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## Morphosyntactic analysis of *Surigaonun*: “*Martsa surigao*”

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### Abstract

This paper argued that *Surigaonun* morphosyntactic linearity is revealed in the textuality of Ellen Amores’ “*Martsa surigao*”. The knowledge of the structure of *Surigaonun* language plays significant role in language learning, comprehension, formation of phrases, clauses and sentences, and effective communication using the language. *Surigaonun* language has no established pedagogic grammar, and there is no research conducted yet on the morphology and syntax of *Surigaonun* language using textuality. This study aimed to describe the morphosyntactic characteristics of *Surigaonun* language by analyzing the text “*Martsa surigao*” to generate linguistic data on the *Surigaonun* word structure, the very basis for the morphemic structure of the words, which make up the constituents of the sentence. This qualitative research used the discourse analysis. Specifically, it focused on raw data idealization, morphological analysis, and syntactic analysis on immediate constituents and rewrite rules for each syntactic unit. The linear morphologic segmentation of morphemic contents of “*Martsa surigao*” reveals 39 lexical phonemes of 13 simple forms and 26 complex forms; 21 grammatical morphemes of 4 prepositions, 9 pronouns, 5 conjunctions, and 3 determiners. The linear structuration of the textuality in idealized syntactic units reveals 12 simple sentences, 1 compound sentence, and 1 complex sentence according to form. Syntactically, *Surigaonun* sentences always begin with the predicate and end with the subject as their natural sentence patterning. Sentences are introduced by noun predicates, adjective predicates, adverb predicates, prepositional phrase predicates, intransitive verb predicates and transitive verb predicates. Therefore, the text reveals the morphosyntactic segmentation linearity in its textuality.

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### Introduction

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,100 islands in Southeast Asia which made it a linguistically diverse country with 181 living languages used by Filipinos which are belong to the Western Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian language family (Bravante & Holden, 2020)<sup>[1]</sup>. One of these languages is *Surigaonun*, the native language spoken in the district of Surigao del Norte and some parts of Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands and Davao Oriental. In the province of *Surigao del Norte*, 95% of the people speak *Surigaonun* as their native language. This language shares Malayo-Polynesian linguistic properties with the *Cebuano Visayan* and *Boholano* languages.

Dumanig (2005)<sup>[2]</sup> studied the *Surigaonun* language and revealed that it consists 17 consonants with 17 sounds, 3 vowels and 5 sounds, 25 clusters and 4 diphthongs, and undergone morphophonemic processes such as deletion, alternation, and metathesis which made the language distinct as compared to other languages in Visayas and Mindanao.

*Surigaonun* language has no established pedagogic grammar, which is scientifically developed according to its *Malayo-Polynesian* linguistic property as a *phonetic language*: spelled as sounded.



Phase Three: Syntactic Structure Analysis. In this phase, the immediate constituents are analyzed and to be followed by rewrite rules for each syntactic unit. A sample of ICA of a simple Surigaonun sentences is shown, as follows:

### Results and Discussion Idealization of Raw Data

The Ellen Amores' "*Martsa surigao*" has five (5) stanzas

The original text of the lyrics is, as follows:

<b>MARTSA SURIGAO</b>	
<i>Composed by: Romeo Cagas</i>	
<i>Lyrics: Ellen Amores</i>	
<i>Surigao mapagarbohon Surigao lupa na masaaron Tinagaan ni Bathala Nan grasya kay pinayangga</i>	<i>Refrain: Ugsa kita angay na maglipay Pagbati ta kahayahay Probinsya ta pagkalinaw Bisan diin wayay makalabaw</i>
<i>Kabukiran ug kadagatan Kakahujan sanan kasubaan Inin tanan atong tagngayanan Taghatag na wayay kinutuban</i>	<i>Pahismulan sanan ignajan Para sa atong kaliwatan Sa imo kami makig-angay Mag-iban ta sa kaguol ug kalipay.</i>
<i>Matam-is matinud-anon Gugma nan Surigaonon Surigao ikaw gajod ang mutja Bandera mo tinahod ug kilaya na</i>	<i>Repeat refrain: Mag-iban ta sa kaguol ug kalipay.</i>

