Factors Considered in the Use of Angry Registers in Northern Catanduanes Bicol Conversations

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Abstract - *Angry register (AR), in which certain nouns, adjectives, and verbs are replaced when the speaker is angry – is typologically rare and apparently limited in distribution to just the Greater Central Philippine subgroup. In general, lexical items from the normal register are simply replaced by synonymous words (excluding curse words and other vulgar words) from the angry register, and the sentences remain syntactically and morphologically identical to normal register sentences. As such, to explore this unique linguistic feature limited to a few Philippine languages, the study was conducted using the analytical framework called Hymes' SPEAKING model. Through the use of observation sheet and interview, the factors considered by Catanduanganon speakers when using angry registers (ARs) were examined. Data were collected from 90 participants divided into three groups (high school, college, and graduate/ professional levels) from the Northern municipalities of Catanduanes such as Viga, Pandan, Caramoran and Panganiban. Results specified that the use of ARs is influenced by the* setting, gender, relationship, *and* age difference of the speaker and recipient of ARs.

Keywords- *spoken angry registers, Northern Catanduanes Bicol, Hymes' SPEAKING model*

INTRODUCTION

Variability is inherent in human language. When people use language in different social and communicative contexts, their language often differs in terms of both grammatical and lexical choice. In other words, people use different linguistic forms on different occasions, and different speakers of a language will say the same thing in different ways. According to [1], most of this linguistic variation is highly systematic, in a way that speakers of a language make choices in pronunciation, morphology, word choice, and grammar depending on a number of non-linguistic factors. These factors give rise to register variation in which linguistic features vary in response to communicative purpose and the constraints of the communicative situation.

In addition, as pointed out by [1], the description of a register covers three major components: the situational/communicative contexts, the description of pervasive linguistic features; and the analysis of the functional associations between linguistic forms and situational contexts.

In other words, register variation can be traced on speaker's purpose in communication, the relationship between speaker and hearer, the production circumstances, and the social characteristics of the speaker.

With regard to register variation, one area of particular interest has been the angry register of the Bikol languages that correlates with a particular social situation or occasion of use, which is the situation of being angry. The angry register forms are not generally predictable from the normal register forms, although there may at times be a slight resemblance between the two [5]. Indeed, angry registers would be incomprehensible to a non-native speaker who had only learned the normal register of the language.

To date, only the work of [5] on angry register of the Bikol languages of the Philippines was evidently recorded. This paper exhibits that an angry register exists in at least three of the languages of the Bikol Region. In fact, history says that these angry registers did exist even during the start of the 17th century. The author investigated the angry lexicon derivation such as the coinage of morphological processes which includes infixation, partial replacement, phoneme replacement, and morphological processes in Old Bikol. In general, this study provides a synopsis of the spoken angry register in the three Bikol languages like Northern Bikol (Naga), Southern Bikol (Buhi-non) and Southern Bikol (Rinconada). Moreover, he shows pieces of information as regards the usage of the angry register as well as the influence of history in the development and reconstructibility and the processes in forming its variants.

And while angry register existed in the Northern Bikol language at least four centuries ago, little if any literature is readily available about it. Likewise, given the apparent oddity of angry register of Northern Bikol language in general, and of Northern Catanduanes Bikol in particular, among the languages of the world, there is a need for greater attention to the factors associated to its use in spoken discourse. Hence, this investigation.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This paper dealt with the factors considered in the use of spoken angry register of Northern Catanduanes Bikol language.

Theoretical Framework

This study is guided by the concepts and paradigms of Hymes' SPEAKING model. Similar to Halliday's concept of register, Dell Hymes developed the 'Model of interaction of language and social setting' (the so-called S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G model) to categorize speech situations. With the help of eight components, speakers may characterize the context of an interaction, and, thus, make correct use of language.

According to [3], language cannot be studied in isolation. It has to be studied in the wider context of cultural and social aspects. Language is not limited to a mere technical set of grammatical rules. In fact, it has a specific context, both in terms of the individual and the cultural norms and beliefs. This proposed study is anchored on the concepts and paradigm of cultural influences in language and linguistic analysis. Thus, angry register of Northern Catandunganon Bikol was examined using Hymes' SPEAKING model to explore the 'larger context' and to give support to the 'local context' derived from CA analysis.

METHODOLOGY

This section presents and discusses the research design, research participants and setting, research instruments, data collection procedure and methods of analysis of the study.

Research Design

Descriptive- qualitative research design was used in this investigation since it described the nature of speech event where the use of angry register took place and the factors considered by the speakers.

Research Participants and Setting

The study was conducted in Catanduanes, Bicol. The participants involved 90 residents of Viga, Pandan, Caramoran and Panganiban, the municipalities that represent the Northern Catanduanes Bikol language. To ensure broad description of angry registers, the selected participants have varied age and educational levels. They were categorized into three and these were: high school, tertiary, and professionals/college graduate levels. There were thirty (30) research participants in each level, and in each level there were 15 males and 15 females. Thus, a total of 45 males, 45 females and an overall total of 90 research participants. The age of the participants ranges from 15 to 64 years old.

Moreover, only 90 participants were purposively chosen in the study since the aim of the present study was to provide an in-depth description of the nature of spoken angry registers by which limiting the number of respondents in qualitative studies is not aimed at generalizing but clarifying the idea. Likewise, research participants under tertiary level were students from Northern Catanduanes who are currently enrolled in Catanduanes State University (CSU), while for secondary; the research participants selected were students of Pandan School of Arts and Trades (PSAT). Research participants under professional/college graduate level came from varied backgrounds and professions, but all were college graduates and currently employed. The inclusion criteria set for the study are the following: (1) the participant must be a resident of any of the municipalities that represent the Northern Catanduanes; and (2) he/she speaks the Northern Catanduanes Bikol language, also known as Pandan Bikol (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/cts). Lastly, the schools CSU and PSAT were purposively selected due to two reasons: first, accessibility to the researchers and second, these schools serve as the melting pot of students from different municipalities in the island.

Research Instruments

The study utilized the observation sheets provided by the participants and interview transcriptions. The present study selected the observation sheets that best fit the criteria of angry registers used in angry situations. To perform this inquiry, the data were collected through the use of observation sheet and follow-up interview. The observation sheet was adapted from [8] study on the sequential organization of gift offering and acceptance in Chinese. The researchers used observation sheet because capturing actual use of angry register in conversations deem to be unrealistic. One reason for this was that the emotional state of the participants was difficult to predict and it was impossible to expect the researchers to follow the participants around and make recordings of conversations. Second, the aim of this paper was to find out how people talk when they are not being systematically observed, and the presence of the researcher may undermine this task of gathering data on natural speech. Thus, with the use of observer's sheet, the occurrence of observer's paradox can be isolated. In addition, the use of follow-up interview may also allow the participants to "validate" the researchers' interpretation of their use of angry register; this would be particularly important since the utterances that were documented were in the participants' first language. Lastly, following [8] used of observation sheet, the research participants were required to write down the sequence of the exchange, as accurately as possible by eliciting the actual statements made by the participants. Also, the observation sheets were distributed in advance to the potential research participants. The research participants were selected through purposive sampling since the present study is anchored on Northern Catanduanes Bicol angry register.

Data Collection Procedure

The respondents were presented with an observation sheet, which was divided into two parts. In part I, the respondents were asked to provide basic personal information like age, gender, municipality/hometown and cell phone number. The cell phone number was required for the scheduling of follow-up interview. In addition, in Part I, research participants were asked if they are using angry register, along with the reasons for using and not using it and if they reported they are using it, they were asked as to its frequency of use and degree of anger when using it.

Meanwhile, Part II of the questionnaire includes the observation sheet where research participants were asked to write down the conversation or exchange sequence that happened while using the angry register. Only those participants who reported that they are using angry registers are required to answer Part II.

After the observation sheets were collected, the researchers randomly selected four (2 males and 2 females) research participants from each level who are using angry register to take part in the follow-up interview. Having 12 interview subjects for the study was decided based on phenomenological inquiry and data saturation criteria, wherein at least 3 to 13 subjects are required for in-depth interviews in phenomenology.

The interview was conducted to collect substantial data to identify the main factors when using spoken angry registers. Research participants under tertiary level who were selected for follow-up interview were met by the researchers for a face-to-face interview. However, due to time constraints and geographical difference of those research participants under professional/college and secondary levels, phone interview using the contact number they indicated on the observation sheet was used. Before phone interview was made, the researchers sent a text message asking for permission to conduct follow-up interview, giving full authority for the participants to choose the time and date they preferred.

