

Word Formation Knowledge Through the Cantilangnun Linguistic Landscape

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Abstract

This study is concerned with the Cantilangnun language. The purpose of the study is to describe the word-formation of Cantilangnun Dialect in Surigao del Sur. The method used in the study was the descriptive-qualitative method, specifically, discourse analysis. In getting the data, legitimate key informants were tapped using the purposive sampling procedure. The study was conducted in Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, and Lanuza of Surigao del Sur. Two instruments were used, the guide questionnaire and the data from the Dialect of Cantilangnun of Ong (2004). Analysis at the morphological level is concerned with the structural elements of the words gathered. The language understudy can be richly described with both independent and dependent lexicons. Results of the study revealed the following word formations: derivational affixation, reduplication, compounding, which is further described as either exocentric and endocentric, category extension phonological processes which include assimilation and metathesis, deletion, and epenthesis. The researchers recommend including other grammatical features like phonology, semantics, and syntax to completely understand the grammatical features of the identified local dialect for pedagogical purposes.

Keywords: *affixation, Cantilangnun dialect, compounding, morphology, morphophonemic changes, qualitative, reduplication*

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1.0 Introduction

Words are an important component of one's linguistic knowledge (langue) that constitutes mental grammar. On a global spectrum, researchers have acknowledged that each language is used in a specialized discourse. However, Fleta (2011) posits that little attention has been given to the role of morphology in register variation. Further, he said that word formation and the factors that govern the acceptance of new formations into the language are generally taken very much for granted by the speaker. In the Philippines, word formation variants manifest sociological significance. This is part of the speaker's idiolect, which transcends to another variant when it merges with social class, gender, or profession. Thus, the lexical items in the Philippines are diffused (Dimaculangan and Gustillo, 2018). To this end, the present study looked into the various derivational processes present in the Cantilangnun Dialect, which is spoken by a speech community in Surigao del Sur. This description will give speaker and non-speakers of the language referential points on the morphological features of the said dialect.

Graves (2014) posited that the most effective word learning strategy to improve L2 (second language) competence is related to morphological awareness. This is in consonance with Olsa (2016), who asserted that the ability to perform morphological generation helps develop vocabulary knowledge within an appropriate linguistic context. He further pointed out that studying vocabulary with affix systems or patterns would seem effective for language learners than just memorizing words. Morphological awareness of a particular speech community allows learners to develop implicit knowledge of the morphological variants necessary for multicultural education and sociolinguistic knowledge resulting in enhanced academic instruction.

Hacken and Panocova (2011) support the concept of Saussurean tradition specifying the role of the speech community in naming a new word, conceptualizing the object to be named, and the choice of how to coin such concept. The process does not go through *viva voce* but rather through the conscious process based on the interaction of the speakers. Word formation comes out as a by-product of the actual communication among speakers. Affixation is identified as it enriches the language because it produces word variants and is part of speech. O'Grady and Archibald (2016) mention that affixes are used to build a word containing meaning and categorization distinct from its base. Somathasan (2017) added that the typical word-formation process is known as affixation, where a complex word is internally structured or formed.

On the other hand, according to Oh and Kim (2012), the

adaptation of words from a source language to a target language should consider the phonetic information of the referential language. Conversely, another pattern is described in the literature. Repetition as a word-formation pattern is also evident in many languages. According to Kramsch (2009), repeatable utterances can give value to the spontaneous communicative process for it also enriches the vocabulary of the speakers. In another paper, Evans (2014) posits that it is evident in languages to undergo consonant changes like insertion, deletion, substitution, and assimilation, among others. Vowel changes are also prevalent in various languages.

Further, according to him, these morphological changes are apparent to introduce new word formations within a given language. Cantilangnun, as a dialect in the province of Surigao del Sur, Philippines, has its Spanish roots, Cantilan being a settlement of the Spanish colonizers. It became a municipality on October 16, 1760, by virtue of the Spanish Royal Decree known as Maura Law. Hence, because of this historical background, most of the Cantilangnun words have a Spanish origin. From a mere pidgin, it evolved as a creolized dialect. However, because of the innumerable social changes over the passing of time, the linguistic knowledge on novel word coinages with historical roots has slowly diminished.

Further, no study on the linguistic features of this local dialect has been conducted. This becomes a challenge for the locals of Cantilan with the advent of Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTBLE) under RA 10533 or otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, requiring the Mother Tongue or the L1 to be taught as a core subject for primary education. The language used is not the L1 but that of the other region, Sinugbuanung Binisaya; hence, this study is pursued.

