

WRITING A COMMUNICATIVE GRAMMAR

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the writing of *A Communicative Grammar of Tuwali Ifugao*. Tuwali Ifugao is an Austronesian, Philippine-type language spoken in southern Ifugao province.

To begin the paper, the book *A Communicative Grammar of English* by Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik is introduced. This grammar served as the model for the Tuwali Ifugao grammar. The words 'communicative grammar' are defined, and an explanation of the analytical and descriptive methodology used as the basis for the writing of the grammar is given. Because the grammar is being written in conjunction with the contribution of a dictionary of the language and translation work, two important analytical principles are specified as underlying all of these language projects: 1) relate lexical semantics to universal-type concepts, and 2) discover the use and function of lexical units and morphosyntactic constructions in natural communication situations.

The body of the paper describes the contents of each of the 11 chapters of the Tuwali Ifugao grammar. Descriptive and data excerpts are given for most of the chapters. The descriptive excerpts have been chosen to demonstrate the way a grammar is written when both lexical semantics and pragmatic principles are considered as foundational to understanding morphosyntactic constructions. The data excerpts are chosen to demonstrate the importance of studying lexical units and grammatical constructions within natural communication contexts.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the late '70s while teaching in Singapore, I came across a very interesting book. *A Communicative Grammar of English* written by Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik.¹ It is impossible to describe the dramatic impact that 324-page book had on my notions about

¹The book was written for those who speak English as a second language and was based on *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. The two authors of this first-mentioned book had helped to write this voluminous work along with Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum.

writing a grammar. In fact, I determined that if I ever wrote a grammar of a language, it would be a communicative grammar. Little did I know how difficult and time-consuming such a grammar would be. However, in the intervening years, my husband, many Tawali Ifugao speakers² and I have worked to gather text, compile a dictionary and write a grammar based on how the Tawali Ifugao people³ use their language to communicate effectively.

One might ask the question 'what is a communicative grammar'. The answer depends on how the words 'communicative grammar' are interpreted. Leech and Svartvik intended their title to mean 'how English grammar is used to communicate'. There is, however, a second interpretation that can be given to the title of the Tawali Ifugao grammar, and that interpretation is 'a grammar that is written so that it communicates easily and well to any who use the grammar as a reference'. Both interpretations of the words apply to the TI grammar whether the users of the grammar are native speakers of the language or linguists who want to know about the structure and use of the language.

In this paper, I will briefly describe the contents of each chapter of the Tawali Ifugao grammar, and will add carefully chosen and edited excerpts to demonstrate the grammar's comprehensiveness and distinctive approach to grammar-writing.

2. ANALYTICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE METHODOLOGY

Although the Leech and Svartvik book was pivotal to our grammar-writing approach, a number of other linguists and their books have influenced the development of our analytical and descriptive methodology.⁴

This analytical and descriptive methodology is based on the belief that the lexicon and grammar are a linguistic continuum rather than two separate, isolated components of a language. The methodology is also based on the two following analytical principles:

- relate lexical semantics to universal-type concepts⁵
- discover the use and function of lexical units and morphosyntactic constructions in natural communication situations⁶

As might be expected, the analysis and description of lexical semantics is related to the compilation of the Tawali Ifugao dictionary. The analysis of the use and function of

²I want to acknowledge two Tawali Ifugao speakers, in particular, Lourdes S. Dulawan and Josephine Pataueg. Other speakers including DECS administrators, teachers, co-translators and many others are acknowledged by name in the dictionary and grammar.

³The Tawali Ifugao people live in the southern area of Ifugao Province. The language is classed as Austronesian, Philippine-type, and the speakers number approximately 25,000-30,000.

⁴These books are listed in the References section of this paper.

⁵*A Communicative Grammar of English* has 19 conceptual classes, and we used those classes for doing a comparative study of the lexicon of Tawali Ifugao.

⁶*A Communicative Grammar of English* also has descriptive sections on the expression of 1) Information, reality and belief 2) Mood, emotion and attitude and 3) Meanings in connected discourse. We used these notions for comparing the TI function of lexical units and morphosyntactic constructions in discourse to those with equivalent meaning or function in English.

lexical units and morphosyntactic constructions is related to the text and discourse analysis of natural texts.

3. TUWALI IFUGAO COMMUNICATIVE GRAMMAR

At the present time, the Tuwali Ifugao Communicative Grammar manuscript has 11 chapters and 89 illustrative tables. Although I will give a brief description of each chapter, I will not include excerpts from every chapter. For example, I have chosen not to include excerpts from the Phonology and Morphophonology chapters. These two chapters are comprehensive in their coverage of the phenomena of the sound system but do not demonstrate our particular approach to grammar writing.

