

# STUDIES IN PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES & CULTURES

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### 2. *Ya netabarang ta mangatawa* Advice to one who seeks marriage Donato Salbino (1981) 22–26



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2 YA N=E=TABARANG TA M=ANG=ATAWA  
 N,NP CM=PAS:ACF=advice O,NP INC=SP=spouse  
 By Donato Salbino (1981)

ADVICE TO ONE WHO  
 SEEKS MARRIAGE

1. A yen Aleng\* ya nonot=am ta  
 CJ E,D4 Son N,NP think=OF:2SG O,NP  
 māppya, te\* intu minā pāhig=ām  
 ST:good because 3SE IRR CAS:likeness=LF:2SG  
 ya kuman\* na iyāk ta kāwān ku ta  
 N,NP similar G,NP 1SE O,NP AB:NEG 1SG O,NP  
 atawa. 2. I=pa=itā=m hapa ya māppya  
 spouse ACF=CAS=see=2SG also N,NP ST:good  
 ta ag=yān\* minā na babbay anna  
 O,NP INS=place IRR G,NP female and  
 i=pa=itā=m ya ngāmin tahabāku=m  
 ACF=CAS=see=2SG N,NP all work=2SG  
 petta=m kuman=en\* kuman na  
 so.that=?? similar=ID4 similar G,NP  
 mā=māyat=ān hapa ya babbay am  
 AG=ST:like=LF also N,NP female if/when  
 i=pa=itā=m ngāmin na kāppya=m anna  
 ACF=CAS=see=2SG all G,NP AB:good=2SG and  
 tarabāku=m petta kuman=en m=aka=nonot  
 work=2SG so.that similar=ID4 INC=APT=think  
 hapa.  
 also

1. What you are to consider well, Son, is that the one you ought to emulate is like myself when I didn't have a spouse. 2. You show good behavior to the girl's relatives, and show all your industry so that as a result the girl will also tend to be very interested if you demonstrate all your virtue and industry, so that as a result she will also be thoughtful.

3. A intu paha i=bār ku teko,  
 CJ 3SE yet ACF=tell 1SG 2SO  
 Ginyamor, kuman na i=wahad mu minā ya  
 Ginyamor, similar G,NP ACF=throw 2SG IRR N,NP  
 dulay na nonot, petta kuman=en ā  
 bad G,NP thoughts so.that similar=ID4 CJ

3. And another thing I'll tell you, Ginyamor, you should like throw away any bad ideas, so that consequently the girl's relatives will also be considerate toward you. 4. For if

m=aka=nonot hapa ya ag=yǎn na babbay  
INC=APT=think also N,NP INS=place G,NP female

teko. 4. Te am i=pa=itǎ=m ya  
2SO because if/when ACF=CAS=see=2SG N,NP

dulay ta ag=yǎn na babbay teko ǎ  
bad O,NP INS=place G,NP female 2SO CJ

kuman na ma=zigǎt ya p=ag=kwǎn na  
similar G,NP ST=difficult N,NP NU=GN=do:LF G,NP

hapa teko na ag=yǎn na babbay.  
also 2SO G,NP INS=place G,NP female

5. A kuman=en hapa ya  
CJ similar=ID4 also N,NP

m=a=bidǎ=k anna i=tulfu=k ta  
INC=PAS=talk=1SG and ACF=attach=1SG O,NP

uhohug k=in, te ikami minǎ Aleng ya  
word 1SG=ID1 because IPLEX,E IRR Son N,NP

m=akkǎmu\* m=ang=ita ta kǎppyǎn=ǎm\*  
INC=APT:know INC=SP=see O,NP AB:good:LO=LF:2SG

petta=m kuman=en ǎ mǎppya minǎ. 6. Ammi  
so.that=?? similar=ID4 CJ ST:good IRR but

kompormi ya uray mu, am iko hapa ya  
whatever N,NP opinion 2SG if/when 2SE also N,NP

kuman na m=ag=uhay ǎ awe=k ǎmu am  
similar G,NP INC=GN=do.alone CJ NEG=1SG know if

