DECOLONIZATION OF THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE

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The Filipino language has been thought to be the driver of culture and the setter of identity of a citizen. One of its main purpose is to set the identify of a Filipino to be unique from the rest of the world. Yet, the Philippine archipelago has more than a bunch of language which is native to it region. To set a standard for language which will be used as demarcation and means of identification, the government announced that “Filipino” be the national language of the country. This was made legal through the Presidential Proclamation 1041, s. 1997 signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos.

One of the primary aims of the proclamation is to set the standards of language as a means of recognizing the Filipinos as natives of the country. It sets the ideas and culture as a Filipino and become a mark in the world to be different from the rest of the nations. Yet, the Filipino language is not all through out original in nature. If we are to determine the original Filipino language, then it will lead us back to the archaic and obsolete sets of words that are no longer used or even understood by the modern youth. This is because, the language has evolved through the passage of time and through the influence of many factors. One great influence is the colonizers. The Philippines has been one of the many favorite countries to be colonized by other countries, and with that, so comes along with their language mixing with ours. Today, even if there are no colonization happening, our language still and continuously evolves through the means of borderless communications with other countries. The internet has made a huge impact in the changes in our language which can be seen as a threat to the national identity of a Filipino.

In the hopes of preserving the authentic language native to the Filipino people, the Komisyong sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) is gearing towards decolonizing the Filipino
language. This means that the authentic native language will be brought back and re-introduced to students to be used on a daily manner so that the culture which is truly Filipino will be also preserved and prosper to the next generations.

Though this will not be an easy task to do. Its like pulling out a person from a pool which he has already drowned for a long time. Though hard, but seemingly possible. If only people will see the true essence of citizenry, patriotism and national identity, they will be moved to make their own simple steps of reforming the Filipino identity which is different from the foreign influencers. The KWF saw this before hand and is already making plans for implementation. Through language, they believe that the True, authentic and original Filipino culture and heritage is not all through out lost and can still be made seen even in our modern times today.

References: