

# THE MONOSYLLABIC ROOT *-AO* IN MINDANAO LANGUAGES

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## ABSTRACT

In Philippine languages (PL), lexical roots<sup>1</sup> consist of two or more syllables. Single-syllable lexical root words are rare. On the other hand, monosyllabic roots are not uncommon in PL. A monosyllabic root is a ‘submorphemic’ element; it has no independent morpheme status in that it and its host form a single morpheme. An example is the sequence *-ing-* in the Tagalog root *binga*, which conveys the meaning of the passage of air in the vocal tract. It is technically not a morpheme, since its host, *b-...-a*, is not itself a morpheme; it is the whole word that is a morpheme. In this paper, we list down words, mostly from Mindanao languages, containing the monosyllabic root *-ao* (also written as *-an*). These words have meanings related to water—watery areas or activities done with water. To people of archipelagic nations like Mindanoans, water *-ao* is life.

Keywords: *-ao*, Water, Monosyllabic Root, Mindanao

ISO 639-3 codes: SGD, TGN, TSG, MRW, MRY, MSM, TGL, CEB, WAR, KRJ, CPS

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of Tagalog lexical roots are *babay*, *dagat*, *bundok*. The single-syllable words *ba*, *nga*, *dam*, and the like are functional, not lexical, words. An earlier version of this paper was presented in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual In-house Review of the Research Office of Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology (ASSCAT) on October 10, 2017.

## INTRODUCTION

Lexical roots in Philippine languages consist of two or more syllables. The few monosyllabic lexical roots in Tagalog (TGL) are loan words. The Tagalog *tsa* ‘tea’ is from Fookien *chai*. So strong is the constraint against one-syllable roots that many speakers add a second syllable to *tsa*, thus: *tsaa*. Modern TGL allows single-syllable English lexemes, for example, *bus*, *ban* ‘van’, *pan* ‘fan’, and many others. Proto-Philippines, and, indeed Proto-Austronesian, had monosyllabic roots (see Wolff 1999) for a list of reconstructions in PAN. Potet (1995) lists attested reconstructions in TGL.

A monosyllabic root is a ‘submorphemic’ element; it has no independent morpheme status, in that it and its host form a single morpheme. In the first example below, the syllable host of the root *-ing-*, which is *h-...-a*, is not a morpheme. The TGL data below are from (Ceña 2017).

***-ing-*        “Pagdaan ng hangin sa ilong”**

hinga, hingal, hingalo, singhot, singa, singasing, singhal, singhap,  
singhalit, halinghing

***-ang-*        “Masamang amoy”**

anghit, anghid, angot, kulangot, panghi, sangsang, anggo; (Pero:  
!bango).

***-uk-*        “Pagpapakita”**

buka, bukas, buklat, bukad, bukaka`, bukangkang, bukana, ?bukal.

***-pos-*        “Katapusan o kakulangan”**

tapos, upos, kapos (Lopez 1940, p. 32); ngapos, ?ngipuspos

In this paper, we gather words, mostly from Mindanao languages, containing the monosyllabic root *-ao*, also spelled *-aw* (henceforth, *-ao*). These words have meanings related to water—watery areas or activities done with water. We show the breadth of the lexical domains these words belong to, reflecting the important role rivers, lakes, and the sea play in the lives and culture of speakers of these languages.

## METHOD

We collected words ending in the sound *-aw* from six Mindanao languages, namely, Sinurigao (SGD), Tandaganon (TGN), Bahasa Sug (TSG), Meranao (MRW), Mandaya (MRY), Minanobo Agusan (MSM). Whenever relevant, we cite data from five languages outside of Mindanao, namely, Tagalog (TGL), Sinugbuanon Binisaya (CEB), Binisaya Waray (WAR), Kinaray-a (KRJ), Mambusaanon (CPS). Our primary sources were dictionaries (see References). The words and their meanings were validated with native speakers of the languages. There are about 159 such words in our list (see Appendix A). We of course did not expect all *-ao*-ending words to have meanings related to water, but we feel that this number attests to the meaning-bearing function of *-ao*, and thus justifies our interest.

What are we looking for? On the assumption that bodies of water (rivers, lakes, the sea) constitute a formidable physical presence and force in the life of the people living nearby, we expect the use of *-ao*-words to cut across lexical domains, and not just in the naming of such places. We are also interested in the contribution of the “host” elements to the overall meanings of these words. Surigao means “flow of current/water”; and here, the contribution of *-ao* is accounted for. But does *surig-* mean flow?

