

Contrastive Analysis of True and False Cognates in Filipino and Cuyonon

Florida V. Dangan
Palawan State University
Floridavdangan_45@yahoo.com

Abstract

This research is a contrastive analysis of true and false cognates in Filipino and Cuyonon. It based on the assumption that languages can be compared and the best teaching materials are based on the analysis of the native language and the target language. The study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To list the true and false cognates of Filipino and Cuyonon.
2. To compare, analyze and present the implications on teaching.
3. To illustrate by means of sample drills and lessons how the result of the analysis would be useful to teachers.

The words given or presented are roots, however, derivatives, reduplications, and variants of stress are included when they throw light on the comparison.

The basis of grouping cognate items is phonetic-semantic resemblance, which may be subdivided into the following layers:

1. Total phonetic-semantic resemblance, e.g. Filipino and Cuyonon kambing, goat.
2. Semantic and partial phonetic resemblance, e.g. Filipino and Cuyonon adlaw, day, sun.
3. Seemingly divergent phonetic-semantic resemblance which possibly appear far-fetched but which may be justified by further study, e.g. Filipino alin Cuyonon adin, which some of were drawn from the dictionary of San Juan (1974) and the researcher's knowledge as a native speaker of Cuyonon.

The analysis, as a whole, shows that pronunciation is the problem of Cuyonon teachers and students in the study of Filipino. Sample lessons in phonetic drills are included as a guide to show how the study would be of help to language teachers.

I Introduction

Palawan is the third largest island in the Philippines. It is composed of 1,780 islets. Most of these are found in the Calamian group of islands in the North, Cuyo-Dumaran in the Northeast and Balabac-Bugsuk in the Southwest. It is a part of southern Tagalog Region, Region IV.

Cuyonon, the native language of Cuyo is spoken by more or less 88,284 citizens of Palawan.

Cuyo is the oldest town in Palawan. It was the second capital of the province after Taytay. This town is the point of origin of the most number of residents of other towns throughout Palawan. This group of islands is composed

of 45 small islets with an area of 50 square miles and is 156 miles away from the city of Puerto Princesa. Residents of Cuyo are called Cuyonon and speak the Cuyonon language.

However, at present, the province of Palawan is already inhabited by people with different cultures and languages like Tagalog, Visayan, Kapampangan and Ilokano among others, yet the Cuyonon are able to preserve their language as evidenced by a number of Cuyonon families who do not grant the needs of their children unless they express their demands in Cuyonon.

In the place where the researcher resides, 90% of the residents are Cuyonon.

II. Methodology

The researcher considers this study as a great contribution for the advancement of education in the province particularly in the field of linguistics.

The researcher was able to list down more or less 2,000 pairs of true and false cognates in Filipino and Cuyonon of which 699 were taken from San Juan's dictionary and the rest from her knowledge as a native Cuyonon speaker

True cognates are words which are similar in form, pronunciation and in meaning. False cognates are words which are similar in form and pronunciation but completely different in meaning.

The listed words are grouped into two. The first part is the true cognates and the second part is the false cognates. They were arranged in alphabetical order in Filipino and Cuyonon with correct pronunciation indicated in the phonemic transcription followed by the meaning in English.

III. Findings

Through thorough analysis and interpretation of the listed words, the following are the findings in true cognates.

1. There are words in Filipino and Cuyonon which are exactly the same in form, spelling, pronunciation and meaning.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/' Abril /	/' Abril /	'April'
	/' armas /	/' armas /	'weapon'
	/' bakya /	/' bakya /	'wooden shoes'

2. There are words in Filipino with a final sound of phoneme / h / while in Cuyonon, it is a glottal stop / ' /.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/' aboh /	/' abu ' /	'ash'
	/' alima:ɲoh /	/' alima:ɲu ' /	'crab'
	/ ba:lah /	/ bala ' /	'bullet'

3. The initial and medial / h / sound is deleted in most Cuyonon words.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/' ami:han /	/ amyan /	'east wind'
	/' aɲ hit/	/' a ɲit /	'repulsive body odor'
	/ hilaw /	/' ilaw /	'unripe, uncooked'

4. There are words in Filipino with slight stress in the second to the last syllable while the same words in Cuyonon are not stressed.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ a:gaw /	/' agaw /	'take by force'
	/ balu:tan /	/ balutan /	'package'
	/ ba: ta ' /	/ bata ' /	'child'

