

Filipino *Siya*: A Case of Broadening

Evelyn Calizo

Nueva Vizcaya State University

This paper offers a description of the claim that some changes in language use at a morphosyntactic level have been observed particularly on the use of the personal pronoun *siya* 'he/she' and the demonstrative pronouns *ito/iyan* 'this/that' in Filipino. Using background questionnaire, self-evaluation test, and interviews with 260 Tagalog speakers randomly selected in the three study sites, this study explores the question of how widespread and acceptable is the use of *siya* for *ito* in Philippine context. The results of the study achieved by frequency counts provide support that the use of *siya* for pointing or denoting things in conversations and writing is gradually gaining ground although the use of *ito* is still the widely accepted pronoun to refer to things.