



A report on the analysis of

TAGALOG

The language of Philippines

for the Linguistics-1 Project

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20171099

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1 Introduction to Tagalog

Tagalog, also known by the names – Filipino and Pilipino, is one of the more than one-hundred languages of the Philippine archipelago. It functions as a lingua franca and has been chosen as the national language of the Philippines. Though it was written in an Indian-derived alphabet before the Spanish colonisation, begun in 1564, no Prehispanic literature has survived. It has a remarkably complex verbal morphology based on affixes and focus constructions.

1.1 Language Family and Classification

Tagalog is an Austronesian language, along with Malay and Indonesian. Its standardised form, officially named Filipino, is the national language of the Philippines, and is one of two official languages alongside English.

Austronesian, Western-Malayo-Polynesian, Philippine group, Central subgroup. Tagalog is related to other Central Philippine languages, particularly to Bikol, spoken in southeast Luzon, Cebuano, spoken in the Visayas and Mindanao, and Hiligaynon, spoken in West and Central Visaya.

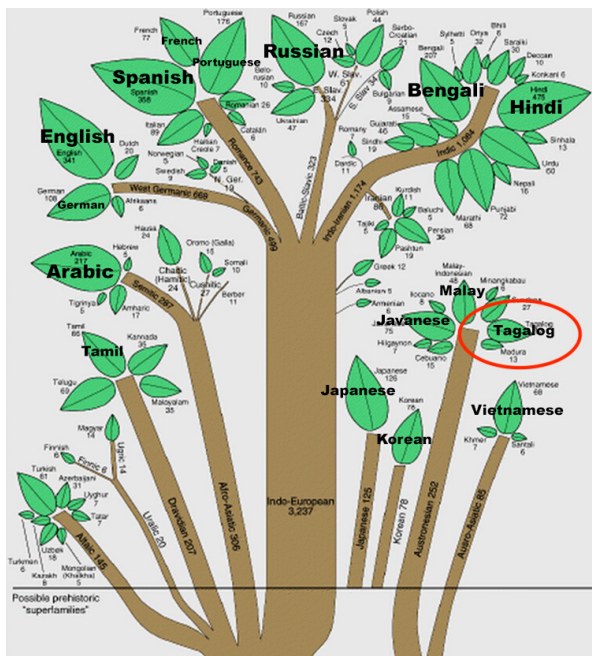


Fig 1.1 Tagalog in Austronesian branch of Family tree

1.2 Distribution and speakers

Tagalog is the major language in the central region of the island of Luzon in the Philippines, particularly in Manila and the provinces around it. In the last few decades, Tagalog has spread over the entire Philippine archipelago as a second language.

About 90 million people in the Philippines are either first or second-language speakers of Tagalog. For 25.3 million of them Tagalog is their mother-tongue. Filipino expatriates have carried the language to North America (Canada, United States), the Middle East (Libya, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates), the United Kingdom and Guam.

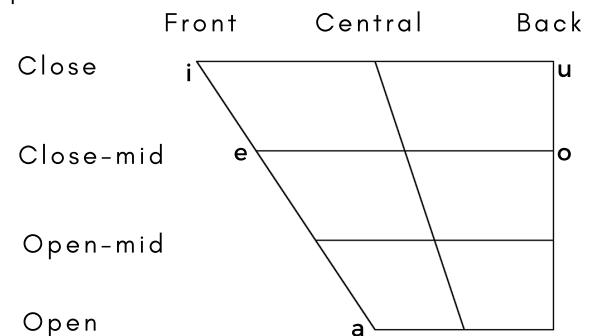
2 Phonology

CV and CVC are the most common syllable patterns. Consonant clusters in native words are restricted to initial position and the second element must be a glide. In loanwords, both, initial and final clusters are found.

Tagalog has 35 phonemes: 20 of them are consonants and 15 are vowels.

2.1 Vowels

Tagalog has ten simple vowels: five long and five short and five diphthongs. The five general vowel phonemes:



The vowels /e/ and /o/ are not native to Tagalog were originally allophones of /i/ and /u/, respectively, as a result of influences from borrowings*.

