

KEEPING THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE ALIVE: THE TEACHER'S ROLE

by:

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Filipino is still one of the few surviving institutions that we have because as globalization, foreign language media, and technology slowly pushes us towards forgetting our own dialect there is always our Pinoy tongue to remind us of our heritage but only just that since younger generations tend to ignore it. In this fight, Filipino teachers are not just teachers of grammar and literature, we are the keepers of who we are. Filipino subject teachers are such very important key players in maintaining the currency and relevance of the language for all generations. They don't just teach words and rules, they create a bond with our stories and our customs and values upon which the literature, the stories, the history was built.. Courses on the charm of Filipino poetry, setting, story archetypes, and folk songs encourage students to reflect on the insights of our forebears.

Teaching Filipino presents certain difficulties. Numerous students are also more exposed to English and other foreign materials on online platforms, which can diminish the depth of Filipino when we frequently encounter it but fail to utilize it formally and incorporate it into a project. Teachers need to discover creative and captivating methods to link the Filipino subject and language to students' experiences beyond the classroom. Utilizing contemporary technology, relatable topics, and demonstrating the application of modern language functions beyond academic contexts can aid in imparting lessons that sustain the relevance of the Filipino subject.

Teachers, moreover, must be good models in the use of Filipino or their language of identity. Through this means of language delivery (written or spoken) Filipinos would then be reminded that the quality of what is taught in school is not just a mandatory constraint but rather a useful tool that can still be used to their own advantage. Each engagement in Filipino during classroom time for students reflects a continuum and signifies our preservation.

To advance our mission of promoting Filipino language and culture, we need the combined support and potential impact of our schools and the communities we serve in ensuring relevance through the provision of updated materials, training, and opportunities to meaningfully celebrate these events in our educational institutions. As one example, Buwan ng Wika, storytelling festival and first-person writing festivals at the local level can help promote the love and pride that is possible in the students across their communities and beyond.

Ultimately, the duties of the Filipino teacher go well beyond the classroom. They plant seeds of pride and identity along with recognition that students take not only home but also to their communities and to different parts of the country. They play a vital role in the psychological formation of the new generations with a strong sense of their identity, their origin, and the very nature of being truly Filipino by the continued use of the Filipino language.

References:

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<https://doi.org/10.1080/01434639708666342>