

Phonological Idiosyncrasy of Kawayan Dialect of Southern Negros, Philippines

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Abstract

This study aimed to analyze the phonological idiosyncrasy features of the Kawayan dialect in Southern Negros, Philippines. Nine purposively identified native speakers based on the selection criteria in the rural areas of Cauayan, Hinoba-an, and Sipalay City in Negros Occidental. This study employed a qualitative text analysis method using transcripts of face-to-face interviews and other interactions between the researcher and native speakers. Phonological features and segmental sounds of the Kawayan dialect focused on examining the phonetic features of the dialect. The findings manifested that the Kawayan dialect had four (4) vowel sounds [a], [i], [u], and schwa sound-[ə] may vary according to the point of articulation of the native speakers. This study also revealed 13 consonants such as [b], [p], [m], [d], [n], [l], [t], [s], [g], [ŋ], [k], [ʔ], [h] and two (2) semiconsonants, [w], [y]. Some consonants like labiodental [v], [f]; interdental [ð], [θ]; voiced alveolar-fricative [z]; palatal-fricative [ʃ], [ʒ]; palatal-affricate [dʒ], [tʃ]; and alveolar-liquid [r] do not appear from the informants. The nonexistence of the mentioned consonants is foreign by nature. The tongue of the native speakers used to sound these consonants, as in [v] may substitute the sound to the native speakers as [b]; [f] to [p]; [z] to [s], and no sound equivalent for interdental, palatal-fricative, palatal-affricate. The alveolar-liquid [r] has not also manifested from native speakers, and it is uncommon and hard for native speakers to execute this kind of sound [r]. This study recommends that the phonetic features of the Kawayan dialect need more tokens and in-depth analysis to confirm the present findings.

IndexTerms: dialect, idiosyncrasy, phonological, segmental sound, semiconsonants.

I. Introduction

The Philippines has more indigenous languages than non-indigenous ones. There are still many linguistic places in the country that still need to be explored or adequately examined. Mesthrie (2009) said there is no objective and scientific way of identifying when to use the words 'language' and 'dialect.' Vajda (2013) argued that distinguishing languages from dialects depends on at least three factors, namely, mutual intelligibility, culture or opinion of the speakers, and political status, as mentioned and cited by [1].

This study clarifies the term 'dialect,' which alternately means 'language,' and inventory also means a lexicostatistical database of sounds. A thorough phonological description will also describe the variations of the sounds and when and where to make them adequately understood when speaking or hearing with understanding [2].

The attempts of the researcher to study the local dialects in the Philippines make another milestone in recognizing and preserving the vanishing dialects. One of the local dialects in Negros Island is Kawayan. According to [3], Kawayan dialect is one of the dialects in the

archipelago, which still needs to complete through recording and analysis. Kawayan dialect could have existed in the Southern part of Negros Occidental. This Kawayan dialect may exist in the municipality of Cauayan, but it might be in other neighboring areas, namely, Cauayan, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Candoni, Kabankalan City, and Sipalay City in the 6th district of Negros Occidental and the upland areas between Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental.

There needed to be completed and sufficient data on the Kawayan dialect. Kawayan dialect has a phonological idiosyncrasy that this study deals with [3]. A distinct intonation and accent in the Southern Negros and the scarcity of research on the Kawayan dialect, which this study has to develop a new breaking ground and interesting analysis may reveal as a distinct dialect in the southern area of Negros Occidental. This observation manifests since the present researcher is a native of Sipalay City, within the 6th district of Negros Occidental and adjacent to the Municipality of Cauayan, where presumably the Kawayan dialect originates.

Many words are not in general use throughout a complete language area, and many terms of a language are known only to speakers within somewhat limited regions. Kilgour and Hendrickson (1992) mentioned that often hard to recognize the phonetic quality of adaptations of a specific language, as cited by [4].

The realization and detailed observation of common words often have distinct pronunciations in local speech and meanings that differ regionally [1]. The science of linguistics has invested so much in the study of phonemics, or the systematic organization of sounds in a particular dialect, reasonably few linguistics have investigated the Kawayan dialect [3]; hence, it is an essential and laudable topic for further investigation. Moreover, language development is the study of linguistic features that differ systematically among different groups of speakers or the same speaker in other contexts [1].

Phonological features of the Kawayan dialect focus on what words are in the locality and what meanings assign to them. This study is an impetus to a lexicostatistical database of the said dialect on the lexical categories of the Kawayan dialect. A collection of words and information on the vocabulary used in one and at a specific time. Specifically, this study focuses on the phonological idiosyncrasy of the Kawayan dialect. The study reflects the true identity of the people in the southern part of Negros Occidental.

Thus, this paper intends to analyze the phonological idiosyncrasy features of the Kawayan dialect in Southern Negros, Philippines.

II. Ii. Framework

In this study, tagmemic theory (Pike, 1964) was the umbrella of all concepts utilized in the analysis [3]. This tagmemic theory is not just a theory of language, but it is a semiotic theory. The dynamics of tagmemics visualize the theory's character to semiotic systems that are far more complex and for which its multiple dimensions of analysis intrinsically adopt. Moreover, tagmemic theory refused to eliminate meaning, emphasizing the indispensability of importance by asserting the form-meaning compound [5]. In this case, phonological and lexical analysis of the Kawayan dialect will contour the characteristics, complexity, and flexibility of the dialect mentioned above under study.

