

An Introduction to the Kapampáangan Language

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Kapampáangan is an Austronesian language spoken in *Indúng Kapampáangan*, the Kapampáangan homeland, located in the northern island of Luzon in the Philippines, by the ethnic group known as *Bangsáng Kapampáangan* (Kapampáangan people). Kapampáangan is often affectionately called by them as *Amánung Sísuan* ~ the 'language suckled from the mother's breast'. It is also written as Capampáñgan.

Kapampáangan also has a written script called *Kulitan* or *Súlat Kapampáangan*. It is an Indic script written vertically from right to left (Pangilinan, 2012).



Fig. 1. The Lord's Prayer written in *Súlat Kapampáangan* by Allandale Lumanlan Rivera

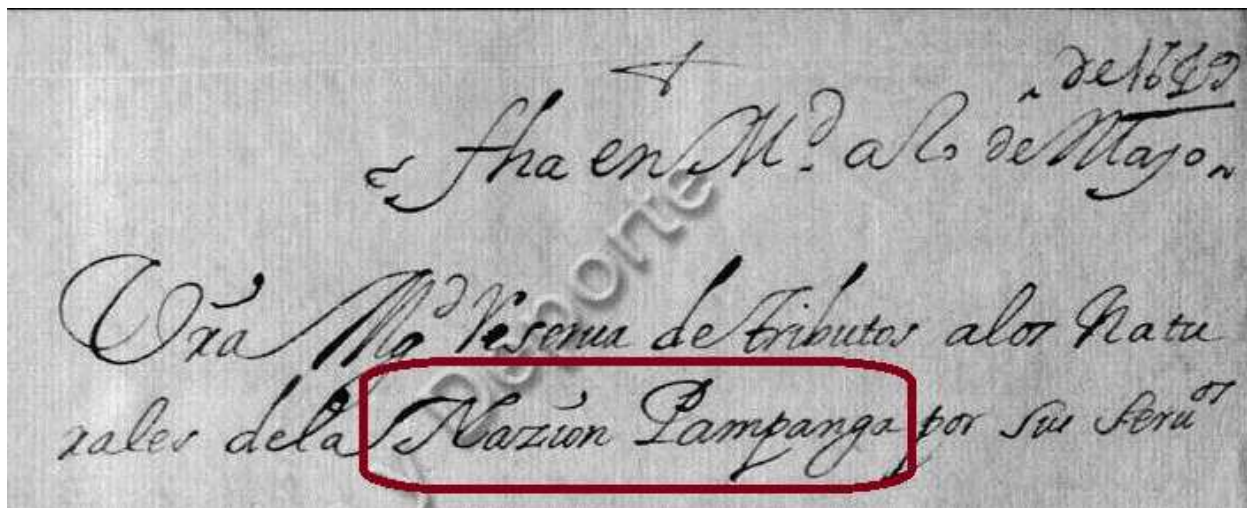
Indúng Kapampáangan, the Kapampáangan homeland, is located in the northern island of Luzon in the Philippines. Its heartland is the province of Pampanga, radiating to the southern half of Tarlac, and the border towns in Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.



Bangsâng Kapampángo is the 7th largest ethnic group in the Philippines, numbering less than 2 million in a total population of 98 million according to the year 2000 survey of the National Statistics Office.

The Eight Major Languages of the Philippines	Total Population in the Year 2000 (National Statistics Office)
Tagalog	28,000,000
Cebuano	21,000,000
Ilocano	9,200,000
Hiligaynon	8,100,000
Bicol	2,600,000
Waray	2,500,000
Kapampangan	1,900,00
Pangasinan	1,200,000

In 1649, the Spanish king granted Bangsâng Kapampángo (*Naxión Pampanga*) autonomy and exempted them from paying tribute for all eternity after helping Spain defeat the Dutch in a series of naval battles in the Far East. They were treated favourably (San Agustin, 1699 and Diaz, 1745) and their leaders were allowed to join the lower Spanish aristocracy (Santiago, 1990). The Kapampangans lost their autonomy when the United States took over the Philippines from Spain in 1899.



