

**NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE OF FILIPINO LANGUAGE
TEACHING:
SKILLS AND CHALLENGES IN THE PROFESSION**

by:

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Filipino language teachers play a vital role in imparting language skills and promoting cultural understanding. They encounter various challenges in their profession, highlighting the need for continuous professional development and adaptation to meet the evolving demands of the industry. Research conducted by Sanchez and Diamante (2017) emphasizes that there is a transitional phase in the careers of Filipino language teachers, especially for new graduates, due to the ever-changing nature of the profession. These challenges can stem from long-standing issues or arise from curriculum developments. Consequently, ongoing professional development is essential for teachers to adapt to these challenges and stay abreast of industry requirements.

Schomburg (2016) further emphasizes that jobs undergo rapid transformations, necessitating individuals to continuously update their skills through education, training, and work experiences. This applies to Filipino language teachers as well, as they need to continually enhance their skills even after obtaining a degree. Keeping up with new teaching methodologies, technological advancements, and pedagogical approaches is crucial for teachers to effectively engage students and facilitate language learning.

On a daily basis, Filipino language teachers face diverse challenges that require them to utilize their existing skills while also acquiring new ones. These challenges demand constant adaptation and expansion of their skill set to meet the needs of their students and provide effective language instruction. In response to these challenges, Filipino language teachers, who are also researchers in the field, conduct studies to delve deeper

into the required skills and the challenges faced by their fellow educators (Largo & Gaihe, 2021).

According to the findings presented by Largo and Gaihe (2021), Filipino language teachers demonstrate sociability, effective communication, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking skills. These attributes contribute to their proficiency in the profession. However, the research also highlights the challenges encountered by Filipino language teachers within the industry. These challenges encompass various aspects, including the skills of students, difficulties arising from the influence of the English language on the use of Filipino, instructional strategies and techniques, availability of learning materials, student disinterest in the subject, large class sizes, additional responsibilities, lack of administrative support, and instances of discrimination.

In conclusion, Filipino language teachers hold a significant role in language instruction and cultural education. They encounter various challenges in their profession, necessitating ongoing professional development and adaptation to meet industry demands. The identified challenges underscore the necessity for curriculum restructuring to align the skills of Filipino language teachers with the requirements of the industry. Furthermore, conducting seminars and workshops can provide valuable opportunities for professional development, enabling teachers to enhance their abilities and adapt to the evolving needs of their profession. By addressing these challenges and implementing appropriate interventions, the education sector can better support Filipino language teachers in fulfilling their roles effectively.

References:

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