Comprehensively, a holistic study of the phonological idiosyncrasy of the Kawayan dialect. The conclusions would reinforce the understanding and appreciation of the Kawayan

dialect's phonemics which are the basis for the lexical categories in another Visayan language like Hiligaynon. They would also provide strong evidence of the existence of the Kawayan dialect in the southern part of Negros Occidental, as it may be one of the Philippine languages.

Since the Kawayan dialect has no comprehensive description in the current literature [3], in this study, an attempt at comprehensive description adopts combined frameworks of the previous studies like Hiligaynon's description of [2] and lexical categories of [6] as a basis for analysis of the Kawayan dialect.

In Hiligaynon, it has 25 significant sounds, plus an accent. These are five vowels and 20 consonants. Vowels fill the nucleus slot of syllables; consonants fill the margin slots. Accented words have one primary stress. Some words have no stress but rather 'lean' on terms. Stressless words refer to as clitics or particles. Clitics are phonologically dependent on another word or phrase. A cluster of a stressed word together with one or more particles is a stress group. A word is composed of syllables [2].

Notwithstanding its omnipresence, there is no recognized description of sound variation. It comprises phonologization, whereby an involuntary phonetic property develops into a language-specific phonological one. Suppose new words and linguistic usages are the most recognizable aspect of language change. In that case, the emergence of different pronunciation patterns and distinct accents of the same language is also familiar to casual observers. Furthermore, sound change also encompasses phonological derivations with other origins, such as dialect contact, paradigm pattern, or structural simplification [7].

In the survey on Philippine languages, the phonological structures of Cebuano (Ce.), Hiligaynon (Hi.), Waray (Wa.), and Bicol (Bi.) show an identical inventory of phonemes, namely: 3 vowels /a, i, u/; 14 consonants /p, t, k, q, b, d, g, m, n, ng, s, h, l, r/; and two semivowels/w, y/. Tagalog (Tg.) has identical consonants and semivowels, but its vowels are /a, e, i, o, u/.

Ilocano (Il.) has four vowels /a, Ə, i, u/; 13 consonants /p, t, k, q, b, d, g, m, n, ng, s, l, r/; and two semivowels/w, y/. Kankay (Ka.) has identical inventory phonemes, except that has/h/ for Ilocano /s/.

Ibanag (Ib.) has six (6) vowels: /a, e, i, o, u, Ə/; 13 consonants /p, t, k, q, b, d, g, m, n, ng, s, l, r/; 2 semi-vowels /y, w/. In the final position, the archiphonemes /P, T, K/ occur, resulting from the neutralization of the phonemes /p, t, k/. Ifugao (If.) has five vowels /a, e, i, o, u/; 12 consonants /p, t, k, q, b, d, g, m, n, ng, h, l/; and two semivowels/y, w/ [8].

The syntactic structure of Hiligaynon phrases and clauses utilizes a modified tagmemic approach. The surface structure describes by the conventional tagmemic method, but an underlying system is also recognized and described through a modified tagmeme concept. The semantic content of word roots signals through the correlation of patterns. An analysis of the three hundred roots into classes is the basis of the description of the clause constructions. Changes in the correlations sometimes occur as a result of derivational transformations. A notation uses for the underlying patterns, similar to those used in the conventional tagmemic formula. Hiligaynon's phonological and morphological features contribute to its phrase and clause constructions. [9]. This study adopts and further modifies Zorc's protocol in conducting the analysis. No in-depth investigation by the previous author for almost three decades.

In this study, the Kayawan dialect is presumably a dialect of the Hiligaynon language.

Kawayan dialect needs investigation on the description of voluntary texts, recorded and transcribed from the native speakers, and data of the previous researcher were processed by a computer, producing a word concordance in treating the data, which was very beneficial in his research [3]. On the other hand, the present researcher used the EXCEL PIVOT Table to treat the raw data for accuracy and consistency.

On the other hand, a study on Hiligaynon reference grammar described the phrase and clause structures of Hiligaynon on the significant features of phonology and morphology to describe its functions to each lexical item from lexical categories [9]. In a recent study, the lexical categories such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives introduced the following contents words with these lexical markers: Nouns (*ang, sang, sing, sa, mga nga, ka*); Verbs (*-on/-hon, -an/-han, i-, -um-, ma-, maka-, naka-, pag-, pa-, pang-, -ki-, iga-, pagpa-, pagpang-, mapa-, -pakig-, mangin/maging, gina-, gin-*); Adjectives (*reduplication of the root, pinaka-/pinakama-, ka-, mas*) [6].