**Table 1:** Idealization of Raw Data

Raw Data	Idealized Data	English Translation
First Stanza		
1. Surigao mapagarbohon	Mapagarbuhun an Surigao.	Surigao is proud.
2. Surigao lupa na masaaron	Lupa na masa-arun an Surigao.	Surigao is a promising land.
3. Tinagaan ni Bathala	Tinaga-an sija ni Bathala nan grasya	God blessed her with grace because He loves her so much
4. Nan grasya kay pinayangga	kay pinayangga.	
Second Stanza		
5. Kabukiran ug kadagatan	Tagngayanan datu an mga kabukiran, kadagatan, kakahujan sanan kasuba-an.	We named the mountains, seas, forests and rivers.
6. Kakahujan sanan kasubaan		
7. Inin tanan ato tagngayanan		
8. Taghatag na wayay kinutuban	Taghatag ini na waya nay kinutuban.	These were given endlessly.
Third Stanza		
9. Matam-is matinud-anon	Matam-is ug matinud-anun an gugma nan Surigaonon.	The love of Surigaonun is sweet and sincere.
10. Gugma nan Surigaonon		
11. Surigao ikaw gajod an mutja	Surigao, ikaw gajod an mutja.	Surigao, you are a gem.
12. Bandera mo tinahod ug kilaya na	Tinahod ug kilaya na an bandira mu.	Your flag is respected and well-known.
Fourth Stanza		
13. Ugsa kita angay nga maglipay	Ugsa angay kita nga maglipay.	Therefore let us be glad.
14. Pagbati ta kahayahay	Kahayahay an pagbati ta.	We feel so comfortable.
15. Probinsya ta pagkamingaw	Pagkamingaw sa prubinsya ta ug bisan di-in waya nay makalabaw.	Our province is so peaceful no place can compare.
16. Bisan diin wayay makalabaw		
Fifth Stanza		
17. Pahimuslan sanan ignajan	Pahimuslan sanan ignajan ta para sa atu kaliwatan.	Let us exploit and take care of it for the next generation.
18. Para sa ato kaliwatan		
19. Sa imo kami makig-angay	Makig-angay kami sa imu.	We will share with you.
20. Mag-iban ta sa kaguol sa kalipay	Mag-iban ta sa kagu-ul ug sa kalipay.	Let us be together in sadness and happiness.

Thus, there are now fourteen (14) idealized sentences as follows:

1.	Mapagarbohon an Surigao.
2.	Lupa na masa-arun an Surigao.
3.	Tinaga-an sija ni Bathala nan grasya kay pinayangga.
4.	Tagngayananan datu an mga kabukiran, kadagatan, kakahujan sanan kasuba-an.
5.	Taghatag ini na waya nay kinutuban.
6.	Matam-is ug matinud-anun an gugma nan Surigaonun.
7.	Surigao, ikaw gajud an mutja.
8.	Tinahud ug kilaya na an 533andura mu.
9.	Ugsa angay kita nga maglipay.
10.	Kahayahay an pagbati ta.
11.	Pagkamingaw sa prubinsya ta ug bisan di-in waya nay makalabaw.
12.	Pahimuslan sanan ignajan ta para sa atu kaliwatan.
13.	Makig-angay kami sa imu.
14.	Mag-iban ta sa kagu-ul ug sa kalipay.

### Morphologic Structure of Words

#### Lexical Morphemes: Content Words

Lexical words include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and most adverbs. These are words that convey the meaning of a sentence. They are open-class words which take the addition

of new morphemes such as compounding, derivation, inflection, coining, and borrowing. Lexical morphemes may be consisted of free and bound morphemes.

