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The *Composite Dictionary of Philippine Creole Spanish* (hereafter CDPCS) is an important contribution to Philippine linguistics in general and to Philippine Creole Spanish (PCS) in particular. The study focuses on Cotabato Chabacano (CT) with comparative lexical materials on three other creole Spanish dialects in the Philippines: Cavite Chabacano (CV), Ternate Chabacano (TR) and Zamboanga Chabacano (ZM). Very little had previously been published on CT; this is the first phonological, grammatical and lexical description.

This work was prepared by Sister Isabelita Riego de Dios as her dissertation in connection with her Ph.D. degree in linguistics at the Ateneo de Manila University-Philippine Normal College Consortium. Sister Isabelita is well qualified to do linguistic research on CT since not only is she a trained linguist but she is also a native speaker of CT. Furthermore, she has worked extensively with the Religious of the Virgin Mary, a Catholic order whose work in the CT community dates from 1875. Having grown up in this community, Sister Isabelita is obviously sensitive to the cultural values of CT, a fact evident in her lexicographic work.

The setting both historically and geographically of all four dialects has been carefully presented, including helpful maps. CT is located in and around Cotabato City, including Tamontaka, Parang and Polloc Point. In 1970, two years prior to the completion of this work, the number of CT speakers was reported to be 4,983. Sister Isabelita, however, presented some evidence for a rapid decline in the use of CT among the current younger generation, underlining the timeliness of this study.

A major concern in undertaking this study was to identify CT as a PCS dialect, distinct from the other dialects with which it was lexically compared. In addition, it was undertaken to provide a permanent record of a dialect that is threatened by extinction, and as source and reference material for linguists, creolists, especially specialists on Philippine creoles, for educators in bilingual education, and for native speakers of CT.

To accomplish her goals, Sister Isabelita did extensive research on the history of all four PCS dialects, engaged in linguistic analysis of the phonology and grammar of CT and gathered

lexical information on all four dialects. For the most part, she used an informant technique for the latter, including herself. Considering that all this was accomplished without the use of a computer, one is impressed with the magnitude of the task in compiling this dictionary.

The dictionary is in two major sections. A 50 page introduction includes a survey of linguistic work done on PCS and specific dialects, historic and sociocultural information of PCS, followed by a linguistic description of CT, including phonological and morphological features, phrase and clause marking particles, pronouns and negatives. The second major section of 116 pages is the dictionary proper. Although the title indicates this as a dictionary of PCS it is, in fact, a dictionary of CT with English glosses and with comparisons of cognate or equivalent forms of the three other dialects under each entry.

There are about 3,950 citation forms (lemmas) with an additional 2,600 run-on entries which are derivatives by suffixation of the citation forms. Both the citation forms and run-on derivatives are followed by either cognates or equivalent lexical forms in the other three dialects.

Historical events cited suggesting that CT is related dialectically to ZM involve two main events. One is the importation of an unspecified number of orphans from Zamboanga to the Tamontaka Cotabato orphanage near the end of the 19th century. The second is a brief migration of about 400 people from Cotabato to Zamboanga during the Spanish-American war, some of whom returned to Cotabato following the war. These events, while not providing solid evidence of a significant influence in the development of a creole in Cotabato, do give some historical evidence that the opportunity existed for ZM to have contributed to such development. Sister Isabelita is generally careful not to weigh these contacts too heavily as evidence for the influence of ZM on the development of CT, though a concluding statement (p. 168), 'In this study CT is identified historically ... as having been largely influenced by ZM through contact of population flow and socioeconomic exchange and communication', is stated in more definitive terms than the cited historical evidence warrants.

More convincing is the sociocultural situation. The vigorous promotion of Spanish in a linguistic environment of Maguindanao, Tiruray, Tagalog, Cebuano, Hiligaynon and English, as Sister Isabelita points out, undoubtedly provided the linguistic milieu favorable to the development of a creole.

The phonological description of CT is a clear, accurate presentation and comes as a welcome addition to understanding PCS phonological features. It presents both vowel and consonant phonemes with charts and in contrastive lexical environments. There are five vowel phonemes, *a*, *e*, *i*, *o* and *u*, 21 consonant phonemes and a suprasegmental phoneme of stress.