In analyzing the vowels, fill the nucleus slot of syllables; consonants fill the margin slots. Syllables are either open or closed, where an open syllable has no final consonant. A closed syllable has a final consonant. Moreover, examining the Kawayan dialect considers how utterances in the language pronounce. The analysis has accounted for a basic inventory of the sounds that remain when the variations and form change. Therefore, the minimum of sounds is symbolized in the orthography to read and understand the language [2] properly. Hence, this study will investigate the characteristics of the Kawayan dialect and all linguistic features that could be examined and observed.

Iii. Scope And Limitation

This study focuses on phonological idiosyncrasy. The data from the native speakers of Candoni, Cauayan, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Kabankalan City, and Sipalay City (CCHIKS) areas. However, due to the pandemic situation and restrictions, the researcher could gather data in the three areas in Southern Negros, such as Cauayan, Hinoba-an, and Sipalay City, where the informants were willing to participate in the interview.

Iv. Materials And Methods

Research Design

This study employed a qualitative text analysis method. This approach is a resource-intensive process, more diverse and complex from the data that may contain transcripts of face-to-face interviews and other interactions between researcher and informants (native speakers). Moreover, the researcher purposively limits the appropriate sample size. When analyzing text data, the researcher assigned code labels and iteratively developed findings [10]. The present researcher assumes that reality emerges through language so that researcher intrusion would alter the creation of truth in an unnatural direction. Hence, detached observation is required [11].

The study focused on its phonological features for qualitative textual analysis tends to have higher validity. The researcher utilized this study method to examine messages as they appear through various mediums. In this study, transcripts from the native speakers were a corpus of the study under analysis, where the use of computers increased and allowed a

researcher to analyze texts with more rigor, scope, and size. The textual analysis approach offered reflexivity that helps potential concerns for the textual analysis. Given the focus on the study of texts, in which the sample size can significantly grow beyond the researcher, the benefits of computer-assisted textual analysis lie mainly in its ability to help manage and retrieve large amounts of data [12].

A. Data

The data had a 278-word list from 2254 responses from the nine (9) informants. The data were collected from August 2021 to January 2022 from the native speakers of Cauayan, Hinoba-an, and Sipalay City, and the informants were willing to participate in the interview. This study used the EXCEL PIVOT TABLE to extract the raw transcripts from responses to the wordlist and presented them to the inter-coders who are experts in the field for finalization of the wordlist for analysis.

B. Procedures

This study adopts the protocol [3] in fieldwork in the locality for almost 11 months. Still, there will be some modifications to be done by the present researcher in collecting the data. Furthermore, the data collected relate to a given speech variety of at least two historical narratives, in which informants will tell stories of their selection, usually autobiographical.

The modifications of the present researcher in collecting the data and fieldwork are the following: (1) present the intention and purpose of research to the Local Government Unit (LGU); (2) collaborate with the local researchers and institutions in the area; (3) identify the qualified informants usually aged 60 and above but preferably 100 years old; (4) road map the areas of the identified informants; (5) ask consent of the informants and their immediate family member(s) and explain the purpose of research; (6) collect data in two sets such as autobiographical and folklores which handed down from their ancestors; (7) revisit of the identified informants for validation and confirmation of their stories like autobiographical and folklores using electronic gadgets in capturing the voice narratives of the informants since the primary purpose of the research is the phonological idiosyncrasy.

The present researcher utilizes a computer-aided Excel Pivot table to locate the 'time stamp' for recalling the utterances from the informants (native speakers). Cross-examinations of the inter-coders are for validity and reliability as part of establishing the exactitude of the results. The inter-coders are experts in linguistic analysis and have already conducted and presented their research in the field.

Moreover, for the validity and reliability of this study, one needs to do specific logical tests. Construct validity refers to the correct operational methods for the theories under research, and reliability relates to the processes of a study that can repeat with the same outcomes. A construct validity that will be reviewed and cross-examined several times during frequent discussions with the identified inter-coders is developed sufficiently on an operational set of measures and analyses of the corpus or data [13].

Thus, this study selected three qualified inter-coders to establish the validity through inter-coding. A thorough discussion among inter-coders met to develop reliable results by resolving the boundaries of the analysis process. Each objective of this study scrutinizes the inter-coders—redefined agreement among inter-coders on the concepts needed to attain the agreement of the majority [14].

In data gathering, the researcher invited experts for assistance to serve as inter-coders. This study shows the phonetic precision of the form of a word as used by the local informants (native speakers). It defines its different meanings fully by giving extracts of its usage in various contexts in analyzing the data. This study also attempts to utilize multiple coders, like computer experts using the available software to categorize utterances into specific words or statements. However, the validity rests on the strength of the analytical arguments used to defend the interpretation [11]. Therefore, it is necessary to provide sample extracts in the interpretation for analytical explanations and arguments. Using the EXCEL PIVOT TABLE for the extractions of the raw transcripts, there were 2254 responses out of the 9 participants presented in preparation for the contextualized 278-word list selected by the inter-coders and experts in the field.