“*Martsa surigao*” by Ellen A. Amores contains the following lexical morphemes:

**Table 2:** *Surigaonun* Lexical Morphemes

Content Words	Free Morphemes (Roots)	Bound Morphemes			Form (simple, compound, complex)
		Prefix	Infix	Suffix	
Surigao	SURIGAO				Simple
Surigaonun	SURIGAO			-NUN	Complex
Lupa	LUPA				Simple
Masa-arun	SA-AD				Complex
Tinaga-an	HATAG		-IN-	-AN	Complex
Bathala	BATHALA				Simple
Grasya	GRASYA				Simple
Pinayangga	PAYANGGA		-IN-		Complex
Tagngayanan	NGAYAN	TAG-		-AN	Complex
Kabukiran	BUKID	KA-		-AN	Complex
Kadagatan	DAGAT	KA-		-AN	Complex
Kakahujan	KAHUY	KA-		-AN	Complex
Kasubaan	SUBA	KA-		-AN	Complex
Taghatag	HATAG	TAG-			Complex
Kinutuban	KUTUB		-IN-	-AN	Complex
Matam-is	TAM-IS	MA-			Complex
Matinud-anun	TINU-UD	MA-		-ANUN	Complex
Gugma	GUGMA				Simple
Mutja	MUTJA				Simple
Tinahud	TAHUD		-IN-		Complex
Kilaya	KILAYA				Simple
Bandira	BANDIRA				Simple
Maglipay	LIPAY	MAG-			Complex
Pagbati	BATI	PAG-			Complex
Kahayahay	HAYAHAY	KA-			Complex
Prubinsya	PRUBINSYA				Simple
Pagkamingaw	MINGAW	PAGKA-			Complex
Makalabaw	LABAW	MAKA-			Complex
Pahimuslan	HIMULUS	PA-		-AN	Complex
Ignajan	IGNAY			-AN	Complex
Kaliwatan	LIWAT	KA-		-AN	Complex
Makig-angay	ANGAY	MAKIG-			Complex
Mag-iban	IBAN	MAG-			Complex
Kagu-ul	GU-UL	KA-			Complex
Kalipay	LIPAY	KA-			Complex
Waya	WAYA				Simple
Gajud	GAJUD				Simple
Ugsa	UGSA				Simple
Di-in	DI-IN				Simple

The simple forms, made up of roots only, are the nouns SURIGAO, LUPA, BATHALA, GRASYA, GUGMA, MUTJA, PRUBINSYA, BANDIRA; the adjective KILAYA; and the adverbs WAYA, GAJUD, UGSA, and DI-IN.

The complex forms are made up of roots and affixes. The complex forms are the nouns SURIGAONUN, KABUKIRAN, KADAGATAN, KAKAHUJAN, KASUBAAN, KINUTUBAN, PAGBATI, KALIWATAN, KAGU-UL and KALIPAY, where the prefix KA- and suffixes -NUN and -AN are added to the root words; the verbs TINAGA-AN, TAGHATAG, MAGLIPAY, MAKALABAW, PAHIMUSLAN, IGNAJAN, MAKIG-ANGAY and MAG-IBAN, where the prefixes TAG-, MAG-, MAKA-, MAKIG-, infix -IN- and suffix -AN are added to the root words; the adjectives MASA-ARUN, PINAYANGGA, MATAM-IS, MATINUD-ANUN, TINAHUD, KAHAYAHAY and PAGKAMINGAW where the prefixes MA-, KA- and PAGKA-, infix -IN- and suffix -UN are added to the root words. Inflectional morpheme does

not change the word category but rather it always indicates a change in its grammatical function (Weisser, 2018) <sup>[5]</sup>. Derivational rules change word class while inflectional ones do not.

Hence, it has been proved that Ellen Amores' "*Martsa surigao*" follows morphologic segmentation linearity in its textuality.

