

MANOBO

DICTIONARY

*of Manobo as spoken in the
Agusan river valley and the
Diwata mountain range*

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Manobo: Agusan
Dictionary
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*For my Manobo grandparents
Bagani Manggusawon and Bai Nangin;
my parents, brothers, sisters;
and the Manobo of the
Agusan river valley and Diwata mountain range*

*Datu Manggusawon
Teofilo E. Gelacio*

TEOFILO ESPINOSA GELACIO was born in Binukayan, Loreto, Agusan del Sur, Philippines, in 1933. In 1954, he was invested as Datu Manggusawon "Chief Exterminator" by the late Datu Ojak Felipe May-as, the then reigning Datu of Gibong, Agusan del Sur. Datu Manggusawon was the title of his maternal grandfather, a famed *bagani* "warrior". He has been a teacher, vice-mayor, and Provincial Board member. In 1967, he was recognized as one of the ten most outstanding teachers in the nation. His interest in Manobo language, culture and history began in youth and continues to this day.

JASON LEE KWOK LOONG was born in Singapore in 1971. In 1997, he graduated from The University of Western Australia with First Class Honours in Linguistics.

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PREFACE

This book is a dictionary of the Manobo language spoken in large areas of the Agusan river valley and on the eastern slopes of the Diwata mountain range in the northeast of the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. There are about 5,200 main entries, consisting mostly of root words.

We hope that this dictionary will help the younger generations of Manobo take pride in their language and culture. We have included many names of wildlife native to the rivers and forests of Agusan, as well as words associated with traditional Manobo art and culture. We hope that the Manobo people will not stop speaking their language. Putting these words into print will preserve them for posterity, but using the language will ensure its continuity.

This dictionary has been in the making for several decades, from when the compilers first started collecting Manobo words. Numerous people are to be credited in the production of this work, especially the Manobo speakers who provided the data. Thank you all. We want to particularly acknowledge Teofila Bada, Florencia Havana, Jose Havana, Ian McQuay, Susan McQuay, *Datu Bangkiyawon* Esmeraldo Miel, Eustaquio Pendon and Donna Schumacher.

The final lexical database was compiled using Shoebox software from the Summer Institute of Linguistics. SIL also provided invaluable institutional support.

As with all dictionaries of living languages, this book represents work in progress. There is much more that the compilers have wanted to include or improve on, but could not due to certain constraints. Perhaps in the future we or others may produce an improved and enlarged version.

T. E. Gelacio
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INTRODUCTION

by Jason Lee

1 Pronunciation and Spelling

1.1 Vowels

People who speak Cebuano or Filipino as their mother tongue may have trouble pronouncing and spelling Manobo.

When we write Manobo we use seven basic vowels: *a*, *ae*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, *ue*. But there are two additional vowels: *ey*, which is similar to *e* but longer, and *iy*, which is similar to *i* but longer.

Cebuano is written with five vowels: *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*. Only three sounds are actually ever pronounced, however, because *e* and *i* are pronounced as the same sound, and *o* and *u* are pronounced as the same sound.

Manobo has these three same vowel sounds as Cebuano. We write them with *a*, *i* and *u*. We cannot write the sound *u* with *o*, or the sound *i* with *e*, like Cebuano, because in Manobo the letters *o* and *e* are used to represent DIFFERENT sounds.

The following is a table to help you pronounce and spell Manobo words. Non-Manobo words such as English words are included to guide you, but you must be careful. There are many different ways to pronounce English! The best way to learn to pronounce Manobo words correctly is to ask a native speaker of Manobo to say the Manobo words for you. The pronunciation guide should only be used if you cannot find a native speaker of Manobo. The pronunciation guide should be used with a native speaker of English.

TABLE 1 Vowel Chart

| Vowels | Manobo | | Pronunciation Guide |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| <i>a</i> | <i>a'baga</i> | 'shoulder' | <i>f<u>a</u>ther</i> |
| <i>ae</i> | <i>'aehu</i> | 'pestle' | <i>ca<u>t</u></i> |
| <i>e</i> | <i>sed</i> | 'inside' | <i>b<u>e</u>d</i> |
| <i>ey</i> | <i>meydu'on</i> | 'there is' | <i>gr<u>e</u>y</i> |
| <i>i</i> | <i>i'nay</i> | 'mother!' | <i>ki<u>i</u></i> |
| <i>iy</i> | <i>'abiy</i> | 'lip' | <i>ke<u>y</u></i> |
| <i>o</i> | <i>o'nom</i> | 'six' | <i>ab<u>o</u>ve</i> |
| <i>u</i> | <i>'ubu</i> | 'cough' | <i>do<u>u</u></i> |
| <i>ue</i> | <i>'kambue</i> | 'basket type' | Not found in English French <i>t<u>u</u></i> or German <i>ü<u>b</u>er</i> |

If the letter *o* is not used to spell the *u* sound, what sound does it represent? It does not represent the sound written with the letter *o* in Filipino, such as in the Filipino word *ngayon* 'now'. Instead, in Manobo, it represents what we call a *schwa* or *pepet* sound. The tongue and lips are in the same position as when making the *a* sound, but the mouth is not opened as wide, only half as wide.