Method of Analysis

To identify the factors considered in the use of spoken angry registers of the participants, the observation sheets and the transcriptions of recorded follow-up interviews were analyzed using qualitative approach. Qualitative data analysis was done, wherein subsequent themes, categories and patterns were generated, followed by coding of data. Qualitative data analysis was utilized since there was no single study conducted along this area and established framework for analyzing angry register factors was not yet made. Thus, at the end of the study, the researchers hoped to generate categories that emerged from the data that served as framework. In addition, frequency count, percentage and rank were used to identify the main factors for the speakers' utilization of spoken angry registers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the analysis and discussion with regard to the main factors affecting the use of spoken angry registers among Bicolano speakers.

Factors Considered in the Use of Spoken Angry Registers

The use of spoken angry registers is influenced by different speaking factors, for instance *the setting, gender of the AR speaker and AR recipient, age of the participants,* and *the relationship between the participants.* Following Hyme's SPEAKING model, the following analyses were made along setting and description of the participants.

Setting

As shown in Table 1, the use of spoken angry registers is influenced by the setting in which the speech event occurs.

Table 1. Setting

Setting	HS	College	College Graduate/ Professional	*Total*	%
Home	10	11	16	37	52.86
School	13	6	3	22	31.43
Public place	2	6	3	11	15.71
TOTAL	**25**	**23**	**22**	**70**	**100.00**

Findings reveal that spoken angry registers are mostly used at home with 37 frequency counts or 52.86%, followed by school with 22 counts or 31.43% and lastly, in public place with 11 frequency counts or 15.71%. This suggests that the use of angry registers reflects social solidarity and relationship. It appears that spoken angry registers are often used within the comfort zone of the participants like home and school, with an underlying assumption that cohesive and causal relationship was already established between the participants in the spoken discourse. The findings of the study are in line with [2] notion of solidarity-social distance dimension which asserts that the frequency of interaction between the participants determines the degree of solidarity among them. The solidarity-social distance dimension is interrelated in the setting of the use of angry registers, in such a way that the home, school, and public place where angry registers are used are also the common settings for interaction between participants to occur.

Gender of the Speaker and Recipient of Angry Register

Results obtained from the observation sheets regarding gender of the participants in the spoken discourse are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Gender of the Participants

Participants (A – AR user/B- AR recipient)	HS	College	College Graduate/ Professional	*Total*	%
Male (A) – Male (B)	12	9	6	27	38.57
Male (A) – B Female (B)	1	6	2	9	12.86
Female (A) – Female (B)	12	7	9	28	40.00
Female (A) – B Male (B)	0	1	5	6	8.57
TOTAL	**25**	**23**	**22**	**70**	**100.00**

As observed from the table, the gender of the participants in the spoken discourse affects the use of angry registers in such a way that angry register speakers take into consideration the gender of the recipient of the angry register.

For participants with the same gender, 28 counts or 40% for female AR speaker to female AR recipient was identified and 27 frequency counts or 38.57% for male AR speaker to male AR receiver, thus, a total of 55 out of 70 responses. Meanwhile, there are nine (9) counts or 12.86% for male AR speaker to female AR receiver and six counts or 8.57% for female AR speaker to male AR receiver, accounting for 15 responses for participants with different gender.

Furthermore, the data from the interview transcript as can be seen below also show a similar finding.

(1)   **Researcher:** *babaye or lalake?*   [male or female?]
Respondent: *babaye* [female]
Researcher: *ngata ta dai ka gagamit kauni sa lalake?*
[What is your reason for not using ARs when speaking to males?]
Respondent: *pano iba man baga ang lalake pag nauyam, iba man ang feeling ninda.*
[Because males are different when they are angry and they have different feeling.]
Researcher: *So piga isip mo din ban a baka magkalain ang hiling ninda saimo?*
[So you are thinking that they may get the wrong impression about you?]
Respondent: *Iyo, iyo ngani ito.*
[Yes, yes that's it.]

