



Linguistic Study on the Ninorte Samarnon Dialect in the Province of Northern Samar

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Abstract

This linguistic study aimed at determining the differences of Ninorte Samarnon dialect used by the different towns in the province of Northern Samar in terms of morphological, lexical and syntactical variations. This qualitative study made use of linguistic analysis to determine the change in morphological, lexical and syntactical variations.

The respondents of the study were the youth, professional and the elderly from the different towns of Northern Samar : the central, the balicuatro, and the pacific area. Speech Elicitation Guide, pictures, and digital recorders were used to gather necessary data from the respondents. These data were transcribed and analyzed based on the morphological lexical, and syntactical variations of Ninorte Samarnon dialect. Furthermore, the syntactical data gathered were tabulated and analyzed statistically using frequency counts

Results of the study revealed that morphological variation exists in Ninorte Samarnon dialect in Northern Samar due to word assimilation, deletion of phonemes and phonemic changes. Most nouns, adjectives, verbs used by the youth, professionals and the elderly from the selected towns in Northern Samar undergo lexical variations in its dialectal variants through synonymous words, vowel shifts and syllable clippings. As regards syntactical aspect, in the Ninorte Samarnon dialect, the ordinary form of sentence, the actor focus or active voice of the verb and the predicative phrase were commonly used by the majority of the respondents. The output of the study is a Ninorte-Samarnon to Filipino dictionary to promote mother tongue and Filipino language. The following are recommended: Conduct a study about the first language which would serve as a guide in teaching mother tongue in the elementary level, conduct a seminar or lecture on the first language and construct a Ninorte Samarnon to Tagalog dictionary to be utilized by private and public educators in Northern Samar as a guide in writing books and educational materials suited to the dialect used by the learners.

Keywords: linguistics, Ninorte Samarnon dialect, syntactical, lexical, morphological variation.

1. Introduction

Language is an important part of our life. It is a uniquely human gift which lets us communicate and differentiate us from primates. But language is much more than just a means of communication. It is also an inseparable part of one culture while there are other still some debates whether the particular language influences people's thought process or it is

indeed people's culture that influences the language, there is no doubt that language and culture are closely connected.

Noam Chomsky, one of the most well-known linguists in the world argues that all languages are dialects of one language which is the human language. He says that even though they appear very different, they are in fact very similar. Nevertheless, different cultures have a predominant fashion in which they use their language and they have differences which cannot be underestimated.

Language is intrinsic to the expression of culture. As a means of communicating values, beliefs and customs, it has an important social functions and fosters feelings of group identity and solidarity. It is a means by which culture and its traditions and shared values maybe conveyed and preserved.

The relationship between language and culture is deeply rooted, Language is used to maintain and convey culture and cultural ties. Different ideas stem from different language use within one's culture and the whole intertwining of these relationship start at one's birth.

According to the study of Dela Rosa about the 20th Century Ninorte Samaron Siday: A Collection and Translation, she stated that Ninorte Samaron is a dialect variation of Waray language. It is used by the 21 municipalities out of the 24 municipalities of Northern Samar where words have stress and meaning.

Waray-waray is a variety of dialectal variations of Filipino in the Samar-Leyte region particularly in the provinces of Samar, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar and Leyte. The term is derived from the word frequently heard by non-speakers, "waray" i.e. "none", "nothing or not".

There exists a degree of dialectal variations among the Waray Visayan dialects. Further, still Ninorte Samaron is varied from town to town. These variations range from phonological, morphological to semantic differences and are often the source of jokes among the Ninorte Samaron. The prominent example of a joke about this is in the price of pig. Residents from Allen, Northern Samar would say mil yon (heard as million), residents from Gamay, Northern Samar would say mil it (heard as one thousand eight hundred) where in fact they are both referring to one thousand pesos.

The variations in Northern Samar Ninorte Samaron dialect is the "new knowledge". This study focused on assessing the morphological, lexical and syntactic variations of selected towns in Northern Samar. In addition, this study seeks to avoid misunderstanding, misconceptions and discriminations among people in the region.

