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Cebuano Passives Revisited¹

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1. Introduction

Siewierska: no common single property (1985:1). Passive is not a language universal (23).

Comrie: prototypical passive is a construction where P is subject, A is minimally integrated into the syntax of its clause (1988:21).

Shibatani (1985): Passivization is an Agent-centered phenomenon; its fundamental function has to do with the defocusing of Agents. Sentences without Agents, i.e., intransitive sentences, cannot be passivized.

1.1 Objectives

- to review Payne's (1994) argument about Cebuano *gi*-clauses.
- to identify the passive constructions in Cebuano.
- to sort out the different types of *na*-clauses in Cebuano.

1.2 Data

Five conversations totaling at least 2 minutes and 30 minutes

Ten frog stories approximately 33 minutes

1.3 Cebuano

Table 1. Case determiners in Cebuano (Nolasco 2005)

		ABS	ERG	OBL
PERSON	Singular	<i>si</i>	<i>ni</i>	<i>kay</i>
	Plural	<i>silá</i>	<i>nilá</i>	<i>kanilá</i>
COMMON	non-specific		<i>ug</i>	<i>ug</i>
	Specific	<i>ang</i>	<i>sa</i>	<i>sa</i>

2. *gi*-clauses: ergative vs. passive

2.1 Payne 1994

Why examine *gi*-perfective in independent clauses?

- In dependent clauses (relative, adverbial, and complement) (as well as in questions, clefts, and imperatives), the choice of AF vs. PF is determined by the syntactic environment and therefore cannot be considered a pragmatic option.
>>>independent clauses

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- b. In independent clauses in all tense/aspect categories except perfective aspect, the difference between AF and PF conveys aspectual or modal nuances that are not directly associated with the pragmatic statuses (topicality) of the clausal arguments.
 >>>*gi*-clauses

Verb forms:

Table 2. Cebuano inflectional prefixes (forms and terms in brackets are from Wolff 1972:xvi) (Payne 1994:322)

		Actor focus [Active]	Goal focus [Passive]
Perfective [past punctual]		<i>mi-</i>	<i>gi-</i>
Future [future punctual]	(irrealis) (realis)	<i>mo-</i>	<i>-on</i>
Imperfective	(irrealis) [future durative] (realis) [past durative]	<i>mag-</i> (<i>manag-</i> PL) <i>nag-</i> (<i>nanag-</i> PL)	[(<i>pag(a)-</i>)... <i>-on</i>] [<i>gi(na)-</i>]
Abilitative [future potential]	(-intention) (+intention)	<i>maka-</i>	<i>ma-</i>
Perfect [past potential]	(-intention) (+intention)	<i>naka-</i>	<i>na-</i>

- c. In independent, declarative clauses in the perfective aspect, speakers consistently respond to AF and PF as conveying different ‘emphasis’ or ‘topicality’ (pragmatic option). These are the clauses that express temporally sequenced events in narrative discourse.

2.1.1 Lexical transitivity

Table 3. (Payne 1994)

		Transitive	Intransitive	Total
AF	<i>mi-</i>	80	175	255
PF	<i>gi-</i>	114	11	125

Yates $X^2 = 117.8, p < .000001$

Table 4. Cebuano conversation:

		Transitive	Intransitive	Total
AF	<i>mi-</i>	5	34	39
PF	<i>gi-</i>	65	16	81

$X^2 = 49.241, *p < .000$

2.1.2 Constituent order

Table 5. (Payne 1994)

		VAO (unmarked order)	VOA
AF	<i>mi-</i>	23	6
PF	<i>gi-</i>	52	19

Yates $X^2 = .1457, p = .70268$

In actual discourse, two-argument clauses are rare.

2.1.3 Topicality: RD and TP

2.1.3.1 RD: measures the number of clauses between one mention of a participant and its previous mention in the text.

RD=20	Low continuity (normally first mentions)
RD=2~19	Medium continuity
RD=1	High continuity

Table 6. O(A) vs. A(O) in PF clauses (if personal pronouns eliminated) (Payne 1994)

Continuity	O(A)		A(O)	
	A	O	A	O
High	3 (18%)	3 (19%)	19 (54%)	4 (9%)
Medium	6 (35%)	8 (50%)	14 (40%)	10 (23%)
Low	8 (47%)	5 (31%)	2 (6%)	29 (68%)

Conclusions:

PF (VAO) clauses tend to code high A and low O. O downplayed.

