

Language Preference of Junior AB English Students of Pangasinan State University as Medium of Communication

Rhenea Lizlie B. Sanchez

Pangasinan State University

Abstract – *Descriptive research was used in the study as a guide. The respondents of the study are the Junior A.B English Students of Pangasinan State University. A.Y. 2012-2013. Researchers chose A.B. English students for they are inclined with communication and their course requires them to be good in communication skills. Findings are the following: Low—income status group prefer to use Filipino as the medium of Communication whether it is a formal gathering like debut party. In addition, the group never use English as the language of communication with family members. The Average group prefer Filipino as the medium of communication. They never use English in talking with vendors, and colleagues. High Status Group use Filipino as the preferred language. They do not use vernacular in formal gatherings and in talking with their boss. This indicates that whatever status you have, Filipino, the National language, will always be the preferred medium of communication. Moreover, formal occasions pushes people to use English as the preferred language to use. This indicates that English remains the corporate medium of communication.*

Keywords: Language, Preference, Medium, Communication

INTRODUCTION

The choice of language to use varies in context, and it is affected more by whether one is speaking to a parent, teacher, police officer, priest, friend or vendor rather than by whether one is discussing how to manage one's finances or how to solve a family problem or whether one is arguing, requesting or complimenting.

The language surveys found the vernacular to dominate in the home, neighborhood and community. 'Official talk' in school was generally the domain of English, followed by Filipino. At the workplace, the vernacular was used with co-workers, while English, sometimes Filipino was used with the boss. In general for the work domain and other domains, the professionals and semi-professionals used more English and Filipino or the code-switching variety, using these two languages, while the non-professionals used more Filipino and the vernaculars and a little of English, Language preference for both business

and education placed English first, followed by Filipino and then by the vernacular.

Filipino bilinguals use English in school when interacting with people of higher status and talking about formal topics such as historical events or scientific concepts. At home when interacting with family members and in the community with peers and subordinates, the local vernacular or Filipino or code-switching variety is used for talking about informal topics. Based on the Study of Dr. Emy Paise, a professor of English Language and Linguistics of Ateneo de Manila University, there were factors correlation with language proficiency in English and Filipino, the findings showed that there were significant differences. Nine variables correlated with the English reading proficiency. These are gender, birthplace, and I.Q. for the personal characteristics. For language use, the home with high status person and self talk correlated with English reading proficiency. Socioeconomic status in terms of social class position and household amenities

were significant correlates. For media exposure, it is the print media. As for writing proficiency, there are four variables, namely: I.Q., birthplace, self talk, and print media. With regard to Filipino language reading proficiency, six correlates are statistically significant. These are language attitudes toward Filipino and English. The language use indicators are with high status persons and when praying. Socioeconomic status in terms of household amenities and for media exposure, it is the Filipino print. For Filipino language writing proficiency, seven correlates are statistically significant. These are household amenities, attitudes toward Filipino and English when conversing and praying.

Regarding media exposure, English and Filipino print are statistically significant. This study showed that LANGUAGE USE and POSITIVE ATTITUDE are important in achieving language proficiency.

Another interesting finding is that English is perceived to be the appropriate language for formal situations, while Filipino and the vernacular are for informal situations. The Filipino bilingual will continue to use his/her vernacular at home and in the neighborhood for his/her daily activities, to gain functional literacy, to preserve and enhance his/her cultural and literary heritage within his/her ethnic group. He/She will use Filipino, the national language, as the lingua franca for unity and national identity, as well as for education and government. He will maintain English as language for wider communication, for economic purposes, for global cooperation, and for international diplomacy.

Value orientations also affect language use besides social relationship. Since the Filipino bilingual is more status and person oriented, he/she stresses the values of social acceptance, smooth interpersonal relationship (SIR), segmentation and ranking. (Pascasio, 2005)

Moreover, the choice of language whether Filipino, or English, etc. is just one factor to consider in naming his status in the society. More than that, a person's use of

language differs in different factors namely: Social dialect, Idiolect, and Register.