2. Objectives of the Study

This study generally aimed to assess the morphological, lexical and syntactic variations of selected municipalities in Northern Samar.

Specifically, this study aimed to:

- i. find out the different morphological variations of Ninorte Samaron dialect of the selected towns in Northern Samar from among the following:
 - a. youth
 - b. professional
 - c. elderly

- ii. Identify the Ninorte Samarnon words that have the different structures but the same in meaning in selected towns from among the following:
 - a. youth
 - b. professional
 - c. elderly
- iii. determine the syntactical structure of Ninorte Samarnon dialect of the selected towns in Northern Samar that are often used based on sentence structure, focus of the verb and predicate from among the following:
 - a. youth
 - b. professional
 - c. elderly
- iv. construct a Ninorte Samarnon to Filipino dictionary

3. Methodology

This linguistic investigation utilized linguistic structure analysis which is a qualitative method. Linguistic analysis involves scientific investigation of a language model. Linguistic analysis can be used to the standards and procedures that speakers of a language utilize it from spoken or written language, and this can be helpful to those who want to learn a language or decode from one language to another.

This study utilized Speech Elicitation Guide, pictures, and digital recorders to gather the necessary data. There were modifications made in the research instrument used. The research instrument composed of three parts. Part I of the instrument was used to gather data on morphological variations of Ninorte Samarnon dialect. It was patterned from the instrument used by Broto. The second part was used to gather data in the Ninorte Samarnon words that have the different structures but the same in meaning. The third part was used to gather data on syntactical variations. This was based from the instrument of Broto and Banagbanag.

4. The Respondents

The respondents of the study were the 90 residents from the different towns of Northern Samar. There were 15 respondents from Allen, 15 respondents from Biri, 15 from Catarman, 15 from Iloilo de Vega, 15 from Lao-ang, and 15 from Gamay, Northern Samar. The respondents were grouped into three namely; youth, professional and elderly. The youth are those who are 18 years old and below. The professionals are 20 to 60 years old, and the elderly are 61 years old and above.

5. Findings

The findings of the study revealed the following:

It was found out in the study that the youth, the professional, and the elderly do not follow the correct word assimilation, there were deletion of phonemes, and phonemic changes. The age level of the users of speech may be the reason for the variations in some words. Variations in forms of words which do not necessarily change the meaning of the words are due to phonetic changes.

Most nouns, adjectives, and verbs used by the youth, professionals and the elderly from the selected towns in Northern Samar undergo morphemic variations in its dialectal variants through synonymous words, vowel shifts and syllable clippings.

On the syntactic structure of the Ninorte Samarnon dialect in terms of sentence structure, voice of the verb and predicate, the result of the study revealed that three groups of respondents namely; the youth, the professional and the elderly from the selected towns in Northern Samar used the same sentence structure which is the normal sentence structure. On the voice of the verb, the youth and the professionals used active voice or actor focus while the elderly used passive voice or goal focus. The most dominant predicate used by the three groups of respondents is predicative phrase.

The results reveal that there are significant variations in words from each of the dialect community surveyed

6. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that morphological, lexical, and syntactical variations exist in Ninorte Samarnon dialect. This is because we borrow words from foreign language like English, Spanish, etc. We adopt some words and use it permanently in our daily undertakings and became part of our vocabulary. Every town has its own terms/words that they use which are synonymous to the words used by other towns. It is also concluded that migration and multi-media are reasons why morphological and lexical variation exist in Ninorte Samarnon dialect.

7. Recommendations

Considering the findings and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations are hereby offered:

- i. A linguistic study be conducted on the language of a certain town and the language of a nation
- ii. Conduct a study about the first language which would serve as a guide in teaching mother tongue in the elementary level.
- iii. Conduct a seminar or lecture on the first language
- iv. The Ninorte Samarnon to Tagalog dictionary shall be utilized by private and public educators in Northern Samar as a guide in writing books and educational materials suited to the dialect used by the learners.
- v. A comparative study on the Morphemic analysis of Waray and Cebuano Visayan be conducted.