

Chapter 9

Nominalizing Affixes: affixes that form nouns and adjectives

Nominalizing affixes are comprised of the same affixing syllables as the verbal affixes¹ and do the same thing, that is, they form words from other words through the process of derivation, so besides changing the word's meaning, they often change the word's lexical category, for example using a verb root to create an adjective. This is the opposite of a verbal affix which can use an adjective root to make a verb.

There are many different patterns of nominalization, some more common than others, and all dependent on the particular habits of a certain root—much the same as a verbal affix but—because nominalizing affixes are more primitive and thus more idiomatic—it seems a bit more unpredictable what will be used where and what the resulting meaning will be. That is the nature of derivation and one solution is to read a lot, using the dictionary to identify the root and affix used when you encounter derived words, adjectives, nouns and verbs alike. Another solution is to group the affixes in sets, the same as we do with verbal affixes. This will help make sense of them instead of just carrying a menagerie of random syllables in your memory which you have to memorize, as if there were no useful patterns you could memorize instead.

There are useful patterns and the good news is that many of them work closely with the verbal affix sets, so that if we wanted to we could put them all on the same chart, “verbal and nominal derivation affixes”. This could be done for those who like big charts but a chart bigger than a page is a little hard to deal with so that chart can be pursued by those who are interested in it. In some places the chart in this chapter relates to certain of the verbal affixes but it is restricted to non-verbal applications only.

In this study we will use the term PARTICIPLE to refer to nominalizing affixes that have the same or analogous meaning as when they are used as verbal affixes. For example, *-in-* relates to the verbal affix *gi-* and forms participles with a similar meaning, and *-ón* and its variants forms participles related to the verbal affix *-on*. Participles, like verbs, thus express Mode: whether the event has been begun or not. Or in reference to the several Agent affixes (like *-er* in “farmer”), they have the Irrealis form because they are saying something that's always true (habitual aspect). Because of this they shouldn't be thought of as just ordinary nouns or adjectives, but as verbal words being used as nouns or adjectives. In the sense that certain nominalizing affixes relate to corresponding verbal affix sets, on the chart you will see obvious correspondences also to Semantic Roles such as Agent, Patient, Placon, and Instrument.

For example, consider the verbal root *labá* “do the laundry”. There is a Realis participle *linabhan* “laundry washed” which functions as a noun. The nominalizing affix *-in-...-an* is a variant of *-in-*. We have another participle that could be straight out of the *-ON* verbal affix set except this *-ón* shifts stress to the final syllable of the derived word and it's used like a noun, not a verb. It's an Irrealis participle like the verbal affix *-on*; while *-in-* (the Realis participle) forms a participle that has

¹ In the development of languages from the primitive ancestors of modern languages, affixation to change meaning and category of words came to be used with nouns before it came to be used with verbs. That is why the same syllables used to affix verbs are used to affix nouns: nouns used them earlier.

already been acted on, the variant *-onón* forms *labhonón* “laundry to be washed”. Another participle is formed by *-anán* which is a variant of *-án*: *labhanán* “place where laundry is washed”.

On the other hand, some nominalizing affixes have no semantic or other apparent correspondence to the verbal affixes they resemble; they just form, for example, adjectives from verbal roots, noun roots, or from other adjectives. These will just be called “adjectives” or “derived adjectives”, not participles. We will use the term “participle” for words whose derived meaning could be predicted from the verbal affix set that the nominalizing affix looks like. So a participle is really a somewhat verblike noun or adjective, as in the English verb “engaged” which changes from verb to participle depending on which auxiliary verb or particle is used with it:

- Verb: We got engaged.
- Participle (verbal adjective): We are engaged.

This doesn’t make the assumption that Cebuano participles are exactly like English or German or any other participles. But we do have to define “participle” a little bit better, and to do that we have to compare it to a gerund. A GERUND is a verb root affixed to be used as a non-verb within the sentence structure as a whole. That part is the same as a participle. The difference is that a gerund still has the verbal trait of selecting participants; it still forms—or can form—a local verb clause within the sentence as a whole, while in terms of the sentence context it is only a noun or adjective. Participles are isolated nominals, they don’t have subjects, objects, or secondary subjects. Cebuano gerunds are formed by the affix *pag-* which is part of the MAG- verbal affix set. Participles, on the other hand, are formed by the affixes treated in this chapter.

