THE DIALECT OF BIKOL SPOKEN IN NAGA CITY, THE
PHILIPPINES, IS DESCRIBED IN THIS SHORT ANALYSIS OF THE MOST
BASIC BIKOL STRUCTURAL PATTERNS. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE
READER HAS LINGUISTIC TRAINING OR IS A STUDENT OF BIKOL (SEE
ALSO AL 000 502, "BIKOL LESSONS"). PHONOLOGY AND DIALECT
DIFFERENCES ARE VERY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED. EXAMPLES ARE GIVEN
FOR EACH GRAMMAR POINT. (JD)
What follows is an attempt to describe Standard Bikol in broad, general terms of its major structural patterns. I am grateful for the help of the following people:

Miss Alicia Cardel
Miss Lita Altea
Miss Iluminada Bite
Miss Lilia Realubit
Mrs. Concepcion Palomiano
STANDARD BIKOL

The kind of bikol which is understood, respected, and acceptable throughout the Bicol provinces is that spoken in Naga City and certain other areas (including Legazpi City). This is "Standard Bicol," referred to by the people of the Bicol provinces as "pure" Bicol, "national" Bicol, and "Naga" Bicol, since it is most readily associated with the speech of people from Naga City in Camarines Sur.

The grammatical description which follows is an attempt to describe only the most basic structural patterns of Bicol as it is spoken in Legazpi and Naga.

DIALECT AREAS

Bicol dialects can be roughly divided into six areas:

(1) Standard Bicol, spoken throughout Camarines Sur (except for the Rincenada section), easternmost Albay, and four municipalities in Sorsogon. In Camarines Norte, although Standard Bicol is spoken in some areas, Tagalog is dominant. Daet, it is said, is half Tagalog-speaking and half-Bicol-speaking.

(2) The Rincenada dialects of Bula, Buhi, Base, Nabua, and Iriga, clustered together at the southern base of Camarines Sur.

(3) Northern Catanduanes

(4) Southern Catanduanes

(5) The Central and western sections of Albay

(6) Sorsogon, portions of which have been much influenced by Waray-Waray from neighboring Samar.

The language and dialects of Masbate are basically Visayan, with the major influence being Cebuano.
ROUGH DIALECT MAP OF BIKOL

- CAMARINES NORTE
- NORTHERN CATANDUANES
- SOUTHERN CATANDUANES
- RINCONADA
- WESTERN ALBAY
- WESTERN Albay (STANDARD BIKOL)
- SORSOGON
- MASbate
- SAMAR
DIALECT DIFFERENCES

The major differences between dialects are **lexical** first, and then **phonological** differences (largely intonation patterns). The structural patterns remain, generally, much the same, with occasionally alternate forms with identical functions, e.g. NAGA- in Daraga functions the same as NAG + cv. Lexical items, differing among various dialects, which will cause the most trouble, learning will be these items of extremely high frequency, such as words for negation, deictics, demonstratives, function words (subject markers, goal markers) etc.

LITERARY BIKOL

There is a particular kind of Bikol, called Deep Bikol (hararema na Bikol) by Bikolanos, which stands apart from the colloquial speech of everyday use. This literary Bikol, with its special vocabulary and structures reserved for its uses, will be found in writing, speeches, “novenas,” poetry, and used by people in their seventies and upwards. In a speech, for example, BALAKID might be used for DAKUL, the colloquial form; HULI TA for TA (because), ASIN (and) for SAKÁ/BUDÁ (and), etc.
The following was taken from an article written for the Bicol Teachers' College student magazine. It was written by Miss Iluminada Bite, whose junior year phonetics students have gathered, over a five-year period from 1962 to 1967, an impressive six volumes analyzing the phonology of Bikol dialects in seventy-eight Bikol-speaking towns.

The analyses of the Bikol spoken in the aforesaid towns which were done with great interest by the students to the satisfaction of their instructor, showed that the Bikol segmental phonemes include: 16 to 17 consonants, 3 to 6 vowels, and 4 to 8 diphthongs. The consonants common to most of the Bikol varieties are: /b d g h l m n ng p r s t v y/. A unique voiced velar sound, which is a cross of the /g/ and the /y/ sounds, is found only in Buhi. The /j/, a dental-palatal sound which is a cross of the /y/ and the /j/ sounds, is found in the towns of Virac, Bate, Baras, San Miguel, and Gigmoto, in Catanduanes.

The vowels common to most varieties are: /i e a o u/. A sixth vowel is found in the dialects of Daraga, Camalig, Jevellar, Guinobatan, Pioduran, Ligae, Cas, and Felangui, in Albay; Donsel, in Seresen; and Buhi and Iriga, in Camarines Sur. This vowel is produced in the same point in the mouth as the English /u/ in book, but the lips are spread rather than slightly protruded. Other findings about Bikol vowels are that the Nabua dialect has only three vowels: /i a u/; Daraga, Guinobatan, Donsel, Buhi, and Iriga, have four: /i a u U/; Felangui has five: /i a e u U/; and Camalig, Ligae, Cas, and Jevellar have six: /i e a e u U/.

The common diphthongs are: /iw aw ay ey uy/. The dialects that have the /U/ sound have other diphthongs that involve this sound. Buhi has a unique diphthong sound that involves the special consonant in its sound system, found in its term for asthmatic. Virac and other towns that have the /y/ sound have the additional diphthongs /iy ay/; found in /bagey/, meaning coconut shell; and /ay/ found in /kuday/, meaning fence.

Consonant clusters are very rare in Bikol. The few that occur in initial position are: /bl br bw by kl kr kw ky pl pr pw py dr dw dy gl gr gw tr ts tw ty sw sy rw ry lw ly mw hw/. The majority of these are found in words borrowed from English or Spanish. Some of these occur in the initial position when a prefix, like ka-, or mag-, is used in the word. Examples are: /kaklace/, meaning "classmate"; and /mag-pyane/, meaning "to play the piano."

Consonant clusters never occur in final position. Only in the speech of those whose knowledge of English pronunciation is quite good will one hear a final consonant cluster in words adopted from English.

The suprasegmental phonemes presented in the comparative charts are practically the same for all the varieties of Bikol.
Phonology of Standard Bikol

CONSONANTS: /p b t d k g m n ng r s w y h l?/

The voiceless stops /p t k/ are unaspirated.
Velar-nasal /ng/ occurs word initial.
Consonant /r/ is a single-tap /r/.
Glottal stop /ʔ/ precedes words vowel initial.

VOWELS: /i e a o u /

Vowel /i/ has two allophones /i/ as in "beat"
   /ɪ/ as in "bit"
Vowel /a/ has a single allophone /a/ as in "tat," "father"
Vowel /u/ has two allophones /u/ similar to "book"
   /ʌ/ similar to "bought" but shorter and made higher
   and farther back.

Since /e/ does not contrast minimally with /i/, it could also be presented as an allophone of /i/. In the dialects that use /e/ (many areas substitute /i/ for /e/) the sound is usually represented by "e" in the orthography: KAHÉRAK (pity), MAAHÉ (go out).

Since /u/, similar to "boo", does not contrast minimally with allophones /u/ or /u/, then it too could be presented as a third allophone of /u/.
This sound /u/ is generally required when the accepted orthography uses "u:" DAKUL (much, many), GÜLPİ (plenty), ÚTANG (borrow).
STRESS;  Bikel differentiates between strong stress and weak stress. In the following grammatical description strong stress is marked //.

// signals strong stress followed by a glottal stop:

SIRÅ  (fish)
SAKÔ  (mine)

// signals primary stress on the penultimate syllable and a glottal stop on the marked syllable:

NAYONDO (get sad)
NAYUTA (went blind)

Between vowels a hyphen /-/ signals a glottal stop:

ANI-ON  (here)
KA-AN  (that)

In standard orthography such words are written ANION, KAAN. A few words have been transcribed with no indication of a glottal stop: DAÏ (DA-I), TATAÔ (TATA-O).

Where a vowel is reduplicated it is assumed there is a glottal step between them: NAG-INUM (drinking) is pronounced NAG-I-INUM.
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The NAG- affixes express volitional - voluntary - action.

Past action is formed by NAG-ilem the verb root. This signals completed action and corresponds to the English past tense.

- NAGSÚRAT wrote
- NAGTÁBAHÁO worked
- NAG-ABÓT arrived
- NAGDÁLÁGAN ran

Present action is formed by NAG+cv. CV stands for the reduplicated first syllable of the verb root, C being the first consonant, V the first vowel.
NAG+cv signals an imperfective or not-necessarily completed action.

From verb roots SÚRAT, BÁSA, DALÁGAN:

- NAGSÚRAT writing
- NAGBÁBASA reading
- NAGDÁLÁGAN running

Because all Bikel words beginning in a vowel are preceded by a glottal step, all verb roots are considered as beginning with CV. Thus, the first syllable of roots INUM (drink) and ABÓT (arrive) is "?i" and "?a," each vowel preceded by a glottal step which is considered a consonant. From these roots:

- NAG-INUM drinking
- NAG-AABÓT arriving
with verb roots beginning in a consonant cluster the first
vowel is reduplicated. From TRABAHO (work):

NAGTATRABAHO working

The present action forms, signaling imperfective (not-necessarily completed) action, correspond to a number of
English tenses. NAGSUSURAT AKÓ, depending on the context, could be translated in the following ways:

1. **Simple (habitual) present tense**

   NAGSUSURAT AKÓ AGA-AGA. I write every morning.

2. **Past habitual ("used to/would")**

   KAN AKÓ SADIT PA, NAGSUSURAT AKÓ. When I was a child I used to write.

3. **Present progressive**

   NAGSUSURAT AKÓ NGUNYAN. I’m writing now.

4. **Past progressive**

   NAGSUSURAT AKÓ KAN MAG-ABOT KA. I was writing when you arrived.

5. **Present perfect progressive**

   MADUWANG ORAS NA AKONG NAGSUSURAT. I’ve been writing for two hours.

6. **Past perfect progressive**

   MADUWANG ORAS NA AKONG NAGSUSURAT KAN MAG-ABOT KA. I had been writing for two hours when you arrived.

Thus, NAG-cv can signal both habitual action (present and past) and continuing action (present and past). The term "present" is used for this form because its most frequent uses are for present actions - both habitual and continuing.
Future action is formed by MA 'the verb root. This signals action that "will" happen or is "going to" happen.

MABASA will read/ going to read
MÁ-INOM will drink/ going to drink
MAKANTA will sing/ going to sing

Where English sometimes uses BE ING to indicate future meaning (e.g. "I'm graduating next June.") Bikel uses only one affix indicating future action:*

HASAEN KA? where are you going?
MAHALÉ KA? are you going out?
MALÚWAS AKÓ. I'm going outside.

Imperative-plus action is formed by MAG+ the verb root. One use of this affix is the command; "plus" stands for its other uses.