5. The phoneme / i / , / o / and / u / in Filipino words become / ↔ / or the schwa sound in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ a : nim/	/' an↔m /	'six'
	/' aɲkin /	/' aɲk↔n /	'claim, usurp'
	/' a : lon /	/' al↔n /	'small wave'
	/ gutom /	/ g↔t↔m /	'hunger'
	/ kadyos /	/kady↔s /	'pigeon pea'

6. Filipino language has separate phoneme of / o / and / u / while in Cuyonon it is only the phoneme / u /. There are words spelled with O but the O is pronounced as / u /.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	abot / ' abot /	abot / abut /	'reach, attain'
	ampon / ' ampon /	ampon / ampun /	'adopted'
	bangko / baɲko ' /	bangko / baɲku ' /	'bench, bank'
	kuko / kukoh/	koko / kuku ' /	'finger/toe nails'

7. The lateral / l / in Filipino words becomes dental / r / in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/' asu : kal /	/ asukar /	'sugar'
	/ bali : ta ' /	/ barita ' /	'news, information'
	/' ilonɲ /	/ irunɲ /	'nose'

8. The phoneme / r / in some Filipino words becomes / d / in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ a:ral /	/ adal /	'study, learn'
	/ laga : ri /	/ lagadi /	'saw'
	/ pa : ri /	/ padi /	'priest'

9. The phoneme / i / and some Filipino words becomes / u / in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ binyag /	/ bunyag /	'baptism'
	/ dilaw /	/ dulaw /	'yellow'
	/ sirjaw /	/ surjaw /	'vapor'

10. There are some words in Filipino with a glottal stop / ' / on the second to the last syllable, the same glottal stop is not found in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ da 'inj /	/ dayŋ /	'dried fish'
	/ su 'ot /	/ sut /	'wear'
	/ ma 'is /	/ mays /	'corn'

11. There are more or less one hundred pairs of the listed words in which the phoneme / e / in Filipino becomes / i / in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ be : ses /	/ bisis /	'times, frequent'
	/ bute : te ' /	/ butiti ' /	'puffer fish'
	/ 'edad /	/ 'idad /	'age'

12. Some words in Cuyonon have an additional lateral / l / or syllable.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ ba : 'on /	/ balun /	'provision'
	/ sampu ' /	/ sampulu ' /	'ten'
	/ taiŋa /	/ taliŋa ' /	'ear'

13. There are some words in Filipino with phoneme / y / that are cancelled in Cuyonon.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ Bye : nes /	/ Birnis /	'Friday'
	/ balye : nah /	/ balina ' /	'whale'
	/ gye : rah /	/ gira ' /	'war'

14. Some Filipino words contain the consonant cluster / ts /, but the / t / is cancelled in Cuyonon and only / s / remains.

Ex.	Filipino	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/ mantsah /	/ mansa ' /	'stain'
	/ plantsah /	/ plansa ' /	'iron, sheet'
	/ tsine : las /	/ sinilas /	'slippers'

15. In the false cognates, there are two hundred thirty pairs listed. As mentioned earlier, they are similar in form and pronunciation but totally different in meaning.

Ex.	Filipino	Meaning	Cuyonon	Meaning
	/lanɣam /	'ants'	/lanɣam /	'bird'
	/ha : pis /	'sorrow, anguish'	/'apis /	'fly's eggs'
	/makatih /	'itchy'	/makati' /	'ebb tide'

IV. Teaching implications

In the final analysis it was observed that Cuyonon teachers and students are having a hard time in the pronunciation of the target language, thus, to make the listed words meaningful, it could be printed into phonics flip charts for drill purposes before the start of any Filipino subject in all grade levels particularly in school and districts where Cuyonon speakers are still greater in number.

For the false cognates, it is a must for teachers and students to identify the right word to be used in Filipino which should not be confused with the native term.

Samples and phonics drill charts and lesson plans are presented in the study showing how the listed words could be given emphasis especially in the primary grade levels.

V. Conclusion

As a conclusion in the true cognates of Filipino and Cuyonon, the changing, canceling or adding of one or two phonemes in a word does not affect its meaning except the problem in pronunciation of some Cuyonon teachers and students.

On the false cognates, a rigid mastery of the right word to be used to refer to the right thing is required particularly of the Cuyonon speakers.

