CULTURE, LANGUAGE: DYING REASONS OF AYTA MAGBUKUN

by:
Gabriel Melchor J. Perez
Teacher I, Kanawan Integrated School

Pamumuay (Harvesting of Honey Bee) is one of the main livelihood that has been identified in Kanawan. Pamumuay is a process of gathering honey from the mountain. It sustained the needs of Ayta Magbukun in their everyday living. The indigenous people at Kanawan classify pamumuay as one of their source of income especially during January to May where it is not hard for them to get honey. Most of IPs spend their holy week at the mountains to perform other rituals, gather different necessities and have their way of life like their ancestors.

Pulut-pukyutan is famous among natives of Morong and their primary source are the indigenous people at Kanawan. Most of them give a constant communication and rapport among IPs. It is indeed a very warmth feeling when an IP would be a friend, more if a family. Their kindness transcends through their action and even with their indigenous knowledge, skills and practices. Aside from just bargaining their honey, they teach unat on how they may use and exploit its features. It can be in the field of medicine or as simple as native cuisine preparations.

Through time different disciplines explore studies among variety of practices that has been a part of the civilization. They take in-depth studies to work on so that this may help present conditions and practices in the modern era. Pamumuay as a process should be known and should be given an importance in giving an in-depth study since it is a natural way and may harm the nature in a lesser way. It may provide additional information such as in selecting appropriate leaves to use in making banuut. The knowledge that can be sustainable and relevant nowadays.
In line with this it gives them an opportunity to practice their traditional way of harvesting honey. At the same time, it sustains their primitive education in their ancestral domain. However, there is no practice observed on how they communicate in their own language with their fellow tribe members. As an effect, the Magbukun language has forgotten by this aya of Kanawan and would eventually forget their culture. There are 7,099 living languages all over the world (Ethnologue, 2017). From this languages only one-third of it would be sustained and in the Philippines as of today, there are 19 languages out of 183 languages that are recognized by the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino and predicted to have 8 surviving languages by 2022.

Ayta Magbukun language is included among 164 languages which are not recognized yet by the commission. Possibly, the way of life of these natives are not yet recognized by those people – a contradiction in providing an equitable and culture-based education. The culture itself is a curriculum, elders and other persons who engrossedly involved in living the culture are the first persons to raise language. This is to communicate and to develop their youngsters to preserve their culture and to maximize the language they speak in the community.

It is the best time to communicate once again. With all the support coming from different government sectors and private institutions which constantly recovers the forgotten language and abandoned culture. It is the best time to nurture once again the beauty of Ayta Magbukun in Bataan. A pride needs to be uplifted again to regain glamour and to redeem identity that was taken a very long time ago.
References:
