

257. Tagalog Lexicography

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1. Background

Dictionaries of Tagalog (= Tag) have had a relatively long and illustrious history. The first known publication (San Buenaventura 1613) is housed in the British Museum.

Until 1986, all have been bilingual, the target language being Spanish (up to 1914) or English (after 1900). Some comparative wordlists are in German, French, and other Philippine languages.

2. Orthography and Accent

It is fortunate that the first contacts with the Philippines were by the Spanish who could phonetically record the forms they heard. Even the earliest documents are decipherable, which might not have been the case of an "English invasion". By the time of US intervention, consistent orthographic principles had been established.

In the following table, spellings which have differed from the official orthography are given in parentheses.

p	t	k (c, cq, qu)	ʔ (see below)
b (v)	d (r)	g (gu)	
f	ch (ts)	j (di, dy)	
m	n	ng (ñg)	
w (v, o, u)	s (z, x)		h (j, g, x)
	y (j, i)		
		r (rr)	
VOWELS			
i (y, e)		u (o)	
e	a	o	

Fig. 257.1: Modern Tagalog consonants and vowels

Glottal stop [ʔ] is ignored initially and between vowels; in clusters it is written as a hyphen. Otherwise it and accent are treated by the Institute of National Language (= INL) and early Spanish sources (= ES) under accent conventions with reference to the penult (= pn.). An unmarked form is

accented on the penult (ES *producta*) with corresponding vowel length if the syllable is open; a marked form is accented on the ultima (ES *correpta*) as in the following illustrations:

<i>PHONETIC</i>	<i>EARLY SPANISH</i>
bá:ga	baga (pp) = pn. producta grave
bá:gaʔ	baga (ppa) = pn. producta pausal
bagá	bagá (pc) = pn. correpta grave
bagáʔ	baga(pca) = pn. correpta guttural
gabí	gabí
	diaeresis

<i>PHONETIC</i>	<i>INL/MODERN</i>	<i>GLOSS</i>
bá:ga	baga	ember
bá:gaʔ	bagá	lungs
bagá	bagá	is it?
bagáʔ	bagá	tumor
gabí	gab-í	night

Thus ES *palay* (pp) = INL *palay* [pá:lay] 'rice (plant, unhusked)', ES *bigas* (pc) = INL *bigás* 'husked rice', ES *busa* (pca) = INL *busá* [busáʔ] 'popped rice', ES *digäs* = INL *dig-ás* [digʔás] 'third pounding of rice', ES = INL *sinaing* [siná:ʔiŋ] 'boiled rice'.

3. Headword, Derivations, and Entries

Even the earliest dictionaries showed sparks of ingenuity in isolating roots. Differences in treatment reflect the linguistic acumen of the author rather than his first-language background. The format of most includes the headword followed by translational gloss(es); occasionally sentence examples or derivations were given. Basic grammatical information, although rarely stated explicitly, can be deduced from either the Spanish equivalents or Tagalog examples, e. g., *bayo* 'arroz o algo en mortero' [= noun], *nagbabayo* 'molerlo así' [= active verb], *binabayo* 'ser molido' [= passive verb].

Nevertheless, Tagalog has a rich and complicated inflectional system, e. g., the subtle intricacies between *mag-* and *-um-* verbs (Pittman 1966) or their active and passive counterparts (McFarland 1976). Although lexicographic practice still lags behind linguistic discoveries, it was only in this century

that scholars have attempted to deal *systematically* with such phenomena: by formulae and/or example. The provision of examples or derivations has proven more comprehensible to a non-technical audience. Such information is given under the root within the main entry. Panganiban 1972, 220 is an example of such an entry:

- kain**¹ n. consumption of food. Cf. *lamon*. — Bk. kakan; Kpm. Ilk. Ind. Mal. Png. mangán; Hlg. Sb. SL. kaon (cf. Tg. *kaón*); Ibg. Mar. kan; Ivt. kanen (cf. Tg. *kanin*); Mgd. kaan; Tau kimun.
- *Kakákain-kain ko pa lamang*. I have just finished eating.
 - *Kakanín*, q.v.
 - *Kainan*, var. *kanan*, v. to eat off (x, as a dish) or in (x), as a place). Vide *kanan*.
 - *Káinan*, n. (a) simultaneous eating of several (persons or animals) — (b) place or utensil from which or in which feeding or eating is done, as *sillid-káinan*: dining room, Syn. *kome-dór*; *mesang káinan*: dining table; *pinggáng káinan*: dish or china used in eating.
 - *Kainin*, var. *kanin*, v. to eat (x). Syn. *kumain*, vtr. Vide *kanin*.
 - *Kanin*—(a) v. var. of *kainin*, q.v.—(b) n. boiled or steamed rice (out of pot and ready to eat). **Note: *palay*, rice grains still in shell, and also the whole rice plant; *bigás*, hulled rice; *sinaing*, hulled rice being boiled or steamed; *kaning-lamíg*, cold boiled or steamed rice, usually left-over *kanin* kept for another meal; *sinangág*, fried *kanin*; *murisketa tustada* Sp.: fried *kanin* mixed with meats and condiments; *ampáw*, puffed rice, sweetened puffed rice; *mumo*: grains of *kanin* fallen off dish on table; *lugaw*, *nilugaw* Ch.: rice porridge; *aruskalús*: rice porridge with chicken or meat; *arusbalensyana* Sp.: spiced soft-fried *kanin* styled after the manner done in Valencia (Spain).
 - *Ikain*, v. to use (x) as tool or means of eating.
 - *Kapakanán*, q.v. n. interests, affairs, welfare.
 - *Maáaring makain*, *makákain* adj. edible, can be eaten.
 - *Makain*, v. to be able to eat (x) — *Waláng makain*: none of the supply can be eaten; nothing is edible. — *Di-makakain*: cannot eat, having no appetite, unable to eat.
 - *Mákain* v. to have something to eat; to happen to eat (x). — *Waláng mákain*: to have nothing to eat.
 - *Makakain*, v. to be able to eat. — *Nang makakain na kami*. . . After we have eaten. . .
 - *Makikain*, v. to join others at meal; to ask others to be allowed to eat or be given food.
 - *Magkain*, *magkakain*, v. to eat continuously or repeatedly.
 - *Magpakain*, v. to feed; to allow others to eat.
 - *Pakainin*, var. *pakainin*, v. to feed (x).
 - *Pákainin*, var. *pákakanin*, n. person or animal one has to feed. Cf. *sustentuhin*, *alagá*.
 - *Pagkain*, n. food. — Bk. Sb. kakanon; Kpm.