In distinguishing the approach used in similar studies, the phono-lexicostatistics method (Blair, 1990; Mann, 2005) in the data analysis comprised of phonetic and lexical identification, which includes explicitly defined criteria adapted from Blair as cited by [1]. The present researcher modified the approach used by the previous authors, as mentioned earlier. These modifications are the 278-word list which is composed of (1) words that are at least present from 2 out of 9 informants, (2) the inter-coders and intra-coder had selected and further validated by taking consensus among them the identification of the content words whether they are nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs [15]. The inter-coders and intra-coder used the syntactic rules [3] and core grammatical categories [16] to select the word list for the reliability of the data for interpretation. (3) The matrix of a category [1] in the phonemic inventories and features is repetitively played from the digital recorder with the assigned 'time-stamp' for tracking purposes of the informants' utterances. (4) Printed copies were distributed to the inter-coders in which the words or sentence constructions observed to suit the description of the dialect's nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and verbs. The discussion included extracts to agree on categorizing the content words [15]. (5) Interpretation and analysis of the finalized word list of the lexical were further validated by other experts for the accuracy and precision of the study, like segmental sounds.

C. Data Collection Protocol

This study is qualitative by nature. Transcriptions from the interviews and audio recordings were the basis for collecting the raw data. The researcher carefully considered how their position and perceptions might influence the data collected and explicitly addressed the concerns in collecting the raw data through interviews. The researcher sought assistance from experts in the field to validate the interview protocol for the smooth flow of conversation between the researcher and the informant. The interview protocol flow enables the claims of the research and determines its accessibility or transferability [17]. The researcher's interview protocol presents his experiences in the field. The interview protocol considered the situation, culture, and beliefs of the participants in the areas under study. (1) The interviewer should do a reverse interview for the interview so that the informant will set their mode of trust and confidence. (2) The interviewer should listen to the recorded interview using the latest technology gadget to easily manipulate the back-listening recorded interview. The conformation and other intuition since the purpose of the interview revealed to the informant. (3) Allowing the informant comfortably talk/converse to the researcher's assistant before the interview proper so that the informant will relax and feel safe in answering the questions. (4) If the informant is female, preferably that female research assistant may take over the interview for the comfort and sensibility of the gender-bias conditions. (5) Let informant say something in the end of the conversation. In other words, informant would be the last to say in conversation so that the confidence of responses from informant are maintained and sustained.

D. Informants

E. The informants of this study were the native speakers of

Candoni, Cauayan, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Kabankalan City, and Sipalay City (CCHIKS) in Southern Negros. This study utilized purposive sampling in selecting the informants. Due to the pandemic situation, restrictions, and willingness of the informants to participate in the interview, the researcher considered the three areas in Southern Negros: Cauayan, Hinoba-an, and Sipalay City. Nine informants participated in the study, 3 (females) in Cauayan, 1 (male) in Sipalay City, and 2 (males), 3 (females) in Hinoba-an. Informants responded to interview inquiries. They told stories and folktales since the study's primary purpose was phonological idiosyncrasy of the dialect in the locality.

The researcher adopted selection criteria [1] and made modifications to filter the target informants. The researcher selected the informant on the following criteria: (1) The informant was a native and had lived more than 50 years in the area; (2) The informant was more than 70 years old; (3) The informant was a well-versed in their native tongue; (4) The informant could tell folktales aside from their personal story.

F. Unit of Analysis

In examining the phonological features, the unit of analysis was word level from voluntary texts, recorded and transcribed from the native speakers (informants), which were processed by a computer, producing a word concordance and EXCEL PIVOT TABLE in treating the data. The following analysis protocol: (1) transcription of the conversation (interview), (2) exclude the interview words. In other words, the interviewee's responses remain the raw data, (3) the raw data stay in the database for future utilization, and (4) the raw data convey consensus among inter-coders and intra-coder. The latter was done by sifting and scrutinizing to obtain the final set of wordlists for analysis (5). The word list was resubmitted for finalization and agreed upon through rigid discussions so the word list will be valid and reliable, and ready for interpretation.

A disagreement with the boundaries of the features under study, the researcher met and discussed with the inter-coders to attain and arrive at the final analysis of the phonological, morphological features, and lexical categories.

G. Ethical Consideration

This study followed the ethical research protocol on voluntary participation and well-versed consent from the informants considering their age and health condition, so free will and confidentiality of their identities had initiated an utmost consideration in this study. The recording gadgets explain to each informant and family member familiar with the gadget's functions. Withdrawing of the informant from participation was considered. Assistance from the family member of each informant had utilized. The health protocol set by Inter-Agency Task Force for COVID-19 follows during the interview. There was a token of gratitude to the informants after the interview. Any residual errors in the final output are fully acknowledged and are the writer's sole responsibility.

V. Results and Discussion

In this paper, the researcher describes the Kawayan dialect using the combined

frameworks mentioned earlier. It mentions incomplete data and analyses of the Kawayan dialect [3]. Thus, the discussion emphasizes the objectives mentioned earlier.

The description of phonetic features focuses on how utterances in the dialect pronounce. Moreover, the analysis has accounted for a primary number of sounds. They are the complex minimum set of sounds that must symbolize the orthography to read and understand the language when speaking and hearing with understanding [2]. Specifically, this study examines phonemes and stress. A phoneme is a unit of sound having a distinctive feature in a particular language, while stress is the distinction given to a syllable in a word [18].