The Kapampangan language has two major dialects (Foreman, 1971). The existence of the Upland and Lowland (Delta) varieties coincide with the basic geography of Indûng Kapampáŋan (Gaillard, 2002, 2012 & 2013).

There may be more than just two varieties of Kapampangan as evidenced in the dialect study of Kapampangan by Anicia del Corro (1984 & 1988) where a number of Kapampangan towns, particularly in the Pinak region of Candaba and the 2 Kapampangan communities of Bataan, exhibit unique lexicon, phonology and even morphology.

Kapampáŋan is a predicate-initial language, like other Philippine languages. The predicate is followed by pronouns and/or adverbs and then optionally followed by one or more noun phrases (Kitano & Pangilinan, 2013).

PREDICATE = pronoun(s)/adverbial {NP} {NP}...

Nominal Predicate:

1. **Méstra** **ya** **i** **Bayang.**
 teacher = ABS.3SG PN Bayang (Maria)
 Bayang is a teacher.

2. **Méstra** **ya.**
 teacher = ABS.3SG
 She is a teacher.

Adjectival Predicate:

3. **Matsura la ren.**
 ugly = ABS.3PL ABS.those (medial)
 Those are ugly.
4. **Matsura la.**
 ugly = ABS.3PL
 They are ugly.

Verbal Predicate:

5. **Mámangan ku.**
 eat.IMPF.AV = ABS.1SG
 I am eating.
6. **Mámangan kung manuk.**
 eat.IMPF.AV = ABS.1SG =LK chicken
 I am eating chicken.
7. **Kakanan ke ing manuk.**
 eat.IMPF.PV= ERG.1SG+ABS.3SG DET.SPEC.SG chicken
 I am eating the chicken.
- NB: **ke** is a fusion of **ku** [ERG.1SG] + **ya** [ABS.3SG]
 Double Cross-Referent Pronoun (Del Corro, 1988)
 Fused Enclitic (Mithun, 1994)
 Fused Pronoun (Kitano, 2008)
8. **Kakanan ke.**
 eat.IMPF.PV= ERG.1SG+ABS.3SG
 I am eating it.

Kapampangan verbs have two forms according to Kitano (2008), agent focus and patient focus.

Agent Focus:

kan ‘to eat’

mangan [future] | **mámangan** [present] | **méngan** [past]

9. **Mámangan** **kung** **manuk.**
eat.IMPF.AV = ABS.1SG =LK chicken
I am eating chicken

básâ ‘to read’

mamásâ [future] | **mámásâ** [present] | **mémásâ** [past]

10. **Mámásâ** **kung** **libru.**
reading ABS.1SG =LK book
I am reading a book.

Patient Focus:

kan ‘to eat’

kanan [future] | **kakanan** [present] | **péngan** [past]

11. **Kakanan** **ke** **ing** **manuk.**
eat.IMPF.PV= ERG.1SG+ABS.3SG DET.SPEC.SG chicken
I am eating the chicken.

básâ ‘to read’

básan [future] | **bábásan** [present] | **binásâ** [past]

12. **Bábásan** **ke** **ing** **libru.**
reading ERG.1SG(ku)+ABS.3SG(ya) DET.SPEC.SG book
I am reading the book.

Verb Conjugation

		FUTURE	PRESENT	PAST
kan 'to eat'	Agent Focus	mangan	mámangan	méngan
	Patient Focus	kanan	kakanan	péngan
básâ 'to read'	Agent Focus	mamásâ	mámásâ	mémásâ
	Patient Focus	básan	babásan	binásâ
dílû 'to bathe'	Agent Focus	mandílû	mándílû	méndílû
	Patient Focus	diluan	didiluan	dinílû
inum 'to drink'	Agent Focus	minum	míminum	mínum
	Patient Focus	inuman	ínuman	inum
pulayî 'to run'	Agent Focus	mamulayî	mámulayî	mémulayî
	Patient Focus	pulayan	pupulayan	pílayan

Nouns into Verbs

Like other Philippine languages, nouns can become verbs in Kapampáŋan.

