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# **Re-evaluating the position of Iraya among Philippine languages**

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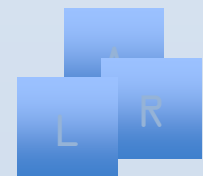
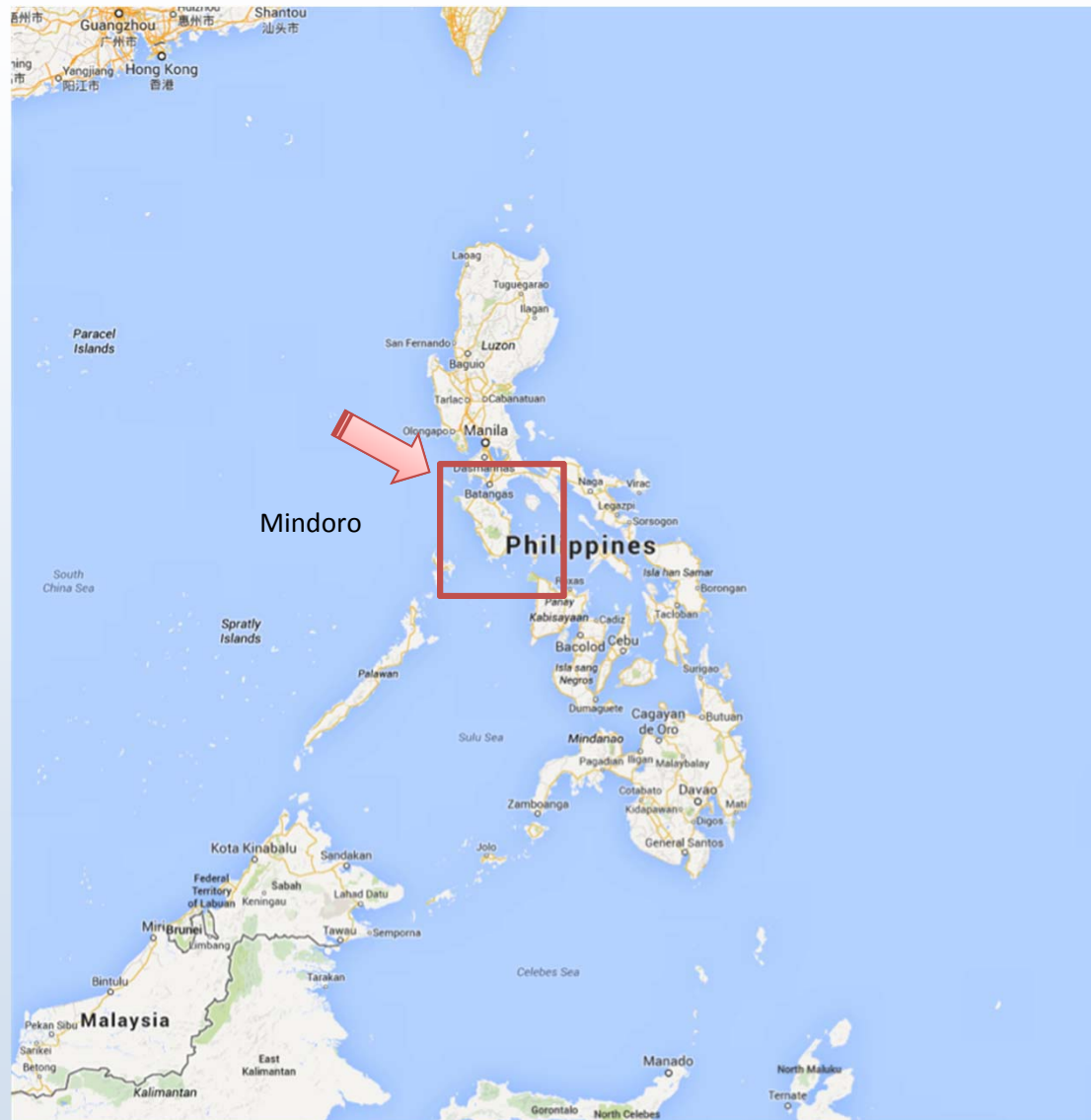