The five diphthongs are /iw/, /aw/, /aj/, /uj/ and /oj/.

2.1.2 Vowel Length/Stress

Vowel length in non-word-final syllables is phonemic as the following examples illustrate:

a. aso /ʔa:soh/ 'dog' and aso /ʔasoh/ 'smoke'

b. maglalakbay /magla:lakbay/ 'will travel' and maglalakbay /maglalakbay/ 'travel a lot'

In word-final syllables of native words, vowel length is not phonemic. The general rule is that the phrase-final syllables are long and non-phrase syllables are short. For example: sibat /sibat/ 'spear' is pronounced [siba:t] phrase-finally, but not in sibat ba? [sibat bah]. Word final syllables of non-native words may however, show phonemic length. For example, borrowed monosyllabic names have a long vowel in any context. Example: si Bob ba? /si ba:b ba/ [si ba:b ba] 'is it Bob?'

*Schachter & Otanes, 1983; Comrie, 1990

★ Tagalog has allophones, so it is important here to distinguish phonemes (written in slashes / /) and corresponding allophones (written in brackets []).

Phoneme	Allophones
/a/	[a], [ə]
/e/	[e], [ɛ]
/o/	[o], [ɔ]
/u/	[u], [ʊ]
/i/	[i], [ɪ]

2.2 Consonants

In addition to the native consonant phonemes given in Table 2.1, several others occur only in loanwords. They include the labio-dental fricatives [f] and [v] as well as the alveolar affricates [tʃ] and [dʒ] (represented as ts and dy, respectively).

★ Tagalog words are often distinguished from one another by the position of the stress and/or the presence of a final glottal stop. In formal or academic settings, stress placement and the glottal stop are indicated by a diacritic (tuldík) above the final vowel. Example: **bata**

- ['bata] bata ('bath robe')
- [bɐ'ta] batá ('persevere')
- ['bataʔ] batà ('child')

★ /ng/ can also be found at the beginning of a word in Tagalog. e.g. ngayon - 'today', 'now'.

2.3 Replacable sounds

Some vowel sounds in native words can be replaced under certain conditions.

Example: from /i/ to /e/: when /i/ is in the final syllable of a native Tagalog word that is followed

by a pause*.

example	alternative pronunciation	meaning
gabi.	gabe.	<i>evening</i>
lalaki.	lalake.	<i>man/male</i>

3 Morphology

The building blocks of Tagalog words are roots and affixes. Roots can stand on their own while affixes cannot. In words comprising of a root and one or more affixes, the root carries the core meaning of the word.

3.1 Derivation and Inflection**

In Tagalog, there are both inflectional and derivational morphology. To derive words various affixes can be added at the beginning, in the middle and/or at the end of a root:

maaraw	<i>sunny</i>
tag-araw	<i>summer</i>
kaarawan	<i>birthday</i>

★ Tagalog is a **synthetic agglutinative** language, making use of many affixes to form new words and indicate grammatical aspects.

In Tagalog, verbs are inflected for aspect, number, and mood. Verbs are naturally singular and are inflected for plural number. With the exceptions of aspect and imperative mood, the rest of the moods and number inflections only apply to actor focus verbs. More on aspect, number and moods is covered in the later sections.

		Bilabial	Dental/ Alveolar	Postalveolar/ Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal		m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Plosive	Voiced	p	t	tʃ	k	ʔ
	Voiceless	b	d	dʒ	g	
Fricative			s	ʃ		h
Approximants			l r	j	w	

Table 2.1 Consonant phonemes of Tagalog

*pause = comma, period

**Morphological Sketch of Tagalog by Mackenzie Salt

3.2 Borrowing

The Filipino language incorporated Spanish loanwords as a result of 333 years of contact with the Spanish language. There are approximately 4,000 Spanish words in Tagalog.

Changes in the original loanwords:

a. **Morphosemantic changes:** While many Spanish words have entered Tagalog, Cebuano, Waray-Waray, and other Philippine languages, many of the words have seen a shift in meaning and even construction from the original Spanish. That has resulted in false friends, similar words in both languages but with a different meaning.

b. **Vowel changes** can be observed to some of the Spanish words upon adoption into the Filipino language. For example, an /i/ to /a/ vowel shift can be observed in the Filipino word *paminta*, which came from the Spanish word *pimienta*.

