



# JOURNAL OF NATURAL LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTIC



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 (2023)

PUBLISHED BY  
E-PALLI PUBLISHERS, DELAWARE, USA

## Exploring the Lexicon of Philippine Daily Inquirer Editorials

Richmond Romar S. Rivera<sup>1\*</sup>

### Article Information

**Received:** April 04, 2023

**Accepted:** May 01, 2023

**Published:** May 14, 2023

### Keywords

*Acrolect, Editorials, Lexicon, Philippine English, World Englishes*

### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore the lexicon of the editorials in the Philippine daily inquirer as it only replicates the research done by Bautista on Philippine English. It aimed to come up with a list of new and old words found in the editorials that are published from January to April 2018. The study employed discourse analysis design to determine the Philippine English words from the Philippine Daily Inquirer editorials. The Advil- Macquarie Philippine English Dictionary published by De La Salle University was the basis of the data analysis. From the data that was analyzed, there are new and old words in the lexicon used by editorial writers in their editorial as it would be concluded that the editorial writers who are an acrolect use Philippine English in writing. From the new words that were discovered, it could be deduced that Philippine English, just like any language is also evolving as it adapts new words in its set of vocabularies. It is proven that there is really Philippine English in the country as was found out by the pioneering research of Llamzon (1969).

### INTRODUCTION

There are already different varieties of English. As I've researched, this language is already used on all five continents as a result of colonial expansion in the last four centuries or so. Many countries already use this as a lingua franca (general means of communication). The development of the language English has shown variation with features on different linguistic levels. Another factor that enables one to distinguish the various types of English is its accent or dialect.

Because of these different varieties of Englishes, the concept of World Englishes was born. In the lecture of Dr. Rey John Villanueva, World Englishes functions generally as an umbrella term for all varieties of English worldwide. Kachru (1985) describes the spread of English in three concentric circles: the inner circle that comprises the people who speak the English language as a native language, the outer circle- the people who speak English as a second language and the expanding circle who refers to the person who speaks English as a foreign language wherein the language has no official use in the political and civic life of the people. Platt, Weber, and Ho (1984) as cited by Bautista (2000) enumerate four criteria that a new English must fulfill: it has been developed through the educational system and used as a medium of instruction; it has developed in an area where a native variety of English was not the language spoken by most of the population; it is used for a range of functions among those who speak or write it in the region where it is used and it as become localized or nativized by adopting some language features of its own such as sounds, intonation patterns, sentence structures, words, and expressions.

In the Philippines, English is taught in schools as one of the two official languages of the country, the other being Filipino -- or Tagalog. This variety of English evolved enormously compared to its usual form decades ago. Our country was colonized by the Spaniards before and from

there this language was officially introduced to fellow Filipinos, and after years United States also have control of the nation, which became the reason why this language became widely used for a couple of years.

One of the offshoots of World Englishes is Philippine English wherein language scholars believe that Filipinos have their own style or way of speaking the English language. Llamzon (1969), in his pioneering research on Philippine English, defines Standard Filipino English as the type of English that educated Filipino speak, and which is acceptable in educated Filipino circles. The wide use of Philippine English, paves the way for understanding on the part of the Filipinos. The pioneering research conducted by Llamzon on Philippine English was an experimental research wherein he focused on phonology and grammar wherein he was able to give standard Filipino English based on the sounds they produced and the grammatical structures of their written discourses. Bautista (2000) added that Philippine English is not English that falls short of the norms of Standard American English; it is not badly learned English as a second language; its distinctive features are not errors committed by users who have not mastered the American standard. It is a nativized variety of English that has features that differentiate it from Standard American English because of the influence of the first language and the different culture in which the language is embedded and because of a restructuring of some of the grammar rules.

This study aimed to determine the lexicon in the editorials of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Specifically, it would focus on the new and old terms found in the editorials and its implication.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been researches done by Filipino language scholars who studied Philippine English such as Martin (2014) who revisited the status of Philippine English

<sup>1</sup> Mariano Marcos State University, Philippines

\* Corresponding author's e-mail: [rt28rivera@gmail.com](mailto:rt28rivera@gmail.com)

wherein she said that Philippine English exists and has three circles as an outer circle. Borlongan (2016), also talks about Philippine English status using Schneider's model wherein she said that it has already attained endonormative stabilization wherein it has already been homogenized had has been accepted by Filipino speakers. Flores (2016), who focused on the phonological features of basilectal speakers wherein found out that Cebuano speakers have difficulty pronouncing the interdental fricatives /f/ and /v/. On the other hand, Bautista who exerted much effort in the study of Philippine English came out with a study that focuses on the different areas of Philippine English wherein she was able to come out with a list of words or the lexicons of Philippine English. And it is in this light that this study came to fruition. Moreover, she pointed out also rules in the formation of Philippine English words that became acceptable in the language users in the Philippines which are: normal expansion such as osterize, xerox, and others; preservation of items which have been lost or become infrequent in other varieties: solon, barrio folk and others; coinage: jubilarian, awardee, and others; and borrowing: food, politics, and others.

Moreover, the study of Tadeo (2012) which investigated Philippine English in student publication editorials found that authors of student publication editorials employed Philippine English features that fell under words undergoing morphological processes and using code-switching and code-mixing. Moreover, Kapampangan authors employed most of the morphological processes and some discourse variations patterns established in language formation which are: code-mixing, conversion, affixing, derivation, compounding, coinage, borrowing, clipping, and acronym. It is also noted that the patterns employed by the authors display their creativity in the English language which indicates little awareness of the unacceptable features of Philippine English.

When it comes to the intelligibility of Philippine English, a study conducted by Dita and de Leon (2015), found that speakers with average language fluency are more intelligible than the speaker who has higher language fluency due to the rate of speaking and effort of the less proficient speaker. Meanwhile, the study of Dayon (2018), which described the semantic feature of Philippine English in the Davao region found that the semantic feature of Philippine English in the region was influenced by the language user's social status, regional origin, and context. In student compositions, billboard ads, and office communication, the social status of users in reference to the extent of their exposure to the English language in the school setting and local community influenced their choice and use of words or expressions. Meanwhile, in print media and billboard ads, the regional origin of users in reference to the adoption of local terms by local users determined their use of local expressions or terms for practical reasons. The implications were the following: the exposure of the users to the English language to the school or local community was deficient and they used some local words or terms for easy understanding. In

the study of Esquivel (2019), wherein she explored the Filipinization of the English language in the digital age where she used 60 tweets on Twitter as the corpus of her study. She found out that localization of the English language was solidified by the occurrences of localized spellings, syntax, translated idioms, and innovated lexical items; thus Philippine English finds its expression in the linguistic perspective of the language.

These are the related studies conducted on Philippine English using different corpus or data, but this study focuses on the Philippine English present in the Philippine Daily Inquirer Editorials.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study used qualitative research using discourse analysis to find out the lexicon of the Philippine Daily Inquirer editorials. The source of data would be the editorials in the Philippine Daily Inquirer from January to April 2018 which were downloaded from the website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The data have 5000 words corpus. The editorial writers whereas considered as acrolects. The researcher employed the discourse type of analysis to determine the Philippine English words from the Philippine Daily Inquirer editorials. The Advil-Macquarie Philippine English Dictionary published by De La Salle University was the basis of the data analysis. The new words were defined based on how they were used in the data, while the old words were not defined since they were already included in the Philippine English Dictionary.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### New Words

These words are not included in the Advil- Macquarie Philippine English Dictionary. Furthermore, these words have been used widely by Filipino people in their daily communication and have become accepted by different groups of Filipino speakers.

1. Authoritarian ticket- line-up formed by the administration.
2. Another means- other way
3. Authoritarian tendencies- has the capacity to become an authoritarian leader.
4. Bataan Day- it refers to the special day celebrated by the country which is called the "Araw ng Kagitingan."
5. Butting heads and seats- fighting a person to whom you have a close relationship
6. Career-defining claim- an important claim that changed the course of the lives of the people
7. Charge sheet- a document containing the filing of a case against a person
8. Couched- to sit or lie down
9. Criminal kingpin- a person who controls or organized illegal activity.
10. Darling of progressives- a person who is supported by a progressive group of people
11. Death warrant- an official order for the execution of a condemned person.

