



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Language Group: Cebuano
Author: Christopher DeFraga

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)



Cebuano Informational Report

Christopher DeFraga

TESL 539

Summer 2011



Where is Cebuano Spoken?

Cebuano is spoken in :

- Cebu
- Bohol
- Negros Oriental
- Leyte
- Samar
- Negros Occidental
- Biliran Islands,
- Masbate Island
- Mindanao.

(No author, <http://en.wikipedia.org>, 2011)

Cebuano as an Important Language to The Philippines

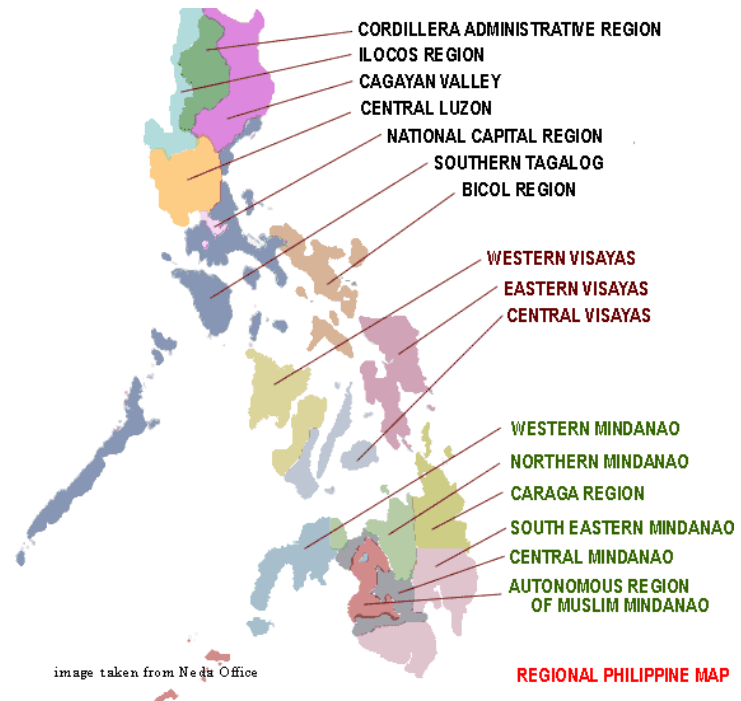
- Cebuano is an Austronesia language spoken in the Philippines by about 20 million people.
- Native Cebuano speakers constitute about one-fourth of the population of the Philippines and as such comprise the largest linguistic and cultural group in the country.
- Despite its spoken frequency, Cebuano is little used as a literary language, although newspapers and films both use the language.
- Although Cebuano is spoken by such a large percent of the Philippine population, it is not considered the official language.

(No author, www.alsglobal.net, 2011)

The Cebuano's have many dialects, the main ones include:

- Cebu
- Boholano
- Leyte
- Mindanao Visayan.
- Boholano is sometimes considered a separate language.

(No author, www.ethnologue.com, 2011)



The Cebuano Writing System:

Cebuano started to appear in writing during the early part of 18th century under influence from Spanish missionaries. As a result of Spanish influence, Cebuano contains many words of Spanish origin.

(Ager, S., www.omniglot.com, 2011)

Cebuano alphabet and pronunciation

A a	B b	K k	D d	E e	G g	H h	I i	L l	M m
[a]	[b]	[k]	[d]	[ɛ]	[g]	[h]	[ɪ]	[l]	[m]
N n	Ng ng	O o	P p	R r	S s	T t	U u	W w	Y y
[n]	[ŋ]	[o]	[p]	[r]	[s]	[t]	[u]	[w]	[j]

Phonological Issues

- Pronunciation of Cebuano is easier than English.
- For example, there are a lot of A sounds in English: dark, race, about, hall, cat, sat and boat. All six words include the letter A, but all six A's are pronounced differently.
- In Cebuano, there is only one pronunciation per vowel. A as in park, E as in get, I as in big, O as in dog and U as in put. There is even a tendency to simplify the pronunciation some more, so that e and i, are often interchanged.
- This will be a problem for them--to learn all these vowel sounds

Top 10 Grammatical Mistakes Made by Filipinos

#10. "Alright" and "All Right"

We see the word "alright" everywhere, and it's begun entering the major dictionaries, but for formal writing, such as academic papers and business correspondence, you should still use the two-word version.

#9. "Pinaka-Latest"

"Latest" is already in the superlative, meaning there nothing "later" than it. "Most latest" is just redundant. Therefore, "pinaka-latest" is also redundant. But I have to admit, it's pretty catchy. That's probably why local showbiz specials love to use it.

#8. "More + Adjective-er"

Phrases like "more harder" and "more brighter" just give me more headaches. Just say "harder" or "brighter," okay?

Top 10 Grammatical Mistakes Made by Filipinos

#7. “Your” and “You’re”

Two words that should never, ever, ever be interchanged, at least if you want to be taken seriously as a writer.

“Your” is a possessive adjective. In other words, it is used to express possession: “Your job.” “You’re” is a contraction of two words: the pronoun “you” and the verb “are.” Therefore, it’s always “you’re welcome” and not “your welcome.”

#6. “Its” and “It’s”

This is almost identical to “you” and “you’re.” Use “its” to express possession: “I scratched its fur.” “It’s” is a contraction of “it” and “is.” Therefore, always write “it’s nice” and never “its nice.”

