

True and False Cognates of Hiligaynon and Filipino: A Contrastive Analysis

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Abstract

This study primarily explored on the true and false cognates of Hiligaynon and Filipino languages from the standpoint of contrastive analysis. The analysis was anchored on the assumption that second language could be learned best if it had similarities with the native language of the speaker learning to speak the second language. Specifically, it aimed to meet the following objectives: (1) list down the true and false cognates of Hiligaynon and Filipino, and (2) draw comparisons and implications on teaching the second language.

The grouping of the cognates was patterned on the phonetic semantic resemblance grouping used by Florida Dangan in her study. The phonetic semantic resemblance was subdivided into: (1) total phonetic semantic resemblance, e.g. (Hiligaynon – buhok, Filipino – buhok, English – hair), (2) semantic and partial phonetic resemblance, e.g. (Hiligaynon – lakat, Filipino – lakad, English – walk), and (3) seemingly divergent phonetic semantic resemblance, e.g. (Hiligaynon – ibalhin, Filipino – isalin, English – transfer).

There were 207 words listed which included roots and derivations. Some of them were taken from the dictionary of Tomas A. Abuyen, from the study of Florida Dangan, and from the researcher herself who was also a native speaker of Hiligaynon.

Based on the analysis made between the two languages, it showed that there were words in Hiligaynon and Filipino, which were exactly the same in spelling, pronunciation and meaning. However, there were also words in both languages, which were spelled exactly the same, but had different meaning and pronunciation. Since there were many similarities between the two languages, it will be easy for Hiligaynon speakers to learn and speak the Filipino language.

I. INTRODUCTION

Hiligaynon is the 5th most widely spoken language among Filipinos. It is the lingua franca of the people of Western Visayas or Region VI of the Philippines. It is widely spoken in the provinces of Iloilo, Capiz, and Negros Occidental and partly spoken in Antique, Aklan, Guimaras. Hiligaynon is a member of the Visayan language family. It is distinctive from the most Filipino languages for its sing-song intonation, much like Italian, particularly in the Bacolodnon dialect (Wikipedia). Some of the widely-recognized varieties of the language are urban Iloilo or Ilonggo, Bacolodnon, Guimaras

and Koronadal. Native speakers also consider Kinaray-a (or Antiqueño) and Capiñon as dialects of Hiligaynon (Wikipedia).

On the other hand, Filipino in its standardized form is the language primarily spoken by most people in Region IV, including CALABARZON (Calamba, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) and MIMAROPA (Occidental & Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan). Being Malayo-Polynesian in origin, Tagalog is related to other Austronesian languages like Hiligaynon which is also an Austronesian.

Being an Austronesian, Hiligaynon and Filipino in some way have similarities and differences of

words in terms of spelling, pronunciation and meaning. These are called cognates which are classified into true and false cognates. True cognates refer to words which are exactly the same in spelling, pronunciation, and semantical meaning. False cognates refer to words which are exactly the same in spelling and pronunciation, but differ in meaning.

The identification of the true and false cognates of the Hiligaynon (native language) and the Filipino (target language) is very helpful in making analysis of the similarities and differences of the two languages.

II. OBJECTIVES

This paper presents the cognates present in Hiligaynon and Filipino words. Specifically, it aims to meet the following objectives:

1. Identify true and false cognates of Hiligaynon and Filipino languages
2. Form grammatical rules regarding true and false cognates of Hiligaynon and Filipino.

III. METHODOLOGY

The researcher was able to list down 207 pairs of true and false cognates in Hiligaynon and Filipino. Some of these identified words were

taken from the dictionary of Abuyen (2009), from the study of Dangan (2006), and from the researcher herself who was also a native speaker of Hiligaynon.

The listed words included roots and derivations. The cognates were categorized into true cognates and false cognates. The grouping of the cognates was patterned on the phonetic semantic resemblance grouping used by Dangan (2006) in her study. The phonetic semantic resemblance was subdivided into: (1) total phonetic semantic resemblance, e.g. (Hiligaynon – buhok, Filipino – buhok, English – hair), (2) semantic and partial phonetic resemblance, e.g. (Hiligaynon – lakat, Filipino – lakad, English – walk), and (3) seemingly divergent phonetic semantic resemblance, e.g. (Hiligaynon – ibalhin, Filipino – isalin, English – transfer).

