Demonstratives in Cebuano: Referential and non-Referential Functions

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This paper investigates the uses of the demonstrative forms in Cebuano (see Table 1), in particular their extension from referential to non-referential functions. Cleary-Kemp (2007) identified four basic functions of demonstratives in many Austronesian languages, one referential and the other three non-referential, namely, the discourse deictic use, the "tracking" use, and the "recognitional" use. In addition to these commonly attested non-referential functions, other grammaticized uses of Cebuano demonstratives are identified, namely, the placeholder function in repair situations and weak stance use in hesitations, the latter of which is not commonly attested or reported in many languages. This paper thus has a twofold goal. First, to highlight the division of labor between the various forms of demonstratives in the acquisition of non-referential functions; that is, each of the demonstrative forms develops a distinct non-referential use. For example, the recognitional use is served by the Distal *kato*, while the placeholder function is taken up by the Near-Hearer *kana'*, which pairs with the dummy word *ku'an* in the organization of repair. Second, to demonstrate the weak stance function as a metaphoric extension of the placeholder function; that is, where *ku'an* is deleted and the demonstrative form *kanang* (< *kana'* – *ng* 'this-Linker') alone remains, the latter serves as a stance marker, especially in instances where the speaker is uncertain and hesitates or is obviously weakly committed to the proposition expressed in the main clause. Actual spoken data will be examined and used to illustrate the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of these forms.

Table 1. Demonstratives in Cebuano (and their extended non-referential uses)

	nominative	oblique
Near Sp (and Hr)	*(ka)r**i*** *(ki)n**i***	*(ni)'in**i*** *(ni)'an**i***
Near Hr	*(ka)n**a'*** → placeholder → hesitation marker	*(ni)'an**a'*** → extended argument in EICs
Far	*(ka)t**u*** *(kad)t**u*** → recognitional use	*(ni)'at**u*** *(ni)'adt**u***

Key words: Cebuano, demonstrative, stance, placeholder

References
Cleary-Kemp, Jessica. 2007. Universal uses of demonstratives: Evidence from four Malayo-Polynesian languages. *Oceanic Linguistics* 46.2: 325-347.