12. Diplomatic language- the language used in international relations to solve a pressing issue of each country
13. Downhill- decline or a synonym for the downfall
14. Dropping of charges- to withdraw the complaint or case
15. Drug lord- the type of person that is considered to be the brains of all the illegal drugs that are being sold.
16. Drug money- a payment that is used in drug transactions
17. Drug- an illegal substance that could become addictive
18. Edsa- the event in Philippine history wherein the people gathered in the streets to overthrow Marcos.
19. Errand boys and girls- a person who is tasked to deliver messages.
20. Facebook- a type of social networking site that makes people connected to one another.
21. Fil- American- refers to a person who has Filipino and American blood.
22. Frightfully expensive- alarmingly expensive which means the rate is on the highest level.
23. Get this straight- direct to the point
24. Half-truths- truths that need to be verified.
25. Handwritten legacy- an important thing that needs to be remembered that is written by hand.
26. Health-seeking behavior- a type of behavior that focuses on health issues.
27. Heaving streets- a busy street full of people
28. Hideaway- a place used as a hiding place
29. High-profile- important or controversial
30. House Leaders- congressmen
31. House of Representatives- the lower chamber of the Congress that consists of the congressmen in each province.
32. Ill-gotten wealth- wealth that is obtained by illegal means.
33. Increasingly sharp- being wise
34. Indefinite leave- an act of absence from the office without any specific date of return
35. Institutionalized illusion- a deception that has been commonly committed by many groups of people.
36. Legal and constitutional salvation- a form of saving the person that is in accordance with the law.
37. Main charge- leader
38. Marcosian myths- stories that have been told by the Marcos administration
39. Martial law- a type of government wherein the soldiers are given the power to rule the government
40. More to the point- an additional idea or furthermore
41. Mosquito press- it refers to the media who are always the first ones to arrive and report the latest and hottest issue.
42. Naming names- to reveal the identity of a person
43. New Society- the type of society established by President Marcos
44. Ombudsman- a type of court that investigates cases on public officials
45. Out-of-pocket expenditure- a type of expenditure

that is not included in the savings.

46. People Power Revolution- an event in Philippine history wherein the Filipino people overthrow Marcos government
47. Personal capacities- refers to power and authority.
48. Personal ledger- secret information kept by the president
49. Pork barrel funds- money that came from the salary of the congressmen.
50. Precedent- setting step- a model step that needs to be followed or imitated
51. Press conferences- an interview given to a journalist by a prominent person to answer questions
52. Psychological advantage- an advantage that is being thought by a people
53. Public forums- a place that is reserved for public speeches
54. Right away- immediately
55. Rubout- to destroy completely
56. Sandiganbayan- an anti-graft court
57. Senate President- the leader of the Senate
58. Signature campaign- a form of support that is being solicited through the use of signatures
59. Social media- a tool of communication used by people on the computer or on their cellphones
60. Snap election- in Philippine history an election was held in 1986 because of wide
61. Supermajority- a very large group of senators that supports the Duterte administration.
62. Supreme Court- highest court and the final arbiter of all legal matters.
63. To go on leave- a sign of leaving a specific position
64. TV cameras- refers to media
65. Twin moves- a move that is done simultaneously
66. Yellow army- it refers to the supporters of the Aquino administration.
67. Unconstitutional option- a choice that is illegal and not permissible in the constitution
68. Warm relations- having a good relationship with other people.

Based on the data shown above, there are 68 words that have not been included in the Philippine English dictionary and it shows that Philippine English is evolving just like any language in the world.

#### Old Words

These words have been included in the Advil- Macquarie Philippine English Dictionary and have been long accepted by the Filipino people as is evident through its usage.

1. abandonment
2. Absorbed
3. absurd
4. accepting
5. according
6. Acts
7. accurate