## DATA AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Place Names

*Mindanao* and *Maguindanao* are obviously related; the later term referring to one of the native peoples of the island. The root is *danao* “lake or inland body of water” and lakes are considered calm most of the time. *Danao* has the monosyllabic roots *-ao* “water” and *dan-*, which means “surrounded by,” like *dan`uk* “dump or an area surrounded by waste” or *dan`ag* “illuminated or surrounded by light.” *Min-* is noted in *minkaon* SGD, with root *kaon* “eat,” in *minpanaw* SGD, root *panaw* “go for transaction,” *minsuba* SGD, root *suba* “go to hinterland” and in these words *min-* suggests a ‘going to’. Our informant said *Mindanao* might compositionally mean “the water in the lake went high,” or pragmatically “the water in the lake went calm,” or “the place became peaceful like the water in the lake.” *Min-* in *Maguindanao* is split apart by the affix *-ag-* (> *m-ag-[u]in-*), a common affix in Philippine languages (PL) that expresses intentional mood. We analyze *Maguindanao* as follows: *m-ag-uin-dan-ao*. *Maguin-* is related to TGL *maging*, which means intentionally be something or someone. Thus, *Maguindanao* likely means “be like a lake” or “become peaceful as a lake.”

*Ranao* MRW, also “lake,” is a transform of *danao*; where *d > r* is a common sound alternation in Philippine languages. *Lumao* in Agusan del Sur is a tectonic lake and as another CEB word for *hubon* “fontanel”. *Lum-* is noted in *lumoy* “drench,” *lumos* “drown,” *lumot* “seaweed.” In *Panamao*, a crater lake in Sulu, *pan-* is a plurifactive-intentional or qualifier-nominalizer affix. The lexical root is unlikely to be CEB *amao*, meaning “a person of low intelligence”! *Pan-* likely is the prefix *pang-*, another common prefix in PL, in which *-ng-* assimilates to the first sound of the following root. Thus, TGL *pang-lasa* > *pan-lasa* and TGL *pang-sungkit* > *pan-ungkit*. The lexical root

in *panamao* could be CEB *samao* “bright,” but more promising is CEB *lamao* or TSG *sabaw-būtting* “coconut drink” with  $l > s$  and  $m > b$  changes. *Siargao* in Surigao del Norte, *Cabugao* in Bacuag, Surigao del Norte, *Cabuyao* in Bislig, Surigao del Sur, *Manjagao* in Surigao City are names of places near water or watery areas, as is *Banabao*, a bay in Surigao City, *Anao-aon* (now San Francisco, Surigao del Norte), and *Liniao*, located near the Butuan River.

*Siargao* is an island surrounded by Pacific waters where mangroves vastly grow. *Siargao* has an intensifier affix *si-* and root word *argao*. *Si-* is noted in the sentential sample *Kasilaung ko* HBG “I thought” (Villanueva 2014), while *arg-* is a monosyllabic root for a tropical tree that has roots which grow from its branches.

*Surig-* in Surigao is related to *sulig-* MRY. The *r-l* difference is an expression of a tendency in Philippine languages, where cognate words differ in the lateral sounds *r* and *l*, as in *til-as* > (*l*)*ir(-)as* > *iras* ‘woolly bear caterpillar’, *baras* > *balas* ‘sand’ (the RLD/G law, Conant 1911). *Sulig* means “spring up or sprout.” *Surig-* is also related to *surog* CEB (Almeda 2009), where the *i ~ o* alternation is attested by another law (the Pepet law, Conant 1912). *Surog* is also related to *suyog* SGD where  $r \sim y$  also follows the RGH/Y law mentioned above. *Suyog* means “current,” hence, *Surigao* may have come from *sulig-ao* “spring water”, *surog-ao* or *suyog-ao* “water current.”

*Manjagao*’s root word is *jagao*, which is a kind of hardwood tree that grows in an island or near sea water or in watery areas. *Anao-aon*, with root *anaw-aw*, where *-aw* is reduplicated, and has the noun-forming suffix *-(o)n*, might mean “remote fishing area.” This municipality is one of the remotest areas in the province. It is also the name of the river before the town proper.

*Cagdianao*, according to a local blog (in [cagdianao.com](http://cagdianao.com)) started with three names: *cada dia danaw*, which means peaceful lake. *Cada* is “every,” *dia* means “here it is,” and *danaw* means “peaceful water;” thus, *cada dia danaw* is translated as “every time the sea in this area becomes peaceful like a lake.” We, however, analyze *cagdianao* ~ *kagdianao* to derive from ‘*agd-ian-ao*’; the root is ‘*agdao*, velar *k* replaces glottal “ ` ”, and *-(i)an-* is a locative infix, in contrast to the locative suffix *-an* in *k(a)-agdao-an* or *ka-bakhaw-an* “vast mangrove area”. *Kagdianao* is a place facing waters of the east where hardwoods and mangroves like *agdao* grow.

The *Anahaw* is a type of tree that could grow near watery areas, as in the island Barangay Anahaoan in Siargao and Barangay Anahaw in Alegria, Surigao del Norte. *Sapao* means place of water with plenty of fishes; story has it that a fisherman said *Sapao-sapao an kuha ko* “I caught plenty [of fish],” which was later used by the natives to name their place. *Sapaw* or *apaw* in TGL means brimming.