- *Sa pag-abót nila sa Davao, nagkità silá og mamumugás pero molakaway na.* Upon their arrival in Davao, they met a rice husker but he was already about to leave. pj

Just remember that the participle affixes correspond to the verbal affix sets and the Realis/Irrealis modes; the other nominalizers don’t. In this example we have one verb (*nagkità*), one gerund, and two participles. All are closely related to verbal affix sets.

- *pag-abót* is a gerund. It is formed from *abót* arrive; it is a noun that means “arrival, arriving”. If it were marked *ang pag-abót* it would be subject of the sentence and would mean “the arrival”. It has its own verbal clause with a possessive adjective *nila* “their” (sub2) as its doer, and a place—since it’s a motion verb—as its oblique, *sa Davao*.
- *mamumugás* is a participle, “one who husks grain” so it functions like a noun but not like a verb since it’s not a gerund. It is Irrealis because it expresses habitual aspect with *m-* of the N-/M-/P-alternation. (There are no *n-* or *p-* forms with these kinds of affixes.) The affix is related to the MANG- verbal affix set and is denoted: *mang-CV-*. It is composed of these elements:
 - *bugás* “rice or corn”
 - *mang-* which changes *bugás* to **mamugás*
 - CV means “reduplication of initial consonant and vowel of the root” so **mamugás* now becomes *mamumugás*. What you have to remember about this reduplication combined with assimilation of consonants by *-ng-* is that the root changes twice at the same time; it is the changed form of the root that repeats its first two letters, as if the process were like this:
 - The root sees the *mang-* coming and changes its initial consonant if required by assimilating it with the *-ng-* of *mang-*. (*mang-* + *bugás* = *ma-* + *-mugás*)

- The changed root reduplicates its initial consonant and vowel. (*ma-* + *-mugás* + *CV* = *ma-* + *-mumugás*)
- The remaining *ma-* of *mang-* then joins to the completely altered root. (*ma-* + *-mumugás* = *mamumugás*)
 - If the initial letter is a vowel, only the vowel reduplicates; see *abót* > *umaabot* below with a similar but different affix.
- *molakaway* is a participle “about to leave”, called a participle because it reflects the verbal affix set MO-, in its inceptive “start to do” aspect and its Irrealis mode. It acts like an adjective in the sentence and cannot select verbal participants since it isn’t a gerund. It is formed from *lakáw* “walk, leave” and the Agent affix *mo-...-ay* (<) which is not in the dictionary. This affix is a variant² of the more common CV-*um-* which would make a participle *lumalakaw* with the same meaning. The derivation process is this:
 - *lakáw* reduplicates its first consonant and vowel to derive **lalakáw*
 - *-um-* is infix to derive **lumalakáw*
 - Stress shifts < to derive the final form *lumalakaw* “about to leave”.
 - According to the dictionary, the affix *tali-* (<) means the same thing: *talilakaw* “about to leave”.
 - If there is an initial vowel instead of consonant, only the vowel reduplicates: *abót* becomes *umaabot* “about to arrive”.

SUMMARY: Not all the nominalizers in the chart below have functions that are closely related to the verbal affixes they resemble, so you can just call them “derived nouns” and “derived adjectives” or just “nouns and adjectives” for short. And derived adjectives, like all adjectives, are the least likely of all nominalizations to carry any time sense, except in the inceptive modalities we just dealt with that mean “about to X”; such adjectives are still part verbs (participles).

SEPARATE participles from derived nouns/adj.

affix set	realis	irrealis.
(PAG)KA-	(pag)ka- REMARKABILITY (exclamation over a state) kubalon, calloused > kakubalon, how calloused!	
KA- KA-...-AN KA-...-ANAN	ka- INCHOATION (coming to be of a state; formed from verb or adjective) lipay “happy” > kalipay “happiness” pulós (v) be useful > kapuslanan, usefulness libot > kalibotan, place that turns langgam, > kalanggaman, the bird kingdom	
MA- MA-...-ON MA-...-ANON	ma- (makes a state explicit, no change in meaning; formal, literary, or old-fashioned)	ma-...on, etc. forms adjective uswag (v) go up > mauswagon, progressive lipay (a) happy > malipayon, happy

² My informant lives near Davao but has Ilonggo parents. She has never heard *lumalakaw* which IS in the dictionary. The infix *-um-* is also used in Tagalog in the same way as the Cebuano verbal affix *mo-*. It is a very old affix, obsolete in its verbal function as the Surrealis mode of MO- in Cebuano: *Lumakát na ka*. “Just leave now.” That’s what my “amigos” in the barangay say when I say goodbye, but using the modern version: *Lakáw na*. “Get lost!” Since it has yet to be determined whether this is meant as an insult, I would hold off using this expression on your amigos.

