



RELATIONSHIP OF SPECIFIC FILIPINO AND THE COMMUNICATION DISTANCE IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OF RIZAL TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

There is a specific usage of English and Filipino inside the University. There is a greater utilization of Filipino in usual discussion or locution wherein sometimes become outside the talks about the job and personal. English is elaborative. The use of Filipino is detailed and descriptive while English is abstract and analytic (Bernstein in Peregrino et.al., 2002).

Communication in organization is carefully executed for the proper dissemination of mission, vision and objectives. In an institution like Rizal Technological University, Philippines, oral communication is widely utilize in the field of instruction, andministration, research and extension services.

Faculty members of the College of Education are recognizing the different levels of directness or not of language. This is due to different specializations of faculty members and their various orientation to Filipino and English.

Faculty members of the College of Education are recognizing each other as acquaintance, regardless of position and power. There is a small possibility of using direct Filipino to others and indirect Filipino to acquaintance. The language register in the academe is formal.

Keywords : specific, Filipino, communication, distance

Communication in organization is carefully executed for the proper dissemination of mission, vision and objectives. In an institution like Rizal Technological University, oral communication is widely utilize in the field of instruction, administration, research and extension services.

There is a specific usage of English and Filipino inside the University. There is a greater utilization of Filipino in usual discussion or locution wherein sometimes become outside the talks about the job and personal matters. English is elaborative. The use of Filipino is detailed and descriptive while English is abstract and analytic (Bernstein in Peregrino et.al., 2002).

Other than the language use, there is existing personal hindrance in oral communication among workmates. This, for Newstrom (2011) is called psychological distance of people. This refers to emotional distance among people like physical distance due to selection of appropriate words and expression. In this concept, emotion that is being filtered in communication is analyzed. Relative to this is the development of expectations of speakers with each other. If there is a common and nearness in the perceptions of the sender and receiver, the communication is more effective.

In this study, the distance in communication refers to the nearness and distant of relationships of people. The concept of proxemics as type of non-verbal communication is different.

In the verbal communication inside the Institution, particularly in oral register, the responsibility of language is essential. Similar to what Maggay said (2002), RTU as community wherein all are communicating and living gives the opportunity that the lines dividing private and public information will be lost.

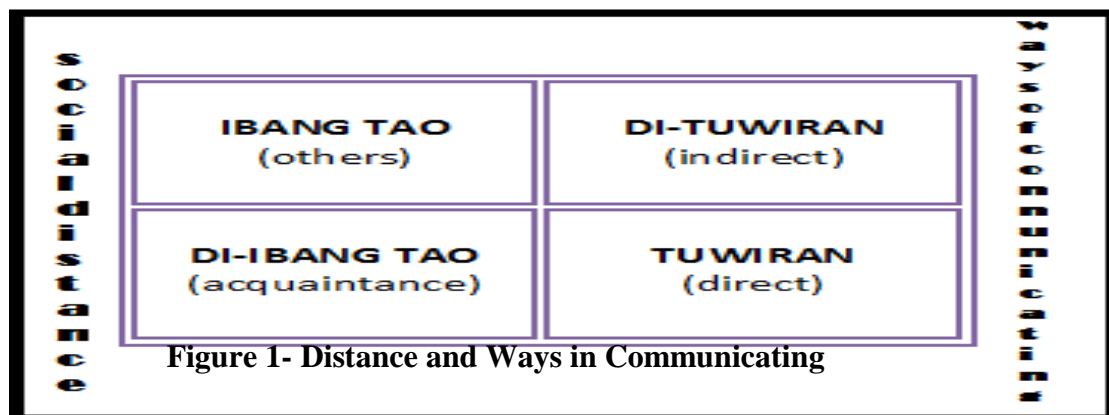
As Zeus Salazar in Maggay (2002) suggest, there is distinction in speaking and communicating to what he refers as *ibang tao (others)* and *di ibang tao (acquaintance)*. To others, the use of language is with respect, careful and indirect while to acquaintance, there is no hesitation and direct.

Maggay (2002) concluded, as the distance in communication is far, there is a higher level in indirectness of relationships among communicators. This proves that relationship to others is based on the perception to people whether their status is high or equal in terms of social power. There is a big difference in communicating to others and acquaintances.

Communication to others is formal and has a higher level of indirectness while to acquaintances, the expression is direct.

From here, the researchers would like to apply the concept of Maggay and Salazar in the context of oral communication among employees of RTU, specifically in the College of Education. The preference on the specificity of language (directness or not) will be evaluated.