1. Commands.

MAG - , -UM- (an infix), and the verb root alone are all used to signal affirmative commands.

MAGSÚRAT KA. Write.
MAG-INÓM KA. Drink.
BUMALÍK KA. Come again.
DUMÍGDI KA. Come here.
TUKÁW. Sit down.
DÁGOS. Come in.

* There is a second kind of future action signaled by MaG+cv, but this is used infrequently.
The pronouns KA and KAKO are used with HAG- and -UM- commands, but not when the root alone is used for the imperative.

For "Let's" (hortatory) commands, MAG- is used:

HAGDUHAN KITA. Let's go there.
KAGKAWAT NA KITA. Let's play now.

MAG- is used for all negative commands:

DAI KA MAGTUKAW. Don't sit down.
DAI KA MAGTILDOG. Don't stand up.

2. MAG- is used following certain "pseudo" verbs (uninflected helping verbs):

TATAO KA NA PALAN MAGBIKOL.
So you're speaking Bicol now!

PUEDÀ KAMONG MAGDUMÁN PIRMÉ.
You can always go there.

GIUSTO KO MAN MAGITOM.
I want to get tan (black).

3. KAG- follows KAN ("when" with a past meaning), KON ("if/when" with a future meaning), MÁSKI ("even if" with a future meaning), and some other words which indicate that the action of the verb will occur in the future.

KON HAGTARÁN KANG LIWAY-LIWAY HAKÁKASABOT AKÓ.
If you speak slowly, I'll be able to understand.

KON AKÓ HAGDIDDI, HAKARIGOS AKÓ.
When I come here I'll take a swim (bath).

The above example contrasts with "when" in the habitual meaning:

KON AKÓ HAGDIDDI HAGÁKARIGOS AKÓ.
Whenever I come here I take a swim (bath).

NAG-AADAL AKÓ KAN KAG-ABOT KA.
I was studying when you arrived.
4. NAG- follows adjectives of manner:

MAGAYÓN KANG MAGBAYLE.
You dance beautifully.

MALÚWAY SIYANG MAGDALÁGAN.
He runs slowly.

Other volitional verb forms

Past action: An infix, -UMIN-, carries the same signal as NAG- and indicates a completed (perfective) action. As with all infixes, -UMIN- follows the first consonant of the root or precedes the root if it begins in a vowel:

KUNINU-Á AKÚNG BÓLA.
I got a ball.

UMINIBA KAKÍ SÁÍYA.
We went with him.

Present action: MINA-, a prefix corresponding to NAG cv in the habitual present meaning is a stylistic ademment:

DAÍ PAGLINGAWAN AN A.B.C. GIN
INUMON NA MINADULOT
MIN HUSTONG KA-OMAHAN.

Don't forget A.B.C. Gin,
A drink that gives Real happiness. (from a radio commercial)

MINA-, colloquially, is used with KON to mean "whenever/ everytime..."

KON MINATARAM AKÓ MAY SALÁ,
whenever I speak I make a mistake.
MINA- may also be used to signal "was about to:"

MINADIORDI KUTÁ AKO PERO NAG-URAN.
I was about to come, but it rained.

MINA-INÚM SIYA PERO NAHÚLOG.
She was about to drink, but she fell down.

Used to express "to do X like a Y:"

MINÁLANGUY SIYÁ GARÓ SIRÁ.
He swims like a fish.

MINÁKATÚROG AKO GARÓ LANA.
I sleep like a log (oil).

NOTES ABOUT STRESS:

1. MA- becomes MA- when the verb root ends in a stressed syllable. The root, with MA- attached, loses its original primary stress.

BAKÁL becomes MABA Kal will buy
DUMÁN becomes MADA MAN will go (there)
IBA becomes MA-IBA will accompany

2. NAG cv becomes NAG cv when the abovementioned condition pertains; the root, in this case, maintains its original primary stress.

NAGBÁBAKÁL NAGDUDUMÁN NAG-IBA
### Contrasting examples of colloquial MAG- (volitional) forms

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAGHAKAL AKONG SIRA.</td>
<td>I bought (some/a) fish.</td>
<td>NAGBABAKAL AKONG SIRA.</td>
<td>I buy (some/a) fish.</td>
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<td>I'm buying (some/a) fish.</td>
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<td>MABAKAL AKONG SIRA.</td>
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<td>MABABAKAL AKONG SIRA.</td>
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**Imperative-plus**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MAGHAKAL KANG SIRA.</th>
<th>Buy (some/a) fish.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>SUMAKAL KANG SIRA.</td>
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<td>PUEDE AKONG MAGHAKAL NIN SIRA.</td>
<td>I know how to.</td>
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<td>I can buy (some/a) fish.</td>
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<td>I ought to buy (some/a) fish.</td>
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<th>KAIPOHAN</th>
<th>GUSTO</th>
<th>HABO</th>
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<td>KONG MAGHAKAL NIN SIRA.</td>
<td>I need to buy (some/a) fish.</td>
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<td>HABO</td>
<td>I want to buy (some/a) fish.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I don't want to like to</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
KAN MAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ...
When I bought (some/a) fish...

KUN MAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ...
When/if I buy (some/a) fish...

MÁSKI MAGBAKAL AKONG SIRÁ...
Even if I buy (some/a) fish...

DAÍ KA MAGBAKAL NIN SIRÁ.
Don't buy (any/a) fish.

MAGBAKAL KITANG SIRÁ.
Let's buy (some/a) fish.

MATIHAY AKONG MAGBAKAL NIN SIRÁ.
I'm good at buying fish.

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**Past**

NAGGIBO AKONG KAWATAN.
I made a toy.

GUMINÍBO AKONG KAWATAN.
I made a toy.

**Present**

NAGGIGIBO AKONG KAWATAN.
I make toys.
I'm making a toy.
I was making a toy. etc.

**Future**

MAGÍBO AKONG KAWÁTAN.
I'll make a toy.
I'm going to make a toy.

**Imperative-plus**

MAGGÍBO KANG KAWÁTAN.
Make a toy.

GUÍBO KANG KAWÁTAN.
Make a toy.

DAÍ KA HUGGÍBO NIN KAWÁTAN.
Don't make a toy.

MAGGISO KITANG KAWÁTAN.
Let’s make a toy.
TATAU
{DaPAT}
PUDE
I know how to
I should/ought to
I can/may

GUSTO
KAPOHAN
KONG MAGGIRO NIN KAWATAN.
HAZO
I want to/like to
I need to
I don't want to
like to

KAN MAGGIRO AKONG KAWATAN...
When I made a toy...

KON MAGGIRO AKONG KAWATAN...
When/if I make a toy...

MASIKI MAGGIRO AKONG KAWATAN...
Even if I make a toy...

MAGAYON AKONG MAGGIROG KAWATAN.
I make toys beautifully.

ADDITIONAL USES OF MAG-affixes:

1. making verbs from borrowed nouns: MAGTAXI, MAG-FRUG
2. to speak a language: MAG-BIKOL, MAG-ENGLISH.
3. to play an instrument: MAG-PIANO
4. to ride a vehicle: MAGBISIKLET, MAGAEROPLANO
5. to express a quotation: MAG-HELLO SIYA ("He said 'Hello.'")
The NAKA- forms express potential and ability, among other things, and correspond most frequently to the English "can" and "be able to."

The past (perfective) form, NAKA- verb root, can expresses three things:

1. "was able to"

   **DAI SIYA NAKADUMAN.**
   She wasn't able to go (there).

   **NAKA-ABOT AKO ALAS DICE.**
   I wasn't able to arrive at 12 o'clock.

2. "have/had ______ ed" corresponding to the English present/past perfect tenses (completed action).

   **NAKATARAM NA AKO.**
   I have already spoken.

   **PAGHILA NA NAKALINGAW KA NA.**
   I thought you had forgotten.

   **HALO' KA NA DAI NAKATID.**
   You haven't visited (come by) in a long time.

3. "happened to ______," "accidently ______."

   **NAKALINGAW AKO SA SIYA KASU-ODMA.**
   I happened to see her yesterday.

   This "accidental" meaning of NAKA- contrasts with the volitional meaning expressed by NAG-:

   **NAGTONGTONG AKO SA IKOG KAN IKUS.**
   I stepped (intentionally) on the cat's tail.

   **NAKATONGTONG AKO SA IKOG KAN IKUS.**
   I happened to step on the cat's tail.
The present (imperfective) form, NAKAKA- + verb root, generally corresponds to "can" and "be able to."

NAKAKABASA SIYA KI MARHAY.
He can read well.

NAKAKABIKLANA SIYA.
He can speak Bikel already.

The future form, MAKAKA- root, corresponds to "can (future)" and "will be able to."

INDÀ SANA KON NU-ARÍI! AKÓ MAKAKADUMÁN.
I'm not sure when I can go.

NAKAKALAKÁNA-LAKAW KITÁ SA ÁGA.
We can walk around tomorrow.

The imperative-plus form, MAKA- root, is used in negative commands and other environments where MAG- is used (e.g. following "pseudo" verbs, KAN/KUN/MASKI, adjectives of manner).

DAI KA MAKALINGAW!
Don't forget!

GUSTO KONG MAKA-ABOT ALAS DOS.
I want to be able to arrive at 2 o'clock.

MAKA- preferences: some verbs show a preference for the MAKA- affixes over the MAG- affixes. Some of these are the verbs for "te learn" (MAKANU-OD in Naga, MAKA-JUKOD in Legazpi), "te forget" (MAKALINGAW), "te understand" (NAKASABOT), "te remember" (MAKAROMDOM). Verbs of the senses, especially "te see" and "te hear" tend to occur most frequently with the NAKA- affixes.

STRESS: NAKÁKA and MAKÁKA- are always stressed on the second syllable. NAKA- and MAKA- are stressed NAKÁ- and MAKÁ- only when the verb root has primary stress on the final syllable.

NAKABAKAL, MAKABAKAL
NAKA-ABOT, MAKA-ABOT
MA- verbs

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<td>NA-</td>
<td>NA-cv</td>
<td>NA-cv</td>
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MA- forms are intransitive and express involuntary (internal) action. The only kind of object MA- verbs take is a dative one:

NADAGIT SIYA SAKO.
She got angry at me.

NAHOKONDO AKO SAIYA.
I miss her.

NASUSUPOG SINDA SAIMU.
They're embarrassed in front of you.