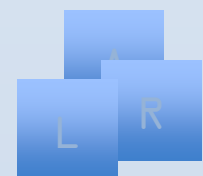
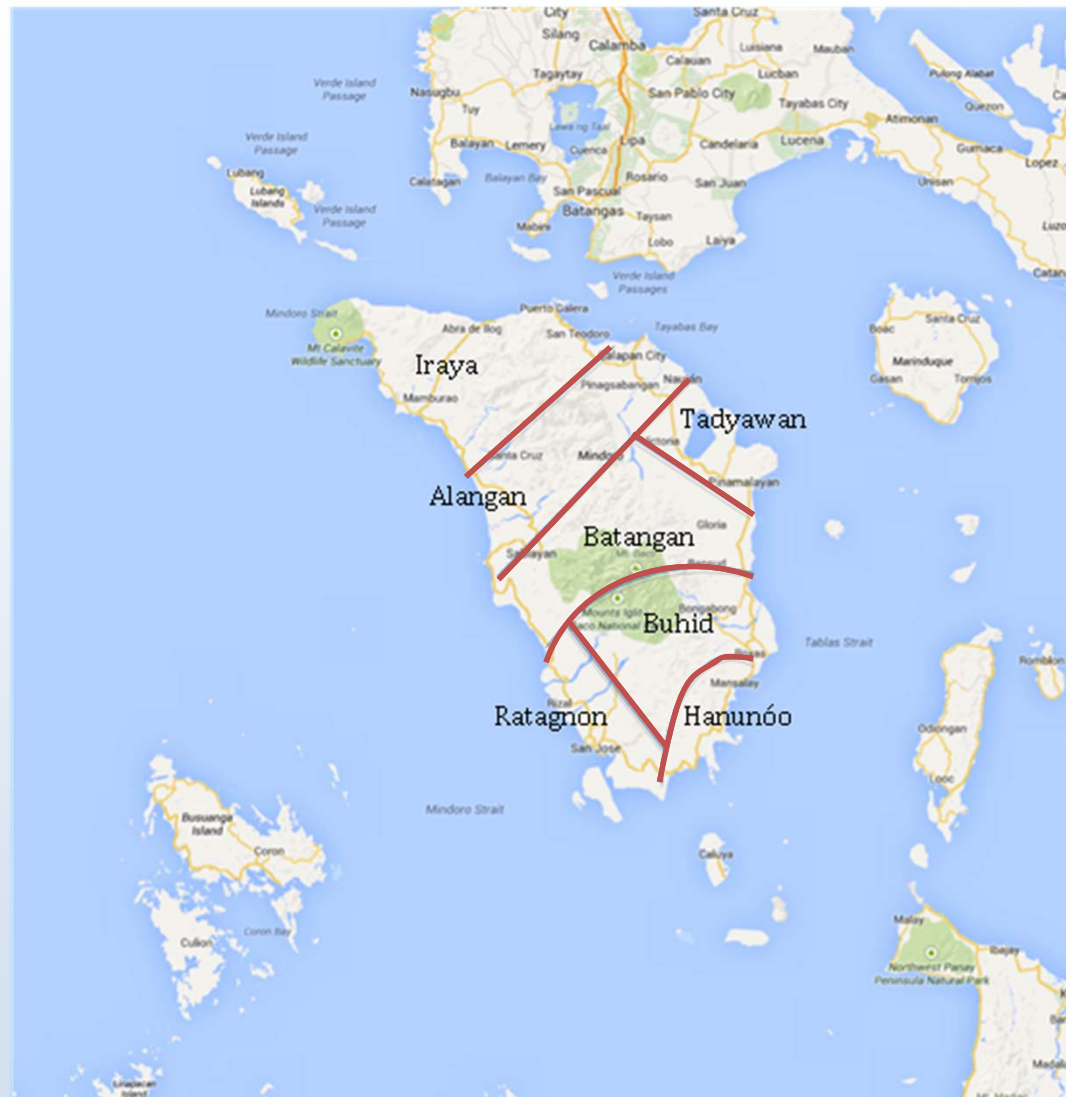
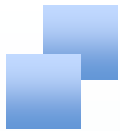
# Presentation Plan

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- Introduction
- About the Iraya language
- Position of the Northern Mindoro languages
- Contact diffusion into Iraya
- Conclusion









# Introduction (1)

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- Iraya is one of the more than 150 Malayo-Polynesian languages spoken in the Philippines.
- It is spoken by the older generation of some 5000 on the island of Mindoro, the 7<sup>th</sup> largest island in the Philippines.
- There are at least 7 languages spoken on the island, of which Iraya is the most northerly and is adjacent to the Batangas area of northern Luzon, where Tagalog is the main language.