*Caob* is a wonderful lagoon where a body of water is separated from a bigger body of water. The place name *Laonan* is derived from *laon* CEB which means “grown living thing”; thus, *laon-an* could possibly mean “fish growing area.” However, an informant said the original name is *Liaonan*, a sitio or purok at Barangay *Caob*, Del Carmen, Siargao, Surigao del Norte, and this may be where the meaning of growing fish came from. Now, the water around the island of *Laonan* is fish sanctuary and most of the local great fishers live in the area.

*Mambajao* in Camiguin was coined from Binasaya *mamahaw* “eat breakfast”, which is from *mambahan*, whose root is *bahan*, meaning “slightly moisten leftover rice.”

Table 1. Summary of Place Names

| Place Name               | Meaning       | Affix                         | Root  | Host      | Possible function          | CEB Example                  |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lumao Agusan Sur         | Tectonic Lake |                               |   | lum-      | situation/feature          | Lumod (fish)                 |
| Panamao Jolo Sulu        | Crater Lake   | pan-<br>Qual-Nom              | lamao CEB<br>sabaw-búkú TSG<br>(coco juice) | sab-      | situation<br>or<br>feature |                              |
| Siargao Surigao Norte    | Island        | si-<br>Intensifier            | Argao<br>(Mangrove)                         | ?arg-     | feature                    |                              |
| Cabugao Surigao Norte    | Swamp         | ca-<br>Nominalizer            | Bugao<br>(Shooing)                          | bug-      | situation/feature          | Bugwak (gush)                |
| Cabuyao Surigao Sur      | Island        | ca-<br>Nominalizer            | Buyao<br>(citrus tree)                      | buy-      | situation/feature          | Buyos (borrow)               |
| Manjagao Surigao City    | Island        | man-<br>Quan-Nom              | Jagao<br>(hardwood)                         | jag-      | situation/feature          | Jagan (run)                  |
| Banahao Surigao City     | Bay           |                               | Bana(h-l)<br>(Holy)                         |           |                            |                              |
| Anao-aon Surigao Norte   | River         | -(o)n<br>Nominalizer          | Anao-ao<br>(Remote)                         | an-       | situation/<br>process      | Ani (this way)               |
| Linao Butan City         | River         |                               | Linao<br>(Still water)                      | lin-      | situation                  | Linu-i (rinse)               |
| Cagdianao Dinagat Island | Peaceful Lake | c(a)-<br>-ian-<br>Nominalizer | Agdao<br>(mangrove)                         | agd-      | intertwined                | Sagda (pacify)               |
| Anahawan Siargao, SDN    | Island        | -an<br>Loc-Nom                | Anahaw<br>(tree)                            | ana(h)-   |                            | Anad <sup>2</sup> (used )    |
| Sapao Siargao, SDN       | Place         |                               | Sapao<br>(brimming)                         | sap-      |                            | Sapdok (trip)                |
| Caob Siargao, SDN        | Lagoon        |                               | Caob<br>(upsidedown)                        |           |                            |                              |
| Liaonan Siargao, SDN     | Island        | -an<br>Loc-Nom                | Liaon<br>(matured)                          |           |                            |                              |
| Bunawan Agusan Sur       | Gold Area     | -an<br>Loc-Nom                | Bunaw<br>(basin)                            | Bun-      | situation/<br>feature      | Bundok (mountain)            |
| Bayugan Agusan Sur       | Pathway       | -an<br>Loc-Nom                | Bayug<br>(path)                             | Bay-      | Feature                    | Baybay (shore)               |
| Agusan Marsh Agusan Sur  | Marsh River   | -an<br>Loc-Nom                | Agus = Awas<br>(water flow)                 | -us = -as | Feature                    | Ubos (lower)<br>Taas (Upper) |
| Mambajao Camiguin        | Port          | man-<br>Quan-Nom              | Bajao<br>(leftover)                         | Baj=      | Feature                    | Baju (mortar)                |

*Bunawan* is in Agusan del Sur, the home of Lolong, the biggest crocodile in the world (National Geographic Team, November 2011). In a really heavy rainy season, according to informants, Bunawan looks like a basin full of water; hence, the name may mean “water containing area” surrounded by bundok TGL “mountains.”

*Davao* was a mangrove forest (EdgeDavao, 2015), and, alongside *Siargao*, *Cagdianao*, *Agdao* face east waters (the Pacific Ocean), where mangroves and citrus trees are widespread. *Mawab* means “wide area with lots of water sources.” *Tungbangkao* SAMB has the root word *bangkao* “mangrove.” *Bongao* or Bangow SAMB (Salapuddin, 2017) is not the CEB meaning “absent-minded” but the SAMB “a kind of bird: heron probably” are islands in *Tawi-Tawi* (from *tawi*, a banyan fig tree), where \**Bajao*s or *Sama Delaut*, *Sama Bihing* and *Tausugs* live. *Dapao* is a deep water lake in *Lanao*. Salapuddin (in LangKIT 2016, 2017 and NCWoLL, 2017) suggested calling them Sama Delaut “people living at sea” or Sama Bihing “people living at shoreline.”