This study is based on the theory of Zeus Salazar, father of Modern History in the Philippines, that social distance influences the ways in communicating to *ibang tao* (others) at *di-ibang tao* (acquaintance).



The figure shows the basis of this study. The communication to *ibang tao* is indirect while direct for *di-ibang tao*. From here, researchers will discuss the culture of one unit of the organization particularly the communication in the College of Education. This will give way to the relationship among people working together and sharing efforts for attaining the objectives of the organization.

However, in a foreign study of Wolfson, there is a bulge theory. There is a different way of communication to acquaintance and others for Americans in the middle class. If for them, the other speaker is acquaintance, equality of status is not an issue. If they perceived others, there should be an equal state (Wolfson, retrieved on <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED340203>, 2015).

Based on the statement of Salazar in Maggay (2002), concept was formed is that the level of specificity of Filipino language is relative to the level distance in communication of people in one group. The stated variables are analyzed based on the preference of teachers of the College of Education.

The preference of words in Filipino will be based on the description of direct and indirect expressions. The distance will be termed *iba- o di-ibang tao*.

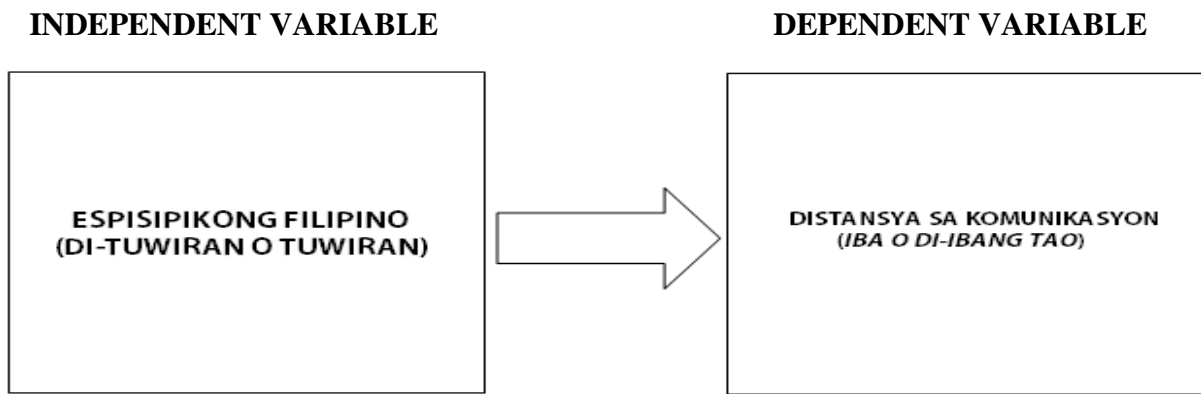


Figure 2- Relationship of Specific Filipino and the Distance in Communication

Figure 2 indicates the relationship of specific Filipino and the distance in communication among teachers of the College of Education. The independent variable mentions the specificity of Filipino (indirect or direct) and the dependent variable denotes the distance *iba* and *ibang tao*.

This study aims to describe and analyze the communication culture of one unit of organization particularly the usage of Filipino in Rizal Technological University- College of Education and the distance (nearness or distant of the termed *iba* o *di-ibang tao*) in communication of people. To specify, this will answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of specificity of the Filipino language utilize in communication among the teachers of the College of Education?
2. What is the level of distance in communication among teachers of the College of Education base on their language preference?
3. Is there significant relationship between the level of specificity of Filipino and the level of distance in communication?

There is relationship between the level of specificity of Filipino and the level of distance in communication. This was attest by Salazar in Maggay (2002) as he perceived that social distance influences the ways of communication of group of people that is termed as *ibang tao* (others) and *di-ibang tao* (acquaintance). The communication to *ibang tao* is indirect while direct for *di-ibang tao*.

This study emphasizes the preference of teachers of College of Education on the utilization Filipino language that will be described as direct or indirect and the distance in communication (oral) among teachers that is termed *iba* or *di-ibang tao* based on the classification of Salazar (2002). This concerns the formal and informal transactions inside the University.

This will be limited to the regular and part time faculty members of the College of Education, Boni Campus.

This study is significant in enlightening the utilization of Filipino in specific communication and school transactions. After this, the results will be disseminated to students.

This will be also be a step in intellectualization and elaboration of the utilization of Filipino in the University.