Other words derived from Spanish underwent vowel deletion upon adoption into the Filipino language, such as the words *pusta* (from Sp. *apostar*), *tarantado* (from Sp. *atarantado*).

c. **Consonant shifts** can also be observed to some of the Spanish words upon their adoption into the Filipino language. The [r] to [l] consonant shift can be observed in the following words:

As in most Austronesian languages, the Sanskrit vocabulary incorporated into Tagalog are mostly borrowed indirectly via Malay or Javanese.

3.3 Compounding

Some roots can be combined to form a new word:

araw-gabi	<i>day-night</i>
anak-araw	<i>albino</i>

3.4 Reduplication

Some roots can be repeated to form a new word:

araw-araw	<i>every day</i>
gabi-gabi	<i>every night</i>

3.5 Syllable Repetition

There are two types of syllable repetition in Tagalog:

a. When the first syllable is repeated: If the syllable starts with a vowel, repeat the first vowel and if the syllable starts with a consonant, repeat the first consonant and the first vowel.

alis <i>departure</i>	aalis <i>will leave</i>
basa <i>reading</i>	babasa <i>will read</i>

b. The first two syllables are repeated(rep2). A hyphen is generally added.

dalawa <i>two</i>	dala-dalawa <i>in twos, in-pairs</i>
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3.6 Nouns

Nouns are not inflected for case, number or gender. However, particles mark the noun as common or proper, singular or plural, indicating its syntactical role as well:

	Focused (Direct)	unfocused agent/patient (Indirect)	unfocused location/beneficiary (Oblique)
proper + sg.	si	ni	kay
proper + pl.	sina	nina	kina
common + sg.	ang	ng	sa
common + pl.	ang mga	ng mga	sa mga

The direct case is used for intransitive clauses. In transitive clauses using the default grammatical voice of Tagalog, the direct marks the patient (direct object) and the indirect marks the agent, corresponding to the subject in English. In the more marked voice the reverse occurs, with the direct marking the agent and the indirect marking the patient.

★ Because the base form of the clause is superficially similar to the passive voice in English, this has led to a misconception that Tagalog is spoken primarily in the passive voice. It is also superficially similar to ergative languages such as those of Australia, so Tagalog has also been analysed as an ergative language.

★ However, the English passive clause is intransitive, and likewise in ergative languages one of the voices forms an intransitive clause, whereas in Tagalog both voices are transitive, and so align well with neither nominative-accusative languages such as English nor with ergative languages.

3.7 Pronouns

3.7.1 Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns distinguish between 1st person plural inclusive (you and I) and exclusive (he/she/they and I). Like nouns, the unmarked form may be used as the grammatical subject, nominal predicate or as a fronted topic; in the 2nd singular, the enclitic 'ka' functions exclusively as subject and 'ikaw' is used in all other unmarked contexts. The agent/genitive forms are required for the actors in transitive sentences and are also used as possessive pronouns. The locative occurs after the preposition sa ('at') or as a prenominal possessive pronoun.

	unmarked (Direct)	agent/genitive (Indirect)	locative (Oblique)
I + sg.	ako	ko	akin
I + dual	kita/kata	nita/nata	kanita/kanata
I + pl. excl.	kami	namin	amin
I + pl. incl.	tayo	natin	atin
II + sg.	ka/ikaw	mo	iyo
II + pl.	kayo	ninyo	inyo
III + sg.	siya	niya	kaniya
III + pl.	silá	nila	kanila

★ Tagalog, like many languages, marks the T-V distinction: when addressing a single person in polite/formal/respectful settings, pronouns from either the 2nd person plural or the 3rd person plural group are used instead of the singular 2nd person pronoun. Example: ikáw or ka ("you" sgl.) becomes kayó ("you" pl.) or silá ("they")

3.7.2 Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns recognise three-deictic degrees (this, that near, that far).

