The Chamorro language across islands and generations

Manuel Flores Borja
Sandy Chung
Matt Wagers

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First example of variation

Ways to ask about possession
* Håyi gai tråk un penta?

Who has a truck you painted?
* Håyi gai tråk un penta?
   Who has a truck you painted?

* Håyi un pentåyi tråk-ña?
   Who did you paint a truck for?
* Håyi gai tråk un penta?
   Who has a truck you painted?

* Håyi un pentåyi tråk-ña?
   Who did you paint a truck for?

* Håyi un penta tråk-ña?
   Whose truck did you paint?
* Håyi gai tråk un penta?
Who has a truck you painted?

* Håyi un pentåyi tråk-ña?
Who did you paint a truck for?

* Håyi un penta tråk-ña?
Whose truck did you paint?
How to form relative clauses

Observation 1

Word Order
Atan atyu na lâhi i gumugu’ut i ayuyu.
Look at that man who is holding the crab.
Atan atyu na låhi i gumugu’ut i ayuyu.
Look at that man who is holding the crab.

Atan atyu i gumugu’ut i ayuyu na låhi.
Look at that man who is holding the crab.
Atan atyu na låhi i gumugu’ut i ayuyu.
Look at that man who is holding the crab.

Atan atyu i gumugu’ut i ayuyu na låhi.
Look at that man who is holding the crab.

Atan atyu i gumugu’ut i ayuyu.
Look at the one who is holding the crab.
Atan atyu na låhi i gumugu’ut i ayuyu. Look at that man who is holding the crab.

Atan atyu i gumugu’ut i ayuyu na låhi. Look at that man who is holding the crab.

Atan atyu i gumugu’ut i ayuyu. Look at the one who is holding the crab.
How to form relative clauses

Observation 2
Ambiguity
atyu na lâhi i ha chichiku i patgun
atyu na låhi i ha chichiku i patgun

man who is kissing the child
atyu na låhi i ha chichiku i patgun

man who is kissing the child  
man who the child is kissing
Noun is the Subject (%)

Relative clause follows

atyu na låhi i ha chichiku i patgun
atyu na låhi i ha chichiku i patgun

atyu i ha chichiku i patgun na låhi
Variation by Island
Variation by Island

atyu i ha chichiku i patgun na lāhi
Variation by Island

Noun is the Subject (%) - 0 50 100

atyu i ha chichiku i patgun na låhi
Variation by Age

Noun is the Subject (%)

atyu na låhi i ha chichiku i patgun

atyu i ha chichiku i patgun na låhi

Age in years

20 - 32  33 - 39  40 - 44  45 - 54  55 - 70
How to form relative clauses

Observation 3

Morphology
atyu na låhi i ha chichiku i patgun

man who is kissing the child  man who the child is kissing
atyu na låhi i chinikuku-ña i patgun

man who is kissing the child  man who the child is kissing
Variation by Age

Noun is NOT the Object (%)

i chinikuku-ña i patgun

Age in years

20 - 32
33 - 39
40 - 44
45 - 54
55 - 70
Variation by Age

Noun is NOT the Object (%)

i chinikuku-ña i patgun

Age in years

20 - 32
33 - 39
40 - 44
45 - 54
55 - 70

0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
(No) Variation by Age

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<th></th>
<th>20 - 32</th>
<th>55 - 70</th>
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<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>atyu i chinikuku-ña i patgun na låhi</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>atyu i chinikuku-ña i patgun</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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Noun is NOT the object (%)
Saipan
* Arts Council
* Café at the Park
* Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center
* CCLPC
* Department of Commerce
* Garapan Elementary School
* Frank Tomokane
* Ignacia T. Demapan
* Inetnun Åmut yan Kutturan Natibu
* Joeten-Kiyu Library
* Rosalyn Ajoste
* Office of Congressman Antonio R. Agulto
* Lupe T. Pangelinan
* Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
* KKMP
* Gary Schwartz and Gordon Marciano
* Marianas Public Land Trust
* Parole Board
* Rudy T. Guerrero
* Tanapag Elementary School
* W.S. Reyes Elementary School

Tinian
* Gineftao i Manmo’na Center
* Florine M. Hofschneider
* Lorna Cruz

Chamorro Dictionary
Working Groups

NMI Humanities Council

Alejandro Agulto
Elvin Quitugua
Thank you ~ Si Yu’us Ma’åsi’