

TAGALOG VERSUS ENGLISH: WHAT'S IN IT FOR A CHILD?

by:

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Most parents nowadays, as I observed, are very happy when their child talks, and each of the syllables which came from the mouths of their daughters and sons are special and they value it much. For each of these moments, the parents, want it to be recorded, much more than they want it to be documented.

As I explore the vicinities of the communities in terms of these parents who rear up their children to become good citizens of this country, most of the observations that I have start with identifying words that their children can give, one of these happiness comes from the word utterances which are the MAMA, DADA, LOVE and LIKE, WANT, PLEASE, DOG and so on. Much to our surprise, we can hear these FILIPINO parents talk to their children in English. It does not mean that there are negative perspectives on these situations, but what is interesting in this scenario is when these children grow and enter schooling, the FILIPINO subject is the one being left out since they are good communicators in the English language. It may come to our senses that with these situations and results, there might be some problems that need to be addressed. Some of the observations, that I, as an educator observed is the exposure of these children to gadgets which are the medium for learning and their windows to the other world. The medium usually used, these gadgets added with the social media environment augment the language capabilities and inclinations of the child to become more fluent in English rather than in Tagalog, their mother language, where in fact, it is essential that these children before they are exposed with the second yet universal language knew the basic

of their own mother tongue, for them to be able to enhance their own critical thinking skills in terms of their language composition.

Once they are good with their mother tongue, they can now compose more enhancement of languages which may either be foreign to them, since they know their own and the basics of speaking. Also, it is essential to captivate the hearts of the parents and the children, in their own basic language, and try to tell them the power of these basic mother tongues. This is the task of the teachers nowadays. I hope everyone can appreciate the idea and pursue optimism and avoid negative perspectives to these current situations on hand. Whatever choice a parent chooses for his or her child, will be their blessings or their curse dependent on how they manage to explain and manifest through their acts and deeds as Filipino citizens.

References:

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