

## REVIEWS

**A DESCRIPTION OF HILIGAYNON SYNTAX.** By Elmer Wolfenden. University of Oklahoma, Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1975. Pp. xvi + 170.

Reviewed by Teresita Rafael, University of the Philippines, Los Baños

1. Wolfenden has accomplished two things in his study, namely, (a) account in a comprehensive way for phrase and clause level structures of Hiligaynon and (b) adopt a modified tagmemic theory which accommodates concepts of deep and surface structure.

W's analysis is divided mainly into two: phrase structure and clause structure. The description of phrase structure is basically structural. That is, it starts with the core, the general phrase from which all the other phrase types are derived. The primary phrase is then derived from the general phrase by multiplying the general phrase with a constant, Mo (modifier). The secondary phrase, in turn, is derived from the primary phrase by multiplying the latter with relator semantic functions. Lastly, the tertiary phrase is derived by embedding or conjoining, involving a primary phrase as the head and a secondary phrase as the modifier. To each layer, and to every phrase derived, is appended an 'underlying structure' — the statement which gives the correlation of the grammatical functions and the semantic functions.

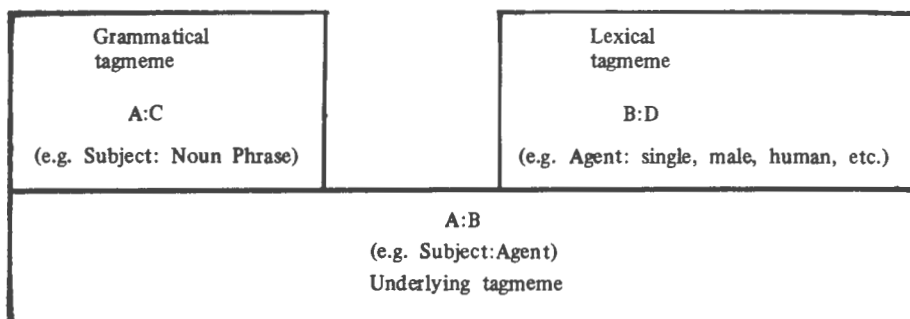
W's classification of verbal clauses is noteworthy. Subclasses of verbal clauses are described in terms of features they hold in common. These features concern information about verb stems and the complements which are allowed to co-occur with them. The classification of clauses in effect is a classification of verb or predicate stems. The verb is central in the sense that it dictates what complements may follow it. (Note that this is in agreement with Chafe as opposed to Fillmore).

All in all, W has described and exemplified a total of seventeen contrastive phrase types and thirty-two contrastive clause types. This extensive account is a welcome addition to the increasing literature on Philippine languages.

2. But that aspect of the study which arouses curiosity and interest concerns not data, which are undoubtedly substantial, but his attempt (although his is not the first) to modify the model assumed in ways that are not critically opposed to the tagmemic theory as originally developed by Pike. This rethinking in tagmemics is in response to the growing awareness of a level in grammar beyond the ostensive. Fillmore's case grammar is reviewed favorably and this model's resemblance to Pike's functional analysis is pointed out. However, and with good reason, the basic weakness of the latter, i.e. its lack of recognition of a deeper level which 'correlates' with meaning, is stressed — thus the need to readjust its mechanisms.

W's modifications work on the four-celled analysis which was previously introduced into tagmemics by Becker (1967) and Wise (1968). In Becker's four-celled tagmeme, the upper part represented the surface form and function and the bottom part the sets of 'deep structure meanings'. Wise, on the other hand, suggested the reinterpretation of deep structure meaning as a separate tagmeme. Thus, in Wise, there are two distinct tagmemes: (a) the grammatical tagmeme and (b) the lexico-tagmeme. W accepts Wise's revisions. However, he perceives one major defect in Wise. That is, she has

not provided for the manner by which the two tagmemes (the grammatical and the lexical) are mapped onto each other. To provide for this W conceives of an underlying 'all-function tagme' from which the contrastive surface structures are derived:



3. How then does W's tagmemics operate? Initially W presents a set of underlying patterns written in conventional tagmemic formula. This underlying pattern (UP) – his 'all-function tagme' – in actuality summarizes the features shared by members of a set or class of structures. An example is:

$$UPNonpersPrNP = (Neg@:den) + (Mo:nu) + H@:nonpersid$$

This underlying pattern gives the correlation of grammatical (e.g. negative, modifier, head) and semantic (denial, number, nonpersonal identification) functions. The use of tagmemic notation for such a purpose is novel. It is, however, obvious that at most this underlying pattern accounts for meaning only insofar as it has overt syntactic ('grammatical') manifestations. What this means is that meaning is described only to explain syntactic contrasts. These syntactic contrasts are 'expounded' by surface units so that the examination of form precedes, and in addition has primacy over, the examination of meaning.

