

**A PRIMER AND  
VOCABULARY OF  
THE MORO  
DIALECT (MAGINDANAU)**

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A primer and Vocabulary of the Moro Dialect (magindanau) by R. S. Porter

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**R. S. PORTER**

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(MAGINDANAU)

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## INTRODUCTION.

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This little pamphlet is intended to be an elementary aid to the beginning of the study of the Moro dialect as spoken in the vicinity of Cotabato, Parang Parang, Malabang, and Baras, and with variations around the Lake of Lanao.

It will in time be found to be inaccurate in some minor particulars, but as it is the first thing of its kind in the English language no apology is offered.

The continental value of the vowels has been used in the spelling on account of the simplicity and its common sense. It also takes up so much less space than to use our antiquated method. For instance, the expression "Where are you going?" is simply written "Andau Ka Pagangay?" instead of "Ahndah-ookah pagangeye?" which would be the only way to express it so that no one could mistake it. Most of those who will want a book of this kind will be familiar with the Spanish language to some extent, and so will have no difficulty with the method.

After one has become somewhat familiar with the dialect I would recommend the purchase of the dictionary of Father Juan Martin, but not before, as its many inaccuracies will only serve to confuse the student and give entirely wrong impressions.



## A PRIMER OF THE MORO LANGUAGE.

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

One point which is of such prime importance that an ignorance of it would preclude any possibility of learning the language will be spoken of first. This is the almost universal use of the passive voice, which is carried to the extreme. The active voice is used only, or nearly so, in an intransitive sense, as per the following expressions: "I gave him a dollar."—"Iningay ku salkanin su isa pilak," the literal translation of which is "Was given by me to him the one dollar."

was given	=iningay
by me	=ku
to him	=salkanin
the one dollar	=su isa pilak

Thus the transitive sense is nearly always expressed by the passive voice. As an example of the active intransitive the following is given: "I am sleeping."—"Pud-tulug aku," or literally, "Sleeping am I;" or "I sleep"="Tumulug aku."

These examples are given very briefly here, and will be taken up more fully in another place.

### THE ARTICLE.

The articles are three in number, as follows:

Singular....	1 Su	=The
	2 Sa	=To the, or of the, or from the
	3 Kanu	=To the, or of the, or from the
Plural.....	1 Su mga	=To the
	2 Sa mga	=To the, or of the, or from the
	3 Kanu mga	=To the, or of the, or from the

The proper article is one prefixed to a Christian (?) (Moro) name, as the Moro always says "The John," or "To the John," instead of simply saying "John" or "To John."

1 Si	=The.
2 Kani	=To, of, or from the.

Instead of the second form, the word na or ni is sometimes used to express the genitive case, as "The house of John," Su ualay ni, John, or "The hair of the dog," "Su buk na asu." Used in this way it is



preferable. The name of God is by custom preceded by the common article *Su* or *Kanu*.

## EXAMPLES.

<i>Su kalimu na Alatala</i>	=The love of God.
<i>Andau su ban-gala ku?</i>	=Where is my coat?
<i>Inin-gay ku kani John</i>	=I gave it to John.
<i>Andau su mga (manga) sundaru?</i>	=Where are the soldiers?

## ACCENT.

*General rules.*—Words of two syllables, accent first; three syllables, accent second; four syllables, accent third.

## THE NOUN.

Many nouns are derived from other words—nouns, verbs, and adjectives. A few examples are given.

## FROM NOUNS.

From <i>Kalabaza</i> , squash	= <i>Kalabaza-an</i> , a place of squashes.
From <i>Niug</i> , coconut	= <i>Niug-an</i> , a place of coconuts.
From <i>Palau</i> , mountain	= <i>Palau-an</i> , a place of mountains.
From <i>Surat</i> , a letter	= <i>Pa-su-surat</i> , a clerk.
From <i>Tugus</i> , a net	= <i>Pa-tu-tugus</i> , a fisherman.

## FROM ADJECTIVES.

From <i>Ma-item</i> , black	= <i>Ka-item</i> , blackness.
From <i>Ma-pia</i> , good	= <i>Ka-pia</i> , goodness.
From <i>Ma-lat</i> , bad	= <i>Ka-lat</i> , badness.
From <i>Ma-rangit</i> , mad	= <i>Ka-rangit</i> , madness, anger.
From <i>Ma-puti</i> , white	= <i>Ka-puti</i> , whiteness.

## FROM VERBS.

From <i>Iug</i> , wish	= <i>K(a)-ing</i> , a wish.
From <i>Patay</i> , to be dead	= <i>Ka-patay</i> , death.
From <i>Tulug</i> , to sleep	= <i>Ka-tulug</i> , sleep.
From <i>Ulug</i> , to fall	= <i>Ka-ulug</i> , fall.
From <i>N-galabuk</i> , to work	= <i>Kan-galabuk</i> , work.
From <i>Kan</i> , to eat	= <i>Ka-kan</i> , meal.
From <i>Tau</i> , to know	= <i>Ka-tau</i> , knowledge.