Eng. (n.) text (SMS)

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Kapampangan | 13. | Tetext | nákung | Robert |
| | | [v]-['text'] | ERG.3SG+ABS.1SG=LK | Robert |
| | | | | Robert is texting me. |
| Tagalog | 14. | Tinetext | ako | ni |
| | | [v]-['text'] | ABS.1SG | PN.GEN.SG |
| | | | | Robert |
| | | | | Robert is texting me. |
| Cebuano | 15. | Gatext | sa | ákô |
| | | [v]-['text'] | DET | ABS.1SG |
| | | | | PN.ABS.SG |
| | | | | Robert |
| | | | | Robert is texting me. |

Eng. (n.) telephone | Kpm. **talépanu**

23. **Tátalépanu ya i Mike.**

AV[v]-[‘telephone’] ABS.3SG PN.ABS.SG Mike

Mike is using the telephone.

24. **Tátalépanu ya.**

AV[v]-[‘telephone’] ABS.3SG

He is using the telephone.

25. **Tatalépanuan neng Mike i Robert.**

PV[v]-[‘telephone’] ERG.3SG(na)+ABS.3SG(ya)=LK Mike PN.ABS.SG Robert

Mike is calling Robert (on the telephone).

26. **Tatalépanuan ne.**

PV[v]-[‘telephone’] ERG.3SG(na)+ABS.3SG(ya)

He is calling him (on the telephone).

Nouns into Verbs

NOUN	Focus	Future	Present	Past
talépanu ‘telephone’	Agent	tálepanu	tátalépanu	ménalépanu
	Patient	talépanuan	tatalépanuan	telépanuan
bulbul ‘fur; feather’	Agent	mamulbul	mámulbul	mémulbul
	Patient	bulbulan	bubulbulan	bilbúlan
taléte ‘small bridge’	Agent	manaléte	mánaléte	ménaléte
	Patient	taléten	tataléten	teléten
buntuk ‘head’	Agent	mamuntuk	mámuntuk	mémuntuk
	Patient	buntukan	bubuntukan	bintúkan
text ‘SMS’	Agent	mag-text	mág-text	mig-text
	Patient	text	tetext	tinext

33. **Lágû** **ya pa i Maria pótang méragul** **ne.**

AV[v]-[‘beautiful’] ABS.3SG still PN.ABS.SG Maria later=LK AV[v]-[‘big’] already(na)+ABS.3SG(ya)
 Maria will become more beautiful when she grows up.

Adjectives into Verbs

Adjective	Focus	Future	Present	Past
santing ‘handsome’	Agent	sumanting	sásanting	mésanting
	Patient	santingan	sasantingan	sintíngan
lagû ‘beautiful’	Agent	lágû	lálagû	mélagû
	Patient	ilagû	lalagû	légû
súra ‘ugly’	Agent	sumúra	súsura	mesúra
	Patient	súran	susúran	sinúra
dagul ‘big’	Agent	dágul	dáragul	méragul
	Patient	dagúl	daragúl	dégul
latî ‘small’	Agent	látî	lálátî	mélatî
	Patient	ilatî	lalatî	létî

Kapampangan has two words for ‘want’ ~ **Burî** and **Bísâ**

Foreigners who learned to speak Kapampangan always fail to differentiate these. Kapampangans themselves cannot explain why there are two ways of expressing want. Kitano Hiroaki (pers.comm., 2012) noticed that the two have different focus and therefore uses different pronouns, while Shiohara Asako (pers.comm., 2014) noticed that **burî** is transitive while **bísâ** is intransitive.

34. **Burî** **keng** **kanan** **ing manuk.**

want(PV) ERG.1SG(ku)+ABS.3SG(ya)=LK eat (patient focus) DET chicken
 I want to eat the chicken.

35. **Bísâ** **kung** **mángan manuk.**

want(AV) ABS.1SG(ku)=LK eat (agent focus) chicken
 I want to eat chicken.

Since Tagalog uses only the Spanish word *gusto* to express ‘want’, Kapampangan children who grew up speaking Tagalog now only uses the word **burî** when they speak Kapampangan, which is naturally ungrammatical.

Correct form:

36. **Bísâ** **kung** **mángan** **manuk.**
 want(AV) ABS.1SG(ku)=LK eat (agent focus) chicken
 I want to eat chicken.

Wrong form:

* 37. **Burî** **kung** **mángan** **manuk.**
 want(PV) ABS.1SG(ku)=LK eat (agent focus) chicken
 I want to eat chicken.

Double Marking in Kapampangan (Kitano, 2008):

Kapampangan	36. Mabié ya. alive ABS.3SG	
	37. Mabié ya i Mike. alive ABS.3SG PN.ABS.SG Mike	<i>double marking</i>
Tagalog	38. Buhay siya. alive ABS.3SG	
	39. Buhay si Mike. alive PN.ABS.SG Mike	
	* 40. Buhay siya si Mike. alive ABS.3SG PN.ABS.SG Mike	<i>not possible</i>
English	41. He is alive.	
	42. Mike is alive.	
	* 43. He Mike is alive.	<i>not possible</i>

Most Common Fused Pronoun Combination

Double Cross-Referent Pronouns (Del Corro, 1988), Fused Enclitics (Mithun, 1994),
Fused Pronouns (Kitano, 2008)

	+ [ABS.3SG] ya	+ [ABS.3PL] la
[ERG.1SG] ku	ke, kya	ko, kula
[ERG.2SG] mu	me, mya	mo, mula
[ERG.3SG] na	ne, nya	no, nala
[ERG.1DU.INC] ta	te, tya	to, tala
[ERG.1PL.INC] támu	táya	tála
[ERG. 1PL.EX] mi	mya, miya	mila
[ERG. 2PL] yu	ye, ya	yo, yula
[ERG. 3PL] da/ra	de/re, dya/rya	do/ro, dala/rala

More Fused Pronoun Combinations

	+ ABSOLUTIVE		
mu ERG.2SG	ku	1SG	muku
	ka	2SG	---
	ya	3SG	me
	kata	1DU	---
	katámu, támu, tá	1PL.EXCL	---
	kami, ke	1PL.INCL	mukami, muké
	kayu, ko	2PL	---
	la	3PL	mula, mo

More Fused Pronoun Combinations

na ERG.3SG	+ ABSOLUTE		
	ku	1SG	náku
	ka	2SG	naka
	ya	3SG	ne, nyá
	kata	1DU	nakata
	katámu, támu, tá	1PL.EXCL	nakatámu
	kami, ke	1PL.INCL	nakami, naké
	kayu, ko	2PL	nakayu, nako
	la	3PL	nala, no

More Fused Pronoun Combinations

da ERG.3PL	+ ABSOLUTE		
	ku	1SG	dáku
	ka	2SG	daka
	ya	3SG	de, dyá
	kata	1DU	dakata
	katámu, támu, tá	1PL.EXCL	dakatámu
	kami, ke	1PL.INCL	dakami, daké
	kayu, ko	2PL	dakayu, dako
	la	3PL	dala, do

More Fused Pronoun Combinations			
yu ERG.2PL	+ ABSOLUTIVE		
	ku	1SG	yuku
	ka	2SG	---
	ya	3SG	ye
	kata	1DU	---
	katámu, támu, tá	1PL.EXCL	---
	kami, ke	1PL.INCL	yukami, yuké
	kayu, ko	2PL	---
	la	3PL	yula, yo

Fusing Pronouns and adverbs is also another unique feature of the Kapampangan language. This phenomenon was noted by Mithun (1994) and a couple of examples were given by Kitano (2006).

46. **É** **ke** **péngan** **ing** **manuk.**
 NEG ERG.1SG(ku)+ABS.3SG(ya) ate DET.SPEC.SG chicken
 I did not eat the chicken.

