

Metalexicographic Analyses of Zamboanga Chavacano Dictionaries

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ABSTRACT

To date, Zamboanga Chavacano dictionaries have managed to evade the inquiry of lexicographers or dictionary critics, insinuating that none of these have been subjected to the lens of an extraneous investigator. This paper attempted to investigate the metalexicographic structure of four dictionaries of the preceding language, or better yet, specifically, the microstructural component, which was the indications in every headword, the macrostructural section, which was the orthography subscribed by the dictionaries, and the mega-structural constituent with foci on the content and usefulness of the front and back matters of each. The study revealed that the definitions of each dictionary are relatively at variance with one another but likewise share a commonality—they are short, which may compromise capturing all the word's senses. The orthography of each of the dictionaries adheres to the Hispanic influence of spelling words with <c> and <qu> pronounced /k/, and <c> and <s> pronounced /s/.

Keywords: dictionary criticism, microstructure, macrostructure, megastructure, Zamboanga Chavacano

INTRODUCTION

Zamboanga Chavacano has been a language that has earned the interest of the local government officials of the past and some language scholars in the sphere of lexicography, as evidenced by the generation and publication of dictionaries in the forenamed language. The ones that may be regarded as relatively novel in regard to the dates of publication are ones that were chronologically put in print in 1999, 2003, 2010, and the one with the most recency, in 2017. Copies of the most recent dictionary were provided for public schools all over the city, whereas the other three may be found in the sizable libraries throughout Zamboanga, and some of these dictionaries are reported to have been distributed in digitized versions.

A dictionary has three main structure types: megastructure, macrostructure, and microstructure (Ahmed, Shahriar, & Inayat, 2020; Svensen, 2009), which have all been previously examined (e.g., Osselton, 2018; Farina, 2020). The current investigation—a dictionary evaluation—in this paper is anchored on these three structural types of Zamboanga Chavacano dictionaries. An affair that is far from being simple (Bogaards, 2013), dictionary criticism or evaluation is subsumed under the discipline of lexicography that aims at contributing to the improvement of a dictionary and the furtherance of lexicography per se via evaluations and appraisals (Akasu, 2013). It has to be an act of affording an unbiased presentation of a dictionary premised on judgments pertinent to the dictionary's quality after its inspection (Nielsen, 2017). In what follows, a review of the relevant literature is presented for each of the aforesaid structure types, where the evaluations revolve.

Svensen (2009) defined the megastructure as the way that the main components of dictionaries are ordered and the relationships of which are shown. Relevantly, it is referred to as the sum of all the parts that includes the macrostructure and the outside matter (Hartmann & James, 2002). Schmolz (2017) described this structure type as the entirety of the core components of a dictionary where the front and back matters constitute it. These are also termed as the outside matter whose contents are before and after the lemma list (Svensen, 2009) or the word list (Hartmann & James, 2002).

On the flip side, the back matter might be constituted of linguistic and encyclopedic information, and specifically may include some or all of the following: (1) numbers, days of the week, months of the year, seasons, etc.; (2) system of weights and measures; (3) table of proper nouns like personal names, family names, place names (instead of their inclusion in the lemma list); (4) special appendixes for special sets of words like irregular verbs; (5) a list of frequent proverbs and quotations; (6) an errata or correction chit; and (7) bibliography (Singh, 2010). On the same token, Hartmann and James (2002) enumerated the “subsidiaries” which may include the following: (1) index; (2) quotations and proverbs; (3) musical notation; (4) alphabetic and numerical symbols; (5) chemical elements; (6) military ranks; (7) weights and measures; (8) personal and place names. Thereby,

these itemized elements, the outside matter, are one of those that may be evaluated in a dictionary (Svensen, 2009) via a lexicographic approach (Atkins & Rundell, 2008).

Be that as it may, these dictionaries, although most likely having been published under the close supervision of an extraneous entity's lens and of an individual in the possession of exceedingly stringent expertise in the relevant field, none of these have been subjected to an austere dictionary evaluation or criticism, let alone have been juxtaposed for comparing and contrasting purposes for the identification of which one exhibits an archetypal quality that is worthy of emulation and thus may be drawn upon as a blueprint for the production of a template.

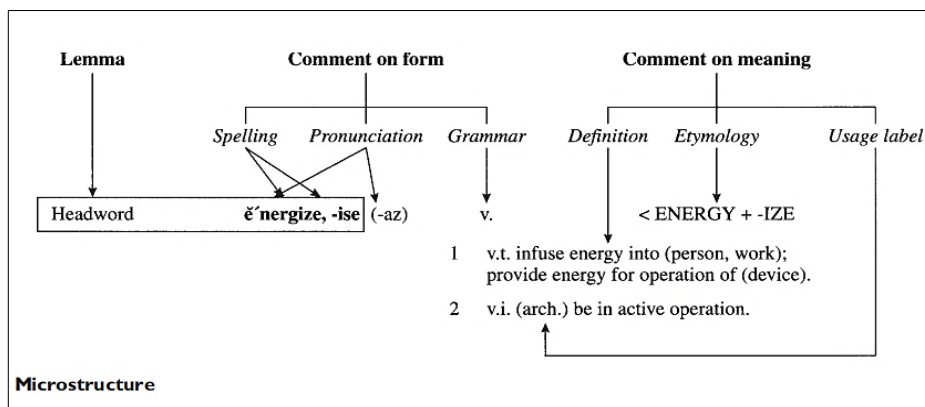
With this current state of affairs in the lexicography of the Zamboanga Chavacano language, this paper sought to investigate meta-lexicographically the four dictionaries whose dates of publication have been stated antecedently. The analyses spanning from the microstructure to the macrostructure and to the megastructure are purposed to detect the paradigmatic dictionary and attempt to develop a template for future Zamboanga Chavacano lexicographers.

1.1 Theoretical Framework

This paper is undergirded by Svensen's (2009) main structure types: megastructure, macrostructure, and microstructure. For the *megastructure*, Nielsen (2017) contended that dictionary criticism should afford a fair presentation of the following: dictionary functions, dictionary data, presentation of the data, and the accessibility of the data.

In the current paper, these have been slightly adapted into the content and usefulness of the data in the megastructure to fit the purpose of the paper. The investigation for the *macrostructure* only covered the spellings of words with the /k/ sound, which may be spelled as <c> before <a>, <o>, or <u>. The same sound may be spelled as <qu> when <e> or <i> follows. The sound /s/ is spelled with a <c> when followed by <e> and <i>, and the same sound which may be spelled with an <s> in some other words. This is underpinned in Iguina and Dozier (2013), which elucidates the Spanish spellings of the foregoing sounds. The following figure (Hartmann & James, 2002) presents how the microstructure was evaluated alongside the comprehension-related information in the definition (Nielsen, 2017).

Figure 1. Microstructure Elements



METHOD OF ANALYSIS

For the first research objective, the front and back matters were described and evaluated in terms of their content or presentation, the access to the data within the dictionary, and/or the data's usefulness in the dictionary. Picking up from the third research question, the indications were assessed, thus the definitions and other relevant provisions therein, to specifically bring to light the contents therewith and to unearth previously undetected strengths and points to improve on the contents in the microstructure.

As far as the second research objective was concerned, only Spanish-originated lexical items with /k/ and /s/ sounds were analyzed, as these are known to be sounds in Spanish that can be spelled differently in Zamboanga Chavacano. Further, there have been attempts to unify the orthography of the Zamboanga Chavacano language, but these have still not gained ground so far despite the number of years that have elapsed since the attempt. Several spelling variations have been observed due to the disparity in the spellers' preferences—that is, some opt to spell these words as pronounced, whereas others stick to the more prescriptive perspective of retaining the Hispanic influence. Thereby, the faithfulness to the Hispanic spelling rules is

scrutinized as the sub-objective number 1, and the paper teased out the oneness in terms of orthography in the language via the sub-objective number 2 under the second research objective that sought for the juxtaposition of some select words with the identified sound to compare and contrast for consistency or otherwise.

