As an affixing language, Filipino has the flexibility to form words from stems which at times are difficult to subject to traditional grammatical categorization. This is illustrated by the stem bahay (house) which can become mabahay (a location with many houses), magbahay (establish a home/house), kabahay (house-mate), pambahay (used in the house/home), bahayan (location used as a house/home). Sometimes, the stems by themselves also function as words.

In this language words are also formed by two stems or words (affix + stem) resulting in compound words (Cw). The resultant meaning may or may not be the aggregate meaning of both words, such as kapit (next to, cling to) + bahay (house), meaning neighbors; bahay (house) + bata (child) meaning ‘uterus’; bahay (house) + kubo meaning ‘thatched roofed hut, nipa hut’.

At times a Cw is formed by shortening the original form of the words, that is dropping one or two syllables of each word in forming the Cw. The resultant meaning is the aggregate of the original words, such as tapsilog, a breakfast meal of tapa (dried meat); sinangag (fried rice) and itlog ([egg] fried egg sunnyside up). This type of compounding is not included in this study.

This paper is of two parts. The first part describes the process which results in Cws, while the second part discusses compounds consisting of borrowed words and their effect on Filipino in the modernization of this lingua franca which is now recognized as the national language of the Philippines.

The Cw

Compounds in Filipino are derived from a phrase which consists of two words joined by a marker (m). The marker is usually dropped or lost in the process of compounding when the marker is preceded by a consonant (C), or a variant of the marker is affixed to a preceding (V).

Some examples are:

sawi na palad > sawingpalad one who is unfortunate
unlucky m palm of the hand,
frustrated fortune

bahag ng hari > bahaghari rainbow
g-string m king

takip sa butas > takipbutas substitute
cover m hole
Resultant Cws are nouns, adjectives, and verbs such as:

nouns (n) –

*balatbunga* flattery, insincere comments
*skin* fruit

*hanapbuhay* livelihood
*find* life

*putingtabing* screen for films
*white* screen

adjectives (adj.) -

*butot-balat* very thin
*bone* skin

*mukhang-pera* materialistic
*face* money

*agawbuhay* on the verge of death
*snatch* life

verbs (v) -

*labaspasok* going in and out
*going out* coming in

*akyatpanaog* going up and down stairs
*climb up* climb down

*parot-parito* coming and going
*going* coming (when worried or restless)

**Types of Cws**

Compounds are derived from six kinds of phrases grouped here according to the first element in the phrase.

I. The first group of phrases consists of the attributive (atph) and the possessive phrase (posph).

A. **Attributive Phrase (atph)**

The attributive phrase consists of two words or stems (st) joined by an attributive marker (am), *na/-ng*. The variant *-ng* is affixed to the preceding word or stem which ends in a vowel. The resultant Cws are nouns.
1. A noun stem (nst) may be followed by another nst or n (nst +vaf), an adjective stem (ast) or adj (ast + adj af) or a verb (vst + vaf).

a. nst **am** nst, n > n

*bahay na kubo > bahaykubo* nipa hut/thatched roof
house am hut hut

*bagoong na alamang > bagoong-alamang* salty sauce
fermented sauce am minute shrimps of small shrimps
*bantay na salakay > bantaysalakay* one who takes
guard am surepticious attack advantage of what he/ she is
supposed to be watching

*bahay na sanlaan > bahaysanlaan* pawnshop
house am pawn -an (loc. af)

*bahay na sugalan > bahaysugalan* gambling den
house am gamble -an (loc. af)

b. nst **am** adst, adj > n

*aso na ulol > asong-ulol* mad dog
dog am crazy

*sili na labuyo > siling-labuyo* small hot peppers
hot pepper am wild

*tubig na maalat > tubig-alat* sea water
water am ma-(adj af), salty

c. nst **am** v > n

*lupa na hinirang > lupang-hinirang* native land
ground am create, -in-(vaf)

2. Adjectives or ast and a nst, or a verb joined by the **am** is another
attributive phrase from which a Cw may be derived.

adj, ast **am** v, nst > adj

*Matanda na tinali > matandang-tinali* bachelor
ma-(adj af) old am tie up -in-(vaf)
mahaba na buntot > mahabang-buntot spoiled
ma-(adjaf) long am tail sensitive

panghaba na buhay > (pang) habang-buhay forever
pang-(adjaf) long am life

sawi na palad > sawing-palad unfortunate, unlucky
unlucky/frustrated am palm of hand, fortune

mahaba na pisi > mahabang-pisi well funded/
ma-(adjaf) long am string financed

B. Possessive phrase (Posph)

The possessive phrases from which Cws are derived consist of a nst followed by another nst (the possessor) marked by the possessive marker ng/-ng (pm) The -ng is affixed to the preceding stem that ends in a v.

nst ng nst > n, adj

bahag ng hari > bahaghari rainbow
g-string pm king

bahay ng bata > bahaybata uterus
house pm child

anak ng araw > anak-araw albino
child pm sun

tenga ng daga > tengang-daga a species of mushroom
ear pm rat

tenga ng kawali > tengang-kawali insensitive, does
ear pm deep frying pan not listen

balat ng bunga > balatbunga flattery, insincere
skin pm fruit words

balat ng sibuyas > balatsibuyas sensitive, easily hurt
skin pm onion criticism

utak ng biya > utakbiya dumb, ignorant, pea brain
brain pm a kind of fresh water fish
mukha ng pera > mukhang-pera materialistic
face pm money