The words included were divided into two parts. The first part dealt on the true cognates and the second part dealt on the false cognates, which were arranged in alphabetical order. A phonemic transcription for correct pronunciation and an English translation were provided for better understanding of the meaning of words presented.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

HILIGAYNON AND FILIPINO TRUE COGNATES

1. Words in Hiligaynon and Filipino which are exactly the same in spelling, pronunciation and meaning.

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. Abril / Abril/	Abril / Abril/	April
2. Agosto /A:gusto/	Agusto /A:gusto/	August
3. alimango /alima:ŋoh/	alimango /alima:ŋoh/	crab
4. armas /armas/	armas / armas/	weapon
5. aso /a:só/	aso /a:só/	smoke
6. bagyo /bágyo/	bagyo /bágyo/	storm
7. bakya /bakya/	bakya /bakya/	wooden shoes
8. bala / balah/	bala /ba:lah/	bullet
9. balik/balik/	balik/balik/	return
10. balita/bali:tá/	balita/bali:tá/	news
11. banig /banig/	banig /banig/	mat
12. banyo/ban:yú/	banyo/ban:yú/	comfort room
13. basa /basa/	basa /basa/	read
14. bata /ba:ta/	bata /ba:ta/	child

15. bintana /bintána/	bintana /bintána/	window
16. buhok /buhók/	buhok /buhók/	hair
17. bukid /bukid/	bukid /bukid/	mountain
18. bunga /bu:ŋáh/	bunga / bu:ŋáh/	outcome
19. busog /búsog/	busog /búsog/	full
20. dahon /da:hon/	dahon /da:hon/	leaves
21. dila /dilah/	dila /dilah/	tounge
22. gatas /gatas/	gatas /gatas/	milk
23. gusto/gustó/	gusto/gustó/	like
24. gwapo /gwapo/	gwapo/gwapo/	handsome
25. habol /habol/	habol /habol/	blanket
26. hangin /hangin/	hangin /hangin/	wind
27. Hunyo /Hunyú/	Hunyo /Hunyú/	June
28. kahoy /ka:hoy/	kahoy /ka:hoy/	tree
29. kristal /kristal/	kristal /kristal/	crystal
30. kuko /kukuh/	kuko /kukuh/	finger nail
31. ilong /ílong/	ilong /ílong/	nose
32. inom /i:nom/	inom /i:nom/	drink
33. lata /latah/	lata /latah/	can
34. likod /likod/	likod /likod/	back
35. luha /luhá/	luha /luhá/	tear
36. mahaba /mahába/	mahaba /mahába/	long
37. mahilig /mahilig/	mahilig/mahilig/	like
38. manok /manúk/	manok /manúk/	chicken
39. mantika /manti:káh/	mantika /manti:káh/	oil
40. mapa /mapa/	mapa /mapa/	map
41. Marso /Marso/	Marso /Marso/	March
42. mata /máta/	mata /máta/	eyes
43. matulog /matulog/	matulog /matulog/	sleep
44. misa /misa/	misa /misa/	mass
45. prutas /pru:tas/	prutas /pru:tas/	fruit
46. sala /salah/	sala /salah/	lounge area
47. sanga /sangá/	sanga /sangá/	branch
48. sapatos /sapátos/	sapatos /sapátos/	shoes
49. sarado /sarádo/	sarado /sarádo/	close
50. sipa /sipah/	sipa /sipah/	kick
51. ulan /úlan/	ulan /úlan/	rain
52. ulo /ulo/	ulo /ulo/	head
53. wasak /wasák/	wasak /wasák/	destroyed

There are many words in Hiligaynon which are exactly the same in Filipino in terms of spelling, pronunciation and meaning. Thus, a Hiligaynon native speaker will not have difficulty in learning

the target language (Filipino) because of the similarities of words.

2. Words in Hiligaynon which have glottal stop at the first or second syllable while the same glottal stop are not found in Filipino.

Hiligaynon

1. bago /bág:o/
2. bagang /bág:ang/
3. gabi /gáb:i/
4. hilamos /hilam:os/
5. luya /lúy:ah/
6. mataas /matá:as/
7. matamis /matám:is/
8. saba /sab:a/
9. sabit /sab:it/
10. simba /sím:ba/
11. sino /sin:o/
12. sipon /síp:on/
13. tanaw /tan:aw/

Filipino

1. bago /bago/
2. bagang /bagang/
3. gabi /gabí/
4. hilamos /hilamos/
5. luya /luyah/
6. mataas /mâtaás/
7. matamis /matamis/
8. saba /saba/
9. sabit /sabit/
10. simba /simba/
11. sino /sino/
12. sipon /sipón/
13. tanaw/tanaw/

English

1. new
2. jaw
3. night
4. washing of face
5. ginger
6. tall
7. sweet
8. banana
9. hang
10. attend mass
11. who
12. cold
13. see/seen