(2)   **Researcher:**   How about the gender?
Respondent: Yes.   Yes.   *Mas nagagamit ko siya sa kapwa lalaki.* **[I usually use it to my fellow male.]**
Researcher: *Ngata bako sa babaye?* [Why are you not using it to females?]
Respondent: Siguro *parang annoying kasi sa kanila, sensitive kasi ang babae.* **[I think ARs are annoying to them since females are sensitive.]**

Given the above finding, it appears that angry registers are often employed by speakers to receivers of the same gender. This observation coincides to [4] argument that linguistic behaviour is powerfully affected by context, in this case by gender, and by people's perceptions of the appropriate usage for a particular context. Likewise, [4] further elaborated that the social significance of linguistic choices (like the use of angry registers) takes into consideration the group (male and female) and the community norms.

Relationship between Speaker and Recipient of Angry Register

The relationship between the participants in the spoken discourse involving angry registers was also examined. Table 3 summarizes the identified relationships between speaker and receiver of AR and its subsequent frequency counts and percentages.

Table 3. Relationship of the Participants

Relationship	HS	College	College Graduate/ Professional	*Total*	%
Sibling	9	6	10	25	35.71
Cousin	5	2	2	9	12.86
Parent/child	0	0	2	2	2.86
Husband/wife	0	0	3	3	4.29
Classmate/schoolmate	10	8	0	18	25.71
Friend	2	7	1	10	14.28
Colleague	0	0	1	1	1.43
Teacher/student	0	0	2	2	2.86
TOTAL	**26**	**23**	**21**	**70**	**100.00**

As the table indicates, the top four most common relationships found among users and receivers of angry registers are: first, sibling (f = 25); second, classmate (f =18), and friend (f =10); and fourth, cousin (f = 9).

Furthermore, the results also suggest that the relationship between participants (speaker and receiver of AR) is interrelated to the setting where an AR was employed. Since angry registers are often used inside the home, it is not surprising to find that a close family member like sibling can be the receiver of the AR. Likewise, as discussed in the setting, home and school are the common settings where frequent interactions between participants could occur, thus, it follows that the relationship between the participants is influenced by its setting. Also, in reference again to the solidarity-social distance dimension theory of [2], belonging to the same social group, or sharing an occupation or common membership of a community, and belonging to the same gender contributes to level of solidarity-social distance between participants.

In addition, the findings also reveal that the level of closeness/intimacy (formality/informality) and how well the speaker of AR knows the recipient are factors that contribute to the use of spoken angry registers. This is illustrated by the following interview transcript samples below:

(3) **Respondent:** *Kadalasan piga gamit ko siya sa mga laraki ta mas close ko ang boys kaya sainda ko nagagamit ang ARs na pigajoke lang.*
[Most of the time I jokingly use them to boys because they are close to me.]

(4) **Researcher:** Okay. So whenever you use the ARs do you consider your relationship to the person you are talking to?
Respondent: Yes. Like close friends, same age.

(5) **Researcher:** Okay, so whenever you use AR do you consider the age of the person you're talking to?
Respondent: *Opo ma'am, opo ma'am. Pero kung* sister *ko man lang* or brother, okay *lang*.
[Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am. But if I'm talking to my sister or brother, it's okay.]

Thus, it can be claimed that angry registers are frequently used by speakers to receivers whom they know well and have

constant interaction. However, this claim contradicts [7] bulge model of politeness which explains how politeness peaks with friends and decreases with intimates since in the case of AR users, it appears that they tend to consider their classmates and friends as intimates, thus allowing for negative politeness, that is, the use of ARs to occur.

Difference in Age of the Participants

The age of the speaker of angry register and of the recipient of AR was also examined as a speech factor in relation to the use of spoken angry register. Table 4 below indicates that the age between the speaker and the receiver of AR is also taken into account when using the spoken angry registers.

Table 4. Age Difference of the Angry Register User and Angry Register Recipient

Participants (A – AR user/B- AR recipient)	HS	College	College Graduate/ Professional	*Total*	%
old (A) – young (B)	2	1	12	15	21.43
young (A) – old (B)	7	5	6	18	25.71
of the same age	16	17	3	37	52.86
TOTAL	**25**	**23**	**21**	**70**	**100.00**

As shown by the table, AR speaker of the same age as the AR receiver has 37 frequency counts or 52.86%, this was then followed by young AR speaker and old AR receiver with 18 counts or 25.71%, and lastly by old AR speaker and young AR receiver with 15 frequency counts or 21.43%.