The fourth and final research question was intended for the identification of the optimal dictionary that may be a starting point for the engendering of a novel dictionary. From this perspective, the best that is offered by the other dictionaries was incorporated with the identified dictionary exemplar. From this identification, a template was generated that may be of remarkable aid for lexicographers whose interest may be to develop a paramount lexicographic reference that is not only novel but is likewise research-based.

Table 1. Methods used in achieving the objectives of the study

| Structure to Examine | Approach | >> Method of Analysis and << Data Collection Procedure |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Megastructure: Front and back matter | Lexicographic Approach | >> Researcher's Analyses << Dictionary megastructure |
| Macrostructure: Orthography | Linguistic Approach | >> Researcher's Analyses << Spellings in the dictionary |
| Microstructure: Indications | Lexicographic Approach | >> Researcher's Analyses << Dictionary microstructure |

The data were gathered from the physical copies of the dictionaries, which implies the procurement of the tangible dictionaries to pave the way for the investigations. Three of the dictionaries were obtained from the City Library, while one was borrowed from a junior high school library. Consents have been sought before the procurement of the foregoing references. Based upon Atkins and Rundell (2008), the megastructure and microstructure were executed via lexicographic analyses, whereas the macrostructure, on account of the orthographical scrutiny, may be deemed linguistic in its analysis. Further, due to the analysis carried out pertinent to the Zamboanga Chavacano language structure, this facet of the inquiry may likewise be regarded as linguistic analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Chavacano Lexicography

The Chavacano Lexicography (2018) was directed and edited by Dr. Jose Genaro R. Yap-Aizon. It is a 2-volume unidirectional English-Chavacano dictionary with validators, predominantly of whom are PhD holders, and with the previous City Mayor serving as the consultant. The researchers for the dictionary are listed therein, completing the publication team.

3.1.1 Megastructure

Front Matter: Content and Usefulness

1. The *reason* the dictionary was put up was an effort to preserve and promote the Chavacano language and to teach the people of Zamboanga, young and old, the foundations of the Chavacano language. This is presented as a message from the previous City Mayor. Albeit possessing no impact on data access, it presents succinctly and concisely the importance that the previous Local Government Unit afforded to the language.
2. A straightforward one-page *Table of Contents* appears in the dictionary that may be of use for the dictionary user in that it can facilitate the location of the needed headword via the page where the entries for each of the letters in the English language instigate. It also indicates the other components of the dictionary: the orthography and the Chavacano grammatical structure. For an obvious reason, this section is of beneficial use for the user in locating the needed portion of the dictionary.

Back Matter: Content and Usefulness

1. The *Chavacano orthography*, as one of the components of the back matter, provides a brief description of Chavacano language and its status in the city. Likewise, the issues of the non-existence of an orthography for the language and its relevance to the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education are explicated. Also found therewith are the salient points of the orthography, the legal bases for the MTB-MLE Chavacano Program, the reasons there is a need for a Chavacano orthography, and the actual Chavacano alphabet—containing the letters and their names, and the general orthographic rules. Owing to the fact that the dictionary is a lexical reference, orthography is a constituent that is of vast essence, especially in terms of utilizing the language in the written form.

2. *Zamboanga Chavacano Grammar*, a paper which is likewise published separately, is the second portion of the back matter whose initial descriptions are the data gathering procedure. This is composed of a total of 42 grammar components segregated under the umbrella of 7 part-of-speech units—nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions. The grammatical accounts discussed may be of use to anyone who desires to learn, let alone speak Chavacano; tout au contraire, this portion of the dictionary necessitates to be refurbished relative to the analyses of morphosyntax. From a linguistics perspective, Zamboanga Chavacano exhibits a temporal feature of aspect in the stead of tense (Barrios, 2006; Eijansantos, et al., 2021), which apparently is at variance with that of the English temporal system that exhibits the combinatorial behavior of tense and aspect (Larsen-Freeman & Celce-Murcia, 2016).

Grounded on the preceding, the discussions relative to the verbal system of Chavacano is patterned from the amalgamation of tense and aspect in English, suggesting that Chavacano behaves in the same fashion which scholars and/or investigators of the language claim otherwise. Another consideration is the analyses of the voice system of the language which is regarded as one that exhibits the active voice alone. Revisiting the discussion on this grammatical item may be necessary (see Eijansantos, 2017). On the contrary, with the updating being ingrained in the reader's mind, the accurate grammar points may be beneficial for the reader as the words are as good as their weaving, forming sentential constructions which dictates the prodigious necessity of syntax.

3. The third and final part and parcel of the dictionary's back matter is the *Zamboanga Chavacano/Chavacano Language Structure*. It is a discussion on the word order of the language. A presentation on which order generates ungrammatical sentences is the most helpful for users of the dictionary or learners of the Zamboanga Chavacano language as it may make them cognizant in terms of the structures deemed unacceptable.

As far as the other presentations are concerned, a discussion on the pragmatics of each of the constructions will ensue in the material turning out to be a better reference. This is premised on the analysis that Chavacano is a language that is nearly a non-configurational language, meaning the word order is relatively free—that is to say, if there is anything that a presentation of the different permissible order is of any good use, it is when each of them exudes a variation on the semantic or pragmatic purviews.

Thus, arguing for the semantic and/or pragmatic variation is immensely consequential. Further, this additional component of the paper where other syntactic word order is covered may be valuable for the dictionary user who desires to objectify their yearning to learn the language, thus requiring the know-how on how to weave the lemmata found as entries.

3.1.2 Macrostructure

Iguina and Dozier (2013) presented that <c> is pronounced /k/ when followed by <a>, <o>, <u>, as in *casa* 'house,' *cola* 'tail, line,' or *cuesta* 'slope'. <q> is pronounced /k/, too, when succeeded by <e> or <i> where a silent <u> follows <q>, technically forming <qu> as in *que* 'that,' *quecha* 'Quecha,' and *quiquiriqui* 'cock-a-doodle- doo'. Further, in standard Spanish, <s> is pronounced /s/. <c> followed by <e> or <i> is, in like manner, pronounced /s/ in Latin America but /z/ in Spain. In the orthography found in Yap-Aizon (2018), the forenamed letters are pronounced as explicated by Iguina and Dozier (2013). As far as <c> being followed by <e> or <i>, /s/ sound is adopted.

Table 2. Words with <c> and <qu> pronounced /k/, and <c> and <s> pronounced /s/

| /k/ | | | /s/ | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. culpa | 11. color | 21. quema | 1. ciencia | 11. basura |
| 2. cuatro | 12. colocacion | 22. quemando | 2. asociacion | 12. ademas |
| 3. cubri | 13. colabora | 23. quemadura | 3. sacia | 13. silencio |
| 4. culpable | 14. compara | 24. choque | 4. perdicion | 14. silla |
| 5. cultura | 15. camina | 25. querer | 5. multiplicacion | 15. consulta |
| 6. cultiva | 16. catorce | 26. maquinilla | 6. calcetin | 16. Señor |
| 7. galvanico | 17. cafeteria | 27. quire | 7. parece | 17. simple |
| 8. coercion | 18. caido | 28. paquilaya | 8. cacerola | 18. lotus |
| 9. coma | 19. saca | 29. quilaya | 9. hace | 19. simula |
| 10. combinacion | 20. confisca | 30. alquila | 10. catorce | 20. delicioso |

Table 2 above shows that words with a /k/ sound are spelled with a <c> where <u> follows it (see items 1-6 in /k/ column), where <o> succeeds it (see items 7 through 14), or where <a> is the letter following it (see items 15 through 20). With an identical sound, <qu> is spelled before <i> and <e> as can be gleaned in items 21 through 30. Further, <c> is likewise drawn upon for the sound <s> when the following grapheme is <e> or <i>. For an identical sound, <s> is likewise used for the phoneme /s/. For this part, it may be necessary to provide an explanatory note that delineates what sets <c> and <s> apart. This is an indication that the dictionary's spelling system adopted is faithful to that of Spanish as far as the relevant letters are concerned, and this is expected as the dictionary intends to prescribe the orthography for Chavacano where it is alluded that the retention of the Hispanic influence is preferred.