3. Words in Hiligaynon which have final glottal stop while in Filipino the same glottal stop is not present.

Hiligaynon

1. layo/layô/
2. malapit /málapî t/
3. malayo /málayô/
4. naipit /náipî t/
5. sukat /súkát/

Filipino

1. layo /layoh/
2. malapit /malapit/
3. malayo /malayoh/
4. naipit / naipít/
5. sukat /sukat /

English

1. distance
2. near
3. far
4. stuck
5. measurement

4. The phoneme /o/ or /u/ in Hiligaynon words becomes /i/ in Filipino words.

Hiligaynon

1. agawon /ágawon/
2. akon/akun/
3. amon/amun/
4. angkun/ánkun/
5. anum/ a:num/
6. aton/atun/
7. bitoon/bitúon/
8. bugas /bugas/
9. buklaton/bukláton/
10. bunyag/bunyag/
11. dalhun /daldun/
12. gamiton/gamiton/
13. guba/gubâ/
14. haluk /haluk/
15. huya/huya/
16. itom /itom/
17. kayanon/kayanon/
18. lutaw/lutáw/
19. lupad /lupad/

Filipino

1. agawin/ágawin/
2. akin/akin/
3. amin/amin/
4. angkin/ ankin/
5. anim/ a:nim/
6. atin/atin/
7. bituin/bitúin/
8. bigas/ bigas/
9. buklatin/búklátin/
10. binyag/binyag/
11. dalhin/ dalhin /
12. gamitin/gamitin/
13. giba /gibâ/
14. halik /halik/
15. hiya/hiya/
16. itim/itim/
17. kayanin /kayanin/
18. litaw/litaw/
19. lipad/lipad/

English

1. to take away
2. mine
3. ours
4. claim
5. six
6. our
7. star
8. rice
9. to open or turn
10. baptism
11. bring
12. to use
13. destroyed
14. kiss
15. shy
16. black
17. to bear it
18. float
19. fly

20. lukuhon/lukohon/
21. lusa/lusá/

20. lukuhin/lukuhin/
21. lisa/lisá/

20. fool
21. nit

22. madulom/madulom/	madilim/madilim/	dark
23. mabuot/mabu:ot/	mabait/mabait/	kind
24. madamu/madamu/	madami/madami/	many
25. naton/natun/	natin/nátin/	our
26. ngipon/ŋipon/	ngipin/ŋipin/	tooth
27. pagkaon /pagkáon/	pagkain /pagkáin/	food
28. paon/páon/	pain/pain/	bait
29. pilion/pilion/	piliin/piliin/	choose
30. puluton/pulutun/	pulutin /pulutin/	to pick up
31. sulod/sulod/	silid/silid/	room
32. sikuhon/sikuhun/	sikuhin/sikuhin/	nudge
33. sipaon/sipáun/	sipain/sipáin/	kick/oust
34. sulaton /súlaton/	sulatin/sulatin/	to write
35. sundon/sundon/	sundin /sundin/	to follow
36. sungaw/sunjaw/	singaw/sinjaw/	vapor
37. talum/tálum/	talim/tálim/	sharpness
38. tanom/tánum/	tanim/tánim/	plant
39. timbangon/timba:ngon/	timbangin/timbángin/	weigh
40. tindog /tindog/	tindig /tindíg/	aura
41. tonok/túnuk/	tinik/tiník/	thorn
42. uliton /uliton/	ulitin/ulitin/	repeat
43. unkaton /únkatón/	ungkatin /únkatín/	recall

5. The dental /r/ in Hiligaynon words becomes lateral /l/ in Filipino words/

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. asukar/asukar/	asukal/asu:kal/	sugar
2. harakhak/harákhak/	halakhak/halákhak/	laughter
3. karamay/karamay/	kalamay/kalamay/	red sugar
4. karabaw /karabaw/	kalabaw/kalabaw/	carabao
5. kardero/kardero/	kaldero/kaldero/	kittle
6. karmot/kármot/	kalmot/kálmot/	scratch
7. karsada/karsada/	kalsada/kalsada/	road
8. murto/murtu/	multo/multó/	ghost
9. pasyar/pásyar/	pasyal/pasyal/	stroll
10. purseras/purseras/	pulseras/pulseras/	bracelet
11. rabanos/rabanos/	labanos/labanos/	radish
12. sarut/sarut/	salot/salot/	pest
13. sirbato/sirbáto/	silbato/silbáto/	whistle

