

MANSAKA DICTIONARY

Gordon and Thelma Svelmoe

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Mansaka Dictionary

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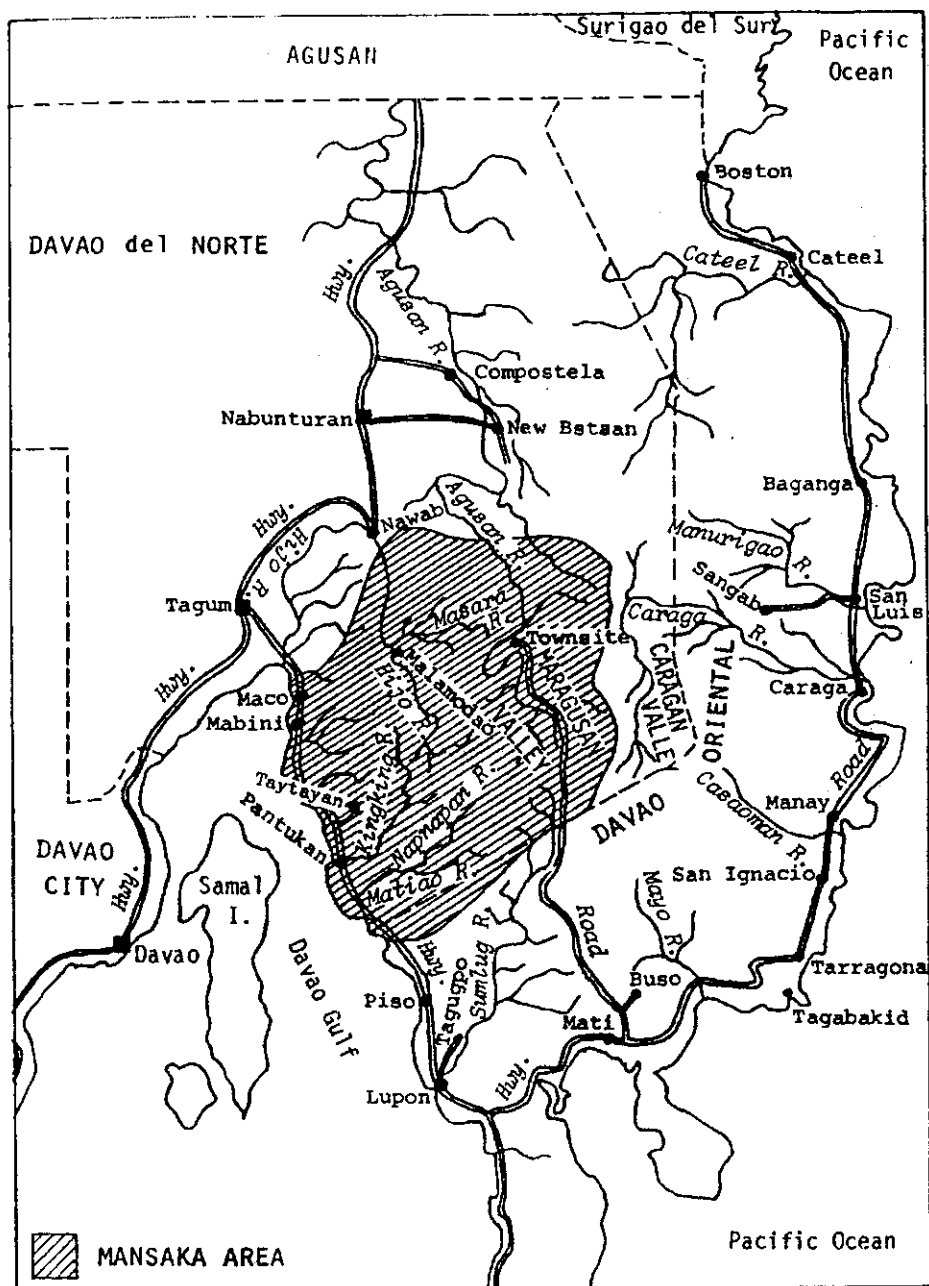
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PREFACE

A few comments should be made concerning the history of the Mansaka Dictionary. Gordon Svelmoe originally collected and compiled the data on 3x5 cards while residing first at Taytayan and later at Malamodao, Davao del Norte from 1954 to 1973, under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Around 1983-84 Dr. Charles Peck obtained the services of Norberto M. Teodoro, M.D. of Mati, Davao Oriental to translate the sample sentences. Meriam Bayo, a computer services department employee at the SIL study center (Nasuli, Malaybalay, Bukidnon), keyboarded the entries from the file cards and the translation of the sample sentences. This and subsequent printouts were corrected in correspondence between Gordon Svelmoe and editor C. Richard Gieser, culminating in the present dictionary.

This volume owes much to Mae Zook for turning the manuscript into a photoready work of art.

It is hoped that this dictionary will be interesting and useful to linguists and other scholars working in Philippine languages, and to those living and working in areas where Mansaka is spoken, as well as to the Mansaka people themselves.

It is also hoped that this dictionary, which contains more than 6,000 entries, will serve as a basis for further study of the Mansaka language to which others will contribute.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Mansaka people

Mansakas live along the mountain streams emptying into the northeastern portion of the Davao Gulf, along the Masara and upper Hijo rivers, and the relatively large mountain valley of Maragusan at the headwaters of the Agusan River. Some also live on the upper Sumlug River, which is separated by a relatively high mountain pass south of the Maragusan Valley. The Maragusan Valley is separated on the west from the Hijo River valley by the Masara mountain range; but the divide between the Maragusan Valley and the upper Masara River is relatively easy to hike, so there is good communication between these two areas. The upper Kingking River and the Hijo River are close, so it is not too difficult for intercommunication between the Hijo area and the coastal foothills. Today all these areas are connected by road.

But to the east of the Maragusan Valley are the very high Caragan Mountains which are a natural barrier to communication with the Mangaragans of the very high mountain valley on the upper Caraga River. The Mangaragans do come down to trade at New Bataao, where one may find a few Mansakas and Mandayas. The Mandayas of this area have acculturated almost completely to the Visayan culture.

The Mansakas and Mandayas, in accordance with some theories of their origin, seem to have more characteristics of the Indonesians than of the Malays. The Mansakas and Mandayas have a little lighter skin coloring and are a little taller on the average than some of their neighboring groups.

Most of the Mansakas still engage in 'kaingin' farming like their forefathers; they raise corn, camote, and some vegetables, plus one crop per year of upland rice. Coffee is now being grown in some areas as a cash crop in addition to corn, and is usually used to pay off their debts to the local storekeeper where they purchase such items as salt, rice, sugar, canned sardines, dried fish, clothing, etc. The Mansakas still raise some *abaka* (Manila hemp) for a cash crop, but not nearly as much as thirty years ago since most of the *abaka* has been destroyed by the 'mosaic' infection.

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