

**GELADE, GEORGE P. CICM. 1993. Ilokano-English Dictionary. Quezon City: CICM Missionaries, Inc., 719 pp.**

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Since the publication of Pedro de la Cruz Avilla's *Arte, Vocabulario y Catecismo Ilocano* in 1600, there have been more than 50 dictionaries and vocabularies compiled describing the Ilocano language lexicon (Hendrickson & Newell, 1991). However, Fr. Andres Carro's *Vocabulario Iloco-Español* (1888), revised, augmented, and translated by Fr. Morice Vanoverbergh, CICM and published in 1957 under the title *Iloko-English Dictionary* (hereafter VAN), was one of the last major descriptions of the Ilokano lexicon until the publication of the *Ilokano-English Dictionary* (GEL) presently under review. This work is a compilation from various sources. It is based on Fr. Vanoverbergh's *Ilokano-English Dictionary*, and augmented by including lexical materials from Gregorio C. Laconsay's *Diksionario Iluko-English-Tagalog*, lexical notes from Fr. Leo Van de Winkel, CICM, and numerous original entries by Fr. Geladé.

The GEL includes about 18,500 main entries. There are 30,000 affixed verbs and verb phrases and 15,300 cross references to semantically related lexical items, all cited under the main entries. GEL adds about 8,000 entries to VAN. About half of these are of Spanish origin. For reasons not explained in the Introduction, "words derived from English and other European languages, except Spanish, have been left out as a general rule".

Abbreviations are not explained. The Introduction states "Abbreviations used in this work are self-explanatory". This statement is probably over-optimistic. The following list of abbreviations, with probable interpretations, is in addition to a few common conventional abbreviations used in the dictionary.

Eng.	English	Obs.	Obsolete
f.i.	for instance	Pl.	Pilipino (now Filipino)
Fig.	Figurative	rt	refer to
Il.	Ilokano	Sp.	Spanish
Lit.	Literal	Syn.	Synonym
Mal.	Malay	Var.	Variant

GEL has followed Vanoverbergh's orthographic conventions described in the latter's *Iloko Grammar* and employed in VAN. The orthography faithfully reflects Ilokano phonology, allowing the student to accurately pronounce the words found in the dictionary. One of the very commendable features of VAN and GEL is that stress (called accent by Vanoverbergh) is indicated on all Ilokano words. It is, as far as it has been checked, quite reliable. GEL, for reasons not clear to this reviewer, did not indicate stress on words of Spanish origin. To have done so would have substantially aided the foreign user of the dictionary.

In a few places, GEL differs from VAN in the spelling of words. This especially involves the *o/u* distinction, for example, VAN *abrót*, GEL *abrút*. It is beyond the scope of this review to check the accuracy of these revisions.

Entry citation forms are strictly roots. This is practical for Ilokano because there is very little morphophonemics involved, allowing the user to easily analyze affixed forms to arrive at their included roots. By filing by roots, it has been possible to cluster all affixed forms related to a single root together for semantic comparisons. This would not have been possible had the 30,000 affixed forms been scattered alphabetically throughout the dictionary. The lists of affixed forms and their English glosses found under each entry are an extremely valuable source of semantic and grammatical information.

Variant forms are sometimes indicated immediately following citation of the main entry forms or at the end of entries.

**abbiang** (also **abiang**) A variety of buri palm....  
**abúngot, abbúngot** A kerchief....  
**porsado** (Sp. forzado). Forced (marriage, trip, etc.). See *puersado*.

In these cases, the variants also occur as minor entries and are cross referenced to the main entries:

**abiang** Var. of *abbiang*.  
**abbúngot** Var. of *abúngot*.  
**puersado** (Sp. *fuera*) See: *porsado*

Occasionally, a variant form involving gemination is indicated by parentheses with no cross referencing:

**mal(l)lukóng** I Bowl, cup.

Unfortunately many variants only occur as minor entries and are not indicated following citation of the main entry forms, for example, **adág** Var. of *addág*. The variant *adág* is not cited under *addág*. Some minor entries are cross referenced as follows: **radárad** See *radrád*. It is assumed that these, like those marked "Var.", are variant forms of those to which they are cross referenced.

When roots occur as words within the language, they are glossed immediately following the root entry form. Each affixed form cited under the entry has its own gloss, which is a very helpful feature of this dictionary.

A few citations are phrases rather than words. Under *ádal*, for example, are found the phrases *awán ádalna* "Illiterate;..." and *addá ádalna* "Literate,..." which might be translated "He/she has no learning" and "He/she has learning", respectively. Other phrases might be idioms or set expressions; for example, *taga abagátan* 'Southerner'. In a very few instances, sentences occur as citations along with words. Under *ab-ab*, for example, the sentence *inab-ábanna ti baso*. "He pressed the brim of the glass in between his lips" is listed.

