

# Philippine Linguistics Studies in Russia

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The Philippine linguistics studies in Russia trace their roots back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when Peter S. Pallas (1741-1811), a member of the Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences, published his famous work entitled *Comparative Dictionaries of all Languages and Dialects* in 1787. Although Russia had shown interest in the Philippines a long time ago, however, until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Philippine linguistics studies in Russia were undertaken in fits and starts. During the post-war period, since the 1950s the research institutes under the Academy of Sciences and universities of the former USSR almost simultaneously have undertaken the regular and systematic research and teaching both of Philippine languages, first of all Tagalog, and Philippine literature. In the 1960s the first important works on various problems of Tagalog as well as Philippine grammar, typology and comparative and historical studies of the Philippine languages by Philippine linguists in Russia such as V. Makarenko, I. Podberezsky, G. Rachkov, L. Shkarban and some others appeared. In the 1980s and 1990s most works were dedicated to the history and the comprehensive language situation and language policy in the Philippines; the first Tagalog textbooks, manuals and dictionaries for students were published; and various reviews and essays on historical studies of the Philippine languages, literature and culture appeared, some of which were published abroad in English and Filipino. In recent decades 70 qualified Philippine specialists having good command of Filipino and several dozens of Indonesian specialists who studied Filipino as optional subject were trained in Russia. Today we have two Filipino groups and two Ph.D. student-linguists in Moscow State University and one Filipino group in St. Petersburg State University. This is the keystone to further successful and progressive development of Philippine linguistics in Russia. This paper also includes the bibliography of all Russian Philippine linguists and gives a brief account of their important works.