3.1.3 Microstructure

The lemmata in the dictionary are in English, where an English meaning is provided. With three columns, one is intended for the lemma, the other for the meaning or definition, and the third for the Chavacano equivalent. The Part of Speech (henceforth POS) or the grammatical category is enclosed in parentheses, and a straightforward definition is provided with apparently only 1 sense.

Further, these words can be rather alienating for the native speakers themselves. If the intention is to preserve the language by way of a dictionary, then the Chavacano equivalent may be revisited. The fact that there are terms in the English headwords that seem to possess no direct equivalent in Chavacano needs to be taken into consideration. On the flip side, some words may be simply no longer in widespread use and may still serve the purpose of aiding in the documentation—and likely the preservation—of the Chavacano language. All the other structures premised on Hartmann and James (2002) are not exhibited in the microstructure of the dictionary.

Table 3. Summary of the Structural Analyses for Chavacano Lexicography

| Megastructure | Macrostructure | Microstructure |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Front Matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Reason for putting up the Dictionary</i> – promotion and preservation of the language 2. <i>Table of Contents</i> – helpful in locating headword and the back matter <p>Back Matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Chavacano Orthography</i> exhibits faithfulness and adherence to the Hispanic influence 2. <i>Chavacano Grammar</i> covers the POS but some issues in the language description are observed 3. <i>Chavacano Structure</i> discusses the permissible word order in Chavacano; pragmatic discussion may come in handy <p>The usefulness of the contents of the front and back matters varies.</p> | <p><c> → /k/ when followed by the following graphemes: <a>, <o>, <u></p> <p><c> → /s/ when followed by the graphemes <e>, <i></p> <p><qu> → /k/ when followed by <e>, <i></p> <p><s> → /s/ (the difference between this grapheme and <c> in spelling of words has to be delineated)</p> <p>The spelling of the words adheres to the orthography.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three columns are provided: the headwords, the meanings, and the Chavacano equivalent. 2. Issues on the <i>-ndo</i> and <i>-ao</i> constructions in Chavacano which may be misconstrued as identical as that gerundial and participial forms in English. 3. Some equivalents provided in Chavacano may be unnatural for the speakers; some equivalents are literal equivalents. |

3.2 Chavacano de Zamboanga Handbook and Chavacano-English-Spanish

This reference was published in the year 1999 by FREEDOM Commercial Printers and was authored by Bernardino Silva Camins as a brainchild of the late Mayor Caling Lobregat. The dictionary is unidirectional, that is, from Chavacano to English, where Spanish equivalents are likewise provided.

3.2.1 Megastructure

Front Matter: Content, Presentation, and Usefulness

1. The *Table of Contents* provides a straightforward one-page guide relative to the content. This is helpful for a user to locate the necessary information of varied natures: introduction, about-the-author section, alphabet, sample of situational conversational Chavacano, persons and relations, some common errors in usage, popular Chavacano songs, selected Zamboanga songs, Chavacano sayings and other

expressions—the preceding entries are grouped as the part I of the reference, while the part II is the Chavacano-English-Spanish dictionary. The table of contents does not include the special note from the ex-Mayor Celso L. Lobregat.

2. A *special note* from the ex-Mayor Celso L. Lobregat immediately comes after the table of contents. It presents a snippet of how Chavacano came to be. It likewise discusses the dedication of the author Bernardino Silva Camins in putting up the reference and where he drew inspiration in crafting the same. He alluded that the reference may be utilized for those who wish to study the language, those Chavacano speakers whose intention is to let their know-how pertinent to the language flourish, and those who may be led to rediscover words once heard from the elders. These may be regarded as the reasons for generating the reference.
3. A *Is-this-how-it-began* section appears as the third portion of the front matter. It tackles the historical accounts of how the language of Chavacano came to be. This portion may be cross-referenced with extraneous materials for the purpose of juxtaposing it with those that are likewise published for potential identical or differing accounts. This is of use for the user who may be interested in how the language originated. It may likewise be a succinct elucidation as to the language's amalgamated nature of being a creole relative to the composition of its lexical items, which are found in the dictionary proper.
4. The *About the author* forms a part and parcel of the front matter of the reference material. The contents are apparently pertaining to the author of the book, Bernardino Silva Camins, his education, whom the book was dedicated to, his experiences, his notice of the supposed adulterating of the language, his desire for the book itself in the imminent future, and the final thoughts of the editor. All these may not have a direct and practical use for the dictionary per se or its use.
5. Immediately after the about-the-author section, a brief section on the *alphabet* and a good amount of description and examples of *POS* follow. The alphabet is a simplistic presentation of the vowels and the consonants. A short three-sentence paragraph germane to pronunciation and syllabification follows through which exclusively pertains to the <h> and <w> letters. In the lens of usefulness, this may not be of excessive assistance except for the foregoing letters. Further, the POS portion provides definitions that are premised on the way the POSs are defined in English. Succeeding examples are indicated per grammatical category; for instance, the article is described as being comparatively different from that of Spanish. The nominal POS is as brief as the previous POS, while the pronominal one provides the different types of pronouns, and the adjectives, apart from the definition, the comparative and superlative degrees are likewise presented.
6. Samples of *Situational Conversational Chavacano* is a two-page list of common expressions about greetings, introductions, directions and information, purchasing, and food or eating. English sentences are provided in one column and their Chavacano translations are provided on the other. This may be advantageous to non-native speakers with little to no knowledge of the language. The entries, on the contrary, are relatively few. Thereby, the provision of more exemplary situations may address this glitch.
7. The *Persons and relations* section puts a premium on the respectful characteristic that Zamboangeños accordingly possess. Brief discussions relative to the formality, familiarity, commonness, and coarseness of pronominal preferences are put to the fore. Examples are likewise provided exhibiting the pronominal distinctions in the different registers. To a user with insufficient cultural context in this state of affairs may find this section valuable. In the purview of the dictionary per se and its use, this may provide some amount of practical context in the use of the pronouns and other terms which may be deemed necessary to manifest respect like *abuelo* for familiar and *lolo* for common, both of which mean 'grandfather'.
8. The section titled *Some Common Errors and Correct Usage* contends that some words are incorrectly used. The following are cases in points: *bilug* 'piece,' *manada* 'much or plenty,' *pipina* 'to pick up,' and *ya sale* 'got out.'

The uses of these words, especially *bilug*, *manada*, and the verb phrase *ya sale*, although they are argued to be inaccurate, are now so widespread. In a linguistics perspective, the proliferated use of these terms presupposes acceptability and change in language. The tone put forth is prescriptive in nature, suggesting the adulteration of the language. This may estrange users of the reference who regard it as an authority in that it strays away from the actual use of the lexical items.

9. *Popular Chavacano Songs* is a portion that makes available the lyrics of some purported popular Chavacano songs. As to the dictionary use per se, this may have no relevance at all. A handful may suppose that this is valuable if their interests lie in culture studies, local classical music, or Zamboanga studies from a macro viewpoint. In relevance to dictionary use, this may not have a direct practicability other than using the lyrics as a reference as to how words may be utilized in an artful form.
10. *Chavacano Sayings and Other Expressions* is a section that presents Chavacano sayings that are now archaic, such that the use of most of them may render the hearers puzzled, apart from the older generation who are in their sunset years. Entries in Chavacano are enumerated alongside their English and Spanish meanings and/or equivalents. Practicability-wise, in regards dictionary use, no direct relevance may be identified; however, for the sake of learning the sayings that may be of good use in any artful form, this section may be advantageous.

For the front matter sections, especially for items 2 and 3, and 5 through 10, the purpose of documenting the ethnolinguistic elements of the language is addressed and may be an appreciable attempt to preserve the language if any act to do so is permissible. The degree of their usefulness or otherwise varies from section to section which is dependent upon the necessity of the user. In the same token, the usefulness that these sections have in terms of dictionary use varies from being devoid to relatively contributory, especially in the sense of contextualizing the lexical items.

Back Matter: Content, Presentation, and Usefulness

Chavacano Handbook and Chavacano-English-Spanish Dictionary has no back matter whatsoever.