## 2. Place Names with *-ao* in other Philippine languages

*Apayao*, though a landlocked province, has many rivers, and so does *Laoag*. *Anihan* is a water fall in Bulu, Apayao, *Bayugao* is a lake in Dibagat, Apayao, and *Paoay* is a municipality name as well as the name of a tectonic lake (locally known as Dacquel a Danum, Census, 1918). *Currimao* is facing western waters which could possibly experience “hellish weather.” *Panglao* and *Dauis* are located on *Panglao* Island in Bohol, and the latter has a sweet deep well water and barangay named *Dao*. *Palawan* is an island facing the west seas. *Ambaclao* has a hydroelectric facility from Agno River. *Baao* is a lake in the province of Camarines Sur, and the language *Sinaranaw* is spoken in some parts of the province. *Camannauan* is a lake in Cagayan. *Gunao* in Quezon and *Libuao* in Occidental Mindoro are crater lakes. *Manguao* is also a tectonic lake in Palawan. *Banao* is one of the barangays in *Mayoyao*, a place of waterfalls. *Lagawe* River

is a stream within *Ifugao*. *Dulao* is one of the barangays in Bago City, Negros Occidental, named after the *Mandulao* tree, whose sap of peeled barks served as drinking water for the sick people in Spanish years. *Argao*, where *Saliargaw* mangroves grow, is located in the province of Cebu and faces the eastern waters.

*Table 2. Summary of Place Names with –ao in other Philippines languages*

| Place Name               | Meaning                | Affix/es          | Root Word         | Host      | Possible Function     | CEB Example         |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Apayao<br>Ilocos Norte   | Landlocked<br>province |                   | Apa<br>(fight)    |           |                       |                     |
| Laoag<br>Ilocos Norte    | River                  |                   | Laoa<br>(Breadth) | -(a)g > k | Breadth               | Hawag<br>(spacious) |
| Awihan<br>Apayao         | Falls                  | -an<br>Loc-Nom    |                   | Aw(h)-    | Water                 |                     |
| Bayugao<br>Apayao        | Lake                   |                   | Bayug<br>(Bamboo) | Bay-      | Feature               | Baybay<br>(shore)   |
| Paoay<br>Apayao          | Lake                   |                   | Paoa<br>(Clear)   | -(a)y     |                       |                     |
| Currimao<br>Ilocos Norte | Place                  | Cu-               |                   | -rim-     |                       |                     |
| Cubao<br>Manila          | Place                  | Cu-               | Bao<br>(turtle)   |           |                       |                     |
| Panglao<br>Bohol         | Island                 | Pang-<br>Qual-Nom | Lao               | Lao-      | situation/<br>feature | Lao-lao<br>(loose)  |
| Dauis<br>Bohol           | Island                 |                   | Dao<br>(spring)   | -is       | Situation             | Til-is<br>(urinate) |
| Dao<br>Dauis, Bohol      | Place                  |                   | Dao<br>(spring)   |           |                       |                     |

### 3. Personal Names

In days of old, residents in the areas likely had names expressing various meanings related to water. This is common in many cultures, where someone may go

by the name equivalent of “man from the sea or the mountain,” or “born during a storm,” and the like. Unfortunately we lost records of these names when the Spaniards decreed Filipinos to choose Spanish names like Aragon and Villaflores. Still, a few survive. *Alipao* is a prominent family name near the Mainit Lake in Alipao, Alegria, Surigao del Norte; the place name likely was influenced by the family name. This family originally live in Taganaan, Surigao del Norte facing the seawaters of Surigao. *Bag-ao*, is one of the prominent names in the province of Dinagat Islands from the Municipality of Loreto. Another example is *Abao* (many will remember Procopio Abao). The *Lamanilao* family originally came from Bohol and scattered via boat when World War II broke out. The family of one of our informants was headed by their late grandfather Santiago A. Lamanilao, Sr., who settled in Barangay Jubgan, Anao-aon (San Francisco), Surigao del Norte. Ignacio Malliare *Parungao* is from Nueva Ecija, a government employee, who with his family was also displaced because of the WWII. *Parungao* settled for many years in Cotabato City doing farm works for living. There even Parungao Street as one of the members of the family made an exemplary contribution in the city (Connie Parungao of Surigao City, 2017). Rogelio Enoc *Buniao* was born on April 17, 1969, a Muslim by origin who came from Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur. Rogelio ventured in Nueva Ecija in 1987 and in 1989 he met Edna Ignacio Miranda who is from Lapinigan, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

#### **4. More -ao-words in Mindanao languages**

##### **Names of Animals**

There are animals which live and thrive in water: *Kabaw* is a swamp-type domestic water buffalo native to the Philippines. *Ambaw* is one of the best swimmer rats. *Bangaw* in CEB is “blowfly,” *Haw-an* is a snakehead fish found in the Agusan marsh and in various watery areas in the Philippines, *Patawen* in Batanes Islands

(Mangahas, 2010) means flying fish. *Kalam* is a rufous hornbill which is endemic to the Philippines, in particular, in Dinagat, Siargao, and in Mindanao (Witmer, 1993). *Andubaw* CEB or *Andoao* MRW is a type of fish. *Balangitao* MRW is a crocodile or alligator.

