

SYNTACTIC FUNCTIONS OF YADASEN NOUNS

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Yadasen is spoken in Abra in the towns of Lagayan and Tineg and some parts of Lugangitong. But more specifically for the purpose of my paper, it is the dialect spoken in Ba-i Barrio. Yadasen, sometimes called Inidi, is only one of some many kinds of Itneg dialects which include Inlaud, Ilakub and I-yatib.

The data used in this research were based on two major lists: The Lexico-Statistic List for Philippine Languages and Test Sentences for Philippine Languages, both prepared by Dr. Ernesto Constantino. All the information used here has been gathered primarily from one resource person. My informant is a native speaker of Yadasen.

As a further introduction to the language, may I present some of the highlights of its Phonology.

Yadasen has 22 segmentals: p t k q b d g s ch m n ng l r w y i e
ɔ a u o. (refer to the charts)

Consonants:

	bil	dent	älly	pal	vel	glot
stops vl	p	t			k	q
vd	b	d			g	
fric vl			s			
affr vl			ch*			
nas	m	n			ng	
lat			l			
tril			r			
s-v	w			y		

* found only in one word derecho 'straight' which is a borrowed word

Vowels:

	front	central	back
high	i		u
mid	e	ɜ	o
low		a	

All stops are unaspirated. The r has a limited distribution occurring only in word-medial positions. Consonant clusters are found only across syllable boundaries. In Yadasen, it is very common to find gemination.

ex.	mattoy	'to die'
	doyyu	'far'
	tollu	'three'
	tawwon	'year'

The vowels, except ɜ which occur only in medial positions, are present in both the medial and final positions following the assumption that vowels are always preceded by a glottal stop in word-initial positions. Both rising and falling diphthongs may be found in the language.

ex.	qalgow	'day'
	qayqayam	'bird'
	wangag	'river'
	kumayab	'to hunt'

For this occasion, I will attempt to analyze the nouns of Yadasen and hopefully, be able to come up with an accurate description and classification of the syntactic functions of these nouns. Thus, the discussion will center on the functions of these nouns in various types of phrase and sentence constructions. Like other Philippine languages, Yadasen nouns are of different types based on morphological structure but this will not be discussed here due to certain limitations in the

data at hand, However, at this point, I would like to touch briefly on the construction markers of the language. Nouns in Yadasen are marked to show whether they are focused or not and to indicate their functions in the sentence. The noun phrase generally has the following form:

no. + marker = head

Focused nouns are marked by tu or Yo.

Nouns that are not focused are marked with:

an actor marker, nit as in

Kin-nan nit obbing tu mangga.

(ate the child the mango)

'The mango was eaten by the child.'

an object-marker, ko (indefinite) as in

angan ko mangga tu obbing.

(ate the mango the child)

'The child ate a mango.'

an object-marker, itu (definite) as in

Tu obbing yo nangan itu mangga.

(the child the ate the mango)

'It was the child who ate the mango.'

a locative-marker, kc as in

Narigat yo yo mappon ko Manila.

(difficult the to go to Manila)

'It is difficult to go to Manila.'

an instrumental marker, ko as in

Tu toloy tu nangputod ko kayu (kot nangosar) ko badang.

(the man the cut the wood by means of the bolo)

'It was the man who cut the tree with the bolo.'

a beneficiary marker, para ko as in

Ngirmina ko lemon tu baro itu obbing para ko balasang.

(bought a candy the bachelor the child for the maiden)

'The bachelor bought candy from the child for the maiden.'

a causative marker, ko as in

Gina tu ratay ko da-ig.

(he the died of Tuberculosis)

'It was he who died of TB.'

Thus, we see the common nouns as marked to show complementation.

Proper nouns are marked similarly.

e.g. focused: e as in

Nabilog ga nanagtag e Pedro.
(fast ligature run marker Pedro)
'Pedro runs fast.'

actor-marker: ne as in

Nginin-ngina-an ne Pedro tu baloy ko.
(bought by Pedro the house mine)
'My house was bought by Pedro.'

The markers form their plurality generally by replacing

or prefixing with a d.

e (proper noun focused marker) - de (plural form)
nitu (common noun actor-marker) - ditu (plural form)

Syntactic Functions of the Nouns

A. 1. Nouns function as head in attributive constructions.

These constructions are of the form:

attribute + ligature + head

- ex. (1) dakke ka toloy
(bad modifier marker person)
'bad person'
- (2) adu nga asin
(much modifier marker salt)
'much salt'
- (3) naunog ga obbat
(deep modifier marker hole)
'deep hole'
- (4) Lukup pa lulid
(weak modifier marker rope)
'weak rope'
- (5) dakkol la langay
(big modifier marker fly)
'big fly'

As can be observed from the above examples, the modifier marker varies

in form due to assimilation to the neighboring sounds, particularly to the last sound of the preceding word.

2. as head in locative constructions of the form:

locative marker + location

ex. (1) ko Manila
(locative marker Manila)
'to Manila'

(2) yo ginot
(locative marker ground)
'on the ground'

(3) itu tawtawaan
(locative marker window)
'from the window'

(4) idi pisong
(locative marker lake)
'in the lake'

3. as head in possessive constructions

a. constructions with pronouns of the form:

head + pronoun

ex. (1) kabasaan no
(field your)
'your field'

(2) nuang tidan
(carabao our)
'our carabao'

b. constructions without pronouns of the form:

head + (marker) + possessor

ex. (1) dung-ngol aso
(bark dog)
'bark of the dog'

(2) asawa ne Hwan
(wife possessive proper noun marker Juan)
'wife of Juan'

- (3) mata nyo kilow
(eye possessive proper noun marker owl)
'eye of the owl'

- (4) musung nitu nuang
(mouth possessive common noun marker carabao)

4. as head in constructions with demonstrative pronouns:

head + modifier + demonstrative pronoun

- ex. (1) iyog ga idi
(coconut modifier marker this)
'this coconut'

- (2) ginubat ta toni
(forest modifier marker that)
'that forest'

B. In a definite sentence, the noun phrase functions as the subject.

The noun phrase consists of a noun marker and a noun. The noun marker e is used with proper nouns and tu with common nouns. Furthermore, these articles are adjusted to conform with the nouns in number.