### Grammatical Morphemes: Function Words

Grammatical morphemes are function words that distinguish the grammatical categories of language (tense, number, gender, and aspect), each of which serves one or more purposes (past, present, future are functions of tense; singular and plural are functions of number). Such functional words in a language are the prepositions, conjunctions, determiners, and pronouns.

"*Martsa surigao*" by Ellen A. Amores contains the following grammatical morphemes:

**Table 3:** *Surigaonun* grammatical morphemes

Function Words	Constituents in Sentences	Functions in Sentences
an	Determiner	Noun Marker
ni	Determiner	Noun Marker
nan	Preposition	Introduces A Phrase
kay	Conjunction	Connects Words/Phrases
atu	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
sija	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
nga	Conjunction	Connects Words/Phrases
ang mga	Determiner	Noun Marker
sanan	Conjunction	Connects Words/Phrases
ini	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
ug	Conjunction	Connects Words/Phrases
mu	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
kita	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
para	Preposition	Introduces A Phrase
sa	Preposition	Introduces A Phrase
ikaw	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
mu, imu	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
ta	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
kami	Pronoun	Substitutes A Noun
bisan	Conjunction	Connects Words/Phrases
na	Preposition	Introduces A Phrase

The prepositions *NAN*, *NA*, *PARA* and *SA* introduce phrases in sentences 5, 6, 13, 10, 11, 13, and 14.

1. ...*na waya nay kinutuban* (sentence 5)
2. ... *an gugma nan Surigaonun* (sentence 6)
3. ... *sanan ignajan para sa atu nga kaliwatan* (sentence 13)
4. ... *sa pagbati ta* (sentence 10)
5. ... *sa prubinsya ta* (sentence 11)
6. ...*ignajan para sa atu nga kaliwatan* (sentence 12)
7. ...*kami sa imu* (sentence 13)
8. ... *sa kagu-ul ug sa kalipay* (sentence 14)

The pronouns *DATU*, *INI*, *MU*, *SIJA*, *IKAW*, *IMU*, *TA*, *KAMI* and *KITA* replaces the nouns in sentences 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15.

1. *Tinagaan sija...* (sentence 3)
2. *Tagngayanan datu...* (sentence 4)
3. *Taghatag ini...* (sentence 5)
4. *Surigao, ikaw ...* (sentence 7)
5. ... *an bandra mu* (sentence 8)
6. *Ugsa angay...* (sentence 9)
7. ... *sa pagbati ta*. (sentence 10)

8. ... *sa prubinsya ta*. (sentence 11)
9. ...*Makig-angay kami sa imu*. (sentence 13)
10. *Mag-iban ta...* (sentence 14)

The determiners *AN*, *NI* and *AN MGA* mark the noun after them in sentences 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

1. ... *an Surigao* (sentences 1 and 2)
2. ...*ni Bathala* (sentence 3)
3. ... *an mga kabukiran* (sentence 4)
4. ... *an gugma nan Surigaonun* (sentence 6)
5. ... *an mutja* (sentence 7)
6. ... *an bandira mu* (sentence 8)

The conjunctions *KAY*, *NGA*, *SANAN*, *BISAN* and *UG* connect the words/phrases/clauses in sentences 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15.

1. *Lupa na...* (sentence 2)
2. ...*kay sija pinayangga*. (sentence 3)
3. *Atu nga ... sanan kasubaan*. (sentence 4)
4. *Tinahud ug kilaya...* (sentence 8)
5. ... *angay nga maglipay* (sentence 9)
6. ... *ug bisan di-in* (sentence 11)

- 7. ...pahimuslan sanan ignajan... (sentence 12)
- 8. ...sa kagu-ul ug sa kalipay. (sentence 14)

The linear morphologic segmentation of morphemic contents of “*Martsa surigao*” by Ellen A. Amores reveals thirty-nine lexical phonemes of thirteen simple forms (root) and twenty-six complex forms (affixations and roots); twenty-one grammatical morphemes of four prepositions, nine pronouns, five conjunctions, and three determiners.

