

Some Enclitic Particles

Temporal Enclitics

Temporal enclitics are used to indicate time. The enclitic particles PA and NA are the most commonly used temporal enclitics, i.e., they are usually used to indicate if an action has started or not yet started. In addition, these particles may also encode other information in certain contexts.

Another temporal enclitic that is frequently used is MUNA, roughly translated as 'a while' or 'first'.

This section outlines some of the general functions of these enclitic particles.

The Particle PA

PA, roughly translated into English as still, or yet, generally expresses that an event /action has not yet occurred but is expected to happen.

Look at the following examples:

Hindi pa ako aalis. I'm not yet leaving.

Wala pa ang mga kaibigan ko. My friends are not here yet.

Mamayang hapon pa sila darating. They'll be here later (still) in the afternoon.

PA may mean other things in limited contexts, usually in an idiomatic expression. Note that even in most of these cases the meaning of PA stays fairly close to the core meaning of still, or yet. The common ones are presented here:

Kanina ka pa? Have you been waiting long?

Sige pa. (Some) More.

Kumain ka pa. Eat some more.

Kumuha ka pa. Have/Get some more.

Magkuwento ka pa. Tell us/me more.

Ano pa ang gusto mo? What else do you want?

Sino pa ang sasama? Who else is coming?

Saan pa tayo pupunta? Where (else) are we going?

The Particle NA

NA, roughly translated as already or now, generally expresses that an event /action has happened, or is happening, and its occurrence was expected.

Look at the following examples:

Aalis na ako. I'm leaving now.

Nandito na ang mga kaibigan ko. My friends are here already.

Dumating na sila galing sa Australia. They have already arrived from Australia.

NA also occurs idiomatically.

The following examples are the most common expressions:

Halika na. Let's go.

Mamaya na. Later. (In response to a statement like "Let's go".)

Sige na. Come on. (In response to the a statement like "Later".)

Tapos na ako. I'm done (with my work).

Matutulog na ako. I'm going to bed now.

Kumain ka na? Have you eaten (already)?

Aalis ka na? Are you going now?

Note that Tagalog speakers tend to break down all actions into two categories: started and not yet started. They then use the appropriate enclitic (NA or PA) to indicate which category the action falls under. Hence, you will need to get used to PA and NA because you will be hearing them a lot as you learn the language.

The particle MUNA

MUNA generally means first or a while. It is also used in different idiomatic expressions. Here are some of the most common examples:

Teka muna. Wait a minute.

Maupo ka muna. Why don't you have a seat? (In the context of: "Have a seat".)

Kumuha ka muna ng tubig. Get some water first.

Kumain ka muna bago ka umalis. Eat first before you leave.

Modal Enclitics

Just as temporal enclitics give some indication about time in a sentence, modal enclitics give some indication of the mood of the speaker or of the way the speaker feels about the sentence. For example, the speaker may be stating something in a 'matter of fact' or factual way such as in the sentence: "I have a cat." Or the speaker may state something as a wish or desire such as in the sentence "I wish I had a cat." A speaker may also state something with surprise or extra emphasis, etc. Modal enclitics help express or convey these different moods.

There are a number of enclitic particles encoding mood. The more common ones are presented here. The use of these particles is largely idiomatic though some

generalizations about their usage may be offered. The examples on this page show their general usage and some of the frequently used idiomatic expressions.

NGA, LANG, PALA, NAMAN, TALAGA

The Particle NGA

This particle is a way of affirming or giving extra emphasis to a statement. It can emphasize agreement with or confirmation of some statement.

Ana: Ang ganda ng mga bulaklak! My! The flowers are beautiful.

Ben: Oo nga. Yes, they are.

Ben: Sige na, sumama ka na sa piknik. Come on, join us for a picnic.

Ana: Sige na nga. Oh, alright.

But NGA can also be used to pose a challenge to a speaker, when the speaker's assertion is somewhat questioned.

Ben: Aakyatin ko ang bundok ng Banahaw. I'm going to climb Mount Banahaw.

Ana: Sige nga. Let's see you do it.

Ana: Simple lang ang solusyon sa problema mo.

The solution to your problem is very simple.

Ben: Ipaliwanag mo nga. Could you explain that please.

It also emphasizes politeness in making requests. Command forms are softened so that they sound like more of a request or an expression of concern rather than direct orders.

Pakibuksan mo nga ang pinto. Would you please open the door.

Sarhan mo nga ang bintana. Would you close the window.

Matulog ka nga. Why don't you get some sleep.

The Particle LANG (shortened form of LAMANG)

It usually means only.

Isa lang ang kotse ko. I only have one car.

Dalawa lang ang kapatid ko. I only have two siblings.

But it may also mean just.

Kararating ko lang. I just arrived.

Maghintay ka lang. Just wait.

And here are some everyday idioms:

Sandali lang. Just a minute.

Di bale na lang. Nevermind.

Simple lang. Very simple.

Ikaw lang. Only you.

Cool ka lang. Keep cool.

The Particle PALA

This enclitic expresses surprise. A speaker would use this to indicate that something has just been learned/known, and the information is surprising or unexpected.

Ikaw pala! Oh, it's you.

Taga-Amerika ka pala! So you're from the US!

