# Bulusanon Personal Pronouns

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### Symbols & abbreviations not deducible from context

| | |
|---|---|
| *V* | *vowel* |
| C | consonant |
| Vb | verb |
| Af | affix |
| Vs | verb stem |
| SFA | stem-forming affix |
| PP | prepositional phrase |
| NP | noun phrase |
| Det | determiner |
| CM | case marker |
| N | noun |
| PS | phrase structure |
| > | becomes |
| * | unacceptable/ungrammatical |
| / | environment bar |
| #___ | word initial |
| V_X_C | slot occupied by X, where X is a cover symbol |
| ? | glottal stop |
| Ø | zero morph/morpheme |
| δ | syllable |

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$X_i...X_i$     coreference, where X is a cover symbol

$\longrightarrow$     rewrite symbol

$[\quad]$     linear collocation

$\{\quad\}$     alternative collocation

## 1. The Place and the Language

The municipality of Bulusan lies in the eastern part of Sorsogon. It is bounded in the north by Barcelona, in the south by Sta. Magdalena, in the west by Mt. Bulusan, and in the east by Juban and Irosin. The name Bulusan is derived from **bulus** 'to pour'. Thus, **bulus + -an** (a locative affix which means 'an X for Verbing') means 'a place where water pours in.'

The inhabitants of Bulusan are called Bicolanos, but they prefer to call themselves and their language Bulusanon.
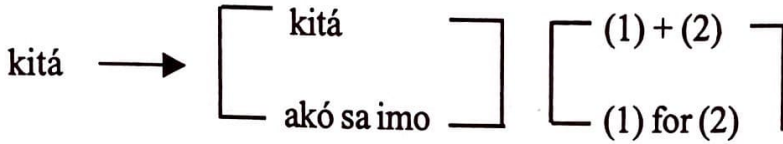
## 2. The Personal Pronouns

Bulusanon personal pronouns (BUL Ppros) have three features: person, number, and case. They have no feature bundle for gender. Of persons, there are four types: first (1), the speaker; second (2), the person spoken to; dual (1+2), the speaker and the person spoken to; and third (3), the person referred to who is not taking part in the conversation. Of numbers there are two types: singular and plural. And of cases there are three: nominative, genitive, and locative – all of which are predictable on the basis of syntactic context.

These pronouns are portmanteau morphs. And, regardless of their case, they are always tonic, even in rapid speech.

### 2.1 The Proclitic (PNP) and the Enclitic (ENP) Nominative

The BUL nominatives are locally free and are either proximate (i.e., coreferential with some other nonlocal item in the sentence, as in *Kinuhà ni Pedro$_i$ an mangga nan kinaun niyà$_i$ iní 'Pedro$_i$ got the mango and he$_i$ ate it'*) or obviate (i.e., not coreferential with any other lexical item in the sentence, as in *Kumadto sirá sa umá* 'They went to the farm').

BUL uses **kitá** for (1+2) PNP and ENP, and for {(1+2) + (3)} ENP. In the dual ENP, **kitá** is used when both (1) and (2) do the action, or when both are affected by the action indicated by the verb. However, when only (1) does the action for (2), the phrasal **akó sa imo** is used:

$$\text{kitá} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{kitá} \\ \\ \text{akó sa imo} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (1) + (2) \\ \\ (1) \text{ for } (2) \end{bmatrix}$$
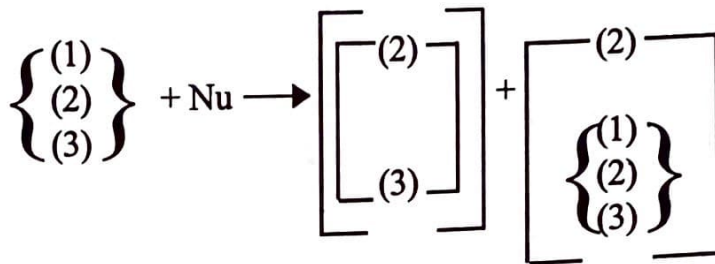
The BUL Ppros are not inherently marked for clitics. Thus, the PNP and the ENP have the same morphological form, except the second person singular ENP in which aphaeresis and apocopation may be said to be involved in a **conspiracy** to block the V__C structure similar to (2) PNP.

