

Metathesis? Reduplication? Or both? : The case of nem/men, met/tem and ketteg in Kalanguya

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Kalanguya is a language spoken by approximately 120,000 people living in the Northern Philippines. A large number of particles are used in this language for different grammatical and discourse functions. In this presentation, I will examine the semantics and functions of two sets of particles and attempt to trace the origin of the second members of each set.

The first set consists of coordinating particles *nem* and *men*. The particle *nem* functions as an adversative coordinator, a contrastive (comparative) particle, and a coordinator in unreal conditionals. The particle *men*, on the other hand, is employed as a phrasal conjunctive coordinator, as an adversative coordinator, and occasionally as a clausal conjunctive coordinator. The second set consists of modal particles *met* and *tem*. In general, these particles denote degrees of certainty. Propositions with the particle *tem* appear to convey a higher degree of certainty than those with *met* (high certainty vs. moderate certainty).

Surprisingly, the second members of each set, namely *men* and *tem*, can only be found in Kalanguya, that is, they do not occur even in other languages that belong to the same language group (Nuclear Southern Cordilleran). In contrast, *nem* and *met* are very common in Cordilleran languages. It seems less likely that the structural and functional similarities of these particles are mere coincidence, thus raising questions about the origins of *men* and *tem* and the processes by which they were developed. I will propose two possible processes that may have been involved in the creation of *men* and *tem*. The first one is onset-coda metathesis (*met* > *tem*; *nem* > *men*). The newly formed particles have been associated with certain grammatical and modal functions, some of which differ from those of their sources. The second one is metathetic reduplication, a quite uncommon reduplication process in which the reduplicant has a metathesized form of the base (*met* > *mettem*; *nem* > *nemmen*). The source forms have been preserved, but for some reasons, the base of the reduplicated form eventually underwent deletion (~~*mettem*~~; ~~*nemmen*~~). This latter claim is supported by a piece of evidence. In Kalanguya, a particle with a form that appears to be a product of metathetic reduplication exists, namely the discourse particle *ketteg*. This particle may have been created by reduplicating the metathesized form of the particle *ket*. Interestingly, Kalanguya is the only known language so far that has the particle *ketteg*, thus suggesting that this particle may provide some clues as to what accounts for the emergence of *men* and *tem* in this language.