3.2.2 Macrostructure

Chavacano de Zamboanga Handbook is adherent to the orthography that was published by the Local Government Unit in Zamboanga City and in the discussion of Iguina and Dozier (2013). In Table 3 above, it can be gleaned that <c> is pronounced /k/ once followed by a <u> (see items 1 through 6 in the /k/ column), an <o> (see items 7 through 14 in the /k/ column), or an <a> (see items 15 through 20 in the /k/ column). It may be noticed, too, that there are no entries for <qu> in the table which is attributable to the absence of such letter combinations as headword entries. Further, when <c> is followed by an <i> like items 1 through 5 in the column /s/ or by an <e> in the identical column, <c> is pronounced /s/. The grapheme <s> is pronounced /s/ in other words. Analogous with the first dictionary, a front matter section intended for the orthography utilized in the dictionary may address the concern of vivid delineation of the choice between <c> or <s> in the spelling of words with /s/ sound. If the basis is language provenance, then it may require a user to be abreast with or cognizant of the lexical items' source language. Besides, it has been noted that the entries in the dictionary are quite few in number. Thus, there may be words that a user needs but do not form part of the lemmata of the dictionary.

Table 4. Words with <c> pronounced /k/ and <c> and <s> pronounced /s/

| /k/ | | /s/ | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. culcul | 11. codo | 1. official | 11. casera |
| 2. cula | 12. colecta | 2. oficina | 12. calawisi |
| 3. curay | 13. colorao | 3. obligacion | 13. siruh |
| 4. oscuro | 14. coco | 4. cintura | 14. considera |
| 5. cura | 15. calsada | 5. cigarillo | 15. culasisi |
| 6. cutis | 16. calma | 6. obedece | 16. sincero |
| 7. color | 17. caguang | 7. cerveza | 17. cortesia |
| 8. comida | 18. camina | 8. complace | 18. conose |
| 9. competi | 19. calandracas | 9. concencia | 19. consenti |
| 10. como | 20. calcag | 10. certificado | 20. sombra |

3.2.3 Microstructure

The lemmata are in Chavacano, accompanied by an English definition in the medial column and a Spanish definition in the final column. The meanings are straightforward, where senses are separated via a comma. The POSs are italicized and abbreviated. Owing to the abbreviation, a section with a provision of their full forms may be indispensable in that not every user is cognizant of what these abbreviations stand for. From a researcher's vantage point, the definitions provided for the English terms are easy to understand, which may be attributed to their concise length and straightforward translation.

Table 5. Summary of the Structural Analyses of the Zamboanga Chavacano Handbook

| Megastructure | Macrostructure | Microstructure |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Front Matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Table of Contents</i> – useful for locating information in the dictionary proper and the several sections in the front matter <p>The special-note section is not listed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Special note</i> – contains a snippet of how Chavacano came to be; has alluded to the grounds as to why the dictionary was put up <i>Is this how it began</i> – provides some historical accounts of the Chavacano language; may be cross-referenced with other references <i>About the author</i> – discussions about the author <i>Alphabet and POS</i> – the alphabet used in the dictionary is enumerated; the POSs are defined and examples alongside some properties are presented. <i>Situational Conversational Chavacano</i> – common expressions in some situations are provided; proves to be useful especially for learners of the language; has relatively few entries <i>Persons and relations</i> – emphasizes respect by way of the pronominal system formality, commonness, and coarseness; other relevant terms are provided as well <i>Some common errors and Correct Usage</i> – prescriptive in nature; claims adulteration of the language; some words exhibit widespread use <i>Popular Chavacano Songs</i> – lyrics of some songs in Chavacano are given <i>Chavacano sayings and expressions</i> – most are archaic; still may be useful for any artful form of the language <p>Basically, each of the sections' usefulness for the dictionary varies from section to section.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <c> → /k/ when followed by the graphemes <a>, <o>, <u> <c> → /s/ when followed by the graphemes <e>, <i> <s> → /s/ (the difference between this grapheme and <c> in spelling of words has to be delineated; if the difference is dependent upon the words' language provenance, then knowledge of the words' source language may be necessary) With respect to the graphemes analyzed, the spelling of the words exhibits adherence to the orthography. The number of entries is relatively low. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The lemmata are in Chavacano. Short English and Spanish definitions come in separate columns. The abbreviations may need the provision of a separate section intended for the full form of the POS. Straightforward definitions are indicated which are easy to understand owing to the meagre length of each. This may facilitate comprehension but may not capture all senses. Different senses are separated by a comma. A pronunciation guide aids in only the identification of the appropriate stress of the word. |

3.3 English-Chavacano Dictionary

The English-Chavacano Dictionary is a bidirectional lexicographic reference compiled by John Chambers, S.J. and edited by Salvador Wee, S. J. It was published by the Institute of Cultural Studies for Western Mindanao, Ateneo de Zamboanga University Press in the year 2003.

3.3.1 Megastructure

Front Matter: Presentation, Content, and Usefulness

1. The *Table of Contents* has delineated the contents of the dictionary, especially for the front matter, where each part of the *Simple Grammar* portion is presented alongside the *Downtown Map* and *Road Map of Zamboanga City*. Insofar as the lemmata are concerned, only the first up to the last pages are indicated for both the English-Chavacano Dictionary and Chavacano-English Wordlist. As far as the *Simple Grammar* is concerned, the Table of Contents may prove to be of great use, but this usefulness is relatively slimmer in regard to the headword entries.
2. The *Introduction* section tackles the population that speaks the language and the influx of people into the city. It controverts the claim that purports that the language is in its moribund state and contends that it is the largest Spanish-based creole being spoken on the face of the globe. Accordingly, the use of the language alongside Filipino is in no way to be deemed un-Filipino.

Further, the dictionary claims the reason for whom it was written—that is, for those whose intention is to learn how to speak the language, and in contrast, not for the scholars who purpose an exact and complete comprehension of the lexical items. It likewise mentions some existing dictionaries that contributed to putting up this dictionary. The inclusion of Spanish and Tagalog was carried out in the dictionary on either of the two accounts: (1) to understand the primary English entry, or (2) to aid in the identification of the Spanish or Tagalog provenance of a word. Moreover, the entries total 2,500, regarded as common in use. Italicized entries are borrowed from English, but in a general sense, italics are meant to indicate the Spanish root of a word. As to the old words in Chavacano, these have not been included in the dictionary, and that number and pronouns are not headwords in the dictionary but are part and parcel of the *Simple Grammar* section in the front matter. The dictionary culminates with an acknowledgement.

3. The section *A Simple Grammar* presents a pronunciation guide and some grammar points. The pronunciation guide, although not adherent to IPA, is beneficial for the user as it delineates the pronunciation of some letters which may easily alienate those who are not abreast of the hispanized orthography. The letters <c>, <g>, <h>, <j>, <k>, <qu>, <ll>, <ñ>, and <v> are in enumeration with their corresponding pronunciation. This is suggestive of a two-way guide where pronunciation and spelling are catered. For apparent reasons, this section is an aid to the user to accurately pronounce and spell words (at least for those who desire to be subservient to the Spanish orthographical influence), but for the English-Chavacano dictionary, the pronunciation guide is of no use whatsoever.
4. Under the same section is a presentation of *a few very common words, verb tense markers, personal pronouns, demonstrative of things, prepositional phrases, possessive adjectives, demonstrative of places, days of the week and months of the year, colors, cardinal numbers, ordinal numbers, kinship/relatives, and body parts*. For the grammar points, a straightforward listing of the relevant items appears. Likewise, a translation of the items is provided alongside sentential cases in points with their corresponding Chavacano translations. All the rest, no sentence samples are provided, only direct equivalents are made available. The grammar points may be of benefit to the user in that they may clarify to some degree how these items are used in actuality as a sentential form. That being the case, no definition of the relevant grammar points is afforded. The items are not identified clear-cut. Thereby, it is left to the user to figure out for themselves what the relevant grammar items are. The issue about identifying the relevant grammar items is more obvious in that the entries in the columns do not follow a pattern across the POSs.
5. As far as the POSs are concerned, the aspect markers in Chavacano are termed as tense markers which may be problematic in the linguistics purview. Although the grammar points presented are straightforward, the inclusion of the *man* verbalizer (Riego de Dios, 1989, as cited in Eijansantos et al., 2022) is consequential for borrowed words to be verbalized in Chavacano. The prepositional phrases and the possessive adjectives, as they are termed in the reference, need a vivid explanation as prepositions *di* and *con* seem to be hosts for the enclitic pronominals in Chavacano where they lexically and phonologically figure with the pronouns as single entities. Defining the POSs and clearly identifying the relevant elements will most definitely do a great deal of good for the user.
6. A section named *Street Map of Downtown Zamboanga City* contains some names that have undergone some changes through the years like the *Lantaka Hotel*, and *Mindpro Citimall*. The map may still be of

practical use—alongside or in the absence of digital maps—to the user as long as the changes in some of the landmarks' names have been noted. Furthermore, a *Road Map of City of Zamboanga* can be practically used to find one's way around the neighboring barangays of the city proper. The practicality of the maps may yet be deemed useful for someone learning the language's fundamental lexicon while being in the city proper. On the contrary, in relation to lexical entries, they may not have a direct relevance whatsoever.