Chapter 1 Phonology

The Phonology chapter describes the consonants and vowels of the language and their phonological variation, as well as syllable patterns, stress and intonation.

Chapter 2 Morphophonology

The Morphophonology chapter describes the phonological changes resulting from affixation and clitic attachment: assimilation, deletion, insertion, metathesis, and gemination.

Chapter 3 Morphology

The Morphology chapter describes root, stem and affix forms and the coding of referential, syntactic and semantic information through the word formation processes of inflection, derivation, and compounding.

I have chosen three excerpts from this chapter. They are not connected with one another and therefore, do not form a sequentially-coherent presentation of the morphology; they simply demonstrate interesting characteristics of the different types of morphemes in the language. Interlinearized sentence examples⁷ in the grammar show morphemes in natural communicative contexts. Note that the three lines in each example are marked Wordform, LexEntry and LexGloss. The Wordform line gives the actual morphosyntactic structure of the sentence. The LexEntry line shows how the morphemes are segmented and entered in the dictionary, and the LexGloss shows an English equivalent or a grammatical category for the functional morphemes.

Excerpt 1

Types of morphemes. Roots, stems and affixes are different types of morphemes in the language and are distinguished by form, position within words and distinctive syntactic and semantic features. Every morpheme, whether root, stem or affix, is treated as a lexical entry within the dictionary.

26III1.1.2

Wordform:	Immanam-ammo				hanadan	
LexEntry:	-imm-	-an-	CV(C)-	amo	hanada	an
LexGloss:	TAA	repeatedly	ASP	bathe	those	LK

⁷We are using the *LinguaLinks* dictionary program developed by SIL computer specialists. This program allows for seven lines of interlinearizing analysis of texts. However, we have chosen just three lines of our analyzed texts and a free translation for use in the grammar.

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tatagud			wa-el.
CV(C)-	tagu	di	wa-el
PL	person	DET	creek

FT: The people have been bathing now and then in the creek.

The morphology of Tawali Ifugao is exceedingly complex. Sets of affixes function to encode tense, aspect, modality, and agreement. The following excerpt will demonstrate the complexity of just one function of affixes, that of agreement.

Excerpt 2

Agreement Inflection. Discourse reference, morphosyntactic and semantic role notions relate to verb agreement and form a complex of components within the sets of affixes. There are three types of agreement that need to be considered in understanding the morphosyntactic surface structure of Tawali Ifugao. These three types are (1) morphological agreement, i.e. affix components agree with the components of co-occurring roots in context, (2) referential agreement, i.e. affixes agree with a chosen semantic role of one of the NPs, and (3) grammatical relations agreement, i.e. affixes agree with a subject or object NP.

26III.1.5

Wordform:	Mumbakih		apuh		bigat.	
LexEntry:	muN-	baki	hi	apu	hi	big'at
LexGloss:	TASU	performs rituals	DET	grandfather	DET	tomorrow

FT: Grandfather will perform a sacrificial ritual tomorrow.

The *muN-* verbal prefix owns a complex of four functions: (1) encodes non-past tense, (2) encodes durative aspect and morphologically agrees with the verb root which is an activity taking place over a period of time, (3) referentially agrees with the agent-role, and (4) agrees with the grammatical subject.

Chapter 4 Predicational Categories

The Predicational Categories chapter describes the three main types of Tawali Ifugao predicates, verbal, adverbial and non-verbal, and their sub-classes based on three analytical criteria: word formation processes, constituent syntactic structure and semantic features.

Excerpt 3

Verbal Predicates. The core of a verbal predication in Tawali Ifugao is the verb root. Six classes of verb roots may be semantically and grammatically categorized through the study of two types of components. Basic meaning components are those that separate one lexical unit from another and allow one to discriminate the primary, secondary and figurative meanings of a lexeme. Grammatical meaning components are those that relate to word formation processes, i.e. inflection and derivation, and the classification of grammatical lexical categories, i.e. verbs, nouns, adjective, etc. They also point toward the explanation and prediction of affix selection within a complex agglutinative, fusional morphology. Each class of verb roots owns different sets of the two types of meaning components.

Fig. 2. Basic Focusing Agreement Affixes

Tense	Subject Agreement		DO Agreement			IO Agreement	
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	beneficiary	instrument
past	nuN-	-imm-	iN-	-in-	-in- -an	in- -an	in-/impuN-
non-past	muN-	-um-	i-	-on	-an	i- -an	i-/puN-

The subject and direct object agreement affixes express the first-rank valence relationship between the predicate and one of the arguments, i.e. agreement between a V and a NP. Each affix form is related to a class of verb roots indicated by the numbered classes in the chart, and is considered to be the 'unmarked' form for that class. When an agreement affix co-occurs with a verb root that does not belong to its own class, it encodes an inflectional meaning other than the first-rank valence relationship.