References

A. Books

- Cambell, William G. and Stephen V. Ballou. 1978. Form and Style Theses, Reports, Term papers. Fifth Edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Cruz, Roberto P. et al. 1978. Sining ng Komunikasyon para sa mga Kolehiyo at Pamantasan. Cirilo Balgan.
- Enriquez, Ma. Rosario at Jacobo Enriquez. 1979. New Handy Webster's Dictionary English-Tagalog, Tagalog-English. Philippine Book Company.
- Fernandez, Ligaya P. et al. 1976. Ako sa Nagbabagong Daigdig ng Komunikasyon at Lipunan. Bookman Inc., Manila
- Gagelonia, Pedro A. et al. 1974. Ang Kasaysayan ng Pilpinas. Navotas Press, Navotas, Rizal.
- Gilmartin, John G. 1945. Building Your Vocabulary. USA. Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Gleason Jr. N. A. 1962. An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics. New York: Holt, Kinchart and Winston, Inc.
- Hemphill, Roderick. 1962. Background Reading in Language Teaching. PCLS Monograph Series No. 1, Quezon City; Phoenix Publishing House.
- James. Carl. 1981. Contrastive Analysis. Harlav, Essex: Longman Group Limited.
- Lado, Robert. 1957. Linguistics Across Cultures. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
- Llamson, Teodoro A. 1969. A Subgrouping of Nine Philippine Languages. Leiden Netherlands: The Rague-Martinus Nijhoff.
- Lopez, Cecilio. 1974. A Comparative Philippine Word-List. A Publication of the Archives of the Philippine Languages and Dialects and the Philippine Linguistics. Circle, UP, Diliman, Quezon City.
- Mc Farland, Curtis D. (comp.). 1980. A linguistics Atlas of the Philippines. Japan: Institute for Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa. Monograph Series No. 15.
- Nida, Eugene. 1970. Morphology : The Descriptive Analysis of Words. Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan Press.

- Perez, Al Q. et al. 1976. *Mga Babasahin sa Pilipino*. Rex Printing Press Co., Inc.
- Schacter, Paul and Fe Otones. 1972. *Tagalog References Grammar*. Los Angeles: University of California.
- The Readers Digest Encyclopedia Dictionary. 1975. Frank and Wagnalls Pub., Co., Inc. Pleasantville New York.
- This is Palawan : The New Frontier, 1969.
- Weinreich, Uriel. 1953. *Languages in Contact*. New York : Mouton.
- 100 Years of Puerto Princesa (1872 – 1972), A Special Centennial Anniversary Issue.
- 350th Anniversary of the Introduction of Christianity in Cuyo Islands (May 31, 1972 to June 4, 1972). Souvenir Program.

B. Unpublished Materials

- Alagad, Marrieta K. 1971. "Pahambing na Pagsusuring Pedagodyikal ng mga Salitang Tagalog, Sibuhanon at Hiligaynon." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine normal College, Manila.
- Baltazar, Natalia, 1964. "Isang Pagsisiyasat sa Heograpiya ng mga Salitang Tagalog sa Limang Lalawigan (Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Batangas at Bulacan)." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Bueno, Demetrio. 1969. "Isang Pahambing na Pagsusuri ng Talasalitaang Tagalog at Ilokano." Unpublished Master's thesis, Jose Abad Santos Educational Institution, Manila.
- Cabanos, Luz B. 1966. "A Contrastive Analysis of Ilokano and English Count-Mass Nouns." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Dadufalsa, Natividad. 1965. "Question Patterns in English and Tagalog: A Contrastive Analysis." Unpublished Master's thesis, University of California.
- Diamante, Maria. 1965. "Pahambing na Pag-aaral ng Wikang Tagalog at Hiligaynon." Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

