The Value of Good Conversation

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Balance in Documentation

Targeted Elicitation
Useful for paradigmatic information
clarification of forms, etc.

Connected Speech
Monologue in various genres
Conversation in various genres
The Beauty of Monologue

Much already available
digitized, searchable

Cleaner audio
better for acoustic analysis

Rich source of some information
Speakers can plan, perform uninterrupted.
Often elaborate discourse organization
The Importance of Conversation

Richer in some constructions
  certain sentence types, fragments, particles, etc.

Prosody
  more varied and elaborate

Reference
  more situated in extralinguistic context and interaction

The interactive dimension
The Importance of Conversation

For understanding language in general

This is normal speech.
Better indicator of relative frequencies
Where change happens, etc.

For Revitalization
what heritage speakers can use
what speakers say in context
Step I: Valuing Conversation

Heightening Appreciation
working through recordings with speakers
pointing out what is special
Step II: Setting the Scene
Some Models

Speakers set up conversations,
explaining their value.

Speakers set up conversations,
explaining their value,
and record.

Speakers set up conversations,
explaining their value,
and record, transcribe, and translate.
Hiligaynon = Ilonggo
Austronesian, Philippines
Philippine languages

Hiligaynon = Ilonggo
Hiligaynon Monologue
Joshua de Leon, speaker p.c.

Duhá ámon nánay.
‘We had two mothers.

Ang úna nga nánay,
As for the first mother,

bali . . stepmom ko.
she was sort of my stepmom.

Tápos ang tátay ko,
Then my father,

nag-asáwa liwát.
he married again.’
Hiligaynon Conversation
Tim, Toto, Joshua, Starlene, Julius

Amhon tana’ nga may tawgi guro. Naka balik na si Elmo?
May-- guina-- ##ya.

Balik sa?
Di’ín na ang, mag asáwa ya?
Diri sa USA.

Ma ano ta?
Nga’a di’in subong si Elmo haw?
Pilipinas
Hiligaynon Conversation
Tim, Toto, Joshua, Starlene, Julius

Maybe we’ll make it with sprouts. Is Elmo returning?
There-- was-- ##it.

Returning where?
Where is, the couple?
Here, to the USA.

What are we going to do? (to someone else on the telephone)
Where is Elmo now?
The Philippines.
1. Basic Sentence Types
One hour of speech

Monologue

Declaratives 100%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Monologue</th>
<th>Conversation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declaratives</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interrogatives</td>
<td></td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperatives</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohortatives</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragments</td>
<td></td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Basic Declarative
Predicate-Initial

*Naga* hulát pa si Julius sang anó.

IPV.INTR wait still ABS OBL what

‘Julius is still waiting for something.’
Yes/No Question with Answer

May dalá’ ka haból?
exist carry 2SG.ABS blanket
‘Did you bring a blanket?’

Walá’.
‘No.’
Yes/No Question with Answer

*Damo’dámo’ kami nga dá’an maká’on di?*
many.RDP 1PL.INCL.LK might IRR-eat here
‘Will there be a lot of us eating here?’

*Duhá lang kamí.*
two just 1PL.INCL.ABS
‘Just the two of us.’
Content Question with Answer
Who?

*Sin’ó mabakál?*
who IRR-buy
‘Who’s going to buy it’?

*Sí Títa.*
ABS.PR
‘Auntie.’
Content Question with Answer

What?

Anó tawág siná’?
what call that.near.you.OBL ‘What do you call that?’

I butangán balá sang anó.
‘What you put something on.’
Content Question with Answer

Where?

Ang kaság di’ín ta butáng?
the crab where we put
‘Where are we going to put the crabs?’

Dirí lang hu sampáw lang sang pinggán hu kag i-,
here just there on.top.of just OBL plate there and
‘Put them there on top of the stacked plates and,

para kwan gid na’ hu.
so.that whatchamacallit really that there
so that they’ll look good.’
Content Question with Answer

How many?

Pilá na edád mo Nay?
how many now age 2SG.POSS mother

‘How old are you now Mom?’

