

May Kalagitnaan Ba ang Wika?

Isang Pagsusuri sa mga Patakarang Pangwika ng Wikipediang Tagalog

Is There a Middle Ground to Language?

An Analysis of the Tagalog Wikipedia's Language Policies

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A Background on the Tagalog Wikipedia



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Fast Facts

- The Tagalog Wikipedia was founded on December 1, 2003. It is the oldest of the Philippine-language Wikipedias.
- The Tagalog Wikipedia currently has around 53,000 articles.
- Per the decision of the Wikimedia Foundation Language Committee on several occasions, as well as the Tagalog Wikipedia community, Tagalog and Filipino (the national language of the Philippines) are considered to be the same, although they are legally different.



Although it has only the second-largest number of articles, the Tagalog Wikipedia plays a *de facto* role as the largest Philippine Wikimedia project.



- Most page views (almost 11,000/hour)
- Biggest reach of speakers (90 million)
 - Highest level of depth (18)



Language on the Tagalog Wikipedia did not have an easy history.



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Tagalog: The Basis of the New National Language



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The national language of the Philippines is Filipino. As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages.

Subject to provisions of law and as the Congress may deem appropriate, the Government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system.

(1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 6)



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The national language has always been part and parcel of the debate over national identity. What was to be the national language has been debated for over 80 years, and continues to be debated today.



Wenceslao Vinzons

Wenceslao Q. Vinzons (September 28, 1910 — July 15, 1942) was a Filipino politician. Born in Indan, Camarines Norte (some 400 kilometers south of Manila), he was known as a student leader, an advocate for Rizal's *Malaya Irrendenta* (the unification of Malay Southeast Asia) and a supporter of Philippine independence from the United States.

At the age of 24, Vinzons became the youngest person to be elected to the constitutional convention which would later draft the 1935 Constitution of the Philippines. His greatest achievement in the Convention was Article XIV, Section 3, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of a Philippine national language.



The Congress shall take steps toward the development and adoption of a common national language based on one of the existing native languages. Until otherwise provided by law, English and Spanish shall continue as official languages.

(1935 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 3)



However, this is not the original text.



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The National Assembly shall take steps toward the development and adoption of a common national language, based on existing native dialects. Until otherwise provided, English and Spanish be the official languages.

(UP Law Center 797; cited in Lim 2010, 16)



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The text was changed as the draft Constitution made it to the Committee on Style, which was tasked to finalize the document. This was done ostensibly under the influence of the man revered today as the *Ama ng Wikang Pambansa* (“Father of the National Language”).





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Manuel L. Quezon was a staunch advocate of the creation of a Philippine national language. He constituted the *Surian ng Wikang Pambansa* (National Language Institute) in 1937 which, pursuant to the 1935 Constitution, eventually concluded that the new national language should be based on Tagalog.



From Tagalog to “Filipino”: Fact, Fiction or Both?



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The debate of whether or not the Tagalog Wikipedia should be called the “Filipino” Wikipedia, or whether or not the language used on the Tagalog Wikipedia is also considered to be Filipino, finds its roots in the 1960s, when considerable efforts were made to begin “differentiating” the two.



Isang kagamitang elektroniko na inimbento ng Pilipino na magsasaayos sa pagtulog ng mga taong hindi makapagtulog ay malapit nang ipakilala sa publiko.



Ponciano B.P. Pineda, in a study he conducted for the National Language Institute, gives examples of how “Filipino” following Vinzons’ prescription may have turned out to be vis-à-vis the existing status quo.



*Metung na elektronik gadyet nga ininvento ti
usa a Filipino nga magapanormal sang
kinandaan nga panagturog ng mga tawo na
nagsu-suffer sa aga makaugip ang saan
agbayag ket mointrudicir sa public.*



The universal approach has been embraced by linguists in the Philippines on the presumption that it makes language development less “elitist” and “Tagalocentric”.



He [Cecilio Lopez, a prominent Filipino linguist] said that from before until 1963, his method was elitist, which aimed to form a national language to be based on only one language. This changed after 1963 as a result of many newly-discovered ways of language development. He saw there what could be the solution to all our problems with the national language. He referred to the universal approach.

(Yabes 1977, 96; cited in Lim 2010, 5)





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Has trying to avoid “Imperial Manila” aided or impeded the growth of Filipino, Tagalog and other Philippine languages?