PF (VOA) clauses tend to code high O and H/M/L A. O high/intermediate topicality.

Table 7. Cebuano conversation

Continuity	O(A)		A(O)	
	A	O	A	O
High	8 (38%)	4 (44%)	6 (67%)	10 (55%)
Medium	4 (19%)	1 (11%)	3 (33%)	5 (28%)
Low	9 (43%)	4 (44%)	0 (0%)	3 (17%)

Givon (1990)

	A	O	
PF (AO) And AF	High	High Med	Active transitive (A may be zero-pronominal)
	High	Low	Antipassive → AF construction
PF (OA)	High	High	Functional Inverse
	Low	High	Passive (A is omitted)

2.1.3.2 TP: measures the number of times a participant is mentioned within ten clauses after any mention.

TP > 3	High importance
TP = 1 to 3	Medium importance
TP < 0	Low importance

Table 8. O(A) vs. A(O) in PF clauses (Payne 1994)

Importance	O(A)		A(O)	
	A	O	A	O
High	10 (59%)	14 (50%)	35 (64%)	8 (19%)
Medium	3 (18%)	10 (36%)	17 (31%)	13 (31%)
Low	4 (23%)	4 (14%)	3 (5%)	21 (50%)

Table 9. Cebuano conversation

Importance	O(A)		A(O)	
	A	O	A	O
High	6 (29%)	0 (0%)	6 (67%)	4 (22%)
Medium	5 (24%)	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	5 (28%)
Low	10 (47%)	5 (55%)	2 (22%)	9 (50%)

VA(O): $X^2 = 24.782$, * $p = .000$

A: $X^2 = 26.212$, * $p = .000$

VO(A): $X^2 = 15.397$, * $p = .004$

O: $X^2 = 13.488$, * $p = .009$

>>> Topicality: A (AO) > A (OA) > O (AO) > O (OA) → **A > O**

2.2 Comparisons with GF/ergative clauses

2.2.1 Syntactic integration of Agent

Shibatani (1988): Goal-topic construction shows no tendency toward Agent omission (93).

Dryer's count 57/67 = 85.1%

Shibatani's count 40/49 = 81.6% (folktales)

Our Cebuano count Conversation: 167/281 = 59.4%

Frog narratives (*gi*-clauses only): 72/79 = 91.1%

(Patients: 55/79 = 69.6%)

Comrie (1988:9) Passive and ergativity

Alike: Patient has subject properties

Different: Ergative involves greater integration of the agent phrase into the syntax of the clause (absence/presence of Agent)

2.2.2 Frequency of GF clauses

CHAMORRO (Shibatani 1988)

Frequency of Agents in GF clauses: 80% with Agents

Frequency of Agents in Passive clauses: 15% with Agents (Cooreman 1982; cited in Shibatani 1988:93)

Shibatani (1988:95-96)

Shibatani's count 49/106 = 46% (folktales)

Our Cebuano count Conversation: 220/985 = 22.3% (Note: *na*- V)

Frog narratives: 79/155 = 51.0% (*gi*-clauses)

AF verbs (78): motion verbs (57, 73.1%)

PF verbs: activity verbs

Shibatani (1988:103): Rule of thumb for topic choice in Philippine languages: if both actor and goal are referential, opt for the goal-topic.

>>>GF clauses in Philippine languages are

-not agent-defocusing mechanism (there are Agts and Pats)

-transitive events

Comrie (1988:9) – Passive is a marked construction (raw frequency).

2.2.3 Formal complexity of GF verbs (Shibatani 1988)

Comrie (1988:9) – Passive is a marked construction (formal complexity)

RUKAI (Li 1973)

Rukai is an accusative language whose passive voice is marked by the prefix *ki*-.

The subject is [+OBJ], [+DAT], or [+BEN].

(1) Li (1973:193)

ki-a-kani kuani umas sa Likulaw
PASS-real-eat that man leopard
'That man was eaten by a leopard.'

3. Cebuano *gi*-passives

3.1 Adversative "passives"

=These are intransitives that pattern after GF clauses and share the same form as GF verbs.

=They take a Nominative NP subject, which experiences adversity.

=SA-phrase indicates the **cause** of the adversity (not A).

=There is no Agent involved (**state** of adversity).

(2)

*Gi-kapoy si Pedro (sa trabaho / *ni Juan)*
Past.PF-be.tired SI PN Loc work Gen PN
'Pedro is tired from work (*by Juan).'

