

**SUPRASEGMENTAL PROPERTIES OF PHILIPPINE ENGLISH:
STRESS PLACEMENT
AND INTONATION PATTERN**

by:

Gio B. Santisima

Teacher I, St. Francis National High School

The language policy of the Philippines has been framed and revised repeatedly to make it appropriate and useful in the educational system of the country and in the society. It is indisputable that the English language has been part of Filipinos' lives, it is being spoken may it be in school, mass media, in the internet, business, commerce and even in the government. Moreover, it also influences our Filipino authors in creating literary works and even in the news media, the medium of reporting the news is English. The spread of English in the country happened long before the U.S colonization in the nation. The presence of U.S. military during the Philippine Revolution and even earlier occupation by the British from 1762-1762 has greatly contributed to the wide use of the language. However, the implementation of English education programs that must be injected in schools was under the U.S. rule. It was also during that time when English became the country's second language based on the 1935 Constitution. Moreover, the present constitution that was approved in 1987, entitles Filipino and English as the official languages of the nation; this is why the country has a majority of educated adults being bilingual in English and in Filipino.

Its widespread has brought diversity and uniqueness in speaking the language since people came and were raised from distinct culture, tradition and norms. Because of this, World Englishes exist like Singaporean English, Malaysian English, Thai English and most especially the Philippine English. Philippine English (PE) has its unique characteristics, functions and forms that are different from the other World Englishes.

In addition, Dayag (2004) pointed out that the Philippine English is a legitimate nativized variety of the language. It is widely used by Filipinos in major and minor controlling domains of the society as science and technology, in the government system, higher education, scholarly discourse and the like. Although it shares some linguistic properties similar or ascribed to other varieties used across Asia, Filipino English still has unique features.

Furthermore, according to Kachru (2004), PE's acceptance and legitimacy depend on the fact that English has become part of the historical, functional, sociocultural, as well as the creative processes or the contexts of the Filipinos. Thus, it may greatly contribute to the future development of English language because of its uniqueness and how Filipinos adapt and embrace it.

Many researchers attempted to locate the development of Philippine English. Borlongan (2016) explains that "Philippine English is at the dawn of endonormative stabilization; in his most recent paper, with Collins as his co-author (in this issue), he posits that PE has achieved linguistic independence." In addition, Kirkpatrick (2007) claims that in order to explain the development of new Englishes, the use of Schneider's dynamic model framework is needed- the latest and most comprehensive theory. This would be a better way for identifying the very sport and origin of PE, or any other Englishes. It is found that PE has already crossed from one development to another; from transportation to stabilization. The use and development of this specific language is growing. It even influences the ESL instruction in local schools and that should be addressed properly.

There are more similarities than the differences between Philippine English and American English, though there are major differences that must take a look unto. One of the main differences is the suprasegmental. Speakers of Philippine English often put the stress to a different position than those of speakers of U.S. English would. Stress is a crucial part in pronunciation. Word stress affects the sounds of the vowels in the word.

Mistakes can lead to a great deal of confusion and wrong interpretation of the words or sentence. Miscommunication between non-native speakers and native speakers of English can be the result of incorrect word stress patterns by the non-native speakers. Furthermore, intonation is also a vital part of English language; it is the disparity in spoken pitch that indicates the attitudes and emotions of the speaker when talking. It also signals the difference between statements and questions. These two suprasegmental features are very much significant in speaking the language for it may cause misinterpretation of the meaning if not given priority.

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