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The Language Policies of the Tagalog Wikipedia: Helpful or Harmful?



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Linguistic Challenges of the Tagalog Wikipedia

- The prevalence of Taglish and the concept of “deep” language
- Lack of intellectualization
- Official promotion of English



Rolando S. Tinio, in his 1990 book *A Matter of Language: When English Falls*, writes that “deep” language is a malapropism invented by so-called “linguistic idiots” to express their thoughts in language either too serious or complex to be understood.



A present and pressing problem in the Philippines is that language use (public and private) has become so anarchical that language users and even language teachers (in English or Filipino) have forgotten that language is classified.

(Tinio 1990; cited in Lim 2010, 13)

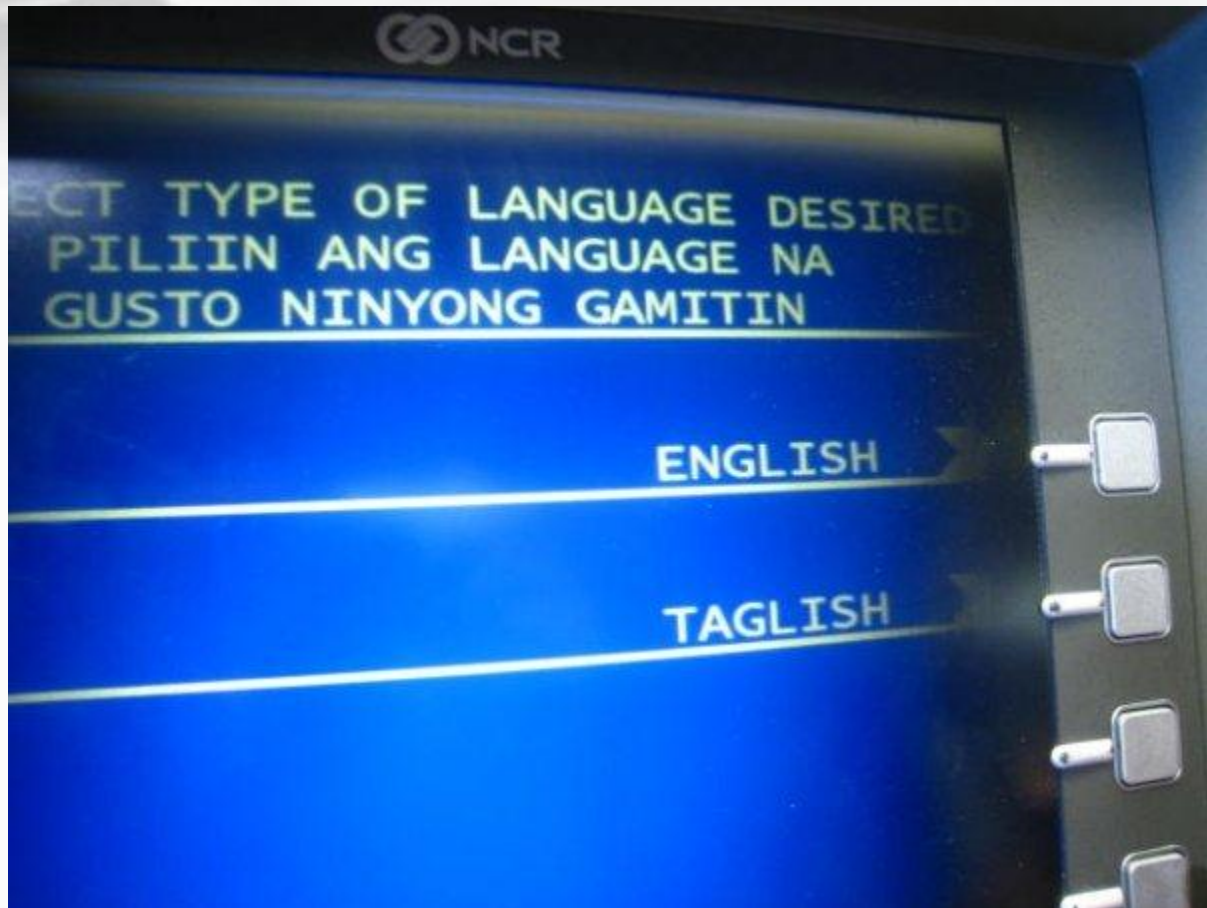


Taglish is a manifestation of the concept of “deep” language, where English is used instead of existing native terms because the terms are so rarely used they seldom enter colloquial, even formal, speech. Consequently, the native term is forgotten.