- Dy, Felipe. 1964. "Isang Paghahambing na Pag-aaral ng Talasalitaang Tagalog at Hiligaynon." Unpublished Master's thesis, Manuel L. Quezon University, Manila.
- Ladera, Helen P. 1970. "The Syntactic Structures of Cuyonon." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Magay, Lourdes A. 1985. "A Functional Approach to Common Grammatical Errors in Written Composition of College Freshmen at Palawan State College." Unpublished Master's thesis, Palawan State College, Puerto Princesa City.
- Policarpio, Maria Fe. 1969. "Isang Pahambing na Pagsusuri sa Kayariang Pambalarila ng Tagalog at Ilokano." Unpublished master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Roe, Richard and Virginia de Vries. "The Orthography of Cuyonon." Typescript. Unpublished Research, SIL.
- San Juan Erlinda D. 1974. "Isang Diksiyonaryong Pilipino-Cuyonon, Cuyonon-Pilipino para sa mga Magaaral sa Mababang Paaralan." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- _____. 1988. "Cuyonon Reference Grammar of Basic Structures with Emphases on the Verb System: A First Approximation." Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Santos, Pilar M. 1959. "A Comparative Study of Vocabulary of the Tagalog and the Ilokano Languages." Unpublished Master's thesis, Arellano University, Manila.
- Valladolid, Rosalina C. 1969. "A Contrastive Analysis of Tagalog (Pilipino) and English Adverbials." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Villamor, Cresilda. 1975. "Isang Pahambing na Pagsusuri sa Pilipino at Masbateño." Unpublished Master's thesis, Philippine Normal College, Manila.
- Yap, Fe Aldave. 1975. 1975. "A Comparative Study of Philippine Lexicons." Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

C. Periodicals/Journals/Magazines

- Baylon, Gloria V. 1972. "Isang Pahambing na Pagsusuri ng Pokus sa Ilokano at Pilipino." *Linggwistikang Pilipino*, PSLP Blg. 4.

- Constantino, Ernesto. 1970. "Ang Simuno at Panaguri sa Pilipino." Panayam na Binigkas sa Unang Panbansang Seminar na Itinaguyod ng PSLP sa Daluhasaang Normal ng Pilipinas, Manila.
- Dyen, Isidro. 1972. "Ang Suliranin ng Pilipino Tungkol sa Wikang Pambansa." Talumpating Binigkas sa Ika-11 at 12 Pambansang Seminar sa Linggwistika na Itinaguyod ng PSLP sa mga Lungsod ng Bacolod at Tacloban.
- Javier, Concepcion. 1972. "Balangkas ng Pilipino." Brosyur na Inihanda ng mga Magaaral sa Baguio Vacation Normal School, Lungsod ng Baguio.
- Manalo, Isabelo. 1965. "Educational Researches in the Philippine Public Schools." In the Grade School, July.
- Manuzon, Lamberto C. 1970. "Pahambing na Pagaaral ng Pangunahing Wika sa Pilipinas." Panayam sa Pangwikang Ipinalabas ng Surian ng Wikang Pambansa, Setyembre.
- Palawan Socio-Economic Profile. 1983. Published in Palawan Times, March 1988.
- Panganiban, Jose Villa. 1964. "Panayam na Pangwika." Panayam na Pangwikang Ipinalabas ng Surian ng Wikang Pambansa, Disyembre.
- Santiago, Alfonso O. 1970. "Ang Pahambing sa Dalawang Wika." Panayam na Pangwikang Ipinamudmod Noong Unang Pambansang Seminar sa Linggwistika na Itinaguyod ng PSLP sa Daluhasaang Normal ng Pilipinas, Maynila.
- Tuy, Ester E. 1972. "Mga Katutubong Katangian ng Wika." Panayam na Binigkas sa Ika-10 Pambansang Seminar sa Linggwistika na itinaguyod ng PSLP sa Cebu Normal School, Lungsod ng Cebu.
- Volume 1 Palawan, 1980. Census of Population and Housing, National Census and Statistics Office, Manila.

D. Cuyonon Brochures/Leaflets

- Asta sa Katalipoposan Y Ang Kalibotan, (Undated). Ang Mga Binoatan, Acts, Manila: Philippine Bible Society.
- Fernandez, Fe Tria and Jose T. Fernandez. "Makaranta Kita." A Compilation Of Cuyonon Songs.
- Manlavi, Diokno R. 1970. History of Palawan. Palaweña Series No. 4.

Matinlong Barita Para sa Ateng Timpo. 1982. Cuyonon New Testament, Manila: Philippine Bible Society.

San Juan, Erlinda D. 1978. "The Sounds of Cuyonon, A Descriptive Analysis." Palawan Teachers' College Journal, Volume II No. I February.

The preceding document was presented at the Tenth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (10-ICAL). To properly reference this work, please use the following format:

<LastName>, <FirstName>. 2006. <PaperTitle>. Paper presented at Tenth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics. 17-20 January 2006. Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines.
<http://www.sil.org/asia/philippines/ical/papers.html>

For other papers that were presented at 10-ICAL, please visit <http://www.sil.org/asia/philippines/ical/papers.html>.