MA- verbs generally correspond to the English "get/become/be adjective," e.g. "Get/become/be hungry."

past: NASUPOG SIYA.
      NAGUTOM SI LIT0.
      she get embarrassed.
      lite get hungry.

present: NASUSUPOG SIIA.
         MAGUGUTOA SI LITO.
         She's embarrassed.
         Lite's hungry.

future: NASUSUPOG SIYA.
        MAGUGUTON SI LITO.
        She'll get embarrassed.
        Lite will get hungry.

imperative-plus:
DAI KA NASUPOG.
HABO KONG MAWARA.
Don't be shy/ don't get embarrassed.
I don't want to get lost.

stress: The reduplicated syllable - CV - has a primary stress when the verb root has final stress. From WARA:

NAWAWARA getting lost/ gets lost
KAWAWARA will get lost
Past forms of some common MA- verbs:

NAPIKOT SIYA. He got sleepy.
NAPAGAL SIYA. He got tired.
NAMONDU SIYA. He got sad/lonely.
NA-GUTOM SIYA. He got hungry.
NADAGIT SIYA. He got mad/angry. (Legazpi)
NA-ANGGOT SIYA. He got mad/angry. (Naga)
NASUPOG SIYA. He got embarrassed.
NAWARA SIYA. He got lost.
NATUROG SIYA. He fell asleep.
NABUTA SIYA. He went blind.
NABU-A SIYA. He went crazy.
NASUNGOG SIYA. He went deaf.
NALIPOT SIYA. He got cold.
NATAKOT SIYA. He got scared.
### SUMMARY CHART OF MAJOR "ACTIVE" AFFIXES

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<td>&quot;volitional&quot;</td>
<td>NAG-</td>
<td>NAG <code>cv</code></td>
<td>M-</td>
<td>MAG-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-ump-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>NAKA-</td>
<td>NAKAKA-</td>
<td>NAKAKA-</td>
<td>NAKA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;internal&quot;</td>
<td>NA-</td>
<td>NA cv</td>
<td>NA+ cv</td>
<td>MA-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three series of affixes already presented all belong to a category that will be referred to as the ACTOR FOCUS. These affixes, aside from the category they belong to, will be referred to as "active." Of these "active" series the NAG- group may be remembered as "volitional," the NAKA- group as "potential" affixes, and the MA- group as showing "internal" (rather than external) action.

Basically, Bikol verb affixes can be divided into two groups, those which form "active" constructions and those which form "passive" constructions. Of the former there is one major category, the ACTOR FOCUS, and of the latter there are three categories, a brief description of which now follows.
"PASSIVE" CONSTRUCTIONS

While it is important to understand the meaning of TENSE and how it relates to the English verb system, the same idea is present to a much lesser degree in Bikol. The important thing in Bikol (corresponding to the key importance of "tense" in English) is FOCUS.

In English the inflections (____ed, ____ing, ____s) have to do with time.
In Bikol the inflections (Mag-, -UN-, Nakaka-, -IN- etc.) have to do with focus.

Focus has to do with what is being talked about. Which affix is applied to the verb root depends on what is being talked about or focused on.

With the "active" affixes (KAG-, MAKA-, NA-) it is the doer of the action - the actor - that is being talked about, focused on.
With the "passive" affixes it is the receiver of the action that is being focused on, talked about.

The following is the first of three major categories of "passive" construction in Bikol:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT FOCUS:</th>
<th>-ON verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>past</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-IN-</td>
<td>-IN-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIG-</td>
<td>FIG-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The infix -IN- alternates with FIG- in common usage with no difference in meaning.

The suffix -ON alternates with -A in affirmative commands. Roots ending in a vowel (not followed by a glottal stop) add -HON or -HA.

GIHOKON, GIHÖHA (from GIBO: make)

PAG- -ON is obligatorily used for negative commands.
OBJECT FOCUS (-ON) vs. ACTOR FOCUS (MAK-, MAKA-)

Object Focus affixes (OF) are used when the thing being talked about (focused on) is a specific, definite thing.

Actor Focus affixes (AF) are used when the thing being talked about (focused on) is a non-specific, indefinite thing.

(AF) MAGBAKAL AKO NIN SIRA.
I bought a fish.

(OF) BINAKAL KO AN SIRA.
I bought the fish.

An indefinite object in English is marked by "a," "some," or the plural. A fish, some fish, and fish (either plural or fish in general) are all indefinite, non-specific. In Bikol they will be marked by -NG (following and attached to a word ending in a vowel) or NIN (following a word ending in a consonant) or another non-specific object marker (such as KI, the preferred marker in Legazpi). These markers all indicate that the object is non-specific. The verb in such sentences will generally be affixed with one of the MAG- series or MAKA- series.

A specific, definite object in English is marked by the, or a demonstrative (this, that), a pronoun (her, them) (my house). In Bikol the specific object will be marked by a special subject marker - AN, SU (the preference in Legazpi), SI (the preference in Naga) before common nouns. If the specific object is a person it will be marked by SI. The only specific objects which are not marked as such are the nominative pronouns (AKO, IKA, SIYA, KITA, KAMI, KAMO, SINDA) and the nominative demonstratives (INI, IYAN, ITO). The verb in Bikol sentences that talk about a specific object will bear (generally) one of the -ON affixes.

Consider the following examples:

(AF) NAGGIBO SIYANG KAWATAN.
He made a toy.

(OF) GINIBO NIYA AN KAWATAN.
He made the toy.

The difference between the two sentences is one of focus. In the first sentence it is the action-doer (AKO) which is being talked about: SIYA. In the second sentence it is the specific object - AN KAWATAN - which is being talked about.

The pronouns are obligatorily different, since, in the first sentence, we have "He made a toy" and in the second "The toy was made by him."
Contrastive examples of **actor focus** (the focus is on the actor) and **object focus** (the focus is on the object):

- **Actor focus:**
  - NAGBASA AKONG LIBRO. I read a book.
  - BINASA KO AN LIBRO. I read the book.
  - LULUTO-ON KO AN KARNE. I'll cook the meat.
  - MALUTO AKO NIN KARNE. I'll cook (some) meat.
  - NAGSUSURAT AKONG SURAT. I'm writing a letter.
  - SINUSURAT KO AN SURAT. I'm writing the letter.
  - MAGIBO SIYANG KAWATAN. He's going to make a toy.
  - GIGIBOHON NIYA AN KAWATAN. He's going to make the toy.

- **Object focus:**
  - IY0 IYAN AN LINUTO. That's what was cooked.
  - INI AN BINAKAL? Is this what was bought?
  - SIYA AN HINANAP MO? Is she the one you were looking for? ("she was looked for by you")

The Object Focus affixes are generally used to express "X is the thing which is ___ ed."

This last sentence shows that Object Focus can also deal with persons. For the sake of simplification it is not harmful to think that OF generally deals with **objects, things.**
Formation of Object Focus Verbs

Past: The infix -IN- follows the first consonant of the root when root begins with a consonant, precedes the root when root begins in a vowel:

- SANURAT lit. "thing that was written"
- BINASA lit. "thing that was read"
- ININUM lit. "thing that was drunk"

The prefix PIG- may be added to the root with no change in meaning:

- PICSURAT lit. "thing that was written"
- FIGSABI lit. "thing that was said"

Present: The first syllable of the root is reduplicated before adding -IN- or PIG-.

- BINABASA lit. "thing that's being read"
- PIGGIGIBO lit. "thing that's being made"
- GINAGAMIT lit. "thing that's being used"
- PIG-ININUM lit. "thing that's being drunk"

Future: Reduplication of the first root syllable - CV plus the suffix -ON. (-HON if root ends in vowel w/o glottal stop)

- GIGIB ONON lit. "thing that will be made"
- LULUTO-ON lit. "thing that will be cooked"
- PUPUTODON lit. "thing that will be cut"
- ININUMON lit. "thing that will be drunk"
imperative-plus: with commands -ON- HON (used with pronouns MO, NINDO) or -A- HA (used without pronouns).

with negative commands PAG- and suffix -ON -- HON.

with "plus" uses of imperative-plus (following "pseud" verbs, etc.) the root plus -ON -- HON is used.

GIBOHON MO DAW. Do it.
GIBOHA. Do it.
DAI NO PAGGIBOHON. Don't do it.
ANO AN DAPAT KONG GIBHON? What should I do? (lit. "What is the thing that ought to be done by me?")

LUTO-ON MO DAW. Cook it.
LUTO-A. Cook it.
DAI MO PAGLUTO-ON. Don't cook it.
ANO AN GUSTO MONG LUTO-ON? What would you like to cook?

Although there is no word for "it" in Bikol, this idea is covered by the -ON affixes, since "it" is implied by this focus when no particular object is mentioned.

OTROHON NINDO. Repeat it.
GINIBO KO KASU-ODMA. I did it yesterday.
BINAKAL KO NA. I already bought it.
INUHON MO SANA. Just drink it.
OBJECT FOCUS Potential: MA- Verbs

Just as the MAG- verbs contrast with the -UN verbs, MAKA- verbs have their counterpart in the MA- verbs.

These MA- verbs have the same forms as the intransitive, "internal" action series except that they always take a specific object (stated or implied), like the -UN verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>past</th>
<th>present</th>
<th>future</th>
<th>imperative-plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Na-</td>
<td>Na-cv</td>
<td>Ma-cv</td>
<td>Ma-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These MA- affixes carry the same meanings as the MAKA- affixes.

N AH ILING KO NA AN SINI.
I've already seen the movie.

GUSTO KONG MALUTO AN BAGAS.
I want to be able to cook the rice.

MABABAKAL MO INI SA SADAN? (Naga)
SA-OD (Legazpi)
Can you buy this at the market?

Contrasting sentences: MAKA- vs MA-

NAKABASA KA NANG LIBRO? Have you read a book yet?
NABASA MO NA AN LIBRO? Have you read the book yet?

NAKAKAPUTOL SINDANG NAHOY. They'll be able to cut a tree down.
KAPUPUTOL NINDA AN NAHOY. They'll be able to cut the tree down.

DAI PA AKO NAHALILING NIN TAWO. I haven't seen anybody yet.
(a man)
DAI KO PA NAHALING SU TAWO. (Legazpi) I haven't seen the man yet.
SI TAWO (Naga)
"THE ONE WHO" (MAG-, Maka-) vs. "THE THING WHICH" (-ON, Mako-)

SISAY AN NAGSABI? ANO AN PIGSABI?
Who said/told? What was said/told?

SISAY AN NAGKAKANTA? ANO AN PICKAKANTA?
Who's singing? What's being sung?

AN NAGKANTA SI LITO. AN NAKANTA "SARONG BANGGI."
The one who sang was Lite. What was sung was "Sarong Banggi."

SISAY AN NAKASURAT? ANO AN NASURAT?
Who has written? What has been written?
AKO AN NAKASURAT. INI AN NASURAT.
I'm the one who has written. This is what has been written.

SISAY AN MASIMBAG? ANO AN SISIMBAGON MO?
Who (is the one who) will answer? What will you answer? ("the thing that will be answered")

SIYA AN MASIMBAG. INI AN SISIMBAGON MO.
She (is the one who) will answer. This is what you'll answer. ("the thing that will be answered.")