# Introduction (2)

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- Iraya is distinctly different in a number of features from the other languages of Mindoro, and of the Philippines.
- These features include different pronominal forms and functions, several changes in the structure of noun phrases, changes in the patterns of verb structures, changes in word order, and other sentential features, not commonly found in other Philippine languages.



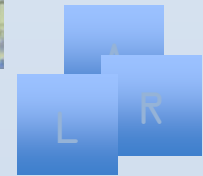


# Introduction (3)

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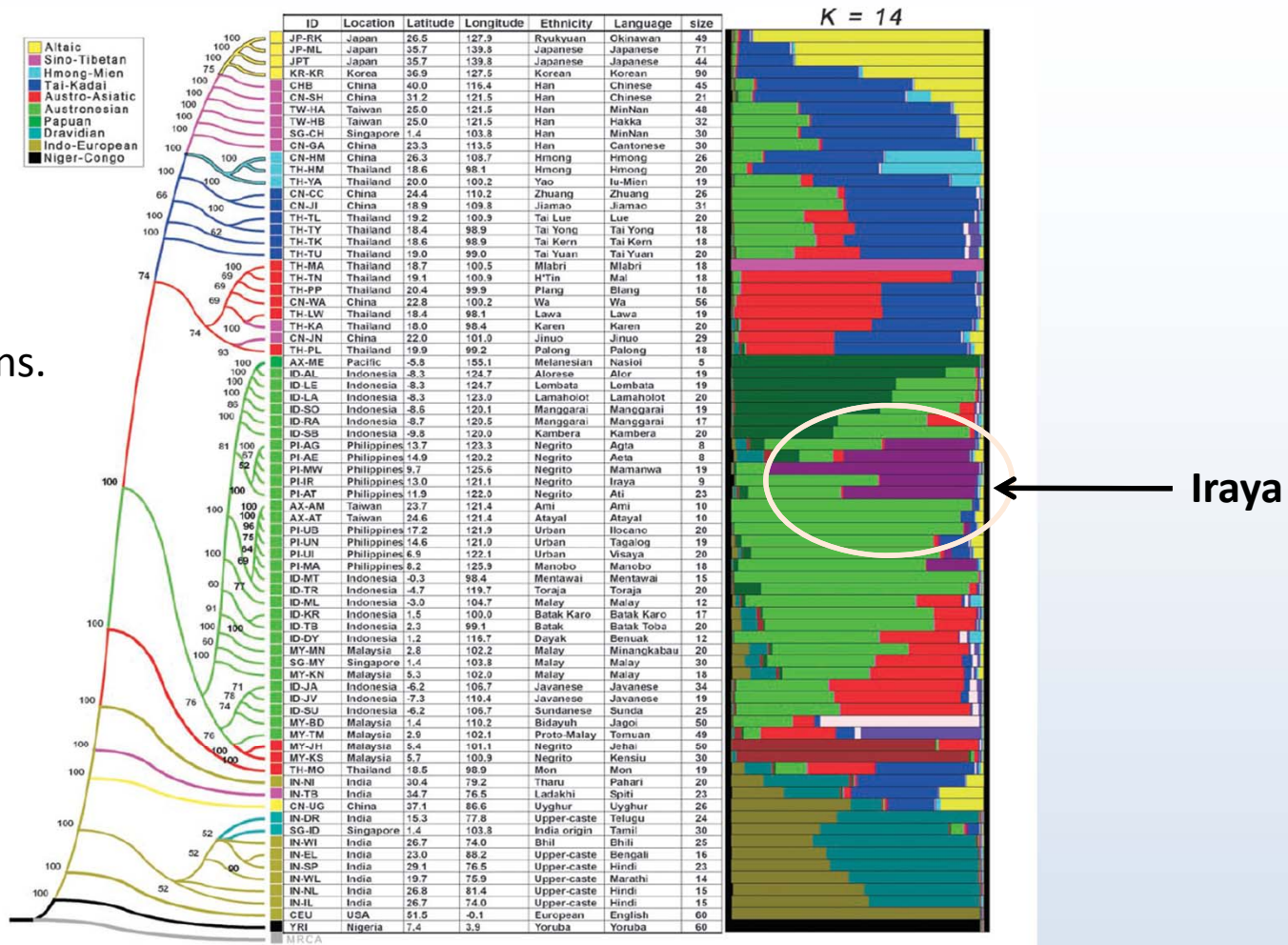
- The question being asked is to what extent these features are retentions, the result of innovations unique to Iraya, or are developments that are the result of contact diffusion.
- One factor that needs to be considered: Iraya people have phenotypical features that distinguish them from lowland Philippine peoples, primarily in that they typically have wavy to curly hair, a feature found to a more pronounced degree in Negrito populations of the Philippines, suggesting that these were also a Negrito group that has been heavily influenced by immigration of non-Negrito peoples.