8. accused judges	58. Campaign	108. defectors	163. failure
9. actually	59. Camp	109. defended	164. false
10. adding	60. Carrying out	110. Defense	165. Falsehood
11. Administration	61. categorical	111. Deliberate	166. Family
12. Advised	62. Caused	112. Deodorizer	167. father
13. affirm	63. chair	113. deliberate	168. feels
14. afflicted	64. challenge	114. deluding	169. fighting
15. again	65. Chambers	115. Departure	170. Filed
16. Against	66. champion	116. deprive	171. Filipinos
17. Alarming	67. Characterized	117. describe	172. finish
18. alleged	68. chief	118. designed	173. Fire
19. allowing	69. citizens	119. Despite	174. Firepower
20. all sorts	70. Civilians	120. detailed	175. firmly insisted
21. ally	71. Claimed	121. Detained	176. forced removal
22. always	72. clear	122. detention	177. forced to
23. among	73. close	123. Detection	178. Forcing
24. Amounted	74. Co-equal	129. Diminish	179. forged
25. angry	75. Coming together	130. diplomatic	180. Fortunes
26. Anniversary	76. Committed	131. direct	181. Fraud
27. answer	77. Common front	132. directly	182. friend
28. Anything	78. commonplace	133. downhill	183. Further
29. appear	79. concern	134. Dramatic highlights	184. Generals
30. Area	80. Concluded	135. drugs	185. go on
31. Assurance	81. conducted	136. drug trade	186. Government
32. attached	82. confrontation	137. during	187. Government's chief lawyer
33. Attempt	83. Congress	138. dynamics	188. Governor
34. As soon as possible	84. Considerably	139. egg	189. granted
35. available	85. constitution	140. early	190. Greatly
36. Awareness	86. Control	141. Educate	191. grind
37. axe	87. conveniently	142. Effectively	192. Growing
38. back	88. conversation	143. elder	193. Growth
39. Base	89. Copies	144. Encouraged	194. group
40. beat you up	90. Corner	145. enemy	195. Guilt
41. because	91. Corrupt	146. errors	196. Half- brother
42. before	92. couched	147. Events	197. hand
43. Begins	93. Count me in	148. even	198. harm
44. behalf	94. country	149. eventually	199. Health
45. behind	95. Course	150. Every day	200. heir
46. Benefactor	96. court	151. Evidence	201. Helicopter
47. best	97. create any	152. Exceeded	202. help
48. Better	98. Crimes	153. exchange	203. hesitate
49. beyond	99. Criminal immunity	154. exclaim	204. hint
50. borne	100. crisis	155. Execute	205. history
51. both	101. danger	156. Executive	206. Holed up
52. Branch	102. deal	157. Expand	207. honoring
53. Brushed off	103. Death sentence	158. explaining	208. Horror
54. bullet	104. death warrant	159. Express	209. hurry up
55. Burden	105. debate	160. Extensive	210. Hurting
56. calls	106. declare	161. Facet	211. Idea
57. calmly	107. declaration	162. Facing	212. identified

213. illegal	263. local	313. Others	363. provoked
214. implication	264. Loose	314. Outright	364. public
215. Important	265. luck	315. overseas	365. public forums
216. Increasing	266. make	316. palace	366. Public record
217. increasingly sharp	267. Malacañang	317. panicked	367. Pulled out
218. independent	268. Malignant	318. Part	368. pushing
219. In fact	269. manage	319. participation	369. Putting
220. initially	270. Marketed	320. Patient	370. questions
221. innocence	271. martial law	321. payoff	371. racked
222. inspired	272. Matter of time	322. People	372. raised
223. Instead	273. Massacre	323. period	373. reached
224. Integrity	274. mayor	324. permission	374. Reading
225. Interest	275. Mean	325. personal	375. really
226. interfere	276. Measure	326. personal ledger	376. Rebels
227. insisting	277. meeting	327. Picky	377. received
228. Investments	278. Merely	328. place	378. Recently
229. Investigator	279. method	329. Pledged	379. reclaim
230. invitations	280. mistaking	330. point	380. record
231. involved	281. mix	331. polite	381. reduced
232. Involvement	282. Mock	332. political	382. Reference
233. irrelevant	283. Moment	333. political branches	383. Reflection
234. Issue	284. month	334. political war	384. Refused
235. job	285. monumental	335. political stragem	385. Regime
236. Joined	286. Mortality	336. possibility	386. Relevance
237. Judged	287. motion	337. power	387. Remember
238. judges	288. Must	338. practice	388. Removable
239. judiciary	289. must follow	339. Pre- martial law	389. Reported
240. junked	290. must have	340. prepare	390. Representatives
241. Jurors	291. Mutineers	341. present	391. Repression
242. justices	292. Name	342. President	392. Reputation
243. know	293. nation	343. President's allegations	393. Respectively
244. Landed	294. Nature	344. President's door	394. Responded
245. language	295. New	345. President's signature campaign	395. Return
246. last	296. News	346. press conferences	396. Revelation
247. lasted	297. nothing	347. pressed	397. Review
248. Late	298. Now	348. Prevention	398. Revised
249. Latter	299. numbers	349. previous	399. Revolt
250. lawyer	300. Obvious	350. priorities	400. Ring
251. leaders	301. Offense	351. Principal defendants	401. Role
252. Leading	302. off	352. Principle	402. Ruled
253. leave	303. Office	353. procedures	403. Ruling
254. legal and constitutional	304. official	354. proceeded	404. Running
255. left	305. one last time	355. proceedings	405. Salvation
256. legislature	306. One more day	356. Proposal	406. Searched
257. lengthy	307. On leave	357. Proposed	407. Secret
258. lengthy proceeding	308. only	358. prosecutor	408. Seek
259. Letter	309. optimal	359. protect	409. Seemed
260. liability	310. Options	360. provided	410. Seemingly
261. Lies	311. Orders	361. Provincial capitol	411. Senate
262. Lifetime	312. organization	362. Provisions	412. Senators

