

A DICTIONARY OF PHILIPPINES ENGLISH

[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT]

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Preface

This dictionary of Philippines English was stimulated by my work on variant English in Nigeria and Ghana. In its present form, this dictionary is very much a first attempt, intended for circulation to interested parties, not for publication. Needless to say, the author would be grateful for all additions and corrections.

Roger Blench
Monday, 13 March 2006

Introduction

These notes are intended to raise some issues on sources, interpretation and the definition of Philippines English.

Sources

One of the most difficult issues in lexicography is documenting usages in a semi-written language. If dictionaries of indigenous languages are prepared they usually depend entirely on oral sources and thus no specific justification is given for entries. However, Philippines English is sometimes written, especially in newspapers and magazines, and thus has some sort of orthographic tradition. Nonetheless, many of the most picturesque expressions are strictly oral and must still be captured in the present document. I have therefore used newspaper, notices and overheard speech as sources. Example sentences not specifically sourced should be treated as based on the author's or his correspondents' experiences.

Borrowings from indigenous Philippines languages

As elsewhere, the richest contributions to local English are borrowings from indigenous languages. The Philippines has some hundred indigenous languages, most with only a small number of speakers. However, the major languages have millions of speakers and cultural borrowings, especially in the area of food and clothing are extensive.

Parts of Speech

The following table shows the abbreviations used in Column 2 of the dictionary. Some of these assignments should be regarded as highly provisional.

Abbreviation	Full form	Explanation
a.	Adjective	Describes a noun
a.p.	Adjectival phrase	Describes a noun
adv.	Adverb	Qualifies a verb
adv.p.	Adverbial phrase	Qualifies a verb
cond.	Conditional	Expresses the relation between two events
conj.	Conjunction	A word used to join two or more nouns, verbs or clauses
dem.	Demonstrative	Words used to point out something. 'this', 'that' etc.
excl.	Exclamation	Greetings or expressions that do not form part of an ordinary sentence
excl.p.	Exclamatory phrase	Fixed phrases that form sentences indicating a single idea
int.	Interrogative	Question words
n.	Noun	Refers to things, objects etc.
n.p.	Noun phrase	Phrase where a head-noun is joined to other words to form an expression
num.	Numeral	Number
part.	Particle	Short words added to complete the sentence
p.n.	Proper Name	A name of a person or object; always capitalised
p.u.t.	Pre-utterance tag	A tag or exclamation used prior to an utterance to indicate the underlying sense of the utterance
prep.	Preposition	A word positioning nouns or verbs in time or space
pron.	Pronoun	A word that stands for a noun
sal.	Salutation	A word or phrase that stands alone as a greeting or introduces a dialogue
s.t.	Sentence tag	A word or clause standing at the end of a sentence, that intensifies the meaning in some way but is unnecessary to the syntax.
v.	Verb	Expresses action
v.a.	Verbal auxiliary	An inflected verb that co-occurs with an uninflected main verb
v.c.	Verbal complement	Additional word or words found in phrasal verbs [???
v.i.	Intransitive Verb	A verb with no object
v.n.	Verbal Noun	A noun formed directly from a verb to express a state of being [only one type; what of agentives?]
v.p.	Verb phrase	A phrase where a head-noun is joined to other words to form an expression [head-noun or verb?]
v.t.	Transitive verb	A verb with an object

Abbreviations

arch.	archaic
BE	British English
der.	derogatory
dial.	dialect
e.g.	for example
euph.	euphemism
fem.	feminine
hum.	humorous
id.	ideophone
ins.	insulting
joc.	jocular
lit.	literally
masc.	masculine
n.	noun
neg.	negative
over.	overused
pl.	plural
prov.	proverb
refl.	reflexive
s.	singular
sc. sl.	schoolboy slang
S	Spanish
SE	Standard English
st. sl.	student slang
t.	transitive
T	Tagalog
TE	Tropical English
v.	verb
w.	with