Maximum likelihood tree of 75 populations. (HUGO 2009, Fig. 1)



**Fig. 1.** Maximum-likelihood tree of 75 populations. A hypothetical most-recent common ancestor (MRCA) composed of ancestral alleles as inferred from the genotypes of one gorilla and 21 chimpanzees was used to root the tree. Branches with bootstrap values less than 50% were condensed. Population identification numbers (IDs), sample collection locations with latitudes and longitudes, ethnicities, language spoken, and size of population samples are shown in the table adjacent to each branch in the tree. Linguistic groups are indicated with colors as shown in the legend. All

population IDs except the four HapMap samples are denoted by four characters. The first two letters indicate the country where the samples were collected or (in the case of Affymetrix) genotyped, according to the following convention: AX, Affymetrix; CN, China; ID, Indonesia; IN, India; JP, Japan; KR, Korea; MY, Malaysia; PI, the Philippines; SG, Singapore; TH, Thailand; and TW, Taiwan. The last two letters are unique IDs for the population. To the right of the table, an averaged graph of results from STRUCTURE is shown for  $K = 14$ .



# Introduction (4)

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- The general claim being made in this paper, is that the evidence suggests that like all surrounding areas of the Philippines, Mindoro was widely occupied by groups of Negrito people, before Austronesian-speaking people arrived.
- The first Austronesian speakers contacted by Negritos in Mindoro were those who spread south from the Central Luzon area, learning their language and eventually losing their original language. So that all of Mindoro was initially occupied by speakers of a language that carried the features of Central Luzon languages.
- Subsequently migrants from the Western Bisayas to the south-east and Palawan to the south-west intermarried with the local Negritos.





# Introduction (5)

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- Over several thousand years, in-migration has resulted in a forced retrenchment of Negritos to the most northerly mountainous areas of the island.
- While features of their original Austronesian language are still found in some of the southern group, the people and their languages are now classified as part of the Western Bisayan subgroup.
- Only the three languages in the north of the island are considered to be related to Central Luzon, and only Iraya people still appear to be phylogenetically distinct from other groups in the island (see Barbian 1977:iv).





# Introduction (6)

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- In-migration is still happening.
- In the north, Tagalog is currently the major language spoken around the coastal areas, with some communities in the northwest speaking Ilokano.
- In the southeast, the major lowland language is a north-Central Bisayan language spoken in Tablas to the east.
- Ratagnon in the south of the island is a dialect of Kuyan, a western Bisayan language spoken directly to the south in the Semirara group of islands.