- ex. (1) Tu obbing yo nagsikad.
(the child the stood up)
'It was the child who stood up.'

- (2) E Pedro tu nagsikad.
(the Pedro the stood up)
'It was Pedro who stood up.'

- (3) Ditu obbing yo nagsikad.
(the children the stood up)
'It was the children who stood up.'

- (4) Da Pedro tu nagsikad.
(the Pedro the stood up)
'It was Pedro and companions who stood up.'

In active verbal definite sentences, the noun occurs as complement head preceded by a complement marker:

1. with the indefinite goal marker

- ex. Tu obbing yo nangan ko mangga.
 (the child the ate indefinite goal marker mango)
 'It was the child who ate the mango.'

2. with the locative marker

- ex. Tu baro yo ngimmina ko lemon itu obbing
 para ko balasang.
 (the bachelor the bought candy from the child
 for the maiden)
 'It was the bachelor who bought a flower from the child
 for the maiden.'

3. with the definite goal marker

- ex. Tu obbing yo nangan itu mangga.
 (the child the ate definite goal marker the mango)
 'It was the child who ate the mango.'

4. with the benefactive marker

- ex. Tu baro tu ngimmina ko lemon itu obbing para ko balasang.
 (the bachelor the bought candy from the child
 benefactive marker for the maiden)
 'It was the bachelor who bought a candy from the child
 for the maiden.'

5. with instrumental marker

- ex. Tu toloy tu nangputod ko kayo (kot nangosar)
 ko badang.
 (the man the cut the wood (by means of) the bolo)
 'It was the man who cut wood by means of the bolo.'

In passive verbal definite sentences, the noun may function as subject with varying focuses. e. g. as goal noun, locative noun, benefactive noun, instrumental noun, reciprocal actor noun, and others, all correlating correspondingly to a passive affix.

- ex. (1) Tu balasang tu ningi-na-an nitu baro ko lemon.
 (the maiden the was bought by the bachelor candy)
 'It was the maiden who was bought candy by the bachelor.'
- (2) Tu badang ko tu nangputod nitu toloy ko kayo.
 (the bolo my the was cut with by the man to the wood)
 'It was my bolo which the man used in cutting wood.'

In nominal non-verbal definite sentences, the noun functions as the head of the predicate while in particular sentences it is the

head of the predicate while in particulate non-verbal definite sentences, the noun may be just part of the particulate phrase.

- ex. (1) Tu balasang yo wod ko baloy.
(the maiden the there in the house)
'It is the maiden who is in the house.'
- (2) Tu balasang yo wod sabong na.
(the maiden the have flower her)
'It is the maiden who has a flower.'

In indefinite sentences, the noun phrase functions as subject.

The noun phrase, however, consists of only a common noun and has no marker.

- ex. (1) Abugado tu kabsat na.
(lawyer the brother his)
'His brother is a lawyer.'
- (2) Nangga kano kin-nan nitu obbing.
(mango said the was eaten by the child)
'It was a mango which was eaten by the child.'

In situational sentences, the noun phrase also functions as the subject occurring right after the verb.

- ex. (1) Nagsikad tu obbing.
(stood up the child)
'The child stood up.'
- (2) Mangtag ko nabilog e Pedro.
(ran fast the Pedro)
'Pedro ran fast.'
- (3) Nagsina yo baro kon balasang.
(separated the bachelor and maiden)
'The bachelor and maiden separated.'
- (4) Napuskol yo atop nyo baloy ne Pedro.
(thick the roof the house Pedro)
'The roof of Pedro's house is thick.'
- (5) Pinakan nitu balasang tu aso.
(was caused to eat by the maiden the dog my)
'My dog was fed by the maiden.'

- (6) Ngimmina ko lemon tu **baro** itu obbing para ko balasang.
 (bought candy the bachelor from the child for the maiden)
 'The bachelor bought candy from the child for the maiden.'

- (7) Ningi-naan nitu baro tu balasang ko lemon.
 (was bought by the bachelor the maiden candy)
 'The maiden was bought candy by the bachelor.'

In these sentences, nouns may also occur as predicate complements.

- ex. (1) Nakipatang tu obbing e Pedro.
 (talked with the child to Pedro)
 'The child talked with Pedro.'

- (2) Netdan ne Pedro tu obbing ko kuwarta.
 (given Pedro the child money)
 'Pedro gave the child money.'

In ~~non~~-predicative sentences, the noun may occur as part of the complement.

- ex. (1) Awan toloy ko baloy.
 (no man in the house)
 'There is nobody in the house.'

- (2) Nakigi-gi-bot ko baloy.
 (very dark in the house)
 'It's very dark in the house.'

- (3) Panag-mumula ngin.
 (planting season now)
 'It's planting season already.'

The functions of the noun do not vary much in inverted sentences except for their position in sentences and the presence of a marker kat.

- ex. Tu obbing kat nagsikad.
 (the child the stood up)
 'the child stood up.'

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