by other names such as the focused noun phrase or the Absolutive noun phrase, for the purposes of this review I will simply follow the author's choice of terminology.

One interesting feature of the analysis is the use of the terms Subject and Predicate for the two major constituents of a simple sentence. For a verbal sentence, the term Subject refers to the nominative noun phrase. In constructions where a sentence has two nominative markers, sometimes referred to as equative or cleft sentences, the author was careful to define which marked phrase is to be viewed as the Subject.

The grammar sketch is presented in seven chapters. Chapter 1 discusses both the phonology (phonemes, suprasegmental features, and syllable types) and morphology (morpheme classes and word classes) of Tausug.

Under the topic of morpheme classes, roots are subclassified as noun roots, verb roots, adjective roots, and pronoun roots. In practice, these may not always be useful classifications, because a given root can often take more than one class of affix, becoming a verb in one case, and a noun in another.

The listing of pronoun roots and affixes makes it appear at first that perhaps the Tausug language has unusual pronouns. However, the author points out that there is only one pronoun affix; simply the morpheme /ka-/ which attaches to a Genitive pronoun to form the proclitic Genitive, or Locative pronouns. This is an interesting feature of the Tausug language, since some Philippine languages do not have enough regularity in the formation of their Locative pronouns to allow them to be analyzed as simply affixed Genitive pronouns.

The noun markers are categorized as articles if they are Nominative forms, and thus could be marking the Subject of the sentence. Otherwise they are called prepositions. Because of this classification of the noun markers, one important thing that may not be clear to the casual reader is that the articles are simply Nominative markers, and that among the prepositions are the Genitive and Locative markers. It would have been helpful to use the terms Nominative, Genitive, and Locative in the labels of these markers to point out their relationship to the Nominative, Genitive, and Locative pronouns.

Tausug uses the same proper name introducer for both Nominative and Genitive. It would be interesting to know how the Agent is identified when both a Nominative and a Genitive proper name occur in the same sentence. However, this question is not addressed in the grammar sketch.

Chapter 2 begins the discussion of Tausug simple sentence constructions, which are categorized as predicative if they have an explicit Subject, and non-predicative if they do not. Predicative sentences are further categorized into definite, indefinite, and situational. The footnotes indicate that perhaps the definition of these three types and the choosing of the Subject in the definite type is an important feature of this grammar sketch, being a departure from what other analysts had done prior to 1972.

Chapter 3 introduces the verbal constructions and the possible complements (Actor, Goal, Locative, etc.) that the verbs can take. A verbal construction is defined as a verb with one or more verbal complements, one of which will be the Subject. The non-Subject complements, along with the verb, then become the predicate. Note that Tausug, being a verb-initial language, often places the Subject between the verb and other complements. This results in a discontinuous predicate, somewhat more complex than what would be found in a Subject-initial language like English.

Chapter 4 describes what the author calls subjectivalization, a process by which sentences are generated from a subjectless underlying form. A selected verbal complement is marked with a Nominative marker, and a corresponding change in the verb affixation is made. This chapter includes an example sentence for each complement and verb affix listed, making it quite helpful and complete for the student who wishes to get an overview of Tausug verbal constructions.

Chapter 5 deals with the non-verbal predicative sentences. They are categorized as adjectival, nominal, or particulate, depending on whether the predicate-type constituent of the sentence is an adjective, a noun, or some other type of phrase. The particulate sentences are further categorized as prepositional, locational, or possessive.

Chapter 6 discusses the non-predicative sentence type of Tausug simple sentences. These are sentences without a subject or predicate. The author posits four types of non-predicative sentences: the existential, meteorological, descriptive, and temporal.

Finally, the last chapter presents a complete description of the tense/aspect inflections of Tausug verbs. For each of the affixes listed earlier for Actor, Goal, Beneficiary, Locative, Instrument, and Causative Focus, this chapter shows how the verbs are inflected for future, past, present, and imperative forms. An example of each form and a list of some of the other roots on which they can occur are given. Looking at the affix patterns found in this section, I find some that are similar to those found in Tagalog or Hiligaynon, but many are new to me, and perhaps some are unique to the Tausug language.

In conclusion, this grammar sketch provides a good overall picture of the nature of the Tausug language and should be useful to those who are interested in the Tausug language itself, and also to those who are interested in general studies that compare and contrast the languages of the Philippines.

For those interested in further study of the Tausug language, the following additional materials have been produced since the time that this grammar sketch was written, and are listed here in chronological order:

Ashley, S. (1973). A case classification of Tausug verbs. *Sulu Studies 2*, 70-85.

Ashley, S. (1973). Notes on Tausug orthography. *Sulu Studies 2*, 86-94.

Hassan, I., Halud, N., Ashley, S. & Ashley, L. (Comps.). (1975). *Tausug-English dictionary (Kabtangan iban maana)*. Jolo, Sulu: Co-ordinated Investigation of Sulu Culture, and Manila: SIL. 42a, 789pp.

Julpatta, M. & Armour, M. S. (1978). *Tausug: Text 1 [folktale texts]*, ed. by E. Antworth. *Studies in Philippine Linguistics 2*, 180-192.

Tawasil, S., Ashley, S. & Ashley, L. (1978). *Tausug: Text 2 [folktale texts]*, ed. by E. Antworth. *Studies in Philippine Linguistics 2* (2), 192-201.

Armour, M. S. (1984). A comparison of narrative and hortatory discourse in Tausug. M.A. thesis, University of Texas, Arlington. xiii, 197ll. mfe D 83-0528 (3f).

Hassan, I. U., Ashley, S. A. & Ashley, M. L. (Comps. and Eds.). (1994). *Tausug-English dictionary: Kabtangan iban maana*. Notre Dame of Jolo College and SIL. 11a, 688pp.