The study aims to describe the morphological structures of the Cantilangnun dialect. This endeavor is deemed essential because of its potent contributions to MTB-MLE implementation, now in its full performance. In the context of mother tongue education for the Cantilangnun learners and the four neighboring municipalities using the said dialect, word-formation knowledge has been neglected in L1 instruction; thus, the results of this study can serve as a response to the instructional need required of the curriculum. Further, this will also address the posterity of the said dialect.

This study claims that one's morphological awareness can scaffold enhanced linguistic skills and performance in both L1 and L2. The assumption is supported by the Descriptive Grammar Theory, which systematically presents the study of language. In this theory, the language of a certain locality is treated according to its roots and unique features rather than described in a foreign language

context. Thus, in this study, concepts of the Cantilangnun speech community are described through the locals' lens rather than borrowing lexical units from the neighboring region, which has its unique features.

Another important theory from where this study is also anchored is the Pedagogical Grammar Theory of Carter (2008). The theory explains that the grammar of a certain dialect should be outlined for the purpose of having it used for academic instruction; hence, if MTBMLE requires the use of the learners' L1, then the students' mother tongue should be used as a medium of instruction as indicated in the Pedagogical Grammar Theory.

Supporting the aforementioned theory is the Functional Theory originated by Michael Halliday, which is a social approach to language. The morphological awareness of a certain language is composed of the grammar component of the language and its functionality; that is, knowledge of word formation and language as a whole contributes to the multidimensional nature of human experience and interpersonal relations. It does not orient the learner with the syntactic orientation but also its semantic and functional orientation with respect to the various interpersonal experiences of the learners.

2.0 Research Methodology

This study made use of a descriptive qualitative design. Communication within different communities is an essential tool that signifies the implementation of any language. Thus, this study employs Discourse Analysis. Discourse Analysis has concentrated on both spoken and written texts by identifying the relationship between the linguistic form and its functions, especially while taking into account that spoken and written discourses have varied social uses and, as a result, have different communicative functions (Tabrizi, Gupta, & Saxena, 2014). The design is employed because the current study aims to give a linear description of the Cantilangnun dialect using the interview as a primordial way of gathering the needed corpora. The morphological processes of the said dialect were identified through the words collected during the course of the study. The word formations considered in this study include the following: affixation, both inflection and derivation; repetition as either partial or full; compounding as either endocentric or exocentric; morphophonemic changes, borrowing, and politicization.

The participants of this study include the locals of the municipality of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, and Lanuza (CARCANMADCARLAN) with the age range of 60 years old and above. They were chosen using the purposive sampling procedure. The age range identified have purist knowledge on the words as spoken by the natives of the dialect.

The study used the book of Ong (2004), which compiles words of the Cantilangnun Dialect. It also presents a historical background of the CARCANMADCARLAN areas highlighting the prevailing dialects in the localities. A guide questionnaire was also used to gather the needed corpus for the study. It was subjected through a content validation with the native speakers of the dialect.

The researchers followed ethical protocols before the actual conduct of the study. Permission was sought from the Municipal Mayors to allow the researchers to be in the various areas for data collection purposes. Informed consent was also given to the participants to give them a vantage point of what the study is all about. They were also informed that they could terminate their participation anytime without prejudice from the researchers' part. After the necessary protocols were in place, the researcher conducted the interview with the purpose of gathering the needed samples to be analyzed.

In the analysis of data, the researchers used the Descriptive Grammar Framework, wherein the words are analyzed based on their roots and unique features. The present study also identified certain morphological and morphophonemic processes, which helped the researchers answer the objectives of the study.

3.0 Results and Discussions

This part highlights the results following the sequence of the objectives of the study. The most common types of Cantilangnun word formations which emerged during the data gathering included the following: affixation both inflection and derivation; repetition as either partial or full; compounding as either endocentric and exocentric; morphophonemic changes, which were classified as assimilation, substitution, syncope, and apocope; borrowing and encliticization.

3.1 Affixation

Table 1. Cantilangnun Words according to Free and Bound Morphemes

Free Morpheme		Bound Morpheme	
Lexical	Gramamtical	Inflectional	Derivational
<i>haja</i> (cry)			<i>naghaja</i> (cried)
	<i>an</i> (the)		
	<i>kay</i> (because)		
<i>saway</i> (tease)			<i>tagsaway</i> (teased)
	<i>na</i> (peripheral term denoting a preposition or article)		
<i>yaot</i> (ugly)			<i>yaoter/</i> <i>yaoters</i> (uglier/ ugliest)
<i>wayong</i> (face)			
<i>hinay</i> (slow)			<i>hinajer/</i> <i>hinajers</i> (very slow)

