LEARNING THE LANGUAGE FROM THE NATIVE SPEAKER

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One of the most under rated subject to be thought is Filipino. Some believe that it is very easy to teach a subject that is already innate to the student given that it is their Mother tongue. But what flies over their heads is that Filipino like any other language, Filipino is a complex topic that involves not only the same principles applied in learning English but a lot of more difficult factors and lessons as well.

In Filipino, there are also grammar, subject verb agreement, context clues and correct speech patterns to be learned. There right way of writing and composing sentences. In fact, many Filipinos actually speak and write grammatically incorrect most of the time but is overlooked since it is our natural language. There are proper use of apostrophes and comas and other fluctuations. Like by using “Hindi siya hanagl!” to “Hindi siya, hangal!” is very different. In terms of literary works the subject is also a treasure trove that keeps on giving. For Filipino teachers there a lot of works that not only measure up when it comes to the literary value but can also impart moral and life lessons to students. The pieces like Biag ni Lam Ang and Ang Alamat ni Daragang Magayon that showcase the literary prowess of the Filipino writers but the rich and deep culture of the different regions of the country. And of course, there are also the masterpieces of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, the El Filibusterismo and Noli Me Tangere which narrates the life on the Spanish Colonial era through the eyes of a genius mind by using metaphors and analogies.

Filipino is a very deep and personal subject especially for someone who values the history of our country. That is why it can not be help if some Filipino teachers will take it
as an insult if Foreigners or someone who is not a natural born Filipino will be given the responsibility to teach the subject matter. It is not an issue of race or ethnicity. But it only logical that Filipino should be though by Filipinos because not only does they have the cultural background and understanding to project the correct temperament to the topics but as well as the in dept knowledge regarding the sentiment of the lessons tough.

It is wonderful that non-natives are interested enough to actually learn and master our language and culture but teaching it to our children is a different argument all together. Although it can come across as very closed-minded mentality, it is something that should be considered. It is like letting your neighbor run your household. Why let them if there are highly capable professors and teachers that can deliver the same result with much more tact and resolve?

The same sentiment can also be applied if there are foraging instructors that wants to teach their respective language or culture. Why hire a Filipino teacher to teach French literature if there’s a competent French professor for the job?

Filipinos are naturally prideful bunch. It is what led the rebellion against the Spanish, Japanese, and even the American colonials. We refuse to let foreigners run our country for us. We repudiate the idea that we should conform to them in our own soil of which our native ancestors cultivated and nurtured. The same passion still burns today.

References:

