

The PJL @ 50: Themes and Perspectives in Philippine Linguistics Research (1970-2017)

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Abstract

This paper reviews the trends in themes and perspectives that are explored in the papers published in the Philippine Journal of Linguistics (PJL) from its first decade to its fifth (Volumes 1-48). This paper classifies themes according to the goals of the research, which may be one of several types of grammatical descriptions and language analyses. Perspective is used in this paper to refer to the philosophical preoccupation that the studies carry, manifested in both theoretical and methodological approaches that are used in the treatment and analyses of their corpora. Examining 435 published research articles from the PJL, this review is done by mapping these trends in themes and perspectives against the points raised in two state of the art papers: (1) Reid's Philippine Linguistics: State of the Art—1970-1980, which described how the field has developed within the ten-year scope; and (2) Liao's Philippine linguistics: The state-of-the-art 1981-2005. Trends in (a) paper type, (b) research methodology, (c) corpora, (d) subject matter, (e) language/language varieties studied, and (f) authorship are compared across the five decades. In summarizing what has been studied and published in the Journal, and in identifying which areas in the discipline remains under-researched, the paper reveals the extent of the direction towards which Philippine language scholarship has developed, and presents insights into the determination of a trajectory for Philippine linguistics and language studies in the country.

Keywords: *Philippine linguistics research; thematic description; methodologies; state of the art; Philippine Journal of Linguistics*

Introduction

Approaching fifty, the *Linguistic Society of the Philippines* (LSP) continues what it has set out to do, when its founding father, Bonifacio Sibayan of the then Philippine National College, called for a meeting to discuss the creation of such an organization.* In 1970, one year after the official founding of the Society, Asuncion-Llande, in her survey and critique of Philippine linguistics from the 1560s to 1970, lauds the potentials of the LSP as the pioneering professional organization of linguists and language scholars in the country:

* I am indebted to my professor, Dr. Aldrin P. Lee, who read versions of this paper for his class (and outside his class), and who has always encouraged me to publish. I am equally thankful to Michael Tanangkingsing, who painstakingly went through every reference in this work, to make sure this was copy-ready.

“A significant event in the history of Philippine linguistics has just happened. After several abortive attempts, the Linguistic Society of the Philippines was finally organized. This is the first professional organization of its kind in the country. It is a sign of maturity and an evidence that linguistics is finally coming into its own as a professional discipline” (Asuncion-Lande, 1970, p. 222)

She refers to the LSP’s founding as a promising direction for the scholarship of linguistics in the Philippines. The extent of this direction towards which Philippine language scholarship has matured is the subject matter of this paper. This can be seen forty-eight volumes and more than six hundred peer-reviewed papers later in the official publication of the LSP, the *Philippine Journal of Linguistics* (PJJ). The Journal first came out bi-annually, once in June and then again in December. At present, the PJJ is published once a year (in December) and carries an average of ten research articles.

Scope and Aims

This paper reviews the trends in themes and perspectives that are explored in the papers published in the *Philippine Journal of Linguistics* from its first decade (1970) up until its fifth decade (2017). This review is done by mapping these trends in themes and perspectives against the points raised in two *state of the art* papers: (1) Reid’s *Philippine Linguistics: State of the Art—1970-1980*, which described how the field has developed within the ten-year scope; and (2) Liao’s *Philippine linguistics: The state-of-the-art 1981-2005*.

In this paper, *theme* is used to refer to the subject matter that the studies explore. Dayag and Dita (2012) organized their classification according to the “*traditional classification of domains of linguistics, phonology, syntax, semantics [which] fall under theoretical linguistics*” (p. 111) and applied linguistics. Reid (1981), on the other hand, organizes his survey according to “*four major subfields in the discipline: phonology; morphology and syntax; discourse studies (including sentence and paragraph); and comparative-historical linguistics*” (p. 213).

This paper classifies themes according to the goals of the research studies, which may be one of several types of linguistic descriptions and language analyses. Studies on semantics and those on larger discourse units are classified apart from linguistic (grammatical) descriptions because these necessarily include an analysis of the language units against contexts that are social or cultural.

Perspective is used in this paper to refer to the philosophical preoccupation that the studies carry, manifested in both theoretical and methodological approaches that are used in the treatment and analyses of their corpora.

Totalling 435 articles from the PJJ’s Volumes 1 to 48, this paper’s inventory does not include certain volumes, owing to the fact that these issues of the Journal are not found in the holdings of the main library in UP-Diliman. This incompleteness shall be carefully taken into account in the conclusion of this paper.

When the Society first put out the Journal, the PJJ carried an average of eight (8) papers in each issue. In Dayag & Dita (2012), this number is specified to be ten papers per issue. The increase is due largely to the shift towards the single-issue publication of the Journal—in the first decade of the new millennium, the PJJ put out only one issue per year.

Paper Types

The first of the analyses done for this paper is a classification of the papers that have been published in the Journal according to *paper type*. There are four kinds of papers that this paper finds: (a) *language analyses*, which may be grammatical descriptions or discourse analyses, (b) *position papers*, which forward theoretical perspectives or new methodologies, (c) *State of the Art* papers, which survey linguistic research done in the Philippines over author-specified periods, and (d) *reviews*, which examine and evaluate works on language by Filipino and non-Filipino authors, including those on Philippine linguistics.

Figure 1 is a comprehensive summary of the paper types across the five decades. To facilitate discussion, references will be made to decades as pertinent time periods.

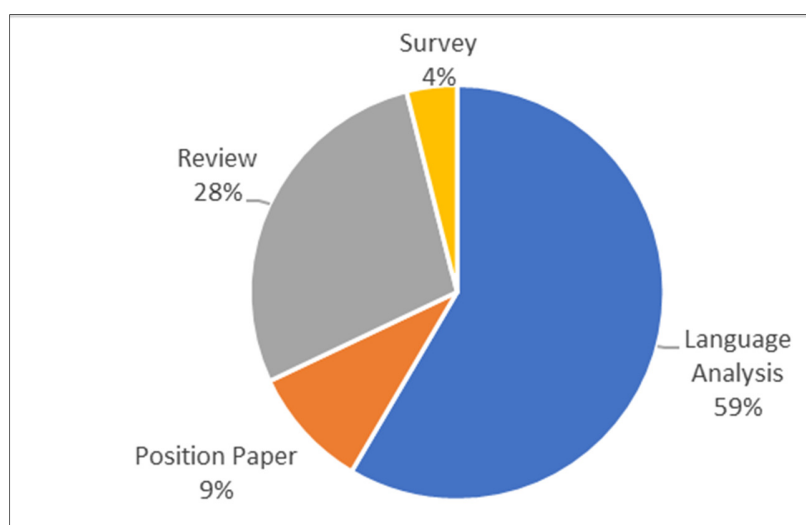


Figure 1. Paper Types in the Philippine Journal of Linguistics (1970-2017)

Quite representative of each of the five decades, Figure 1 shows that the largest percentage of the papers are those on language analyses (59%). This is followed by reviews, for which the PJJL dedicates a portion in each of its issue in the first few decades. State-of-the-Art papers and surveys comprise the smallest group, accounting for only 4% of the total papers published. A relatively big proportion in contrast to surveys and state of the art papers are position papers (9%).

Across the decades, the following trend is observed, summarized in Figure 2. Each of the nodes shown marks the decade and the percentage of the paper type. Proportions for Decade 4 are currently unavailable, but this decade is the subject matter of Dayag and Dita (2012).

Seen in Figure 2 is the immediate glaring disparity in terms of proportion in Decade 5. In the 2010-2017 period, the papers published in PJJL were neither surveys (state-of-the-art), except Dayag and Dita (2012) nor position papers. The percentage of language analysis papers spikes in Decade 5, as well. The majority of these papers are papers on applied linguistics, as will be discussed in the succeeding sections. The percentage even surpasses that of the first decade, and as will be shown later, the trend from descriptive linguistic research in Decade 1 shifts to applied linguistic research in the current decade.

Surveys usually number very minimally, with a notable increase in Decade 2, when certain issues were dedicated to a collection of positions about language planning in the Philippines. Some of these issues carried state-of-the art papers on language as it is used in the society. This includes Gonzales's survey of studies on sociolinguistics up to the 1980s (Gonzales, 1989).

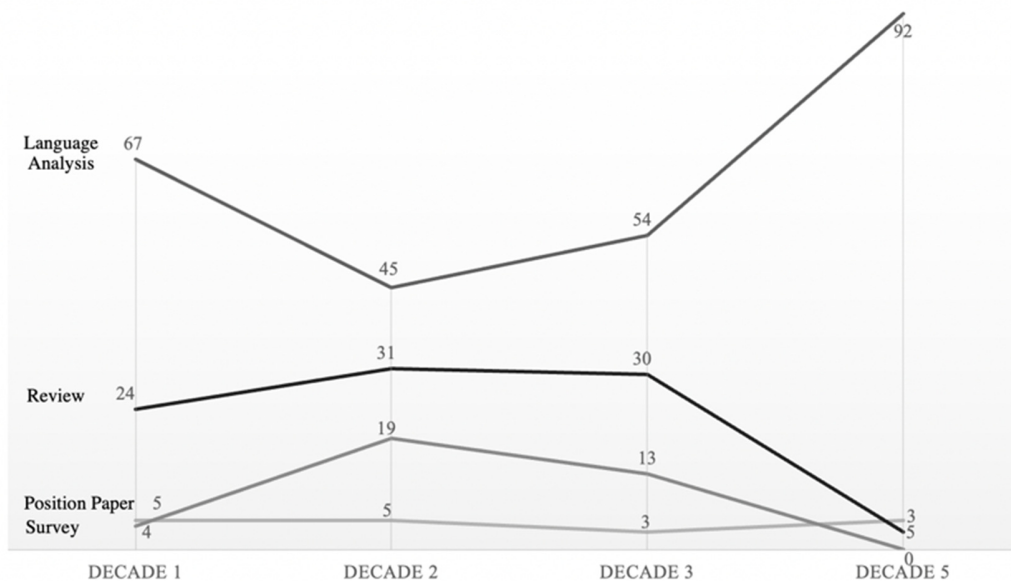


Figure 2. Trends in Paper Types (1970-2017)

Decade 2 also reflects a spike in the number of position papers which it retains in Decade 3 but lost in Decade 5. This increase is encouraging especially because these positions on language problems in the Philippines are authored by Filipinos (88%). In contrast with the meager percentage of Filipino authorship in Decade 1, the second decade demonstrates an upward direction of scholarship on Philippine languages.

The first line, which represents language analyses papers, always occupies the majority of the proportions across decades. The *language analyses* papers, based on their treatment of corpora, may be analyzed into two types: theoretical and applied. Theoretical linguistics studies include descriptions of grammar (or aspects of grammar), and diachronic studies, i.e., those classified by Reid as *comparative-historical*. In this paper's corpus, most of the papers in Decade 1 are theoretical in theme and approach. These treatments level in Decade 2, before reversing in the later years.

Figure 3 shows that Decades 3 to 5 exhibit the same proportions, with applied linguistics studies dominating. An essential part of the reason for the stark comparison between Decade 1 and the rest of the decades is the development of sociolinguistics (and other hyphenated fields in linguistics) in the mid-60s and the popularization of the analytical shift it offered in language studies in the following years.

This apparent tendency of papers in PJJ to be applied linguistics in nature was observed in Dayag & Dita (2012), which underscored the shift towards applied linguistics in 2000-2009. In their ten-year survey, they found that only 37% of the papers published within the decade are grammar descriptions. Their paper pertains to this trend as something that could be argued as “*a digression from the original intent of the journal*” (p. 112). Inversely then, the theoretical linguistics “tradition” of the PJJ in the 1970s can be regarded as more faithful to the Journal's vision.

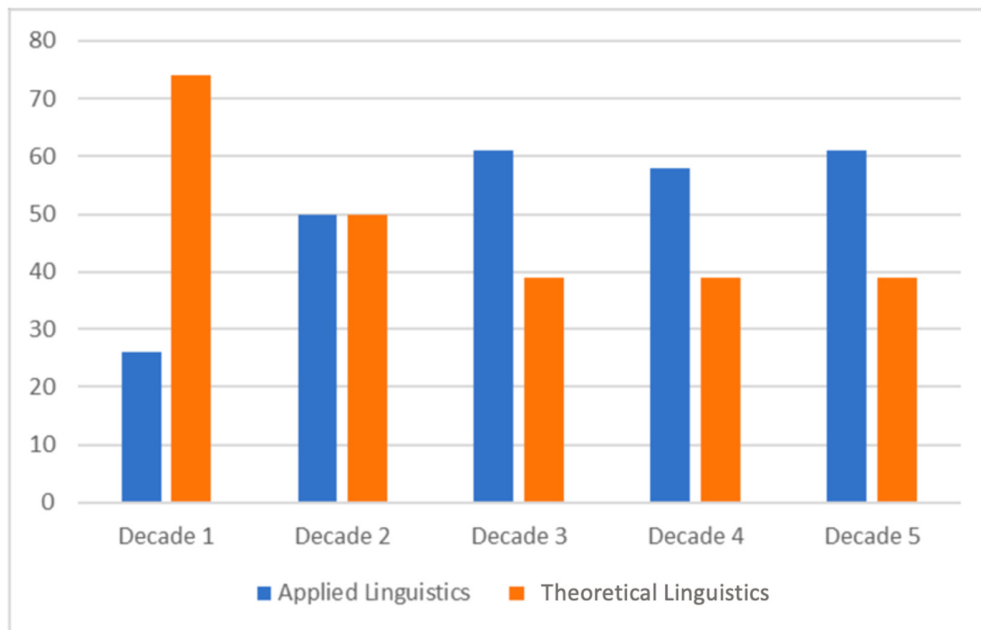


Figure 3. Trends in Theoretical vs Applied Linguistics Studies in PJJL (1970-2017)

Overall, however, across the five decades, the applied linguistics-theoretical linguistics proportions record a slim difference of 2.4%, with grammatical analyses consisting of 51.2%, and with applied linguistics studies the other 48.8%. These proportions are relevant in accounting for the trend of the Journal in terms of paper choice. If this is synonymous with the trend in theme or language problems examined by Filipino language scholars which are unpublished or published elsewhere, a promising healthy trend can be seen.

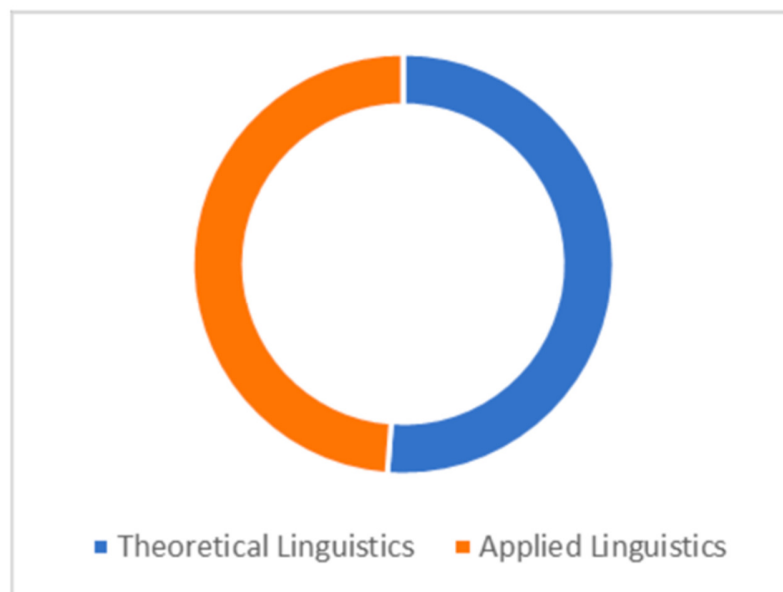


Figure 4. Overall Trend in Theoretical vs Applied Linguistics Studies in PJJL (1970-2017)

Surveys and Position Papers

Surveys or state-of-the-art papers are identified in the corpora as papers that pertain to the examination of what has already been done in the literature. This includes Ward's (1971) exhaustive bibliographic survey of the coverage in the Philippine linguistics literature—a paper which, at its publication in 1971, had been seminal, as both McKaughn's and Constantino's surveys (Reid cited both as the two most important surveys on the period) of Philippine Linguistics research were yet to be published. Ward's paper inventoried the content of the literature with reference to language and linguistics subcategories.

PJL was also the publication for many studies conducted by the SIL, and on the occasion of SIL's founding anniversary, Brichoux (1973) inventoried SILs research work in the previous twenty years. Gonzales also authored two surveys during the period, one of which is a paper on language as an indicator of literacy, learning, and social development, and its treatment as interpretable for the quality of life in the Pacific Area (1979). His second survey (Gonzales, 1980) identified areas needing investigation in linguistics, and he proposed two new areas of linguistics investigation: what he proposed to be called *politicolinguistics* and *juridicolinguistics*. Both published at the close of the first decade, Gonzales's papers might have helped chart the course of linguistics research for the next decade, if not for the Philippine linguistic landscape, then at least for PJL. Gonzales has been right in identifying this direction, with the latter area now established as a field known as forensic linguistics.

The position papers published in the PJL explored issues current in the period and offered a stand from which future directions may be drawn. Starosta exemplifies this kind of work very well, in his paper (1971) where he summarized the points of contention between the two opposing schools of linguistics by 1970: generative grammarians, who accepted Chomsky's "scientific" ideas, and the structuralists, who did not. He called his paper, *Linguistics and Anti Science*, referring to the fact that each camp considered each other unscientific—"each is quite right" (Starosta, 1971, p. 11).

After presenting where the camps divide, Starosta proposes his views about "reunifying" the linguists torn by what he calls "The Great Generative-Structuralist Controversy". His reunifying strategy consists of (1) each linguist examining exactly what his set of principles in analysis is, (2) each camp ceasing from calling each other names, and (3) for each camp to adapt/modify approaches and devices from the other perspective that might work. This is a great example of a position paper—a paper that examines an issue, explores where the divide lies, and proposes an informed third perspective.