Silíng ko, Buisít, indí’ ka mamankót.
said 1SG.ERG darn NEG.IRR 2SG.ABS ask

‘I said, ‘Darn! Don’t ask me that!’"
Imperative

Yuz abré ka na Stella mo Yuz.
open 2SG.ABS now 2SG.POSS
‘Yuz open your Stella now Yuz.’

[Laughter]
Cohortative

Hináyan ta lang ní.
lower 1PL.EXCL just this
‘Let’s turn this down.’

Hú’o.
‘Yes.’
Fragments
Much more abundant in conversation

Sang sísig.
‘Pig face.’

Isá ka bilók gid.
‘Just one space.’

Kay ang, idó’,
‘For the dog.’

Daw príto.
‘Like fried.’

Sang báso.
‘The glass.’

Ang páncit mólo.
‘The wonton soup.’
Fragments
Much more abundant in conversation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tagalog</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lúmpya’</td>
<td>‘The egg rolls’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naga príto.</td>
<td>‘Frying.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bálik sa?</td>
<td>‘Return to?’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Báta’ pa a.</td>
<td>‘Still young.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirá’ lang.</td>
<td>‘Just there near you’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ang alimángo.</td>
<td>‘The crab.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inasál nga manók!</td>
<td>‘Barbecued chicken!’</td>
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<td>Báw!</td>
<td>‘Wow!’</td>
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So is conversation just grammatically sloppy?

Consider the context.
Answer to Question

Ínit sang anó?
warm OBL what
‘Warm up what?’

Sang sísig.
OBL pig.face.dish
‘The pig face.’
Answer to Question, Ellipsis

A. *Gusto nilá aga pa ko pulí’ bwas mo.*
   ‘They want me to come home early tomorrow.’

B. *Ngá’a haw?*
   ‘Why?’

A. *Kay ang, idó’!*
   ‘For the dog!’
Ang empanáda sa áton ya príto na, indí’ balá?
‘Our empanada is fried, isn’t it?’

Daw príto.
‘Like fried.’
Elaboration

Naga aso’asó na ang kwán.

IPV.INTR steam.RDP already ABS stuff

‘The stuff is already steaming.

Ang páncit mólo.

ABS wonton.soup

The wonton soup.’
Elaboration across Turns

A.  *Tápos, ári ang kwan hu.*
then here’s ABS stuff look
‘And now, here’s the whatchamacallit.’

B.  *Lúmpya*.  
‘Egg rolls.’
Ellipsis across Turns

A. Ári ga práto na si Julius sang lúmpya’ haw!
   ‘Here’s Julius frying the egg rolls!’

B. Lúmpya’.
   ‘Egg rolls.’

A. Naga práto.
   ‘Frying.’
Extralinguistic Context

(Bringing a dish to the table)

Ang alimángo.
ABS crab
‘The crab.’
Sentence Fragment Types

- Statements
- Questions
- Commands
- Presentatives
- Exclamations
- etc.
Statement Fragment

Te’ may lugár?
so exist place
‘So was there a place to park?’

Isá ka bilók gid.
one LK space in.fact
‘Just one space.’
A. *Naka bánik na si Elmo?*
   ‘Did Elmo just return?’

B. ‘Yeah.’

C. *Bálnik sa . . .?*
   ‘Return to . . .?’
Command Fragment

(Setting the table)

.Dirá’ lang.
there just
‘Just put it there.’
Presentative Fragment

(Bringing dish to table)

*Inasál nga manók.*

‘Barbecued chicken!’
Exclamative Fragment

*May adóbo pa hu.*
‘There’s still adobo.’

*Báw!
‘Wow!’
3. Interactive Prosody

More varied and expressive
Basic Declaratives

*Isá gid lang na dá’*;
‘It’s the only one we have;

*walá’ ná na’ da’ ibán.*
there’s nothing else there.

*Tálang ka pa.*
You’ll still get lost.’
Basic Declarative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (s)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>150</th>
<th>3.305</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s the only one we have.</td>
<td>There’s nothing else there.</td>
<td>You’ll still get lost.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Yes/No Question

Distinguished by prosody alone

May dalá’ ka haból?
exist carry 2SG.ABS blanket
‘Did you bring a blanket?’
Yes/No Question

May dalá ka haból? (Did you bring a blanket?)

