Kapampangan locative constructions:
synchronic and diachronic connections
Lanlan Li
University of Manitoba

This study presents and investigates locative construction in the Austronesian language Kapampangan, one of the ten major languages spoken in the Philippines (Gonzales 1998). There have been few but not many studies examining locatives in Austronesian languages: Bowden (1992) sought to ascertain the origin and development of locatives in the Oceanic branch of the Austronesian family; Reid and Liao (2004) made a statement of the syntactic characteristics of Philippine languages. For the Kapampangan language in particular, Mirikitani's (1972) grammar is the only work that explores the prepositional system. In this case, the empirical picture of Kapampangan locatives is far from fully described in the literature.

According to the data that I have gather from a native Kapampangan speaker, who was born in the Philippines and moved to Winnipeg around 20 years ago, prepositional relationships in Kapampangan can be expressed by the combination of a preposition and an oblique-case nominal in some cases as shown in (3). But they also can be conveyed by a genitive construction in which the preposition-like word is treated grammatically as a noun that is possessed by the following noun phrase, as shown in (1).

(1) *ing   pusa atsu ya [keng   **malapit** na [ning   kartun]]*
    C.ABS cat   be.at 3pA [DET.OBL **next.to** 3sG [DET.GEN box]]
    'The cat is next to the box.' (DI11.14)

(2) *deng   anak   atsu la   [keng **kilub** [klasi]]*
    C.ABS.PL children be.at 3pA   [C.OBL **inside** [classroom]]
    'The children are in the classroom.' (LO13.20)

(3) *ing   pidalanan m<e>gwa   ya   =ng [**malapit** [keng   bale]]*
    C.ABS road   PV.PST.build 3pA LK   [**next.to** [DET.OBL house]]
    'The road is built next to the house.' (LO16.1)

This variation in the structure of locatives raises two puzzles: 1) why does the same set of locative words function as both prepositions and possessed nominal in the two different locative constructions? 2) In the oblique construction, where the locative relationship is expressed by a preposition that takes an oblique nominal phrase as its complement, an oblique determiner can appear either directly before the noun, as shown in (2) or before the entire PP, as shown in (3). How can we understand this structural flexibility?

To clear up the puzzles, we apply the evolutionary path, grammaticalization channel, of locative expressions proposed by Svorou (1986) and Heine (1989) to Kapampangan. To understand the first puzzle, we hypothesize that the same evolution process of locative expressions happened in Kapampangan, just as in African languages: locative terms in some contexts were grammaticalized from N to P. Regarding the second puzzle, we propose that the unusual Det + P + NP structure is an intermediate stage between the genitive construction Det + N + DP and the standard prepositional construction P + Det + NP. The unusual structure has something in common with both constructions. It is aligned with genitive construction by putting Det at the beginning of the structure, and at the same time it lines up prepositional phrases by using P as the head of the phrase and not N.

References

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