In addition to this, the flow of oral communication will be understood. This will lead to the formulation of efforts for the development of relationship of employees in the University. An appropriate concrete action is opening of program for staff development emphasizing communication flow, downward at upward communication that are significant parts of the success of camaraderie in the Institution.

Materials and Methods

This research utilized the descriptive-survey and evaluative type of study. According to Lartec et.al. that this type is appropriate in describing present trend nd scenes. This will take a research on the culture of communication in a particular unit of organization.

This is also a correlational study because this will establish relationships between specified variables (level of specificity of preference words in Filipino and the distance in communication of faculty members in College of Education.

The respondents of this study are the faculty members (permanent and part timer) of Rizal Technological University in the Philippines, particularly in the College of Education.

Through Slovin's formula, sample respondents were drawn. From the total population of sixty five (65), 56 respondents were part of the study.

A random sampling is used to specify whom will answer the researchers-made questionnaire.

The instrument (researchers-made questionnaire) is prepared based on the concept of Salar. Words written in the questionnaire as choices are verbs and focused on the relationship of the people that are part of the communication process.

It is divided into two parts. The first checklist gives emphasis on the preference words. The second part concerns with the distance of respondents to where they utilized the preferred words.

Verbs are used in the checklist. This is based on the discussion of Ramos and Mabanglo (2012) that words in Filipino have this verbalizing power.

To validate the questionnaire, a face validation was used. This was consulted to professors of language and research.

A dry-run was also used. The questionnaires were answered by a group of teachers that are not part of the College of Education. Reactions and corrections were applied based on the outcome of interview and dry-run.

To validate the results and the data gathered in this quantitative study, the following statistical formulas were utilized.

Slovin's Formula. This was used to draw the samples from the population of faculty members of the College of Education.

Formula: $n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$

where:

n- sample

N- population

e- margin of error

Weighted mean. This is to specify the preference of respondents on the item presented in the questionnaire. This will describe the level of specificity of Filipino and the level of distance in communication in RTU- College of Education.

Formula:

$$WM = \frac{\sum_1^n WF}{n}$$

where:

WM- weighted mean

W- weight

F- frequency

n- number of respondents

Based on the weighted mean, these are the scale and the verbal interpretation for the level of specificity of Filipino and the distance in communication.

| Weighted Mean | Specificity of Filipino (based on preference) | Distance in Communication |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| 4.20 – 5.00 | Indirect | others |
| 3.40 – 4.19 | Quite indirect | Quite others |
| 2.60 – 3.39 | undefined | undefined |
| 1.80 – 2.59 | Almost direct | Quite acquaintance |
| 1.00 – 1.79 | direct | acquaintance |

T-test. This is to test the significance of two variables stated in this study. Formula:

$$t = r[\sqrt{(n-2)/(1-r^2)}]$$

where:

t - t value

R- correlation value

n - number of respondents

Spearman Rank. This is to test the relationship between ordinal data. This is appropriate to identify the relationship between the specificity of Filipino words and the level of distance in communication. This is the formula.

$$R = 1 - \frac{6 \sum D^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Results

These were the results of the study.

1. What is the level of specificity of the Filipino language utilize in communication among the teachers of the College of Education?

Based on the scale, the level of specificity of preferred words in Filipino of faculty members of the College of Education is undefined (2.81). This means that the preference in using Filipino is diverse.

This is based on the equal recognition of faculty members with each other, regardless on the status and power.

Maggay (2002) stressed that, indirectness and undefined status are emphasized in organization. However, there are methods in communicating that is described as aggressive. It is tolerated in any communication culture.

On the study of Austin and Searle in Mortera (2012), there are three concepts of speech act. Locutionary act is direct. Illocutionary act is for indirect messages and perlocutionary is the effect of passage.

According to Fortnato and Valdez (2003), many people thought that Filipino is indirect language because Filipinos are not frank. The validity or truthfulness of message are based on the extra-verbal cues.

2. What is the level of distance in communication among teachers of the College of Education base on their language preference?