There seems to be nothing basically wrong with this syntactic stance until one sees apparent duplications and misleading labels. A case in point is the classification of grammatical and semantic functions in the clause nuclei (69). W gives the following as the underlying pattern of the clause:

$$UPCS = Pred:cmt + (C_1:theme)^3 + (C_2:dir)^2$$

This correlates the grammatical functions Predicate, complement<sub>1</sub>, and complement<sub>2</sub> with the semantic functions comment, theme, and directional respectively.

Then W lists in a chart the different function potentials. Overlaps are seen at a glance. The grammatical function *Object* appears twice, under C<sub>1</sub> and under C<sub>2</sub>. Similarly, the semantic functions *location*, *possessor*, and *beneficiary* are listed twice – under *theme* and under *direction*. W says that these overlaps are resolved by the choice of predicate exponents. In this instance then, the alignment of grammatical components to be correlated with meaning is dictated by surface forms so that there results variability in interpretation of sequences such as that for the semantic functions *theme* and *direction*.

W is himself aware of the limitations imposed by this mode of viewing meaning in linguistic structures. He admits that his underlying tagmeme belongs to an intermediate level of analysis and that 'it is doubtful whether these men [other linguists of different orientation] will be satisfied with the concept of the underlying structure postulated here'.

4. Structures are related to others by 'derivational' processes following Pike's matrix multiplication. That is, the 'derived matrix is the product of a small matrix multiplied by a constant'. An example of a derivational statement is:

$$UPRelAxP = Prp \times Rel$$

which says that the underlying patterns of the relator-axis phrases are derived by the multiplication of the matrix of primary phrases by the matrix of relator functions. This statement conflates formulas of the following types:

$$\begin{aligned} UPRelNP &= Rel: \langle non \rangle + Ax:id \\ UPRelNP &= Rel: ti + Ax:hr \\ UPRelJup &= Rel: \langle conj \rangle + Ax: \langle aser \rangle \end{aligned}$$

W claims that the model is thus generative since it accounts for relationships between syntagmemes.

On the other hand, I view these derivations as statements which indicate how one primary layer or structure may be expanded by accretion ('multiplication') of new layers. W describes this layering as 'onion-like' – one structure becomes the head of the following structure through progressional derivation. Thus, derivation through matrix multiplication is essentially structural. The derivational rule such as the one given above is more of a generalization than a process.

5. W, however, recognizes processes such as permutation and topicalization. He provides for the former by rules of the following kind (108):

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \text{Pred} & \text{Subj} & \text{Obj} & \text{Cn} & \text{Ref} & \implies & 12534, & 13245, & 12435 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & & & & \\ \text{(Optional)} & & & & & & & & \end{array}$$

Topicalization is not given in formula form but is, instead, described as a process of 'substituting a nominative nominal phrase for the nontopic exponent of the function being topicalized, and, for the verbal clauses, inserting an accompanying marker, in the form of a voice affix, in the predicate verb exponent to identify the function of the topic'.

Topic is not synonymous with subject. The former is a result of a process, thus a surface phenomenon. The latter is neither deep nor surface but curiously both. That is, in the underlying pattern, subject is a grammatical function correlated with the semantic function represented by Agent. In the surface structure it is the grammatical function expounded by NP. It is then a moot question whether the grammatical function which is at the same time deep and surface – in this instance, the subject – is an artifact of the model.

6. In sum, W has been successful in his aim to make an extensive inventory of phrase and clause structures of Hiligaynon. His 'deeper' level of analysis as represented by his underlying pattern is, however, admittedly limited.

**MAKABAGONG BALARILA NG WIKANG PILIPINO.** By T. Llamzon, F. L. del Rosario, and M. Sanchez. Quezon City: Ateneo University Press, 1974. Pp. 133.

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A language description or a grammar of a language necessarily works within a particular scheme of principles and procedures by which the language can be analyzed and described. This scheme has to be consistently applied to all the levels of grammatical analysis in order to show some consistency in the analysis and consequently arrive at some degree of adequacy in the language description. Furthermore, consistency is required in order to avoid unnecessary confusion for the language teachers who are ultimately given the task of making the grammar intelligible to the learners of the language.