	Direct	Indirect	Oblique	Locative	Existential
This	ito	nito	dito	nandito	heto
That(near)	iyán	niyan	diyan	nandiyan	ayan
That(far)	iyon	niyon	doon	nandoon	ayon

Examples:

- Anó itó? "What's this?"
- Sino ang lalaking iyan? "Who is that man?"
- Nandito akó. "I am here."
- Heto! "Here it is!"

3.7.3 Interrogative Pronouns

There are two interrogative pronouns: sino ('who?') and ano ('what?').

3.8 Adjectives

There are four forms of adjectives:

- Simple: These consists of only the root word.
- Repeating: These are formed by the repetition of the whole or part of the root word.
- Affixed: These consists of the root word and one or more affixes.
- Compound: These are compound words.

Examples:

Simple Adjectives

hinog	ripe
ganda	beautiful

Repeated Adjectives

maliit	small	maliit na maliit	very small
malaki	big	malaking malaki	very big

Adjectives with syllable repetition

hiwalay	broken/ damaged	hiwa-hiwalay	completely broken or worn out
butas	having a hole	butas-butas	full of holes

Compound Adjectives

word	literal meaning	meaning
ngiting-aso	dog smile	big smile
balat-sibuyas	onion-skinned	crybaby

For making comparison different affixes are used.

- Equality: This is the comparison when the traits compared are fair. Usually, the prefixes ga-, sing-/kasing- (for one), and magsing-/magkasing- (for two) are used. Example: *singganda kasingganda* (as pretty as)
- Dissimilar: Formed by adding Mas...(kaysa) + sa/kay phrase. Example: *Mas matangkad si John kaysa kay Paul* or *Mas matangkad si John kay Paul* (John is taller than Paul)
- Superlative: The words "sobra", "pinaka" etc. are used, as well as the repetition of the adjective. Pinaka- is affixed to the whole adjective, and not just to the root. Example: *pinakamaganda* (prettiest)

GNP information is discussed later.

3.9 Verbs

Tagalog verbs are morphologically complex and are conjugated by taking on a variety of affixes reflecting focus/trigger, aspect, number, voice, and other categories.

3.9.1 Aspect

There are three aspects in the Tagalog verbal system: perfective, contemplative, progressive and recently complete.

★ These aspects are important as **Tagalog does not have a tense system.**

- Imperfective and contemplative verbs have incompleteness marking in which the first consonant and the first vowel of the stem are reduplicated.
- Imperfective and perfective verbs have actuality marking involving affixes having the phoneme [n]: n-, ni-, -in-.
- Infinitives are formed using -um/-mag affix.

3.9.2 Mood

Tagalog verbs also have affixes expressing grammatical mood; some examples are indicative, potential, social, and distributed. Social mood refers to verbs that are performed together with another person or other people.

3.9.3 Focus

Affixes are attached to the verb to express syntactical relations, focusing on the agent, the patient, the beneficiary, the instrument or location of the action.

- The agent affixes are -um-, m-, ma-, maka-.
The first one, the most common, is intercalated between the first consonant and first vowel of the stem.
- The patient of a transitive verb is marked with the following affixes: -in, i-, -an, ma-.
- The beneficiary or instrument of the action is marked by: i-.
- Location is marked with: -an, -in.

In the examples given in Table 3.1, the affix marking the focus in the verb *bili* ('bought') is highlighted in red while the focused noun is marked in bold/underlined. The noun in focus is always preceded by the particle *ang* if it is a common name or by the particle *si* if it is a proper name. When the agent or the patient are not in focus they are preceded by the particle *ng* (*ni* for proper nouns), when the location is not in focus is preceded by the preposition *sa*, when the beneficiary is not in focus is preceded by *para sa* (*para kay* for proper nouns).

3.9.4 Others

There are many non-aspectual affixes as well, to express possibility and ability, causativity and intensiveness.

