WHY IT IS STILL IMPORTANT TO STUDY FILIPINO

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Recently the Supreme Court of the Philippines ruled out that Philippine Universities can now exclude Filipino or ‘Panitikan’ from the core subjects in Tertiary education. This decision created some huge backlash and stirred some brutal debate, especially with the netizens in social media.

There were three sides of the debate, the people who thinks it’s a good idea (The Pro’s), the people who are disgusted by the perception (The Anti), and those who just silently accepts both parties (The neutrals).

The pro’s arguments were that it is irrelevant to further study Filipino in college because it is already thought in high school. That it is a waste of valuable time to study something that is already innate to us. From the moment we were able to speak, the Filipino language is our mother tongue, speaking it is an instinctual skill that we are born with. Why spend time learning something you already know while you can use that time to master other subjects. The Anti’s retaliate however by dissing the morals of those who are agreeing with the notion. Of how some people can easily disregard their roots and the language they speak. How people today ignore the hardship our Heroes gone through for us to have something to call our own. The neutrals just takes in everything, nod to some statements and like some comments, weighing in with the conversation without truly picking sides and actively participating.

But beyond the arguments lays the true essence of the issue. Filipino is our language, our mother tongue. It is an important facet of our culture. And seeing the pro’s comments only proves that Filipino should be compulsorily thought in schools, high
school or tertiary. To think that there are people who actually think that not teaching the language is a good thing? What would Pepe say? Our heroes died for that very language to be freely used and thought. And it is not just about the language itself, ‘Panitikan’ is literature, its culture and values. With how the arguments regarding this issue are going, many young people prove to be in need of crash course in Filipino values and culture.

Is that how we want the future generation to be? Without respect for the country and language they are born with? True, English is a global medium that will be useful to master. But Filipino is also a wonderful language with so much history and culture intertwined and weaved with its every word.

References:

Why we study Filipino (when we don’t need to)

By: Hyacinth Tagupa - @inquirerdotnet Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:26 AM November 16, 2018

What are benefits in studying the Filipino subject?