Back Matter: Presentation, Content, and Usefulness

The dictionary contains no back matter.

3.3.2 Macrostructure

As can be gleaned from Table 5 below, the spellings of the words with a /k/ sound in the letters <c> and <qu> and with the sound <s> for both <c> and <s> are consistent with Spanish, as it has already been clarified by the compiler. Letter <c> is pronounced /k/ when followed by <u>, as in items 1 through 6 under the /k/ column, and it is pronounced the same when followed by <o> and <a> for items 7 through 14 and items 15 through 20 respectively. In the same column, <qu> is pronounced /k/ when followed by <e> or <i>, as in items 21 through 25 and items 25 through 30 respectively. Further, for the sound /s/, <c> is followed by <i> as in items 1 through 5 and by <e> for items 6 through 10 in Column /s/ respectively. <s> is pronounced /s/ in some cases as well. All these are in order as regards the faithfulness they exhibit in terms of the Hispanic spelling system. It has to be explained, still, as in the case of the preceding two dictionaries evaluated, the variation between <c> and <s> when both are pronounced /s/. If etymology plays a critical role in this orthographical pattern, it has to be clarified in the front matter.

Table 5. Words with <c> and <qu> pronounced /k/, and <c> and <s> pronounced /s/

| /k/ | | | /s/ | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. discuidao | 11. confronta | 21. paquemodo | 1. encima | 11. pintakase |
| 2. discumpiao | 12. encontra | 22. paquete | 2. perdicion | 12. pensa |
| 3. discurso | 13. loco | 23. que | 3. obligacion | 13. obserba |
| 4. discuti | 14. contesta | 24. quebra | 4. noticia | 14. conseja |
| 5. culpa | 15. cada | 25. queda | 5. ciudad | 15. confesa |
| 6. culup | 16. ataca | 26. paquilaya | 6. cena | 16. desaparace |
| 7. antipatico | 17. cae | 27. quien | 7. aparece | 17. descansa |
| 8. condicion | 18. boca | 28. quieto | 8. dulce | 18. empesa |
| 9. conecta | 19. bringca | 29. quita | 9. obedece | 19. insisti |
| 10. confia | 20. cabeza | 30. quiere | 10. celos | 20. makarisas |

This dictionary relatively exhibits more flexibility in that apart from the faithful spelling of words with <qu> pronounced /k/, some of the words are likewise spelled adhering to the phonological trend, for instance, *pakilaya* 'how', *pakimodo* 'how' (cf. items 21 and 26, Column /k/) and *kay* 'fall down, collapse' (cf. item 17, Column /k/). This spelling flexibility has been pre-empted in the introduction section of the dictionary's front matter. This is apparently aberrant from the first two dictionaries that have been evaluated prior to this one.

3.3.3 Microstructure

For each of the entries in the English-Chavacano Dictionary, a lemma is presented in uppercase letters, and an English definition is provided, but this does not hold water across the board. The POS is provided as italicized abbreviations. Separated by what appears to be a hyphen, the Chavacano meaning or equivalent is provided, followed by the Tagalog and Spanish meanings and/or equivalents, both of which are demarcated with a hyphen.

Insofar as understanding the definitions in English, Chavacano, and Tagalog is concerned, they are easy to comprehend owing to their straightforwardness. Analogous to the previous dictionary, albeit easy to follow, capturing all the senses of the lemmata may have been compromised. This may be understandable on the account that this has been put up for those who desire to learn the language and not for those whose level of proficiency can be classified as scholarly. Be that as it may, capturing the senses is still consequential to appropriately represent the words' semantic content. Further, apart from the observed contents in the indications, all the rest of the components presented by Hartmann and James (2002) are not exhibited.

The Chavacano-English Wordlist presents Chavacano headwords which are separated by a comma from the abbreviated POS. The definitions are single-word or phrasal. If a word can be classified under one grammatical category, a line separates the two POSs. The definitions or equivalents are easy to understand if

the user is cognizant of their own meaning. All the other components in Hartmann & James' (2002) figure are evident in the microstructure indications.

3.4 Chavacano de Zamboanga Compendio y Diccionario

The *Chavacano de Zamboanga Compendio y Diccionario* was published in 2010 by Ateneo de Zamboanga and was authored by Dr. Rolando A. Santos. It is a bi-directional dictionary where English is the other language in the dictionary.

Table 6. Summary of the Structural Analyses of the English-Chavacano Dictionary

| Megastructure | Macrostructure | Microstructure |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Front Matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Table of Contents</i> – provides a guide for the rest of the front matter but does not provide an alphabetically-based guide for the headwords in both dictionary directions. <i>Introduction</i> – explicates that contrary to some claims, Chavacano is a living language; presents the reason for why it has been put up, and presents some guide features like italics as a textual condensation feature. <i>Simple Grammar section</i> – delineates the pronunciation and spelling of words influenced by Spanish; presents some typically front matter elements like parts of the body, colors, number, kinship, POSs, etc.; the POSs need updating like the <i>man</i> verbalizer and the suspected cliticization of prepositions and pronouns and necessitate to be defined. <i>Maps</i> – may still be of practical use for the user but needs updating for some of the landmark names. <p>The level of usefulness of the front and back matters are at variance.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <c> → /k/ when followed by the graphemes <a>, <o>, <u> <c> → /s/ when followed by the graphemes <e>, <i> <s> → /s/ (identical to the two prior dictionaries, the variation between <s> and <c> in the spelling of words has to be delineated; if the difference is premised upon the words' language provenance, then knowledge of the words' source language may be necessary and etymology of the word may be provided.) As far as the analyzed graphemes are concerned, the spelling of the words adheres to the orthography. The number of entries is relatively low, and understandably so, as the Chavacano-English Wordlist is a wordlist after all. | <p><i>English-Chavacano Dictionary</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The lemmata are presented in uppercase. Not all lemmata are provided with English meanings. POS is italicized and abbreviated. Chavacano, Tagalog, and Spanish meanings or equivalents are separated by a comma. The definitions are easy to follow but may have compromised the completeness of the senses. <p><i>Chavacano-English Wordlist</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The lemmata are in uppercase. The definitions are single-word or phrasal ones. The definitions are easy to understand but are short; thereby, some senses may have been left out. |

3.4.1 Megastructure

Front Matter: Presentation, Content, and Usefulness

- The *Dedication* bullets who the author or compiler dedicated the dictionary to. The dedications are directed to the City of Zamboanga, the author's ancestors, his wife and children, his teachers, and the rich tradition of Chavacano de Zamboanga. This section has no direct use for the dictionary user who intends to look for lexical items in the dictionary.
- A section called *The Author* enumerates his personal information from his genealogy, beginning with his parents to his grandparents, his education, and his teaching and professional experiences. For apparent reasons, this section is not beneficial for the user in using the dictionary entries.
- The *Introduction* section discusses the changes observed in the language, which is attributable to many factors like urbanization, immigration, emigration, industrialization, technology, cybernetics, the acceptance and use of the language in both formal and informal state of affairs, inter alia. It likewise explicates the use of semantic domains that are regarded as major life concerns and activities. Also, it states that the consultants from Zamboanga, Manila, and the US were tapped, and the entries were

likewise cross-referenced against existing dictionaries—the preceding two dictionaries. In the lens of lexical provenance, the author-compiler pre-empts the user that the dictionary has not covered this area of lexicographic concern, one which is left in the hands of the scholars whose interests lie in this sphere.