H. Phonological Features of Kawayan Dialect

The observation of this study, although it is common and approximately equidistant to the other parts of the Negros Occidental but not occasionally utter as in the following words:

Table 1. A Phonological Features of Kawayan Dialect

Sample from word-list	Syllabication	Accent	Variant	Gloss
kalatian	ka.la.ti.an	ka.la.TI.an	kakahoyan, wayang, talon	'forest or jungle'
singganan	sing.ga.nan	sing.GA.nan	hambalan	'to tell'
pangdugos	pang.du.gos	pang.DU.gos	pangkuhaon	'to get in volume'
gapanghinas	ga.pang.hi.nas	ga.pang.HI.nas	pangguha	'to catch'
balatik	ba.la.tik	ba.LA.tik	kawayan	'bamboo'
ginusoy	gin.u.soy	gin.U.soy	ginsulod	'entered'
ginhingadlan	gin.hi.ngad.lan	gin.hi.NGAD.lan	ginpangalanan	'named'
tiligangan*	ti.lig.a.ngan	ti.lig.A.ngan	dapog	'kitchen'
yagutaon	ya.gu.ta.on	ya.gu.TA.on	sunlugon	'bully'
panimuot	pa.ni.mu.ot	pa.ni.MU.ot	paminsaron	'mindfulness'

The sample words presented in table 1 show a few examples for intensive interpretation. It observes, for example, that the word *ti.lig.A.ngan* has a different meaning. In other areas in the province, that word means '*kal.DE.ro*' [pot]. Regardless of 3 or 4 syllables, the stress position is usually found in the second to the last syllables as in *ka.la.TI.an*, *sing.GA.nan*, *pang.DU.gos*, *ga.pang.HI.nas*, *ba.LA.tik*, *gin.U.soy*, *gin.hi.NGAD.lan*, *ti.lig.A.ngan*, *ya.gu.TA.on*, *pa.ni.MU.ot*. It also reveals a prolonged unstressed, usually in the last syllable. This observation is why the native speakers (informants) seemingly need to stress before the last syllable because the researcher notices the subtle short breath in preparation for a prolonged unstressed in the last syllable. This study found that all informants have a "melody" intonation in the last syllable regardless of the pitch of the informant's voice because most informants have hearing difficulty. However, a "melody" intonation could still contour its distinct sound to the equidistant areas in Southern Negros.

It also exhibits gliding consonants of the hybrid status of semivowels or semiconsonants. There are two basic glides. Palatal, high unrounded: "y," labial, high rounded: "w." Conventionally, gliding consonants may only occur before a vowel but not a consonant or at the end of the word. In this study, there are two consonant letters before a vowel, for example, palatal. High unrounded: "y" as in *DYA.pon* [same], *NYA.pon* [dinner], and *DYU.tay* [less or small]. Labial, high rounded: "w" as in *dwa* [two], *gwa* [out], *kwa* [get], and *KWAN.an* [source]. This distinct feature of the Kawayan dialect exceeds the principle of gliding consonants, that usually, one consonant letter glides before the vowel. Still, in this case, there are two consonant letters, and it notices that the palatal, high unrounded: "y," labial, high rounded: "w" appeared and sounded after the first consonant letter.

The linguistic feature sounds like gliding two consonants between the two consonants, as in *DLA.ga* [single woman], *DLA.gan* [run], and *swa* [Philippine lime]. Even in Hiligaynon, specific features of the language that has yet to be identified [19]. Nevertheless, this linguistic feature further investigates some remaining areas in Southern Negros.

In this manner, the speakers (informants) may have distinct accents and vocabulary in assigning their meaning and functionality in their respective areas, as manifested in the observation of the present researcher. Holmes (2013) mentioned that speakers might vary pronunciation, vocabulary or word choice, word structure or morphology, and grammar or syntax. Moreover, language variation studies the regional varieties of the same language and social, ethnic, gender-related, and stylistic types, as cited by [1].

This study has theorized that native speakers in Southern Negros could support the first civilization on Negros Island. Its distinctive dialect features have evolved political dynamics, which is why the dialect has yet to gain popularity and coverability in the province. Economic attributes could also be a factor. As mentioned earlier, Vajda (2013) argued that distinguishing dialects depends on mutual intelligibility, the culture or opinion of the speakers, and political status [1].

Generally, in terms of accent (intonation), the Kawayan dialect has distinct features like 'melody sound' or 'singing tendency,' and numerous distinctive features need to examine further in the data. Therefore, the researcher allows others to describe and analyze it linguistically.

