HIGA-ONON PHRASE STRUCTURE

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Introduction

Higa-onon or Iga-onon refers to the language spoken by some 3,000 Higa-onons living in sitio Kalamalamahan, Barangay Rogongon, Iligan City. Rogongon which is about 35 kms. away from the poblacion and accessible by logging trucks, is located close to the boundaries of Lanao del Norte and Bukidnon.

The origin of the Higa-onon has yet to be ascertained. Based on an interview with the informants, the term Higa-onon comes from the word gaun which means to rise. They claimed to have lived originally along the coastline of Lanao del Norte and Misamis Oriental but they moved 'gaun' to the upland following the route of the river banks to avoid conversion to Islam. The Higa-onons claimed that the Maranaos are the Islamized Higa-onons.

Fieldwork on Higa-onon was conducted in Kalamalamahan, Rogongon, a community of about 3,000 Higa-onons. Information was obtained from Higa-onon informants who are conversant in Higa-onon and in Cebuano (the medium of communication between informants and the investigator).

Higa-onon Phonemes

Higa-onon has 19 segmental phonemes and one suprasegmental phoneme which is stress. The consonants are /p t q (glottal stop) b d g l m n ng h s w y/. The vowels are low central /a/, high front /i/, mid central /e/, and high back /u/.

Phrase Construction

The purpose of this paper is to describe the structure of phrases in Higa-onon by using the tagmemic method of analysis.

A phrase in Higa-onon may be defined as a construction which typically expounds tagmemes on the clause level or it may also occur on the phrase level as an embedded phrase. By its internal features, the phrase in Higa-onon is a unit of modification or conjunction whose head tagmeme is manifested by a member of one of the major word classes. Traditionally, phrases have been assumed to be composed of more than one word. In description with the tagmemmic model, however, conciseness and simplicity of statement is gained by considering phrases to include those single words which are expandable to include more than one word.

1. Simple Noun Phrase (SmPh)

A simple noun phrase consists of a Noun Head preceded by an optional plural marker (pl) and followed by an optional possessive tagmeme (Poss). There are two subtypes of simple noun phrases: the Personal Noun Phrase (PNPh) and the Common Noun Phrase (CNPh).

1.1 Personal Noun Phrase (PNPh)

Formula: PNPh = +Head ± Poss

pn	prn_1 ReAxPh

That is, a personal noun phrase consists of an obligatory Head slot filled by a personal noun followed by an optional possessive tagmeme (Poss). The possessive tagmeme may be filled by the ⟨ku⟩ class of possessive personal pronouns, or a relator axis phrase (ReAxPh) introduced by the relator ⟨hi⟩ .

ku Possessive Personal Pronouns (prn_1)

	Singular		Plural	
First	ku	'my'	ta(dual) taw(incl) day(excl)	'our'
Second	nu	'your'	yu	'your'
Third	din	'his' 'hers' 'its'	dan	'their'

Examples:

1. Maymáyan 'my father'
2. qámay ku
3. qinay hi Luciano 'Luciano's mother' mother of Luciano
4. qápuq hi Imáhan 'Imahan's grandparents'

1.2 Common Noun Phrase (CNPh)

Formula: CNPh = ±pl | +Head | ±Poss

±pl	+Head	±Poss
Mga	cn AdjPh PossPh	prn ReAxPh

That is, a common noun phrase consists of an obligatory Head slot filled by a common noun preceded by an optional plural marker (pl) and followed by an optional possessive tagmeme (Poss). The Head slot may be filled by an adjective phrase or a possessor phrase. The possessive tagmeme may be filled by the ku class of possessive personal pronouns or a relator axis phrase introduced by the relator ⟨hi⟩.

Examples:

1. búgtaq 'earth'
2. mga bátaq 'children' (pl child)
3. qasáwa hi Berto 'Berto's wife'
4. lápis din 'her pencil'
5. mga quyúgan day 'our animals' (pl animal our)
6. mga malámbuq ha bátaq 'fat children' (pl fat lg child)

2. Adjective Phrase (AdjPh)

Formula: AdjPh =

+Mod	+lg	+Head
PNPh CNPh NuPh AdjPh	ha	CNPh SerPh

That is, an adjective phrase has an obligatory modifying tagmeme followed by a ligature plus a descriptive Head. Mod and Head may permute but not when Mod is expounded by a NuPh.

Examples:

1. malámbuq ha báhi 'fat woman'
   fat lg woman
2. madákel ha mga bábuy daw mga budúng 'many pigs and cats'
   many lg pl pig and pl cat
3. nángka buuk ha tagbis 'one bird'
   one piece lg bird

3. Possessor Phrase (Poss_h)

Formula: Possh =

+Mod	+lg	+Head
prn$_2$	ha	CNPh
ReAxPh$_1$		SerPh

That is, a possessor phrase consists of an obligatory modifying slot plus an obligatory Head preceded by a ligature. The expounding relator of the relator axis phrase is ki.