SISAY AN NAGBABAKAL? ANO AN PIGBABAKAL MO?
Who (is the one who) buys? What do you buy? ("the thing which is bought")

KAMI AN NAGBABAKAL. BINABAKAL
We're the ones who buy. This is what I buy. ("the thing which is bought")

SIYA AN NAGLUTO EMRA; IYAN AN PIGLUTO NIYIA.
He's the one who cooked; that's what he cooked.

SINDA AN MABAKAL: IYAN AN BABAKALON NINDA.
They're the one's who'll buy; that's what they'll buy.

SI LITO AN NAGIINUM; IYAN AN PIGIINUM NI LITO.
Lite's the one who's drinking; that's what Lite's drinking.
**Summary Chart of Object Focus Affixes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Imperative-Plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;volitional&quot;</td>
<td>(CV - IN)</td>
<td>CV - ON</td>
<td>-ON ~ -HON -A ~ -HA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>NA - CV</td>
<td>MA - CV</td>
<td>MA -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ANÓ AN PIGHILING MO?
  lit: "What was the thing seen by you?"
  English equivalent: What did you see?

- ANÓ AN NAHING Niyá?
  lit: "What is the thing which has been seen by him?"
  English equivalent: What has he seen?

- ANÓ AN LULUTÓ-ON MO?
  lit: "What is the thing that will be cooked by you?"
  English equivalent: What will you cook?

- GINÍKO KO INÍ KASU-HANGÓ.
  lit: This was made by me last night.
  English equivalent: I made this last night.

- SIGÉ, DADARAHÓN KO SANA AN NÓ KUNYÁN.
  lit: Okay, the whatchamacallits will just be brought by me.
  English equivalent: Okay, I'll just bring the whatchamacallits
STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ACTOR FOCUS AND OBJECT FOCUS SENTENCES

1. First, all sentences with a true verb will have a specific subject. The subject may be one of the nominative pronouns or demonstratives or a noun (or part of speech used as a noun) marked by a subject marker. The subject markers in standard Bicol are SI before proper names and AN before common nouns (or words used as nouns). In Naga SI is used to mark identified common nouns; in Legazpi SU is used to mark identified common nouns.

So, either the subject is (1) a pronoun (AKO, IKA, etc. INI, etc.) or (2) it is marked by a subject marker (SI, SU, AN).

2. When MAG- or MAKA- (or MA- intransitive) verbs are used, the subject is the one doing the action. If there is an object it is generally a non-specific one, and marked as such by -NG, or NIN (or KI, as in Legazpi).

3. When -ON or MA- (transitive) verbs are used, the subject is the recipient of the action. The doer of the action is either (1) one of the genitive sets of pronouns (KO, MO, etc. KA-INI etc.) or (2) a noun marked by KAN (common noun) or NI (proper name).

There are three structural differences between AF and OF full sentences: (1) affixation (MAG-, MAKA- vs. -ON, MA-) (2) action-deer (nominative vs. genetive) (3) object marker (non-specific vs. specific)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>SIRÁ.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MÁBAKAL</td>
<td>AKO</td>
<td>-NG</td>
<td>I'll buy (some/a) fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NIN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KI (Legazpi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BABAKALÓN</td>
<td>KO</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>I'll buy the fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SU (Legazpi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SI (Naga)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the first sentence the FOCUS (what the sentence is about) is the actor - ACTOR FOCUS.

In the second sentence the FOCUS (what the sentence is about) is the object - OBJECT FOCUS.
PRONOUN S

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AKO</td>
<td>KO~NYAKO</td>
<td>SAKO~SAKUYA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IKA~KA</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>SINDO<del>SA</del>INDO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIYA</td>
<td>NIXA</td>
<td>SA~IYA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KITA</td>
<td>TA~NYATO</td>
<td>SATO~SATUYA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAMI</td>
<td>MI~NYANO</td>
<td>SAMO~SAMUYA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAMO</td>
<td>NINDO</td>
<td>SA~INDO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINDA</td>
<td>NINDA</td>
<td>SA~INDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>NI</td>
<td>MI (Naga)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KAY (Legazpi)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nominative pronouns act as subjects:

In "active" constructions: MAGUMAN SIYA SA TINI.
She went to Tiwi.

In "passive" constructions:

NAHLING KO SIYA KASU-BAGONG AGA.
I saw her just this morning.
(lit. "She was seen by me..."

In "equational" sentences:

MAGAYONON SIYA, ANO?
She's very pretty, isn't she.

DOKTOR NA SIYA.
He's a doctor now.

IKA is used alone and preceding a verb: SISAY? IKA?
Who? You?

IKA AN MADUMAN.
You're the one who'll go.

KA, the short form, follows verbs and negation:

NA~IBA KA?
Will you go with (me)?
accompany

DAI KA PA NAGKARIGOS?
Didn't you take a swim/bath yet?
SIYA means "he" and "she."

KITA means "we" and includes the person listening ("we-inclusive");

HOY, LITO. MA-ANO KITA?
Hey Lite. What shall we (you and I) do?

KAMI means "we" but excludes the person listening ("we-exclusive")

HOY, LITO. MABARCA KAMI NGUNYAN NA BANGGI.
Hey, Lite. We (but not you) are leaving tonight.

SI is a particle which precedes proper names occupying the subject position of the sentence.

MAHALÉ SI LITO. Lite's going out.

Genitive pronouns:

(1) act as the action doers in "passive" constructions.

SINURÁTAN KO SIYA. I wrote him.

HALATÓN KO AKO. Wait for me.

DADARÁHÓN TA AN MGA BÚRAK? Shall we bring the flowers?

The short forms KO, MO, TA, MI are preferred to the long forms and always precede when there are two pronouns together:

SASABÍHAN KO SIYA. (I will tell him.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MO</th>
<th>You</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TA</td>
<td>We (all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>We (excl.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If neither pronoun in this situation is a short form, then either word order is common:

NAHILING SIYA NIYA. He saw her.

NAHILING NIYA SIYA. He saw her.

For the combination "I...you" (KO IKA) Bikel colloquially uses TA KA.

NAHILING TA KA. I saw you.

DAÍ TA KA AANOHON. I won't do anything to you. Harm you.
(2) Genitive pronouns, following nouns, indicate possession. The short forms KO, MO, TA, MI are preferred to NYAKO etc.

NÁSAEN, SU TÚGANG MO? Where's your brother going?
(SI) (Naga)

NAMARÀ, SU AKÌ NÍNDA. (Legazpi)
(SI) (Naga)
Their child got lost.

The Dative pronouns are used:

(1) As objects not under focus:

O SÌGE, MÁ-IRA AKÓ SA-ÌNO.
Ch, all right, I'll go with you.

NAGTARÁM SINDÁ SAKÓ.
They talked to me.

NAGBAKÁL SI YÁ SAKÓ. NIN' SIRÁ.
She bought me a fish.

BINAKÁL KO SU PAN SA-ÍYA. (Legazpi)
(SI) TINÁPAY (Naga)
I bought the bread from her.

INÍNG BURÁK PARA SA-ÍNO.
This flower is for you (pl.).

(2) to indicate possession when preceding a noun or standing alone:

KISAY INÍ? (Naga)
KAYSAY INÍ? (Legazpi) SAKÓ, or SAKÚYA.
Whose is this? (It's) mine.

SI ALÍCIA AN SAKÓNG TÚGANG.
SAKÚYANG
Alicia's my sister.
(3) In comparisons:

Si Lita bakong nagayon arog sa-imo.
Lita's net as pretty as you.

Si Alicia pareho sa-iya.
Alicia's the same as her.

In "active" constructions there will always be a nominative form.
If there is another pronoun it will be dative.

Má-iba ako sa-imo.
I'll go with you.

In "passive" constructions there will always be a genetive form.
If there is another pronoun it will be dative or nominative.

Ibabakal ko siya ki pan. (Legaspi)
Nin tinápay (Naga)
I'll buy her some bread.

Binakal ko su singsing saiya.
Si (Naga)
I bought the ring from her.

Name particles precede proper names:

Si Danilo an maduman. Danile's the one who'll go.
KI
Kay Danilo iní. This is Danile's.

Má-iba ako kay Danilo. I'll go with Danile.
KI
Itinao saiya ni Danilo. Danile gave it to her.
Iyah an pulo ni Danilo. That's Danile's shirt.

Mas gwapo siyá ki (simbád. He's better looking than
KI
Kay (Neg.) Sinbad.

Sisay an nag-inum ka-ini? Si Antonio.
Who drank this? Antonie.
LOCATIVE FOCUS: -AN verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>past</th>
<th>present</th>
<th>future</th>
<th>imperative-plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;velitional&quot;</td>
<td>-IN-AN</td>
<td>-IN+cv-AN</td>
<td>cv-AN</td>
<td>-AN~HAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PIG-AN</td>
<td>PIG+cv-AN</td>
<td></td>
<td>-I~HI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>NA-AN</td>
<td>NA+cv-AN</td>
<td>MA+cv-AN</td>
<td>MA-AN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When the subject of the sentence is the "person to/from whom" or "place from which" an action is done, the LOCATIVE FOCUS affixes are called for.

They are the same as the OF affixes, with the addition of -AN, the suffix which adds the meaning of "person to/from whom" or "place from which" to the verbs it attaches to.

- BABAYADÁN "person to whom pay will be given"
- PIGSASABÌHAN "person to whom something is being said"
- PIGSUSURÁTAN "person to whom something was written"
- SINURÁTAN

"person to whom"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>past</th>
<th>present</th>
<th>future</th>
<th>imperative-plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;babayadán&quot;</td>
<td>MI NA SANÁ IKA, SIR!</td>
<td>We'll repay you sir! (lit. &quot;You are the person to whom pay will be given&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;pigssuratan&quot;</td>
<td>KO SIYÁ NGUNYÁN.</td>
<td>I'm writing to her now.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contrasting examples: LOCATIVE FOCUS vs OBJECT FOCUS

I'll buy from him.  BABAKALÁN KO SIYÁ.
I'll buy him.       BABAKALÒN KO SIYÁ.

I already paid her. PIGBAYÁDAN KO NA SIYÁ.
I already paid it.  PIGBAYAD KO NA.

I'll eat from the plate. KAKAKANÁN KO AN PLÁTO.
                      KAKA-ÓNÁN (Legaspi)
I'll eat the plate.    KAKAKANÓN KO AN PLÁTO.
                      KAKA-ÓNON (Legaspi)

I'll drink from this.  ÍNUMÁN KO INI.
I'll drink this.       ÍNUMÁN KO INI.
Certain verbs will take an -AN affix (and not -ON) when the meaning is "thing which is ___ed." Some of these are "household" verbs:

HÚGAS: HUGÁSAN MO AN MGA PLÁTO.
Wash the dishes.

TRÁPO: TRAPÓHAN MO AN LAMÉSA.
Wipe/dust off the table.

