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### Philippine English and Taglish

Philippine English and Taglish both evolved and came into fruition from the colonial occupation of the Philippines by the United States in the 1900's and the modern impact of American culture where learning English creates more job opportunities for people than their counterparts who don't speak it, causing more and more people to use the English language in academical, professional and laboral settings "English is used in official documents of business, government, the legal system, medicine, the sciences, and as a medium of instruction." (Esquivel 60). Naturally, the Anglocentric culture that formed around learning English led to a mix of the aforementioned language with Tagalog and created Taglish. From this, Philippine English and Taglish both became widely used academically, for business or work, and even among family members in daily life and activities in the Philippines. When it comes to phonology for this English dialect, there are some differences that set it apart from Standard American English. For example, there is a diphthong shortening for "i" in the word "mill" would be pronounced as "mail" with more of an "ai" sound. For consonants, one example would be the "f" which is voiceless, labiodental and fricative like in the word "fin" turning into the voiceless, bilabial, stop "p" to make the word sound like "pin" when uttered. Along with the phonological differences within the dialect, there is also code switching that mixes Philippine English with Tagalog and

vice versa.

Philippine English can not be talked about without mentioning Taglish, since it is the most used dialect in the Philippines and with regards to code switching in Taglish, there are two types: “Bautista (1999), labeled the first type of code switching as deficiency-driven code switching, that is, the person is not fully competent in the use of one language and therefore has to go back to the other language. In the second type of code switching, labeled proficiency-driven code switching, the person is competent in the two languages and can easily switch from one to the other, for maximum efficiency or effect.”(Bautista 227). These two types of code switching demonstrates how Filipinos use both languages to make up for a word or phrase they don’t know how to say well or a phrase or word that is easier to say in one language over another in daily speech as well as the ability to use both languages together where not one language dominates the other. The main difference between Taglish and Standard English is the obvious use of Tagalog in conjunction with English at the same time. When Filipinos speak Taglish they code switch at points that are equivalent in both languages and form creative syntaxes using both languages like when they are “ ‘switching at equivalence points’ or ‘smooth switching’. An example from the Soho interview is the following: Pag nagsalita ka [when you talk about it], they’d say “Ay naku [Oh gosh], she’s trying to be holier than thou.” – where the switch is from a Tagalog adverbial clause to an English main clause + English noun clause with an inserted Tagalog interjection ”(Bautista 228). The reasons vary as to why this occurrence of code switching is the way it is and some reasons include secrecy, comedic effect and to create distance between the speaker and what is being said.

The Philippine dialect of English as well as Taglish both go hand in hand in everyday life

in the urban areas of the main island, Luzon, in the Philippines where Tagalog is the main language spoken. Although the phonology and vocabulary of the Philippine English dialect is distinctly different from Standard American English, it is generally mutually intelligible. The mixing of Tagalog and Philippine English is one of many rich and creative blends of English and another language.

Works Cited

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