Table no. 1

Level of Distance in Communication of Faculty Members of the College of Education Based on their Preferred Words

| PREFERRED WORDS | LEVEL OF DISTANCE | DESCRIPTION |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| PAHAGING | 1.07 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| IPASABI | 1.00 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| IPAGTAPAT | 1.04 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| PAGPAPANGGAP | 2.02 | QUITE ACQUAINTANCE |
| PABIDA | 2.04 | QUITE ACQUAINTANCE |
| PAGTATALO | 2.02 | QUITE ACQUAINTANCE |
| IPAGSABI | 1.13 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| KUWENTUHAN | 1.11 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| IABOT | 1.14 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| MAGTURO | 1.11 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| MAGRETIRO | 1.23 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| PAG-UNLAD | 1.48 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| MAGTURO | 1.55 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| TUMULONG | 1.68 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| GUMAWA | 1.54 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| KONTROLIN | 1.02 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| ISALI | 1.00 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| PANGUNAHAN | 1.46 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| LUTASIN | 1.50 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| SURIIN | 1.00 | ACQUAINTANCE |
| Kabuoan | 1.36 | ACQUAINTANCE |

Based on the preferred words, faculty members recognized their colleagues in College of Education as acquaintance (1.36). This means that there are close/ near relationships in communication inside the group. This will be regard as community as described in the concept of Salazar. It was supported by Maggay (2002) in stating that building community in the process of communication that all are interacting gives the opportunity to forget the line that divides discourses for private things and public information.

There are discourses happening in this community. The communication culture is proved by the study of Hymes in the book of Mortera (2011) that language and culture are related. This includes the following components: speech community, speech situation, speech event, communicative acts, style at ways of speaking.

A solid description of unified communication is happening between people that are equal in state (Wolfson, retrieved on <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0378216693900843>, 2015).

Language inside the organization plays a significant role in the communication of people regarding themselves as acquaintance. This proves the saying that language plays a critical role in discourse. Through use of language, culture is being introduced. Language in the organization has a huge effect in employees (faculty members of College of Education in this context). This is use to identify and assess the objectives and values. This helps to motivate the employees and be part of increasing the objectives in giving service. The success of any organization is directly related not only with the culture but in the language anchored to that culture. (<http://essaysforstudent.com/Business/Impact-Language-On-Corporate-Culture/57337.html>, 10 Sept. 2014).

3. Is there significant relationship between the level of specificity of Filipino and the level of distance in communication?

Table no. 2

Level of Specificity of Preferred Filipino Words VS. Level of Distance in Communication among Faculty Members of College of Education of Rizal Technological University, Philippines

| r-value | t-value | Critical value | Intepretation |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| -0.4 | -2.00814 | 0.4227 | Significant |

Based on the data, the relationship between the two variables is moderate (-0.4 as r-value). There is an inverse description of relationship. This means that direct use of Filipino is for others while indirect is for acquaintance. This may happen with a little possibility and opportunity. The relationship of the two variables is moderate in the context of communication and utilization of Filipino between faculty members in College of Education.

There are different ways of communicating in Filipino in the College of Education because faculty members are specializing different fields. These various fields are utilizing English or Filipino. Some faculty members are using code switching and mixing. This affects the diction (appropriate choice of words) in expressing.

The language register in academe is formal. It is expected to use direct or specific words.

In the study of Wolfson in the *bulge theory*, there is a qualitative difference between the speech behavior that middle class Americans use to intimates, status unequals, and strangers on the one hand, and to non-intimates, status-equal friends, co-workers, and acquaintances on the other. The two extremes of social distance--minimum and maximum--seem to call forth very similar behavior, while relationships that are more toward the center show marked differences (Wolfson, retrieved on <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED340203>, 2015).

Discussions

The level of specificity of preferred words in Filipino in the College of Education of Rizal Technological University, Philippines is undefined (2.81). Based on the preferred words, the level of distance in communication of faculty members is acquaintance (1.36). The relationship between the stated variables is moderate (-0.4).

Conclusions written below are based on the findings of this study.

Faculty members of the College of Education are recognizing the different levels of directness or not of language. This is due to different specializations of faculty members and their various orientation to Filipino and English.

Faculty members of the College of Education are recognizing each other as acquaintance, regardless of position and power.

There is a small possibility of using direct Filipino to others and indirect Filipino to acquaintance. The language register in the academe is formal.

From the conclusions, these are the recommendations:

For staff development, in- service trainings for faculty members of the College of Education should be concerned on the use of language in discourse inside the organization.

For sustainable development of communication culture in the College of Education, preparation and implementation of team building helps. This may emphasize on the purpose of healthy and productive communication in the organization. This may be headed by the dean and the department heads.

In establishing a strong relationship in the college, it is recommended to establish a short term action plan for the development of communication culture. This should be monitored and evaluated. Concrete plan and strategy should be focused on communication and language use that will be significant in carrying out and disseminating the objectives of the College of Education.

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