MA-IN-...-ON PAHING-...-ON	tahóm, matahóm, beautiful humót, mahumót, good-smelling	pulós (v) be useful > mapuslanon, useful tabang (v) help > matinabangon, helpful tamay (v) look down on > matamayon, contemptuous > matinamayon, contemptuously hinungdan (n) > mahinungdanon, important
CV-UM- (><) TALI- (<) MO-...-AY wfII149 wfII230		CV-um->or< AGENT or INCEPTION labáy > lumalabay, passerby lakáw, “leave, walk”, lumalakaw, talilakaw, molakaway, about to leave
MANG-		CV-mang- AGENT bugás > mamamugás, one who husks grain
PANING-	forms verbs or nouns from other verbs or nouns; used with a few roots only; (probably a variation of pang- used when pang- isn’t available) baláy, panimaláy, household	
MAG-		mag-CV-, mag-VI- AGENT sulát > magsusulat, writer yutà > magyuyutâ, landowner or farmer umá > mag-uuma, farmer buhat > magbuluhat, maker bantay > magbalantay, watcher
MAKA- MAKA-CV- (<)	maka- added to numerals or quantity words to form adjectives meaning “how many times” duhá > makaduhá, twice pilá > makapilá, how many times? daghan > makadaghan, many times	maka-CV- (<) forms adjectives referring to emotive causation subô > makasubò, saddening lagót > makalalagot, angering luoy > makaluluoy, pitiful
MAG- (<) MANAG- (<) IG-		forms nouns that can also be used as adjectives referring to mutual social roles magsuon, managsuon, siblings of each other igsuon, brother or sister
MAKIG-		
-AN	-an forms adjective from nouns and other adjectives meaning “having attribute X” or “having thing X as an attribute” adúna > adunahan, wealthy kwarta > kwartahan, moneyed	
-IN-	-in- forms adjective of manner from noun semento > sinemento, “made from cement” semana > sinemana, “weekly”	
-ON	-on forms adjective from noun	

	meaning “wearing X” bungot, beard > bungoton, bearded kubal, callous > kubalon, calloused	
-ÓN -ONÓN -VI-...-ON -IN-	-in- PATIENT labá > linabhan, laundry already washed kasingkasing > kinasingasing, heartfelt tagád > tinagád, well-treated laláng, > linaláng, creature	-onón PATIENT labá > labhonón, laundry to be washed kasál > kaslonón, kalaslon, one to be married palalitón, things to be bought kakan-on, things to be eaten sulugoón, one who takes orders
KA- KA-...-ÓN wfII229	ka- imperative with experiencer and other non-volitional verbs? katulog, go to sleep	ka-...-ón EXPERIENCER about to urgently do a physical process katulogón, katulgon, ready to sleep now adlaw, kaadlawón, sunrise buntag, kabuntagón, dawn
-AN -ANAN -IN-...-AN	-in-...-an PLACON gikan > ginikanan, whence one has come (parents) taga > tinagaan, one to whom is given inubananán, with the accompaniment	-anán PLACON labá > labhanán, laundry washing place tanóm > tamnanan, plantation
KA-...-AN		ka-...-an EMOTIVE CAUSER hibulong “wonderment” > kahibulongan “surprising, causing wonder”
IG- INIG-	(sa) pag-, at the time of (realis)	ig-, inig-, at the time of (irrealis)
I-	-in- INSTRUMENT	

Giarolán ang *binilanggong patyonón*. The condemned prisoner got his head shaved. wf
bilanggò, imprison > binilanggò, imprisoned one
patáy, kill > patyonón, one who will be killed

Kanunay siláng nagpasalamat sa Ginoo níning *kahibulongang* hitabò. bwkt32
hibulong, wonderment > kahibulongan, surprising, causing wonderment

Ang íyang mgá *ginikanan* nakahilak sa *kalipay* sa pagkakità kaníya nga tibuók na. bwkt31
lipay, happy > kalipay, happiness
gikan, from > ginikanan, parents, “they from whom one has come”