If the letter *e* is not used to spell the *i* sound, what sound does it represent? It represents the same sound written with the letter *e* in Filipino as in the word *ate* 'older sister'.

The vowel sound *ue* is not found in Filipino, Cebuano or English. To pronounce this sound, first make the sound *i*. You will notice that your tongue is high up and in front of the mouth, and your lips are spread. Without moving the tongue, round your lips as when making the sound *u*. Or, first make the sound *u*. You will notice that your tongue is high up and at the back of the mouth, and your lips are rounded. Without moving the lips, move your tongue in front of the mouth as when making the sound *i*. This vowel sounds like a cross between *i* and *u* because the lips are in the same position as when making the sound *u* but the tongue is in the same position as when making the sound *i*.

1.2 Glottal Stop

One 'sound' is not always written. That is the glottal stop. The glottal stop is the 'catch in the throat' between the *uh* and the *oh* of the English *uh-oh* or the way some English speakers pronounce the *tt* in words like *button*.

In Manobo, we do not write the glottal stop when it is at the beginning of a word, as in *abaga* 'shoulder', or when it is between vowels, as in *baaw* (pronounced *ba-aw*) 'trail food'. We do write glottal stop with a dash (-) when it is after a consonant, as in *agid-id* 'body-dirt', or when it is between two vowels and one of the vowel sounds is written with two letters (*ae* or *ue*), as in *a-ae* 'for a boar to pant'. In this dictionary, the glottal stop is also written with a grave accent (`) when it is at the end of a word, as in *bakà* 'jaw'. The word looks like it ends with a vowel but it really ends in a glottal stop. If you do not write the glottal stop, then it may be difficult to tell if the word is *baka* 'cow' or *bakà* 'jaw'.

1.3 Stress

Stress in Manobo words is usually a longer syllable with a slightly louder volume. Stress is very important in Manobo in telling words apart. Therefore, stress is written in this dictionary. We write it with an apostrophe (') before the stressed syllable. For example, the only difference between *'hilu* 'thread' and *hi'lu* 'poison', is stress. In the first word, the first syllable is stressed. In the second word, the second syllable is stressed.

1.4 Consonants

The sixteen consonants of Manobo are spelled with the following letters:

TABLE 2 **Consonant Chart**

| Consonants | Manobo | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>b</i> | <i>'baktas</i> | 'hike' |
| <i>d</i> | <i>dadu'wa</i> | 'two' |
| <i>g</i> | <i>gu'yangan</i> | 'forest' |
| <i>h</i> | <i>hi'ngow</i> | 'be drunk' |
| <i>j</i> | <i>ja'bu</i> | 'spill' |
| <i>k</i> | <i>'kanta</i> | 'sing' |
| <i>l</i> | <i>la'ba</i> | 'launder' |
| <i>m</i> | <i>ma'mà</i> | 'betelnut chew' |
| <i>n</i> | <i>ni'pis</i> | 'thin' |
| <i>ng</i> | <i>'ngadan</i> | 'name' |
| <i>p</i> | <i>'panow</i> | 'walk' |
| <i>r</i> | <i>ri'pulyu</i> | 'cabbage' |
| <i>s</i> | <i>so'dà</i> | 'viand' |
| <i>t</i> | <i>ti'yahù</i> | 'cry' |
| <i>w</i> | <i>wo'hig</i> | 'water' |
| <i>y</i> | <i>'yukos</i> | 'male' |

Most Manobo consonants are pronounced the same as in Filipino or Cebuano. One exception is the letter *j*. Manobo *j* is the same as the Filipino sound usually written with the letters *dy*, as in *alédyik* 'allergic'. That is, it is the same as the English *j*.

2 How to Find Words in this Dictionary

This dictionary contains mostly root words, but when we speak and write Manobo we add affixes to the roots. For example, the root word 'yaguy 'run' is often found in the form *miglinaguy*, as in *miglinaguy* a 'I am running'. There are two affixes in *miglinaguy*. First there is the affix *mig-*, which shows that the action has begun. Then there is an infix *-in-*, which shows that the action is continuous. The root 'yaguy is found in this dictionary but not *miglinaguy* or *linaguy*. So, if you come across a word like *miglinaguy* or *linaguy* and find that it is not where you thought it would be (under *m* or *l*), how would you know where to look?

There are two main things to do to find the root. First, look for any affixes to remove, such as the *mig-* and *-in-* in *miglinaguy*. Next, you have to think about any sound changes that might have come because an affix or affixes were added, such as the *l* and *y* difference in *linaguy* and *yaguy*.

There is a list of affixes at the end of this section. We have tried to include all the affixes and most of the common affix combinations in the list. But the list is not complete because Manobo roots can have more than one affix at the same time.