**Table 3. Summary of Animal Names**

| Word                      | Meaning       | Affix/es | Characteristics  |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------|--|
| Kabaw<br>Tamaraw          | Water buffalo |          | Swamp-type domestic water buffalo native to the Philippines.   |
| Ambaw                     | Rat           |          | One of the best swimmer rats.  |
| Tungaw                    | Arachnids     |          | Any minute arachnids often infesting animals or plants or stored foods.  |
| Bangaw                    | Blowfly       |          | A kind of diptera flies.   |
| Haw-an                    | snakehead     |          | Snakehead fish found in various watery areas in the Philippines like in Agusan marsh.  |
| Patawen                   | Flying fish   | -en      | Seasonal fish in Batanes Islands (Mangahas, 2010).   |
| Kalaw                     | Hornbill      |          | Rufous hornbill which is endemic to the Philippines like Dinagat, Siargao, Mindanao (Witmer, 1993) which eats citrus fruits and is talawan [tal- + -aw -an] or extremely aloof or afraid to human (Margate, 2017). |
| Anduhaw SGD<br>Andoao MRN | Tuna fish     |          | Usual fish in archipelagic areas like Philippines.   |
| Bao                       | turtle        |          | Water or land dwelling reptile.  |
| Sawa                      | Snake         |          | A kind of snake (python).  |

### Activities and Practices

*Hunaw* means wash or rinse, *uhaw* is thirst, *kutaw* is to mix or to stir, *tampisan* play in the water, *kawkaw* means to touch or play with water, *sawsaw* is to dip in sauce, *banaw* means flood, *tuwaw* or *dung-aw* is to cry, *awas* means flow of water, *lutaw* means float, *tibaw* in CEB or *sibaw* in KRJ means to check the fishhook. *Tan`aw* could be used

to look for something on water or to watch for safety as a ship's crew on duty at a particular time.

*Table 4. Summary of Human Activities, Cultural Practices or Beliefs*

| <b>Word</b>            | <b>English</b> | <b>Meaning</b>  |
|------------------------|----------------|---|
| Hunaw                  | Wash           | Wash or rinse body parts.   |
| Uhaw                   | Thirst         | Need to drink water.  |
| Kutaw                  | Mix            | Stir or mix anything.   |
| Tampisaw               | Play           | Play in the water.  |
| Kawkaw                 | Fumble         | Search for something.   |
| Sawsaw                 | Dip            | Dip something (food) in sauce.  |
| Banaw                  | Flood          | Area is flooded.  |
| Tuwaw                  | Cry            | Crying for something unpleasant.  |
| Dungaw                 | Look over      | A cultural practice of respecting cadaver.                              |
| Tan`aw                 | Look<br>Watch  | Look for something on water or watch for safety as ship's crew on duty. |
| Huraw                  | Scare          | Scare someone or something.   |
| Dajaw                  | Heal           | Heal someone using water.   |
| Banhaw                 | Healed         | Quack doctors usually use water or oil to heal their patients.          |
| Sajaw                  | Dance          | Dances are usually offered before and after fishing and farming.        |
| Panaw                  | Transaction    | Go to somewhere far for important transaction.                          |
| Kuligaw                | Disturb        | Disturb someone for a purpose.  |
| Karaw                  | Scramble       | Jumble things together.   |
| Tibaw CEB<br>Sibaw KRJ | Checking       | A fisherman's practice to check the fishhook.                           |

*Alimendao* MRW is lukewarm. Far up north, *mataw* is a fishing practice in Batanes Islands (Mangahas, 2010). *Andao* MRW means roam. *Bagiao* MRW means flood. *Daoat* MRW means inky. *Daiao* MRW means tide. *Danao* MRW means puddle. *Danadanao* MRW means flood or sweat. *Ligaw* TSG means senseless. *Lampaw* TSG means superior in degree. Bangahan (2017) explicated *Kanaw/kanaw* TSG as “an alternation of brightness (as reflection from sun or light) and dimness, a phenomenon exemplified by body of water or sea with some ripples which results to non-smoothness of the (not clear) water surface, and the phenomenon is also observable in non-water situation for as long as there is an alternation of brightness and dimness, as for example in the sky.” *Bugaw* TSG means drive away. *Hundaw* TSG is to look out through.