Register is another factor of language which defines a person's Social Status. Register refers to the utterances range from a *high* or formal style, down to a *low* or informal one--and the choice of a high or low style is partly a matter of politeness. Register varies according to specific purpose. For example, you would not speak to a 5-year-old child, an intimate friend, and a professor using the same style of speech. The choice of words and the manner on how a person speaks regardless of who he is talking to determines also his Social Status. A high-status group will always consider respect and politeness to all kinds of people, whether rich or poor; educated or uneducated, polite or drastic.

The researchers would like to find out the language preference of the AB English students as affected by their social status. Furthermore, the study aims to improve further the respondents' communication skills. In addition, the study will suffice them knowledge on appropriate language to use in varied occasions. This will also expose facts on the present status of different languages which may affect their social belongingness.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Descriptive research was used in the study as a guide. The respondents of the study are the Junior A.B English Students of Pangasinan State University. A.Y. 2012-2013.

Researchers chose A.B. English students for they are inclined with communication and their course requires them to be good in communication skills.

**Language Preference of Respondents
Low-Status Group**

GATHERINGS:	LANGUAGE	Frequ ency
Formal Debut		
	English	5

	Filipino	7
	Vernacular	2
Casual Gathering on mall		
	English	1
	Filipino	13
	Vernacular	3
Usual Family Conversation		
	English	0
	Filipino	10
	Vernacular	7
SITUATIONS:		
Talking to Boss		
	English	7
	Filipino	8
	Vernacular	3
Talking with Colleagues		
	English	2
	Filipino	12
	Vernacular	4
Talking with fish Vendor / Janitor		
	English	1
	Filipino	10
	Vernacular	5

This shows that Low—income status group prefer to use Filipino as the medium of Communication whether it is a formal gathering like debut party. In addition, the group never use English as the language of communication with family members.

Language Preference of Respondents Average Status Group

GATHERINGS:	LANGUAGE	Frequ ency
Formal Debut		
	English	3
	Filipino	7
	Vernacular	2
Casual Gathering on mall		
	English	1

	Filipino	5
	Vernacular	2
Usual Family Conversation		
	English	0
	Filipino	5
	Vernacular	3
SITUATIONS:		
Talking to Boss		
	English	5
	Filipino	10
	Vernacular	1
Talking with Colleagues		
	English	0
	Filipino	8
	Vernacular	3
Talking with fish Vendor / Janitor		
	English	0
	Filipino	6
	Vernacular	3

The Average group prefer Filipino as the medium of communication. They never use English in talking with vendors, and colleagues.

Language Preference of Respondents High-Status Group

GATHERINGS:	LANGUAGE	Frequ ency
Formal Debut		
	English	2
	Filipino	2
	Vernacular	0
Casual Gathering on mall		
	English	1
	Filipino	3
	Vernacular	1
Usual Family Conversation		
	English	0
	Filipino	2
	Vernacular	1

SITUATIONS:		
Talking to Boss		
	English	2
	Filipino	2
	Vernacular	0
Talking with Colleagues		
	English	0
	Filipino	3
	Vernacular	2
Talking with fish Vendor / Janitor		
	English	0
	Filipino	3
	Vernacular	3

High Status Group use Filipino as the preferred language. They do not use vernacular in formal gatherings and in talking with their boss.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Low—income status group prefer to use Filipino as the medium of Communication whether it is a formal gathering like debut party. In addition, the group never use English as the language of communication with family members. The Average group prefer Filipino as the medium of communication. They never use English in talking with vendors, and colleagues. High Status Group use Filipino as the preferred language. They do not use vernacular in formal gatherings and in talking with their boss. This indicates that whatever status you have, Filipino, the National language, will always be the preferred medium of communication.

Moreover, formal occasions pushes people to use English as the preferred language to use. This indicates that English remains the corporate medium of communication.

REFERENCES

[1] Douglas Biber, *Dimensions of Register Variation: A Cross-Linguistic Comparison*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1995

[2] F. Parker and K. Riley, *Linguistics for Non-Linguists*, 1994

[3] J. Aitchison, *Teach Yourself Linguistics*. Hodder, 2003

[4] *Language in the USA*, ed. by E. Finegan. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2004

[5] Thomas P. Klammer, Muriel R. Schulz, and Angela Della Volpe, *Analyzing English Grammar*. Longman, 2007

[6] William Labov, *Sociolinguistic Patterns*. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1972

[7] Zdeněk Salzmänn, *Language, Culture, and Society*. Westview, 2003