Likewise, results of the follow-up interview support these findings. The following are the sample interview transcripts:

(6) **Researcher:** So usually *pigagamit mo uni sa kaedaran mo or sa mas gurang ka?* [So usually you use ARs to someone of your age or to someone who is older than you?]
 Respondent: *sa mga kaedaran* [Someone of my age.]

(7) **Researcher:** *Dai ka gagamit kauni sa mga gurang? Halimbawa su kahulonhulon mo gurang saimo.* [You're not using AR when talking to old people? For example when you talk to old folks]
 Respondent: *Mae man.* [No]

(8) **Researcher:** So *sa hiling mo pag yagamit mo ang ARs sa mas gurang saimo, sa hiling mo* disrespectful ang dating? [Do you think it is disrespectful to use ARs to someone older than you?]
 Respondent: Yes especially to other relatives

(9) **Researcher:** *Pag yagamit mo ang ARs pigaheling mo su edad kan kahullonhullon mo?* [When you use ARs, do you take into account the age of person you're speaking?]
 Respondent: *Sa kaparehas na edad.* [Of same age]
 Researcher: *Ta sa gurang?* [How about to older people?]
 Respondent: *Dai man po, pagrespeto man sainda.* [No I don't use it, to show my respect to them.]

(10) **Researcher:** So preferred *mo ba siya gamiton sa kaedad mo or sa mas gurang saimo?*
[Do you prefer to use ARs to someone your age or to someone older?]
Respondent: *Sa kaedad ko po.* [To someone my age.]
Researcher: *Ngata pag sa gurang?* [Why don't you use it to older people?]
Respondent: *Baga po kalian man na itaram ko un sa kila, bagi mas okay yun sa kaedad ko ta baging ya-joke lang yan.* [I find it inappropriate if I will use it to old people; I think it is okay to someone of my age because it could be taken lightly.]

Based on the above discussion, it appears that speakers of angry registers perceived ARs to be inappropriate and disrespectful when used to older recipients. This result supports [5] study which shows that angry register is generally used only among same-age speakers or by older speakers to younger listeners, as usage by younger speakers in addressing their elders would imply great disrespect. However, it should also be noted that the data reveals that angry registers could also be used to older recipients when there is a close age gap between the speaker and the recipient, for example, one year to three years age gap. Also, the level of intimacy or closeness of the participants is also seen as a decisive factor in using the angry registers to older recipients, like in the case of siblings and classmates. Thus, although angry registers are commonly used by speakers to receivers of the same age, the solidarity-social distance between the participants greatly influences its use.

According to the foregoing results of the factors that influence the use of spoken angry registers, it shows that the setting, relationship, gender, and age of the speaker and recipient are taken into account when using angry registers. These factors are seen as indicators as to when, where and how angry registers will be employed by the speakers. According to [6], culture provides template as to how emotions must be felt and expressed in a given cultural context. It also shapes the ways people should feel in certain situations and the ways people should express their emotions. In the case of Northern Catanduanganons, the use of angry registers as a form of anger expression is constrained by the factors derived from their social and cultural constructs.

CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH PROSPECTS

Albeit this is an endeavour of exploring the phenomenon of spoken angry registers in Northern Catanduanes, Bicol language, the analyses done by the researchers highlight interesting preliminary conclusion which can be taken into account in the direction of understanding the nature of this phenomenon.

The factors affecting the speakers' use of angry registers were ascertained. It was found that setting, gender of the AR speaker and AR recipient, age of the participants, and the relationship between the participants were among the most influential elements.

Notably, the findings raise evidences that, indeed, spoken angry registers are a unique feature of Bicol language. Noteworthy, this language feature also serves as an indicator in grasping how Catanduanganon speakers perceived and what influences them in using such words especially when they are in the state of being angry.

Finally, some limitations in this study were also very evident. One of which is that the number of participants was quite small to represent each of the three groups (high school, college, and graduate or professional level) in the context of the study. Nonetheless, this shortcoming did not hinder the achievement of the research's purposes set and established.

Despite these boundaries, the researchers firmly believe that several recommendations could be given to increase the validity and reliability of the findings. Follow-up research involving larger scope of utilization of angry registers should be done so as to affirm or to oppose the current outcomes. Future research studies are also necessary in order to extend the scope of this paper. Identification of the common angry registers and its classifications and functions should be explored as well in order to have a better understanding on this interesting phenomenon.

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