### **A Few of Diseases and Causes**

*Bus-aw* is a urinary tract infection, *Kagaw* is a germ that grows in wet or moist areas and can cause disease. *Subaw* is to have head/common cold caused by sudden drizzle, *Alindahaw* means drizzle.

### **Mythical Creatures**

*Bolalakao* MRW is the god of the fish. *Busaw* CEB is a monster in Agusan Marsh. *Kataw* CEB “mermaid” is a mythical sea creature with upper body and head of woman and lower body of fish tail instead of legs.

### **Human Products and Food**

*Sikpaw* means landing net used to catch fish. *Pataw* is a floating raft and a local term for a fish aggregating device in Southern Leyte, *birau* is a Sama Palau boat, *parau* is a smaller Sama Palau boat like a *bauto* in BTW, *balangaw* is like a *parau*. *Aoang* MRW is a boat. *Aoang-aoang* MRW means boatlike. *Banaiao* MRW is a fishhook. *Ayaw* in Karao means usually a float. *Kararaw* in KRJ is a winnow while *dawi* is a fishhook. We may

include food-related names here. *Kilaw* is a raw fish, *lugaw* is porridge, *sabaw* is soup, *pasaw* or *lawog* means food waste or fodder, *ilao* is a MRW word for rice and *inbao* means rotten rice.

*Table 5. Summary of Human Products and Food*

| Word        | English     | Meaning   |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| Kararaw KRJ | Winnow      | Used by Karay-a in winnowing.                           |
| Dawi KRJ    | Fishhook    | Used by Karay-a in fishing as fishhooks.                |
| Pataw       | Raft        | Fish aggregating device in Southern Leyte.              |
| Birau       | Boat        | Boat with house of Sama Delaut (*Bajau).                |
| Parau       | Small Boat  | Smaller boats of Sama Delaut used for fishing.          |
| Balangaw    | Small Boat  | Small boats in Palawan.                                 |
| Kinilaw     | Raw food    | A raw food usually of fish.                             |
| Lugaw       | Porridge    | Usual food in archipelagic areas.                       |
| Sabaw       | Soup        | -   |
| Palitaw     | Sweets      | Made of finely ground rice tops with shredded coconuts. |
| Pasaw       | Fodder      | Leftovers served to animals.                            |
| Ilao MRN    | Rice        | Term for rice in Meranao.                               |
| Inbao MRN   | rotten rice | Term for rotten rice in Merenao.                        |

## **Trees and plants**

*Anabaw*, *tigbaw*, *bakbaw*, *jagao* are trees which grow near seawater or watery areas. *Anabaw* CEB is a palm tree and the national leaf of the Philippines. *Agdao* Pangasinense PAG or *Alagaw* TGL is a type of medicinal tree. *Anilao* MRW, *han* in

Hawaiian, *fau* in Samoan, *purau* or *van* in Tahitian is a flowering coastal tree. *Bakao* MRW or *Bakhaw* CEB means mangrove. *Saliargaw* CEB is a kind mangrove tree in *Argao*, Cebu. *Bangkaw* (Bangkal) CEB is a kind of *nuclea subdita* tree which grows near lake. *Balatigao* MRW is *meliosma* or flowering tree, and *Tigban* CEB is a tiger grass plant where the name of Tigbauan, Iloilo originated.

### **Place Characteristics**

*Opaw* means no trees because of drought, *lim-aw* is “muddy area,” *linaw* “still water,” *mabaw* SGD or *bajo* CBK (aw > o) “shallow water,” *hugaw* “dirty or dumpy area,” *lutaw* “floating area,” *lawud* SGD : *laot* TGL : *hondo* CBK is “deep sea,” and *danao* CBK “murky canal water.”