(3)

T: *ay ka-sakit oy [gi-luod ko]*
Interj KA-pain Voc Past.PF-nauseating 1S
W: [*@ @ @*] *@@@*
T: *gi-luod =ko dong naku dong*
Past.PF =1S Voc Interj Voc
T: Oh, hey, it's too painful. I [feel nauseous].
W: [laughing]
T: Hey, I feel nauseous.

(4) (Payne 1994)

Gi-laylay si Rayna Esmeralda sa usa ka sakit
PF.Pfv-afflict SI queen PN SA one Lk sickness
'Queen Esmeralda was stricken by a sickness.'

Daw gi-suyop siya sa usa ka batobalani
Seem PF.Pfv-attract 3S SA one Lk magnet
'As if he was drawn by a magnet.'

3.2 Fixed expressions

(5) Siewierska (1984:238): **It is said that** time heals all pain.

(6) Shibatani (1988:94)

Gi-nganlan =siyag Kapuroy
GF-call 3S PN
'He was called Kapuroy.'

(7) Payne (1994)

Si Totong gi-ila nga labi-ng hawod sa dama
SI PN PF.Pfv-identify Lk more-Lk best SA game
'Toto is known to be the best at the game of dama.'

- (8) *o syempre sad lala- mao lagi gi-'ingon lalaki*
 yes of.course also that Emph Past.PF-say men
 'Right. That's why (they are) so-called men.'

3.3 Active *gi*-Constructions vs. inverse *gi*- constructions

3.3.1 V=O (A): Topical Os (usually 1/2 pronominal); As less animate but topical or accessible from context

(9) VOA (Croft 2001:308)

- Gi-pildi** =*gayod* =*siya* *ni Iyo Baresto*
 GF-defeat Intens 3S Gen PN
 'He was really defeated by Iyo Baresto.'

(10)

- L → **gi-hired**=*ka=nila*
 GI-hire=2S.Nom=3P.Gen
 J → *m gi-hire=ko- dili gi-hire=ko ni= miss jero*
 BC GI-hire=1S.Nom Neg GI-hire=1S.Nom Gen PN
 L *miss a=*
 PN FS
 J *iyang sekretarya= personal alala=y*
 1S.Poss secretary personal bodyguard
 L: They hired you?
 J: Yes, (they) hired me. No, Miss Jero hired me.
 L: Miss uh=
 J: as her secretary, personal bodyguard.

a. A and O are topical.

- (11) *gi-V =siya sa Agent*
 Agents: *owl* 'owl' *iro* 'dog' *usa* 'deer' ([-Human] but [+Animate])

b. A is [+human] and accesible, adversative

- (12) Conv 2
naku ang akong first year sa- hotel/
 Interj ANG 1S.Poss
gi-daugdaug =*lang* =*ko sa mga ano-Taiwa[nese]*
 Past.PF-bully only 1S SA Pl Pf PN
 'Oh, when I was new at the hotel, my Taiwanese colleagues bullied me.'

c. A is accessible (>>>zero)

- (13) Conv 5: story about experience at customs
ngano-ng mang-hingi- m-angayo =man =ka sa akong kwarta
 why-Lk AF-ask.for AF-ask.for Part 2S SA 1S.Poss money
nga pareho =ra =man =ta nag-trabaho sa gobyerno
 Conj same only Part 1P AF-work Loc government
 'Why are you asking me for money when we're both working for the government.'
suko =kaay =siya suko =gyud =kaay =siya ba
 angry very 3S angry Emph very 3S Part
gi-hold =*man* =*mi-ng duha unya human- ay ewan ko*
 Past.PF-detain Part 1P-Lk two DM afterward Interj

‘He was so angry because we were detained (at customs), and then, I don’t know...’

3.3.2 OV clauses: O is topicalized (to direct the attention of the hearer to the O); A is topical >>> NOT passive

(14) Frog 2:54-63 (syntactically restricted)

54. ... (0.9) *unya ang bata- ang- ang bata'*
 DM ANG child ANG ANG child
padayon ug pangita' sa iya-ng frog
 continue UG find SA 3rd-Lnk

55. ... *sa-* among the trees
 ‘The child continued to look for his frog in the woods.’

