

On the Development of Comitative Verbs in Philippine Languages

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This paper deals with both the synchronic distribution and the diachronic change of comitative verbal forms in Philippine languages. Three research questions are addressed in this paper. First, how is the notion of comitativity encoded morphosyntactically in Philippine languages? Second, is there any formative that is commonly used to encode comitativity in Philippine languages? If there is, can such formative(s) be reconstructed for the immediate ancestor language of all Philippine languages? Third, does the common comitative marking have other functions? If there is, can we posit a path for the development of these functions? Comparative data will also be drawn from other Malayo-Polynesian languages.

Key words: Philippine languages, Malayo-Polynesian, comitative constructions, comitative verbs, morphosyntactic reconstruction, semantic change