**Table 1.** *BUL PNP and ENP*

| Proclitic | Enclitic | Person | Number |
|-----------|----------|--------|--------|
| akó | akó | (1) | singular |
| ikáw | ka | (2) | singular |
| kitá | { kitá | | |
| | akó sa imo } | (1+2) | plural |
| siyá | siyá | (3) | singular |
| kamí | kamí | (1) + (3) | plural |
| kitá | kitá | {(1+2) + (3)} | plural |
| kamó | kamó | { (2) + (2) | |
| | | (2) + (3) } | plural |
| sirá | sirá | (3) + (3) | plural |

To form the minimum inclusive plural, either (1), (2), or (3) is added to the first, second or third person, except *(1) + (1). The conflated formulaic representation is thus:

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c}(1)\\(2)\\(3)\end{array}\right\} + \text{Nu} \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{c}(2)\\ \\(3)\end{array}\right] + \left[\begin{array}{c}(2)\\ \left\{\begin{array}{c}(1)\\(2)\\(3)\end{array}\right\}\end{array}\right]$$

## 2.2   Genitive Pronoun (GP)

Like the nominative pronouns, the genitive pronouns can be classified as either proclitic or enclitic. These forms are shown in the following table.

*Table 2. BUL Proclitic (PGP) and Enclitic (EGP) Genitive Pronouns*

| Person/Number | Proclitic | Enclitic |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | sa akò | ko |
| (2) | imo | mo |
| (1+2) | atò | natò |
| (3) | $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{iya}\\\text{kaniyá}\end{array}\right\}$ | niya |
| (1) + (3) | amò | $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{namò}\\\text{mi}\end{array}\right\}$ |
| (2) + (3) | iyó | niyó |
| {(1+2) + (3)} | atò | natò |
| (3) + (3) | kanirá | nirá |

In (1+2), (3), (1) + (3), (2) + (3), and {(1+2) + 3}, the prothetic **n-** is affixed to the PGP to form the EGP (or, if we say that $V \rightarrow ?V/\#$__, then $? \rightarrow n/$__$V_1$). In (1) and (2), aphaeresis takes place; and in (3) + (3) and the variant of (3), $\delta_1 \rightarrow \emptyset$ (Note that (3) PGP and (1) + (3) EGP have two forms which occur in free variation.) Only (1) PGP is collocated with **sa-** marker.

## 2.3 The Locative Pronouns (LP)

To form the LPs, the locative marker **sa** is collocated with the PGP. (1) LP, therefore, becomes **sa sa akò:**

$$LP \rightarrow \{sa\} + PGP$$

## 3. Personal Pronouns in Syntactic Constructions

This part discusses the two types of syntactic constructions — the simple predicative and the possessive constructions – which make use of personal pronouns.
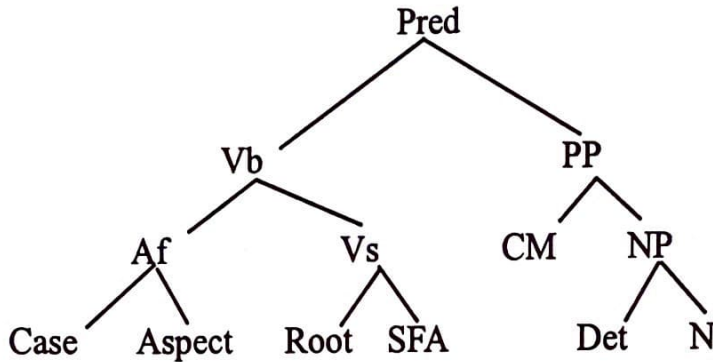
### 3.1 Simple Predicative Construction

A predicative construction has two immediate constituents: the subject and the predicate. Based on its predicate, a predicative construction may be verbal or non-verbal.

### 3.1.1 Verbal Predicative Construction

A verbal predicative construction is formed by collocating a verb with one or more verbal complements. One of these complements is the subject, and the verb and the other verbal complements form the predicate. Its PS-rule is:

$$Pred \longrightarrow Vb + PP$$

$$Vb \longrightarrow Af + Vs$$

$$Af \longrightarrow Case + Aspect$$

$$Vs \longrightarrow Root + SFA$$

$$PP \longrightarrow CM + NP$$

$$NP \longrightarrow Det + N$$

And its tree diagram looks like this:

```
                          Pred
                 _____/    _____
               Vb                      PP
           ___/  \___              ___/  \___
         Af          Vs          CM          NP
        /  \        /  \                    /  \
    Case  Aspect  Root  SFA             Det     N
```

There are five types of verbal complements in BUL: Actor Complement (AC), Goal Complement (GC), Locative Complement (LC), Benefactive Complement (BC), and Instrumental Complement (IC).

The AC is the doer of the action indicated by the verb. The object that is affected by the action is the GC which can be a person or a thing. The LC may be a person, a thing, a place where the action takes place, a direction, or a source of action. The BC may be a person or a thing benefited by the action. And the IC may be a person or a thing used to carry out the action indicated by the verb.

One of the verbal complements may be made the subject of the construction. This is done by incorporating the CM of one of the verbal complements into the affix node of the verb. The verbal complement whose CM > Ø now stands as the subject in the surface structure, and the CM that has been incorporated into the affix node now determines the voice of the verbal affix in the surface structure. This process is called subjectivalization.

