

Lesson 1

In Waray-Waray there are two kinds of pronouns:

- 1) Personal Pronouns (I, you, we, my, your, etc.)
- 2) General Pronouns (this, that, those, here, there, etc.)

Personal Pronouns (I Class)

There are three classes of personal pronouns in Waray. These are called First Class (I), Second Class (II), and Third Class (III).

I Class Personal Pronouns

Singular		Plural	
akó	<i>I</i>	kitá kamí	<i>we (incl)</i> <i>we (excl)</i>
ikáw / ka	<i>You</i>	kamó	<i>you</i>
hiyá	<i>he/she</i>	hira	<i>they</i>

The personal pronoun *Ikaw* only has the short form which is *ka*. The personal pronoun *kita* is “inclusive”, that is, it includes those to whom one is speaking; *kami* is “exclusive”, that is, it excludes some or all.

A I Class Personal Pronoun marks the TOPIC of the sentence. The topic is the most important thing in the sentence. In English the speaker usually emphasizes particular words by saying it louder, or by his intonation or pitch. In Waray-Waray words in a sentences are given relative importance by “marking” them with a I Class word. Sometimes these I Class words are the subject of the sentence; at other times they are the object of the action, or the recipient or beneficiary of the action. The latter will be learned in a later lesson.

Examples

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Pilipino ka. | You are a Filipino. |
| 2. Amerikano ako. | I am an American. |
| 3. Estudyante hiya. | He/She is a student. |
| 4. Mahusay hiya. | She is beautiful. |
| 5. Hataas ako. | I am tall. |
| 6. Riko hira. | They are rich. |
| 7. Mga* lalake kita. | We (incl) are men (male). |
| 8. Mga babaye kami. | We (excl) are women (female). |
| 9. Mga sangkay kita. | We (incl) are friends. |
| 10. Mga Pilipino kami. | We (excl) are Filipinos. |

* **mga** is a pluralizer, indicating a plural form of the noun following.

Note: These Waray sentences are called equational sentences. There is no verb in these Waray sentences. The noun or adjective is “equated”(=) with the pronoun. The English translation uses the to be verb.

Oral Exercises

Substitute all the I Class Personal Pronouns in each of the sentences below:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Makusog ako. | I am strong. |
| 2. | Gwapo ako. | I am handsome. |
| 3. | Matambok ako. | I am fat. |
| 4. | Mapaso ako. | I am hot. |
| 5. | Amerikano ako. | I am an American. |
| 6. | Misyonaryo ako. | I am a missionary. |
| 7. | Maestro ako. | I am a teacher. |
| 8. | Lalake ako. | I am a man (male). |
| 9. | Babaye ako. | I am a woman (female). |
| 10. | Kristohanon ako. | I am a Christian. |

Written Exercises

Use the vocabulary list at the end of this lesson to translate the following.

Waray to English:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------|
| 1. | Tatay hiya. | _____ |
| 2. | Sangkay kita. | _____ |
| 3. | Lalake ako. | _____ |
| 4. | Babaye ka. | _____ |
| 5. | Misyonaryo kami. | _____ |
| 6. | Pilipino kamo. | _____ |
| 7. | Estudyante hiya. | _____ |
| 8. | Mga sangkay kami. | _____ |
| 9. | Mga Amerikano hira. | _____ |
| 10. | Riko kami. | _____ |

English to Waray-Waray:

11. _____ We (incl) are students.
12. _____ They are Filipinos.
13. _____ You are a woman.
14. _____ I am a wife.
15. _____ You (pl) are strong.
16. _____ She is nice.
17. _____ We (excl) are teachers.
18. _____ He is industrious.
19. _____ They are Christians.
20. _____ I am a mother.

Accent Marks

It will help as you hear Filipinos say new words to mark the accent, or stress. The accent is important in the Waray language. The standardized way of marking accents is as follows:

- / Accented syllable
- \ Unaccented syllable w/ glottal stop
- ^ Accented syllable w/ glottal stop

Vocabulary

Tátay	father	Nánay	mother
Amerikáno	American (male)	mapasô	hot
Asáwa	wife	Kristohánon	Christian
Babáye	woman (female)	maduróto	industrious
Buótan	nice	makusóg	strong (person)
Ríko	rich	laláke	man (male)
Estudyánte	student	maéstro	teacher (male)
Mahúsay	pretty, beautiful (female)	Misyonaryo	missionary
Gwápo	handsome (male)	Pilipíno	Filipino (male)
Sángkay	friend	Hataás	tall, long
		Matámbok	fat