SAMHÚD: SAMHUDAN MO AN SÁLOG.
Sweep the floor.

PÁHID: PAHÍDAN MO AN LAMÉSA.
Wipe the table.

LAMPASO: LAMPASÓHAN MO AN SÁLOG.
Scrub the floor.

SIRA: SIRAHAN MO AN PINTÔ.
Close the door.

ABRI: ABRIHÁN MO AN BINTÁNA.
Open the window.

NOTE: As a locative suffix -ÁN is a productive noun-maker:

TUKAWÁN (place to sit: a seat)
KAMATÁN (place to play: playground)
NUMAMÁN (place to go)
The LOCATIVE POTENTIAL series (MA --AN) CONVEYS THE SAME MEANINGS as the MAKA- series with the added meaning of "person to/from whom" and "place from where".

NATARAMÁN KO NA SIYÁ.
I've already talked to him.
(lit: He's the person to whom I've already talked.)

NABAYÁDÁN KO NA BIYÁ.
I (happen to) have paid him already.
(lit: He's the person to whom...)

NATUKAMÁN KO NA IYÁN.
I've already sat in that.
(lit: That's the place on which I sat.)

NAINUMÁN KO IYÁN.
{l'Ve drunk that.
{I happened to drink that.
{I was able to drink that.
(lit: That is the place from which I have drunk.)

MASUSUBLI-ÁN KO SIYÁ.
I can borrow from him.
(lit: He is the person from whom I will be able to borrow.)

Some verbs shew a preference for the MA- -AN series (as opposed to the -AN volitional series); some of these are the verbs for "to remember, to forget, to know," "to understand."

DÁÍ TA KA NARORONDÓMAN.
I don't remember you.

KON NA-ARÁMAN KO SAÑÁ...
If I'd only known...

SEGÚRO MALILINGAMÁN MO NA KAMÍ.
Maybe you'll forget us.

STRESS CHANGES IN OBJECT FOCUS AND LOCATIVE FOCUS

With the addition of a suffix, stress shifts over one syllable:

BAKÁL becomes BAKALÁN
SÁBOT becomes NASABOTÁN
The fourth and last focus category of Bilkel is the BENEFACTIVE FOCUS (BF). It has three general uses:

1. It expresses "person for whom" something is done.

   ① IBINAKÁL MIYÁ AKÓ (KI PAN.) (Leg.)
   (NIN TINÁPÁY) (Naga)
   He bought some bread for me.

   IDADARÁ TA KANG KAMÁTAN.
   I'll bring you (for you) a toy.

2. It is used with certain verbs like "to toss, throw, put up, take down, push away" where the meaning is "action away from the speaker."

   ISUGTÁK MO INÍ SA LANÉSA.
   Put this on the table.

   IGAPÓ MO SAKÓ.
   Threw it to me.

   ITINAÓ KO SAIYA.
   I gave it to him.

   ITARÁK MO AN TUTÚ-O.
   Tell (speak out) the truth.

   IPADARÁ MO AN GÁMIT KU.
   Send my things.

   IPAKÓ MO SA LANÚB.
   Nail it to the wall.

The table below shows the forms of the BENEFACTIVE FOCUS (BF) with "velitienal" and "potential" uses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>past</th>
<th>present</th>
<th>future</th>
<th>imperative-plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;velitienal&quot;</td>
<td>I-IN-</td>
<td>I-IN-cv-</td>
<td>I'-cv-</td>
<td>I-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>IKINA-</td>
<td>IKINA+cv-</td>
<td>IKÁKA-</td>
<td>IKA-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BF: Beneffactive Focus
(3) It may be used in an instrumental sense meaning "thing to be used to \( \text{fer}_\text{ing} \)"

**IPUPUTOL KO INI.**
I'll use this to cut with

(lit: This will be used for cutting by me)

**IBINAKÁL KO AN KWÁRTA.**
I used the money for buying.

**ISÚKRAY KO SÁNA IYÁN.**
Just use that to comb with.

In negative commands **IPAG-** is used: **DAI KO IPAGSURAT.** Don't write it.

The potential affixes are used only with the meaning "Can be used to \( \text{fer}_\text{ing} \)"

**IKAKSURAT MO INÍNG LÁPIS.**
You can use this pencil to write with.

(lit: This pencil can be used for writing...)

**IKINATÁPO KO INÍNG PÁNYO INI.**
I was able to use this here handkerchief to... with.
### Summary Chart of Focus Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>&quot;Volitional&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Potential&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Internal&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actor Focus</td>
<td>MAG-</td>
<td>MAKA-</td>
<td>MA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object Focus</td>
<td>-ON</td>
<td>MA-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locative Focus</td>
<td>-AN</td>
<td>MA- -AN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactive Focus</td>
<td>I-</td>
<td>IKA-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Bikel verb system there are four focus categories. One of them forms "active" constructions and focuses on the doer of the action - the actor. (Actor Focus).

The other three categories form "passive" constructions and focus on the recipient of the action.

For each of the four categories there is one set of "volitional" affixes and one set of "potential" affixes.

There is one set of affixes used intransitively and expressing internal action (MA-).

Additional affixes not presented all belong in one of these four categories. Other affixes which may attach themselves to these already presented (e.g. MAPA-, NAGPA-) will also fall into one of the four categories.
FOCUS CONTRASTS

1. MAG/-YAKA- take non-specific, indefinite objects.
-ON/MA- take specific, definite objects.

Do you want to read a book? 
Buño Kang Magbasa Nin Libro?
Do you want to read the book? 
Gusto Mon Basahon An Libro?

I haven't seen a bus yet. 
Dai Pa Akó Nakahiling Nin Bus.
I haven't seen the bus yet. 
Dai Ko Pa Nahiling An Bus.

I bought (some/a) fish. 
Nagbakál Akóng Sirá.
I bought the fish. 
Binakál Ko An Sirá.

NOTE: When placing extra emphasis on a non-specific object (e.g. repeating something not heard), Object Focus can be used, provided the word order is changed:

Libro An Binása Ko. It's a book that I read.

Bus An Pighalát Niya. It's a bus she waited for.

2. MAG- vs. -AN. (Móment Both Actor Focus and Locative Focus can express "person to/from whom" and "place from which." The choice depends on which item one wishes to talk about (focus on). Given the choice it is generally the Locative Focus which is more common.

In the following sentences AF makes the actor the subject, and LF makes the person or place the subject.

Masurat Akó Saíya. I'll write her.
Susuratán Ko Siya. I'll write her.

(Bunakál, Ka Saño! (You) buy from me!
MAGBAKÁL)

Nagkalán Ko Akói! Buy from me!

Nagkinúm Akó Sa Basó. I'm drink from the glass.
Pigkinúm Ko An Basó. I'm drinking from the glass.
3. **MAC- vs BF.** Both AF and BF can express "person for whom". The choice depends on which item one is talking about, the actor or the recipient of the action. Given the choice the Benefactive Focus is generally preferred.

- **MAC.**
  - **NAGBAKÁL AKÓ KA-INDI PÁRA SA AKI.** I bought this for the child.
  - **IBINAKAL KO KA-INDI AN AKI.** I bought this for the child.
  - **NAGGÍBO AKÓ KA-ÁN PARA SA-ÍMO.** I made that for you.
  - **IGINIHO TA KA KA-ÁN.** I made that for you.
  - **MAJARA AKONG KAWÁTAN PARA SA-ÍNDA.** I'll bring a toy for them.
  - **IDÁDARA KO SINDANG KAWÁTAN.** I'll begin a toy for them.

**Bikol focuses only on specific subjects.** If there is only one object in a sentence and that object is non-specific, then AF (NAG-, MAKA-) will generally be used. If there are two objects (direct and indirect object) and one of them is specific, the "passive" constructions will be used.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AF</strong></td>
<td><strong>OF</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NAGBAKÁL AKÓN BAGÁS.</strong> I bought rice.</td>
<td><strong>PIGBAKAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AKÓ AN NAGBAKAL NIN BAGÁS.</strong> I was the one who bought rice.</td>
<td><strong>BINAKAL KO AN BAGÁS.</strong> I bought the rice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AKÓ AN NAGBAKAL KAN BAGÁS.</strong> I was the one who bought the rice.*</td>
<td><strong>NABAKAL KO AN BAGÁS.</strong> I've bought it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PILGBAKAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>NABAKAL KO AN BAGÁS.</strong> I happened to buy the rice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BF</strong></td>
<td><strong>IDOBAKAL KO KI: NIN BAGÁS.</strong> I bought rice for her.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* expressing "X is the one who" with NAG-/MAKA- can take a specific object.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who made this?</td>
<td>SISAY AN NAGGBO KA-INí?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who was this made for?</td>
<td>SISAY AN IGINBO KA-INí?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who's the one cooking?</td>
<td>SISAY AN NAGLULUTO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's being cooked?</td>
<td>ANO AN PIGLULUTO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who's being cooked for?</td>
<td>SISAY AN ILULUTO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who'll buy?</td>
<td>SISAY AN MARAKAL?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who'll you buy from?</td>
<td>SISAY AN BABAKALAN MO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who'll you buy for?</td>
<td>SISAY AN IBABAKAL MO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who'll you buy?</td>
<td>ANO AN BABAKALON MO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who's reading?</td>
<td>SISAY AN NAGBABASA?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who're you reading to?</td>
<td>SISAY AN PIGBABASAñAN MO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What're you reading?</td>
<td>ANO AN PIGBABASA MO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who's the one who cut?</td>
<td>SISAY AN NAGPUTOL?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did you cut?</td>
<td>ANO AN PINUTOL MO?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did you cut with?</td>
<td>ANO AN IPINUTOL MO?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I'll buy you the ring from him.

(1) IBABAKAL TA KA KAN SINGSíNG SAIYA.
(2) BABAKALON KO SINDA KAN SINGSíNG SAIYA.
(3) BABAKALAN KO SÎYA KAN SINGSÍNG PARA SAINDA.

We get them the book from the bookstore.