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# About the Iraya language

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- Pronouns
- Noun phrase structure
- Verb phrase structure





IRAYA Personal Pronouns			
		Set 1 (Nom/Top/Prd)	Set 2 (Gen/Obl)
1	Singular	ʔaku	naʔay ~ nay
2	Singular	kawu	kumu ~ kum
3	Singular	ʔiya	kunin ~ kun
1 (excl.)	Dual	kidawa	
1 (incl.)	Dual	kita	
2	Dual	kandawa	
3	Dual	sidawa	
1 (excl.)	Plural	yamən ~ yam	
1 (incl.)	Plural	tamu	
2	Plural	kuyu	
3	Plural	kura	





# Pronouns

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- Features that distinguish Iraya pronouns:
  1. Loss of case distinctions in non-singular forms.
  2. Presence of dual pronouns for all non-singular forms, only one of which is inherited.
  3. The extension of earlier Set 2 forms for Set 1 functions in dual and plural forms.
  4. Unique Set 2 forms: in first person *nay*, and development of other forms with initial *ku-*.







# About the Iraya language

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- Pronouns
- **Noun phrase structure**
- Verb phrase structure





# Noun phrase structure

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- Features that distinguish Iraya noun phrases:
  1. Loss of distinction between marking of personal and non-personal noun phrases.
  2. Development of gender distinction for marking of personal names.
  3. Loss of subordinating ligature between head nouns and modifiers such as adjectival forms and relative clauses.
  4. Unique marking of noun phrases.
  5. Unique pluralizer for common noun phrases.





# About the Iraya language

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- Pronouns
- Noun phrase structure
- **Verb phrase structure**





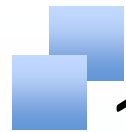
# Verb phrase structure

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Features that distinguish Iraya verb phrases:

1. Loss of subordinate clause marking for complement structures.
2. Erosion of transitive voice system.
3. Loss of prefixal reduplication.
4. Development of suffixal reduplication.
5. Complete restructuring of the TAM system.
6. Development of new word order with pronouns.





# 1. Loss of subordinate clause marking

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Ira. *Kawu kamatang ø ?amasangan?*  
NOM.2SG know sttv.swim

‘Do you know how to swim?’

Tag. *Marunong ka bang lumangoy?*  
know.how NOM.2SG INT=LIG swim

‘Do you know how to swim?’





## 4. Restructuring of the TAM system (1)

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- Philippine languages generally reflect the PMP infix \***<in>**, which marked completed action, forming a **completed–non-completed** system in PMP.
- Central Philippine languages have combined the infix with CV- reduplication to mark present imperfective actions, forming a **begun – non-begun** system
- Iraya retains it to mark completed actions, but uses it also for future forms with a preceding future auxiliary **batay** or **tay**, forming a **present – non-present** system.





## 4. Restructuring of the TAM system (3)

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**Iraya** (direct transitive constructions)

*Nay ʔinəmən ʔag sapaʔ ɲuna.*

GEN.1SG drink DFNT water now

‘I’m drinking the water now.’

*Nay ʔininəm ʔag sapaʔ ʔaray ʔumaga.*

GEN.1SG drank DFNT water before morning

‘I drank the water this morning.’

*Nay batay ʔininəm ʔag sapaʔ girabas.*

GEN.1SG FUT drank DFNT water tomorrow

‘I’ll drink the water tomorrow.’





## 5. Development of new word orders (1)

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- PMP was predicate (usually verb) initial, with actors generally preceding patients. Topicalized NPs could precede the initial Predicate. Genitive nouns and pronouns followed their nouns when possessive, and followed their verbs when actors.
- Iraya requires all pronouns to precede their heads, whether noun or verb. S, A and O pronominal arguments precede the verb.

<i>Kawu</i>	<i>nay</i>	<i>malyag.</i>	<i>Kawu</i>	<i>tuwa?</i>	<i>tumuŋka?</i>
NOM.2SG	GEN.1SG	like	NOM.2SG	here	sit
O	A	V	S		V
'I like you.'			'You sit here.'		