Sister Isabelita, though she does not comment on this, recognizes no word-final vowels. Where Spanish and Philippine language cognates end in vowels, /h/ consistently follows the vowel in the phonemic transcription of CT. The fact that /h/ rarely occurs syllable final in word medial position, (only one instance, *aros* (/qahrOs/ was found, indicated as a variant of /qarOs/), suggests that word-final [h] is, at least in some cases, due to unvoicing of vowels word final.

Considerable attention was given to the development of an alphabet and orthography for CT. This was done, presumably, to make this dictionary accessible to non-linguists. It is based on the Tagalog writing system with modifications to especially accommodate Spanish words. Sister Isabelita states (p. 18) that 'a spelling system is considered ideal when it indicates a one-to-one correspondence between the phoneme and the graphic symbol'. Equally important, however, is a consistent representation of each phoneme whenever it occurs within the phonological word. In this system glottal stop, length and syllable-final *h* (if, in fact, it occurs) are not written. This would be a weakness of this work except for the fact that each morpheme in the grammatical description and each lexical entry in the dictionary is followed by a phonemic transcription. This will delight any linguist using this dictionary as source material.

The grammatical sketch begins with a discussion of particles. They are classed syntactically as either preposed or postposed. Preposed particles indicate such features as tense-aspect and plural and occur as prepositions, subordinating conjunctions and adverbs. Postposed particles for

the most part modify verbs, adjectives and nouns. Grouping these particles syntactically, though structurally helpful, results in a simple two-class listing. A functional classification of particles would have been helpful.

This section is followed by a description of four major parts of speech: verbs, nouns, descriptives and substitutes. A major focus of the first three are features of derivation involving affixation, doubling of roots, stress shift and compounding. An attempt to describe the complexity of Spanish derivation is commendable, though this description should be viewed as representative of major derivational patterns rather than as being exhaustive.

Unlike some Philippine languages such as Tagalog or Cebuano, CT has very little verb inflection. Tense-aspect, for example, is indicated by pre-verb particles and case involves only pre-noun particles. Verb derivation of words of Philippine-language origin are by affixation and doubling, while derivation involving Spanish words are by doubling, stress shift and compounding.

This dictionary chose the phonological word as the citation form and this resulted in some difficulty of entering verbs in the dictionary. Verbs with a derivational prefix *man-* were filed by root or stem form with the affix immediately following. This allowed listing other forms derived from the root or stem by suffixation to occur as run-on entries within the dictionary article. This seems to be a good solution to a complex problem common to many Philippine languages. The grammatical sketch, however, lists other derivational verb prefixes which were not found in the dictionary. These include the prefixes *manpa-* and *tampa-* and the discontinuous affix *man...han/an*. No derived verbs were found in the dictionary where the citation forms are another part of speech. It is suspected that this is because only suffixation was indicated in the run-on entries. Thus, for example, under *blando* adj. 'soft, tender', the form *manblando* v. 'to become soft/tender' was found only in the grammatical sketch. A verb derivation by suffixation of *-da* was found in a few dictionary entries but this is undoubtedly an error. For example, under *bara* v. 'To bar the way; to prevent movement or action of another', there is a run-on entry *-da* v. 'Manner of barring the way ...'. Most parallel run-on entries involving manner classify forms with *-da* as nouns.

Noun derivation is extensively described in the grammatical sketch. It is assumed that only the major derivations were described since at least half of the derived noun suffixes cited in the dictionary were not described in the grammatical sketch. Some but not all examples of derivation by doubling or compounding described in the grammatical sketch were found in the dictionary. Those that do occur were entered as separate citation forms with no indication of the root forms from which they are derived.

It is of particular interest that a three-case system, nominative, dative and genitive, is described. This looks very much like a Philippine language system. It was however, a disappointment not to find two of the case-marking particles, *si* and *di*, in the dictionary where cognates with the other dialects are listed. Of the others, *el* is classified as an article 'the', *kon* and *del* as prepositions 'with' and 'of' respectively and *na* as a particle with a gloss 'Objective case marker'. Comparing these case-marking particles in the dictionary with CV, TR and ZM it is of significant interest to find that, of the particles listed, three are cognate in all four dialects. For the genitive marker *del* only TR is not cognate; the particle *di* is listed. This suggests a parallel case system for all four dialects. Substantiating this and other possible parallel grammatical features would greatly enhance the argument that these are four dialects of a single PCS language.