References

Philippines	PoS	Gloss	Example	Etymology
A.				
adidas	n.	chickens' feet eaten as food		< TM
adobo	a.	describes a type of cooking involving sousing meat in vinegar		
Amercen	n./a.	American. cf. also Kano		< American
anok	n.	straw dummies representing farmers used in celebrations		
anting anting	n.	talismans, charms		
art shop	n.	sign painter, graphic designer		
Aswang	p.n.	female spirit with red eyes. It uses its long tongue to suck out vital juices from its victims. A popular subject of downmarket films. Also Manananggal.		
B.				
Bal Bal	p.n.	spirit known to Muslims. It has the body of a man, the wings of a bird and eats the livers of unburied bodies		
bangus	n.	milkfish		
barangay	n.	community		
barkada	n./a.			
barrio	n.	suburb		< S
batchoy	n.	food		
bedspacer	n.	somewhat who rents a bed space only		
beef tapa	n.	marinated dried beef		
brazos	n.	cream-filled meringue cake		
brownout	n.	electricity failure		
bubut	n.	half-formed duck embryo eaten and considered an aphrodisiac		
buko	n.	coconut		
buy-bust operation	n.p.			
C.				
calamansi	n.	lime		
camote	n.	sweet potato		< S
carabao	n.	domestic buffalo		
carinderia	n.	small cafe		< S
carnap				
carozza	n.	cart or float used for religious procession		< S
cockpit	n.	arena where cockfights are held		
coco	n.	coconut		
colorum	a.	illegal -get colorum vehicles off the road (MB 9.2.06)		
comfort room	n.p.	toilet, restroom		also C.R.
cura	n.	parish priest		< S

Philippines	PoS	Gloss	Example	Etymology
D				
dili	n.	small, dried, salted fish		
divata	n.	spirits known to Muslims and the offerings made to them		
Duwende	p.n.	old, dwarf spirit that lives in the forest and can predict the future		
E.				
Engkanto	p.n.	spirit that hides in the trees and throws dust in the faces of passers-by, leaving them with permanently twisted lips.		
F.				
fronton	n.	pelota court		< S
G.				
gambas	n.	sautéed shrimps in chili		
H.				
halo-halo	n.	ice-cream served with shaved ice		
haus	n.	general term for shop, building, institution, thus snack haus, rest haus, food haus		< German
hermana	n.	sponsor of religious festival		< S
hiya	n.	sense of shame, propriety		
I.				
ilustrado	n.	19 th century style Spanish house		
J.				
jeepney	n.	vehicle chassis with built-up superstructure to carry commercial passengers, usually elaborately decorated		

Philippines	PoS	Gloss	Example	Etymology
K.				
kambingan	n.	dishes made of goat		
Kano	n./a.	American. cf. also Amercen		< Amerikano
kiding	n.	rice wafers		
L.				
lapu-lapu	n.	grouper fish		
lechon	n.	roasted pig, but applied to roasted food in general		
longanisa	n.	small beef or pork sausages with garlic		
M.				
Manananggal	p.n.	female spirit with red eyes. It uses its long tongue to suck out vital juices from its victims. A popular subject of downmarket films. Also Aswang		
merienda	n.	snack		< S
meron	n.	cock with hat		
milkfish	n.	bangus fish		
moma	n.	betel-nut juice, expelled from the mouth		
Moriones	p.n.	dancers dressed as North Africans who play a part in religious dramas		
Moro	p.n.	Muslim		< S
N.				
nipa	n.	palm sp.		TE
O.				
P.				
pandan	n.	screwpine		< pandanus
pato	n.	pig's knuckle		
patis	n.	fish sauce		
pawnshop	n.			
pelota	n/	ball-game of Spanish origin		< S
pinaka hot				
Pinoy	p.n.	Filipino		
pusit	n.	squid		< T

Philippines	PoS	Gloss	Example	Etymology
Q.				
R.				
rebond	v.	hair		
relieve from	v.	be got rid of. <i>he was relieved from his job</i> (MB 9.02.06)		
S.				
sagala	n.	angel		
sando	n.	sandals		
sari-sari	a.	describes a shop that sells all kinds of object. 'notions' shop		< Tagalog
singalong	n.	karaoke bar		
Slasher Cup	p.n.	large-scale formal Manila cockfight		
solon	n.	lawmaker		< Greek
streamer	n.	banner with text		
T.				
tabuan	n.	the 'loser's feast', a special dish made of a cock that has lost in a fight		
Tikbalang	p.n.	spirit with the head of a horse and the body of a man, it abducts virgins. If you snatch three hairs from its mane and mount on its back it will take you flying.		
Tiyanak	p.n.	spirit that appears like a baby. It lies on a leaf to attract attention but when you approach it rises up to kill you.		
Tsinoy	p.n.	indigenised Chinese		
tulu	n.	palm-wine		
U.				
ube	n.	yam		< T
V.				
videoke	n.	video karaoke		
vulcanise	v.t.	to repair a puncture		
vulcaniser	n.	one who repairs tyres		

Philippines	PoS	Gloss	Example	Etymology
W.				
wala	n.	cock without hat		
walang hiya	n.	shamelessness		
X.				
Y.				
Z.				
zagan	n.	lower storey in 19 th century style Spanish house		