Apán diháng *mauswagon* na mo, ínyo siláng hikalimtan sa hingpit. bwkt28
uswag, go up in place or status > mauswagon, progressive, advanced

Walâ man gud ko’y *kapuslanan* ning ákong *kahimtang* karón.” There is no benefit to me being in this
current situation of mine. bwkt18

pusól, (v) be of use > kapuslanan, usefulness, > mapuslanon, useful
butáng, thing > himtang, be situated > ka-, situation

“*Kinasingkasing* ang ímong tinguhà, Dong, apán maayo tingaling mopahulay ka unà dinhi sa ilalom sa kahoy. “Hearfelt is what you hold as your passionate goal, Dong, but maybe it would be better if you relax a while here under the tree. bwkt19

Katulog lang kon *katulgon* ka.” Just sleep if you’re sleepy. bwkt20

Unyà sa ngilit sa usá ka dakóng lasáng, nahibalag ni Kapuroy ang usá ka *bungoton* nga tigulang nga naglingkod sa ilalom sa dakóng kahoy. Then at the edge of a certain big forest, Kapuroy happened to meet a certain bearded old man sitting under a big tree. bwkt15

Silá pod may susamang tugon alang sa Ginoo, kay silá natingala nganong midiyotay man ang ílang kità nga untà ang ílang *tamnanan* mas dakô na man. They also had a similar message for the Lord, for they wondered why the heck their profit got smaller when their plantation grew bigger. bwkt14

Mipadayon pagligidligid si Kapuroy ug nasugatan níya ang manunukduk og gapas ug ang mamumugás og maís. Kapuroy continued to roll around and he came upon the pounder of cotton and the husker of corn. bwkt13

Nalabyán níya ang usá ka manananggot. He happened upon a certain gatherer of *tubâ*. bwkt6

Ang mgá kamót nga *matinabangon* maó’y labíng matahóm sa kalibotan. The helping hands are the most beautiful hands in the world. akkk20

Si Luz mipahiyom nga *matinamayon*, ug miingón: “Kaitóm ug *kakubalon* ba diáy sa ímong mgá kamót! Luz smiled contemptuously, and said, “My my, how black and calloused are your hands! akkk6

Dihâ ‘to’y duhá ka *managsuong* (>suon) Kalabáw, si Huli ug si Petsi. There were at that time two water buffalo siblings, Julie and Peachy. amk1

Gipanag-íya silá sa usá ka *mag-uuma* (>umá) kansang bugtong anák nga dalaga *kaslonón* sa usá ka tawong *adunahan*. amk3

Kitá’y nagtrabaho’g mabug-at níning *panimalayá* (>baláy), unyà *tinagaan* (>hatag) lang ta’g balili ug maís. amk5

Ngano kahâ nga mas *tinagád* man siyá’g maayo kay kanatò?” amk7

Sa unang panahón kunó, ang sunóy usá untà ka sundalo, nga *sulugoón* (>sugô) sa Diós sa Gubat. nmas2

Usá ka gabii, gimandoan siyá sa pagkatulog og sayó kay ang Diós may *mahinungdanon* (>tungód) nga panaw *inigkabuntag*. nmas3

Ngano man tuod nga inigka-*kaadlawon*, kanunay man gyud nga motuktugaok ang sunóy? nmas1

Tungód níni, íyang gihimò ang sundalo nga usá ka mananáp nga ang *buluhaton* (>buhat) maó da gayód ang pagtuktugaok sa sayóng *kabuntagon* arón pagpukaw sa *kalibotan*. nmas7

Usá ka hapon, ang Haring Gangis *malipayong* nagtihól diháng nahilabáy ang Haring Lion. hgh11

...nga nagkanayón nga siyá ang labíng kusgan nga *linalang* sa tibuók kalibotan... hgh13c

Ang kalanggaman ug mga pak-an mipauli na karón sa íla ug nanagsaulog, *inubanán* sa huni sa mga lamók ug bakukáng. hgh16

Ang Haring Lion misaad nga ang tanáng pak-an ug *kalanggaman* makapanag-íya sa mga tanóm ug *mahumót* nga bulak sa yutà, samtang ang íyang mga sakop matagbaw na lang sa mga sagbot. hgh15

Tinuod hinuon nga walá'y bilí ang duhá ka gawáy kon itandi sa usá ka kinabuhì. apuak15