

## COMMENT

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While Fr. Bosch is correct to pick on the misuse of a term and enlighten us on the correct terminology of volcanology, the componential analysis he applies may appear to work fine in the small universe of the few words he discussed, but would not obviously apply to all the words in Tagalog with similar syllables. Take, for example, *lakatan* [banana sp.] or *hari* 'king' — would he try to justify a king as an 'expanding increasingly, advancing powerfully' individual? Even if so, the word is a borrowing from Javanese *haji*, so that this *-r-* would not presumably be the same as a 'true' (inherited) Tagalog [r] since it has a different source.

My explanation of *lahát* still stands as treated in Vol. 4 of the Core Etymological Dictionary of Filipino (p. 196): an independent semantic innovation in Tagalog (to the meaning 'all') from a PHN \**dahat* 'quantity' (i.e. of something). Similarly *lahád* is the morphemic accent pair or counterpart by metathesis of PHF \**Sálad* > PPH \**hálad* 'give, offer'. I have no etymology for *lahar* except that it is stated to be Bahasa Indonesia for 'lava'; in Malay the same word has two meanings (1) 'ravaging (of extreme hunger), devouring (of flames)' and (2) 'pool'. One can imagine that Indonesian 'lava' is related to both, i.e. lava is a 'devouring fire pool'.

Why Filipinos seek to borrow words for volcanoes is itself of immense sociolinguistic interest and importance! Witness the widespread use of Sp-derived *bulkan*, or now of Indonesian *lahar*. The volcano phenomenon (via Taal, Pinatubo, Mayon, etc.) has been extant since prehistoric times and hence, one would assume, so should native words for the entire complex. My best guess is that there are remnants of tribal fears of volcanoes as either gods or the punishment of the gods. Under such circumstances the words themselves enter a taboo register (i.e. say it and it will happen), so the speech is disguised by using another word (in this case a loan). The fact that the Filipino press has borrowed an Indonesian word but re-defined its semantic content to suit a local need is what has happened through the ages, e.g. when fish or plant names are re-applied to more familiar species. So this 'Humpty-Dumpty effect' of having word mean what one chooses (or suit the needs of the times) rather than what it should mean etymologically or historically is rather commonplace.

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