LANGUAGE ENDANGERMENT AND MIGRATION IN THE PHILIPPINE CREOLE COMMUNITIES

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1



NEW PERSPECTIVES ON MIXED LANGUAGES

FROM CORE TO FRINGE

Edited by Maria Mazzoli, Eeva Sippola



DE GRUYTER

Danae Perez, Eeva Sippola (Eds.) POSTCOLONIAL LANGUAGE VARIETIES IN THE AMERICAS

KOLONIALE UND POSTKOLONIALE LINGUISTIK COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL LINGUISTICS

Creole Studies – Phylogenetic Approaches

edited by Peter Bakker, Finn Borchsenius, Carsten Levisen and Eeva Sippola

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Language Ideologies in Music – Emergent Socialities in the Age of Transnationalism

Edited by Eeva Sippola, Britta Schneider, Carsten Levisen Volume 52, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION an interdisciplinary journal

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2

CREOLE IDENTITY AND TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION IN A PHILIPPINE CONTEXT

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Wika na Paakaka

LANGUAGE ENDANGERMENT IN CAVITE CITY

- Cavite Chabacano is severely endangered, with less than 4,000 in a city of 100,000.
- Tagalog and English are now dominant in Cavite City due to their linguistic capital in the national/global market
- The functional domains of Cavite Chabacano are highly restricted:
 - The majority of fluent speakers are of the grandparental generation or older.
- Cavite Chabacano began to fade in the 1900s



CHABACANO IN THE POPULAR IMAGINATION



- Chabacano is still viewed as the legitimo Cavite City language, as opposed to Tagalog, Spanish, English, Visaya, etc.
 - Represents the good times when Cavite City was cleaner, safer, more prosperous, etc.
 - Authentication (Bucholtz 2003) of Chabacano speakers
 - Tied to local values and culture, even though most people don't speak it anymore – or maybe because they don't: symbolic functions

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5



LANGUAGE LOSS

- Key factors world-wide
 - Language attitudes, globalization, migration, and socioeconomic factors (e.g. Bradley 2002, Grenoble & Whaley 2006, UNESCO 2003)
- In the Philippines
 - Discrimination, loss of ancestral lands (Headland 2003, Tan 2015)
 - National language policy, migration within the country and abroad (Lesho & Sippola 2013, Anderson & Anderson 2007, Lorente 2007)
 - Shift away from local identities (McKay & Brady 2005)
- > Social upheaval related to Philippine migration is well documented
 - Linguistic consequences only recently being explored



How does migration affect Creole identities in situations of language endangerment?

- –How does local, linguistic identity change in relation to migration?
- -How does the change fit into linguists' discourses on language loss and multilingualism?



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SHIFT LEADING TO LOSS?

- Language loss due to shift to another language is often framed as culture loss
- Some linguists have questioned this idea (Dorian 1998, Muehlmann 2008, Childs et al. 2014), or that it necessarily decreases linguistic or cultural diversity (Ladefoged 1992)
 - People who have shifted languages don't always feel that they have lost their culture (Dorian 1998)
 - Reflects Western, monolingual language ideologies that are inappropriate for describing multilingual societies (Childs et al. 2014)
 - Also assumes that culture and identity are static



 As in other Philippine communities (McKay & Brady 2005), Caviteños below grandparental age have shifted to a more national and global orientation

	OFW/lived abroad	Family abroad	Worked outside Cavite City	College outside Cavite City	Vacationed abroad
Total	9	28	9	17	9
%	21.4%	66.7%	21.4%	40.3%	21.4%

- Positive but nostalgic attitudes toward Chabacano
 - Chabacano is not seen as useful or necessary
 - Must learn other languages for practical reasons
- Even for people who stay in Cavite City, their daily linguistic and cultural practices are translocal

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TRANSLOCALITY IN CAVITE CITY

- Multilingualism commented on, as benefit (Spanish, Arabic, other Philippine or European languages)
- History of contacts: Galleon trade, Chinese Mestizo community, US Army Base
- Transnational contacts through work and family abroad (US, Europe, Middle East)
 - OFW money to set up small businesses, build nicer homes, buy cars, donations...
- Middle class, urban lifestyle proximity to Manila
- Colleges geared toward the global service and care industries



LANGUAGE LOSS AS CULTURE LOSS IN CAVITE?

- The decline of Chabacano has accompanied a shift in place identity from local to translocal, as a result of migration to and away from Cavite
 - Cavite's current shift from Chabacano to Tagalog/English is related to longstanding historical/cultural patterns
- Cavite's blend of Tagalog-Spanish-Chinese-American culture seems to be going strong
- As others have shown, the idea that "when a language dies, a culture dies" is difficult to maintain in the multilingual Philippine context