In PJL, these position papers explore themes that compare against the principles and methods of theoretical linguistics. These include subject matters such as pragmatics, semantics, and orthography—all themes that are usually not encompassed by principles of grammatical analysis alone. For this kind of papers, the proposition of a third space (if not an *in-between* space) is paramount. Like Starosta's above, these papers offer a solution from which research can be furthered.

The number of position papers spiked in the second decade of the Journal's publication. This is due to the publication of two exclusive volumes on position papers. As can be seen in Figure 5, the contributors for these issues are key agencies involved in language planning. These agencies represent the domains in which Filipino is intended to be used: the courtroom, the laws, the classroom, and the professional community.

VOLUME	YEAR	TITLE	AUTHOR	AFFILIATION
Vol 19 No 2	1988	The Intellectualization of Filipino—Agenda for the twenty-first century	Andrew Gonzales	DLSU
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Terms and points of reference in intellectualizations with particular reference t Filipino	Bonifacio Sibavan	PNC
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Parameters of Intellectualization—Applications to Filipino	Ma. Lourdes Bautista	DLSU
Vol 19 No 2	1988	The Parameters of discourse and research into Filipino	Edwina Carreon	DLSU
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Translation as a dimension of intellectualization—The SIL Perspective	Scott MacGregor, Louise McGregor	SIL
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Salingwika, salindiwa: Isang paglalahad sa ibang mungkahi	Buenaventura Medina	DLSU
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Batas Pilipino sa Wikang Pilipino	Ponciano Pineda	
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Wika at Kritisismo	Virgilio Almario	UMPIL
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Ang pagbubuo ng isang sangguniang balarila ng Filipino	Fe Otanes	PNC
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Teaching philosophy in Filipino	Manny Dy	ADMU
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Ang pagtuturo ng teolohiya sa wikang Filipino	Bob Bonifacio	DLSU
Vol 19 No 2	1988	Ang natatanging gamit ng Filipino sa iba't ibang larangan	Nelly Cubar	UP
Vol 21 No 1	1990	The Role of Language in Philippine society	Adriano Arceolo	Fund for Assistance to Private Education
Vol 21 No 1	1990	A nation searching for a language finds a language searching or a name	Isagani Cruz	DLSU
Vol 21 No 1	1990	The continuing controversy: Agreement or disagreement over the bilingual education policy	Wilfredo Aberca	Polytechnic University of the Philippines
Vol 21 No 1	1990	Origin of Mesopotamian duodecimal and sexagesimal counting systems	Richard Pittman	SIL
Vol 21 No 1	1990	Some comments on language enrichment	Richard Elkins	SIL

Figure 5. Position Papers in Decade 2

This is synonymous with the legislation of a nationwide-scope language planning in 1986, keystone by the revision of the Bilingual Education Policy of 1974. Essential to the mandate of the Policy was the intellectualization of Filipino. This is reflected in the papers published in PJJ. Most of these position papers contribute positions about the intellectualization of Filipino—its use in various domains, and its prospects as a medium of instruction for content courses in schools, which include theology, criticism, and science.

This trend of publishing positions has never been repeated in the later decades, and therefore a need arises for positions on language issues written by Filipino language scholars or by those that speak for a linguistic institution in the Philippines. In the midst of linguistic “wars” and language issues on policy-making pertaining to pedagogical matters, and even about language protection in Philippine societies, positions need to be made available, on which sound and well-informed judgments may be anchored.

Trends in Theoretical Linguistics

The majority of the papers published in PJJ over its past five decades are theoretical studies: descriptions on the morphology and syntax of languages, studies on the languages’ sound systems, and some diachronic studies. The 51.2% of theoretical linguistics studies are composed of the following proportions:

Figure 6 shows that studies on morphology and syntax comprise most of the papers that this study classifies as theoretical linguistic studies. Equal proportions of both phonology and comparative-historical studies account for the rest of the 48.8%.

Some of the comparative-historical papers in PJJ aim to reconstruct a proto-language: Proto-Manobo (Elkins, 1974); Proto-Tagalic (Zorc, 1972). The latter attempts to contribute to the reconstruction of phonemic stress in Proto Malayo-Polynesian and forwarded the propensity for accent on the ultima as a feature of Proto-Tagalic.

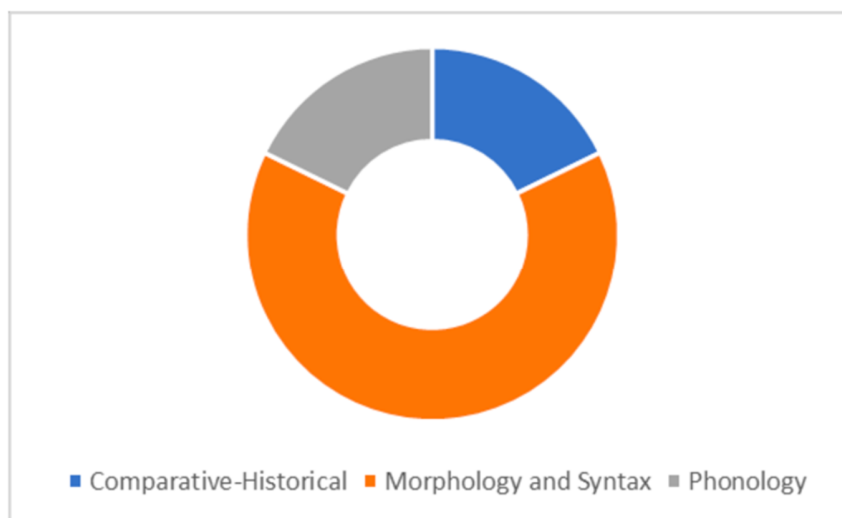


Figure 6. *Theoretical Linguistics Studies (1970-2017)*

In the PJL corpus for Decade 1, eight papers are comparative-historical. This includes Dyen's paper which "demonstrated the value of using qualitative evidence (innovations in phonology, morphology and syntax) to substantiate a subgrouping hypothesis formulated on the basis of quantitative evidence such as lexicostatistical percentages" (Reid, 1981, p. 232). This analytical shift echoed the times, as diachronic evidence in the 70s began to favor exclusively shared innovations over lexicostatistic evidence.

Reid (1981) notes these studies as important attempts at reconstruction, and cites Zorc's as having "succeeded in reconstructing contrastive word accent, or stress, for Proto-Philippines" (p/ 234). Along with Reid's apprehension on the little consideration of influences by cultures and languages to our own languages, it is worth mentioning here that a couple of studies on this kind of **interference** has been made. Goulet (1971) systematizes the study of the various types of interference occurring in the Tagalog speaker's written and spoken language. Reid warns:

"Unless the influence of Malay culture is taken into consideration, reconstruction of earlier forms of Philippine languages will remain suspect" (Reid, 1981, p. 234)

There is no paper, however, on the extensive influence of Malay on Philippine languages. Reid cites Wolff whose work has 'amply documented' this fact. While Wolff did publish in PJL, these were on the borrowings from Spanish and English (1973 & 1974), and on the classification of Cebuano verbs (1970).

Llamzon's paper (1971) on the Tasaday language is also published in the PJL, which also published with it two linguistic comments on the relationships explored in Llamzon's paper, which compared cognates from the Tasaday and other proximal languages.

Comparative linguistic studies have been done through language surveys on Tasaday (1971), Central Bicolandia (Anderson, 1973 & 1974); on the Panay languages (Grino, 1975); and Eastern Luzon languages (Headland, 1975). While these studies appear in PJL, Reid notes in his paper:

“However, there has been relatively little sophisticated cross-linguistic description of the kind that Zorc (1977) has done for the Bisayan languages. He used his comparison primarily for genetic subgrouping and reconstruction” (Reid, 1981, p. 240)

About comparative-historical studies, Reid charted this direction in 1981, stating that the systematic comparison of Philippine languages should not be concerned only with *“the lexicons of Philippine languages, a task which is not particularly difficult, but with the far more difficult task of systematic syntactic comparison [whose] purpose would be to discover to what extent surface structures are comparable from language to language”* (p. 239).

Studies on syntax in fact abound in PJJ. Figure 7 shows the majority of theoretical linguistics papers are morphosyntactic descriptions. The most studied languages in these descriptions are Tagalog (and Pilipino), English, Kankanaey and the Cordilleran languages, and Tagalog with other languages, in comparative studies, and collectively, the Philippine languages in linguistic surveys.

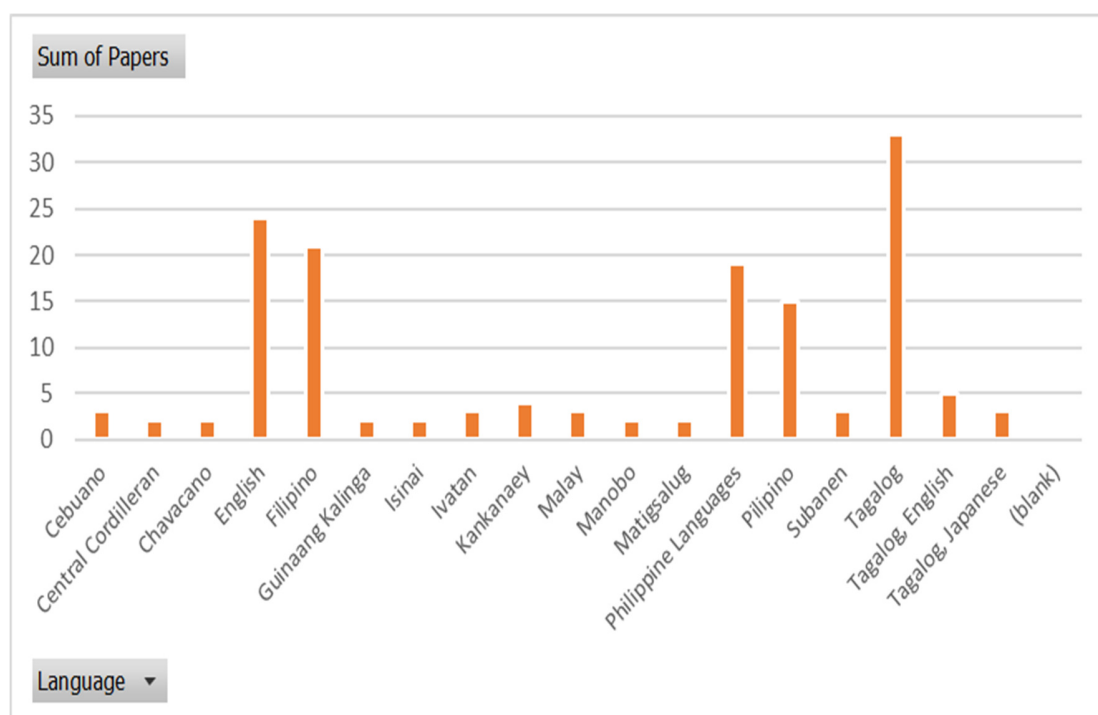


Figure 7. Most common languages studied

The frequency of other studied languages is illustrated in Figure 8. This multigradient disc metaphorizes the diversity of the languages of the Philippines very well. These languages are those that occur only once or twice in the data. These include foreign languages Amoy (Fukien), American Filipino, Bahasa Indonesia, and Achenese. Philippine languages of this category include Ilianen Manobo, Inati (Negrito), Kiangan-Ifugao, Batad Ifugao, Dibabawon, and the Manobo of Western Bukidnon.

Reid (1981) further notes that most grammars and grammatical descriptions are oriented towards transformational-generative analysis. This is true in PJJ during its first decade as well, as most studies on morphology and syntax followed the Chomskyan framework. However, over the

years, many tagmemically oriented studies have been published as well, mostly authored by SIL linguists: Wolfenden (1973 & 1974; 1975) studying Hiligaynon and deep structure in Philippine languages; Ashley and Ashley (1971) outlining the sentence types of Tausug; Hidalgo and Hidalgo (1970), studying Ivatan; Newell (1970), studying Batad Ifugao; Cook (1970) introducing the method; and Reid (1975) revising the model.

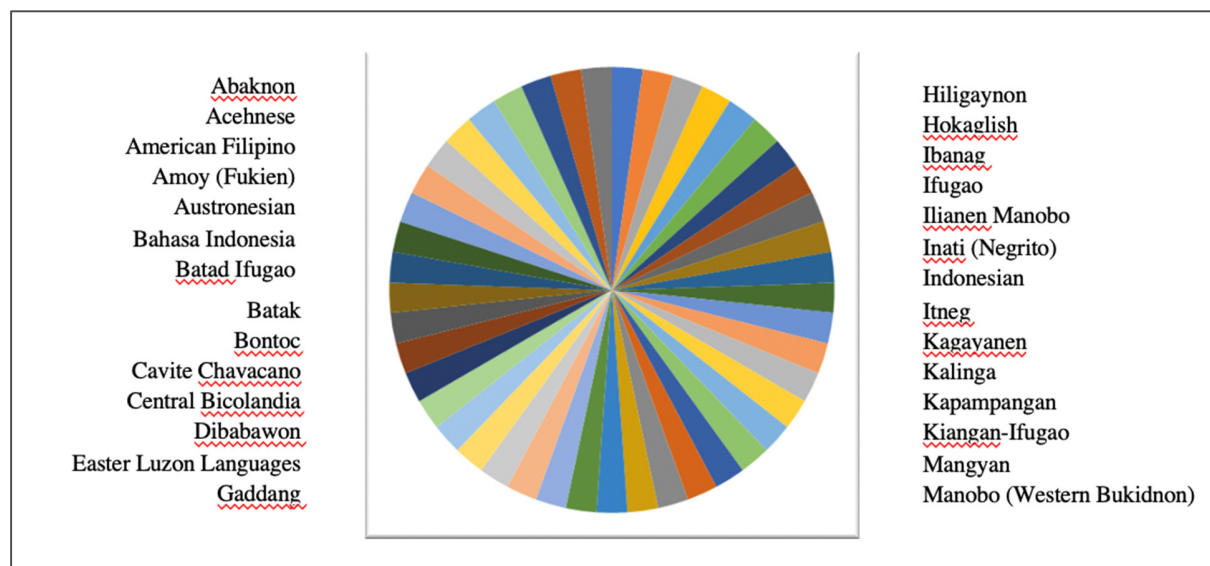


Figure 8. Other languages studied (1970-2017)

Trends in Applied Linguistics

Reid (1981) labels studies which are categorized in this paper as “applied” as studies on the ‘*peripheral areas of linguistics*’. For the period that he surveyed, Reid identifies studies on dialectology, bilingualism, language acquisition, language planning, and language use as areas that are given attention outside of general linguistics.

Foremost of these applied linguistics studies in the PJJ during the 1970s are those on bilingualism. These studies are prompted by the changes that were a result of the 1974 Bilingual Education Policy. Issued on June 19, 1974 by the Department of Education and Culture (Benton, 1980), Department Order No 25, s 1974 (Pascasio, 1980) instituted guidelines for the national system of bilingual education, which aimed to “*develop a bilingual nation able to communicate in Pilipino as well as in English*” (Benton, 1980, p. 1)

Figure 9 illustrates the most recurring themes in applied linguistics found in the corpora. The first line is from Decade 2, the second line is from Decade 3, and the third line is from Decade 4. Here it shows how the themes recur across decades. The language planning and intellectualization position papers that numbered substantially in Decade 2 were all towards the improvement of the education system in the Philippines.

In Decade 3, a spike in sociolinguistics studies is observed. Language analyses tended to correlate social factors with language use and to draw implications and tendencies about language behavior. The most common social factors correlated with language use in these research studies are in the gender and language domain.

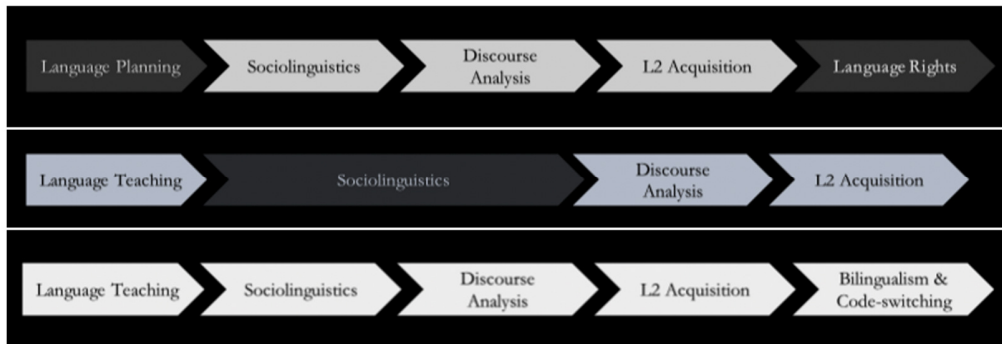


Figure 9. Trends in applied linguistics themes

Note that in Decade 4, applied linguistics papers looked into bilingualism again, but this time, implications were drawn more towards code-switching, and not towards education.

According to Reid, the change in the educational system “required a commitment from linguists to meet the problems that these changes have brought” (p. 237). These are seen in the substantial number of studies on bilingualism published in the Journal.

However, none of the papers on bilingualism published during this period really evaluated the Policy’s implementation, or its goals. What the studies evaluated were the bilingual language skills of communities (Abaya-Cruz, 1980; Perez, 1970; Dizon, Feenstra, & Dagot, 1971), and the feasibility of the indicators of such (Feenstra, 1970), as well as the methods to measure them (Pascasio, 1980). The aims of these papers were to yield insights that could be relevant to the implementation of the Policy in the schools.

The Bilingual Education Policy as the subject matter of applied linguistics papers in PJJ continues until the third decade. Over the decades, however, this theme has become more general to encompass other issues in language education, language teaching, and language acquisition.

Discourse analyses comprise the next biggest number of applied linguistics studies. Bautista’s seminal sociolinguistic work analyzed a large corpus of Pilipino radio dramas. Using the corpus, she analyzes address references (1980)—nominals, pronouns, and the respect enclitics *ho* and *po*, and mapped these onto situational occurrence, and against Brown and Gilman’s (1960) sociolinguistic rules on power/solidarity. Bautista wrote another paper on an ethnography of speaking by identifying the patterns revealed in speech acts such as apologies, compliments, directives, and probes (1979, pp. 45-62).

It is important to note that Bautista’s influence is apparent in the discourse analyses published after hers. This is in terms of relationships tested and explored, as well as in terms of corpora: the influence is so marked such that the trend can be grouped as pre- and post-Bautista. Text types analyzed for language behavior became various and diverse, as in Figure 10.

Compared with the text types examined in previous years, which include discourse corpora such as hortatory discourse, exhortation, written discourse, and narratives, the text types *post-Bautista* included text messages, letters of complaint, websites, print ads, and many more.

Several papers on discourse stand apart from the rest because of their text and methods. These are papers on stylistics, which explore how a writer uses linguistic variables to realize narrative goals in literature. The units analyzed are linguistic devices in the form of grammatical features: second person pronoun, the question form, and the comparative degree of adjectives (Shen, 1970). Units such as these are used to compare the ‘styles’ of Filipino and American authors, using a linguistic approach (Ortega, 1972).

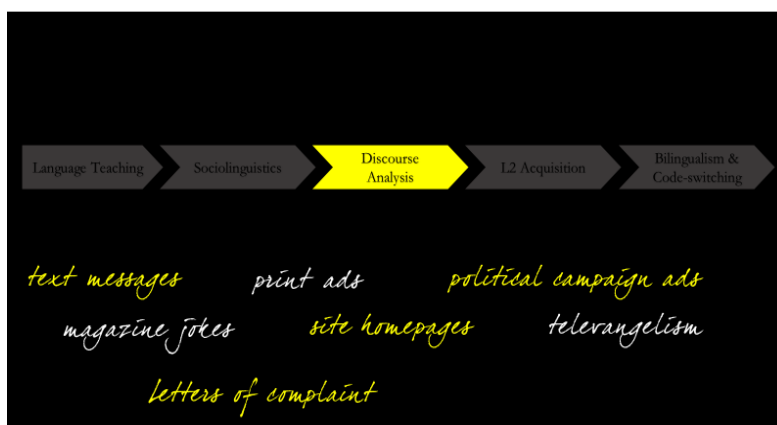


Figure 10. Corpora in discourse analysis papers

In similar fashion, SIL linguist, Wrigglesworth (1980) used language units (rhetorical devices) in order to distinguish fact from fiction in Manobo. He observes:

“when the Manobo narrator employs carefully metered lines of paraphrase to rhetorically underscore a crucial moral judgment about to be made, then combines that device with a shift to a more dramatic form of Manobo tense-aspect ... he not only excites [the audience’s] aesthetic appreciation, but evokes a high degree of presence ...” (p. 45)

These types of papers brought to light the wide scope of corpora that may be used to interpret linguistic behavior. Even interpretation itself is treated as an indicator of linguistic behavior in Luzares and Bautista (1972). This paper exemplifies the use of the matched-guise technique in sociolinguistics in order to obtain results which otherwise would not be obtained using direct-attitude questionnaires.

The extent of influence of these works might be seen in later papers in the PJL. In the 2000s, Dayag and Dita (2012) observe the variety of corpora studied to interpret language behavior: print ads, *televangelism*, political ad campaigns, and letters of complaint, to explain evidentiality and persuasiveness, among others. It can be seen that correlations of textual behaviors with language behaviors are limited only by what can be conceived by the sociolinguist, and his interpretations are only as strong as the strength of his method of collection and analysis.

In the earlier part of this paper, an observation was made on the reversal of the trends in undertaking studies on either applied linguistics or theoretical linguistics. The trend towards applied linguistics in the period surveyed by Dayag and Dita (2012) may be accounted for by the choice of publication theme of the Journal. The PJL put out exclusive issues on applied linguistics during this period from papers presented in conferences of similar themes. Unlike PJL publications in the 1970s, the publications in the 2000s can be indicators of the trend of linguistic research in the Philippines only with some consideration. Publication choice in journal themes make up for a large part of the literature “landscape”, and therefore journal publications alone can only make substantial claims on linguistic trends to the extent that these factors are also considered.

Trends in Authorship

In the first decade, the biggest contributor (21.73%) was the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). This was followed by linguists from the Consortium (Ateneo de Manila University and Philippine

Normal College together). In contrast, perhaps because the University of the Philippines' linguistics department had a publication of their own, *The Archive*, contributors from UP numbered only 5%. There was also a significant number of studies published by authors from the University of Hawaii (13.04%), and from universities outside of the Philippines (11.95%). Together, they make up 25% of the Journal's authorship.

Across the decades, SIL linguists still number the most in terms of authorship. Figure 11 summarizes the most recurring author affiliations from 1970 to 2017.