Causatives: The *pa-* prefix is added to verbal forms and to adjectives to form causatives. It's conjugated with the *-in-* infix.

kain to eat	pakainin to feed(to make eat)
----------------	----------------------------------

Ability: Affixes *m-* (in transitive verbs) and *maka-* (in intransitive verbs) are added. Example:

- umawit* ('sing') → *makaawit* ('be able to sing')
- gamitin* ('use') → *magamit* ('be able to use something')

Marking repeated, intense or prolonged action: Intensive verbs may be formed by combining the prefix *pag-/mag-* with the stem which in some verbs is reduplicated (only its first consonant and vowel). For example:

- kain* ('eat') → *mag-kain* ('eat repeatedly, eat a lot')
- tapakan* ('step on something') → *pag-ta-tapakan* ('step repeatedly on something').

focus		translation
agent	Bumili ng saging ang lalaki sa tindahan para sa unggoy. bought bananas the man at store for the monkey.	<u>The man</u> bought bananas at the store for the monkey.
Patient	Binili ng lalaki ang saging sa tindahan para sa unggoy.	<u>The bananas</u> were bought by a man at the store for the monkey
Location	Binil han ng lalaki ng saging ang tindahan para sa unggoy.	<u>At the store</u> , a man bought bananas for the monkey.
Beneficiary	Ibinili ng lalaki ng saging sa tindahan ang unggoy	<u>For the monkey</u> , a man bought bananas at the store.

Table 3.1 Focus shown in Tagalog examples

3.10 Negation

There are three negation words: *hindî*, *walâ*, and *huwág*.

- *Hindî* negates verbs and equations. It is sometimes contracted to *'dî*.
- *Walâ* is the opposite of *may* and *mayroon* ('there is').
- *Huwág* is used in expressing negative commands. It can be used for the infinitive and the future aspect. It is contracted as *'wag*.

<u>Hindî</u> mayaman ang babae. <i>The woman is not rich.</i>
<u>Walâ</u> akóng pera. <i>I do not have money.</i>
<u>Huwág</u> kang umiyák. <i>Do not cry.</i>

3.11 Conditionals*

Conditional in Tagalog is expressed by using '*kung*' (*if*) and '*kapag*' (*when*).

Example:

- *Kung mahal ang damit, hindi ko bibilhin.*
(*I won't buy the dress if it's expensive.*)
- *Tawagan mo ako kapag nasa bahay ka na.*
(*Call me when you get home.*)

3.12 Classifiers**

★ Tagalog does not have morphological number marking nor numeral classifiers.

The numeral-plus-noun construction is marked with the further presence of a ligature of morphophonemically variable form *'-ng'*. The following examples illustrate the use of numerals with count and mass nouns. In the latter case a measure term is inserted:

a. *dalawang mansanas* [Tagalog]
two+LINKER apple
(*two apples*)

b. *dalawang salop na bigas*
two+LINKER ganta LINKER rice
(*two gantas of rice*)

Tagalog nouns are number neutral, even though in many contexts the plural marker *mga* may be added (but not with numerals).

3.13 Onomatopoeias

Tagalog words that were coined to sound like what they represent. Examples include – *tigtig* (*a sound of a galloping horse.*), *hatsing* (*sneeze*).

4 Gender, Number and Person

4.1 Gender

Tagalog, like other Austronesian languages, is gender-neutral; pronouns do not even have specific genders. For example, 'she' and 'he' in English is equivalent to '*siya*' in Tagalog, which means 'that person' (no specific gender). Likewise, 'hers' and 'his' in English is equivalent to '*kanya*' in Tagalog, which means 'belonging to that person' (again, no specific gender). This applies to adjectives as well as nouns.

However, because Tagalog has had over three centuries of Spanish influence, gender is usually differentiated in certain Spanish loanwords by way of the suffixes *-a* (feminine) and *-o* (masculine).

Examples:

male	female	translation
Pilipino	Pilipina	<i>Filipino</i>
doktor	doktora	<i>doctor</i>
propesor	propesora	<i>Professor</i>
loko	loka	<i>crazy</i>
nerbyoso	nerbyosa	<i>nervous</i>

4.2 Number

Tagalog has 3 numbers – singular, dual and plural. Tagalog has a dual first-person pronoun. The form means "we", but specifically "you and I". This form once existed in Tagalog but has disappeared from standard usage.

