

## 258. Lexicography of Other Philippine Languages

1. Overview
2. Phonologies and Orthographies
3. The Head Word and Morphophonemics
4. Verb Stem Classification
5. Future Directions
6. Selected Bibliography

### 1. Overview

There are 20 major linguistic groups within the Philippines (cf. Map 258.1). These can be further split into at least 50 subgroups representing over 500 known dialects. Of the latter, at least 30 have had reasonably thorough coverage (e. g., Fernandez Cosgaya 1865 for Pangasinan, Vanoverbergh 1956 for Ilokano, Wolff 1972 for Cebuano), while short word lists can be found for about 300 more. All such studies have been bilingual. [For comprehensive references consult Ward 1971.]

Spanish missionaries produced some of the first lexicons for Bikol, Ilokano, Kapampangan, Pangasinan, Maguindanao, and Cebuano-Bisayan, of roughly the same calibre as for Tagalog (see art. 257).

This was followed by American interest in languages spoken by ethnographically smallish societies (e. g., the Subanon or Palawan Batak), and

more recently by the missionary activities of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (e. g., Western Bukidnon Manobo).

The era of modern dictionaries has seen some excellent studies on Cebuano, Tausug, and Casiguran Dumagat. Many have been produced by staff of the University of Hawaii, e. g., Bontok, Maranao. The needs of the U. S. Peace Corps led to several volumes within the PALI language series (University of Hawaii Press) and also a set of lexicons produced by Dr. Ernesto Constantino.

### 2. Phonologies and Orthographies

The official orthography for Tagalog (Pilipino) has been applied with certain language-specific solutions, e. g., [ɣ] = x in Itbayaten, g in West Bukidnon Manobo, e in Aklanon. Glottal stop cannot be assumed intervocally in some dialects, e. g., Kuyonon *kaen* 'eat' = [kaən] not \*kaʔən. Vowels vary the most: e often = [ə]; accent symbols may designate different vowels rather than stress or length, e. g., in Tboli ó = [o], o = [ɔ]; in Dumagat é = [ə], ě = [ɛ].

### 3. The Head Word and Morphophonemics

Most Philippine languages have complex morphophonemics that must be represented in the dictionary so that forms can be properly used or identified.

For example, Ilokano has geminate consonants after short penult vowels (mainly shwa). After prefixation, these geminates reduce to single consonants and the short vowel is lost, e. g., *gellóŋ* 'resound' — *gumlóŋ* 'to resound', *sunnop* 'prefer' — *masnop* 'be preferred'; however, neither is lost when suffixation occurs, *sunnopén* 'will be preferred'. Vanoverbergh (1956) handles this quite adequately by sample derivations within the main entry.

Aklanon and other Bisayan dialects have a complex system of syncope and metathesis, e. g., *inum* 'drink', *imna* 'Drink it!', *bíhod* 'roe', *bidhánan* 'having roe; meaningful (maxim)'. Whether the lexicographer chooses to list the head word and its variant shapes as a formula (*inum*, *imn-*) or include sample derivations is a matter of preference.

More complex still is the situation in some Sambal dialects where the postulation of some roots would be total abstractions (they are never uttered independent of affixation), e. g., *bumdeŋ* 'to fear', *bedŋen* 'be feared';



Map 258.1: Location of other Philippine languages

\**bedej* 'fear' does not occur, although it would appear to be the logical form for a head entry. Any solution requires much thought and consultations with prospective users.

Even a relatively simple matter such as suffixation has sometimes failed to receive explicit attention. When *-an* 'locative', *-un* or *-ən* 'direct passive' are added to stems ending in a vowel, some languages (like Tausug or Tboli) require that an *h* be inserted, e. g., Tausug *asawa-hun* 'will be married'. Others may unpredictably insert *h*, *ʔ*, or a homorganic semivowel. One cannot tell from the treatment in Elkins (1968) that forms should be *depa-han* 'to fathom', *duma-ha* 'Accompany him!' as opposed to *kuwa-ʔa* 'Get it!' or *huna-ʔan* 'be preceded' (data from Elkins, personal communication May 1980). Similar information is sometimes not available for Cebuano in Wolff (1972) when suffixed examples are not cited.

#### 4. Verb Stem Classification

Philippine languages have a complex system of agreement between the semantic role of the *topic* and the verb (focus [= *rheme*]) involving a choice of active as opposed to three or more kinds of passive. Approaches to the problem of grammatical representation may be described as *morphological* (Reid) vs *formulaic* (Wolff), exemplified respectively by the dictionary excerpts 258.1 and 258.2.

- ekan ek-ekan + N. Feast. (1)  
 Nalpas nan kena, ek-ekan si baballo. *After the kena ceremony, the young men feast.*  
 kak-akan To have just eaten.  
 kan +V, A O. A:mang-/om- (komman)  
 (+ part), O: -en. To eat. (1) Kommankas akit.  
*Eat a little of it.*  
 makan + N. Cooked rice. Cf. teda; bináyo.  
 makmakan Edible.  
 manganan + N, \_\_ GEN. Any pot or jar in which rice is usually cooked. (1) into kay nan mangantakos na? *Where is our pot for cooking rice?*  
 pakan +V, \_\_ A B O. B: -en, O:i-. To feed; to raise, as an animal. (1) Esámi pakanen nan esay ókenyo. *We will raise one of your puppies.*  
 (2) Ipankamo nan lokmog. *Feed it cooked sweet potato.*  
 pan-ekan + T<sub>2</sub>. Meal time; time for eating.  
 pangan + V, A B O. B: -en, O:i-. To feed; to feed on.