Time (s)
Yes/No Question

*Damo’dámo’ kamí nga dá’an maká’on di?*

many.RDP 1PL.INCL LK might IRR-eat here

‘Will there be a lot of us eating here?’
Content Question

What?

Áno tawág siná’?

‘What do you call that?’
Content Question

What do you call that?

Pitch (Hz)

Time (s)

Áno tawág siná’?
What do you call that?
Content Question

How many?

*Pilá na edád mo Nay?*

how.many now age 2SG.POSS mother

‘*How old are you now Mom?’*
Exclamation

May adóbo pa hu.
‘There’s still adobo.’

Báw!
‘Wow!’
Exclamation

*May páncit mólo.*
‘There is wonton soup.’

*Baw grábe ba!*
‘Super wow!’
Prosody makes a difference
Tags

*Ma’ áyo gúro plastarón lang anáy Yuz no.*
‘It might be good to put them out first Julius, wouldn’t it?’

*Walá’ ni sang plasatarán gúro ma’áyo ay no.*
‘Maybe there’s no good place to put it you know.’
Imperative vs Cohortative

Yuz kwaná na dí Yuz palíhog hú.
‘Julius, start working on this now please.’

Hináyan ta lang ní.
‘Let’s turn this down.’
And prosody does much more.
4. Reference
Anaphoric Demonstrative
Reference within discourse

‘Why is there an envelope here as well?’
[on the gift basket]

Amó gid na’ ya gúro no?
same really that CONFIRM probably TAG

‘It's always like that, isn’t it?’
Exophoric Demonstrative
Extralinguistic Reference

Much more common in these conversations

‘What’s that smell?’

*Amó na’.*

‘That there.’

(Pointing to stove)
Exophoric Demonstrative

*Sísig ma na’ mo sa walá.*
‘That’s pig face on the left.’

*Iní’?*
‘This one?’

*Hú’o.*
‘Yes.’
Exophoric Demonstrative

\[ I \textit{butáng} \quad \textit{da’} \quad \textit{hu}. \]
place there.near.you there
‘Put it \textit{there}.’

\[ \textit{Indí’}, \quad \textit{dirí} \quad \textit{sa} \quad \textit{úna} \quad \textit{pára}, \ldots \]
no, here LOC first so.that
‘No, \textit{here} in front so that, \ldots ’
Exophoric Demonstrative

Dirá’ sa tungá’ na lang.
there.near.you LOC middle now just
‘Just there in the middle.’

Ná’ amó ná’ gid na.
that.near.you that.is that.near.you indeed now
‘Yeah, that’s it.’

Amó ná’.
that.is that.near.you
‘Like so?’
Negotiated Reference

A. ‘I got a discount on a tablet.’
B. ‘What kind of tablet?’
A. ‘I don’t know what kind of, arrangement there is.’

B. *Mabakál *silá *kunó, iPhone.*
   ‘They say *they’re* going to buy, an iPhone.’

A. *Sin’ó mabakál?*
   ‘Who’s going to buy one?’

B. *Si Títa.*
   ‘Auntie.’
Interactive Reference

A. Ará’ gin taga’án (a)ko nilá sang anó.
   there’s PFV.TR give.to 1SG.ABS 3PL.ERG OBL what
   ‘There it is, they gave me that.’

B. Sang?
   OBL

A. Pagwá’a na’ nga da’án ang anóm ka botílya sang anó.
   CAUS.out that LK old ABS six LK bottle OBL what
   ‘Take out six bottles of that.’

B. Stella.
5. Interactive Discourse Structure
Elaboration across Turns

A. *Ang inasál.*
   ‘The barbecue.’

B. *Inasál nga manók.*
   ‘Barbecued chicken.’
Topic Shift across Turns

A. ‘Lower the burner. Maybe it would be good to set things out in a bit.’

B. Ang kaság,
‘The crabs,
di’ín ta butáng?
where are we going to put them?’
Interactive Particle

Te’ may lugár?
so exist place
‘So was there a place to park?’