In general, glossing is clear and would be understood by the average user. In a few instances, however, the choice of English words will send some users to a good English dictionary for its meaning: "abomasum" (under *magá*), "gallinacious" (under *abúyo*), and "lippitudo" (under *magid*). In other cases, more common words or words with unambiguous meanings might have been chosen: "grated roots" instead of "rasped roots" (under *abánon*); "bearded rice" instead of "awned rice" (under *maganó*); "weakened(?)" instead of "extenuated" (under *mablay*). Rarely was a wrong choice made: "To hit with....a badger" (under *málo*); "To be overcome (overtaken?) by the afternoon" under *malém*.

Range of meaning and sense discrimination are not systematically handled. The matter of differentiating between the two requires much effort and careful analysis, and many dictionaries do not attempt it. However, dictionaries which include extensive semantic variation, as this dictionary does, usually group meaning into discrete categories, often identified with numbers or both number and letter combinations. Groupings most closely related semantically are cited contiguous to each other. The GEL dictionary has not indicated such groupings. The order of description of meaning categories is mixed throughout multi-meaning entries, be they related to range or sense.

Constructions, both derivational and inflectional, are listed sequentially within the entry. Superficial observation has failed to identify any clear formal patterns governing the order of citation of the various forms except that derivational forms tend to occur later in the entry than a majority of inflected forms.

The entry *ádal*, for example, has a number of forms semantically related to 'studying' or 'learning'. (Other meanings are also included below.) The numbers indicate the order of occurrence of these forms within the entry:

1. **ádal** (centry citation form) Education, learning, knowledge, wisdom; course, degree, profession, vocation.
4. *-adálen, agádal* To study, to learn, to scrutinize, to analyze, to observe carefully.
5. *-adálen* Assignment, homework; to study, to learn.

7. *managádal* Studious, diligent, wise, observant.
10. *-maádal* Can be learned, can be studied; something to learn, the lesson itself.
11. *-pannakaádal* Study, observation.

Between non-consecutive pairs are forms with other meanings, such as 'illiterate', 'to teach', 'schoolhouse', 'classmate'.

Sense distinctions and discrete categories of meaning range within a single sense are, however, indicated by numbers when there is no variation of form:

*-agabrasa, makiabrasa, abrasen.* 1. To embrace, to hug. 2. To shake hands.

*-agdtwig* 1. To become twisted, unsuitable. 2. To make faces.

**ábung** 1. Hut. 2. A school of mudfish.

The first example above is probably a case of range of meaning; the second, sense discrimination; and the third, homonymy.

At the end of most entries, there is a section labeled "rt:" which refers the user to other entry forms with meanings related to those of the forms listed under that entry. Multiple cross-reference citations are numbered when the cited forms relate to contrastive semantic categories.

**addag**

*-addagán.* To weigh or press down, to hold in place, to bear down, to overrun; also to excel, to surpass, to exert one's influence.

- rt:**
1. **pandág** (to weigh down)
  2. **daég** (to excel, to surpass)

Under *pandág*, both meanings 1 and 2 are listed, not under the root form (which has another meaning) but under the affixed form *pandágan*. Under *daég*, numerous meanings are cited. The second of nine forms is related to *addag*: *-daégén* To surpass, to excel, to outdo, to overpower, to overwhelm.

A language learner would be greatly helped by systematic classification and cross referencing. Nevertheless this dictionary provides a wealth of semantic information available to the determined user who will make the effort to extract it.

In some cases GEL has modified VAN entries to indicate homonyms. Homonyms are cited in GEL as separate entries, indicated by Roman numerals I, II, etc.

VAN:

- mabólo** 1. *Diospyros discolor*. Willd. An ebanaceous tree....  
2. A variety of early *díket* rice.

GEL:

- mabólo I.** *Diospyros discolor*. Willd. An ebanaceous tree...  
**mabólo II.** A variety of early rice (*díket*).

Homonymy is indicated in GEL when homophonous meanings involve root forms. If affixed forms are involved, homonymy is not usually indicated.

**abáab I.** The indistinct sound of many voices...

**abáab II.** The lower half of a coconut shell...

-*abaában* To hold between the lips gently (without biting).

The meanings "The indistinct sound of many voices ..." and "The lower half of a coconut shell..." are unrelated and thus homophonous as indicated in GEL. But they are probably equally unrelated to "To hold between the lips gently (without biting)".

