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VERBAL AFFIXES OF VARIETIES OF FILIPINO IN DIALECT CONTACT SITUATIONS: TOWARDS A FILIPINO KOINE
(A Doctoral Dissertation)

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The aim of this study is to determine the emerging patterns of verbal affixes used as focus and aspect markers in Filipino, currently used by non-native speakers of mutually intelligible dialects of the language as they interact orally in dialect-contact situations. This is based on the assumption advanced by Trudgill (1986) that when speakers of mutually intelligible dialects emerge in face-to-face oral interaction, a new amalgamated variety called koine is gradually evolved over time under conducive sociolinguistic conditions such as prolonged contact with growth of economic and social intercourse.

This process of contact-induced change called koineization undergoes three phases beginning from mixing of variants to leveling with the reduction of alternatives and finally to simplification which is characterized by loss of inflections and lexical transparency.

Subjects of this study consisted of 114 adult non-native speakers of Filipino from 9 ethnolinguistic groups namely - Ilocano, Pangasinense, Kapampangan, Bicolano, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Waray, Maguindanao, and Tausog.

Samples of their oral language in Filipino used in identified dialect-contact situations including TV talk shows, university faculty academic council meetings, summer teacher-training seminar workshops, informal faculty exchanges and natural conversation among students were tape-recorded and analyzed in order to determine and describe the emerging pattern of verbal affixes used as focus and aspect markers reflecting recursive phases of the process of koineization as well as the strategies of modification employed.

The data yielded a random mix of 236 variants. From the mixing of these variants, the phase of leveling occurred and revealed 6 emerging patterns which varied from the norm with a frequency occurrence of 86. These are:

1. MAG- used in lieu of the norm -UM-, NAG-, and MAG with reduplication
2. NAG- used in lieu of -UM- and NAG- without reduplication
3. NA- with reduplication in lieu of NA- without reduplication
4. -UM- with reduplication in lieu of -UM- without reduplication
5. NAG- in lieu of -UM- and retention of root word
6. Unaffixed verb base in lieu of verbs with reduplication

... with prolonged contact and growth of social and economic intercourse among the speakers of various varieties of Filipino, a new variety of the national lingua franca may emerge over time.