Examples:

1. kanák ha kalásan 'my forest'
2. ki qámay ha kalábaw 'father's carabao'
3. kanúy ha qámay daw qínay 'our parents'
4. ki Pédro ha qíkam 'Pedro's mat'

4. Locative Phrase (LocPh)

Formula: LocPh =

+part loc	+gen loc
⟨sampaw⟩ 'top'	⟨balay⟩ 'house' ReAxPh NSPh

That is, a locative phrase (LocPh) has an obligatory tagmeme of a particular location filled by a class of particular location of the sampaw class plus an obligatory tagmeme of general location of the balay class, or the $ReAxPh_2$ or a NSPh.

Examples:

1. sampaw hu trak 'top of the truck'
   top the truck
2. dadálem ta sáeg 'under the floor'
   under the floor
3. layun ta dalan 'across the road'
4. qubay ta balay 'near the house'

5. Demonstrative Phrase (DmPh)

Formula: DmPh =

+Mod	+lg	+Head
dm prn	ha	CNPh LocPh

That is, a demonstrative phrase (DmPh) consists of an obligatory modifier tagmeme filled by a demonstrative pronoun followed by an obligatory Head tagmeme filled by either a common noun phrase or a locative phrase introduced by the ligature ⟨ha⟩.

Demonstrative Particles:

ha-i	'this'	hayan	'that near you'
ha-ini	'this here'	ha-en	'that there'
hayaq	'that far away'		

When the demonstrative particles are preceded by the relators sa and ta, the ha or the first syllable of the demonstrative is dropped, and the relator assimilates the remaining syllable of the demonstrative particle. Thus,

sa + ha-i ~ sa-i ta + hayaq ~ tayaq

sa + hayaq ~ sayaq ta + ha-en ~ ta-en

ta + ha-i ~ ta-i

When the particles are preceded by words ending in consonants, the consonant h of the demonstrative is dropped and the consonant ending of the preceding word is reduplicated. There is morphophonemic change occuring across word boundaries. Thus,

kanak ha-i ~ kanak ka-i 'this is mine'

kandin hayaq ~ kandin nayaq 'that is his'

qetaw hayan ~ qetaw wayan 'that person'

Examples:

1. hayaq ha mga bataq 'those children'
   that lg pl child
2. ha-i ha sigupan ku 'this cigarette of mine'
   this lg cigarette my
3. hayaq ha sampaw hu kayu 'that one on top of the tree'
   that lg top the tree

6. Numeral Phrases (NuPh)

Numeral phrases are classified into: $NuPh_1$ and $NuPh_2$.

6.1 $NuPh_1$

Formula: $NuPh_1$ =

±pl	+$Head_1$	±/-(+lk)	+$head_2$
mga	num	daw 'and'	num NuPh

That is, a numeral phrase consists of an obligatory Head filled by a numeral followed by an optional linker ⟨daw⟩ 'and' plus a second Head tagmeme filled by a numeral or a Numeral phrase. The numeral expounding $Head_2$ are the numerals 1-9.

Examples:

1. sabuwa 'one'
2. sampulu daw sabuwa 'twelve'
   ten and one
3. mga tatelu 'three'
   pl three
4. mga kaluwa-an daw haenum 'twenty six'
   pl twenty and six

6.2 $NuPh_2$

Formula: $NuPh_2$ = +num | +whole

NuPh | prn_2

⟨alan⟩ 'all'

That is, a $NuPh_2$ consists of an obligatory numeral plus an obligatory tagmeme denoting 'whole'. The numeral slot day be filled by a numeral phrase or by ⟨alan⟩ 'all'. The following slot is filled by the ⟨kanak⟩ class of personal pronouns (prn_2). The prn_2 expounding whole is always plural.

Examples:

1. qalan kandin 'all of them'
2. madakel kanay 'many of us'
3. kaluwa-an daw sabuwa kandan 'twenty-one of them'
4. atiyuay kanay 'a few of us'
5. daduwa kandan 'two of them'

7. Nonspecification Phrase (NSPh)

Formula: NSPh = +gen term | +Head

⟨bisan⟩ (isan) 'even' | ⟨sin-u⟩ 'who'

That is, an nonspecification phrase (NSPh) consists of an obligatory general term tagmeme filled by bisan or isan 'even' plus an obligatory Head slot filled by a class of question words sin-u 'who'.

Examples:

1. bisan sin-u 'anyone'
2. qisan qinu 'anything' (even what)
3. bisan kan-u 'anytime' (even when)
4. qisan hindu 'anywhere' (even where)

8. Relator Axis Phrase (ReAxPh)

A relator axis phrase (ReAxPh) consists of a relator expounded by various relators and an axis expounded by different types of phrases. The relator axis phrase are classified into $ReAxPh_1$ and $ReAxPh_2$.

8.1 $ReAxPh_1$

Formula: $ReAxPh_1$ =

+re	+Axis
si hi ki	PNPh

That is, this type consists of an obligatory relator of the ⟨si⟩ class followed by an obligatory axis filled by a personal noun phrase.