In the case of many entries, for example, **ábung** 1. Hut 2. A school of mudfish, GEL follows VAN and does not indicate homonymy where we might expect it.

In some cases, the convention for indicating homonymy is used when related meanings are involved.

**bára I** Heat, warmth.

**bára II**

- *bumára* (Fig.). Angry, furious...

If the common procedure for handling related meanings were followed, we would expect meaning differences of this kind to be handled under single entries, since these are not homonyms.

Fortunately this dictionary has preserved, and in some cases edited and refined, ethnographic notations from VAN. Many of these are ethnobotanical notes on medicinal uses of plants and trees. How unusual artifacts are made and used are also commonly described.

**bani** *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Merr. A tall leguminous tree with woody, oblong pods. Children wear collars made of these pods, for they are considered a preventive against smallpox (superstition). The bark and leaves of this tree are used to cure cough.

**kattúkong** A kind of hat, either consisting of the outer shell of the rounded part of a bottle gourd, or woven from strips of bamboo, rachises of climbing ferns (*Lygodium* sp.), etc. Its upper surface is rounded throughout, and the crown is not differentiated from the brim...

A major addition to VAN is the extensive cross referencing of forms, providing a wealth of information regarding lexical networks of related meanings. This feature is remarkably accurate, and only occasionally is it noted that there are inconsistencies involving reversed cross referencing. That is, if a given entry is cross referenced to another form, where that second form occurs, almost always will there be a cross reference back to the first form.

Minor entries are included, cross referenced to major entries, for example, **dúges** See *bánus II*. However, under the major entries, the forms cited as minor entries do not consistently occur. When this happens, there is nothing in the Introduction to guide the user in interpreting this information. In the case of *dúges*, both this root and also *bánus* are cited under the *rt* section of the entry *bángad*. This would tend to indicate that *dúges* and *bánus*, and other forms handled in this way, are synonyms.

Ilokano, unlike many other Northern Philippine languages, has relatively little morphophonemic variation. Hence, although GEL does not handle this feature, it is not of major consequence. Ilokano does, however, have an affix *maN-* in which the final nasal assimilates to the point of articulation of the initial stem consonant, and the stem consonant is lost. The stem consonant, then, cannot be predicted. A user unfamiliar with the language would find some difficulty finding the stem in the dictionary of a form such as *mangatúday* (the stem is *katúday*).

There are a few forms which a foreign user would experience much difficulty in finding. For example, the form *saggaysa* is not listed alphabetically in the dictionary. It (and several affixed forms based on it) is found under the entry *maysa*. For such forms, entering them as minor entries with a cross reference to the entry where they are handled would have been very helpful.

Dictionaries, and especially learners' dictionaries, are increasingly including helpful grammatical information for the user. A major contribution of GEL to an understanding of the grammar of Philippine languages in general, and of Ilokano in particular, is the citation of numerous affixed forms along with glosses. Although we could wish for more grammatical classification such as features of case and aspect, this material, nevertheless, provides a major source of morphological data for further investigation and analysis.

GEL follows dictionaries of an older tradition and includes very little morphological or syntactic information regarding patterns within which lexical units function. The first entry, **a I**, for example, is explained as "A ligature that serves to connect various parts of a sentence". Similarly under affix entries is commonly found the explanation "A prefix (or suffix, etc.) of frequent occurrence". It is noted also that parts of speech for entries are not indicated. This is unusual for a major dictionary. However, there are very few part-of-speech ambiguities since wording, in most cases, serves to distinguish these categories. It is, of course, expected that the user will consult a grammar (such as Vanoverbergh's *Iloko Grammar*) for a description of grammatical features.

This volume includes a frontispiece illustrating one variety of Philippine syllabic script and entitled "Comparative samples of Philippine script". It is however, a single sample, apparently taken from the publication *Philippine Heritage Vol. 3*, p. 600, entitled "Carta Del Mangyan Olyong". It would have been more appropriate and informative had a sample of Ilokano script (a different script variety) been represented.

Fr. Geladé's *Ilokano-English Dictionary* is, without question, the most extensive and authoritative lexicographic work to date on the Ilokano language. He has done a great service to all students of Philippine lexicography, and especially to those interested in Ilokano. It is fortunate indeed that the excellent lexicographic work of Fr. Vanoverbergh, with extensive important additions, is now available. It can be purchased hardbound from CICM Missionaries, Inc., #60 14th Street, New Manila, Quezon City, or P.O. Box 13, Manila for P700.00.

Until a comprehensive learners' dictionary is produced, this will remain the most important dictionary on the Ilokano language.

#### REFERENCES

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