- Noun plurals are formed by placing *mga* ("manga") before the noun. Example: *kapatid* ('sibling') → *mga kapatid* ('siblings').
- When the adjective is describing only one noun/pronoun, "ma-" and the root word is used. When the adjective is describing two or more noun/pronoun, "ma-" is used and the first syllable or first two letters of the root word is repeated. Example: *maliit* → *malilit* ('small')

4.3 Person

There are three persons in Tagalog, namely first, second and third.

First Person	ako/kita/tayo	<i>I/we(dual)/we</i>
Second Person	ikaw/kayo	<i>you/you(pl.)</i>
Third Person	siya/sila	<i>he(she)/they</i>

*Typology and Universals by William Croft, Tagalog Reference Grammar by Paul Schachter

** Schachter & Otanes 1972

5 Syntax

5.1 Word Order

In a sentence, the verbal complex is placed first while the subject tends to be last. Thus, the most common word order is Verb-Object-Subject (VOS) though VSO is also found. Hence, there are six different ways of saying 'The man gave the woman a book' in Tagalog where the six sentences include the same grammatical components and are all grammatical and identical in meaning but have different orders.

Nagbigay ng libro ang lalaki sa babae
gave GEN_book NOM_man DAT_woman

5.2 Interrogatives

5.2.1 Yes-No Questions

A statement can be turned into a yes/no question by raising the pitch at the end. 'Ba' may also be used.

Belgian si Paul. <i>Paul is Belgian.</i>	Belgian (ba) si Paul? <i>Is Paul Belgian?</i>
May aso. <i>There's a dog.</i>	May aso (ba)? <i>Are there any dogs?</i> <i>Is there a dog?</i>

5.2.2 Wh- Questions

In Tagalog, wh-phrases occur to the left of the clause. For example, in the sentence, 'Who are you?', which translates to, 'Sino ka?' occurs to the left of the clause.

Tagalog's interrogative words are: alín, anó, bákit, gaáno, ilán, kailán, kaníno, kumustá, magkáno, naka níno, nasaán, níno, paáno, saán, and síno. With the exceptions of bakít, kamustá, and nasaán, all of the interrogative words have optional plural forms which are formed by reduplication.

Sino siya? <i>Who is she/he?</i>	Ano iyon? <i>What's that?</i>
Saan ang party? <i>Where is the party?</i>	Bakit siya umalis? <i>Why did she/he leave?</i>

5.3 Relative Clauses

Tagalog uses the gapping strategy to form relative clauses, with the complementiser, na/=ng 'that', separating the head, which is the noun being modified, from the actual relative clause. The gap inside the relative clause corresponds to the position that the noun acting as the head would

have normally taken, had it been in a declarative sentence. There is a constraint in Tagalog on the position from which a noun can be relativised and in which a gap can appear: A noun has to be the subject within the relative clause in order for it to be relativised. Example:

lalaki =ng nagbigay ____ ng bigas sa bata
man gave rice child
"man that gave rice to the child"

5.4 Operator-Operand order

operand	operator
verb	object
noun	genitive
preposition	noun
adjective	standard of comparison
verb	adverb
determiner	noun
numeral	noun
adjective	comparative marker
noun	demonstrative

★ Others:

a. **Adjective-Noun:** The order of an adjective and a noun is interchangeable, it can an adjective be first then follows by a noun or a noun be first before an adjective. The linker 'na' is added if the first word (maybe an adjective or noun) ends with consonant or a suffix '-ng' if the first word (maybe an adjective or noun) ends with a vowel before succeed by the second word. Example: Batang maganda or Magandang bata both mean beautiful child where maganda means beautiful and bata means child.

b. **Relative Clause-Noun:** The relative order of the word being modified and the relative clause is flexible like the other modifiers. Example: Librong binili ni Maria and binili ni Mariang libro both mean the book that Maria bought.

c. **Specific to Generic:** Tagalog follows specific to generic order.

6 Semantics

Tagalog has a lot of words with ambiguity which is where semantics comes into play as the surface form of words may have multiple sense like - 'puno' means tree & full, 'bangko' means bank & chair.