6. Some Hiligaynon words have additional lateral /l/ or syllable.

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. balun/balun/	baon/ba:ón/	allowance
2. dalan/dalan/	daan/daan/	way
3. lamesa /lamisa/	mesa/ mesa/	table
4. lukit/lukit/	ukit/u:kit/	notch
5. natuslok/natúslok/	natusok/natusok/	prick
6. unlan /unlan/	unan /unan/	pillow

7. talinga/talinjá/ tainga/taíña/ ear

7. There are some words in Filipino with phoneme /y/ that are cancelled in Hiligaynon.

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. Birnes/Birnes/	Byernes/Byer:nes/	Friday
2. gera /gira/	gyera/g ye:rah/	war
3. Disembre/Disem:bre/	Disyembre/Disyem:bre/	December
4. Mirkules/Mirkulis/	Myerkules/Myerkules/	Wednesday
5. Nobembre/Nobém:bre/	Nobyembre/Nobyém:bre/	November
6. pista /pistâ/	piyesta /piyestâ/	feast
7. Septiembre/Sep:tembre/	Setyembre/Setyem:bre/	September

8. Some Filipino words contain the consonant cluster /ts/, but the /t/ is lost and the /s/ remains in Hiligaynon.

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. mansa/mansá/	mantsa/mantsah/	stain
2. plansa/plansá/	plantsa/plantsah/	iron
3. sinilas/sinilas/	tsinelas/tsine:las/	slippers

9. In some Filipino words, the phonemes /w/ and /h/ become /l/ in Hiligaynon words.

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. balay/ba:lay/	bahay/ba:hay/	house
2. bulan/bulan/	buwan/buwan/	month
3. bulig/bulig/	buwig/buwig/	bunch
4. salog /salóg/	sahig/sahíg/	floor
5. uli /uli/	uwi/uwi/	go home

10. There are some phonemes or syllables in Filipino words which are lost in Hiligaynon words.

Hiligaynon	Filipino	English
1. bulak/bulak/	bulaklak/buláklak/	flower
2. gas/gas/	gaas/ga:ás/	gas
3. laki /laki/	lalaki /lalaki/	male
4. babaw/babaw/	ibabaw /ibabaw/	on the top
5. indi/indi/	hindi /hindi/	no
6. ngalan /ngalan/	pangalan / pangalan/	name
7. paka /paka/	palaka /palaka/	frog
8. pro /pro/	pero /pero/	conjunction
9. tiki /tiki/	butiki / butiki/	gecko
10. tubi/tu:bi/	tubig/tu:big/	water
11. tsa/tsa/	tsaa/tsa:a/	tea

HILIGAYNON AND FILIPINO FALSE COGNATES

1. Words in Hiligaynon which are exactly the same in Filipino in terms of spelling and pronunciation, but definitely differ in meaning.

Hiligaynon	Filipino
1. bakas /bâkás/-persevere	bakas / bâkás/ - footprints
2. batas /bátas/ - able to	batas /bátas/ - law
3. batasan /batasan/- characteristic	Batasan /Batasan/ - congress

4. bulong /bulong/ - medicine	bulong / bulong/ - to whisper
5. buntis/buntis/-use in prick something	buntis/buntis/-pregnant
6. galamay /galamay/ -member/subordinate	galamay /galamay/ - tentacle
7. gubat /gubat/ - to harass	gubat /gubat/ - forest
8. hikaw/hikaw/-jealous	hikaw/hikaw/-earrings
9. huwad /huwad/ - to transfer / to put	huwad / huwad/ - not true
10. huwaran /huwaran/ - container	huwaran /huwaran/ - model of good virtue
11. ilaw/ilaw/-to on a light when sleeping at night	ilaw/ilaw/- light
12. isip /ísip/- to count	isip/ísip/ -state of the mind
13. ilog /i:log/ - flow	ilog /i:log/ - river
14. kagat /kagát/ - body part of a crab	kagat /kagát/ - to bite
15. kamot /kamot/ - hand	kamot /kamot/- scratch
16. kanta /kantá/ - to sing	kanta /kantá/ - song
17. lagay/lagay/-reproductive organ of male	lagay/lagay/-condition
18. lubag /lubag/ - twist	lubag /lubag/- to comfort/ease pain
19. lugod/lugod/-stone used for cleaning a body	lugod/lugod/-glad
20. maliit/maliit/-dangerous	maliit/maliit/- small
21. mayo /mayo/ - good	Mayo / Mayo/ - May (month)
22. pain /pa:in/ - segregate	pain /pa:in/ -bait
23. pala /palâ/ - specie of ants	pala /palâ/ - enclitic
24. pila /pila/ - kind of wound	pila /pila/ - fall in line
25. pundo/pundo/-stop	pundo/pundo/-capital or fund
26. sala /sala/ -confuse	sala/ sala/ -lounge area
27. salapi/salapí/ - fifty cents	salapi / salapí/ - money or currency
28. sandok /sandok/ - to fetch water	sandok /sandok/ - laddle
29. sapul /sá:pul/ -come without notice	sapul /sá:pul/ - peak
30. singit /singit/ - to pick something using a stick	singit/singit/- to include
31. sugat /su:gat/ - fetch	sugat /su:gat/ - wound
32. tabla /táblah/ - wood	table /táblah/ - equal
33. tagal/tagal/-to ask for the price	tagal/tagal/-time of staying
34. tinaga /tinagâ/ - words	tinaga /tinagâ/ - to cut
35. ubos /u:bus/ - below	ubos /u:bus/ - no more left
36. upod /upód/ - companion	upod/ upód/- used
37. usap /usap/- chew	usap/usap/-talk