(1) IBINAKAL MI SINDA KAN LIBRO SA BOOKSTORE.
(2) BINAKAL MI SÛ/SI LIBRO SA BOOKSTORE PARA SAINDA.
(3) BINAKALAN MI SE/SI BOOKSTORE KAN LIBRO PARA SAINDA.
### SUMMARY CHART OF MAJOR AFFIXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFIXES</th>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>FUTURE</th>
<th>IMPERATIVE-PLUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;volitional&quot;</td>
<td>NAG-</td>
<td>NAG+ cv</td>
<td>MA-</td>
<td>MAG-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>-UMIN-</td>
<td>-UM-</td>
<td>rest alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;internal&quot;</td>
<td>NAKA-</td>
<td>NAKÁKA-</td>
<td>MAKÁKA-</td>
<td>MAKA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;volitional&quot;</td>
<td>NA-</td>
<td>NA+cv-</td>
<td>MA+cv-</td>
<td>MA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>-IN-</td>
<td>-IN+cvcv-</td>
<td>cv-</td>
<td>-ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;internal&quot;</td>
<td>PIG-</td>
<td>PIG+ cv-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;volitional&quot;</td>
<td>NA-</td>
<td>NA-cv</td>
<td>MA+cv-</td>
<td>MA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>-IN-AN</td>
<td>-IN+cvcv-AN</td>
<td>cv-</td>
<td>-AN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;internal&quot;</td>
<td>PIG-AN</td>
<td>PIG+ cv-AN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;volitional&quot;</td>
<td>NA-AN</td>
<td>NA+cv-AN</td>
<td>MA cv-AN</td>
<td>MA-AN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;potential&quot;</td>
<td>I-IN-</td>
<td>I-INCv-</td>
<td>I+cv-</td>
<td>I-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;internal&quot;</td>
<td>IKINA-</td>
<td>IKINA+ cv-</td>
<td>IKÁKA-</td>
<td>IKA-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RULES TO SIMPLIFY LEARNING

1. Learn the "past" forms. To make the "present" of volitional forms add CV to the verb root.

2. Learn the "imperative-plus" forms. To make the "future" forms add CV to the verb root.
   (Exception: MA- of the MAG- verbs)

3. All "present" and "past" passive volitional forms are signaled by -IN- or PIG-.

4. Learn the Object Focus -ON forms. To form Locative focus add -AN (and change -AN/-I for -ON/-A).

5. For every infix (-UM-, -UMIN-, -IN-) there is a common prefix alternative (MAG-, NAG-, PIG-).

6. MAG- volitional affixes contrast with -ON, -AN, I- affixes. MAK- potential affixes contrast with MA-, MA--AN (and, to a limited degree, IKA-) affixes.
### SUMMARY OF IMPERATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE</th>
<th>NEGATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTOR</td>
<td>MAG-, -UM-, root</td>
<td>MAG-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>-ON<del>HON/-A</del>HA</td>
<td>PAG-{-ON/-HON}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATIVE</td>
<td>-AN<del>HAN/-I</del>HI</td>
<td>PAG-{-AN/-HAN}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENEFACTIVE</td>
<td>I-</td>
<td>IPAG-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### "YOU" IN COMMANDS

- KA and KAMÓ follow MAG-/UM-/.
- MO and NINDO follow -ON/-AN/I-.

Pronouns are not used when command form is root alone/-A/-I.

#### "LET'S" IN COMMANDS

- KITA follows MAG-.
- TA follows -ON/-AN/I-.

| MAGBAKÁL KITA. | DAI KITA MAGBAKÁL. |
| KA buy.        | KA buy.            |
| MAGBAKÁL TA.   | DAI TA MAGBAKÁL.   |
| TA buy it.     | TA buy it.         |
| MAGBAKÁL TA SIYA. | DAI TA SIYA MAGBAKÁL. |
| Let's buy from her. | Let's buy from her. |
| MAGBAKÁL TA SIYA. | DAI TA SIYA IPAGBAKÁL. |
| Let's buy for her. | Let's buy for her. |
SUBJECT MARKERS

The function of subject markers is to signal that the following word or phrase is to be interpreted by the listener as the noun subject.

The Standard Bikol subject markers are SI before proper nouns (names) and AN before common nouns (or words or phrases to be interpreted as nouns). For already identified nouns Naga Bikol uses SI and Legazpi Bikol uses SU before common nouns.

Just as there is only one subject per clause, there can be only one subject marker per clause. If the subject of a clause is not a pronoun (personal or demonstrative), then it must be marked by one of the subject markers.

GOAL MARKERS

Verb objects which are not under focus are marked by a goal marker. Naga Bikol uses -NG/NIN to signal an indefinite object, while Legazpi Bikol uses an additional KI more frequently.

Just as there is only one subject per clause, there can be only one subject marker per clause. If the subject of a clause is not a pronoun (personal or demonstrative), then it must be marked by one of the subject markers.
AGENTS (ACTORS)

The agents, or actors, are the ones doing the action. In "active" constructions the agents — actors — are in the nominative (AKO, IKA, etc.). In "passive" constructions the agents — actors — are in the genitive (KO, MO, etc.).

The nominative agent marking common nouns is AN/SU (Leg.)/SI (Naga). The genitive agent marking common nouns is KAN.

AND AN PAGHUNA NO NA DÁPAT GIBOHON KAN MGA PARA-ÔMA? What do you think should be done by the farmers?

GINÍBO INI KAN MGA AKI. The children did this.
This was done by the children.

KAN is also used to express "of/by/for the." It occurs in slots filled by KO (genitive) pronominals.

LIMA AN KWARTO KAN HARÔNG MI. Our house has five rooms.
(Five are the rooms of our house)

SALÁMAT KAN PAGKAÂNGNO NO SAKO. Thanks for the attention you're giving me.
NEGATION

1. DAÍ (transcribed DAf) negates all forms of verbs.

   DAÍ SIÍA MÁDUMÁN. He won't go.
   NAGDÚMÁN. He doesn't go.
   NAGDUMÁN. He didn't go.
   DAÍ KA MÁDUMÁN. Don't go.
   HABO KONG MÁDUMÁN. I don't want to go.

   In Legazpi DAÍ also negates deictics and existential sentences.
   In Naga this is done by MAYÓ.

   DAÍNG KWÁRTA. There isn't any money. (Leg.)
   MAYONG KWÁRTA. There isn't any money. (Naga)

   DAÍ SINDÁ DÍGDI. They aren't here. (Leg.)
   MAYÓ SINDÚ DÍGDI. They aren't here. (Naga)

2. BAKO negates nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and demonstratives. The linker -NG which connects BAKO to the abovementioned may be dropped to give emphasis.

   BAKÔ SIÍÁ. It's not him.
   BAKÔ MAGAYÓN. It's not pretty.
   BAKÔNG ÂYAK. It's not a dog.
   BAKÔNG MA-ÍNITU. It's not very hot.
   BAKÔ ÍNÍ. It's not this one.
   BAKÔ SI MARÍÁ. It's not Maria.
   INÍNG MGA LIBRO ÍNÍ BAKÔNG MAGABÁT. These books aren't heavy.
   NAHILÎNG KO SIÍÁ KASU-BANGÍ, BAKÔNE PÂLÁN MAGAYÓN. I saw her last night, she's not so pretty after all.
HABÖ is the negative form of GUSTO and means "don't want to/ don't like to." It may be used as a one-word response:

GUSTO KANG MAG-IBA? HABÖ!
Do you want to go with me? No, I don't want to!

SIR, SHINE? HABÖ.
Sir, (do you want a) shine? No, (I don't want one).

HABÖ KONG MAGBAYLE.
I don't want to dance.
(I don't like to dance.)

INDA negates "know," and may be used as a one-word response:

MÁDUMAN DAW SINDA? INDA.
"I wonder if they'll go! "I don't know."

In Legazpi BAI (BA-I) is used in certain/expressions:

BAI SAHA. Never mind (a standard refusal, equivalent to "Oh, no thank you, don't bother)."

BAI KÀ KA-ÀN. Don't do that.

BAI DAW Dìàn. Stop that.

In Naga, HAIRÈ is a literary negative used only in church services as AND is the common "Thou shalt not" used in the commandments.
The linker -NG/NA connects:

(1) nouns and adjectives:
- LIBRONG FULÁ (red book)
- SARONG LIBRO (one book)
- TUGANG NA LALAKI (brother)
- MARHAY NA ÁGA (good morning)

-NG attaches to noun/adjective ending in a vowel; NA follows nouns/adjective ending in a consonant or diphthong.

(2) "pseudo" verbs to verbs. Only -NG is used, and it precedes the verb and attaches only to words ending in a vowel or glottal stop.

GUSTO AKÓ KUTÁNG MAGDUMÁN.
I'd really like to go (but...).

PUDEDE KANG MAKADUMÁN?
Will you be able to go?

But: GUSTO KÓ MAN MAGTÓM.
I want to get tan (black).

(3) demonstratives followed by nouns:
- INÍNG PULÁ (this red one)
- ITÓNG NGA KUNYAN
  (those whatchamacallits)

(4) existential particle and nouns:
- IGWA PANG BIR (There's still beer.)
- DAÍNG TÁ AGÓM. (There isn't any
  MAYONG wife.)

NA serves as a conjunction ("that/ which/ who") linking clauses:

AN SIKADL KU NA....what I said was that...
EXISTENTIAL SENTENCES

Existential sentences express the meaning "There is/are ______." In standard dialect MAY and IGWA both express this in statements and questions:

MAY SARÓ SANA. There is just one.
MAY DUMA PA. There are two more.

IGWANG TOLÓNG LALÁKI. There are/were three boys.

IGWANG MAY) TUBIG DYAN? Is there water there?

Both MAY and IGWA express singularity and plurality in present, past, and future meanings.

A linker -NG joins IGWA to nouns, immediately preceding them; MAY is not linked to nouns.

IGWANG TUBIG? Is there (any) water?

IGWA PA DAANG TUBIG. There’s still (some) water, they say.

Only IGWA may be used for a one-word affirmative response:

MAY MANÍ? IGWA.
"Are there (any) peanuts?" "Yes, there are."

DAÍ (in Legazpi) and MAYO (in Naga) negate existential sentences; they are linked by -NG to nouns:

DAING 'TÁNO DÍDI. (Leg.)
MAYONG! (Naga)
There isn’t anybody here.

MAY BURAT DYAN? DAÍ (Leg.)
MAYO (Naga)
Is there a letter there? No, there isn’t any.
               Ne, there isn’t any.
"to have" is expressed in Bikel by MAY/ IGWA plus a nominative subject. The -NG linker precedes the noun possessed:

**IGWA AKÓN LÍBRO.** I have a book.
MAY LÍBRO AKÓ.

**IGWA SIYANG TUGANG.** She has a brother/sister.
MAY TUGANG SIYA.

**IGWA KANG SÁBON?** Do you have any soap?
MAY SÁBON KA?

Note the difference in word order when MAY and IGWA contrast.

The above examples illustrate the common way of showing possession of an indefinite object. "To have" a specific object may be expressed by NASA plus a dative subject:

**NÁSA SAÍMO AN LÍBRO NA ITINAÓ KO.**
You have the book I gave you.

**NÁSA SAÍYA AN KWÁRTA.**
She has the money.
Deictics

Deictics are words meaning "here, there." Standard Bikol has three sets of them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direction Set</th>
<th>Painting</th>
<th>Location Set</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Here&quot;</td>
<td>DÍDI</td>
<td>ANÍ-ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;There (by you)&quot;</td>
<td>DYAN</td>
<td>NYÁ-ON ~ YÁ-ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;There (far from us)&quot;</td>
<td>DUMÁN</td>
<td>ITYO-ON</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The direction set is used to tell where you are going, have been, and have not been (it negates location):

MÁSAEN KA? DÍDI BAHÁ.
Where are you going? Just here.

