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FIGURATIVE USES OF "BREATH" IN TBOLI

Doris Porter

One of the interesting features of Tboli, a language of South Cotabato, is the extensive use of figures of speech. It is natural to hear figures used even for the most common everyday terms. For example, one may say, "Btang bè klinguhu" 'It fell on my ear', just as often as he says "Gungolu" 'I heard it'. Or it may be, "Benkasem" 'Open it up' which is the figurative way of saying "Tulónem" 'Tell it'.

The word nawa 'breath', is widely used in figurative expressions, especially to express human characteristics or emotions. Although a frequency count has not been made, I suspect nawa occurs more often than any other word in figurative speech.

The following lists are by no means exhaustive but are an attempt to picture the broad spectrum in which nawa 'breath' occurs in figurative usage.

NAWA used to express emotions:

<u>bong nawa</u>	'big breath'	love
<u>blat nawa</u>	'heavy breath'	sadness
<u>labà nawa</u>	'broken breath'	desolation
<u>lungun nawa</u>	'coffin breath'	worry, anxiety
<u>beyen nawa</u>	'settled, comfortable breath'	contentment
<u>lewu nawa</u>	'two breaths'	uncertainty, doubt
<u>maan nawa</u>	'light breath'	joy
<u>mólós nawa</u>	'clean breath'	joy
<u>bnukù nawa</u>	'blocked breath'	bitterness,

(bukù is the junction
between sections of
bamboo lengths)

<u>mesgólól nawa</u>	'divided breath'
<u>gotu nawa</u>	'complete breath'

<u>mgel nawa</u>	'hard breath'
<u>mima nawa</u>	'long time breath'
<u>klayuk nawa</u>	'far breath'
<u>lala nawa</u>	'bothered breath'
<u>sbeweg nawa</u>	'disordered breath'
<u>sikeb nawa</u>	'narrow breath'
<u>gseng nawa</u>	'blocked breath'

unforgiving spirit

disunity
to feel wholeheartedly
for something
encouraged, optimistic
lonesome, homesick
lonesome
disturbed by interruptions
distressed, agitated
frustrated
frustrated

NAWA in dead idioms expressing emotions

The following expressions are dead idioms, where the meaning of the word accompanying nawa is lost and the word does not occur other than in the idiomatic expression.

tafa nawa
munu nawa
kuto nawa
meles nawa
mifut nawa

worry, anxiety
worry, anxiety
hatred
jealousy
loneliness

NAWA used to express characteristics:

<u>sidek nawa</u> 'bad breath'	of bad character in general
<u>hyu nawa</u> 'good breath'	of good character in general
<u>mafas nawa</u> 'hold back breath'	self control
<u>sotu nawa</u> 'one breath'	unity
<u>tedeng nawa</u> 'straight breath'	integrity
<u>btol nawa</u> 'straight breath'	integrity
<u>tikaw nawa</u> 'clear breath'	honesty
<u>tinof nawa</u> 'quiet breath'	calmness, serenity
<u>menek nawa</u> 'restful breath'	calmness, serenity
<u>bukay nawa</u> 'white breath'	of good character
<u>langub nawa</u> 'cover a wide area breath'	no where lacking in good character
<u>manay nawa</u> from <u>Banay</u> 'section of bamboo breath'	patience
<u>ganag nawa</u> 'slow breath'	patience
<u>taha nawa</u> 'long breath'	patience
<u>sukeg nawa</u> 'restricted breath'	short-tempered
<u>kesut nawa</u> 'tight (used when speaking of a bow- string) nawa'	short-tempered
<u>ukol nawa</u> 'short breath'	short-tempered
<u>slukot nawa</u> 'tangled breath'	easily angered
<u>smeeb nawa</u> 'second time breath'	a mixture of bravery and timidity
<u>gulit nawa</u> 'repeated breath' (from <u>nulit</u> 'to repeat')	disciplined, well trained
<u>mfol nawa</u> 'thick breath'	brave, courageous
<u>lufi nawa</u> 'thin breath'	timid, cowardly
<u>mneb nawa</u> 'faithful breath'	dependable, loyal
<u>leged nawa</u> 'faithful breath'	constant
<u>lemtow nawa</u> 'floating breath'	unreliable
<u>langan nawa</u> 'many branched breath'	of a diversity of mind
<u>stedek nawa</u> 'one piece breath'	single minded

NAWA used in verbal expressions:

<u>mili nawa</u> 'to change breath'	to change one's mind
<u>genled nawa</u> 'to lean breath on'	to trust
<u>ston nawa</u> 'to see (reciprocal) breath'	to be of the same mind with someone else

<u>knogol</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to turn breath away from'	to reject
<u>mulék</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to return breath'	to think of again
<u>hemtulón</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to cause to tell breath'	to remember
<u>gmung</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to accompany breath'	to think favorably toward
<u>nokol</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to dig breath'	to further pursue something experienced or obtained
<u>nusol</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to go after breath'	to pursue a desire not yet experienced or obtained
<u>mefet</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to reach breath'	to hope
<u>mogot</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to hold on to breath'	to depend on
<u>mon</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to say breath'	to think something
<u>nulón</u> <u>nawa</u> 'to carry a burden breath'	to keep in mind