#5. “Their” and “They’re” and “There”

Same banana. “Their” is a possessive adjective, “They’re” is a contraction, and “There” refers to a place: “I’m going there.”

Top 10 Grammatical Mistakes Made by Filipinos

#4. “He” and “She”

“Clara’s there na. He’s, ah, I mean, she’s waiting for you.”

This happens because most Filipinos think in Tagalog, in which the word “siya” means both “he” and “she.” This tiny difference between English and Tagalog trips up millions of Filipinos on a daily basis.

#3. “Already”

“She went there already.”

This sounds correct to a Filipino, but the correct use is “She already went there.” Personally, this still sounds a bit off. I would say “She has already gone there.” But that’s just me.

Top 10 Grammatical Mistakes Made by Filipinos

#2. The Ellipsis

This is one of the most abused punctuation marks in the history of humankind. Simply put, an ellipsis is the formal term for the three dots (“...”) that follow some types of sentences. Filipinos love to abuse it in the following ways:

- By using only 2 dots: ..
- By using more than 3: (of course, there are some instances in which 4 dots are acceptable)
- By using it several times in a single sentence: “Oh... Well... I’ll see you later, then...”

#1. Pluralizing all the wrong words

I visibly wince whenever I hear Filipinos add “-s” to the wrong words. “Fats.” “Furnitures.” “Evidences.” “Stuffs.” Stuffs. For the love of God, all of these words are already in the plural form. And saying “anyways” instead of “anyway” has always struck me as being singularly pretentious.

(no author, writista.wordpress.com, 2008)

Comparison to Western languages

Cebuano words are formed by consonants and vowels, and stress is usually applied to syllables of a word as in the English language. Cebuano differs from the Western European languages in a way that the sentence structure is arranged in Verb-Subject-Object order. (Trosdal, p. xxii)

Cebuano Communication Styles

- Filipinos have a highly developed sensitivity to the nonverbal aspects of communication (Gochenour, 1990).
- Filipinos are considerably less dependent on spoken words than are European Americans; they watch their listeners carefully and identify body language cues to assess what the person is feeling. The essence of this more intuitive and affective sense that guides nonverbal communication is captured in the phrase talking with one's eyes (PAPEP, 1982).

Cebuano Communication Styles (cont.)

- Filipino sensitivity to context thus extends from a keen awareness of appropriate speech and behavior in a given situation to a well developed instinct for what is implied and not stated (Gochenour, 1990, p. 61). This sensitivity is further complemented by a high tolerance for ambiguity that enables Filipinos to respond calmly to uncertainty or lack of information. Again, however, this orientation may conflict with the characteristically Eurocentric utilitarian emphasis on forthrightness and achieving and results in the least amount of time (Gochenour, 1990).

Communication differences (verbal/nonverbal) between Cebuano and English

Interjections & exclamations

Most conversations begin with a series of very personal questions usually considered impertinent in the Western world. One should not be offended when asked any of the questions below as Filipinos are genuinely interested in one's personal life.

Communication differences (verbal/nonverbal) between Cebuano and English (cont.)

For example:

What is your name? -- Unsay imong ngalan?

Where are you from? -- Taga-diin ka?

When did you arrive? -- Kanusa ka miabot?

Where do you live here? -- Hain ka man magpuyo dinhi?

Do you live with your parents? -- Nagpuyo ka ba si imong ginikanan?

May I visit you? -- Bisitahan kita? Mobisita ako ni

Would you like to visit me? -- Gusto ka bang mobisita nako?

Would you like to stay with me? -- Gusto ka bang mopuyo kauban nako

It is considered rude to leave without saying goodbye.

Communication differences (verbal/nonverbal) between Cebuano and English (cont.)

- Filipinos rarely point with their fingers. The lips are pursed and then used as a pointer, or the eyes look in the direction to be indicated.
- The use of a finger upward and moved toward the person calling is an insult in the East and is only used for calling dogs. More correct, the hand is extended palm down and the fingers are moved toward the palm. Sometimes for emphasis the whole arm is raised to shoulder height and brought toward the body. To get attention hiss or for greater distance or urgency clap the hands two or three times.

Resources

Books

Trosdal, M. B. (1990). *Cebuano-English dictionary*. Cebu City: Philippines.

Internet Sites

A study on interlanguage. (n.d.). A study on interlanguage. Retrieved May 31, 2011, from: <http://interlanguage-ab4.tripod.com/index.html>

Luzon, T. P., & Visayas. (n.d.). Philippines languages spoken in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Retrieved May 31, 2011, from: <http://www.luzpalma.com/Learn%20the%20language%20spoken%20by%20the%20peoples%20in%20Luzon,%20Visayas%20and%20Mindanao%20just%20study%20this%20page!%20.html>

Wordpress. (2011). Top 10 grammatical mistakes made by Filipinos. *Writista*. Retrieved May 31, 2011, from: <http://writista.wordpress.com/2008/12/09/top-10-grammatical-mistakes-made-by-filipinos/>

Maps

Cebuano language. (2011). In Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. [Untitled map of Philippine], Retrieved May 31, 2011, from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cebuano_language

Lewis, M. P. (ed.), 2009. *Ethnologue: Languages of the world*, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=ceb

M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

The M.Ed. in TESL Program at Rhode Island College
is Nationally Recognized by TESOL and NCATE



REACH
INSPIRE
CONNECT