*Makabagong balarila ng wikang Pilipino* (MBWP) is one of the most recent grammars that have been published in the Pilipino language and is also one of the first grammars of Pilipino to include a transformational analysis of some of the features of the language. Unfortunately, MBWP appears to be a result of an ad hoc mixture of different, although not entirely contradictory, principles of language description. Some particular instances of this ad hoc use of principles of analysis are cited in this review:

1. Can phrase-structure rules be applied on the phonological level? MBWP consists of two parts. The first part presents the phrase-structure rules (Mga tuntuning pambalangkas ng parirala) and the second part examines the transformational rules (Mga tuntuning transpormasyonal). Part I on phrase-structure rules includes the sections on phonology, syntax, and morphology. The reason for the inclusion of the section on phonology in Part I, on PS-rules, is probably based on the authors' claim (1) that PS-rules can be applied on the phonological level. The question is how this can be done. Traditionally, PS-rules have been applied on the syntactic level but not on the phonological level. Assuming that by PS-rules on the phonological level, the authors meant phonological rules, then they should have defined the theory of analysis that they are working with. Let us assume further that they meant to do their analysis of phonemes by distinctive feature analysis, then their phonological rules or to use their term 'phrase-structure rules on the phonological level' should be formulated in terms of changes in the feature values of the phonemes (Chomsky and Halle 1968). But there is no evidence of this type of analysis in their section on phonology. However, if we assume that the analysis used for identifying the phonemes of Wikang Pilipino is Functional Phonetics which attributes to each phoneme a function of distinguishing meaning (Martinet 1962), then there is no point in talking about phonological rules, much less about PS-rules.

2. Are the MBWP PS-rules as applied on the syntactic level based on only the linear arrangement of items in a phrase or sentence? Strictly speaking, PS-rules can only place constituents in sequence, in other words in a linear arrangement. Basically, this is what the authors of MBWP have done. But there are instances when a reader of the grammar has to depend on his native intuition of the language before he can fully comprehend the structure rules of the sentence. The linear arrangement of the

constituents is not enough to understand the structure. An example in point is the analysis of the basic sentence types in Wikang Pilipino. On pages 10-12, the authors list the different basic sentence types in Wikang Pilipino and classify them as 'isahan' (monadic), a sentence which consists of only one obligatory constituent; 'dalawahan' (diadic), a sentence which has two obligatory constituents; 'tatluhan' (triadic), a sentence with three obligatory constituents; and 'apatan' (quadratic), a sentence with four obligatory constituents. The problem is, when is a constituent obligatory and when is it optional? There are no structural criteria by which one constituent can be identified as obligatory or optional. Let us take the sentence

(1) *Namulot si Pedro ng kabibe sa dalampasigan*

which has four constituents: *namulot*, *si Pedro*, *ng kabibe*, and *sa dalampasigan*. However, the sentence is not an 'apatan'. There are only three obligatory constituents: *namulot*, *si Pedro*, *ng kabibe*. The constituent *sa dalampasigan* is not obligatory since its presence or absence does not add to the grammaticality of the sentence. In other words, leaving out the constituent *sa dalampasigan* as in

(1.1) *Namulot si Pedro ng kabibe*

does not make the sentence incorrect. But when one of the three remaining constituents is left out, the sentence becomes ungrammatical. So the utterances below are ungrammatical:

- (a) *namulot*
- (b) *namulot ng kabibe*
- (c) *si Pedro ng kabibe*

However, not every native speaker has the same intuition about the ungrammaticality of utterances (a) and (b). No doubt (c) is ungrammatical but some will say that (a) and (b) are grammatical in the contexts (aa) speakers are talking about gathering shells and then one asks: *Nasaan si Pedro?* 'Where is Pedro' and the other answers: *Namulot* 'went picking' and (bb) *Ano ang ginawa ni Pedro?* 'What did Pedro do' and the answer is: *Namulot ng kabibe* 'went picking shells'. Of course, the decision as to whether (a) and (b) are grammatical in the context (aa) and (bb) respectively can only be made if the analysis is done at the discourse level. Apparently, the authors limited their analysis only to the sentence level. Let us take another example. In the sentence

(2) *Nagbuhos si Pedro ng tubig sa batya*

there are four constituents and all of them are obligatory (see MBWP: 6). Thus, sentence (2) is an example of an 'apatan'. Now how can one tell that the constituent *sa batya* in sentence (2) is obligatory and that the constituent *sa dalampasigan* in sentence (1) is not obligatory. Structurally, there is no difference between *sa batya* and *sa dalampasigan* nor are there any structural differences between the three obligatory constituents in sentence (1) and those in sentence (2). This remains a problem unless one uses his intuition about sentence (2) which will necessarily direct him to keep the constituent *sa batya* because to leave it out as in

(2.2) *Nagbuhos si Pedro ng tubig*

is to have a sentence which may be grammatical but unacceptable. The unacceptability lies in the fact that sentence (2.2) is ambiguous. It can have the meaning

(2.2.a) Pedro took a shower of water

where the constituent *ng tubig* 'of water' is no longer obligatory for the construction to be grammatical; therefore, we are left with the sentence

(2.3) *Nagbuhos si Pedro* 'Pedro took a shower'

which is only a 'dalawahan'. On the other hand, the same sentence (2.2) can have the other meaning.

