

# Language and Desire in Hiligaynon

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The paper examines three dictionaries and a grammar book with lexical entries in Hiligaynon. It proceeds from the premise that words, or sets of related words, are windows to the "inner life" of a society (Sapir 1921; Matore 1953). In particular, it will analyze these dictionaries in terms of lexicon related to gender. Initial findings show a paucity of terms on explicit and sensitive aspects of gender. However, certain key words connected to gender do cut across dictionaries while some "witness" words register changes across time. On the bases of these lexical data, some tentative generalizations shall be made on attitudes towards sex and different ways to contain and negotiate desire. However, it shall be surmised that differences in presentation of desire are actually strategies in representation by specific lexicographers.

Listed below are the dictionaries to be used in the study; they are arranged chronologically.

De Mentrída, Alonso, OSA. 1637. *Vocabulario de la Lengua Bisaya, Hiligueina y Haraya De La Isla De Panay Y Sugbu Y Para Las Demas Islas*. Manila, 1637; Valladolid, 2004.

De Mentrída, Alonso, OSA. 1894. *Arte De La Lengua Bisaya-Hiligayna De La Isla De Panay*. Corregido y Aumentada Por El M.R.P. Jose Aparicio.

Kaufmann, Rev. J., M.H.M. n.d. *Visayan-English Dictionary* (Kapulungan Binisaya-Ininglis). Iloilo: La Editorial (ca. 1920).

Alcantara, Ruby G. 1997. *Diksyunaryong Hiligaynon-Filipino*. Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon: Sentro ng Wikang Filipino.