

Filipino Grammar

Stephen Borja, Justin Ching, Zhean Ganituen

February 22, 2025

Contents

1	Preliminaries	2
1.1	The Filipino Alphabet	2
1.1.1	Remarks on the Digraph: ng/Ng or ” <i>en dyi</i> ”	3
1.2	Common Errors	3
1.2.1	Loan Words, U/O, and I/E	3
1.2.2	Raw v. Daw (Enclitic Particles); Rin v. Din	4
1.2.3	Ng v. Nang	4
1.2.4	<i>Gitling</i> Usage	4

1 Preliminaries

1.1 The Filipino Alphabet

Let \mathcal{F} be the Alphabet for the Filipino language, this alphabet is composed of 56 scripts and 11 punctuation marks [2]. The 56 scripts are divided into two, the first half being the capital letters of the modern Latin script with the addition of "Ñ" and "Ng"; while the other half is the lower case variants of each letter.

The 11 punctuation marks in the Filipino language are the: *tuldok* (.), *tandang pananong* (?), *tandang padamdam* (!), *kuwit* (,), *kudlit* ('), *gitling* (-), *tutuldok* (:), *tuldok-kuwit* (;), *panipi* ("), *pambukas na panaklong* (()), *pampasarang panaklong* ()), at ang *tutuldok-tuldok* (...)

In mathematical notation, we can represent \mathcal{F} as the set:

$$\mathcal{F} = \{a, b, \dots, z, \tilde{n}, ng, A, B, C, \dots, Z, \tilde{N}, Ng\} \cup \{., ?, !, ,, ', -, :, ;, ", (,), \dots\}$$

and the size of \mathcal{F} , $|\mathcal{F}| = 67$.

We can also introduce subsets the following which are subsets of \mathcal{F} .

1. $\mathbb{M} = \{., ?, !, ,, ', -, :, ;, ", (,), \dots\}$, the set of punctuation marks
2. $\mathbb{V} = \{a, e, i, o, u, A, E, I, O, U\}$, the set of upper and lower case vowels
3. $\mathbb{C} = \mathcal{F} - (\mathbb{M} \cup \mathbb{V})$, the set of upper and lower case consonants
4. $\mathbb{V}_{\text{upper}}$ is the set of upper case vowels
5. $\mathbb{V}_{\text{lower}}$ is the set of lower case vowels
6. $\mathbb{C}_{\text{upper}}$ is the set of upper case consonants
7. $\mathbb{C}_{\text{lower}}$ is the set of lower case consonants
8. $\mathbb{L} = \mathcal{F} - \mathbb{M}$, the set of consonants and vowels

1.1.1 Remarks on the Digraph: ng/Ng or "en dyi"

Although the letter "Ng" or "ng" is a concatenation of two separate graphemes or symbols in \mathcal{F} (since $\text{Ng} = \text{N} \cdot \text{g}$ and $\text{ng} = \text{n} \cdot \text{g}$), the letter "Ng" is officially recognized as a symbol in \mathcal{F} since it represents a distinct Filipino sound. In particular, it represents the voiced velar nasal sound, or in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), the η sound [1].

For instance, the word "hangin" has 5 letters namely: "h", "a", "ng", "i", "n", since "ng" is pronounced as a velar nasal sound, not as two separate sounds n-g. Take for instance the word "manger" where "ng" is a substring in but is not pronounced as the velar nasal sound. Instead, its pronunciation is 'meɪ ndʒ ər ("meyn-jeɹ"); not 'mæŋ ʒ ər ("mang-jeɹ"), 'mæŋ ər ("mang-er") or 'mæŋər ("manger").

1.2 Common Errors

1.2.1 Loan Words, U/O, and I/E

Given the Spanish and English roots of Filipino, some *loan* words have rules for Filipino spelling. Let s be any string, the English language \mathcal{E} , the Spanish language \mathcal{S} , and $\mathcal{F}(s)$ is the translation of s in \mathcal{F}

1. $s \in \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(s) : \text{es} \cdot (\mathbb{M}|\mathbb{C})^*$
2. $s \in \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(s) : \text{is} \cdot (\mathbb{M}|\mathbb{C})^*$

Rule (1) denotes that if s is a Spanish word, translating s to a Filipino word would use "es" as the prefix to the word to denote that $\mathcal{F}(s)$ is a word of Spanish origin. On the other hand, for rule (2), if s is an English word, then $\mathcal{F}(s)$ would use "is" as the prefix to the word to denote that it is of English origin.

Another rule for Spanish loan words is the "o" to "u" change. If $s \in \mathcal{S}$ was translated to \mathcal{F} , and the the prefix of s is given by the regular expression $(\text{C}|\text{c})\text{on}(\text{f}|\text{v})$. Then, $\mathcal{F}(s)$ is prefixed with $(\text{C}|\text{c})\text{um}(\text{p}|\text{b})$. In particular, if the $s \models \text{conf} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(s) \models \text{kump}$, otherwise $\mathcal{F}(s) \models \text{kumb}$.

In addition to this, let α be the prefix, ω be the suffix, and $s \in \mathcal{F}$ be any Filipino word and $s \models (\mathbb{M}|\mathbb{C}) + (\text{e}|\text{o})$. If another word $k \in \mathcal{F}$ and $k = \alpha \cdot s \cdot \omega$, then $k \models \alpha(\mathbb{M}|\mathbb{C}) + (\text{i}|\text{u})\omega$. That is to say, that if a Filipino word is the concatenation of a root word that ends in "e" or "o" and a suffix. Then, "e" will change to "i" and "o" will change to "u".

Finally, "e" changes to "i" and "o" changes to "u" if the word is a concatenation of a root word with itself without a *gitling*. Let $s \in \mathcal{F}$ and $s \models s' \backslash -s$ for s' is the word s but if s ends in "e" s' ends in "i", or if s ends in "o" then s' ends in "u".

1.2.2 Raw v. Daw (Enclitic Particles); Rin v. Din

Let $p = "$ " the blank symbol or the symbol containing space. And, we have the sentence structure $S = \alpha + p + EP$. The Enclitic Particles (\mathbb{EP}) is the set $\mathbb{EP} = \{"raw", "daw"\}$ and n is any α is any noun, adjective, verb, or adverb. The usage of "raw" and "daw" is given by:

$$\left(\alpha \models \left[a-z\tilde{n}(ng)A-Z\tilde{N}(Ng) \right] + [aeiou] \equiv (\mathbb{V} \cup \mathbb{C}) + \mathbb{V}_{\text{lower}} \right) \iff EP = "raw"$$

Otherwise,

$$EP = "daw"$$

In other words, if the preceeding word to the enclitic particle ends in vowel, then the enclitic particle is "raw". If it is a consonant, then it is "daw".

This is the same idea with the adverbs "rin" and "din". If the sentence structure $S = \omega + p + ("rin"|"din")$. If ω ends in a vowel then the adverb used is "rin". Otherwise, the adverb is "din".

1.2.3 Ng v. Nang

1.2.4 *Gitling* Usage

References

- [1] Valeria Malabonga. “Heritage Voices: Language - Tagalog”. In: *Heritage Voices Collection* (Jan. 2009). DOI: <https://www.cal.org/heritage/pdfs/heritage-voice-tagalog.pdf>.
- [2] Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino. *Ortograpiyang Pambansa*. Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, 2014. ISBN: 978-971-0197-33-0.