Doris Porter. “Figurative uses of ‘breath’ in Tboli” 148–150
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, "Stang be 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:

- bong nawa 'big breath'
- blat nawa 'heavy breath'
- labà nawa 'broken breath'
- lungun nawa 'coffin breath'
- beyen nawa 'settled, comfortable breath'
- levu nawa 'two breaths'
- maan nawa 'light breath'
- mólds nawa 'clean breath'
- bnukú nawa 'blocked breath'

(bukú is the junction between sections of bamboo lengths)

- mesgólól nawa 'divided breath'
- gotu nawa 'complete breath'
- mgel nawa 'hard breath'
- mima nawa 'long time breath'
- klayuk nawa 'far breath'
- lala nawa 'bothered breath'
- sbeweg nawa 'disordered breath'
- sikeb nawa 'narrow breath'
- gseng nawa 'blocked breath'

- love
- sadness
- desolation
- worry, anxiety
- contentment
- uncertainty, doubt
- joy
- joy
- bitterness,
- 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.
NAWA used to express characteristics:

- tafa nawa 'bad breath'
- manu nawa 'good breath'
- kutd nawa 'hold back breath'
- mafas nawa 'one breath'
- tedeng nawa 'straight breath'
- btol nawa 'clear breath'
- tinof nawa 'quiet breath'
- menek nawa 'restful breath'
- bukay nawa 'white breath'
- langub nawa 'cover a wide area
  breath'
- manay nawa from Banay 'section
  of bamboo breath'
- ganag nawa 'slow breath'
- tahá nawa 'long breath'
- sukeg nawa 'restricted breath'
- kesut nawa 'tight (used when
  speaking of a bow-string)
  nawa'
- ukol nawa 'short breath'
- suko't nawa 'tangled breath'
- smeeb nawa 'second time
  breath'
- gulit nawa 'repeated breath'
  (from nulit 'to
  repeat')
- mfól nawa 'thick breath'
- lufi nawa 'thin breath'
- mneb nawa 'faithful breath'
- lega nawa 'faithful breath'
- lemtó wawa 'floating breath'
- langan nawa 'many branched
  breath'
- stedek nawa 'one piece breath'

of bad character in general
of good character in general
self control
unity
integrity
honesty
calmness, serenity
calmness, serenity
of good character
no where lacking in good character
patience
patience
patience
short-tempered
short-tempered
short-tempered
easily angered
a mixture of bravery and timidity
disciplined, well trained
brave, courageous
timid, cowardly
dependable, loyal
constant
unreliable
of a diversity of mind
single minded

NAWA used in verbal expressions:

- mili nawa 'to change breath'
- genléd nawa 'to lean breath
  on'
- ston nawa 'to see (reciprocal)
  breath'

to change one's mind
to trust
to be of the same mind with someone
else
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nawa</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>knogol nawa</td>
<td>'to turn breath away from'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mulek nawa</td>
<td>'to return breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hemtulon nawa</td>
<td>'to cause to tell breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gmung nawa</td>
<td>'to accompany breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nokol nawa</td>
<td>'to dig breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nusol nawa</td>
<td>'to go after breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mefet nawa</td>
<td>'to reach breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mogot nawa</td>
<td>'to hold on to breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mon nawa</td>
<td>'to say breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nulon nawa</td>
<td>'to carry a burden breath'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to think of again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to remember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to think favorably toward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to further pursue something experienced or obtained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to pursue a desire not yet experienced or obtained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to depend on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to think something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to keep in mind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>