Boise State University

ScholarWorks

College of Arts and Sciences Poster Presentations

2010 Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Conference

4-12-2010

The Phonology of Hiligaynon

Tyler Casperson Department of English, Boise State University

The Phonology of Hiligaynon

Abstract

There are 175 languages in the 7000+ islands that make up the Philippines. Hiligaynon is the fourth largest language spoken on the islands. The sound inventory of Hiligaynon has 22 phonemes, which include 17 consonants and 5 vowels. Contact with Spanish, English, and neighboring Filipino languages (mostly Cebuano, Tagolog, Kinaray-a, Aklanon) has influenced Hiligaynon resulting in many loanwords entering the lexical inventory of speakers of Hiligaynon. Although these loanwords contain sounds not native to Hiligaynon, most of them have assimilated to match the phonology of Hiligaynon. An example of this assimilation is seen in loanwords containing the labiodental fricatives [f] and [v] being pronounced with the biliabial stops [p] and [b] instead. This presentation identifies the phonology of modern Hiligaynon by briefly comparing key features of its sound system to that of other languages found in the Philippines. Morphophonemic rules will identify some of the word-formation processes that are influenced by the language's phonology. The aim of this presentation is to clarify some of the phonological features of the language since an accurate description of the language is not yet available.



English Department

College of Arts and Sciences

The Phonology of Hiligaynon (llongo)

Tyler Casperson

tylercasperson@u.boisestate.edu



Introduction

Hiligaynon

- Spoken in the central region of the Philippines
- 5th most widely spoken language among Filipinos
- Linguistic literature on the language is sparse

Why I am Interested

I lived in the Philippines and learned Hiligaynon
Lots of language contact and yet still distinct features

are present

Goal

- Document the phonology language further
 Understand specific features of the language that has
- not been identified

The Philippines

- · The Phillipines are made up of 7,107 islands
- Land mass is about the size of Nevada
- There are three Regions: Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao

(1) Language Map of the Philippines



- Filipino is the national language of the Phillipines
 Spoken in school, TV broadcasts and local newspapers
- There are 170 other languages spoken



There are 105.13 million speakers of languages that come from the Philippines with: 25 million speakers of Filipino, 21.5 million speakers of Tagalog, 15.8 million speakers of Cebuano, 6.92 million speakers of Ilocano, 5.77 million speakers of Hilgaynon with 30.14 million speak the rest of the 166 languages.

The Phonemic Inventory

AA AA MANTA

There are 22 distinct phonemes in Hiligaynon: 17 consonant phonemes and 5 vowel phonemes. When comparing Hiligaynon with English we find similarities in how many stops and nasals there are and the differences in how few fricatives there are in Hiligaynon.

					(3) Co	onson	ants							
	841	hid	Labico	lental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Phary	ngeal	Gk	(ta)
Plosive	р	b				t d				kg				2	
Nasal		m				n				ŋ					
Trill						r									
Tap or Flap															
Tricative			f	v		s								h	
Laberal fricative															
Approximant									j						
Lateral approximant						1									

(4) Vowels and Diphthongs



Influence from Spain and America

- · Is not the case with all Filipinos
- /?/ acts as a consonant
- Hard for non-natives to recognize word-finally:
 [manok?] vs. [manog?]
- /j/ and /w/ are not found in the final position of words • Surface as the vowels [i], [u], and [u]

(5) Sample Words								
Hiligaynon(IPA)	Gloss	Hiligaynon(IPA)	Gloss	Hiligaynon(IPA)	Gloss			
[idoə?]	dog	[bəbaijch]	woman	[ləlakch]	man			
[unod?]	flesh	[məlaba?]	long	(ja:bi)	key			
[eskwjilahan]	school	[pirma]	signiture	[kamAt]	hand			
[0?0]	yes	[berei]	very	[ga:lab]	to cut rice			
[adlao]	sun	[tul?an]	bone	[ŋipun]	tooth			
[anhan]	perhaps	[djiutai]	small	[wala]	left (side)			
[au:hag]	look out for	[negros]	Name of an island	[?01]	answer to a call			
[oigon]	jar	[rega:low]	gift	[ha:nAt]	to beat			
[pispes]	bird	[seljou]	postage stamp					

Comparison to Other Languages

Language contact is prevalent in the Philippines resulting in languages being similar to one another. Due to colonization, other languages have also influenced Hiligaynon. The numbering system in Hiligaynon shows Spanish influence.