SAÉN KA HALE? DUMÁN SA DÁGAT.
Where have you been? There at the sea.

DAÍ SIYA DÍDI KASU-ÓDMA.
She wasn't here yesterday.

These deictics are also used as verbs to mean "be here, be there, come (here)" and "go (there)"

NGÁTA TA DÁI KA KÁDUMAN?
Why aren't you going to go?

KON NAGDÍDI DÍDI SIYÁ, NAGTATAGÓ SINDÁ.
Whenever he comes they hide.

The second set of deictics is used in pointing out:

HAEN AN LIBR: KO? HUYAN.
"Where's my book?" "There ist is (by you)."

HUNI.
"Here it is."

HUTO.
"There it is (over there)."

In some dialect areas the H is not pronounced.
The location set of deictics express "be here/ be there" with reference to any time.

**HÁEN SIYÁ? ANÍ-ON.**  
Where is he? He's here.

**NYÁ-ON ~ YÁ-ON**  
He's there (by you).

**ITÓ-ON.**  
He's there (far from us).

Another way of saying the same thing:

**ANÍ-ON SIYÁ DIGDI.**  
**NYÁ-ON SIYÁ DYAN.**  
**ITÓ-ON SIYÁ DUMAN.**

In answering the question **SAÉN KA KASU-ODMA?**  
Where were you yesterday?  
and direction sets are used: **ANÍ-ON** or **DIGDI.**  
**YA-ON** or **DYAN,**  
**ITÓ-ON** or **DUMAN.**
Deictics are words meaning "here, there." Standard Bicol has three sets of them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directional</th>
<th>Painting</th>
<th>Locational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Here&quot;</td>
<td>DÍGDI</td>
<td>HUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;There (by you)&quot;</td>
<td>DYÁN</td>
<td>HUYAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;There (far from us)&quot;</td>
<td>DUMÁN</td>
<td>HUTO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The direction set is used to tell where you are going, have been, and have not been (it negates location):

MÁSAEN KA? DÍGDI BANÁ.
Where are you going? Just here.

SAEN KA HALE? DUMÁN SA DAGAT.
Where have you been? There at the sea.

DÁI SIYA DÍGDI KASU-ODMÁ.
She wasn't here yesterday.

These deictics are also used as verbs to mean "be here, be there, come (here)" and "go (there)":

NGAÑA TA DÁI KA KÁDUMANT?
Why aren't you going to go?

KON NAGUDÍGDI SIYÁ, NAGTATAO SINDÁ.
Whenever he comes they hide.

The second set of deictics is used in pointing out:

HAÑEN AN LIBRO KO? HUYAN.
"Where's my book?" "There ist is (by you)."

HUND.
"Here it is."

HUTO.
"There it is (ever there)."

In some dialect areas the H is not pronounced.
DEMONSTRATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Dative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;This&quot;</td>
<td>IN Í</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;That (near you)&quot;</td>
<td>IYÁN-ÁN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;That (far from us)&quot;</td>
<td>ITO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demonstratives

The nominative demonstratives are used where the nominative pronouns are used; likewise, the dative demonstratives occupy the same slots filled by the dative pronouns.

ANO INÍ? What's this?
ANO IYÁN? What's that (near you)?
ANO ITO? What's that (far from us)?

* Libro INÍ. This is a book.
 INÍ LIBRO.

BÚRAK IYÁN/ÁN. That's a flower.
 IYÁN BÚRAK.

HÁRONG ITO. That's a house.

INÍNG BÚRAK This flower
IYÁN NA BÚRAK That flower
ITO BÚRAK That flower

INÍNG MGA BÚRAK These flowers
IYÁN NA MGA BÚRAK These flowers
ITO MGA BÚRAK These flowers

GÚSTO KO INÍNG PULÁ, I like this red one.
 IYÁN NA PULA that
 ITO PULA that

Demonstratives are linked to following nouns by -NG/NA.

*This is the common word order
The dative series:

GUSTO KONG KAGÚASA KA-IN L
   KA-IYÁN/KA-ÁN
   KA-ITO

I want to read this
   that
   that (Over there)

GIECHON NG ÁKÓG KA-IN L
   KA-IYÁN/KA-ÁN
   KA-ITO

De it like this
   that
   that

HAH AKO KA-IN L
   KA-IYÁN/KA-ÁN
   KA-ITO.

I don't like this (one).
   that (one)
   that (one)

AN is a short form of IYÁN and is never sentence initial.
KA-ÁN is a short form of KA-IYÁN, and, like most short forms, may
be expected as the mere frequently used alternative where standard
Bikol is spoken.
ADJECTIVES

There are three major categories of adjectives, with regards to affixes.

(1) Adjectives made up of root alone:
- DAKUL: much, many, a lot
- DAKULÁ: large, big
- SADIT: small, little
- SALÁ: wrong, incorrect
- TAMA: right, correct
- POBRE: poor
- GADAN: dead
- BÚHAY: alive
- BÁGO: new
- LUMÁ: old
- MAHAL: expensive
- BARATO: cheap

...and others

(2) Adjectives with a MA- prefix:
- MAGAYON: pretty, beautiful
- MARIBOK: noisy
- MALIPOT: cold, cool
- MALING: clean
- MALUYA: "weak"
- MA-INIT: hot

...and others

(3) Adjectives (describing dimensions of length, depth, distance...) with HA- prefix:
- HALANGKAW: tall, high
- HABABA: short, low
- HARÁMOM: deep
- HARÁBAW: shallow
- HAYAQ: far
- HARANI: close, near

...and others

The prefix MAKA- indicates "causing x" when forming an adjective from a noun base; e.g. MAKA-KONDÖ: saddening, pitiful (causing sadness)
MAKA-ANGGOT: maddening (causing anger)
MAKA-ATI: revolting
MAKA-ÛYAM: annoying, bering
MAKA-ÇICA: enjoyable
MAKAPAGAL: tiresome
MAKASAPOG: embarrassing
COMPARISONS

X IS ___ ER THAN Y

SI MARÍA NAS MAGAYÓN (KI RÓSA.) (Naga)
KAY (Leg.)
Maria's prettier than Rosa.

HAS MAGAYÓN SIYA (KISA SA KO.) (Naga)
KAYSA (Leg.)
She's prettier than me.

INÍNG LIBRO INÍ NAS MAGABÁT KISA KA-ITÓ. (Naga)
KAYSA (Leg.)
This book is heavier than that one.

X IS THE ___ EST

SIYA AN PINAKAMAGAYÓN.
She's the prettiest.

INI AN PINAKAMAGABÁT.
This is the heaviest.

AS X AS Y

SI ALICIA KAPÁREHO KAGAYÓN NI RÓSA.
Alicia's as pretty as Rosa.

PARÉHO SIYA KAGAYÓN SA KO.
AROG
She's as pretty as me.

INÍNG LIBRO INÍ PARÉHO KAGABÁT KA-ÁN.
AROG
This book is as heavy as that one.

X IS LIKE Y

SI LITA PARÉHO (KI HOSITA/ SAKO.)
KAY
Lita's like Hesita/ like me.

ALÍCIA GÁLI SI RÓSA/ AKÓ.
GARÓ
alicia's like Rosa/ me.

INÍNG LIBRO (PARÉHO KA-IYÁN.)
GARI/ GARÓ IYÁN.
This book is like that one.
**Comparison (cont.)**

**Not as X as Y**

- Si husa bakong magayon / arug / ki Alicia / sakó.
  - Rosa is not as pretty as Alicia / me.

- Ining Libro bakong magabat / siring / ka-iyán.
  - This book isn't as heavy as that one.

**Very X**

- Magayon: pretty, beautiful
- Magayonon: very pretty, very beautiful

- Maribok: noisy
- Maribokon: very noisy

- Harayo: far
- Harayo-on: very far

- Dakul: many, much
- Dakulon: very many, very much

**Expressing moderation:**

- Magayon nin diit (Naga)
  - Ki diit (Leg.)
  - A little bit pretty

- Patál siyang diit (Leg.)
  - Kadikit (Naga)
  - She's a little stupid.

- Nedyo magayon
  - Kind of pretty

- Magayon-gayon
  - Kind of pretty

- Init-init
  - Kind of hot, a little hot
Some common noun affixes are

KA-
KA- -(H)AN  denoting "place where"
-(H)AN  denoting "owner"
TAG-  denoting season, time of year
TIG-  denoting "owner"
TAGA-  denoting "native of"
TAGA-, PARA- denoting trade, livelihood

PARA-  denoting habituant: "_____er"
PARASIGARILYO  smoker
PARADAYA  cheat
PARA-CITIK  liar
PARASUGAL  gambler
PARABAYLE  dancer

FILLER WORDS

KUNYAN - KUYAN (and, where there has been a Tagalog influence -KUYÁN) are forms of a word used as a filler when the word sought cannot be quickly found. It may substitute for a word from any of the major word classes.

NAHILING MO SI KUNYÁN?
Did you see what's-his-name?

DAÍ KO PA NAKAKUNYÁN.
I haven't been able to whatchmacallit yet.

In the Legazpi area ESTE may be heard as a hesitation word ("uh") as well as "ANÓ":

KASU-ARÍN KA...ANÓ...NAÓDUMÁN SA...ANÓ, SA OPISÍNA?

When did you...uh...go to the...uh...office?
-ANÚ as a verb

KÁ-ANÚ KA?  What are you going to do?

NAG-ÁANO KA? What are you doing?

NAG-ÁANO KA? What did you do?

KANG-ÁANO SIYA? NAMAMAKOL? What's he going to do? Whip you?

NANGANO SIYA? What did he do?

NA-ÁANO SIYA? What happened to him?
     What was wrong with him?

NA-ÁANO KA? What's wrong with you?
     What's with you?
     What's happening to you?

KÁ-ÁANO KA? What's going to happen to you?

ÁANOHON KA NIYA? What's he going to do to you?

DAÍ MAN IKA NIYA ÁANOHÓN. He isn't going to harm you. 
     do anything to you.

INANO KA NIYA? What did he do to you?

PIG-ÁANO KA NIYA? What's he doing to you?
Enclitic particles are particles which may not occur alone or sentence initial. These particles are of extremely high frequency and occur quite liberally throughout any colloquial conversation. Singly and in combination they are the spices that flavor normal utterances.

NA "already, now... (not in the adverbial sense)

NASINI, KA NA?
Are you going to go to the movies now?

SIGE, TAPOS NA AKÔ.
Okay, I'm finished now.

NASURATAN KO NA SIYÁ.
I have already written her.

PA "still, yet, else, keep on going...

NAGKAKAKAT PA SIYÁ?
Is he still playing?

DAI PA SIYÁ NAGDIGDI.
He hasn't come yet.