2. Words in Hiligaynon and Filipino which have the same spelling but differ in pronunciation and meaning.

Hiligaynon

1. kalayo /ká:layô/ - far
2. kita /kítah/ - we
3. payag /pâyág/- nipa hut
4. pila /pílâ/ - how much
5. sadya / sad:ya/ - happy
6. sala /salâ/ - sin or incorrect
7. suka /suka/ - to vomit
8. tayog / tay:og/ - tremble
9. tigang /tíg:ang/ - to cook rice
10. tuyo /tuyú/ - sleepy

Filipino

- kalayo /kalayo/ - fire
- kita /kitâh/ - income
- payag /payag/ - agree/favor
- pila /pila – fall in line
- sadya / sadyâ/ - intention
- sala / salah/ - lounge area
- suka /sukâ/ - vinegar
- tayog /tayog/ - height or distance
- tigang /tígang/ - dried
- tuyo /tuyo/ - dried fish

V. FINDINGS

Based on the listed words presented, the following salient features of the two languages were observed:

1. There were many Hiligaynon and Filipino words which were exactly the same in spelling, pronunciation, and meaning. According to Tyler Casperson, language contact was prevalent in the Philippines resulting in languages being similar with one another. Due to this, other languages in the Philippines had influenced Hiligaynon.
2. There were words in Hiligaynon that have glottal stop at the first syllable or second syllable which were not present in Filipino.
3. Some Hiligaynon words had final glottal stop that were not present in Filipino.
4. The phoneme /o/ or /u/ in Hiligaynon words became /i/ in Filipino.
5. The dental sound /r/ in some Hiligaynon words became lateral /l/ in Filipino.
6. There were some Hiligaynon words which had additional lateral /l/ or syllable that was not present in Filipino.
7. There were some words in Filipino with phoneme /y/ that were cancelled in Hiligaynon. This might be attributed to morphophonemic change present in Hiligaynon.
8. The consonant cluster /ts/ was lost in Hiligaynon.
9. In some Filipino words, the phonemes /w/ and /h/ became /l/ in Hiligaynon words.
10. Some phonemes or syllables in Filipino words were lost in Hiligaynon words.
11. There were some words in Hiligaynon and Filipino which were exactly the same in spelling and pronunciation but differed in meaning.
12. There were some words in Hiligaynon and Filipino which were exactly the same in spelling but definitely differed in pronunciation and meaning.
13. Grammatical Rule Formed from the Analysis – “The changing, adding or

dropping of one or two phonemes in a word does not really affect its meaning in Hiligaynon and Filipino languages.”

VI. TEACHING IMPLICATIONS

1. It was observed that Hiligaynon and Filipino had many similarities. Thus, it will be easy for Hiligaynon speakers to learn the target language because the sounds of the first language of the learners have corresponding sounds in the L2. There will be facilitation in the learning of these sounds.
2. Confusion may rise along learning the L2 language due to some features like the phonemes /o/ or /u/ in the L1 becomes /i/ in L2. Therefore, teachers of the L2 language must make use of phonic drill charts before starting the class.
3. Since there were identified false cognates, teachers and students must identify the right word to be used in Filipino, which would not create confusion with the L1.

VII. CONCLUSION

1. The changing, adding or dropping of one or two phonemes in a word does not really affect its meaning in Hiligaynon and Filipino languages.
2. Learning of the L2 or target language will be easy if the L1 and L2 language have similarities. In the case of Hiligaynon speakers, it will be easy for them to learn and speak the Filipino language due to its similarities with their native language.
3. Mastery of the right word to be used to refer to the right thing or idea is a must for Hiligaynon speakers.

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