The Phonology of Hiligaynon

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**The Phonology of Hiligaynon (Ilongo)**

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

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### The Philippines

- The Philippines 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 Philippines
- Spoken in school, TV broadcasts and local newspapers
- There are 170 other languages spoken

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### The Phonemic Inventory

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

#### (3) Consonants

- Labiodental Fricatives are replaced with Bilabial Plosives
- Influence from Spain and America
- is not the case with all Filipinos
- /l/ acts as a consonant
- Hard for non-natives to recognize word-finally:
  - /i/ and /w/ are not found in the final position of words
  - Surface as the vowels [i], [u], and [o]

#### (4) Vowels and Diphthongs

- /j/ and /w/ are pronounced in different word formation processes.

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### 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.

#### (7) Comparison with ‘eye’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>Tagalog</th>
<th>Waray-Waray</th>
<th>Cebuano</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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### Conclusion

Hiligayon 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.

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

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### Selected Morphophonemic Rules

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

- **(10) Stressed Vowel Deletion Rule**
  - \(\text{[}\text{v stressed}\text{]}\) \(\rightarrow\) \(\text{[}\text{neutral}\text{]}\)
  - Object Focus in Future tense (or any other suffix that causes stress to shift)
  - /pə/ + [-o] \(\rightarrow\) /pə/ + [-o] = /pə/ (phonemes)

- **(11) Nasal Place Assimilation Rule**
  - /n[asal]\) \(\rightarrow\) (X Place)
  - affix for to do to read a used something

- **(12) Nasalized Alveolar Stop Rule**
  - 
  - Word-initial alveolar stops become nasalized when the preceding affix ends in a nasal.

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

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