This is a process of word-formation wherein the free morphemes become bound morphemes by attaching either a prefix or a suffix to the base word. These bound morphemes are also classified further as either inflectional bound morphemes or derivational bound morphemes. Inflectional bounds are marked by a change of tense for verbs, e.g., in the sentence "*Naghaja an babaje kay tagsaway na yaot na wayong*" (The woman cried because she was teased to have an ugly face). In the sample sentence, *haja* (cry), which is the free morpheme, is marked with a past tense when supplied with the prefix *nag* + *haja* (base word). For the degrees of comparison, e.g., *yaot* (ugly), which is in the positive degree becomes comparative in form when supplied with the suffix "er" for *yaoter* (uglier), or another form is *ma* + *yaot*, *mayao* which is another form of comparative degree for *yaoter* but when added with another suffix "s" the superlative degree "*yaoters*" is formed. Degrees of adverbs can also be formed through affixation; e.g. *hinay* (slow) added with the suffix *-er* become *hinajer* (slower) which was formed through substitution and suffixation; but with the presence of "s" *hinajers* (slowest), the adverb becomes superlative in form. The adding of "er" to the tail of the word denotes comparative degree; while the "s" signifies the superlative form.

3.2 Verbal affixes

Table 2. Verbal and Nominal Affixation

Affix	Cantilangnun Word	English Translation
<i>mi</i> (past tense marker)	<i>mikadto</i>	went there
<i>mo</i> (future tense marker)	<i>musajaw</i>	will dance
<i>ma</i> (future tense marker)	<i>matuyog</i>	will sleep
<i>tag</i> (past tense marker)	<i>tagbaligja</i>	sold
<i>han</i> (future tense marker accorded for a person)	<i>kantahan mo an imo manghud</i>	sing for your younger sibling
<i>hon</i> (future tense followed)	<i>kantahon</i> <i>Kantahon mo anang Cantilangnun ni Zandro.</i>	Sing the particular song by the title of the song Sing the song entitled Cantilan of Zandro.
<i>pagka</i>	<i>pagkadyaga</i>	become a lady
<i>tig</i>	<i>tig-uyan</i>	rainy season
<i>in</i>	<i>sinuyat</i>	writings

Prefixes (epenthesis) *mi, mo ma, mag, ming, mang, maka, tag,* and suffixes (paragoge) *an, han, on, hon, e,* are markers for verb formation in the Cantilangnun dialect. This comprises the verbal affixes. On the other hand, the nominal affixes have the following structure: Prefixes (epenthesis) *na, pagka, pag, tig,* and suffixes (paragoge) *han* and *an* are markers for noun formations.

From the presentation above, it can be deduced that the Cantilangnun words follow the universal description of words identifying them as either content (lexical) or grammatical (function words). The lexical items go through either inflectional or derivational changes. With the affixation in certain content words, there would be a shift of tense for verbs and a manifestation of the comparative degree for both adjectives and adverbs. For the derivational formation, it can be noted from the presentation that the part of speech changes when certain affixes are attached to the content words. The findings imply that the Cantilangnun Dialect contains meaningful units formed following the morphological structure of the word. Affixation enriches the language because it produces word variants and is part of speech. In terms of affixation, it can be noted that the dialect has both verbal and nominal affixation. This is supported by O’Grady and Archibald (2016); affixes are used to build a word containing meaning and categorization distinct from that of its base. Further, the Cantilangnun word is not just a simple word-formation; rather, it shows complexity through its structure of certain components. According to Somathasan (2017), the typical process of word formation is known as affixation, where a complex word is internally structured or formed.

Table 3. Repetition

Free Morpheme	Cantilangnun	English Translation
dyagan	<i>pagdyagan-dyagan</i> (full repetition)	running around
bayay	<i>bayay-bayay</i> (full repetition)	house to house
bagbag	<i>bagbagan</i> (partial)	paddle
lujo	<i>lujo-lujo</i> (full repetition)	back to back

From the data gathered, it was also found out that Cantilangnun dialect is complex in nature because it exhibits other structural features which can serve as useful information in understanding the language for pedagogical purposes. From the data gathered, the following features were also determined: repetition, compounding, morphophonemic changes, borrowing, and encliticization.

Repetition is a process of word-formation that repeats phonemic units, either partial or full. From the table, it can be gleaned that repetition is also used as a strategy for word-formation. It can be either partial, wherein either the head or the tail of the word is repeated. The Cantilangnun dialect makes use of both types. According to Kramersch (2009), repeatable utterances can give value to the spontaneous communicative process for it also enriches the vocabulary of the speakers.