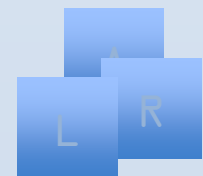
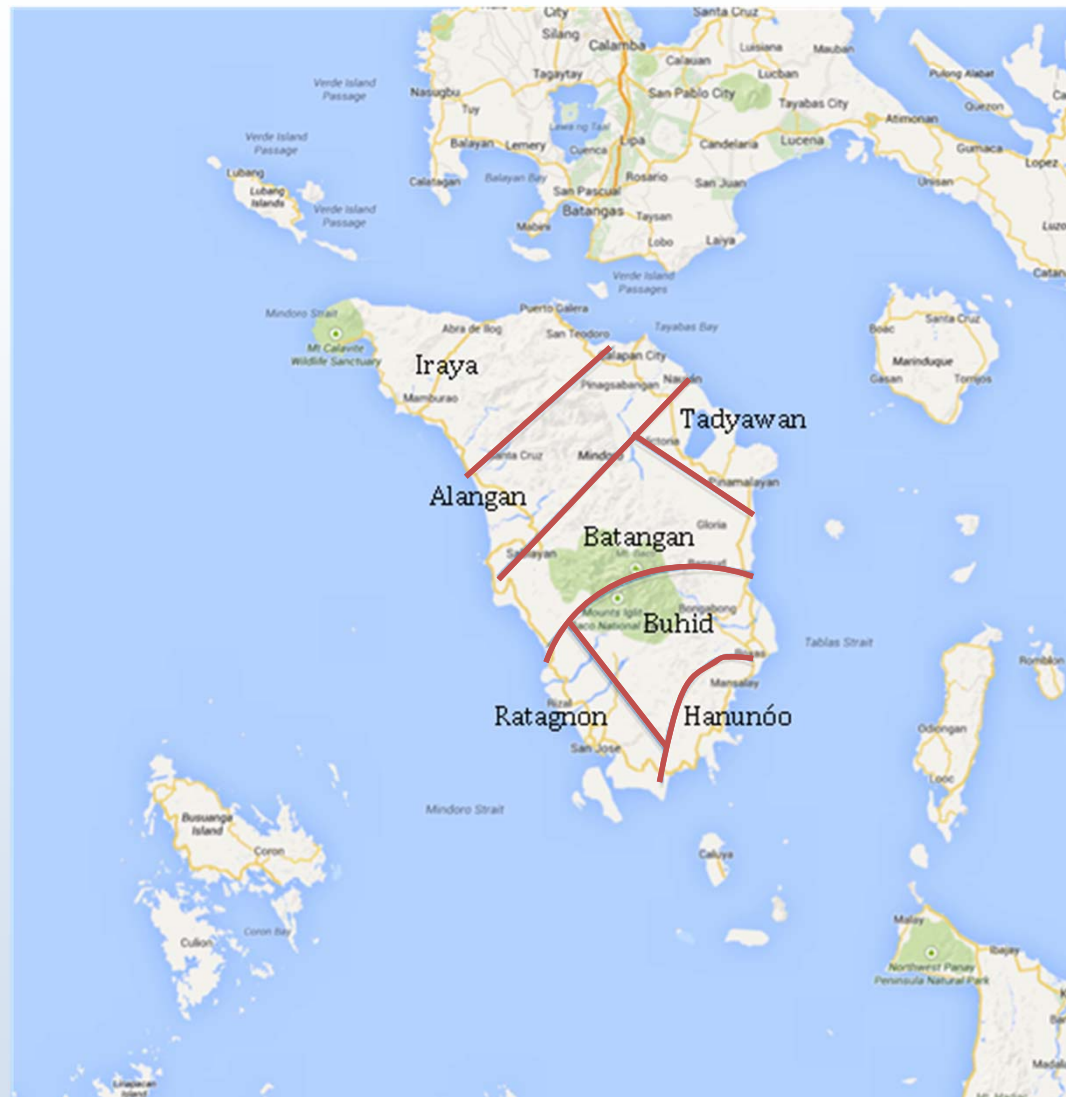
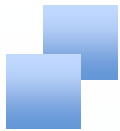


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# Position of N. Mindoro languages (1)

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- North Mindoro languages show PMP \*R > **y**, also like Central Luzon languages (Kapampangan, Sambalic, etc.) and Bashiic languages (Ivatan, Itbayat, Yami, etc.)