gustu sangaw ya p=ag=uhay mu.  
enough later N,NP AB=GN=do.alone 2SG

7. Mǎppya minǎ ta ikami ya  
ST:good IRR O,NP IPLEX,E N,NP

m=ag=uhay petta=m kuman=en  
INC=GN=do.alone so.that=?? similar=ID4

m=a=pili mi minǎ ya mǎppya na  
INC=PAS=choose IPLEX,G IRR N,NP ST:good G,NP

nonot. 8. Te am ang=ǎrig=ǎn\* sangaw  
thoughts because if INS=likeness=LO later

you behave yourself  
badly around the  
girl's relatives, it  
will be rather  
difficult for the  
girl's relatives in  
the matter of what to  
do concerning you.

5. Furthermore, what  
I have to talk about  
in addition to what  
I've just said is that  
we, Son, should be the  
ones responsible to  
look out for your  
welfare so that  
consequently it will  
be good. 6. However  
it's up to you; if you  
tend to act independ-  
ently, I don't  
know if your  
independent action  
will be right. 7. It  
would be better that  
we be the ones to take  
the initiative so that  
as a result one with a  
good character might  
be chosen. 8. Because,  
if for instance later  
on you take the  
initiative, it will be  
like she likes you for  
a while now, today,  
but tomorrow she has  
left you because, as  
you know, you acted on  
your own. 9. However,  
if we should be the  
ones to urge your  
acceptance, then the  
girl will say, "Oh,  
it's good because,

24 Central Cagayan Agta Texts

ta iko ya m=ag=uhay ă kuman sangaw after all, they urged  
 O,NP 2SE N,NP INC=GN=do.alone CJ similar later me to accept their  
 na n=e=kăyăt na ka bit ta child so I shouldn't  
 G,NP CM=PAS:ACF=AB:like 3SG 2SN LM O,NP leave him." 10. So you  
 think about this.

ayan=in, ta arăw=in yan, lăkwăt  
 now=ID1 O,NP day=ID1 E,D1 tomorrow

n=ag=tugut=ăn\* na ka=n te ămu=m  
 CM=GN=walk=LF 3SG 2SN=CM because know=2SG

hamăn te iko=n ya m=ag=uhay.  
 SURP because 2SE=CM N,NP INC=GN=do.alone

9. Ammi am ikami mină ya  
 but if 1PLEX,E IRR N,NP

m=ang=i=pa=pilit teko, "Ay măppya te  
 INC=SP=ACF=CAS=force 2SO INJ ST:good because

n=e=pa=pilit da hamăn ya anăk da  
 CM=PAS:ACF=CAS=force 3PLG SURP N,NP child 3PLG

en teyăk ă awe=k mină p=ag=tugut=ăn,"  
 ID4 1SO CJ NEG=1SG IRR NU=GN=walk=LF

kun=na hapa na babbay teko. 10. A yen ka\*  
 say=3SG also G,NP female 2SO CJ E,D4 2SN

ya nonot=an.  
 N,NP think=OF

11. A kuman=en hapa am da=dăkal hapa  
 CJ similar=ID4 also if AG=large also

na babbay, m=ag=tulăg\* kami ta  
 G,NP female INC=GN=contract 1PLEX,N O,NP

p=ag=atawa muy, petta=m kuman=en bakkan  
 AB=GN=spouse 2PLG so.that=?? similar=ID4 NEG

lă ta ikami ya m=akkămu ta  
 LM O,NP 1PLEX,E N,NP INC=APT:know O,NP

p=ag=atawa muy, awă ikami na ag=yăn  
 AB=GN=spouse 2PLG if.not 1PLEX,E G,NP INS=place

na babbay anna ag=yăn na lalaki,  
 G,NP female and INS=place G,NP male

11. Furthermore, if she is an older girl we will make a contract for your marriage, so that consequently we won't be the only ones responsible for your marriage, but rather we and the relatives of the girl as well as the relatives of the man, so that as a result we will sort of have a meeting of the mind regarding your marriage.

