

# Philippine Languages and Dialects

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# Language and Dialects

# Language

- system of arbitrary sounds used by a community for communication
- today, the world has about 7,000 languages

Languages in Southeast Asia:

Filipino, Thai, Malay, Vietnamese, Lao, Khmer, and many more

# Language

- The Philippines has Sebwano, Ilokano, Hiligaynon, Waray, Bikol, Finontok, Finallig, Mëranaw, Bahasa Sug, Yakan, Sinama, Kinamayyu, Itawit, Pangasinan, Kapampangan, Bolinaw, and many more
- Sebwano, a language spoken in 17 provinces, has approximately 20 million first language speakers
- Arta, a language spoken by an indigenous group in the province of Quirino, has 11 speakers

# Dialect

- Interchangeably used with variety
- It refers to a part of the speech community that has a distinct feature or **shibboleth** that distinguishes them from the whole language community
- Overtime, when dialects develop on their own, a time may come when they can be distinguished as a separate language

# Language vs Dialect

How can we differentiate which is a language and which is a dialect?

There are four criterion:

1. Mutual Intelligibility
2. Lexical Similarity
3. Grammar
4. Socio-Political Identity

# Tagalog

- Tagalog is spoken in several provinces in the Philippines.
- It has several well-known dialects like Tagalog-Laguna and Tagalog-Batangas.

# Englishes of Southeast Asia

- Another good example of dialects are the varieties of English used in Southeast Asia like Philippine English and Singapore English.
- Speaking with each other in English, Southeast Asians still understand each other.



# Language Provisions

# 1987 Constitution

SECTION 6. The **national language** of the Philippines is **Filipino**. As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages.

Subject to provisions of law and as the Congress may deem appropriate, the Government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system.

# Filipino and Tagalog

*Ang Filipino ay ang katutubong wika na ginagamit sa buong Filipinas bilang wika ng komunikasyon, sa pagbigkas at sa pasulat na paraan, ng mga pangkating katutubo sa buong kapuluan. Sapagkat isang wikang buháy, mabilis itong pinauunlad ng araw-araw at iba't ibang uri ng paggamit sa iba't ibang pook at sitwasyon at nililinang sa iba't ibang antas ng saliksik at talakayang akademiko ngunit sa paraang maugnayin at mapagtampok sa mga lahok na nagtataglay ng mga malikhaing katangian at kailangang karunungan mula sa mga katutubong wika sa bansa.*

*According to Resolution No. 13-39 of the Kalupunan ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (5 August 2013)*

# 1987 Constitution

SECTION 7. For purposes of communication and instruction, the **official languages** of the Philippines are **Filipino** and, until otherwise provided by law, **English**.

The regional languages are the auxiliary official languages in the regions and shall serve as auxiliary media of instruction therein.

Spanish and Arabic shall be promoted on a voluntary and optional basis.

SECTION 9. The Congress shall establish a national language commission composed of representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote researches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages.

# Language in Education

- Department Order 52, s. 1987 – The 1987 Policy on Bilingual Education
  - English is used in Math and Sciences (“in order to meet the needs of the country in the community of nations”)
  - Filipino is used for Civics and Social Studies (“to enable them to perform their functions and duties as Filipino citizens”)
  - Local languages may be used as auxiliary medium of instructions during the early years of education

# Language in Education

Republic Act No. 10157 – “The Kindergarten Education Act”

Section 5:

“The DepEd, in coordination with the Commission on Filipino Language and in close collaboration with academic and research institutions concerned with education, shall formulate a mother tongue-based multilingual framework for teaching and learning...”

# Place names in the Philippines

Are usually highly Hispanic: Guimaras, Cebu, Mindanao, Pampanga, Kalinga, Ifugao, Baguio, Sanga-Sanga

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Suggestion of Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino: Gimaras, Sebu, Mindanaw, Pampangga, Kalingga, Ifugaw, Bagyo, Sangga-Sangga