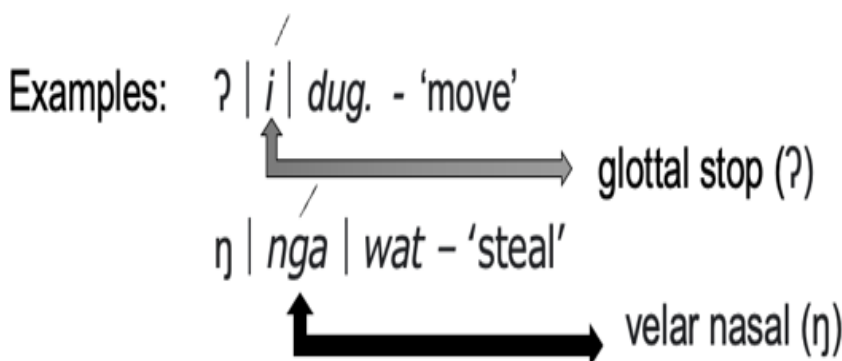
I. Segmental Sounds of the Kawayan Dialect

Identifying the vowels' nucleus slots and consonants' margin slots focuses on the segmental sounds, vowels, and consonants. This study further dissects the accent, which deals based on the sound superimposed on another sound [2]. The accent combines stress and length when it occurs with open syllables, but it is only stressed elsewhere [9].

The phonemic and allophonic variations vary considerably, which accounts that there were three (3) vowels, /i, u, a/, distinctive vowel length, and fourteen (14) consonants, /p, t, k, q, b, d, g, m, n, ŋ, s, l, r, w/ [3].

J. The following are the samples' segmental sounds of the Kawayan dialect:

Vowel /i/ = high front vowel having a tense variant in open syllables, and a lax variant in closed syllables



Vowel /u/ = high back vowel having a tense variant in open syllables and lax in closed syllables

Examples: ? | [/]u | lang - 'shrimp'



? | [/]u | gong - 'lingering sound'



Vowel /a/, (ə) = low central or a true low vowel in open and closed syllables; it raises slightly

Open Syllable – one vowel and no consonant ending

Examples: ? | a | PA | - 'deaf-mute'

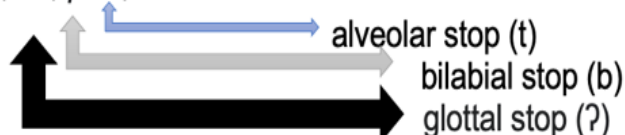


? | a | BA | - 'carry over the shoulder'



Closes Syllable – one vowel and ends in any consonant

Examples: ? | A | pat | - 'four'



? | a | BOT | - 'arrive'



Velar Stops [g] – the point of articulation of this vocal sound puts the back of the tongue and raises the soft palate, which will hold tightly enough to prevent the air passage and the vocal cords from vibrating during the articulation. It produces by directing the airstream along the center of the tongue.

Examples: /g/ - gin.hin.GAD.lan 'named'
/g/ - ga.pa.mu.LONG 'healer'

Velar Stops [k] – this voiceless sound produces without vibrations of the vocal cords articulated with the tongue's back at the soft palate and allowed the air to escape through the mouth by pushing the air out.

Examples: /k/ - ka.lo.la.lo.la.HAN 'great-great-grandmother'
/k/ - ka.gu.lan.GAN 'jungle'

Bilabial Stops – [p] voiceless and unaspirated except when it occurs as the beginning margin of a stressed syllable

[b] voiced and unaspirated

Examples: /p/ - *PA.ni.MA.lay* 'house'
/p/ - *na.ka.PA.MA.na* 'married'
/b/ - *bi.NU.lan* 'monthly'
/b/ - *ba.la.Tl.-an* 'illness'

Dental Stops – the point of articulation as the tongue prevents the air stream at the back of the upper front teeth

[t] voiceless, usually unaspirated, or maybe slightly aspirated sometimes be heard when it occurs as the first sound of a stressed syllable

[d] voiced sound produced in the point of articulation

Examples: /t/ - *ti.NU.ig* 'yearly'
/t/ - *tig.-u.LO.lan* 'rainy season'
/d/ - *DAM.gu* 'dream'
/d/ - *da.LA.wat* 'buy (rice)'

Bilabial Nasal [m] – the point of articulation when restraining the airflow in the vocal tract and redirected through the nose. It also articulates both lips, and the vocal cords vibrate during the articulation

Examples: /m/ - *ma.HAG.bas* 'cut'
/m/ - *ma.pi.SIK* 'jump off'

Alveolar Nasal [n] - the point of articulation when restraining the airflow in the vocal tract and allows it to escape through the nose. It also articulates either the blade or tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge, and the vocal cords vibrate during articulation

Examples: /n/ - *na.ni.GU.lan* 'to grow old'
/n/ - *na.lag.PA.tan* "assumed"

Voiceless Alveolar Fricative [s] – fricative consonant that sounds with the blade or tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge just behind the teeth, or there is a hissing sound when articulated

Examples: /s/ - *si.NU.log* 'dance/ritual'
/s/ - *sing.GA.nan* 'to tell'

Voiceless Glottal Fricative [h] – the voiceless sound that makes the mouth or throat push the air to pass

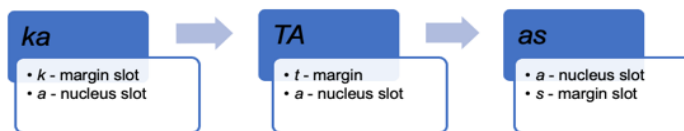
Examples: /h/ - *ha.WOT. – ha.WOT* 'hard'
/h/ - *hi.nang.PA.nay* 'understanding'

Voiced Dental-Alveolar [l] – sound produced by tightening the vocal tract at the point of articulation in raising the tongue somewhat towards the middle of tongue's blade at the ridge of alveolar behind the upper teeth. It also produces vocal cords to vibrate during the articulation

Examples: /l/ - *la.SANG* 'forest'
/l/ - *lin.GAW-lin.GAW* 'pastime/relaxation'

In presenting, the vowels fill the nucleus slot of syllables; consonants fill the margin slots. The illustrations below enhance the explanation.