About half the affixes deriving descriptives found in the dictionary are described in the grammatical sketch. Derivational prefixes *ma-*, *maka-* and *pa-* presented problems because only suffixal derivation was chosen to be listed in the dictionary under root or stem forms. Derivations with *ma-* occur in the dictionary alphabetically under M and root and stem forms occur alphabetically elsewhere. Thus, for example, *madungis* adj. 'Dirty-faced', and *dungis* n. 'Dirt smears on the face', occur separated without indication of a derivational relationship. One adjectival form with *maka-* occurs in the dictionary and none with *pa-*.

The grammatical sketch includes a good description of substitutes. Especially helpful are three charts of pronouns and two of negatives. Pronouns are classified into various types according to case function. Several pronouns were not found in the dictionary. Of those that are cited, the classification described in the grammatical sketch is not indicated.

The usefulness of the grammatical sketch would have been enhanced by a closer concordance between the grammar and lexical descriptions. Nevertheless, this sketch is an important and useful document, especially in view of the fact that no other grammatical description of CT has been undertaken.

Choosing the word as the citation form would present major problems for many Philippine languages such as Tagalog and Cebuano. For CT, however, the problem is minimal since, except for verbs with the prefix *man-* which this dictionary adequately handles, few parts of speech are bound forms. That is, most occur as phonological words.

The choice of words included in his dictionary is good. A 'common core vocabulary' was prepared, adapted from George P. Murdock's *Outline of Cultural Materials, Fourth Edition*. Lexical selections were from the areas of 'human life and man's general fields of activities'. Small dictionaries must be selective in the choice of lexical items described. Methods of selection can range from ad hoc to carefully planned. Sister Isabelita's method would well serve as a model for other lexicographers pursuing similar projects.

We could have wished for more semantic information, including sense discrimination, range of meaning, collocation, illustrative sentences and the like. However, as Sister Isabelita pointed out, this work represents a surface description of lexical meaning. It was sufficient to fulfill the major goals of the project. It is hoped, however, that in the future Sister Isabelita and/or others equally qualified will be able to expand this dictionary to include detailed semantic and ethnographic information.

Of special interest to students of Philippine creoles is an index of 17 pages, three columns to a page. Although this index is not explained it is, in fact, a listing in CT, TR and ZM of word equivalents of CT listed in the dictionary which are not identical cognates of CT. Some forms are difficult to find in the dictionary since only page numbers are cited. The index would be more usable if in addition to, or in place of, page numbers the citation forms under which these forms occur were included. Nevertheless, this index provides a rich source for comparative studies of Philippine creoles.

In her conclusion, Sister Isabelita has found by analyzing cognates that 2.7% of CT words have not equivalent forms in the other three dialects. This statistic supports her conclusion that CT is a PCS dialect distinct from CV, TR and ZM. Her finding, that 10.96% of words shared by CT and ZM have no equivalent forms in the other two dialects, tends to suggest a possible closer relationship of CT to ZM than to the other two dialects. Percentages of exclusively shared words between CT and CV and between CV and TR, however, were not given; thus a clear indication and comparative closeness of relationship among dialect pairs did not emerge.

Comparisons among the four dialects were restricted to lexical forms. The meanings of cognates in CV, TR and ZM are not given. Presumably this is because, at a surface level, the meanings of corresponding cognates roughly correspond to those of CT. In-depth semantic studies of these four dialects, however, would undoubtedly show divergences of meaning. Providing convincing evidence of dialect relationships among creoles developed from the same language source is a particular challenge. Presumably any pair of Spanish-based creoles, for example, regardless of their historical development and geographical location, will ipso facto have a high percentage of shared cognates. Studying cognate relationships, therefore, would not appear to be a reliable method for determining dialect relationships and mutual intelligibility for creoles. Comparative grammatical and semantic studies would undoubtedly be more reliable.

These comments, however, are not intended to distract from the importance of this dictionary. It has adequately fulfilled the major purpose for which it was compiled. It has demonstrated that CT is a unique Spanish-based creole. And in accomplishing this, Sister Isabelita

has done linguistic research a service by providing excellent source material for students of Philippine creoles and for bilingual educators.

A lexical description of over 6,000 entries compiled as a first dictionary for a language or dialect is no small feat. For a lexicographer to work virtually alone, as Sister Isabelita has done, to accomplish such a project is a major accomplishment, as any lexicographer who has attempted it will verify. This dictionary will stand as a reliable foundation for any future linguistic work undertaken on Cotabato Chabacano.