

BREAKING THE CHAINS: THE LINGERING COLONIAL WHIP OF LANGUAGE CRITICISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Filipinos often wield public mistakes as whips against their own, seemingly unaware that these lashes are the chains binding us all from progressive freedom. When these faults are presented in the global eye, the force of their whips is tantamount to shame and disgust. They fail to realize how the country contorts itself to soothe the sting of their lashings; the scars evident in how we present ourselves to the Western world – from our native to foreign languages.

English has a colonial legacy that assumes a complex role in this linguistic milieu. During American colonialism, in Tagalog-speaking areas like Manila, the native 'dialect' was often deemed inferior to the English language. This historical perspective presents the prevalent societal attitude toward native languages. The whips we lash are forced on our hands – we were blinded to measure each other upon a foreign scale.

The correlation of English language proficiency with intelligence lies in the central fallacy perpetuated by critics. Intelligence is multi-faceted and should not be limited to English proficiency as it encompasses cognitive abilities, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving skills as well..

Our nation is a haven of linguistic resources but we continuously limit our intellectual and creative potential when we silence our linguistic diversity. As a country striving for progress, these only tighten and lengthen the shackles bound in our feet. In our pursuit of appeasing Western expectations, we risk losing our cultural identity and compromising a cycle of conformity. We must learn to let go of the tendency to prioritize

external validation over embracing our local uniqueness because it reinforces a narrative that success is contingent upon aligning with Western norms. Embracing our linguistic diversity will instead enrich us by providing alternative ways of expressing our thoughts and presenting our talents.

In conclusion, the critiques and mockery reveal a pervasive societal tendency to oversimplify the complex relationship between language and intelligence. and nuance. The whips we wield, the chains that bind us – only through breaking free from the shackles of linguistic biases and Western-centric standards can the country nurture an environment conducive to genuine growth, innovation, and inclusivity.

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