The indirect object agreement affixes are not 'unmarked' forms, i.e. they do not have their own basic verb root classes. They co-occur only with verb roots that have within their valency set the semantic case roles of instrument and/or beneficiary. Whenever a verb is used that has an instrument as a core valent, it is understood that the instrument is used even though it is not explicitly stated in the surface structure. When the instrument agreement affix is used, attention is being called to the instrument within discourse and exhibits marked prominence.

Excerpt 5

Topicalizing Agreement Affixes. This set of affixes differentiates semantic and pragmatic roles. The set differs from the focusing agreement set in that they function rhetorically at a higher level. They agree with the NP that has syntactically been moved to the initial position of a clause to encode the introduction, contrasting or reintroduction of participants, props, times and places. They function in the same way with interrogative sentences, i.e. they agree with the question words 'who', 'what', 'where', and 'when'. Tuwali Ifugao question words occur in the same pre-verb position as those NPs that are moved to the pre-verb position in declarative sentences.

Fig. 3. Topicalizing-Question Affixes

Tense	Fronted Object, Focused			Subject-Agent Fronted		
	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
past	in-	-in-	-in- -an	nangi-	naN-	nuN-
non-past	i-	-on	-an	mangi-	maN-	muN-

Tense	Time	Place	Obj.site	Instrument
	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	
past	nangi- -an	naN- -an	nuN- -an	impun-
non-past	pangi- -an	paN- -an	puN- -an	pun-/pun- -an

Other inflectional affixes such as modality, time aspect, agentive participant, i.e. reciprocal, participatory, and reflexive, causative, stative, passive, and complex affix sets are each placed on separate charts in the grammar with a description of their function and illustrative sentence examples.

Adverbial, nominal and existential predicates have separate sections devoted to their description and function. There is also a brief discussion and description of predicate negation.

Chapter 5 Referential Categories

The Referential Categories chapter describes six referential lexical categories: common nouns, proper nouns, personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, interrogative pronouns and determiners.

Excerpt 6

Four types of referentiality will be identified in this grammar in relation to the use of three of the referential categories: personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and determiners. Two types are related to textual referentiality and two are related to extra-textual referentiality. The terms used for referring to extra-textual referentiality are 'specific' and 'non-specific', and the terms used to refer to textual referentiality are 'definite' and 'indefinite'. When we speak of extra-textual or specificity referentiality, we mean that there is an identifiable entity in the referential world encoded by the linguistic form used in a text. If it is a specific referent, it is not only identifiable, but an individuated particular entity. A non-specific referent encodes a general or typical object(s), and may, after introduction, become textually referential.

Personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and determiners are classified partly on the basis of their function in two main referential strategies, focusing and topicalizing. These strategies are particularly important for organizing information, keeping information intelligible and ranking the significance of any piece of information. The referential lexical categories work in agreement with verbal affixation to effectively signal these information strategies.

In addition to describing classes of prototypical nouns and their inflectional possibilities, the grammar describes classes of nouns that are denominalized to become verbs.

Excerpt 7

There is a class of nouns that denominalize to become transitive verbs. These derived verbs refer to an action of the placement of an object. Object incorporation is a part

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of this derivational process unless the object has prominence in a communication situation. Then, there is still incorporation in the verb, but there is also a referentially focused-object NP. See the third sentence example below.

apatut – shoes

285Gr1.1.1.1.1

Wordform: Mun-apatut ka ke.
 LexEntry: muN- apatut ka ke
 LexGloss: TASU wear shoes you DET
 FT: You wear shoes.

285Gr1.1.1.1.2

Wordform: Pun-apatutom nan unga.
 LexEntry: pun--on apatut mu nan unga
 LexGloss: CAUS shoes 2SG.NF DET child

FT: Let/have the child wear shoes.

285Gr1.1.1.1.3

Wordform: An inapatut nan apatut ku?
 LexEntry: an -in- apatut nan apatut ku
 LexGloss: QUESM DOAG wear shoes DET shoes my

FT: Did you wear my shoes?

This chapter also describes interrogative, personal and demonstrative pronouns and determiners, their grammatical relations with predicates and their referential functions in discourse. Sets of these forms are shown on charts followed by sentences excerpted from natural text. These sentences give evidence for the claims made about their grammatical and referential functions.