6.1 Kinship Terms

translation	tagalog	translation	tagalog
<i>father</i>	tatay	<i>brother of father/mother</i>	tiyo/tiyuhin
<i>mother</i>	nanay	<i>sister of father/mother</i>	tiya
<i>grandfather</i>	lolo	<i>uncle's wife</i>	tiyahin
<i>grandmother</i>	lola	<i>elder brother</i>	kuya, manong
<i>father-in-law</i>	biyenáng lalaki	<i>second elder brother</i>	diko
<i>mother-in-law</i>	biyenáng babae	<i>third elder brother</i>	sangko
<i>brother of father/mother</i>	tiyo/tiyuhin	<i>fourth elder brother</i>	siko

'Kuya'/'Ate' are also titles used to address older male and female cousins (regardless if they are the eldest or not, but older than cousin addressing them) as a sign of respect. It may also be used for people who aren't necessarily relatives but are older. The criteria would be gender (first), age (second), degree of affiliation (third), with actual blood or non-blood relationship being the least important. 'Tiyo'/'Tiya', used literally for uncle and aunt, are often confused with 'Tito' and 'Tita' which are used in reference to your parents' close friends. However, 'Tito'/'Tita' are also sometimes used to reference blood relatives as well. 'Manang'/'Manong', is used for people older than those you call 'Ate'/'Kuya', and that you don't know or are not familiar with (usually merchants or service workers that you interact with). This is not used with relatives in Tagalog. Since 'Manang'/'Manong' implies oldness, this could be insulting to some people. 'Ginoong'/'Ginang' is used in extremely formal settings only, and almost never heard in casual conversation. Filipinos are very clannish and are known for recognizing relatives up to the 10th or even the 20th degree. 'Pô' is used as a default gesture of respect. Its less respectful form is 'hò'.

6.2 Number Terms

translation	tagalog	translation	tagalog
<i>one</i>	isa	<i>nine</i>	siyam
<i>two</i>	dalawa	<i>ten</i>	sampu
<i>three</i>	tatlo	<i>eleven</i>	labing-isa
<i>four</i>	apat	<i>twenty</i>	dalawampu
<i>five</i>	lima	<i>fifty</i>	limampu
<i>six</i>	anim	<i>hundred</i>	daan
<i>seven</i>	pito	<i>thousand</i>	isa thousand
<i>eight</i>	walo	<i>million</i>	milyon

6.3 Colour Terms

translation	tagalog	translation	tagalog
<i>black</i>	itim	<i>beige</i>	murang kapé
<i>white</i>	puti	<i>brown</i>	kayumanggi
<i>red</i>	pula	<i>pink</i>	rosas
<i>yellow</i>	dilaw	<i>grey</i>	kulay-abo/abuhin
<i>blue</i>	bughaw/asul	<i>purple/violet/lilac</i>	lila
<i>green</i>	berde/lunti	<i>orange</i>	dalandan

6.4 Domestic Animal Terms

translation	tagalog	translation	tagalog
<i>cat</i>	pusa	<i>rabbit</i>	kuneho
<i>cow</i>	baka	<i>sheep</i>	tupa
<i>dog</i>	aso	<i>buffalo</i>	kalabaw
<i>donkey</i>	asno	<i>pig</i>	baboy
<i>goat</i>	kambing	<i>hen</i>	inahin
<i>horse</i>	kabayo	<i>duck</i>	pato

7 Orthography and Script

Tagalog used to be written with the Baybayin alphabet, which probably developed from the Kawi script of Java, Bali and Sumatra, which in turn descended from the Pallava script, one of the southern Indian scripts derived from Brahmi. Today the Baybayin alphabet is used mainly for decorative purposes and the Latin alphabet is used to write Tagalog.

- Type of writing system: syllabic alphabet in which each consonant has an inherent vowel /a/. Other vowels are indicated either by separate letters, or by dots - a dot over a consonant changes the vowels to an /i/ or and /e/, while a dot under a consonant changes the vowel to /o/ or /u/.
- The inherent vowel is muted by adding a + sign beneath a consonant. This innovation was introduced by the Spanish.
- Direction of writing: left to right in horizontal lines.