Examples:

1. si Piansa "piansa"
2. hi bataq ku 'your child'
3. ki Berto 'Berto'
4. say Piansa 'Piansa and them'
5. hay qinay ku 'my mother and them'
6. kay Berto "Berto and them'

8.2 $ReAxPh_2$

Formula: $ReAxPh_2$ =

+re	+Axis
sa(su) ta hu	dm prn_2 CNPh DmPh LocPh NuPh

That is, $ReAxPh_2$ consists of an obligatory relator of the ⟨sa⟩ class plus an obligatory Axis filled by a demonstrative particle or any of the phrases indicated in the formula.

Examples:

1. su tangíla din. 'his ears'
   the ear his
2. sa talikúdan nu 'your back'
   the back your
3. sa-i ha qétaw 'this man'
   sa ha-i lg man
4. hu atiyúay ha báhi 'the small woman'
   the small lf woman
5. ta-i ha mga dumaq ku 'These companions of mine'
   ta ha-i lg pl companion my
6. sa haenum ha budung day 'our six cats'
   the six lg cat our

kanak Personal Pronouns (prn_2)

	Singluar		Plural	
First	kanák	'me'	kanit(dual)	'Us'
			kanuy (incl)	
			kanáy (excl)	
Second	qimu/qikaw	'you'	qinyu	'you'
Third	kandin	'him'	kandan	'them'

As compared to prn_1, prn_2 indicates a more specific type of possession and is commonly used as referent, direct or indirect.

9. Time Phrase (TiPh)

Formula: TiPh = +gen. time | +part time

⟨qíman⟩ 'present' | ⟨lunes⟩ 'monday'
⟨nangka...⟩ 'one...'
AdjPh

That is, a TiPh consists of a general time tagmeme filled by a class of general time words ⟨qiman⟩ 'present' plus an obligatory particular time words like ⟨lunes⟩ 'monday' and ⟨nangka...⟩ 'one...' or an AdjPh. The relators of the ⟨lunes⟩ class expounding particular time are ⟨ku⟩ and ⟨su⟩ 'when'. $NuPh_1$ is the exponent of the Mod of AdjPh expounding Axis. When ⟨nangka...⟩ or an AdjPh expounds particular time, it may permute with ⟨qiman.⟩

Examples:

1. qiman ku lunes 'this monday'
   present when monday
2. qiman ku daleman 'tonight'
   present when night
3. qasem ku maánglaw 'tomorrow'
   future when day
4. nangkatuig qiman 'a year from now'
   one year future
5. tatelu ha makapitu qiman 'three weeks from now'
   three lg week present
6. quman sase lum 'every morning'
   every morning

10. Beneficiary Phrase (BenPh)

Formula: BenPh =

+re(ben)	+Axis(ben)
⟨para⟩ 'for'	prn_2 ReAxPh SerPh

That is, a BenPh consists of an obligatory benefactive relator ⟨para⟩ 'for' plus a benefactive Axis filled by prn_2 or a ReAxPh or a SerPh. The relator of ReAxPh which expounds Axis are ⟨ki⟩ and ⟨ku⟩ .

Examples:

1. para kanak 'for me'

2. para ki Onotan 'for Onotan'

3. para hu atiyuay ha laga 'for the small maiden'
   for the small lg maiden

4. para hu mga bataq daw mga la-asen 'for the children and the old'
   for the pl child and pl old

5. para hu qinay ku daw hu qapuq ku ha bahi
   for the mother my and the granparent the female

   'for my mother and my grandmother'

11. Serial Phrase (SerPh)

Formula: SerPh = +Head | ±(lk | +Head)^{n}

prn_3	daw'and'	prn_4
CNPh		ReAxPh
ReAxPh		NSPh

That is, a SerPh consists of two or more phrase types joined by ⟨daw⟩ 'and' or by juxtaposition.

Examples:

1. ka daw siak 'you and myself'
   you and myself

2. si Maymayan daw siak 'Maymayan and myself'

3. sa qetaw daw sa mga bataq 'the person and the children'
   the man and the pl child

4. hi qamay daw hi qinay 'father and mother'
   re father and re mother

5. hu mga bakbak daw hu qasu daw bisan qinu
   the pl frog and the dog and even what

   'the frogs and the dog and whatever'

6. tukab wulang suluq 'eyelid face fingernail'

Subject/Topic pronouns (prn_3)

	Singular		Plural	
First	a(d)	'I' 'me'	ki(d)(dual) kiw (incl) kay (excl)	'we'
Second	ka(d)	'you'	kaw	'you'
Third	Ø	'he' 'she'	sidan	'they' 'them'

Reflexive pronouns (prn_4)

	Singular		Plural	
First	siak	'I myself'	sikit (dual) sikuy (incl) sikay(excl)	'we ourselves'
Second	sikaw	'you yourself'	sinyu	'you yourselves'
Third	Ø	'he himself'	sidan	'they themselves'

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