Dictionary excerpt 258.1: *ekan* (from: Reid 1976, 103)

káun v 1 [A2S3S; a] eat. *Nagkaun ka na?* Have you eaten? *Nakakaun na kug amù,* I have eaten monkey meat. *Unsa may kan-un sa masakitun?* What should the patient eat now? 1a [a 3] be eaten to get one to act in an unusual way. *Unsay nakáun sa táwu? Mangúhit man,* What got into you that you touched me? 2 [A; a2] destroy by fire, erosion, corrosion. *Ang asidu mukáun ug tayà,* Acid eats away rust. *Ang balay gikaun sa kaláyu,* The house was destroyed by the fire. *Nahánaw siya kay gikaun man sa kangitngit,* He suddenly vanished because he was engulfed in darkness. 3 [A 12] consume, use up. *Ang imung plansa mukáun ug dakung kurinti,* Your iron consumes a lot of electricity. 4 [A; ab 7] take a man in games of chess, checkers, and the like. *Wà pa kan-i ang ákung mga piyun,* None of my pawns has been captured yet. 4a [b 48] when one returns the shuttlecock in *takyan* (by kicking it), for the return kick to be caught and kicked by the opponent. *Hikan-an ang ákung patid kay ang ákung patid napatiran niya. Sa átù pa, hikan-an ku,* My kick was returned (lit. eaten) because he returned the shuttlecock when I kicked it. In other words, I had my kick returned. 5 [A] for a man to have sexual relations with a blood relative. *Háyup ka mukáun kag kaugalingung anak,* You're a beast. You have intercourse with your own child. 5a [a 3] for a girl to be old enough to be had for sexual intercourse. 6 [b 4] for a fish to bite on one's line. *Wà ku kan-i gabí,* I didn't get a bite last night. *n 1* food served. *Sa míting adúna usáhay puy káun,* In the meeting they sometimes serve food. *Sa pagpabulan lábut na ang káun,* If you work as a maid, food is included. 1a action of eating. *Tris diyas kung way káun,* I went three days without food. 2 consumption, amount of s.t. that is used up. *Dakug káun sa gasulina ning kutsiha,* This car consumes a lot of gas. . . . kan-anan, kalan-an *n* place to eat (eating table, dining room, restaurant). hiN-a fond of eating. *Hingáun kug mga prútas,* I'm fond of fruits. -in- *n* s.t. eaten, consumed. *Kináun sa gabas,* Sawdust (what was eaten by the saw). kinan-an *n* way of eating. kakan-unun, ka-un(-) *a* feel very much like eating. *Kakan-unun kug bága,* I'm so angry I could eat coals. ma- *n* food ready to eat. *Inig-uli ni Máma, daghan siyag dang makáun,* When Mom comes home, she will bring lots of food. pag- *n 1* meal.

Dictionary excerpt 258.2: *kaun* (from: Wolff 1971, 457)

#### 5. Future Directions

Many Philippine languages await such work. Scholars need to consider the points raised here as well as principles of *use*, *users*, and *predictability* (i. e., if form or meaning is sufficiently deviant, the word or collocation needs to be represented). In furthering National Language Development, should Tagalog or Pilipino be included in the definitions?

If one is working on a language that has had a dictionary or wordlist, should that data be included (even words no longer verifiable, e. g., found in an old Spanish study)? To what extent should written or oral literature be covered? How much cross-referencing is worthwhile (e. g., including the phases of the moon under the entry for 'moon', all monetary units under 'money', etc.)?

Much has been done, but there is yet much to do towards the production of comprehensive studies on the dozens of dialects not yet represented in the literature. Hopefully Filipino scholars themselves will work on the rich legacy of their own languages. This would finally off-set a long period of domination (albeit benign) by foreign scholars.

## 6. Selected Bibliography

### 6.1. Dictionaries

*Elkins 1968* = Richard E. Elkins: Manobo-English Dictionary. Oceanic Linguistics Special Publication No. 3. Honolulu 1968.

*Fernandez Cosgaya 1865* = Lorenzo Fernandez Cosgaya: Diccionario Pangasinan-Español. Manila 1865.

*Reid 1976* = Lawrence A. Reid: Bontok-English Dictionary. Canberra 1976 (Pacific Linguistics C. 36).

*Vanoverbergh 1956* = Morice Vanoverbergh: Ilokano-English Dictionary. Baguio 1956.

*Wolff 1972* = John U. Wolff: A Dictionary of Cebuano Visayan. Manila 1972 (Special Monograph 4).

### 6.2. Other Publications

*Ward 1971* = Jack H. Ward: A Bibliography of Philippine Linguistics and Minor Languages. Ithaca 1971 (Data Paper 83, SE Asia Program).

*R. David Paul Zorc,  
School of Australian Linguistics,  
Batchelor, N. T. (Australia)*