4. The *Acknowledgement*—as the name suggests—simply presents who the author-compiler feels he is indebted to for the project. Apart from the thank you's and the foregoing allusion of the purpose of putting up the dictionary, it is likewise mentioned that the project is hoped to become a milestone to preserve and propagate the language of Chavacano.
5. The *Map of the Philippines and Zamboanga City* can be a reference as to where Zamboanga City is and a zoomed-in map of the city shows Zamboanga alongside its neighboring municipalities like Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte, etc. Other than identifying where the city is in reference to a map, it possesses no great use to the dictionary user relative to the lemmata found in the dictionary proper.
6. The *About Zamboanga City* section in the front matter consists of sub-sections: *About Zamboanga City* introduces some historical accounts pertinent to the city, and on that account, it has no bearing to the use of the dictionary proper; *Chavacano de Zamboanga: Meaning and Status* points out the creole state of the language and the areas where it is still spoken. Geographically speaking, this may be of use to the users in general, but as to the lemma entries in the dictionary, it barely contains any relevance; *Chavacano: A Spanish Vulgate* is a section seeking to explain how the language was regarded by many as a substandard one and provides a portion that intends to rectify the protracted subscription to such a misconception with a claim that Zamboanga Chavacano is a language exhibiting its own systems in varied linguistic levels; *The Changing Language* acknowledges the change that the language shows evidence of, contending that only dead languages do not undergo change. The changes observed in the language are reported premised on some sociolinguistic correlates. It may be informative in its own right; however, it does not possess relevance in terms of the use of the language lexicon other than the changes interwoven with various facets, for instance, music, media, and the like. *Muslim Languages as Source* and *Vulgarities* are relatively shorthand claims about the use of some Muslim terms which have paved their way into the language vocabulary and the vulgarities which are accordingly the initial words learners of the language hear.
7. *Anatomy of Chavacano* is divided into two components: the *Practical Pronunciation Guide* and *Syntax*. The practical pronunciation guide clearly outlines the correct pronunciation of each grapheme with English and Chavacano examples. Silent letters and combined graphemes and their pronunciations are presented, too. For example, words with *gue* as in *tianggue* 'market,' the /u/ sound is not pronounced. Letters which may be pronounced varyingly, dependent upon the succeeding grapheme, are likewise discussed, for instance, <g> before <u>, <a>, or <i> is pronounced /h/. The use of an accent stress mark is likewise presented, indicating the primary stress in a word. Elision of letters in some words like *ele* 'he/she' uttered as 'le, where the apostrophe is used to indicate the elision. Apparently, this section is of tremendous use for the dictionary user, which will aid them in pronouncing words with accuracy and will likewise help them in spelling words.
8. Another section is the *Particles and Other Powerful Little Words* which provides common words that are used by speakers which may be ones whose usage frequency may be high. On this account, this section may prove to be useful for the learner of the language and the user of the dictionary in that it provides sentential examples, which may provide some context for the user who intends to identify the meanings of these words in the dictionary proper.

Back Matter: Content, and Usefulness

This is the sole dictionary among the four evaluated dictionaries that contains a back matter which consists of two sections:

1. *Specialized vocabulary* is a section containing wordlists segregated via semantic domains like animals, baby talk, beauty and hair salon, body parts, church and religion, jewelry, money matters, parts of a house, seafood, shapes and sizes, weights and measurements, etc. Each of the semantic domains has a varied number of entries where the headword or phrase is in bold, which still adheres to the spelling and use of diacritics in the dictionary. The indications where the meanings appear are in English and are separated from the headword with a colon. These wordlists may be of monumental aid for the learner

and/or the scholar of the language, as they present terms and phrases that are inevitably components of a language, maintaining and flourishing its richness and vitality.

2. *Culture Capsules* contains metaphors and similes; superstitions; and sayings, and proverbs. Each one of these is a manifestation of the vibrant culture Zamboanga City has. Some of the metaphors and similes may still be heard up until the present; however, the rest may be deemed obsolete, thereby no longer in widespread use. The superstitions are still espoused by some elders or rural people, but their number is gradually dwindling. A great predominance of the proverbs and sayings may be regarded as archaic or obsolete. In the lens of cultural studies, the contribution that this section may offer is extensive. Diachronic linguistics or historical studies may likewise benefit from the sections. A language user whose interest is in learning the Chavacano language in the communicative purview may find the section as gainful.

3.4.2 Macrostructure

Table 8. Words with <c> and <qu> pronounced /k/, and <c> and <s> pronounced /s/

| /k/ | | | /s/ | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. incuntra | 11. comedor | 21. que | 1. incima | 11. paksiu |
| 2. malcucido | 12. como | 22. quebra | 2. maldici | 12. repulsivo |
| 3. cula | 13. elastico | 23. quebrada | 3. malicia | 13. marusing |
| 4. cuitis | 14. desconta | 24. quebranta | 4. malicioso | 14. fusil |
| 5. cugang | 15. indicacion | 25. queda | 5. masucio | 15. fusila |
| 6. cuarto | 16. local | 26. quien | 6. hace | 16. selos |
| 7. publico | 17. mascara | 27. quieto | 7. celebra | 17. reseca |
| 8. puerco | 18. nunca | 28. quince | 8. celos | 18. reserva |
| 9. combinacion | 19. reseca | 29. quita | 9. cen | 19. observa |
| 10. come | 20. casa | 30. quitik | 10. centro | 20. reservao |

As it may be observed from Table 8, <c> may be pronounced /k/ when the grapheme <u> follows it, as in items 1 through 6 in the /k/ Column, when <o> is the next letter succeeding it, as in items 7 through 14 in the same column, and when <a> is preceded by it, for instance, items 15 through 20 in that same column. Further, <qu> is pronounced /k/ when followed by <e> or <i> like items 21 through 30. Also, <c> is pronounced /s/ when followed by <i> or <e> as in items 1 through 10 in the next column, and <s> may likewise be pronounced /s/ when <i> or <e> are the succeeding letters. With the following findings, it may be deduced that the dictionary adheres to the Hispanic influence in the Chavacano orthography. As already observed in the previous dictionaries, the difference between <c> and <s> which both may be pronounced /s/ has to be delineated such that the user may have an appropriate basis for the spelling. If it is premised on etymology, then this needs to be a feature in the dictionary.

3.4.3 Microstructure

The lemmata in the Chavacano-English dictionary are bolded. An accent marker is placed in a vowel to indicate primary stress, and if stress falls on the first syllable, no marking is used. The lemmata are separated from the indications with a colon, and the abbreviated POS is enclosed in parentheses. A slash (/) is used as a textual condensation for words whose ending may differ only in one letter, as in *bisabuelo/a*, and the same is utilized to separate synonyms in the definitions. The definitions are easily comprehensible on account of their relatively paltry length or number of words in English. This may be advantageous in that respect but may be quite disadvantageous because the other senses of the words may not be fully captured. However, for those whose different senses are provided, the grammatical category is used to specify the variation in definition.