413. serious	451. Testament
414. serve	452. Think
415. science	453. Time
416. sharpens	454. Today
417. Shows	455. toppled
418. sign	456. Tougher
419. Signed off	457. threat
420. Since	458. Threshold
421. Siphoning	459. trial
422. Sitting	460. triggered
423. singgered	461. twin moves
424. Son of a bitch	462. two heads
425. soften	463. unanimity
426. Soldiers	464. Uncounted
427. speak	465. Uprising
428. specifically	466. used
429. speech	467. Value
430. Spirit of checks and balances	468. visitor
431. Squirelling	469. Vast
432. start	470. Version
433. Stationery	471. views
434. stemming	472. Vigorous give
435. Stern reminder	473. Virtual
436. Strategically	474. Vowed
437. Strongman	475. wake
438. succeeded	476. waiting
439. supplied	477. Weekly
440. Supreme Court	478. welcomed
441. survive	479. Whole picture
442. Suspect	480. wife
443. sworn	481. Within
444. Swung	482. Without
445. taking	483. word
446. talking and talking	484. Worse
447. tarmac	485. wrinkle
448. Telling	486. written
449. Tend	487. wrong side
450. tersely	

There have been 487 old words that have been defined in the Philippine English Dictionary when it was first published and it shows that Philippine English have been accepted in the country as evident in its usage in the communicative expression of other people.

**Implication of the Philippine English**

Llamzon (1969), said that Philippine English is a product of innovations or a mistake that has been widely accepted by the people. And based on the words that have been gathered it implies that these words have become a part already of our English that we used in the Philippines. As have been observed from the data, most of the

words that have been used in the editorials were mostly Philippine English and it shows that it has a widespread use even among the acrolectal group of Philippine English speakers. Another implication is that just like any languages is also evolving as it is supported by Neoenglish wherein it asserts that language is productive and creative as the structural elements of human language can be combined to produce new utterances, which neither the speaker nor his hearers may ever have made or heard before any, listener, yet which both sides understand without difficulty. Language changes according to the needs of society.

**CONCLUSION**

From the data that was analyzed there are new and old words in the lexicon used by editorial writers in their editorial as it would be concluded that the editorial writers who are an acrolect uses Philippine English in writing. From the new words that were discovered it could be deduced that the Philippine English, just like any languages is also evolving as it adapts new words in its set of vocabularies. It is proven that there is really Philippine English in the country as it was found out by the pioneering research of Llamzon (1969). Thus, it is recommended that there would be researches conducted along other areas of Philippine English and it would be best if it is conducted in the Ilocos region to determine also the kind of Philippine English in this region. Students should be made aware of the existence of Philippine English but this language should not be used in the teaching- learning process. Lastly, the Advil-Macquarie Philippine English Dictionary should be updated to include new words in its lexicon.

**REFERENCES**

Bautista, M. (2000). *Defining Standard Philippine English*. Manila: De La Salle University Press, Inc.

Bautista, M. (2000). *English is an Asian Language: The Philippine Context*. Manila: De La Salle University Press, Inc.

Borlongan, A. (2016). *Relocating Philippine English in Schneider’s dynamic model*. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309002788>

Dayon, C. (2018). *Semantic Feature of Philippine English: A Qualitative Analysis*. Asian Society of Teachers for Research, Inc.

Dita, S. & de Leon, K. (2015). *Intelligibility and Comprehensibility of Philippine English to EFL Students*. 21st International Association for World Englishes.

De Valoes, L. (2014 February 26). *Importance of Language – Why Learning a Second Language is Important*. <https://www.trinitydc.edu/continuing-education/2014/02/26/importance-of-language-why-learning-a-second-language-is-important/>

Esquivel, O. (2019). *Exploring the Filipinization of the English Language in a Digital Age: An Identity Apart from Other World Englishes*. Central Luzon State

- University.
- Flores, E. (2016). Phonological Features of Basilectal Philippine English: An Exploratory Study. *DLSU Research Congress 2016*.
- Llamzon, T. (1969). Standard Filipino English. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press. Lecture notes on World Englishes Paradigm and Approaches.
- Delivered by Dr. Rey John Villanueva
- Martin, I. (2014). Philippine English Revisited. World Englishes.
- Neoenglish. (2010, December 16). Characteristics and Features of Language. <https://neoenglish.wordpress.com/2010/12/16/characteristics-and-features-of-language/>