Isá ka bilók gid.
one lk space in.fact
‘Just one space in fact.’
Interactive Particle

‘The Philippines are lagging behind all the other countries in Asia. Indonesia is booming now. Malaysia. Thailand is way ahead.’

_Ti' ang Vietnam _ganí’ hu, . . ._  
yeah ABS Vietnam so.there look  
‘And so is Vietnam!’

_ganí’ ‘That’s what I’ve been telling you!’_
Interactive Particle

Ámon na dá' barangáy mo.
‘That’s our district you know.’

mo I’m making sure you caught this.
Interactive Particle

Offering friend some coffee:

Ará’ da' ang kwán hu.
exist there.near.you ABS stuff
‘There’s the sugar.’

hu ‘Look here’
Interactive Particle

Anó ang bahó’ man?
what ABS smell say
‘Say, what’s that smell?’

(Something may be burning.)

man ‘Quick, pay attention!’
Interactive Particle

*Kúlang gúro sang mantíka’ no?*

lacking maybe OBL oil TAG

‘It might be lacking oil, **right**?’

*no* Tag, requesting confirmation
6. For Learners
What to Say and How to Say it
Common Expressions

_Hináya gid na Yuz anáy._
lower really now kindly

`Be sure to` lower the heat a little, Julius.’

_Ha._

_OK._
Imperative

'Julius, start working on this now please.'
How to Answer Questions

*Naka’-- timó’timó’ ka na dá’*
REALIS.IPfv nibble.RDP 2SG.ABS already that
‘Did you nibble already,

*hulatón mo ang kwán?*
wait.for 2ERG ABS stuff
are you going to wait for the stuff?’

*Hulatón Dad.*
wait.for uncle
‘I’ll wait for it Uncle.’
Idiomaticity

*Dalí’ lang.*
quick just
‘Just a minute.’

*Tī’ anó na dá’?*
so what now here
‘What’s going on here?’
Idiomaticity

*Dirá’*  *na’*  *dá’?*
there.by.you  that.by.you  there.by.you
‘You want that one there?’

*Dirá’*  *lang*  *OK*  *lang*  *itsúra*  *nya.*
there.by.you  just  OK  just  face  3POSS
‘It looks OK there.’
Idiomaticity

‘Uncle where’s that box of yours?’
‘What box?’

Ang-- wifi ará’ galí’ da’ hu.
ABS there’s there look

‘The-- wifi, ah there it is.’
Expressions

Ay sus! ‘Aha!’, ‘My goodness!’

Bwisít! ‘Dang!’

etc.
7. Practicalities
Variables

Community
Number of speakers
Domains of use of the language
Goals and attitudes toward documentation

Individuals
Personalities, loquaciousness, ages, health, techiness
Relations among speakers

Chance
Step I: Valuing Conversation

Heightening Appreciation
working through recordings with speakers
pointing out what is special
Step II: Setting the Scene

Some Models

Speakers set up conversations, explaining their value.

Speakers set up conversations, explaining their value, and record.

Speakers set up conversations, explaining their value, and record, transcribe, and translate.
Step III: Some Sample Topics

Cooking
Eating
Playing cards
Telling jokes
Gossiping
Discussing politics
Describing persons in the community
Parents, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. . .
Views on the language
Step II: Some Sample Topics

How languages and dialects differ
Boarding school experiences
Explaining the corpus
Going to the fair, pow wow
Planting, harvesting, herding cows, horses, sheep
Selling blankets
Medicine men, where they are from, what they know
Fine semantic details about the language
Old pictures
Step II: Some Sample Topics

The party last night
Histories behind land claims
Descriptions of other communities
Children’s stories at bedtime
War stories around the dinner table
How people met their spouses
Strange happenings and sightings
Hunting moose
Lumberjack camp
Step II: Some Sample Topics

Linguistics
Language teaching and handling problem children
Travel plans
Getting the wifi to work
Who your friends are now and what they are doing
Describing an accident and the funeral
Medicines
The time I burned down the chicken coop
In the end,
it’s all about the people.
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