47. **É** **ku** **néman** **péngan** **ing** **manuk.**
 NEG ERG.1SG already(na)=ABS.3SG(ya)=also(man) ate DET.SPEC.SG chicken
 I did not eat the chicken. (If you think I did)

48. **É** **ku** **némû** **péngan** **ing** **manuk.**
 NEG ERG.1SG already(na)=ABS.3SG(ya)=only(mû) ate DET.SPEC.SG chicken
 I just did not eat the chicken.

Inclusivity & Exclusivity in Kapampangan

How do you say “WE” in Kapampangan? (Kitano, 2008)

ERGATIVE	ABSOLUTIVE	
mi	kami, ke	1PL.EXCL

49. **Ibpâ** **mi**
 Father ERG.1PL.(exclusive)
 Our father (not yours)

ERGATIVE	ABSOLUTIVE	
támu, tá	katámu, támu, tá	[1PL.INCL]

50. **Ibpâ** **támu**
 Father ERG.1PL.(inclusive)
 Our father (yours too)

ERGATIVE	ABSOLUTIVE	
ta	kata	[1DU.INCL]

51. **Ibpâ** **ta**
 Father ERG.1DUAL(inclusive)
 Our father (You and I)

Inclusive and Exclusive in Adverb of Place

This unique feature of the Kapampáangan language also does not seem to appear in the studies made by del Corro, Mithun and Kitano.

Kapampangan Locative Adverbs

Prepared with the assistance of Umeda Ryo in May and in July 2014

kéni	'here' ~ proximal (exclusive)
kéti	'here' ~ proximal (inclusive)
kéyan, kén	'there' ~ mesiodistal (near addressee)
kéta	'there' ~ distal (far from both speaker and addressee)
karin	'there' ~ distal (remote and hardly visible/invisible)

keni (here [exclusive]) versus **keti** (here [inclusive])

56. **Makalukluk ku kényi.**
 sitting ABS.1SG here (exclusive)
 I am sitting here. (You are not.)

57. **Makalukluk kata kéti.**
 sitting ABS.1DU.INC here (inclusive)
 [You and I] are sitting here.

58. **Makalukluk tá kéti.**
 sitting ABS.1PL.INC here (inclusive)
 We (all of us) are sitting here.

Kapampáangan Demonstrative Identifiers

Diesel (1999) referred to the following as demonstrative identifiers. Prepared with the assistance of Umeda Ryo in July 2014.

PRESENTING	OFFERING	
áini	óini	'here' ~ proximal (exclusive)
áiti*	óiti*	'here' ~ proximal (inclusive)
áyan	óyan	'there' ~ mesiodistal (near addressee)
áita	óita	'there' ~ distal (far from both speaker and addressee)
áita karin	óita karin	'there' ~ distal (remote and hardly visible/invisible)

NB: In **áiti**, the object being presented is owned or shared by both speaker and addressee. If it is a person, it is someone related to both. In **óiti**, the speaker will also partake/take a share in the object being offered to the addressee.

Kapampáangan Demonstratives

Prepared through the assistance of Umeda Ryo in May 2014

Absolute		Ergative		Oblique		
ini	déni	níni	daréni	kaníni	karéni	Proximal (exclusive)
iti	déti	níti	daréti	kaníti	karéti	Proximal (inclusive)
yan	dén, déyan	nián	darén, darián	kanián	karén, karián	Mesiodistal
ita	déta	níta	daréta	kaníta	karéta	Distal (Visible)
ita karin	détang karin	nítang karin	darétang karin	kanítang karin	karétang karin	Distal (Beyond visibility)

Kapampáangan Determiners

Initially from Mithun (1999) and later modified by
Pangilinan & Kitano (2012)

		Absolutive	Ergative	Oblique
common nouns	SG	ing, =ng	ning	king
	PL	ding/ring deng/ reng	ring, reng	karing
personal names	SG	i	=ng	kang
	PL	di/ri	ri	kari

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