### **Names of Ethnicity, Language and People**

Places, people, and the languages they speak usually carry similar names. *Farangao*, *Sinurigao*, *Meranao*, *Sinaranaw*, and *Sinama Palau* are languages of people who are strongly connected with waters in lake, river or sea. Terms for human or mankind in this archipelago are *tao*, *tawo*, *otaw*. Ethnic group names are *Maranaw* which means people of the lake. \**Bajau* means fisher folks (Nommi, 1990). *Tausug* in Haskins (1982) means people of *sug* > *sulu* > *suluk* or *sulug* CEB, or water current, but Ingilan (2017, and in a conversation) said that *Tausug* means people from *lupah Sug* or “the homeland of Sulu” originally *Sug* while another scholar Prof. Benj S. Bangahan, MD (2017) wrote that *Tausug* means “People of the Path to Allah.” *Surigaonon* might mean water current or spring water people. *Siargaonon* might mean people from Mangrove Island in the east.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The concept of water is pervasive in our culture as Mindanaoans. We live on seawater (Sama Delaut, \*Bajau), in lake (Maranaw), around coastal areas (Surigaonon, Dabawanon). As a group we are Mindanaoans, consisting of subgroups Surigaonon, etc. We speak the languages of Meranaw, Sinurigao. We attach the concept of water to our personal identity by naming ourselves Alipao, Lamanilao, Bag-ao and the like, and *kabaw*, *kalaw* etc. are some of our animals. For our livelihood, we traverse rivers (Bunawan to Butuan via Agusan) to trade goods. Fish like *anduhaw*, *bolinao* are our main food source, and we harvest those using *sikpan*, *payaw* or in *mataw* way. We eat *lugaw*, *sinabawan*, *palitaw* etc. We celebrate fiesta and other occasions with *sajaw-sajaw* “dances” and when we get sick with *bus`aw* “urinary tract infection” or with *subaw* “flu” because of exposure to *kagaw* “germs” our quack doctors will *dajaw* “heal” us with water from *banabao* “holy water”. And finally, if dili mabanhaw “not healed”, *mupanaw kami dakan makapahunway sa dajon* “we die so we can rest forever.” From birth to death, we are a people of the water.

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## Appendix A

| Language/Informant                                   | Word  | English Equivalent/<br>Meaning |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Tandaganon (46 words)</i><br>Bernard “Jun” Zamora | Ambaw | Mouse                          |
|  | Anaw  | sober after getting blitzed    |
|  | Bahaw | Leftover                       |

|  |                |                                       |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|
|  | Balisawsaw     | feel like always peeing               |
|  | Balitaw        | agree to someone                      |
|  | Baraw          | stop someone                          |
|  | Bulaw          | Blonde                                |
|  | Buntaw/bangtaw | Floor                                 |
|  | Bungaw         | Fool                                  |
|  | Kabaw          | Water buffalo                         |
|  | Kagaw          | Germs                                 |
|  | Kantyaw        | Bully someone orally                  |
|  | Karaw          | Mix                                   |
|  | Kataw          | Mermaid                               |
|  | Kisaw          | Water disturbance                     |
|  | Kilaw          | Eating of raw meat of fish            |
|  | Kutaw          | Stir                                  |
|  | Dayaw          | Good                                  |
|  | Dapaw          | Itch caused by rice husks<br>or grass |
|  | Hanaw          | Lost                                  |
|  | Hinaw          | Wash hands                            |
|  | Ihaw           | Slaughter                             |
|  | Imabaw         | Above something                       |
|  | Labaw          | Over, greater than, or taller         |
|  | Lamaw          | Coconut juice                         |
|  | Lasaw          | Diluted                               |
|  | Lawlaw         | Loose                                 |
|  | Linaw          | Peaceful, calm                        |

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
|   | Lutaw    | Float  |
|   | Mabaw    | Shallow  |
|   | Mamaw    | Ignorant   |
|   | Opaw     | No hair  |
|   | Pagaw    | Husky  |
|   | Panaw    | To go for an important purpose or transaction            |
|   | Sapaw    | Butt-in  |
|   | Sinew    | Shiny  |
|   | Singkaw  | Curved arm bones cause by fracture                       |
|   | Tabnaw   | Same as dilted but lasaw is more of human characteristic |
|   | Tagaw    | Ignorant   |
|   | Tan-aw   | Look at  |
|   | Tin-aw   | Clear  |
|   | Tubaw    | Tandaganon scarf   |
|   | Tunaw    | Dissolve   |
|   | Tungayaw | Curse  |
|   | Tungaw   | Tiny insect  |
|   | Yawyaw   | Murmur   |
| <i>Samar Binisaya (8 words)</i><br>Nemecio Baldesco | Bukaw    | Owl  |
|   | Kumaw    | Turtle   |
|   | Kataw    | Mermaid  |

|  |          |                                   |
|--|----------|-----------------------------------|
|  | Likaw    | Deny                              |
|  | Sikpaw   | Catch fish                        |
|  | Tabaw    | Raft                              |
|  | Tibaw    | Harvest                           |
|  | Ughaw    | Call                              |
| <i>Mandaya Agusan Sur (15 words)</i><br>Jovial M. Pisan  | Lamow    | Coconut juice                     |
|  | Otaw     | Human                             |
|  | Linow    | Silent water                      |
|  | Alisngow | Evaporate                         |
|  | Kagow    | Germ                              |
|  | Banhow   | Rose from death                   |
|  | Madoyow  | Good                              |
|  | Ayoew    | No                                |
|  | Babow    | Above                             |
|  | Kakatow  | No knowledge/skill                |
|  | Kadyow   | Healed                            |
|  | Tagow    | Ignorant                          |
|  | Langyow  | No permanent address              |
|  | Pisow    | Snakehead fish                    |
|  | Butaw    | Ignorant or no<br>knowledge/skill |
| <i>Mambusaanon (16 words)</i><br>Mrs. Emmalyn F. Sagrado | Abaw     | ow!                               |
|  | Takaw    | rob/steal                         |
|  | Matakaw  | robber/thief                      |