Mali pala ang sinabi ko. What I said was wrong after all.

Pupunta ka pala sa Hawaii. So you're going to Hawaii!

The Particle NAMAN

This emphasizes politeness in making requests. Command forms are softened so that they sound more like a request or an expression of concern rather than direct orders.

Pakiabot naman ng asin. Would you please pass the salt.

Dalhin mo naman ang bag ko. Could you carry my bag.

Magpahinga ka naman. Why don't you get some rest.

It may also indicate that an assertion is true even though it may not be generally viewed as such.

Mabait naman siya. She's actually nice.

Masipag naman siya. He's actually hard-working.

And this enclitic may also be used to intensify the degree of a certain quality used to describe someone or something.

Ang bait mo naman. You're too nice.

Ang ganda naman ng bahay ni Fe. Fe's house is really beautiful.

When the particle occurs with the enclitic NA, it generally means again or once more.

Magsisine ka na naman! You're watching a movie again!
Nandito na naman kami. Here we are again.

The Particle TALAGA

This generally means really.

Ben: Nag-aaral na naman si Pedro sa laybrari.

Pedro is studying in the library again.

Ana: Talaga? Really?

Ben: Oo. Masipag talaga siya. He is really hard-working.

Questions II

Bakit

This question may be answered in at least three different ways, the difference being the degree of formality determined by the context or situation.

Just like pseudo-verbs, interrogative pronouns attract (actor) pronouns so that they always come right after the question word.

KASI

This response is most common in conversations. Here are some examples. The elements in parentheses are usually dropped.

Bakit umalis si Pedro? Why did Pedro leave?

(Umalis si Pedro)kasi may klase siya. (Pedro left) because he has a class.

Bakit walang klase? Why is there no class?

(Walang klase)kasi may sakit ang titser.

(There's no class) because the teacher is ill.

Bakit ka pupunta sa Laguna? Why are you going to Laguna?

(Pupunta ako sa Laguna)kasi bibisita ako sa lola ko.

(I'm going to Laguna) because I'm going to visit with my grandmother.

DAHIL

This is a more formal response, used in both conversational and written form.
Here are some examples:

Bakit ka masaya? Why are you happy?

(Masaya ako)dahil nandito ka. (I'm happy) because you're here.

Bakit namatay ang halaman? Why did the plant die?

(Namatay ang halaman)dahil hindi ko nadiligan ng dalawang linggo.

(The plant died) because I didn't water it for two weeks.

Bakit tumaas ang presyo ng mga biling? Why did the price of goods go up?
(Tumaas ang presyo ng mga biling) dahil sa krisis sa ekonomiya ng Asya.
(The price of goods went up) because of the economic crisis in Asia.

SAPAGKAT

This is the most formal form of response to bakit. It is rarely used in spoken form and is generally associated with literary writing. Here are some examples:

Bakit tayo nagkakamali? Why do we make mistakes?

Nagkakamali tayo sapagkat tayo ay tao lamang.

We make mistakes because we're only human.

Bakit umiiyak ang langit? Why are the heavens crying?

Umiiyak ang langit sapagkat tuyo na ang lupa.

The heavens are crying because the land has dried up.

Paano

This question asks for a response that gives an explanation of a process. It should not be confused with the use of the interrogative pronoun how in English in contexts like "How are you?".

Pronouns (actor/doer) always come after the question word.

The following are some examples:

Paano gumawa ng parol? How do you make a christmas lantern?

How does one make a christmas lantern?

How to make a christmas lantern

Paano pumunta sa Baclaran mula sa Monumento?

How do you get to Baclaran from Monumento?

How does one get to Baclaran from Monumento?

How to get to baclaran from Monumento

Paano ka nakapasok sa bahay kagabi? How did you get into the house last night?

Paano magluto ng adobo si Tinay? How does Tinay cook adobo?

Gaano

This question calls for a response indicating the extent or degree of some quality. The interrogative pronoun functions almost like an adverb before a modifier, which is always prefixed with KA-.

Pronouns (actor) always come after the question word.

Here are some examples:

Gaano karami ang dala mong mangga? How many mangoes did you bring?
Marami. (Plenty.) Kaunti lang. (A few.)
Gaano kadalas ang klase mo sa Tagalog? How frequent/often is your Tagalog class?
Tatlong beses sa isang linggo. Three times a week.
Gaano kalaki ang bahay ni Erap? How large is Erap's house?
Malaking-malaki. Very large.
Gaano kahaba ang pila sa sine? How long is the line for the movie?
Hindi masyadong mahaba. Not very long.
Gaano mo ako kamahal? How much do you love me?
Mahal na mahal kita. I love you very much.

Magkano

This is the "real" how-much question calling for an answer that gives the value or price of something.
Here are a few examples:

Magkano ang isang kilong bigas? How much is a kilo of rice?
Trenta pesos. 30 pesos.
Magkano ang perang dala mo? How much money do you have with you?
Bente pesos. 20 pesos.
Magkano ang kotseng ito? How much is this car?
Kalahating milyong piso. 0.5 M pesos.
Magkano ang pasahe sa bus mula sa Quezon City hanggang Makati?
How much is the bus fare from Quezon City to Makati.
Kinse pesos. 15 pesos.