(6) Numbering S	vstem
(0) Numbering 3	yatem

	Hiligaynon ₁	Hiligaynon ₂	Spanish
1	[isa?]	[uno]	[uno]
2	[duha]	[dos]	[dos]
3	[tatlout]	[tres]	[tres]
4	[apat?]	[kwatro]	[kwatro]
5	[lima]	[sinko]	[sinko]
6	[anum]	[sers]	[sets]
7	[pito]	[sete] 🗧	→ [sjete]
8	[walo]	[ot[o]	[ot[o]
9	[ʃɛːm]	[nuɛbɛ] 🔶	→ [nueve]
10	[pulo]	[dics]	[dics]

 Seven - /s/ + /j/ cluster is not common in Hiligaynon
 Nine - Spirantization has occurred in Spanish while Hiligaynon has not been influenced by this phenomenon

(7) Comparison with 'eye'								
Language	IPA							
Hiligaynon	[matah]	All languages are similar.						
Cebuano	[matah]	Perhaps all languages from						
Tagalog [matah]		the Philippines are only						
Waray-Waray	[matah]	dialects.						
llocano	[mata]							
(8) Compa	rison with 'egg'							

Language	IPA	
Hiligaynon	[ɪtləg?]	All languages but Waray
Cebuano	[ɪtləg?]	-Waray are similar. Hiligaynon
locano	[i?log]	is nothing special it might just
Tagalog	[i?log]	depend on the accent a
Naray-Waray	[bunar]	person has acquired.

(9) Comparison with 'small'

Language	IPA	
Hiligaynon	[d ^j iutai]	All of the languages are
Cebuano	[dʒutaɪ]	different. Often Hiligaynon
Tagalog	[məli?ɛt]	can be found to be the most similar with Tagalog
llocano	[basit]	and Cebuano.
Waray-Waray	[gu:ti]	and Cebudilo.

Each of these languages have distinct features that give them language status. Although Hiligaynon may share many features with its neighboring languages, it is distinct.

Selected Morphophonemic Rules

[+

Morphophonemic rules determine the way certain sounds are pronounced in different word formation processes.

(10) Stressed Vowel Deletion Rule							
V → Ø / Object Focus in Future tense (or ar other suffix that causes stress to shift)							
[guˈba?]	+	[-on]	¥	[guˈbaon]			
[guˈbaʔ]	+	[-on]	=	['gubon]			
to destroy		iture tense bject focus		o destroy something			
traccord yourslip deleted when the word is placed in							

A stressed vowel is deleted when the word is placed in the future tense of object focus or when any suffix that causes stress to shift is added to the root word.

(11) Nasal Place Assimilation Rule

[+ Nasal]	\rightarrow	[X Place]	1	[X Place]
[paŋ-]	+	[basa]	¥	[paŋbasa]
[paŋ-]	+	[basa]	=	[pambasa]

affix for to do to read used for reading something

A nasal is assimilated in place to the following consonant when the allomorphs [paŋ] or [maŋ] 'to do something' are placed before a root word.

(12) Nasalized Alveolar Stop Rule						
[-Continuant] [+ Alveolar]	_	→ [+nasal]	I	[+Nasal] [word		
[maŋ-]	+	[tudlo]	¥	[maŋtudlo]		
[maŋ-]	+	[tudlo]	=	[manudlo]		
effecte at a de		1. I I				

affix for to do to teach to teach something something

Word-initial alveolar stops become nasalized when the preceding affix ends in a nasal.

Conclusion

Hiligaynon is in a unique position. With so many different languages influencing the development of Hiligaynon, it still keeps key attributes that natives are able to identify as distinct to that language. Further research and documentation will identify additional unique features of Hiligaynon and allow the language to be accurately described and analyzed linguistically.

A list of the references used in this research are found on the handout and the paper associated with this poster.