The Phonology of *Kailugan* Dumaget Language
Abstract

Dumagat is the general term to Negrito groups living in the mountains of Sierra Madre (Francisco, 2012) in the Philippines. Also, pronounced as *Dumaget,* in which the change in the pronunciation of the final vowel is an areal feature of eastern Luzon Negrito languages (Reid, 2013).

The *Dumaget* is divided into Northern Alta and Southern Alta. The Northern Alta lives in the Sierra Madre in Aurora Province about 304 kilometers from Manila. Southern Alta speakers live primarily in the Sierra Madre of eastern Nueva Ecija (259 kilometers from Manila), the adjacent coastal areas of Quezon Province, and Bulacan (Reid, 1991; Reid 2013; Francisco, 2012). The latter is commonly referred to as *kabulowan*, which probably associates with the little Bulu River in Northern Bulacan (Reid, 2013). While some live within the boundary of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, others live in Norzagaray (Reid, 2013) and Dona Remedios Trinidad in Bulacan (Francisco, 2012). Although there is no clear orthographic sketch of their language, Joshua project (2014) has mentioned that Southern Alta has six different languages.

Considering the absence of grammatical sketch or orthography of any Southern Alta languages, the study is geared to describe the phonological features and characteristics of at least one of the Southern Alta language, develop the orthography, and trace the phonological origin of the language.

Audio recordings of more than 30 hours of conversation with more than 10,000 words were collected from different interlocutors, a native couple and their family, their next of kin, and other members of the communal in Bulacan, and from different settings (house, uphill and forest). The corpus was analyzed and came up with a phonological description of the community's language. The description of their phonology and its features is only of one kind, and it is referred to as *Kailugan Dumaget* language.

Kailugan Dumaget phonology consists of 9 vowel and 16 consonant sounds. It also consists of 6 diphthongs and 2 triphthongs. The vowel sounds are grouped according to high, mid, and low vowels. The high vowels are high front /i/, lower high front /ɪ/, high back round vowel /u/, and lower high front vowel /ʊ/. Central vowels are high mid /e/, lower mid front /ɛ/, mid central vowels /ɐ/ and schwa /ə/, and mid back round vowel /o/. Low vowel front vowel is /a/. (Note: Because of limited space, Table 1 and 2 are shown below at the Appendix; and stress and other suprasegmental features are shown in the sample words.). Sample words are shown below:

/i/			/e/		
isadut	/i.sɐ.dut /	one	dena	/deː.naʔ /	stone
/ɪ/			/ɛ/		
idna	/ɪd.na /	mother	belag	/bɛ.lag/	floor
/u/			/ɐ/		
uminik	/u.mɪ.nɪk/	climb up	adupit	/ɐ.du.pĭt/	low; short
somewhere			/o/		
/ʊ/			olop	/o.lop/	clouds
duso	/dŭs.oʔ/	rain	/a/		
			apun	/ˈa.pun/	afternoon

Kailugan Dumaget language has six (6) diphthongs and two (2) triphthongs. The diphthongs are /ay/, /ey/, /oy/, /aw/, /ew/, /ow/, and /iy/; triphthongs, /eeyah/ and /iye/. Each phonemic representation is shown below. The tripthongs /iyah/ and /iye/ have no similar sounds in any English words. Example words are shown below.

/ay/			/ey/		
maysa	/maɪ.sa/	'snake'	ngeywit	/ŋeɪ.wit/	'mouth'

/oy/			/ow/		
gulamoy	/gu.lɐ.moy/	'finger'	motnow	/ˈmot.nohw/	'disorderly, chaotic'
/aw/					
nalinaw	/ˈnɐ.li.nahw/	'green'			
kumulawit	/ku.mu.laʊ.ɪt/		/i:yah/ or /eeyah/		
'shout to something'			umabya	/u.ˈma.beeyah/ or /u.ˈma.bi:yah/	'morning'
/ew/			/i:ɛ/ or /byɛ/		
kewyan	/kɛw.ʎɐn/	'call someone from a distance'	byelon	/bi:ɛ.lon/ or /biyɛ.lon/	'well'

Consonants sounds are classified according to the point of articulation, manner of articulation, and voicing. There are 13 identified consonant sounds in *Kailugan Dumaget*. They are as follows: bilabial stops, voiceless /p/ and voiced /b/; dental stops, voiceless /t/ and voiceless /d/; velar stops, voiceless /k/ and voiced /g/; glottal voiced stop /ʔ/; dental voiced affricate /dʒ/; nasal voiced sounds, bilabial /m/, dental /n/ and velar /ŋ/**;** dental voiceless fricative /s/; glides, palatal voiceless /ʎ/ and velar voiceless /w/; dental lateral voiceless /l/. Consonants sounds with sample words are shown:

/p/			/m/		
pipipdi	/pɪ.pɪp.dɪ/	'to have'	maabong	/mɐ.ˈa.boŋ/	'thin'
/b/			/n/		
bibil	/bi.bil/	'lips'	naamot	/nɐ.ɐ.mot/	'brave'
/t/			/ŋ/		
tabit	/tɐ.bɪt/	'mountain'	ngeywit	/ŋɛɪ.wit/	'mouth'
/d/			/s/		
duledule	/du.lɛ.du.lɛ/	'cicada'	salakap	/sa.la.kap/	'climb up'
/k/			/ʎ/		
kabwan	/kɐb.wɐn/	'air'	budyak	/bud.ʎɐk/	'fruit from a tree'
/g/			/w/		
gomot	/go.mot/	'hand'	wagot	/wɐ.got/	'water'
/ʔ/			/l/		
aklop	/akʔ.lop/	'roof'	labet	/la.bɛt/	'wood'
/dʒ/					
modyingato	/ˈmo.dʒɪ.ŋɐ.tŏ/	'tall'			

The study was able to describe the phonological features of at least one Southern Alta language and is named *Kailugan Dumaget* language. Further, the phonology and other linguistic data of the language will be used for future research.

References

Dita, S. N. (2010). A reference grammar of Ibanag. Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing.

Francisco, M. (2012). Mahabe Pagotan: Kasaysayan, kalinangan, at lipunan ng mga Dumagat sa bahaging Bulacan ng Sierra Madre. Bahay-Saliksikan. Bulacan State University.

Kabuloan Dumagat. Retrieved June 10, 2014 at http://legacy.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.phpʔpeo3=11571&rog3=RP

Joshua Project. Retrieved on June 10, 2014 at http://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12392/RP

Reid, L. (1991). The Alta languages of the Philippines. Retrieved June 10, 2014 at http://www2.hawaii.edu/~reid/Combined%20Files/A31.%201991.%20The%20Alta%20Languages.pdf

Reid, L. A. (2013). Who are the Philippine Negritos? Evidence from language. Human Biology, 85 (1), Article 15.

Appendix
Table 1- Distribution of Vowel Sounds

	Front	Center	Back
High	/i/		/u/
	/ɪ/		/ʊ/
Mid	/e/	/ə/	/o/
	/ɛ/	/ɐ/	
Low		/a/	

Table 2 Kailugan Dumaget Consonant Sounds with Corresponding Tagalog Orthography

Manner of Articulation	Place of Articulation				
	Bilabial	Dental	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive (voiceless)	p	t			
(voiced)	b	d			ʔ
Affricates (voiced)		dʒ			
Nasal (voiced)	m	n			
Fricative (voiceless)		s			
Approximant (voiceless)			ʎ		
Lateral (voiceless)		l			