Normally, the order of the sentence constituents is:

$$Vb - AC - GC - LC - BC - IC$$

If we apply one or more transformational rules to the sentence structure above, a simple predicative sentence will branch out into three distinct types. Classified according to the structural relationship of their constituents, these sentences may be situational, indefinite, or definite.

In a situational sentence, the unmarked predicate precedes the marked subject which is preceded by a determiner or a demonstrative pronoun. In an indefinite sentence, the unmarked subject precedes the marked predicate. And in

a definite sentence, the marked subject precedes the marked predicate.

### 3.1.2  Non-verbal Predicative Construction (NVP)

A non-verbal predicative construction is a type of sentence whose predicate head is neither a verb nor a verb phrase. There are three types of NVP: adjectival, whose predicate head is an adjective; nominal, whose predicate head is a noun; and particulate, whose predicate head is a particle + LC or N.

### 3.2      Possessive Construction

In a possessive construction, the head of the predicate or of the possessive phrase is a possessive particle + NP. The possessive particle may be affirmative denoting possession, or negative denoting non-possession.

### 4.      Syntactic Occurrence of the BUL Personal Pronouns

The BUL Ppros may occur as substitutes for the NPs in simple predicative and possessive constructions.

### 4.1      The PNP and the ENP

In situational and in definite constructions, a nominative pronoun may replace any of the subjectivalized verbal complement. Since the CM has been transposed already to the affix node, only the NP→ Det + N is replaced by the nominative pronoun. This process is called pronominalization.

The ENP stands as the subject of a situational sentence. (In the examples that follow, the subject IC is in bold print.)

1.    a.   Tonindog **an batà**
      b.   Tonindog **ka**.
2.    a.   Bakalán ni Pedro **si Mariya** sin singsíng.
      b.   Bakalán **siyá** ni Pedro sin singsíng.
3.    a.   Maimód ni Pedro **si Mariya**.
      b.   Maimód **siyá** ni Pedro.

The PNP, on the other hand, stands as the subject of a definite construction:

4.    a.   **Sirá ni Pedro** an mahalî buwas.

      b.   **Sirá** an mahalî buwás.

The PNP and the ENP may also become the subject of non-verbal sentences:

5.    a.   **An daraga** an hugakún.

      b.   **Ikáw** an hugakún.

6.    a.   Abugado **an sultiro.**

      b.   Abugado **siyá.**

### 4.2    The PGP and the EGP

The BUL PGP may replace the possessive phrase in a non-verbal sentence. The BUL EGP, on the other hand, may substitute for the AC or the PP in a verbal predicative construction. Needless to say, the PGP and the EGP occur in complimentary distribution.

### 4.2.1    The PGP

The BUL PGP may stand as subject of situational non-verbal predicative sentences. In the example below, the whole possessive construction is replaced by the PGP.

7.    a.   **Mangga ko** iní.

      b.   **Sa akò** iní.

The PGP may also replace the possessor NP only:

8.    a.   **Baráy ni Mariya** iní.

      b.   **Iya** baráy iní.

### 4.2.2    The EGP

If the subjectivalized complement is not the AC, the agent may be re-

placed by the EGP. Since the whole PP of the AC is replaced, the CM, the Det, and the N of the PP now become built-in elements of the EGP.

9.   a.   Binakál **ni Pedro** an baráy.
     b.   Binakál **niya** an baráy.
10.  a.   Dinaopan **sa batà** an daraga.
     b.   Dinaopan **nirá** an daraga.

The EGP may also be used in possessive constructions. Like the replacement process in the passive actor or agent in (9) and (10), the CM, the Det, and the N or the whole PP of a possessive sentence may be replaced by the EGP:

11.  a.   Kinaon ko an **saging ni Mariya.**
     b.   Kinaon ko an saging **mo.**

## 4.2    The LP

BUL does not have "true" locative pronouns. As stated, the locative marker **sa** is collocated with the PGP to form the LPs which may replace the noun in a locative phrase:

12. a.   Si Pedro an dumaop **sa bata.**
    b.   Si Pedro an dumaop **sa sa ako.**

## 5.    Recapitulation

The Bulusan personal pronouns have four grammatical persons: first, second, dual, and third – all of which may be singular or plural, and may be in the nominative, genitive or locative case.

The proclitic nominative and the enclitic nominative have the same morphological structure, except the second person singular. The proclitic genetive forms, on the other hand, are transformed into enclitic genitive via aphaeresis or prothesis. And the locative pronouns are formed by collocating the locative marker **sa** with the proclitic genitive.

These pronouns may be used in verbal and non-verbal predicative sentences or in possessive constructions. As such, they may replace the NPs of a verbal complement, or the possessor NP in a possessive construction.

## Informant

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