Table 9. Summary of the Metalexigraphic Analyses of the Zamboanga Chavacano *Compendio*

| Megastructure | Macrostructure | Microstructure |
|---|--|--|
| Front Matter: | 1. <c> → /k/ when followed by the graphemes <a>, <o>, <u> <c> → /s/ when followed by the graphemes <e>, <i> <s> → /s/ (identical to the three prior dictionaries, the distinction between this grapheme and <c> in the words' spelling has to be explained clear-cut; if the | 1. The lemmas are bolded which is separated from the definition with a colon. 2. Accent stress is used for Chavacano lemmas. 3. A slash is used as a textual condensation for words of gender. |
| 1. <i>Dedication</i> – states who the author-compiler dedicates the dictionary to 2. <i>The Author</i> – presents the authors' information like genealogy, education, professional experiences | | |

| Megastructure | Macrostructure | Microstructure |
|--|--|--|
| <p>3. <i>Introduction</i> – tackles the changes observed in the language; pre-empts that etymology is not taken into account, and that the words are taken from the semantic domains of common life forms</p> <p>4. <i>Acknowledgement</i> – indicates expression of gratitude and alludes that the dictionary was put up to preserve and propagate the language.</p> <p>5. <i>The Map of the Philippines</i> and zoomed-in <i>Map of Zamboanga</i> – shows neighboring municipalities and seeks to locate the City in reference to the Philippine archipelago</p> <p>6. <i>About Zamboanga City</i> – some historical accounts about the city and the following topics: <i>Chavacano de Zamboanga: Meaning and Status</i>, <i>Chavacano: A Spanish Vulgate</i>, <i>The Changing Language</i>, <i>Muslim Languages as Source and Vulgarities</i>, and <i>Loan Words and Code Switching</i></p> <p>7. <i>Anatomy of Chavacano</i> – provides the pronunciation guide for each of the graphemes and some morphosyntactic properties of the language; some descriptions are inadequate premised on the current analyses of the language</p> <p>8. <i>Particles and Other Powerful Little Words</i> – terms that are commonly used by the speakers and are thus deemed beneficial for the learners of the language.</p> <p>Back Matter:</p> <p>1. <i>Specialized vocabulary</i> – entries from varying semantic domains; entries are headwords with definitions as meanings</p> <p>2. <i>Culture capsules</i> – manifestations of Zamboanga’s vibrant culture; many entries are archaic or obsolete.</p> <p>The way that a user of the dictionary may benefit from the contents of the front and back matters in regards usefulness differs per section.</p> | <p>difference is attributable to the words’ language provenance, then the know-how of the words’ source language may be necessary, and the etymology of the word may be provided.)</p> <p>2. With respect to the graphemes analyzed, the spelling of the words adheres to the orthography.</p> <p>3. The number of entries is not that low and provides words that emanate from the common life concerns and activities.</p> | <p>4. Definitions that differ in grammatical category are presented as separated senses.</p> <p>5. The senses may necessitate revisiting to ensure that they are captured.</p> <p>6. The etymology of words may be considered, as this may have a relevance with the orthography adhering to the etymological trend.</p> |

3.5 Spelling Comparison and Contrast of Some Select Words across the Four Dictionaries

An attempt to compare specifically identified words was carried out to investigate the consistency of word spelling in each of the dictionaries analyzed. Table 10 below shows the Chavacano equivalent of lexical items deemed common by this paper’s inquirers. The Chavacano words for *culture*, *find*, *fault/sin*, *bedroom*, *lie face*

down, house, local, attack, fall, mouth, pig, connect, public, eat, as though, and *how* were located in the dictionaries. As a heads up, the hyphen indicates that the word was not found in the dictionary, and the italicized words under every dictionary imply inconsistency germane to spelling.

Table 10. Comparison of Some Select Words with <c> pronounced /k/ across Dictionaries

| | English Equivalent | Chavacano Lexicography | Zamboanga Chavacano Handbook | English-Chavacano Dictionary | Compendio y Diccionario |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <c> → /k/ before <u> | ‘culture’ | cultura | - | cultura | - |
| | ‘find’ | - | - | <i>incuntra</i> | <i>encontra</i> |
| | ‘fault/sin’ | culpa | culpa | culpa | culpa |
| | ‘bedroom’ | cuarto | cuarto | cuarto | cuarto |
| | ‘lie face down’ | - | culup | culup | culup |
| <c> → /k/ before <a> | ‘house’ | casa | casa | casa | casa |
| | ‘local’ | local | - | - | local |
| | ‘attack’ | - | ataca | ataca | ataca |
| | ‘fall’ | <i>cae</i> | <i>cae</i> | <i>kay/cae</i> | <i>cay</i> |
| | ‘mouth’ | boca | boca | boca | boca |
| <c> → /k/ before <o> | ‘pig’ | puerco | puerco | puerco | puerco |
| | ‘connect’ | - | - | conecta | conecta |
| | ‘public’ | publico | publico | - | publico |
| | ‘eat’ | - | come | come | come |
| | ‘like, as if, as though’ | - | como | como | como |
| <qu> | | <i>paquemodo</i> | - | <i>pakimodo / paquemodo</i> | <i>pakemodo / paquemodo</i> |
| | ‘how’ | - | <i>pakichura</i> | <i>paquichura</i> | <i>pakichura</i> |
| | | <i>paquilaya</i> | - | <i>pakilaya / paquilaya</i> | <i>pakilaya</i> |

^a The italicized entries indicate that these words are spelled inconsistently in some dictionaries.

It may be gleaned from Table 11 that there are words that are spelled identically across the dictionaries, but there are also those that are otherwise not. Some of the inconsistencies are on account of having to choose between a <c> or an <s> in the spelling of words, for instance, *cusina* or *cucina* ‘to cook rice,’ *cebo* or *sebo* ‘wax from fats,’ and *selos* or *celos* ‘jealousy.’ Notably, some inconsistencies are not due to the preference between <c> and <s> but are simply inconsistent on other grounds, as located across the dictionaries. Cases in points are *seguí*, *sígí*, and *siguí* ‘to come with,’ and *pusil* or *fusil* ‘gun.’

Table 11. Comparison of Some Select Words with <c> and <s> Pronounced /s/ across Dictionaries

| | English Equivalent | Chavacano Lexicography | Zamboanga Chavacano Handbook | English-Chavacano Dictionary | Compendio y Diccionario |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <c> → /s/ before <i> or <e> | ‘center’ | centro | centro | - | centro |
| | ‘close’ | cerca | cerca | cerca | cerca |
| | ‘cook rice’ | - | <i>cosina/cusina</i> | - | <i>cucina</i> |
| | ‘kitchen’ | <i>cocina</i> | <i>cocina</i> | - | <i>cucina</i> |
| | ‘wax from fats’ | <i>cebo</i> | <i>cebo/sebo</i> | - | <i>cebo/sebo</i> |
| <s> → /s/ before <i> or <e> | ‘jealousy’ | <i>celos</i> | <i>celos</i> | <i>celos</i> | <i>celos/selos</i> |
| | ‘chair’ | silla | - | silla | silla |
| | ‘dry’ | seco | seco | seco | seco |
| | ‘silence’ | silencio | - | silencio | - |
| | ‘gun’ | <i>pusil</i> | <i>fusil</i> | - | <i>fusil</i> |
| | ‘come with’ | <i>seguí</i> | <i>sígí</i> | <i>siguí</i> | <i>siguí</i> |

Undergirded upon the data from both Tables 10 and 11, it may be deduced that if a unification of orthography is so desired, orthographical rules have to be set more clearly in terms of sounds and sound combinations. On a rather specific lens, for words whose sounds exhibit interspeaker variance, it has to be acknowledged that both varieties are to be accepted, for instance, *incuntra* and *encontra*. The way diphthongs are spelled necessitates a clear-cut and straightforward rule as well as in *cae*, *cay*, and *kay*. Other diphthongal

sounds may need to be revisited, too, and words that may be spelled with a <k> and <qu> ought to be clarified as well. Will varieties be taken into account, or will one be preferred to the other? Owing to the unclear rule as to when <s> or <c> are to be drawn upon, settling this is a necessity requiring immediacy.

Basically, the policymakers should be able to ascertain that the orthographical system falls into place and is mainstreamed. There are three considerations: (1) If the phonological trend of spelling is adhered to, then this insinuates aborting the Hispanic influence in the orthography of Zamboanga Chavacano. (2) If the etymological trend gains the upper hand, then a reference—or anything other—may be imperative to ease the spelling of words in that not everyone is cognizant of the words in the language. (3) If varieties are both welcome, then the (2) may be considered.