Examples: (1) *ka.TA.as* 'status / height'



(2) *ki.na.LA.sag* 'form of dance'

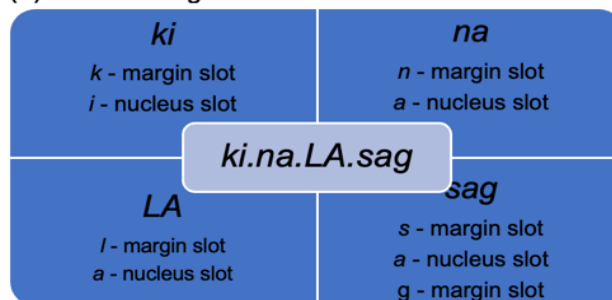


Table 2. Consonant Chart Sounds of Kawayan Dialect

	Bilabial		Labiodental		Interdental		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
	v	vls	v	vls	v	vls	v	vls	v	vls	v	vls	v	vls
Stop/Plosive	b	p					d	t			g	k	ʔ	
Fricative							s							h
Affricate														
Nasal	m						n				ŋ			
Liquid							l							
Glide	w								y					

Note: v – voiced sounds, vls – voiceless sound

Table 2 presents the consonant chart of the Kawayan dialect which the phonetic features of the Kawayan dialect reveal 13 consonants such as [b], [p], [m], [d], [n], [l], [t], [s], [g], [ŋ], [k], [ʔ], [h] and two (2) semiconsonants, [w], [y]. Some consonants do not appear from native speakers (informants). Perhaps some consonants are not present in native speakers because of the fossilization of their tongue to the usual sounds in daily conversation in their area. The native speakers, as the researcher noted, were old and stayed more than 50 years in the area; most of them were women who traditionally stayed at home. On the other hand, the male counterpart native speakers were farmers.

Notably, the absence of these consonants was labiodental [v], [f], interdental [ð], [θ]; voiced alveolar-fricative [z]; palatal-fricative [ʃ], [ç]; palatal-affricate [dʒ], [tʃ], and alveolar-liquid [r]. The researcher observes that the nonexistence of consonants manifests fewer influences from other neighboring areas. In a close examination, the nonexistence of the mentioned consonants is foreign by nature. The tongue of the native speakers used to sound these consonants, as in [v] may substitute the sound to the native speakers as [b]; [f] to [p]; [z] to [s], and no sound equivalent for interdental, palatal-fricative, palatal-affricate. The alveolar-liquid [r] has not also manifested in native speakers, and it is uncommon and hard for native speakers to execute this kind of sound [r]. Even in Hiligaynon, language is limited in distribution to borrowed words [9]. Therefore, native speakers are used to what they learn and hear from their parents in daily conversation. The lack of sufficient data makes it impossible to comprehensively study the rules in a dialect. Not all consonants may manifest within a group [3]. Kilgour and Hendrickson (1992) said that it is tough to recognize the phonetic quality of variants and stressed to Olsen and Mielken (2007) that future studies should involve more informants and more tokens of each target sound, as cited by [4]. Further investigation may conduct to examine the current results of these present results.

Table 3. Vowel Plotting Sounds of Kawayan Dialect

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Open		a ə	

Note: [a] sound and schwa [ə] sound could be heard alternately in most informants and should need further studies.

Table 3 presents the vowel plotting sounds of the Kawayan dialect, which has three

vowel sounds and alternately schwa sound [ə] to [a]. They also belong to the open low central vowel. The researcher cannot draw a line between the two vowel sounds because the native speakers tend to alternately sound [a] to [ə], [ə] to [a], and may sometimes sound as [u] but not distinguishable due to the limited occurrences of the data from the informants (native speakers). Unlike in Bikol-Sorsogon varieties, this vowel [ə] classifies as a central-mid vowel. The identification of the [ə] occurs as a true phoneme variety recognized and mapped by previous researchers. On the other hand, data reveal that the number of correspondences between [ə] and [ɔ] is more significant than between [ə] and [a] or [ɪ]. However, the previous authors said no established analysis because of limited data [1].

Generally, the occurrence of these vowel sounds [a], [i], [ə], and [u] may vary according to the point of articulation of the native speakers that may sound the same in the first review of the digital recording of the utterances of the native speakers (informants). Still, in a closer examination, sometimes these three vowel sounds may differ in the context of a conversation. Nevertheless, future researchers in the field may conduct further investigations of these sounds.