# Philippine Languages

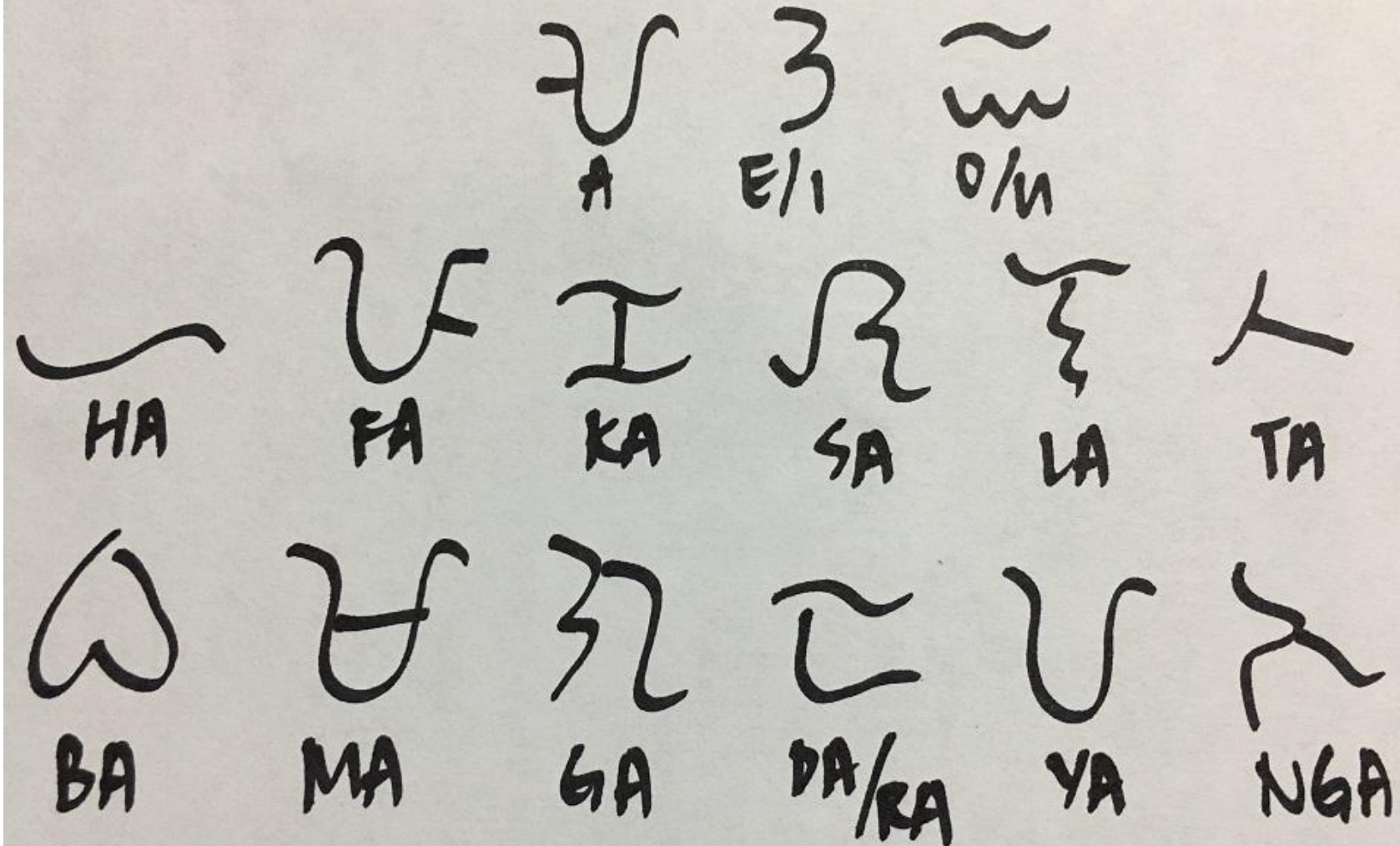
# Philippine Languages

- According to Geography
- According to (Linguistic) Genetic Relationships
- According to Typology
- As used by Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino:
  - Austronesian Languages spoken within the territory of the Philippines
  - There are approximately 130 Philippine Languages as validated by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino

# Austronesian Languages



# Baybayin



# Orthography

- Philippine languages generally use a Romanized writing system. It can be categorized into two groups: Spanish-based and Filipino-based.
- KWF is propagating the use of Ortograpiyang Pambansa (2013) as the model for creating the orthographies of other Philippine Languages.
- Some languages still use a Spanish-based system for certain aspects of their languages (e.g. diphthongs), while some languages have more than one existing orthographies used by different groups within the community.

# Chabacano

- “Bastardized” Spanish
- Is the term used for certain creoles spoken in the Philippines. The creole used in Zamboanga City is most well-known.
- Chabacano uses a Spanish-based orthography.

# Implications

- Because Philippine Languages generally use a Romanized alphabet, standardization may be easier.
- Except for the fact that we have 130 languages.
- Will it be acceptable to rewrite geographical names using a Filipino-based writing system?
- Possibility of having three official names for one geographical place or object.