Excerpt 8

Fig. 4. Personal Pronouns

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
	Subj.	Subj.	DO	S, DO, IO
	Non-focus/Poss.	Focus	Focus	Non-focus/Topic.
1 sg.	ku	ak	ak	ha-oy
2 sg.	mu	ka	daka	he-a
3 sg.	na	0	0	hiya
1,2 sg. (dual)	ta	ta	dita	dita
1,2 pl. (excl)	mi	kami	dakami	dakami
1,2 pl. (incl)	taku	taku	ditaku	ditaku
2 pl	yu	kayu	dakayu	dakayu
3 pl	da	da	dida	dida

TI, in addition to differentiating grammatical relations in the use of pronouns, also allows for the referential prominence ranking of information. The two referential strategies, focusing and topicalizing, and grammatical relations are criterial in determining which set of pronouns to use in a communication situation. Set 1 refers to a non-focused subject or genitive (possessive). Set 2 refers to a focused subject. Set 3 refers to a focused object. Set 4 refers to a non-focused subject that has been moved to the 'oblique' position, or to a non-focused direct or indirect object and in these cases the set requires the co-occurrence of the determiner *ke*. Set 4 is also used in referring to topicalized subjects or objects.

Chapter 6 Modificational Categories

The Modificational Categories chapter describes the two main modificational categories in Tuwali Ifugao: Adjectives and Adjuncts. Adjectives have two sub-categories: Qualifying and Quantifying. Adjuncts have four sub-categories: Adverbial, Interjection, Attitudinal Modality, and Interpersonal Modality.

Excerpt 9

All Tuwali Ifugao adjectives are evaluative in nature. However, there are subclasses that are determined on the basis of syntactic and inflectional criteria. Syntactically, all adjective classes may function as modifiers in noun phrases, and may also predicate in equational clauses.

Fig. 5. Criterial Components of Adjectives Classes

Qualifiers	Quantifiers		
	Dimension	Size	Number
<i>maphod₁</i> - good	<i>dukke</i> - long	<i>ongal</i> - big	<i>da</i> - plural
<i>gaga-iho</i> - bad	<i>tikke</i> - short	<i>itay</i> - small	<i>duwa</i> - two
<i>himpappange</i> - terrible	<i>bilog</i> - wide		<i>am-in</i> - all
<i>kudukdul</i> - better	<i>tag-e</i> - high		<i>o-oha</i> - few
			<i>dakol</i> - many/much

10Hay1.1.5

Wordform: te **dakol** di maadal mun
 LexEntry: te **dakol** di ma- adal mu
 LexGloss: because many LK passive function learn 2SG.NF

miha-ad hi library.
 mi- ha-ad hi
 PASS place DET

FT: because you are going to learn many (things) by staying in the library.

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10Hay1.1.22

Wordform:	Kudukdul	na	boy	makidkid-um	kah
LexEntry:	kudukdul	na	bo	di maki- CV(C)-	udum ka hi
LexGloss:	better	he, she, it	also	LK PART HAB	add to you DET

church activities.
church activities
church activities

FT: It's better to join in church activities.

Excerpt 10

Dimension Adjectives

The class of dimension adjectives has a limited number of members. The class members co-occur with the prefix *an-*. This prefix has a variant form *a-*.

Fig. 6. Dimension Adjectives

Tuwali	English
<i>dukke</i>	long
<i>tikke</i>	short
<i>tappo</i>	shallow
<i>dallom</i>	deep
<i>tag-e</i>	high

Excerpt 11

Intrinsic to the dimension class of adjectives is the potential for taking comparative affixation.

Fig. 7. Comparative Inflection

Intensifier	Comparative	Superlative
<i>CV(C)CV-</i>	<i>CV(C)-</i>	<i>ka-an + CV(C)-</i>

Fig. 8. Comparative and Superlative Examples

Root	English	Prefix + CV(C)	English	Circumfix + CV(C)	English
<i>akhop</i>	low	<i>na-ak-akhop</i>	lower than	<i>ka-ak-akhopan</i>	lowest
<i>tag-e</i>	high	<i>natagtag-e</i>	higher than	<i>katagtag-ayan</i>	highest
<i>dukke</i>	long	<i>andukdukke</i>	longer than	<i>kadukdukkayan</i>	longest
<i>tikke</i>	short	<i>antiktikke</i>	shorter than	<i>katiktikkayan</i>	shortest
<i>ongal</i>	big	<i>ong-ongal</i>	bigger than	<i>ka-ongongalan</i>	biggest

Chapter 7 Relational Categories

The Relational Categories chapter describes two main relational categories: linkers and conjunctions. Linkers have two main functions: relating constituents of phrases and relating constituents of clauses. Conjunctions relate clauses and have two main functions: subordinating and coordinating.