Table 4. Compounding

Word	Cantilangnun	English Translation
<i>tabang + lusngo</i>	<i>tabanglusngo</i> (endocentric)	To make difficult for someone
<i>dahon + tubo</i>	<i>dahontubo</i>	Oarfish

The table also reflects another morphological pattern inherent to the dialect understudy. It is observed that compounding as a word-formation structure is also apparent. There was compounding as a technique that puts two free morphemes together to form a new word. The meaning could be endocentric, wherein the semantic features of the combined words contribute to the meaning of the new word, while the exocentric compounds take their meaning from an external concept and not from the compounded words. According to Fan (2014), the semantic meaning of the compounded words can be either overt or covert. The semantic denotation may be realized through the words compounded or the component stems or through an instrumental derivative outside the compounded structures.

Table 5. Morphophonemic Changes

Morphophonemic Changes	Cantilangnun Morpheme	English Translation
Assimilation	<i>Pamija</i> from <i>bija</i>	Forsaken/ abandoned
Substitution	<i>buyad -buyaron</i>	dried fish – to dry
Syncope (mid sound deletion)	<i>dayagon-daygon</i>	to climb
Apocope (final sound deletion)	<i>ak</i> from <i>ako</i> <i>Dak</i> from <i>dako</i>	my, mine me
Aphaeresis (loss of initial sound)	<i>kaw</i> from <i>ikaw</i> <i>Maghayang kaw?</i>	you Do you want spicy sauce?

Morphophonemic changes in the Cantilangnun dialect are assimilation, truncation, substitution, syncope, and apocope. The patterns identified are evident in multisyllabic words. The complexity of the dialect is also apparent with the deletion patterns identified in some of its terms, like the initial, mid, and final sound deletion. The deletion technique is evident in the weak-stressed portion of the word. Truncation or deletion patterns are detected with an unstressed syllable. In accordance with the study’s findings, Evans (2014) posits that it is evident in languages to undergo consonant changes like insertion, deletion, substitution, and assimilation, among others. Vowel changes are also prevalent in various languages. Further, according to him, these morphological changes are apparent to introduce new word formations within a given language.

Table 6. Borrowing

Borrowed Words	Cantilangnun Version	English Translation
<i>Azotea</i>	<i>Azotea</i>	Terrace
<i>Buenas Dias</i>	<i>Buenas</i>	Good day
<i>Taburete</i>	<i>Taburete</i>	Chair
<i>Dispes</i>	<i>Dispes</i>	Therefore

This is a process of word-formation that uses foreign lexemes accorded with a localized spelling but preserves the semantic features of the foreign word. Because of the Spanish colonization in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, many locals have loaned words from the Spanish language. Many of the old residents of the municipality are using these words in their daily conversations. These words, as evidenced in the interviews conducted, were also pronounced in the same manner. According to Oh and Kim (2012), the adaptation of words from a source language to a target language should consider the phonetic information of the referential language.

Table 7. Encliticization

Cantilangnun Word Formation	English Translation
<i>Ijo iton = Ijoton bayay?</i>	Is that your house?
<i>Uno may ako = umay ak?</i>	What is it to me?
<i>Kun dili kaw daku= kundi kaw dak</i>	If you don't like me

This is a process of word-formation wherein compounding takes place through truncating the second word and having it attached in a leech-like fashion to the host word. The deletion takes place in the second morpheme, where there is a weak-syllable deletion. This truncated tail is attached to head word-forming, now a word-formation that passes through truncation then moves to blend (see example in the table). According to Jeong and Mee Kim (2016), encliticization occurs in the intermediate phrase boundaries where function words are encliticized. As shown in the example, the word "iton" translated as "that" a relative pronoun, is categorized as a function word that went through a head truncation and is attached to the host word. The new word-formation will reveal a medial truncation like that explained by Jeong and Mee Kim. They further said that the intermediate phrase boundaries are shortened, taking into consideration prosodic phrasing.

4.0 Conclusions

The current study looks into the word-formation processes in a local dialect in the Philippines, specifically the Cantilangnun dialect spoken in five speech communities in Surigao del Sur. On this note, contextualization of language lessons can become more meaningful to learners with Cantilangnun utilized as a medium of instruction in response to RA 10533. The study led the researchers to highlight the complexity of a local dialect using existing linguistic principles. The underlying notion is that local dialects can also be used as corpora for both prescriptive and descriptive grammar because they also bear linguistic features of the standard language. From the gathered data through the qualitative method, the researchers were able to identify several morphemic formation strategies adopted by the speakers of the dialect. These include affixation, inflection, and derivation.

Further, it was also noted that verbal and nominal affixes are evident as a word pattern in the dialect understudy. Repeated utterances as either partial or full were also noted from the interview conducted. Compounding was also evident, taking into account the semantic composites of the compounded words. These can be endocentric where meaning can be taken internally or

exocentric where the semantic attribution is instrumental and cannot be identified within the compounded words. Moreover, dialect also has morphophonemic changes as part of the strategies in their word production. These are categorized as assimilation, substitution, syncope, apocope, borrowing, and encliticization.

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