56. ... (1.9) *unya diri sa=*
 DM here SA

57. ... *pag-pangita =niya ang iyang- iya-ng pet dog gi=*
 PAG-find 3S.Gen ANG 3S-Lnk

58. ... *gi=*

59. ... (1.3) *a=*

60. ... (1.5) *a= gi-habol sa=-*
 Past-PF-chase SA

61. ... (1.0) *@ sa bees*

62. ... *@* ...the bees ra-

63. ... ran after the- the dog *@@@* the puppy
 ‘As for his pet dog, the bees chased after it.’

(15) Conv 4

T *oy etong- etong meco gi=butang sa trade*
 Voc this this PN Past.PF-place Loc

T *unsa may atong kahimtang karon/*
 what Part 1P.Poss situation now

‘Hey, this office (MECO), (the President) placed it under (the jurisdiction of) the Trade Department. What’s going to happen to us now?’

3.3.3 V (covert As and Os): more frequent in conversation than in narratives (A and O equally non-topical).

(16) Conv 4: discussion about the raping of a Mongolian laborer

T *unsa pa mga ibang foreign workers*
 What still Pl other

W *Mongolian Mongolian lagi*
 PN PN Emph

T *ni- ni- naa nay Mongolian karon/*
 Exist Pfv PN now

W *oo\ peropag-sulod kuno pag first batch kuno*
 yes but as-enter Evid as Evid
six days lang gi-rape na kuno@
 only Past.PF-rape Pfv Evid

T *gi-rape kuno- gi-rape/*
 Past.PF-rape Evid Past.PF-rape

T: What are the other (nationalities of) foreign workers?

W: Mongolians [emphatically]

T: There are Mongolian workers now?

W: Right. But six days after the first batch of workers arrived, one of them got raped.

T: Raped?

(17) Conv 5: experience at the customs

W *tangtang gihapon relo tangtang*
 take.off still watch take.off

T *wa- wa- wala man*
 Neg Neg Neg Part

W *inig gawas sa X-ray na-wala*
 as leave Loc X-ray.machine AF-disappear

T *@@mao gi-suyop gi-suyop*
 right Past.PF-siphon Past.PF-siphon

W: Hey, they took off their watches.

T: No, (we didn't).

W: (Those things) disappear as they pass through the X-ray machine.

T: Right. (Those machines) suck up (those valuables).

(18) *Gi-kawat?*

PF.Pfv-rob

'Stolen?'

Nom NP

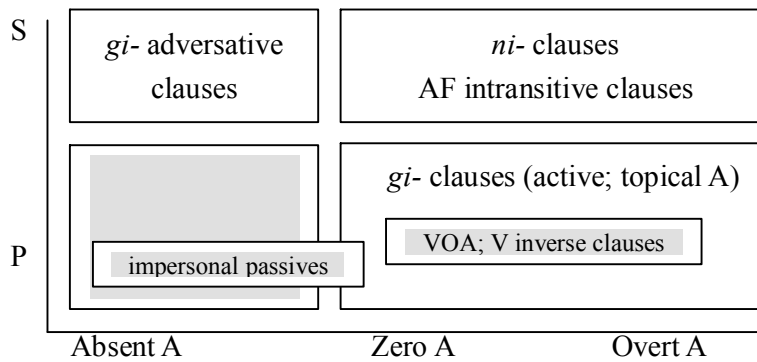


Figure 1 *ni-/gi-* clauses in Cebuano

4. *na-* Verbs?

The semantics of the *na-* prefix (non-purposeful/spontaneous) would direct the audience's attention to the effect of an action on the Patient (or Patient-like argument) in a non-AF *na-* construction as opposed to a *gi-* construction where an "effort-ful" action of the Agent is required (Nolasco 2005).

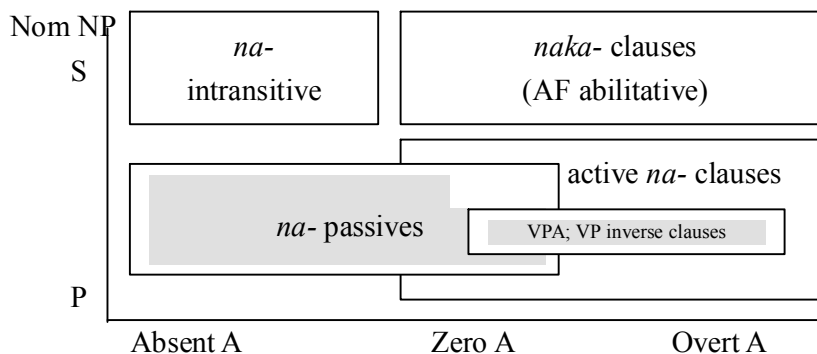


Figure 2. *na-/ma-* clauses in Cebuano

Table 10.