|   |              |  |
|---|--------------|--|
|   | Sabaw        | Soup                                       |
|   | Karbaw       | water buffalo                              |
|   | Adlaw        | Day  |
|   | Wawaw/tyabaw | cry loudly                                 |
|   | Dayaw        | appreciate                                 |
|   | Madayaw      | sensitive                                  |
|   | Du-aw        | Visit                                      |
|   | Tunaw        | dissolved                                  |
|   | Tan-aw       | see/look                                   |
|   | Hukaw        | boring insect                              |
|   | Silaw        | bright                                     |
|   | Bogaw        | to let the animal go away                  |
|   | Lugaw        | rice soup                                  |
| <i>Maranao (35 words)</i><br>McKaughan and Macaraya<br>(1967) | Akao         | separation of hulled from<br>unhulled rice |
|   | Ambao        | deviate from a straight<br>path            |
|   | Ampao        | popped rice                                |
|   | Anao         | search, seek or find                       |
|   | Alimendao    | lukewarm                                   |
|   | Andao        | roam                                       |
|   | Andao        | tuna fish                                  |
|   | Anilao       | tiliaceous tree                            |
|   | Ao           | pause to gain time in<br>thinking process  |

|  |            |   |
|--|------------|---|
|  | Aoag       | relative  |
|  | Aoang      | Boat  |
|  | Aoangaoang | boatlike  |
|  | Argao      | raw or not fully cooked                         |
|  | Bagiao     | flood   |
|  | Bakao      | mangrove  |
|  | Balangitao | crocodile or alligator                          |
|  | Balatigao  | meliosma or tree                                |
|  | Baliaoa    | wanderer  |
|  | Balintao   | habitation of human                             |
|  | Banaiao    | fishhook  |
|  | Bangao     | food served at feasts                           |
|  | Bangkiao   | inconsistent                                    |
|  | Bangkonao  | Impregnable                                     |
|  | Barangkiao | chaotic   |
|  | Bilangatao | well-behaved                                    |
|  | Binangkao  | short-bladed spear                              |
|  | Bokao      | night bird                                      |
|  | Bolalakao  | god of the fish                                 |
|  | Dagiao     | cooperation                                     |
|  | Daiao      | Tide  |
|  | Danao      | puddle  |
|  | Danadanao  | flood or sweat                                  |
|  | Daoat      | Ink   |
|  | Dapao      | plant in a village of<br>Western Lanao that can |

|  |          |                              |
|--|----------|------------------------------|
|  |          | cause itchiness              |
| <i>Bahasa Sug (6 words)</i><br><i>Rhazzel Alan M. Asda</i><br><i>Jolo Sulu</i> | Umao     | Deaf                         |
|  | Imbao    | Sea shells                   |
|  | Takaw    | Steal                        |
|  | Manaw    | Walk                         |
|  | Halawom  | Inside                       |
|  | Siyaggaw | Arrest                       |
| <i>Kinaray-a (33 words)</i><br>Mr. Egan C. Trabado                             | Adlaw    | day/sun                      |
|  | Agaw     | getting something with force |
|  | Bahaw    | Leftover                     |
|  | Balangaw | rainbow                      |
|  | Bingaw   | toon “fragment”              |
|  | Bugnaw   | cold                         |
|  | Bunlaw   | herbal plant/ to rinse       |
|  | Buraw    | waking up late               |
|  | Buraw    | greedy                       |
|  | Kadlaw   | laugh                        |
|  | Karbaw   | carabao                      |
|  | Duaw     | to visit                     |
|  | Hidlaw   | missing someone              |
|  | Kantyaw  | Bully/ tease                 |
|  | Kinilaw  | eat raw meat of fish         |

|   |         |                            |
|---|---------|----------------------------|
|   | Labaw   | Superior                   |
|   | Lagaw   | to roam around             |
|   | Lantaw  | to see                     |
|   | Langaw  | fly                        |
|   | Lagaraw | bolo                       |
|   | Lutaw   | float                      |
|   | Limaw   | deep part of body of water |
|   | Mingaw  | Quiet                      |
|   | Nabaw   | Shallow                    |
|   | Panaw   | walk                       |
|   | Sabaw   | soup                       |
|   | Sampaw  | to put over on something   |
|   | Sibaw   | to check                   |
|   | Tiraw   | To taste                   |
|   | Tunaw   | Melt                       |
|   | Silaw   | Shimmering                 |
|   | Sinew   | Shiny                      |
|   | Sungaw  | Leak                       |
| <i>Dr. Abee M. Santos</i><br><i>Dr. Arnel R. Madraso</i><br><i>Chavacano (CBK) Speakers</i> | Bajo    | Shallow water              |
|   | Hondo   | Deep water                 |
|   | Danao   | Murky canal water          |