As can be seen with 'yaguy, *y* changes to *l* when an *i* follows, as in the infix *-in-*. Changes to the first letter of certain roots and stems also occur with a group of prefixes which end in a nasal. Nasals are sounds made with the mouth closed and air coming out through the nose, such as the sounds represented by the letters *m*, *n*, and *ng*. We can use the capital letter *N* to represent all three letters *m*, *n*, and *ng*. Nasals affect roots or stems beginning with the letters *p*, *b*, *t*, *d*, *k*, and *g*. If the root or stem begins with a *p* or *b*, the *p* or *b* is replaced with an *m*. For example, the root word *bo'goy* 'give' appears as *pamogoy* when the affix *paN-* is added. If the root or stem begins with a *t* or *d*, the *t* or *d* is replaced with an *n*. For example, the root word 'tabak 'answer' appears as *panabak* when the affix *paN-* is added. If the root or stem begins with a *k* or *g*, the *k* or *g* is replaced with an *ng*. For example, the root word 'kabò 'clothe' appears as *pangabò* when the affix *paN-* is added.

3 Common Verb Affixes & Verb Affix Combinations

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Prefixes | <i>ka--an</i> | <i>nangka--an</i> | <i>paN³-</i> |
| <i>CVdup⁻¹</i> | <i>ka--i</i> | <i>og-</i> | <i>paN³--a</i> |
| <i>CVdup⁻¹-ay</i> | <i>kangka-</i> | <i>og--an</i> | <i>paN³--an</i> |
| <i>FULLdup⁻²</i> | <i>kangka--an</i> | <i>ogka-</i> | <i>paN³--i</i> |
| <i>asig-</i> | <i>ma-</i> | <i>ogka--an</i> | <i>paN³--on</i> |
| <i>bag-</i> | <i>ma--an</i> | <i>ogkangka-</i> | <i>pati-</i> |
| <i>hi-</i> | <i>maka-</i> | <i>ogkangka—</i> | <i>patig-</i> |
| <i>i-</i> | <i>mamaka-</i> | <i>an</i> | <i>pig-</i> |
| <i>ig-</i> | <i>mamaN³-</i> | <i>og--on</i> | <i>pig--an</i> |
| <i>ig-CVdup⁻¹</i> | <i>maN³-</i> | <i>ogpaka-</i> | <i>pigpaN³-</i> |
| <i>-ay</i> | <i>mangka-</i> | <i>ogpamaka-</i> | <i>pigpaN³--an</i> |
| <i>igka-</i> | <i>mangka--an</i> | <i>ogpamaN³-</i> | |
| <i>igkangka-</i> | <i>masig-</i> | <i>ogpaN³-</i> | Infixes |
| <i>igpaN³-</i> | <i>mig-</i> | <i>ogpaN³--an</i> | <i>-in-</i> |
| <i>ika-</i> | <i>migpaN³-</i> | <i>ogpaN³--on</i> | <i>-in--ay</i> |
| <i>ikangka-</i> | <i>mu-</i> | <i>pa-</i> | <i>-um-</i> |
| <i>impaN³-</i> | <i>na-</i> | <i>pa-CVdup⁻¹</i> | |
| <i>iN³-</i> | <i>na--an</i> | <i>-ay</i> | Suffixes |
| <i>in-</i> | <i>naka-</i> | <i>pag-</i> | <i>-a</i> |
| <i>ingka-</i> | <i>namaka-</i> | <i>paka-</i> | <i>-an</i> |
| <i>ingkangka-</i> | <i>namaN³-</i> | <i>paki-</i> | <i>-i</i> |
| <i>ipaN³-</i> | <i>naN³-</i> | <i>pakig-</i> | <i>-on</i> |
| <i>ka-</i> | <i>nangka-</i> | <i>pamaka-</i> | |

¹ CVdup-: Reduplication of the first consonant-vowel sequence of the stem is considered a form of prefixation.

² FULLdup-: Reduplication of the root is considered a form of prefixation.

³ N: The capital letter *N* indicates a nasal at the end of a prefix which affects the first consonant of the stem which the prefix is attached to. If the stem begins with *p* or *b*, the *p* or *b* is replaced with an *m*. If the stem begins with *t*, *d* or *s*, the *t* or *d* is replaced with an *n*, and *N* appears as an *n* with *s*. If the stem begins with *k* or *g*, the *k* or *g* is replaced with an *ng*. If the stem begins with a vowel, *N* appears as an *ng*.

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Abbreviations

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <i>adj.</i> | adjective | <i>OvSyn</i> | overlapping synonym |
| <i>adv.</i> | adverb | | |
| <i>Aff</i> | affix | <i>part.</i> | particle |
| <i>Ant</i> | antonym | <i>prep.</i> | preposition |
| <i>conj.</i> | conjunction | <i>pro.</i> | pronoun |
| <i>det.</i> | determiner | s.o. | someone |
| e.g. | for example | sp | species |
| esp. | especially | s.t. | something |
| <i>exis.</i> | existential | s.w. | somewhere |
| <i>Gram</i> | grammar | <i>Syn</i> | synonym |
| <i>interj.</i> | interjection | v. | verb |
| <i>interr.</i> | interrogative | <i>var.</i> | variety |
| <i>n.</i> | noun | voc. | vocative noun |