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In 2004, a bill filed by Senator Manuel “Lito” Lapid was passed by the Philippine Congress, mandating the use of Filipino in business transactions. The bill was vetoed by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who claimed that the language has terms which are “not fit for public consumption”.



There have also been moves by government officials to promote English, often at the expense of the native languages.





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Eduardo Gullas, a member of the House of Representatives, has repetitively filed bills mandating the use of English as the main medium of instruction in a bid to improve the competitiveness of the Philippines. This is opposed by pro-Filipino organizations, such as the *Sanggunian ng Filipino* (SANGFIL), the *Sentro ng Wikang Filipino* (UP-SWF) and the Filipinas Institute of Translation.



So what has the Tagalog Wikipedia done?



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The Tagalog Wikipedia's language policies revolve around a trifecta:


- Translation
- Standard borrowing
- Standard spelling



The language policies of the Tagalog Wikipedia seek to balance the two “extremes” of Tagalog/Filipino language development: purism and universalism, by establishing a tangible, concrete middle ground.



Narito ang mga gabay na patakaran, pamantayan, at panuntunan:

- Sa pangkalahatan, gamitin ang katumbas na salita, katawagan, o pangalan sa [wikang Tagalog](#) para sa pamagat ng pahina at pangalan ng artikulo (partikular na sa pambungad). Piliting huwag manghiram kung may katumbas sa Tagalog. Tahasang gamitin ang alam mo o sa tingin mong tawag nito sa Tagalog.
- Manghiram lamang kung wala talagang mahanap na katumbas sa Tagalog o kung hindi alam ang katumbas sa Tagalog. May ibang mga Wikipedistang susuri sa ginamit na mga salita at pananalita, at tutulong sa pagsasalin at pagsasatagalog ng mga ito. Ngunit mas makakatulong kung magagawa mo na ito.
- Gumamit ng diksyunaryong nasa Tagalog, [Pilipino](#), at [Filipino](#).
- Kung walang mahanap na katumbas sa Tagalog, maaaring hanapan ng katumbas sa [ibang wikang Pilipino](#) ([Bikolano](#), [Cebuano](#), [Ilokano](#), [Kapampangan](#), [Pangasinense](#), [Waray-Waray](#), [Zamboangueño](#), at iba pa). Tagalugin ang nasa ibang wikang Pilipino kung magagawa.
- Hinggil sa pagsasatagalog, gamitin ang ortograpiya sang-ayon sa [Ortograpiya ng Wikang Pambansa](#)  ng [Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino](#) noong 1987 at 2008. Tagalugin pa ito kung maisasatagalog pa.
- Ibigay ang sanggunian ng katumbas na salitang nasa Tagalog na. Maaaring banggiting sanggunian ang mga talahuluganan, ensiklopedya, websayt, o anumang babasahing gumamit na ng salita, kabilang ang mga nobela, [Bibliya](#), maikling kuwento, sanaysay, at iba pa pang katulad na mga lathalain, elektroniko man o hindi.
- Maaaring humingi ng tulong at mungkahi sa [Wikipedia:Kapihan](#) at [Wikipedia:Konsultasyon](#). Maaari ka ring magtala ng mga tanong at kumento sa pahina ng usapan ng artikulo o lathalain.
- Maaari ring basahin ang [Wikipedia:Tulong](#), [Wikipedia:Kodigo ng Kaalaman](#), [Wikipedia:Mga kumbensyon sa pagsusulat ng mga artikulo](#), [Wikipedia:Paano magsimula ng pahina](#), [Wikipedia:Pagpapangalan](#), at [Wikipedia:Paano baguhin ang isang pahina](#).
- Para sa mga pangalan ng bansa at mga kabansaan, tingnan ang [talaan ng mga bansa](#) at [talaan ng mga kabansaan](#).
- Sa teksto, ibigay ang lahat ng katumbas pang mga salita at katawagang nasa Tagalog sa pambungad o katawan ng teksto. Maaari ring gumawa ng seksyon para sa mga kasingkahulugan o sinonimo.
- Huwag kalimutang lagyan ng [interwiki](#), partikular na ang pinagmulang dayuhang bersyon ng artikulo para mas madaling masuri at maitama kung may kamalian man.



