

Motivations for PÁMANAKMUL AMÁNU ‘word swallowing’ in Kapampangan

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The phenomenon whereby determiners, pronouns, and linkers are being omitted, or ‘swallowed’ is known as PÁMANAKMUL AMÁNU ‘word swallowing’ in Kapampangan (Pangilinan and Kitano 2012).

In our 2012 study, we reported that ellipsis of the oblique determiner *king* is strongly associated with the semantics of verbs. However, the *king* phrase not only appears as an argument of the verb, but as an attributive phrase of the NP. Moreover, the word swallowing is observed in other word classes than the determiner.

In this study, we examined the use of determiners and pronouns in the data of spoken variety collected and transcribed in the 1950s (24 narratives and 1 conversation, attached in Castrillo 1955), and compared them with the present-day speech of Angeles City, Pampanga.

From the viewpoint of the present-day spoken Kapampangan, the word swallowing is only scarcely observed in the 1950s data. In the conversation data, although limited in quantity, we observed that the speakers of different generations use the determiner *king* in different ways.

We found that the word swallowing occurs consistently. Among other things, referentiality plays a crucial role for ellipsis:

The 3rd person pronoun drops when N2 of the “N1 *na ning* N2” NP is not referential.

The oblique determiner drops when N2 of the “N1 *king* N2” is not referential.

We argue that the word swallowing is an instance of historical change, and that it is predominantly semantically motivated.

References

- Castrillo, Maria Luisa Y. 1955. *Pampango syntax*. M.A. thesis. Diliman, Quezon City: University of the Philippines.
- Pangilinan, Michael Raymon M. and Hiroaki Kitano. 2012. PÁMANAKMUL AMÁNU (word swallowing): Ellipsis of determiners in colloquial Kapampangan spoken in Angeles. Paper read at the 12th ICAL (July 2, Bali).