Intraclausal relators are those linkers that function to relate constituents of phrases or clauses. An equational predication is a simple sentence type that requires a linker to relate its two constituents, the predicate and the nominal argument.

Excerpt 12

Equational predication

The nominal argument in an equational predication is encoded by a noun, noun phrase or clause and is linked to the predicate by *ya*.

8Nan1.1.1

Wordform:	Nan	amunin	ya	mihdih			muyung.
LexEntry:	nan	amunin	ya	mi-	hidi	hi	muyung
LexGloss:	DET	squirrel	LK	PASS	DEM-PL	DET	forest

FT: As for the wildcat, it lives in the forest.

Chapter 8 Phrases

The Phrases chapter describes the constituents and features of two types of phrases, nominal and verbal. Phrases are not particularly complex or interesting in the Tuwali Ifugao grammar. For that reason, I am not including any excerpts from this chapter.

Chapter 9 Simple Sentences

The Simple Sentences chapter describes sentence types based on grammatical structure and rhetorical function, their constituent order, constituent features and relations between constituents.

Excerpt 13

Active, Intransitive Sentences. An active, intransitive sentence consists of a predicate and one core argument that is the grammatical subject. The verbs that express the predicate, their inflectional and derivational potential are the criteria used for sub-classifying this sentence type. The semantic role of the subject may be an agent that relates to an action or an activity or an experiencer that relates to emotions, physiological functions or processes.

26III.1.18

Wordform:	Dimmatong		dad	Lagawe	ad	nakugab.
LexEntry:	datong	-imm-		Lagawe	ad	nakugab
LexGloss:	arrive	TAA		Lagawe	DET	yesterday

FT: They arrived at Lagawe yesterday.

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26III.1.26

Wordform:	Bimmoh-ol	hi	ama	ot	pumboh-olan
LexEntry:	boh-ol	-imm-	ama	puN-	-an boh-ol
LexGloss:	angry	TAA	father	TAA	scold

dakami.
dakami
us
pers

FT: My father was so angry that he scolded us.

Chapter 10 Complex Sentences

The Complex Sentences chapter describes clause embedding (relative and complement clause structure) and clause combining (subordinate and coordinate clause structure).

Excerpt 14

Clause embedding. Relative and complement clauses in Tuwali Ifugao are embedded in noun phrases. Both types are marked by the linker form *an* and are disambiguated on the basis of their modificational functions. The relative clause modifies a nominal argument, and the complement clause modifies a predicate.

Relative clauses

A relative clause in TI modifies a noun by expressing identificational or descriptive information. Its rhetorical function may be correlated with the modificational function of adjectives. The modified noun is in the main clause and is linked to the relative clause by the form *an*. The subject, direct object and indirect object may all be relativized.

4Hay1.1.5

Wordform:	Katatakut			pay	an	e	bumah-el	
LexEntry:	ka-	CV(C)-	takut	pay	an	e	bah-el	-um-
LexGloss:	tendency	INTEN	frightening	definitely	LK	go	go to the other side	SUAG

4Hay1.1.5

Wordform:	Katatakut			pay	an	e	bumah-el	
LexEntry:	ka-	CV(C)-	takut	pay	an	e	bah-el	-um-
LexGloss:	tendency	INTEN	frightening	definitely	LK	go	go to the other side	SUAG

te	dakol	di	talak	an	muntutun-ud.	
te	dakol	di	talak	an	muN-	CV(C)- tun-ud
because	many	LK	vehicle	LK	TASU	ASP following-one-another

FT: It is even very dangerous to cross the street since there are many buses that are lined up one after the other.

The example above was chosen to illustrate a relative clause; however, it also contains a complement clause marked by *an*. The complement clause modifies the predicate *katatakut* – very frightening/dangerous. The relative clause modifies *talak* – vehicle/buses.

Chapter 11 Rhetorical Strategies

The Rhetorical Strategies chapter classifies and describes four rhetorical strategies: predicational, referential, modificational, and relational. These four strategies are matched to the communicative use of the four functional categories carrying the same labels. Sentences and their constituents are described and presented on the basis of their natural uses in communication.

I am not including any excerpts from this chapter. Although it is organized and partially written, it lacks rigor and coherence. Of all the chapters, this one needs the most work because it is an attempt to give an overview of everything that we all have learned about the lexicon, grammar and the use of the Tawali Ifugao language. When the chapter is complete, it should be the best evidence that we can possibly give for writing communicative grammars.

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