This is different from the approach other Wikipedias have taken in terms of determining what form of language ought to be used in writing articles. There are Wikipedias with language policies, but none as extensive as the Tagalog Wikipedia's policies.



Ang Ilog Tamesis ay ang pangunahing ilog sa Inglatera. Kilala ito dahil hinahati nito sa dalawa ang Londres. May haba ito na 342 km mula Thames Head sa Gloucestershire hanggang sa Wawa ng Tamesis sa Dagat Hilaga.



Ang Ilog Thames ay ang pangunahing ilog sa England. Kilala ito dahil hinahati nito sa dalawa ang London. May length ito na 342 km mula Thames Head sa Gloucestershire hanggang sa Thames Delta sa North Sea.



Is information better-delivered using formal or informal styles of writing and speech?

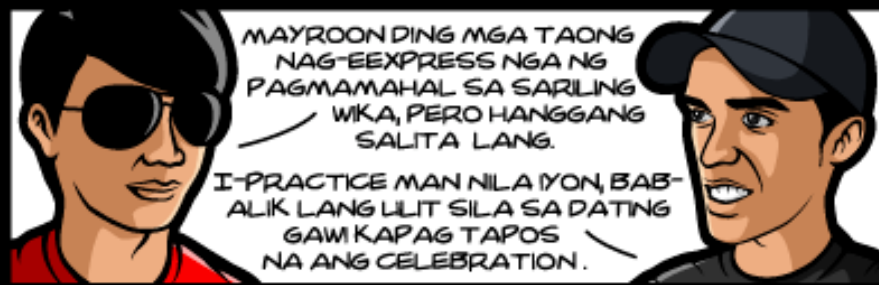
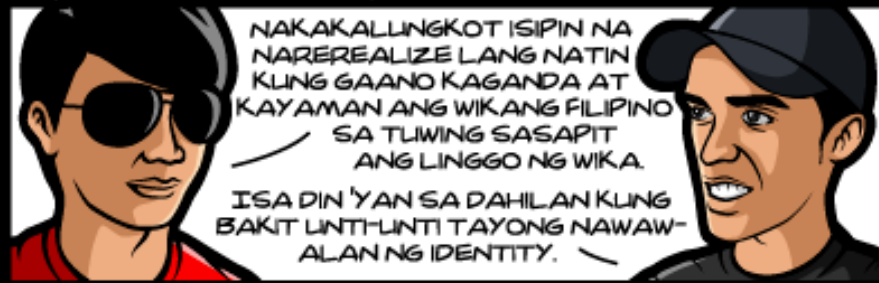
In the Hindi Wikipedia, for example, the language used is informal, where even Hinglish (mixed Hindi-English) is accepted in writing articles.



Some say that the Tagalog Wikipedia's language policies do not help in disseminating free knowledge because the language used does not keep up with what the audience uses.



Higit pa sa malansang fish



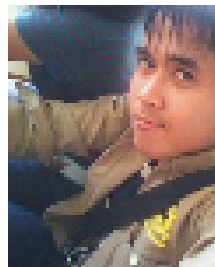
plopulture.tumblr.com



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19TΓΦ_khel68

09/07/2009 1:09 am

.....hi foe muztah?
my bf k n foe b?

xana me n lng bf u gnda u
foe kc eh n inluv foe me

jeje....mhal n foe kta

fde qoe foe b mkuha cp# u if ok
lng foe flz.....tenx

yngatz k foe flgeh luv u

hummmmmft.....lol,z



There is anecdotal evidence that suggests that Filipino Wikipedians are afraid to “touch” the Tagalog Wikipedia because they feel their command of Tagalog is not up to the par of the project.



Conclusions: The Impact of the Tagalog Wikipedia's Language Policies



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There is anecdotal evidence that terms used in and/or preserved by the Tagalog Wikipedia are beginning to enter the mainstream.



- *Sinturong pangkaligtasan* (seatbelt)
- *Teleponong selular* (mobile phone)
- *Talumpati sa Kalagayan ng Bansa* (State of the Nation Address)



There has been no significant impact on readership and editing with the language policies in place. However, editor quality is declining, and the community is composed of only a handful of core editors.



A Need, A Want, A Calling: Fixing the Problems of Philippine Language Policy

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/37136082/A-Need-A-Want-A-Calling-Fixing-the-Issues-of-Philippine-Language-Policy>



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THE END

I will now accept your questions! 😊



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