**FESTIVAL DANCES**

Topic 1: Religious and Secular Festivals

**Festivals**

Festivals is an extraordinary event celebrated by a community, centering on some characteristic aspect or aspects of that community and its religion or cultures.

Here in the Philippines, most of our festivals are Religion related or local community icon related. Here in the town of Leon, we celebrate Kaing Festival as an icon of the Municipality of Leon as a Fruit and Vegetable basket of Iloilo. And if we look in the city of Iloilo, we have Dinagyang Festival which is more of a festival devoted to Senior Santo Niño. Other local examples are Saludan Festival of Tigbauan which is more about the agriculture, life and history.

Most of our Festivals are in existence for decades if not centuries, were the influence of Spain to us.

Additional Info: Various types of festivals here in the Philippines are subject for competition like Dinagyang. They compete with other festivals in the country mainly in terms of the design, music composition, artistic composition, etc. Dinagyang is more known in competing this kind of events because of how massively is this event.

So, there’s two main classifications of festivals: Religious and Secular

**Religious Festivals**

The most general definition of Religious Festivals is a festival having religious significance. So basically, it is festival that are connected to our religious beliefs and tradition. Fiesta is the most common type of religious festival and is celebrated locally in each barangay. Fiesta is associated with religion because depending on the patron or saint of your local community, a specific date is chosen to celebrate for that saint. This is influenced by the Spaniards and the main reason why most of our festival in the country are religious festival.

And us Filipinos take this celebration seriously and elegant as possible. For example, here in Iloilo Dinagyang is a very awaited event for our city as we attract tourist from all over the nation and even international spectators which is requires big efforts.

**Examples of Religious Festival**

Examples of Religious Festivals found locally are, Dinagyang Festival of the Province of Iloilo, Ati-Atihan of Aklan, Sinulog of Cebu and all of them respectively pay tribute to Senior Santo Niño, Pahiyas Festival of Lucban, Quezon for the feast of San Isidro Labrador, Higantes Festival of Agono, Rizal, Feast of Black Nazarene of Quiapo, Manila, Flores de Mayo which is celebrated all around the country.

**Dinagyang** – as already explained, this festival is known around the country to attract tourist and visitors. Started as a divotion to Senior Santo Niño, now became a very iconic symbol of the city of Iloilo. Dinagyang was only another version of Ati-Atihan and Sinulog which in both ways are similar too. In 1977 by the order of the late president Marcos, various regions of the Philippines need come up with festivals and celebrations to boost tourism and development. Celebrated every 4th Sunday of January annually, this event is a “hakot-award” creation, as it receives a ton of national awards since 2006, and even regarded as “The Queen of Festivals in the Philippines”

**Ati-Atihan** – Another celebration for the Feast of Senior Santo Niño, held in Kalibo, Aklan every January of each year. The word ati-atihan came from the Ati People of Panay. This is also the influence of the Fiesta System of the Spanish. It includes, religious activities such as Mass, Rosaries, Procession and many more, within the multiple days of event. Ati-Atihan is where Dinagyang and Sinulog got where they’re now.

**Sinulog -** The Sinulog-Santo Niño Festival is an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January in Cebu City and is the center of the Santo Niño Catholic Christian celebrations in the Philippines.

**Secular Festival**

A secular festival is staged for the aim of publicly celebrating remarkable individuals, commemorating significant historical or cultural events, or re-creating cherished folkways. Secular Festival is the polar opposite of religious festival; perhaps a celebration of people's labour and plentiful harvest. This is where Kaing Festival belongs.

**Examples of Secular Festival**

**Kaing Festival** – Celebrated in the town of Leon, symbolizing Kaing which is a hand-made basket made of bamboo. Not only the Kaing itself is highlighted in this festival but what we put inside of it. As you all know, Leon is the fruit and vegetable basket of Iloilo, so traditionally we use Kaing to transport our produce in to the different parts of PANAY and until we still do this.

**Lechon Festivals –** ang paryos kang ligad idya bala to sa banwa. Dan amo ra!

Well, this festival of course highlights our addiction to Lechon. There are a lot of places in the country, that are known to be the place of the best lechon, pay hindi mag padaog ang Leon eh. Ja imo piggery nga! Basta about ja sa lechon. Pay sa Batangas gid ang grabe.

**Kadayawan Festival -** The Kadayawan Festival is an annual festival in the city of Davao. The festival is a celebration of life, a thanksgiving for the gifts of nature, the wealth of culture, the bounties of harvest and serenity of living. This occur every third week of August each year.

**Panagbenga Festival** - Panagbenga Festival is a month-long annual flower occasion in Baguio, Philippines. The term is of Kankanaey origin, meaning "season of blooming". The festival, held in February, was created as a tribute to the city's flowers and as a way to rise from the devastation of the 1990 Luzon earthquake. Kada 1st of February.

**Paraw Regatta** - The Paraw Regatta Festival or Iloilo Paraw Regatta Festival is an annual festival held every third weekend of February in the Villa de Arevalo district, Iloilo City, Philippines. Its main event is a sailboat race in Iloilo Strait that features the paraw, a Visayan double-outrigger sail boat.

**MassKara Festival -** The MassKara Festival is an annual festival with highlights held every 4th Sunday of October in Bacolod, Philippines. The most recent festival was held last October 30, 2021. The festival sites include the Bacolod Public Plaza, the Lacson Tourism Strip and the Bacolod City Government Center.

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