pámangán; Hlg. Sb. pagkaon; Ibg. kanan; Ibg. kanan; Ilk. Ivt. Png. kanon; Ind. Mal. makanan; Mar. pangunungkan; Mgd. kan; Tau. ka-kaon.

Dictionary excerpt 257.1: *kain* (from: Panganiban 1972, 220)

4. Promulgation of a National Language

As early as 1897 Tagalog was proposed as the National Language, which was officially named *Pilipino* in 1939 and rechristened *Filipino* in 1973. Regardless of recurring opposition, some form of Tagalog is now spoken or understood by almost 70 % of the population, the cumulative result of bilingual education, movies, comics, and news media (see Gonzalez 1980).

As the medium of communication around busy Manila Bay for centuries, Tagalog had been borrowing from nearby Pampango, Sambal, or Pangasinan, and contact languages (Brunei-Malay, Spanish) resulting in an enriched vocabulary and a rapidly developing literary genre.

The 1940's saw a period of purism in the construction of *Pilipino*. Coinages such as *sahumpuwit* 'seat' or *banyuhay* 'metamorphosis' were introduced to replace already assimilated loans *silya* 'chair' (Sp.), *metamórposis* (Sp./Eng.). Some such scientific terms introduced in textbooks have now been accepted and are in use. Recent trends have again been recognising Tag as the Koine it is: freely incorporating Spanish and English loans, forms from other Philippine languages which have no Tag counterpart, or widely used words as acceptable synonyms [*baláy* 'house' = Tag *bahay*, *danóm* 'water' = Tag *tubig*]. Panganiban (1972) already represented a step in this direction.

Some native authors feel that more information on derivatives is necessary for non-Tagalog users, e. g., *kakainin* 'tidbit, snack' should have its own entry rather than be under *kain* 'eat'. This trend has resulted in dictionaries with thick sections where prefixes like *ka-* [noun], *ma-* [adjective], *mag-* [verb] were involved (Santos 1978). Since a fully-inflected verb may have up to 144 forms, strict adherence to this procedure could result in a *basic* lexicon with over half a million entries! Clearly some grammatical mastery must be supplied to or be assumed on the part of the user.

5. Some Practical Problems

While it is hoped that a dictionary would foster national language development, the majority of the population simply cannot afford one of the more comprehensive volumes — costing 20 % of a teacher's already low monthly salary.

Furthermore, most publications in Tagalog do not use the accent symbols required in the official orthography. Although context can enlighten the curious as to meaning, information about the glottal stop or accent is more often obtained from a friend or teacher than by a painstaking search through a tome.

Given this situation, a dictionary is unlikely to replace media and word-of-mouth as *the* vehicle of National Language formation in the Philippines.

6. Future Directions

Several inexpensive lexicons are available (de Guzman 1968 and Sagalongos 1968 costing about 20 pesos each) and the educational system has come to rely heavily on them. Such works could be upgraded and expanded along with their lexicographic scholarship.

Bilingual dictionaries (especially into English) have served an important role, since English formerly was understood by more educated people than any indigenous language. However, a new age in Tagalog lexicography dawned in the late 1980's when a group of Manila teachers published a monolingual dictionary (1986). Shortly thereafter (1989) the INL released a larger monolingual dictionary, which certainly is an important next step in National Language development as it has proven in the development of any standard language.

There is a need to make a comprehensive dictionary drawing on all previous studies and as many Tagalog/Filipino publications as possible. Authors thus far appear to have set out alone leaving the valuable work of others aside; codes could be devised to credit sources thereby insuring the widest possible coverage of both archaic and current forms.

Filipinos are lovers of etymology; such data have long been included within most studies. Nevertheless, fact and fancy have been mixed, e. g., relating *supsóp* 'suck' to Sp. *chupar* rather than Austronesian **supsup*. The *Core Etymological Dictionary of Filipino* offers future lexicographers a more reliable and comprehensive source, although it is suggested that these data come at the end of each entry (Zorc 1979—).

7. Selected Bibliography

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