

The Sambalic Languages of Central Luzon

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Since little published data exists on the Sambalic languages and virtually no published data exists on the Ayta languages, it has been hard to determine what languages belong in the same subgrouping as the Sambalic languages. Many have included the Bashiic languages (Rubino, Rubrico, SIL Ethnologue, Zorc, etc.) with Sambal under the Northern Philippines branch, although Blust (1991) says that there is "no convincing evidence" to make this claim. Many have included Kapampangan directly with Sambal in the Central Luzon languages (Rubino, Rubrico, SIL ethnologue, etc.), while others (Llamzon and Martin) have rejected this hypothesis. Because of these questions, Kapampangan and Ivatan (Bashiic) are included in this comparative study of the Sambal languages.

In addition to comparing Sambalic languages with neighboring languages like Kapampangan, Tagalog, and Ilokano, this study also aims to show possible subgroupings within the Sambal language family based on lexical similarity. The methodology used to compare these languages has much in common with McFarland's (1974) work on the Bikol languages and Zorc's (1977) work on the Bisayan dialects in that comparisons are made by grammatical category.

Seven grammatical categories are studied (Adjectives, Conjunctions, Interrogatives, Nouns, Particles, Pronouns, and Verbs). Cognate percentages are then determined separately for each grammatical category. While no attempt is made to reconstruct the past history of Ayta and Sambalic languages, it is hoped that this paper will lay a foundation for other linguists to do such a study.