

The Kalamian Microgroup of Philippine Languages

Ronald Himes

San Diego State University

The Kalamian (KLM) microgroup of Philippine languages, spoken in the northern parts of Palawan province, consists of Agutaynen and several dialects of Kalamian Tagbanwa. It is set apart from other microgroups by a body of uniquely shared lexical innovations and by the configuration of phonological rules that derive the modern languages from Proto-Philippines. An examination of the KLM lexicon indicates that the KLM languages are not particularly closer to one other microgroup than it is to the others. Application of the phonological rules allows the identification of items borrowed into KLM languages, and it provides some indication of the source of the borrowed item. These rules also permit the reconstruction of Proto-Philippine lexemes that can be added to those already established.