IRY *baya*; ALN, TDY *baya?* 'fire' (cf. PMP \*baRah 'embers'.)  
(also 'bite, earth, hear, G-string, lips, neck, new, satiated, tail, vein, blood, go, hold, meat', etc., Zorc 1974)

- South Mindoro languages show PMP \*R > **g**, also like all Central Philippine languages (Tagalog, Bikol, Bisayan languages, etc.)





## Position of N. Mindoro languages (2)

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- Two common deictic bases share innovations in meaning in North Mindoro and Central Luzon languages.

IRY, TDY, ALN *ta* 'remote deictic'; *ti* 'proximate deictic'

- Some pronominal forms in North Mindoro show innovations found in Sambalic Negrito languages of Central Luzon.





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# Contact diffusion into Iraya

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- Lexicon/Phonology
- Syntax





# Lexicon/Phonology

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- PMP \*R > **g** found sporadically in N. Mindoro languages ('coconut, lime, milled rice, NW wind, molar, root, etc.')
- PMP \*R > **l** found in some morphemes in N. Mindoro languages (from Kalamianen in the north of Palawan).

ALA **mal-**, IRA **mar-** 'reciprocal' (< PMP \*maR- 'reflexive' )

ALN **malsiyatang** 'hold one another'

IRA **marsitaway** 'fight one another'

IRA **tal-** 'relationship between two people' (< PMP \*taR-)

IRA **talyayaw** 'husband and wife' (But note: ALN **tay?ari?an**,

TDY **tay?ali?an** 'sibling' with \*R > **y** reflex.)





# Syntax (1)

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- North Mindoro languages use ***pag*** as a ‘determiner’ in noun phrases (ALN *ni pag N* for Agent phrases); Iraya has reduced it to ***ag***.
- This is assumed to be an innovation based on contact with a Central Philippine language, where ***pag-*** is a nominalizing prefix for verbs.

Aklanon ***pagkáon*** ‘food’, ***pag-abot*** ‘arrival’.







## Syntax (2)

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- All Mindoro languages use ***pag*** as a ligature for all modifying, i.e., dependent structures, clausal as well as phrasal. Iraya retains it only in deictic noun phrases as =***g***.

Irya *tiya=g ?iru?* ‘this dog’

- This is an innovation possibly based on contact with a Central Philippine language, where ***pag-*** occurs in some common dependent constructions.

Aklanon ***pag-****abot nána...* ‘when he arrived...’



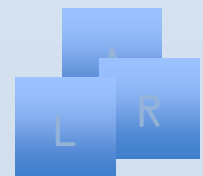


## Syntax (3)

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- Restructuring of the Iraya TAM system possibly indicates connections with Negrito languages in Bikol to the east.
- Alabat Agta, Manide, Rinconada Agta, Umiray Dumaget all have future forms which appear to have developed from a perfective form, either PMP **\*m<in>aR-** in actor voice (AV), or PMP **\*p<in>aR-** in non-actor voice (NAV).

	AV	NAV
AGT.AL	<i>nag-</i>	<i>pig-</i>
MND	<i>nig-</i>	<i>ig- / pig-</i>
AGT.RN	<i>mig-</i>	---
DGT.UM	<i>nV-</i>	---





# Conclusion (1)

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- The position of Iraya and other N. Mindoro languages when viewed from a genetic perspective is probably with the Central Luzon languages and ultimately with the Bashiic group, as proposed by Zorc (1974).
- ALN, TDY *batang*, IRY *?ibat* / *?ibatan* 'to come from' (Coincidental similarities to Bataan, and Ibataan/Ivatan?)
- PMP \*R > *y* is found sporadically in S. Mind. languages ('heavy, other-side, night, arm, rib, etc.'), suggesting that these are retentions as speakers of languages in Palawan moved in from the south, forcing the original inhabitants of the area into the north of the island.



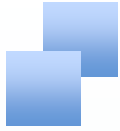


## Conclusion (2)

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- Hanunóo maintains a verbal system identical to Palawan languages.
- Hanunóo and Buhid use the traditional script, learned from in-migrants from Palawan.
- Other changes (such as the change in the aspectual system of verbs) are possibly the result of prehistoric contact between Iraya and other Negrito groups of the area.





The End





# References

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