

## MATH LEARNER'S MATERIALS IN MOTHER TONGUE

by:  
**Adelmo C. Gonzales Jr.**  
*Head Teacher III*

Mathematics is a way too technical subject when it comes to the terms being used and the formulas being utilized. At some point, Mathematics is becoming really hard as students jump to a higher level where incorporations of different functions and unfamiliar codes will be tackled. What makes it more difficult to comprehend is that it uses the English language as the default medium of instruction. For all we know, not every child has the ability to learn the universal language especially that it is not the primary language of the Filipino people. This is why 'pwede pong Tagalog' is a very common question during recitations among Filipino learners joining their Mathematics classes.

Based on a study conducted in 2014 by Ricablanca, Mathematics can be learned better when taught using the mother tongue or the local language being used by the learners. Imagine if Tagalog and other local languages could be used to translate and explain mathematical concepts, learning could be more steadfast and effective. Considering the current situations, educators may not have the time to focus on every learner since most public schools are opting for modular learning while other schools chose the internet-based one. This leads to a proposal for the modules to be in the Filipino language or at least provide translations every after the texts.

Although this may require more efforts on the side of the educators, this will merit substantial effects which one may not think about at first. Filipino parents are very supportive to their children and if the modules and the other materials are provided with translations, they could render their assistance to their kids whenever the latter may need

it. This does not promote more interactive home-based learning but more time for family bonding while gaining something in Mathematics. Also, since such a material is more comprehensible, it could be assured that a learner may have a deeper understanding or efficient comprehension of the contents. They will avoid resorting to finding answers from the web or just making wild guesses in complying with their modules.

Since the country has shifted to a safer yet more difficult mode of learning, the language being used in modules must be given alterations, especially that students may be required to opt for self-teaching and self-learning methods. Language-adjusted materials will make a big difference to the schoolers for they will have more time to understand the concepts rather than just trying to understand the texts in the English language. Mathematics is a subject where English and numbers are combined. Numbers alone are difficult to understand already, and the language being utilized must not add to the burden of the students.

*References:*

Ricablanca, J. (2014). Effectiveness of Mother Tongue-Based Instruction on Pupils' Achievement in Mathematics. Retrieved June 10, 2021 from [researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net)