(2.2.b) Pedro poured water . . .

where a location constituent (*sa lunan*) is needed for it to become acceptable. In other words, sentence (2.2) with the meaning (2.2.a) can just be a 'dalawahan' to be grammatical and acceptable, but with the meaning (2.2.b) it has to be an 'apatan' to become acceptable.

3. Does transformational analysis allow for the carry-over of the inflectional categories of a deep structure VP into a surface structure NP after a nominalization transformation? In the second part of MBWP, the authors examine some transformational rules that they have observed to apply to Wikang Pilipino. One of these rules is that which applies to the category of aspect of the verbs. In the discussion of the aspect transformation rule on page 94, one of the examples used by the authors is *kain ng kain*. According to them, *kain ng kain* has a surface structure description  $PN^{\phi} + PN^{ng}$  (noun phrase in the zero-case + noun phrase in the *ng*-case) but it is *kumakain ng kumakain* in the deep structure, a verb phrase with the syntactic feature  $\langle + \text{progressive aspect} \rangle$ . Although the authors did not explain how the deep structure VP *kumakain ng kumakain* surfaced as  $PN^{\phi} + PN^{ng}$  *kain ng kain*, we can assume that in this case there must have been a nominalization transformation. Based on this assumption, the surface *kain ng kain* should not continue to have aspect, since aspect is a category of the verb. However, the authors claim that the surface structure *kain ng kain* has aspect. Consider the ff.

. . . ang pananalitang *kain ng kain*, kahimat mga pariralang pangngalan sa paimbabaw na balangkas, ay may ipinapahiwatig na pariralang pandiwa. Ang uri ng kilos ng *kain ng kain* ay, kung gayon, '*pangkasalukuyan*', at ito'y pinatutunayan ng [*kumakain ng kumakain*]. . . (94)

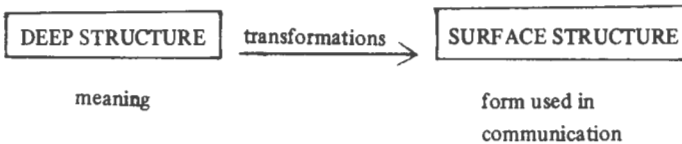
I strongly suspect that the authors have been forced to do this sort of analysis by their phrase-structure claims that verbs in Tagalog do not have cases and therefore the constituent *kain ng kain* which has the cases  $\phi$  and *ng* are not verbs. Since cases are categories of nouns, *kain ng kain* is thus structurally described as  $PN^{\phi} + PN^{ng}$ . However, a glance at the categories of adjectives shows that adjectives too have a *ng*-case although not a  $\phi$ -case. If this is true, *kain ng kain* may then have an alternative structural description  $PN^{\phi} + PU^{ng}$  (noun phrase in the zero-case + adjective phrase in the *ng*-case). This shows that the choice of the first structural description could have been an arbitrary one.

As a final comment, I must say that in spite of the flexibility observed by the authors in their use of the transformational model in the description of Wikang Pilipino, the similarity in the presentation of Jacobs and Rosenbaum of some transformational rules in English (*English transformational grammar*, 1968) and that of

Llamzon et al, in MBWP (1974) is so great that some portions of MBWP are probably a conservative translation of their equivalent portions in *English transformational grammar*. Consider the following texts:

Thus we can say that the deep structure of a sentence gives its meaning because the deep structure contains all of the information required to determine the meaning of a sentence.

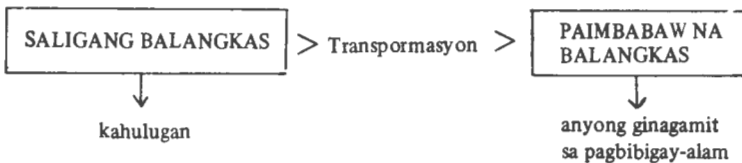
The most important question of all is: How is the deep structure of a sentence related to its surface structure? A deep structure becomes a surface structure via transformations.



The notion 'transformation' may seem strange at first, but you really know more about it than you realize. Compare the two sentences below, the first of which is a so-called declarative sentence, the second an interrogative sentence. . . . (J and R: 19)

. . . Masasabi nating ang saligang balangkas ang nagbibigay ng kahulugan ng mga pangungusap sapagkat ang saligang balangkas ang siyang may taglay ng lahat ng impormasyon na kailangan upang malaman ang kahulugan ng pangungusap.

Ano ang kaugnayan ng paimbabaw na balangkas sa saligang balangkas? Ang saligang balangkas ay nagiging paimbabaw na balangkas sa pamamagitan ng transpormasyon:



Mas maiintindihan ang kahulugan ng transpormasyon kung ating ihahambing ang dalawang pangungusap – isang paturol at isang pananong. . . (Llamzon, et al: 63)

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