3.6 The Exemplar Dictionary and a Template for the Development of Future Zamboanga Chavacano Dictionary

The Chavacano de Zamboanga Compendio y Diccionario may be regarded as the exemplary dictionary on the following grounds: (1) The front and back matters are loaded with information that may be of immense help to those who would want to carry out cultural studies and linguistic analysis of Zamboanga City, as it provides cultural capsules and a specialized vocabulary. The cultural capsules constitute metaphors and similes, superstitions, sayings, and proverbs, while the specialized vocabulary ranges from animals all the way down to weights and measurements. Moreover, a map of the Philippines is provided, and facts about Zamboanga City have been afforded some space. A more specific road map may likewise be added to the reference material for the consumption of the reader whose preference is a tangible map over a digitized one.

A physical book may be kept in posterity if it is sturdy, and users will make it a go-to reference for the language if it is user-friendly. Albeit not as critical as the other facts stated in the preceding statements, the readability of the texts is notable, and the front and back covers are sturdy, both addressing the advantages of posterity and user-friendliness.

Owing to the foregoing discussion, the following is a template that may aid a lexicographer in the development of future physical dictionaries of Zamboanga Chavacano, or, extraneously, even digital ones:

I. FRONT MATTER

a. *Preliminaries*

1. Dedication
2. Author's Bionote
3. Introduction
4. Acknowledgement
5. List of Abbreviations
6. Practical User's Guide
7. Road Map of the City and Downtown Proper
8. About Zamboanga City

b. *Language Facts*

1. Zamboanga Chavacano as a Language: Its Status and Other Facts
2. The Alphabet
3. Spelling (With consideration of either the phonological or etymological trend or both)
4. Pronunciation Guide (use IPA with a phonemic transcription for precision and accuracy)
5. Zamboanga Chavacano Grammar (Include the most recent findings in the purview of morphosyntactic analysis)
 - 5.1 Syntax
 - 5.2 Morphology
6. Samples of Situational Conversations in Chavacano
7. Common Errors
8. Correct Usage

II. MIDDLE MATTER

| Running Head | Running Head |
|--|---|
| HEADWORD Et.(POS) [Spelling variety/ies] /IPA Pronunciation(s)/ I. Definition for sense 1 (<i>short sample sentence or phrase</i>) SYNONYMS >> SYN 1, SYN 2 II. Definition for sense 2 (<i>short sample sentence or phrase</i>) SYNONYMS >> SYN 1, SYN 2 Suffix- (related POS) [Spelling variety/ies] Definition PANG-PANG Tag (n) /pampan/ I. riverbank (<i>Bien alto gayot el pang-pang!</i> ‘The riverbank is very high.’) PAQUICHURA Sp (adv.) [pakichura] /paki’tʃura/ I. how (<i>Paquichura tu anda na pueblo aura?</i> ‘How will you go to town today?’) Syn >> PAQUEMODO, PAQUILAYA PACIA Sp (v) [pasya, pasia] /paʃa/ I. to go on a walk or ride for leisure (<i>Ta pacia sila ara na Paseo del Mar.</i> ‘They are now promenading at Paseo del Mar.’) II. to visit a different place or country (<i>Talia le ara ta pacia na Manila.</i> ‘S/he is now there enjoying his time at Paseo del Mar.’) -da (n) the state of going on for a walk or ride for leisure, or of visiting another place or country (<i>Ya tarda dila paciada na Manila.</i> ‘It took them time to enjoy their visit in Manila.’) | HEADWORD Et.(POS) [Spelling variety/ies] /IPA Pronunciation(s)/ I. Definition for sense 1 (<i>short sample sentence or phrase</i>) SYNONYMS >> SYN 1, SYN 2 II. Definition for sense 2 (<i>short sample sentence or phrase</i>) SYNONYMS >> SYN 1, SYN 2 Suffix- (related POS) [Spelling variety/ies] Definition PEDASO Sp (n) /peda’soʔ/ I. a piece (<i>Ya incuntra yo un pedaso de pan.</i> ‘I found a piece of bread.’) -ito (n) /pedasi’toʔ/ small piece (<i>Ya dale le cumigo un pedasito de oro.</i> ‘S/he gave me a small piece of gold.’) PINTA Sp (v) /pinta/ I. to paint (<i>Ta pinta sila conel dindin.</i> ‘They are painting the wall.’) -ator (n) a painter (<i>Un pintor le.</i> ‘He’s a painter.’) -atura (n) paint (<i>Nuay pintura.</i> ‘There’s no paint.’) -w/o (adj) painted (<i>Pintaw/o ya el dimi cuarto.</i> ‘My room is already painted.’) PISIK Hil (v) /pisik/ I. to sprinkle water (<i>Yan pisik kumigo agua.</i> ‘I was sprinkled with water.’) Syn >> Sipwak |

The running head on the left-hand side is the first word in left column and the one on the right-hand side is the last word in the list of the right column of the list of words. The headword has to appear all in bolded uppercase letters, followed by the etymology of the word. Based on what is known presently, words in Zamboanga Chavacano have the following languages as the provenance languages: Spanish (Sp), Tagalog (Tag), Hiligaynon (Hil), or English (Eng). This is a crucial part of the microstructure in that it has an impact on the spelling of the words, especially when the etymological trend is subscribed. The section for the spelling variation is necessary if the phonological trend in spelling is accepted alongside the etymological one.

III. BACK MATTER

a. *Cultural Facts*

1. Metaphors and Similes
2. Superstitions
3. Sayings and Proverbs
4. Poetry and Songs

b. *Miscellaneous Information*

1. Specialized Vocabularies from various Semantic Domains (e.g., days of the week, months, colors, ordinal and cardinal numbers, kinship/relatives, body parts and senses, animals, baby talk, beauty and hair salon, body effluence and wastes, church and religion, clothing and tailoring, coconut culture, conflict and aggression, cooking ingredients, deaths and funerals, etc.)

CONCLUSION

The dictionaries may have some points that necessitate improvement, but they likewise are in the possession of some strengths. The definitions are relatively short in length for most of the lemmata in each dictionary, which may be compelled to be revisited to ascertain the capture of all the senses of the lexical item and to address some other issues. Au contraire, on account of the short indications, they are easy to follow and thus are easily understandable. The spelling adherence to the Hispanic influence is consistent, although the rule for the <c> and <s> pronounced /s/ and the words with <qu> pronounced /k/ may have to be delineated, as there are words that are inconsistently spelled when some dictionary entries are juxtaposed. Other words have been found to be spelled inconsistently. These observations may be few in number; however, there is an inkling that there may be other words that have to be examined. What is contained in the front and back matters vary from dictionary to dictionary, with the anticipated similarities notwithstanding, and the contents of the front and back matter differ depending on the dictionary. The last of the four dictionaries is deemed exemplary and has thus become predominantly a basis alongside the optimal parts of the other ones in engendering the template.

Grounded on the findings herewith identified, the following are recommended: (1) The contents of the front and back matters have to be thoroughly informative for the reference to be a go-to material, and the relevance of each one pertinent to the utilization of the dictionary entries has to be taken into account as well; (2) There seems to be a divergence relative to the leniency exhibited by the dictionaries in regards flexibility of vacillating between phonological and etymological trends in spelling. This divergence may even be observed among the actual users or spellers of the language. Along the preceding premise, it is imperative to ensure that there is unification in the writing system of the Chavacano language, which must not only be established but should likewise be mainstreamed; a decision as to which trend to subscribe necessitates fulfillment. The establishing component puts the obligation upon the local language policymakers to amend, if a policy is already in existence, or propose one, in case none is in place; Moreover, the mainstreaming facet requires that the desired orthography is proliferated in the sphere of education, media, and government agencies; (3) Some of the discussions in the syntax of the Chavacano language may need to be updated and/or modified premised upon the newest findings in the foregoing area. This argument is grounded on the researcher's knowledge of the language's system as this area is one that likewise interests them; (4) on the basis that the etymological trend in spelling Zamboanga Chavacano words is embraced by the lexicographers, authors, and/or compilers, which is suggestive of the weight of preference put on this trend, the provenance of the entries in the dictionaries to be put up in posterity is close to being a necessity; (5) Despite the apparent heavy subscription on a specific trend, there were some inconsistencies in some of the investigated words' spelling. This entails a closer revisit of some letters like the <c> and <s> pronounced /s/ and <qu> pronounced /k/ as to how words with these graphemes and sounds are consistently or variably spelled.

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Conflict of Interest

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