Thus it will be seen that nouns are formed from nouns by suffixing the particle "an" to nouns to indicate "a place of," and the prefix "pa" with a repetition of the first syllable to indicate an employment; from verbs by prefixing the particle *Ka* (see also conjugations); from adjectives by prefixing the particle "Ka" to the root.

## ADJECTIVES.

Adjectives are almost always distinguished by their beginning with the particle "Ma;" as, for instance:

<i>Ma-tilak</i> = smooth.	<i>Ma-tansu</i> = clean.	<i>Ma-idu</i> = little.
<i>Ma-ugat</i> = heavy.	<i>Ma-singit</i> = stingy.	<i>Ma-sla</i> = big.

## VERBS.

On the following pages are given some examples of Moro verbs and their changes in the form of conjugations. A few general rules are given first.

## VARIOUS RULES.

1. The root is used frequently for the imperative.
2. The present participle is used for verbs in the transitive.
3. The participle "su" is used before the singular object of a transitive verb in the passive.
4. The participle "sa" is used before the singular object of transitive verbs in the active ("kanu" may also be used).
5. The active form of verbs is used when in an intransitive sense.
6. The singular pronouns "aku," "ka," and "sekanin" follow active forms of the verb.
7. The singular pronouns "ku," "nka," "nin" follow passive forms of the verb.
8. The present participle is formed by prefixing the participle "pa," "pe," "pim," "pid," "ped," and "peg," "pcn," "ping" to the root of the present.
9. The infinitive is always formed in the active when purely an infinitive.
10. An infinitive used as a verbal noun is formed by the particle "ka" or "kabpa-g" when in a past sense, "kina."
11. The passive is frequently formed by suffixing the particle "an" or "en" after the root; i. e., "lusudan," "embalen."
12. The active by "um," after the first consonant, "lusud-lumusud," "sulat sumulat."
13. The verb to love, in the active voice, can only be used to express love for a number of persons or anything except one particular person.
14. Following the principal form of the gerund, the combination of "ku-salka," or "ngka-salkanin," as "su kailay ku salka makapia su ginnau ku," "It makes my heart good to see you."
15. "Maka" and "naka" express the "power to do." "Makasulat aku," I can write; "nakasulat aku," I could write.
16. "Paca" or "paka" prefixed to imperative or root expresses an order: "Pa-kaan ka sa kuda," or "Order the horse to eat" or "Feed the horse." The past is "Pina-kambuat ku su manga tau," "I ordered the people to get up."
17. Gerunds usually in the passive.
18. "When" is followed by "i" instead of su in sentences like this: "When are you going?" Canu i kaganat ka? "When the go away you," or "The going away you," used as an abstract noun.

19. In reference to the particle "paka" or "pinaka" note these examples:

Pabetay aku nin=To strike ordered am I by him.  
Pinabetay aku nin=To strike ordered was I by him.

In the first case "pa" is used instead of "paka."

20. Ipabetay aku nin=Struck ordered am I by him.  
Inipabetay aku nin=Struck ordered was I by him.

In this case the action is reflexive and is a "double passive."

21. "I" prefixed to a root makes it mean "to do with" whatever it may be; as, for instance:

Igamut ku su gamut salka=I cure you with medicine.  
Iteped ku su patuk sa kayu=I cut with the hatchet the tree.

22. To love each other or to fight each other, etc., is expressed by the suffix "ay" as follows:

Pegcalinuay silan=They love each other.  
Pembunuay silan=They fight each other.

The suffix "ay" is always added to the present participle.

23. "Who" at the beginning of an interrogative sentence is followed by "i."

24. In questions in regard to the time of doing anything use the gerund. "When did you come down?" kanu i kinalusud ngka.

25. Note the following peculiarities:

Nakainum aku=I could drink.  
Di aku makainum=I can not drink.  
Da aku makainum kagay=I could not drink yesterday.

26. All verbs forming the present with the prefix "ed," as edsagayan aku, form the past with "mid," as midsagayan aku.

27. The same with "ub" present, or with "mib" or "pib" for the past.

#### PROVISIONAL CONJUGATION.

1. English equivalent.	<i>To carry.</i>	<i>Carry.</i>
2. Moro root.	<i>Auid.</i>	<i>Carry.</i>
3. Imperative, simple.	<i>Auid.</i>	<i>Carry.</i>
4. Imperative, continuous.	<i>Pang-auid.</i>	<i>Keep on carrying.</i>
5. Imperative, present participle.	<i>Pug-auid.</i>	<i>Carrying.</i>
6. Imperative, past participle.	<i>Na-auid.</i>	<i>Carried.</i>
7. Imperative, present.	<i>Ma-auid.</i>	<i>Carry—carries.</i>
8. Active voice, past.	<i>Mina-auid.</i>	<i>Carried.</i>
9. Active voice, future.	<i>Ma-auid-bu.</i>	<i>Will carry.</i>
10. Active voice, present ability.	<i>Maka-auid.</i>	<i>Can carry.</i>
11. Active voice, past ability.	<i>Naka-auid.</i>	<i>Could carry.</i>
12. Active voice, present participle.	<i>Pug-auid-an.</i>	<i>Being carried.</i>