	<i>gi-V</i> (adversative verbs)	<i>na-V</i> (intransitive verbs)
Physical (bodily)	<i>gi-atake</i> 'to have a (heart) attack' <i>gi-duka</i> 'to feel sleepy' <i>gi-gutom</i> 'to feel hungry' <i>gi-kapoy</i> 'to feel tired' <i>gi-katol</i> 'to feel itchy' <i>gi-laay</i> 'to feel bored' <i>gi-lu'od</i> 'to feel nauseous' <i>gi-sip'on</i> 'to have a running nose' <i>gi-ubo</i> 'to cough' <i>gi-uhaw</i> 'to feel thirsty'	<i>na-banhaw</i> , 'rise from the dead' <i>na-buhi</i> , 'become alive' <i>na-hagbong</i> , 'fall' <i>na-hubog</i> , 'be drunk' <i>na-hulog</i> , 'fall' <i>na-matay</i> , 'die' <i>na-samad</i> , 'be injured' <i>na-sangit</i> , 'be hooked' <i>na-sunog</i> , 'burn' <i>na-takd-an</i> , 'be contaminated' <i>na-tawo</i> , 'be born' <i>na-tulog</i> , 'be asleep'
mental / emotional	<i>gi-mingaw</i> 'to miss (sb)'	<i>na-balaka</i> , 'be startled' <i>na-bu'ang</i> , 'be crazy' <i>na-gu'ol</i> , 'be sad' <i>na-hadlok</i> , 'be afraid' <i>na-kurat</i> , 'be astonished' <i>na-lipay</i> , 'be glad' <i>na-suko</i> , 'be angry' <i>na-tingala</i> , 'feel wonder'
infesting verbs	<i>gi-anay</i> 'to be infested with termites' <i>gi-kagaw</i> 'to be infected with germs' <i>gi-kuto</i> 'to be infected with lice' <i>gi-ulod</i> 'to be infested with worms'	<i>na-pan'os</i> , 'be rotten'
activity	<i>gi-V</i> 'PF usage'	<i>na-V</i> 'PF usage'

4.1 *na-* clauses in Cebuano

Active *na-* (A > P)=A is 1/2 pronominal, highly topical; P is accessible from context.
Possible word orders: VAP; PAV; VA; VP

Inverse (VPA; VP)

(19) L → *pananglitan na-meet=ka*

for.example NA-meet=2S.Nom

J m=

BC

L *dili dyud=ko ingon nga- ing'a- ing'ani ra gyud*
Neg Emph=1S.Nom say Comp FS like.this only Emph
ang akong- unsa na oy akong kina'iya ba nga-
ANG 1S.Poss what that Voc 1S.Poss personality Par Lk

J m=

BC

L *ay= ana di=dyud=ko- di ba parehas sa uban*
Interj like.that Neg=Emph=1S.Nom Neg Par same SA other

→ *pananglitan ma-meet=na=ka=nila*

for.example NA.Fut-meet=Pfv=2S.Nom=3P.Gen

J m=

BC

L: For example, you have met –

J: m=

L: I'm not, just like that, my uh-, what-you-call-it, my personality-

J: m=
 L: Oh, I'm not like that, not like others. For example, if you have been met by them,

Constructions carrying an inverse voice function as defined in Cooreman (1982) and Thompson (1992) are distinguished from the active by word order and are attested in the following languages: Korean (Kwak 1992), Maasai (Payne, Hamaya, and Jacobs 1992), Modern Greek (Roland 1992)

In addition, these languages have developed affixes, in addition to word order, to distinguish between active and inverse clauses: Northern Sahaptin (Rude 1992).

Intransitive *na-* (Nom NP is Experiencer, **ni-* phrase) = AF verb using PF form

(20) L → m= **na-hilom**=*na ang balita mayo unta oy @@*
 PF NA-silent=Pfv ANG news good Par Voc
 → **ma-wala**=*na=lang [ang gubot sa-]*
 NA.Fut-disappear=Pfv=only ANG chaos Loc
 J [*diri sa cebu kay-*] *kuan no/*
 here Loc PN because KUAN Q
kanang= peaceful/
 PF peaceful
 L *peaceful*
 peaceful
 L: The news disappeared. It's good though @@ No more disorder in-
 J: here in Cebu, it's peaceful, right?
 L: Peaceful.