ANÓ PA? SISAY PA?
What else? Who else?

MATRABÁHO PA AKU.
I'll keep on working.

DAÁ (pronounced Da-á) "he says, they say, according to them" (reporting information; indicating that what is said is indirect discourse, reported speech)

IKA DAÁ AN KATAC KAN PREKYO.
You're the one, they say, who'll give the prize.

DAÁ

DAI PA, NAG-ABOT AN BARKO.
The boat hasn't arrived yet, they say.

MAKARAWO DAÁ AN NGA AKI DUMAN.
They say the kids there are mischievous.
DAW expresses doubt - "I wonder"; softens commands, questions; suggests a dare.

NGATA DAW TA DAÍ NAGDÍGDI SI ILUMINÁDA?
I wonder why Iluminada didn't come.

GIEÓHA DAW INÍ.
De this.

"MAGAYÓN AKÓ MAG–ENGLISH! "SÍGE DAW."
"I speak English beautifully." Okay, go ahead." (a dare: Okay, go ahead: let's see, show me, prove it)

MAN also, too; softens commands, emphasizes statement of fact.

MADUMAN MAN AKÓ.
I'll go too.

PALÁN expresses surprise at discovering something new - "Ah, so.....!
"by the way; discovering one has been wrong and agreeing that the new information is correct.

O LÍLIA, ANÍ–ON KA PÁLAN.
Oh, Lilia, so you're here!

SISAY PÁLAN AN KAIRÍBA KD?
Who was your companion by the way?

"GOOD MORNING, SIR. O, HAPON PÁLAN!"
Good morning, sir. Oh, it's afternoon!

SANÁ just, only (LANG/LÁMANG, from Tagalog, are also used)

PIRÁNG BIR AN GUSTO MO? DUWÁ SANÁ.
How many beers do you want? Just two.

O, PARA. DIGDI SANÁ AKÓ/ DIGDI LANG AKÓ.
Oh, stop. I'll just get off here.
N GANI

ANO NA NGANI SU NGARAN MO?
What was your name again?

IYO NA NGANI.
Precisely, yes.

SISAY NA NGANI?
Who did you say it was? (when something is forgotten)

LUGOD

"hope, wish"

MAGRAHAY NA MAN LUGOD SINDA.
I hope they'll get better now.

BAGA

"you know" (an aside); used for emphasis - "indeed"

SIYA BAGA AN MABANTA DIGDI.
She's the one, you know, who'll sing here.

IYO BAGA.
Yes, of course.

KUTA

"would... (but); "would have... (but)"

MA-IBA AKO KUTA PERO...
I would like to go, but...

KUTA

MADUMAN, SIYA KASU-BANGGI, PERO...
She would have gone last night, but...

---

**Minimal contrasts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANION NA SIYA.</th>
<th>He's here now/already.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANION PA SIYA.</td>
<td>He's still here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANION DAA SIYA.</td>
<td>He's here, they say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANION DAW SIYA?</td>
<td>I wonder if he's here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANION BAGA SIYA.</td>
<td>He's here, Y'know.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANION PALAN SIYA.</td>
<td>So he's here!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANION MAN SIYA.</td>
<td>He's here, too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANION SANA SIYA.</td>
<td>He's just here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enclitic particles have further uses in idiomatic expressions:

Okay/ All right.

Go ahead (permission); G'men (coaxing).

Keep on/ keep going/ go on.

Okay, all right they say.

Okay, let's see (a dare)

Oh, c'mon! (urgent coaxing; wheedling)

Okay, the hell with it/ All right, go the hell ahead (angrily and impatiently giving into a request).

Yes, I have (she has, etc.; response to a question in the past form showing action has already been done).

Yes, they say.

Really?

Yes (agreement).

Yes... (but uncertain)

Yes, of course! Yes!

Yes (although not pleased about it).

Yes, it's really, really true.

Oh yes! (discovering/ remembering something forgotten) Oh yes! (you're right, after all).

Yes, I'd like to (but...)

What else? Nothing more/ nothing else.

Never mind/ don't bother.

You might as well cook it.
"PSEUDO" VERBS

Some of the verbs that act as "helping" verbs, remain uninflected, and are followed by the imperative-plus affixes are

- GÚSTO: want to/ like to
- HABÓ: don't want to/ don't like to
- KAIPOHAN: need to
- TATAÓ: know how to
- PUEDE: can/ may
- DÁPAT: should/ ought to

These verbs are linked to the following verbs by -NG, which occurs just before the inflected verb:

- GÚSTO XUNG MAGKAWAT.
  - I want to play.

- HABÓ NIYANG GIBOHON.
  - He doesn't want to make it.

Although GÚSTO and HABÓ may be followed by either nominative or genitive pronouns, only KO is used for "I."
PA- Causative

PA- is a causative particle used in both active and passive constructions meaning "cause to _____" and generally translated as "let/ ask to/ make/ have/ allow to _____." This is a quite productive affix.

PADİSPONERA NA SIYÁ NIN MIKE.
Let him get a microphone.

İNİ MAN NA KUNDUKTOR NA INİ PÁRA KAHÖY MAPABAYAD PA.
This conductor, just for that weed, will still have you pay }
\{ make you pay
\{ ask you to pay

SAÆN PA MAN DAW PAPATUKA\AN\ON?*
I wonder where they would be seated (TU\AKAW to sit down; PATUKAW, cause to sit - to seat).

PÅNO NA, MAPAI\UNAD PA!
We're full already and they still 'let more ride!' 
\{ allow to ride

** The examples on this page came from Speaking Bikol, a book of lively Legazpi conversations put together by Ray Mayer.

*Notice the reduplication of PA rather than cv.
FLURALITY

NOUNS: The plural marker MGA* (pronounced MANGA) precedes nouns:

MGA BURAK flowers
MGA AKI children

ADJECTIVES: Though infrequent, a reduplication of the first syllable of adjective roots expresses plurality:

KAGAGAYON KAN MGA BIKOLANA!
How beautiful Bikel girls are!

VERBS: When KITA, KAMI, or SINDA refers to more than two people an optional plural marker -RV- is added to the root. R plus the first vowel is infixed after the root's first syllable:

MAKAHAWAT NA KITA?
Shall we play now?

TUMIRINDOG NA KAMO, MGA AKI.
Stand up now, children.

NAGDADARALAGAN SINDA.
They're running.

When the root begins in L, -RV- precedes the root and, where cv is called for, is reduplicated rather than the cv of the root.

MARALANGOY NA KAMO?
Are you all going to swim now?

This -RV- indicating a plural agent is of frequent use, though not obligatorily used.

* MGA is an accepted abbreviated form of MANGA
DIRECTIONAL MARKER: SA

**SA**, depending on the context, can be used in a locative sense to mean "at, in, to, on, from, by, with."

- NAGBAKAL SIYA SA SADAN. (Leg.)
  - He bought at the market.

- NAGESTAR SIYA SA HARONG MI.
  - He lived in our house.

- NAGHALAT SIYA SA KANTO.
  - He waited on the corner.

- NAGSUBLI SIYA SA GUKANG.
  - He borrowed from the old man.

- NAG-AGI SIYA SA KAY SIMBAHAN.
  - He passed by the church.

- NAG-IBA SIYA SA AKI.
  - He went with the little boy.

*Bikal des, when called fer, express location more explicitly:*

- SA ITAAS above, upstairs
- SA IBABA below, downstairs
- SA IRAROM underneath
- SA GILID beside
- SA LAOG inside
- SA LUSAS outside
- SA IBABAW on top of
- SA TAHAW between
EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

Exclamatory sentences - "HOW _________!" are formed by adding KA to the adjective root and using genitive forms following:

KA-ATAB MO! How early you are.
KHALANGKAW NI JON! How tall Jen is.
KATABILAN NI AIDA! How talkative Aida is.
KALINIG KAN HARONG NINDA(!) How clean their house is.
KAPATAL KAN MGA ESKUERAs! The pupils are so dumb!
KADAKUL KAN TAWU DIGDI! There are so many people here!

VOWEL ELISION

In the future and imperative forms of -ON, -AN verbs there is often a dropping of the final vowel in roots that are stress final:

HILÍNG becomes HIHILNGÓN (will be seen)
KAPUT becomes KAPTÁN (held)
SUNUD becomes SUSUNDÓN (will be followed)
KU-Á becomes KWA'ÓN (get)
TURÔ becomes TU'RÁN (teach) (Legazpi)
POLITE FORMS

PO (sir, ma'am) is much used in the Naga area to show respect. When an utterance is not heard and needs to be repeated, the listener's PO? (Sir/Ma'am?) or ANO PO? (What, sir/ma'am?) is considered much more polite than merely saying ANO? (What?).

In the Legazpi area TABI ("please") is the most frequent polite form. The equivalent of PO? and ANO PO? in Legazpi is TABI? (Please? i.e. would you please repeat what you said,) and ANO TABI? (Pardon me, what?).

In imperatives MAKI- and PAKI- prefixed to verbs add politeness:

PAKI:SIRAHA MAN TABI AN PINTO.
Would you please close the door?

Next on the scale would come -

SIRAHA MAN TABI AN PINTO.
Please close the door.

The inclusion of MAN or DAW softens commands:

SIRAHA/KAN/AN PINTO.
(DAW)
Would you close the door?

The placement of PO, along with tone of voice, can show either respect or disrespect.

MAHIGUSON KA PO DAA MARAY.
They say you're a hard worker!

MAHIGUSON KA DAA MARAY PO.

The second sentence, with different intonation and different placement of PO can be used to make fun of someone.
Some miscellaneous affixes

MA—AN: (locative focus potential) affected by elements of the weather.

NA—CHÁNAN KAMI.
We were caught in/by the rain.

NA—INITÁN AKO.
I felt hot/warm.

NABANGGHIÁN SINDA.
They had to stay overnight (They were "benighted.")

-PARA- te de X "too much/so much/continually"

NAGPARA—INÚM AKO.
I drank too much,
so much

DAÍ KA MAGPARATÁN.
Don't talk so much.

DAÍ MO PAGPARAPÍTÁ AN HABÓ.
Don't keep on forcing those who don't want to.

MAKI- "fond of"

NAKIDULCE "fond of sweets"

NAKIDURAK "fond of flowers"

NAKIDUAÁ "fond of girls"

PAKA— with verb root followed by genitive: "after"

PAKAHALE NI PÉDRO, NAG—ABÓT SI MÁKING.
After Pedro left, Making arrived.

PAG— with verb root followed by genitive: "As seen as"

PAG—ABÓT NIYA TOLÓS...,as seen as she arrives (future)
PAG—ABÓT NIYA........ as seen as she arrived (past)

with verb root following an inflected verb:

ANÓ MAG—IHA KITÁ PAGHILING?
Shall we go together and see it?

(PAG— above could also be NAG—)