

Editor's Notes

This special issue of *The Archive* features the plenary papers presented at the 15th Philippine Linguistics Congress (15PLC), held in August 2023, which served as the centerpiece of the centennial founding anniversary celebration of the UP Department of Linguistics. The papers in this issue collectively trace the development of the key research areas of the Department: language documentation and description, historical and comparative linguistics, ethnolinguistics, the development of Filipino as the National Language, and Asian language teaching methods.

This issue opens with the Keynote speech of Dr. Marlies Salazar, a graduate of the Department's PhD program, who discussed the history of the Department over the last one hundred years. The speech, derived from her book *Perspectives on Philippine Languages: Five Centuries of European Scholarship*, situates the history of the Department vis-à-vis the history of Philippine linguistics. From foreign scholars studying the indigenous languages of the country, Filipinos such as Cecilio Lopez, Lope K. Santos, Ernesto Constantino, and Consuelo Paz came to take the helm. The capacity of local scholars to be leaders in the field is likewise emphasized in the discussion of the history and trajectory of specific sub-disciplines, as taken up in each of the papers in this issue.

Lee, Or, and Endriga's paper *Language Documentation and Description in the Philippines: Patterns and Dynamics in the Past 100 Years (1922-2022)* looks at the trends and trajectories of the field of language documentation and description from the American period, which covers the establishment of the Department in 1922, up to the present, which they describe as the "theoretical era" in linguistic description in the Philippines. The authors close the paper by laying out the trajectories and recommendations for the field as it moves towards a more inclusive, responsive, and collaborative practice, one not merely confined within academic and government institutions, but also one that recognizes the rights of linguistic communities towards self-determination.

Gallego, Santiago, and Dumoran's paper *Philippine Historical and Comparative Linguistics from Below* calls for a similar integrated approach in the field of historical linguistics. Through three case studies, the authors demonstrate the complexities of linguistic development that involve not only the internal mechanisms of language change, but also external processes brought by social contact. They conclude by emphasizing the importance of approaching the field from below—centering on localized and nuanced on-the-ground studies—which serves to complement traditional perspectives and views in historical linguistics, otherwise known as the view from above.

Manahan, Asuncion, Capinpin, Cruz, De Pano, and Hernandez's paper *Philippine Ethnolinguistics: A Hundred Years of Inquiry*, reviews the growth of the field of ethnolinguistics in the country, particularly the expansion and diversification of the domains and themes covered in its literature. The paper highlights the importance of the field in

articulating local knowledge systems and practices, as well as culturally grounded worldviews. The authors view the future of the field as one that maintains its relevance not only within academia but more importantly for and within the communities it studies.

Bacolod, Enriquez, Javier, Perez, Rosario, and Abrigo's paper *Buhay na/ng Wika: Ang Departamento ng Linggwistiks at Usapin ng Filipino bilang Wikang Pambansa* discusses the development of Filipino as the National Language of the Philippines, focusing on the crucial role the UP Department of Linguistics and the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature [*Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas*] in both the early development and conceptualization of the National Language, and in advancing the growth of Filipino as a course and a distinct field of study at present. As the issue of developing one language to unify a highly multilingual country remains relevant not just among scholars but among the wider public as well, it is unavoidable to have varying views on the status and trajectory of Filipino. The authors also acknowledge, however, the need to go back to how Filipino was originally conceived to achieve its primary purpose.

Finally, Cunanan, Bae, Rafael, and Canilao's paper *Asian Language Teaching in the Philippines: The UP Department of Linguistics Experience* traces one hundred years of Asian language teaching in the Department by tying the creation and development of Asian language courses to the prevailing social contexts during various periods, identifying challenges and issues in the course offerings, and laying out opportunities and future directions for the Department. Since its establishment, the Department remains the leader in foreign language teaching in the country, adapting to the needs of stakeholders, and keeping up with

developments in the field. Such a position is founded on partnerships cultivated to achieve common goals—ensuring the continuous improvement of the Department’s own Asian language programs through various kinds of support from external institutions, as well as by leading in capacity-building activities for language teachers in the country through various extension and public service activities.

The first PLC, held in 1978, was conceived as a venue for linguists to share their research on Philippine languages in order to foster more incisive and comprehensive studies. The proceedings of the conference, *Trends in Philippine Linguistics*, was published in this very journal in 1983, which, in the words of its convenor, the late Professor Emeritus Jonathan Malicsi, “have proven their value as baseline references for theoretical and applied linguistics in the Philippines.”

Forty-five years since the first PLC, and one hundred years since the establishment of the Department, 15PLC revisited the history and trends in the various sub-fields of Philippine linguistics. While much has indeed changed, what remains evident is the growth and vitality of the field, with the Department taking an active role in knowledge generation. Echoing the contributions of each author in this issue, I envision the future of Philippine linguistics in the next one hundred years as one that pushes for more sustainable and respectful collaboration and co-creation among linguists, institutions, and language communities in the country, with this issue of *The Archive* serving as a valuable record of the trends and trajectories in the field thus far.

As we begin the next century of Philippine linguistics, *The Archive* maintains its commitment to serve as a platform, most of all, for local scholars to disseminate research on Philippine languages, contributing

not just to the further growth of the field, but also to the sustainable development of the communities we serve.

I wish to thank the editorial team, led by Jem Javier, Divine Angeli Endriga, Brian Salvador Baran, and Victoria Vidal, with support from Mai Andre Encarnacion, Patricia Anne Asuncion, and Jefferson David. I also thank all the reviewers who gave their constructive feedback to help improve the papers in this issue. Finally, I am deeply grateful to the faculty and students of the Department of Linguistics for their hard work starting from 15PLC in 2023 to the release of this publication. Truly, it has been an honor to serve both as convenor of 15PLC, and as editor for this special issue of *The Archive*.

Maria Kristina S. Gallego

Issue Editor

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