**Syntactic Structure of Words**

**Immediate Constituent Analysis.** Immediate constituent analysis may be a kind of linguistic review that breaks down longer phrases or sentences into their constituent components, sometimes into single words. This kind of analysis to examine text or speech, immediate constituent analysis is often derived after separating the parts of a sentence or phrase into groups of words with semantical collaboration or related meaning (Mukherjee, 2020) [3].

The sentences are hereby analytically segmented in terms of immediate constituents analysis and rewrite rules.

1. Mapagarbuhun an Surigao. (Surigao is proud.) ADJ DET N
2. Lupa na masa-arun an Surigao. (Surigao is a promising land.) N PART ADJ DET N
3. Tinaga-an sija ni Bathala nan grasya kay pinayangga. V PRON DET N DET N CONJ ADV (God graced/blessed her because she is his beloved.)
4. Tagngayanan datu an mga kabukiran, kadagatan, kakahujan sanan kasuba-an. V PRON DET PART N N N CONJ N (We named the mountains, seas, forests and rivers.)
5. Taghatag ini na waya nay kinutuban. (These were given without end.) V PRON PREP ADV ADV N
6. Matam-is sanan matinud-anun an gugma nan Surigaonun. ADJ CONJ ADJ DET N DET N (The love of Surigaonun is sweet and sincere.)
7. Surigao, ikaw gajud an mutja. (Surigao, you are a gem.) N PRON ADV DET N
8. Tinahud ug kilaya na an bandira mu. (Your flag is respected and well-known.) ADJ CONJ ADJ ADV DET N PRON
9. Ugsa angay kita nga maglipay. (Therefore let us be glad.) ADV ADJ PRON CONJ V
10. Kahayahay an pagbati ta. (We feel so comfortable.) ADJ PREP N PRON
11. Pagkamingaw sa prubinsya ta ug bisan di-in waya nay makalabaw. ADJ PREP N PRON CONJ CONJ ADV ADV ADV V (Our province is so peaceful and no place can compare.)
12. Pahimuslan sanan ignajan ta para sa atu nga kaliwatan. V CONJ V PRON CONJ PREP PRON CONJ N (Let us exploit and take care of it for our next generation.)
13. Makig-angay kami sa imu. (We will share with you.) V PRON PREP PRON
14. Mag-iban ta sa kaguul ug sa kalipay. V PRON PREP N CONJ PREP N (Let us be together in sadness and happiness.)

*Rewrite Rules:*

1. ADJ + DET + N → S
2. N + PART + ADJ + DET + N → S
3. V + PRON + DET + N + DET + N + CONJ + ADV → S
4. V + PRON + DET + PART + N + N + N + CONJ + N → S
5. V + PRON + PREP + ADV + ADV + N → S
6. ADJ + CONJ + ADJ + DET + N + DET + N → S
7. N + PRON + ADV + DET + N → S
8. ADJ + CONJ + ADJ + ADV + DET + N + PRON → S
9. ADV + ADJ + PRON + CONJ + V → S
10. ADJ + PREP + N + PRON → S
11. ADJ + PREP + N + PRON + CONJ + CONJ + ADV + ADV + ADV + V → S
12. V + CONJ + V + PRON + CONJ + PREP + PRON + CONJ + N → S
13. V + PRON + PREP + PRON → S
14. V + PRON + PREP + N + CONJ + PREP + N → S

*Where:*

DET	→	determiner
PART	→	particle
N	→	noun
PRON	→	pronoun
V	→	verb
ADV	→	adverb
ADJ	→	adjective
CONJ	→	conjunction
PREP	→	preposition
S	→	sentence

The linear structuration of the textuality “*Martsa surigao*” by Ellen A. Amores in idealized syntactic units reveal fourteen sentences: thirteen (15) simple sentences and one (1) compound according to form.