(21) J *mag- lakwatsa=mi mga barkada namo tong high school/*
 AF go.out=1PEx.Nom Pl gang 1PEx.Gen that.time
unsa oras=na=kami mo-uli
 what time=Pfv=1PEx.Nom AF-go.home
 → *mao na di=man ma-hadlok*
 that.way Neg=Par NA.Fut-be.afraid
mao na akong mama=lang ga-ingon unsa o-
 that.way 1S.Poss mother=only AF-say what
unsa oras=na no/ dili ba kuan=na kayo gabii[=na kaayo]
 what time=Pfv Par Neg Q KUAN=Pfv very late=Pfv very
 L [gabii=na
kaayo]
 late=Pfv very
 J → *di=ka ma-hadlok sus hadlok=ka=man no*
 Neg=2S.Nom NA-Fut-be.afraid Interj be.afraid=2S.Nom=Par Par
 L @@
 J *tong una grabe=pa nay mga marines=pa=gyud*
 that.time serious=still Exist Pl marines=still=Emph
 → *mag-checkpoint bya- morag ma-hadlok=ka=gyud*
 AF-checkpoint Par like NA.Fut-be.afraid=2S.Nom=Emph
kong dili=ka taga-didto/
 if Neg=2S.Nom from-there
 J: When we went out at night (together with) my high school classmates,
 what time did we go home? So, we would not be afraid.
 So, my mother would just say, 'What time is it? [Isn't it too late?]'
 L: [It's too late.]
 J: You won't get afraid? You should!

L: Haha

J: At first, the condition was serious. There were marines (assigned) at checkpoints. You will feel afraid, if you're not from there.

Passive *na-* (P >> unimportant 'omitted' A; Nom NP is Patientive)

(22)

J *kay akong= lolo iyahang papa kuan-*
 because 1S.Poss grandfather 3S.Poss father KUAN
kanang- sundalo gud
 PF soldier Emph

L [m=]

BC

J → [*kan*]ang *bisag asa ma-assign*

PF anywhere Fut-assign

J: because my grandfather, his father was a *kuan* he was a soldier.

L: m=

J: he was assigned anywhere.

(23)

L *o= diri=ra=mi nag-kita\ kay akong- amiga nako*
 PF here=only=1PEX.Nom AF-meet because 1S.Poss friend 1S.Gen

→ *wala=siya na-dawat\ siya ang nag-'ano*

Neg=3S.Nom NA-accept 3S.Nom ANG AF-what

J m=

PF

L *nag-pa-hibawo nga nay [nag- XXX]*

AF-Cau-notify Comp Exist AF-

J [unsa=man] diay
 what=Par Evid

nag-nag- hiring=ba=sila/ nag-

AF- AF hire=Q=3P.Nom AF

L *una ang mga ka-ila ra nila ang ila ra-ng*
 first ANG Pl Recip-know only 3P.Gen ANG 3P.Poss only-Lk

→ *...hibo=ng=gay'=ko ngano ako @@na-dawat*

wonder=Par=1S.Nom why 1S.Nom NA-accept

→ *na-dawat=pa=ko unya ang ag ang nag-kuan*

NA-accept=still=1S.Nom then ANG FS ANG AF.KUAN

→ *sa ako wala=siya na-dawat*

Obl 1S.Nom Neg=3S.Nom NA-accept

L: Yes. We met here, because my friend, she was not accepted. She was the one- (J: m=)

L: who informed (me) that there [was -XXX]

J: [what] they were hiring?

L: At first, they only looked for people they knew. I even wondered why I got accepted. I got accepted, and the one who (told) me (about this job), she didn't get accepted.

Table 11. word order and constructions

		<i>gi-</i>	<i>na-</i>	topicality of A
intransitive	A >> P	VS	VS (Experiencer 1/2)	no A
active	A > P	VAP	VAP PAV VA (P is -H abstract) VP	1/2
inverse	A < P	VPA	VPA	

		VP	VP	accessible
passive	A << P	idioms	VP	inaccessible

Table 12. *na*- constructions in Cebuano

		A integration	frequency
intrans	A >> P	81.6%	49
active	A > P	95.2%	42
inverse	A < P	50.0%	10
passive	A << P	0%	29

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