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*The relative order of personal pronouns across Greater Central Philippine:*

*Light-first and disformation*

Blust (1991), building on studies by Zorc (1986) and others, argues for a Greater Central Philippines (GCPh) subgroup of Philippine, roughly corresponding to the southern half of the Philippine archipelago plus a few languages in Sabah and Sulawesi. Blust also posits several subgroups of GCPh: Central Philippine (Zorc 1975/1977), South Mangyan (Zorc 1974), Palawanic (Thiessen 1981), Manobo (Elkins 1974), Danaw (Allison 1979), Subanun, and Gorontalo-Mongondow (Usup 1986). One of the cross-linguistically remarkable properties of this language group is the relative order of two clitic personal pronouns in Central Philippine proper. Instead of using morphosemantically relevant properties (such as person, case, or roles), Tagalog and its closest relatives use phonology: the number of syllables in the pronouns, with monosyllabic pronoun preceding a disyllabic one (hereafter LIGHT-FIRST). Recent work has also shown that within GCPh this Light-first phenomenon is limited to the Central Philippine subgroup. The aim of the proposed talk is to relate these Light-first facts in Central Philippine to the pronoun-ordering behavior of other GCPh languages. (This phenomenon is not used as the subgrouping evidence. Rather, Blust's taxonomy is used as a starting point to see how related languages order their own pronouns. Furthermore, in this talk, the external syntax of the clitic cluster is not of primary importance. Rather, the cluster-internal ordering is examined. Nor are nonpronominal clitics the main object of study here.)

Beyond Central Philippine proper, all the other GCPh subgroups have been studied to varying extents: one language from South Mangyan, six from Palawanic, thirteen from Manobo, three from Danaw, four from Subanun, and two from Gorontalo-Mongondow. Of these, Gorontalo-Mongondow languages show extensive changes based on features borrowed from their Sulawesi neighbors and are not discussed further here. The subgroups typologically similar to Central Philippine with sufficient data to date are Palawanic, Manobo, Danaw, and Subanun. Unlike Central Philippine, these four subgroups use morphosemantic features (either grammatical person or semantic roles) to order two clitic pronouns. The vast majority of the languages of these subgroups also display a phenomenon similar to Light-first, with the latter of the two pronouns becoming DISFORMED: changed into a distinct, heavy form that it would not take were this pronoun not clustered with another pronoun. That is, those languages that use semantic roles to order the two pronouns place the GEN Actor before the NOM pronoun with the other role (hereafter ACTOR-FIRST), and the NOM pronoun disforms into the heavy form of the same person and number from a different (sub)paradigm: in Cotabato Manobo, most of Subanun, and all of Palawanic. The remaining languages from the four subgroups use grammatical person: LOCAL-FIRST, requiring a first- or second-person pronoun to be cluster-initial: found only in Iranun of Sabah (Danaw). The remaining languages (in Danaw and Manobo) use a more complex person-based subhierarchy of ME-FIRST (requiring a first-person pronoun if there is one to be initial) dominating YOU-FIRST (requiring a second-person pronoun to be cluster-initial if there is no first-person pronoun). The disformed pronoun is usually from the heavy subparadigm of the same case as the pronoun would normally take (were it not clustered with the other pronoun). Only Binukid (Manobo) uses a separate case (OBL, invariably heavy) as the result of disforming a NOM or GEN pronoun.

Because disformation is found in the majority of GCPh subgroups, and Light-first is found in one other, the hypothesis considered here is that Proto-GCPh utilized disformation (and probably Actor-first ordering), which Proto-Central Philippine re-analyzed as Light-first.

*Subfields: morphology, phonology, syntax, and historical linguistics*

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