petta=m kuman=en kuman na  
 so.that=?? similar=ID4 similar G,NP

p=ag=da=dǎfung=ǎn mi ya p=ag=atawa  
 NU=GN=PL=meet=LF 1PLEX,G N,NP AB=GN=spouse

muy.  
 2PLG

12. A yen lǎ ya abat na  
 CJ E,D4 only N,NP extent G,NP

m=a=bidǎ=k anna n=e=bǎr ku teko  
 INC=PAS=talk=1SG and CM=PAS:ACF=tell 1SG 2SO

petta=m kuman=en ǎ kwǎm minǎ ngǎmin  
 so.that=?? similar=ID4 CJ do:OF:2SG IRR all

ya abat na kwǎm anna awe=m kwǎn  
 N,NP extent G,NP do:OF:2SG and NEG=2SG do:OF

ya dulay petta=m kuman=en,  
 N,NP bad so.that=?? similar=ID4

i=pa=itǎ=m ya kǎppyǎn=ǎn na  
 ACF=CAS=see=2SG N,NP AB:good:LO=LF G,NP

p=ang=atawǎ=m\* petta kuman=en awǎn hapa  
 AB=SP=spouse=2SG so.that similar=ID4 NEG also

ta p=ang=bidǎn na kǎ=tuhang=ǎn\* teko.  
 O,NP NU=SP=talk:LF G,NP AB=in.law=LO 2SO.

13. A yen lǎ ya abat na.  
 CJ D4,E LM N,NP extent 3SG.

13. That's all I  
 have to say.

#### Ethnographic and Linguistic Notes on ADVICE TO ONE WHO SEEKS MARRIAGE

1. Aleng 'Son', a term of address to a son or any male who stands in a filial relationship. The individual addressed here is a real son approximately eighteen years of age.

te 'because', a sentence connective which has not yet been analyzed in all its occurrences. It may be better translated in other contexts as 'that', 'in that', 'since', 'but'.

kuman 'similar', an adverb indicating similarity and often functioning as a stylistic feature for purposes of euphemism, particularly in hortatory discourse. See also occurrences in 3, 4, 6, 8, and 11.

2. agyān 'place/location', occurring repeatedly in this text as a reference to the responsible relatives of a prospective bride. It indicates respect by avoiding direct references to individuals.

kumanen 'like that'.

5. makkāmu 'ability to know', meaning responsibility or initiative for a particular action. Agta society like many minority cultures in the Philippines is highly authoritarian, and traditionally parents or guardians assume the major responsibility of arranging marriages for their children.

kāppyānām 'your welfare/benefit', a euphemistic reference to the boy's need for a mate.

8. angārigān 'comparison/illustration'. In the frame am ... ta, it means 'for example'.

nagtugutān 'abandon'. Abandoning a spouse is not uncommon among those who have not had an arranged marriage, whereas an arranged marriage involves a contract between families including an agreed-upon bride price. Any breach of contract by either mate is grounds for a "law suit." But law suits are a last resort only after face-to-face demands fail. They normally amount to bringing charges, with witnesses, against the offending party before a village or town magistrate who settles the case arbitrarily. Such measures tend to discourage the breakup of formally contracted marriages.

10. ka 'you-singular'. This sentence is irregular grammatically. The more regular pattern would be yen ya nonotam meaning the same thing but with the pronoun actor in the genitive case following the verb, (-m). This irregular form is not uncommon; it apparently is a stylized form for purposes of highlighting both the subject and the object.

11. magtulāg 'make a contract/agreement'. A marriage contract is preceded by magkāgun 'to make a marriage proposal'. (See note 1 on boda in "The Day of the Wedding," text 1.)

12. pangatawa 'engagement'. This refers to the male's courting relationship following a formal agreement. pakiatawa refers to the female's courting relationship. pagatawa refers to the completed marriage.

kātuhangān 'parent-in-law'. manuhāng (mang + tuhāng) is 'child-in-law'.