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Maranao Analyzed: The Inflection and Syntax of Maranao Verbs

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is a clear delineation of the broad lines of the social changes sweeping over Asia. The chapter on "Reality" can provide a ready-made outline for college sociology seminars, which can think out in terms of the local cultures the broad insights of the Baguio Seminar.

JAIME BULATAO

MARANAO ANALYZED

THE INFLECTION AND SYNTAX OF MARANAO VERBS. By Howard P. McKaughan. Manila: Institute of National Language, 1958. viii, 59p.

In the acknowledgements prefacing his study, Dr. McKaughan expresses the double hope that it "will serve not only as a profitable reference for linguists and language students, but also as a means to express a deep interest in both the language and ways of life of the Mohammedan peoples of the Philippines". Both hopes are, in the opinion of this reviewer, fully capable of being realized, though the technical nature of the work would make it unlikely that a layman could appreciate the depth of the interest shown by the author or the amount of research his study represents. For a person with linguistic training, however, the study makes interesting and satisfying reading: interesting, because it treats aspects of a language that has not been previously so carefully described; and satisfying, because the material is presented in a clear, orderly, and objective fashion.

Dr. McKaughan is primarily concerned with a description of the inflection of verbs in Maranao, a language spoken on the island of Mindanao, and devotes almost half of his book to this aspect of the language. In order to put the verbs and their inflection into proper syntactic perspective, he has made the first part of his study a description of what he calls "verbal predications", which he describes as the most frequent sentence type of Maranao. It is characteristic of the whole presentation that in doing so, he first defines a sentence ("any form which is not in grammatical construction with another form") and lists two other presumably common sentence types before proceeding to the treatment of the sentence type he uses to illustrate his subsequent description of verbs and their inflection. Another evidence of the author's concern for presenting an integrated and linguistically meaningful picture of Maranao structure is his treatment, in an introduction, of the segmental phonemes of the language.

Here he presents, as he says, not "a full description of the phonological structure," but "certain basic facts regarding the phonology", which he considers essential to the understanding of the morphological and syntactic material which follows. One is left with the feeling that one would sometime like to see as thorough a treatment of the phonology of the language as Dr. McKaughan has done on its verbal inflection.

In Part II, the core of the author's study, in which he treats of the inflection of Maranao verbs, he has "attempted to be as complete as possible", listing and illustrating categories of inflection defined on the basis of morphological markers and of having distinct semantic meanings. It is typical of the author's objective treatment of his material that he has set up his categories on the basis of his corpus and has not depended on descriptions of other languages for his classes or the terms for them. A slight deviation from this principle seems to this reviewer to have been made in differentiating "aspect" and "tense" when the kind of criterion for the sub-classes in each division is the same (presence of certain morphemes with the verb) and the semantic meaning is not necessarily to be associated with tense, at least in the sense of time; for example, the classification *past tense* which indicates that the action has been completed. A further difficulty seems to arise in his description of *general aspect*, and *neutral tense*, both of which are indicated by the absence of morphemes, aspect morphemes, and tense morphemes, respectively. These are relatively small points, however, and do not detract from the general competence of the treatment.

A most welcome and convincing characteristic of the author's work is his citing examples from Maranao to illustrate his points and his translation and structural explanation of these examples. The third section of his study consists of two sample texts, presented sentence by sentence with interlinear translation accounting for all syntactic elements and followed by appropriate comments on the structure involved. Like the other two sections, this is a thorough and careful job.

It is characteristic of any good description of a language or a part of one that, properly interpreted and used as the basis of teaching materials, it can be equally valuable to a student of that language and to a native speaker of that language who wants to learn a second language. If the work on English courses based on descriptive linguistic analysis of Tagalog and other major languages of the Philippines continues and comes to include Maranao, both of Dr. McKaughan's hopes will become realities.