Sentences 1 and 2 are simple sentences, made up of a simple subject and a complement as the predicate in verbless sentences.

1. Mapagarbuhun an Surigao. ADJ            DET N	2. Lupa na masa-arun an Surigao. N PART ADJ DET N
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Sentence 3 is a simple sentence composed of a simple subject and a simple predicate

3. Tinaga-an sija ni Bathala nan grasya kay pinayangga. V            PRON DET N            DET N CONJ            ADV
---

Sentence 4 is a simple sentence made up of a pronoun as the simple subject and a compound predicate

4. Tagngayanan datu an mga kabukiran, kadagatan, kakahujan sanan kasuba-an. V            PRON DET PART N            N            N CONJ N
--

Sentence 5 is a simple sentence, made up of a simple subject and a simple predicate

5. Taghatag ini na waya nay kinutuban.
 V        PRON      PREP    ADV      ADV      N

Sentence 6 is a simple sentence, made up of a simple subject and a compound predicate

6. Matam-is sanan matinud-anun an gugma nan Surigaonun.
 ADJ      CONJ      ADJ      DET    N      DET      N

Sentence 7 is a simple sentence, made up of a simple subject and a complement

7. Surigao, ikaw gajud an mutja.
 N        PRON    ADV      DET      N

Sentence 8 is a simple sentence, made up of a simple subject and a compound predicate

8. Tinahud ug kilaya na an bandira mu.
 ADJ    CONJ    ADJ    ADV    DET    N      PRON

Sentence 9 is a simple sentence, made up of a simple subject and a simple predicate.

9. Ugsa angay kita nga maglipay.
 ADV    ADJ    PRON    CONJ    V

Sentence 10 is a simple sentence, made up of a simple subject and a simple predicate

10. Kahayahay an pagbati ta.
 ADJ      PREP      N        PRON

Sentence 11 is a compound sentence having two independent clauses connected by a conjunction

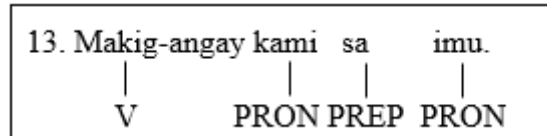
11. Pagkamingaw sa prubinsya ta ug bisan di-in waya nay makalabaw.
 ADJ      PREP    N      PRON    CONJ    CONJ    ADV    ADV      ADV      V

Sentence 12 is a complex sentence, made up of a simple subject, a compound predicate, and an independent clause

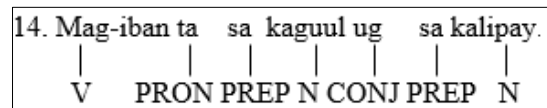
12. Pahimuslan sanan ignajan ta para sa atu nga kaliwatan.
 V        CONJ      V        PRON    CONJ    PREP    PRON    CONJ      N

Sentence 13 is a simple sentence, made up of a pronoun as a simple subject and a simple predicate.





Sentence 14 is a simple sentence, made up of a compound subject and a simple predicate



Like other Philippine languages, the *predicate* assumes various sentence constructions in *Surigaonun language*. This *predicate* may be a *noun*, *adjective*, *adverb*, *prepositional phase*, *transitive verb*, *intransitive verb* with various complements. Therefore, *Surigaonun* sentences always begin with the *predicate* and end with the *subject* as their natural sentence patterning. In parallel to the study of Purnomoadjie & Mulyadi (2017) <sup>[4]</sup> describing the sentence structure found in two Adele's songs, "Someone Like You" and "Don't You Remember". It was found that there were more grammatical sentences than ungrammatical sentences.

### Conclusion

Based on the findings, the following generalization is arrived at: "*Martsa surigao*" by Ellen A. Amores reveals the morphosyntactic segmentation linearity in its textuality.

### Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest between the authors in this manuscript.

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