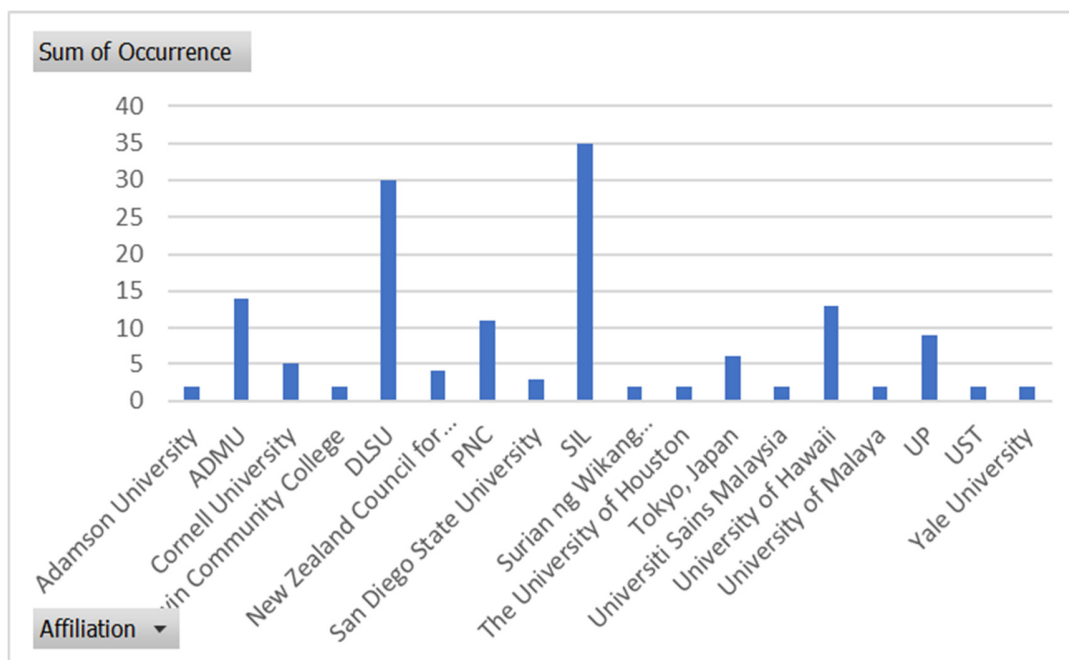


Figure 11. Author Affiliations in PJJL (1970-2017)

Decade 2 also reflects a spike in the number of position papers which is retained in Decade 3, but lost in Decade 5. This increase was encouraging especially because these positions on language problems in the Philippines were authored by Filipinos (88%). In contrast to the meager percentage of Filipino authorship in Decade 1, the second decade demonstrated an upward direction of scholarship on Philippine languages.

Conclusion

This paper has shown the trends in linguistics research in the country, as can be traced in the Philippine Journal of Linguistics in terms of (a) paper type, (b) research methodology, (c) corpora, (d) subject matter, (e) language/language varieties studied, and (f) authorship. Furthermore, these trends have been compared across the past five decades.

Specifically, the paper reiterates here the following observations about the literature that the PJJL makes available: (1) the first decade's trend of grammatical descriptions and other theoretical linguistics studies numbering more than studies that are *applied*, is a trend that has reversed after the first decade, (i.e., across the years from 1981 up to the present), as Dayag and Dita (2012) also observe in their paper comparing Decade 5 with the first decade; (2) authorship of position papers remained almost entirely non-Filipino until the 1980s, when this paper type was dominated by Filipino linguists, although positions have not been published in Journal in the past

two decades; (3) the subject matter of papers classified as *applied* started out to be mostly on bilingualism, seen in this paper as a result of the change in the education landscape in the '70s, a trend that improved to encompass not only other areas such as discourse analysis, Philippine English, ESL, but also other text types; (4) discourse studies made use of the first of what would later be many corpora-based analyses published in PJJ, with Bautista's seminal work using radio dramas drawing sociolinguistic interpretations; (5) grammatical descriptions are generally generative, but a considerable number of the papers are tagmemically-oriented; a significant number explored alternative analyses, such as lexibase grammar, functional grammar and ergative frameworks; (6) morphosyntactic descriptions that account for the verbal features of Philippine languages transitioned from focus analysis to voice analysis; and (7) the trend in authorship as being first comprised primarily by SIL linguists and secondarily by linguists of the Consortium has changed especially in the last two decades to include language scholars from the regions (i.e., regions outside of the National Capital Region), creating a diversity in the languages studied, and an inclusiveness for *other* Philippine languages.

In summary, the applied linguistics-theoretical linguistics proportions record a slim difference of 2.4%, with grammatical analyses accounting for 51.2% of the total number of papers, and with applied linguistics studies consisting the other 48.8%. This may be seen as a healthy proportion for a journal of a field that has two main branches. These branches identify the direction of the research, and in principle, knowledge should feed perspectives in application. Descriptive observations of language create informed decisions in language planning, for example, or in the dissemination of dictionaries and other language materials to the community.

Underscored in this paper is the observation that as regards theme in applied linguistics, correlations of textual behavior with language behavior are limited only by the sociolinguist, and the interpretations are only as strong as the strength of the method of collection and analysis.

As regards authorship, while Reid, in his paper (1981), observes that "*the largest body of research on Philippines languages over the last decade has been conducted in the Philippines, [as well as] a growing body of scholars outside of the Philippines whose research interests have led them to study Philippine languages*" (p. 214), this paper finds a very healthy 76% Filipino authorship.

Since its founding in 1969, the LSP has continued to publish its Journal yearly, a clear commitment to its founding vision of "[striving] for the advancement of the scientific study of language, including basic research, particularly language in the Philippine context, and to disseminate the results of [these] scientific studies" (Bautista, 1989, p. 45).

Today, the PJJ publishes its call for more papers: "*to serve as a forum for original studies in descriptive, comparative, historical, and areal linguistics; [however, while] its primary interest is in linguistic theory, it also publishes papers on the application of theory to language teaching, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, anthropological linguistics, etc.*" (Linguistic Society of the Philippines website).

This is a realization of the fundamental desire expressed by Filipinos and other scholars in 1922 (when a linguistics department in the country is yet to be born) on the necessity of an institute that would oversee that studies on Philippine languages be led by Philippine linguists. Four hundred papers (and more) cannot deny the wealth of knowledge in Philippine linguistics that the Journal holds.

In the conclusion of her survey of the works of the Linguistic Society of the Philippines, Bautista (1989) underscores the role of the LSP in creating an opinion and in upholding a position about language issues:

“the language situation of the Philippines is a very complex one...it is expected that the LSP should be at the vanguard of groups that are trying to clarify positions and chart directions in the formulation of language policy” (p. 48)

This is a statement that goes full circle to the very principle on which a professional organization of linguists and language scholars is founded: theirs is the informed opinion, and their position charts the direction of conversations about language issues that matter.

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