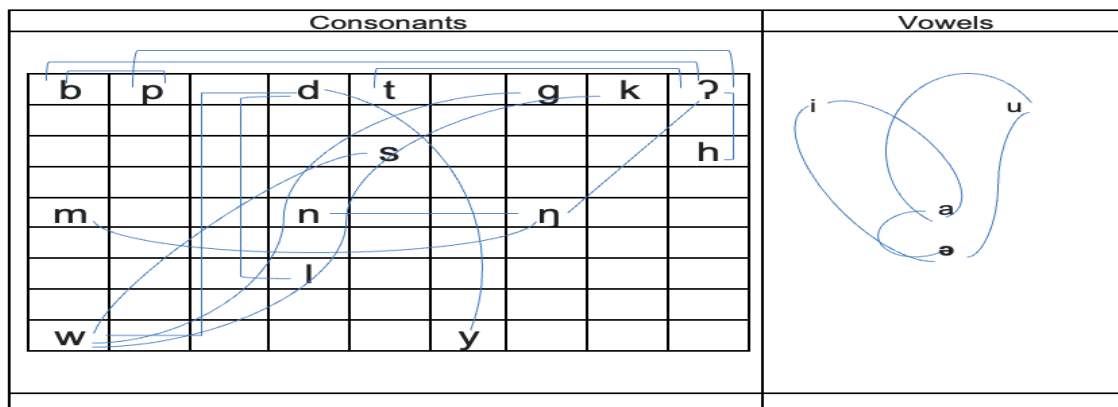


Figure 1. Articulation of the Kawayan Vowels and Consonants

This study presents fig. 1 on articulating the Kawayan vowels and consonants. The consonants and vowels are phonetically connected and glided with other consonants. It is evident that in the Kawayan dialect, the native speakers sound two consonant letters which glide in each other as in *DLA.gan* – 'run,' *gwa* – 'out.' This occurrence produces the individual sound of each consonant, and the researcher does not presume that there is a missing vowel between the two gliding consonant letters. In the Binukid language of the Umajammen tribe in Bukidnon, Southern Philippines, the occurrences of /w/ and /y/ glides are evident among the native speakers (IPs), the same as in the Kawayan dialect. The manifestations are also distinct [20].

In vowel sounds, [a] and [ə] alternately sound by the native speakers and sometimes may sound as [u] in some informants. It is considered lexically similar in writing, especially in the vowel sounds presented, and needs further investigation on this result. According to Burquest (2006), equally identified segments based on the principles of phonemic analysis as allophones are more complicated because sometimes language change involves linguistic processes. Hence, the critical point is the numerous features the segments have in common so that considerate assumptions may be realized [1].

Conclusion

This study shows the phonological features. The stress position recognizes the second to the last syllable. If it is only one syllable, it takes the stress and ends with vowel sounds. The

subtle short breath of the native speakers is noticeable. This occurrence of characteristics is distinct because the native speakers are in preparation for the prolonged unstressed in the last syllable as it seems that they are 'singing' tendency. The 'melody' intonation of the native speakers is also recognizable regardless of pitch. It is indeed that the native speakers in Southern Negros are a reflection as being hospitable and friendly because of the accent of their dialect.

The manifestations of gliding consonants were observed and noticed based on the utterances of the native speakers. The native speakers have distinct accents and vocabulary in assigning its meaning or, in other contexts, with different purposes and usability. There are also gender, marital status, and politics posted words in their dialect and even the hierarchy of family generation. Thus, a rich vocabulary in the dialect reflects how distinct and diverse some words exist in the dialects.

Therefore, phonological features of the Kawayan dialect exhibited a simple but rigorous hybrid approach of analysis from word concordance utilized by [3] to EXCEL PIVOT table and employing inter-coders (experts in the field) to strengthen the accuracy and consistency of the data and results. This study serves as a basis for the coherence of linguistic features of the Kawayan dialect and its relationships to other Bisayan dialects.

The labiodental, interdental, voiced alveolar-fricative, palatal-fricative, palatal-affricate, and alveolar-liquid (r) are not existing consonants. These consonants sound foreign by nature, and the native speakers fossilized their tongues of what they heard and learned from their parents and in the community they belong. Nonetheless, it remains inconclusive until all areas, as mentioned earlier, are explored and observed on the phonetic features and lexical form of analysis using other modern and hybrid methods.

Recommendation

Generally, in terms of accent (intonation), the Kawayan dialect has distinct features, and numerous distinctive features need to examine further. Therefore, the researcher allows others to describe and analyze it linguistically.

The limitation of phonetic features of the Kawayan dialect needs more tokens and in-depth analysis, especially in the semantic and syntactic structures of the Kawayan dialect from the native speakers. The digital recording as a data repository could enhance sound output quality, particularly at the articulator level. However, inter-coders utilize but could revalidate the spoken data if the digital recording can determine the stressed and unstressed syllables. This study is only an ambitious recommendation for future researchers, but it is necessary if bulk data need for the phonological analysis.

The wordlist of this study and other raw data may recommend supplemental MTB-MLE teaching materials to revitalize and preserve the indigenous words in Southern Negros. This study fills the gap in the identity of the people in the area and challenges future researchers to explore more in the Kawayan dialect more.

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