

Construal of Selected Gaddang Lexicon and their Cultural Implications

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ABSTRACT

Gaddang tribe is one of the earliest settlers of the province of Nueva Vizcaya, which comprised the convergence of its ethnic groups. Most of the descendants of the said ethnicity are now homed in the northern Vizcaya part particularly includes the towns of Bayombong, Solano, Bagabag, and other neighboring communities. This study was aimed to have an in-depth stylistic analysis on some selected gadding terms based on the data collected from the identified Gaddang key informants, who are all residents of Bagabag – ranging the ages of 30 to 75 years of age. Based on the morphological functions of the enumerated terms, they were classified according to their functions as Noun, Adjective, Verb, while some are interjections (expressions). Meanwhile, their phonological interpretations suggested that some of these words are stressed in accordance to their morphologic functions, while some others are evidently based on the emotions conveyed in each term. Significantly, the researcher had also able to gather information on the cultural implications of these gaddang terms – from which some are used to describe family relations, superstitious beliefs, types of work, sources/types of foods, festivity, religiosity/faith in God, and a lot more to enumerate. The study hereby recommends an increase of cultural awareness of the native dialects like the Gaddang by developing adequate learning/reading materials that may be integrated in the K-12 curriculum.

INTRODUCTION

Gaddang tribe is one of the earliest settlers of the province of Nueva Vizcaya, which comprised the convergence of its ethnic groups. Most of its descendants are now homed in the northern Vizcaya part particularly includes the towns of Bayombong, Solano, Bagabag, and other neighboring communities like some parts of Isabela, Ifugao and Cagayan.

The Gaddang people are a linguistically acknowledged ethnic group of interconnected families partaking protracted residence in the watershed of the Cagayan River in Northern Luzon, Philippines. Gaddang speakers are testified to number around 30,000, plus another 6,000 hereditarily related Gaddang speakers whose lexis is more than 80% indistinguishable ^[1]. The two groups are frequently represented in notable and educational literature as a single populace; discrepancies between the Christianized "lowlanders" and the non-Christian residents in the mountains seem to be overlooked by many sources. There are both fascinating resemblances and unreconciled metamorphoses in history, location, lifestyle and beliefs between these two linked populations ^[2].

Gaddang language is associated to Ibanag, Yogad, Itawis, Malaueg and others. It is distinctive in that it features phonemes (the "f", "v", "z" and "j" sounds) not extant in many adjoining Philippine dialects. There are also prominent variances from other languages in the distinction between "r" and "l", and the "f" sound is a voiceless bilabial fricative, and not the fortified "p" sound common in many Philippine languages. Gaddang is declensionally, conjugationally and morphologically agglutinative, and is characterized by a dearth of positional/directional adpositional adjunct words. Temporal references are usually accomplished using agglutinated nouns or verbs ^[3].

Benchmarking on the above-discussions of related concepts and literatures on Gaddang tribe and language, this research was done as to surface the extent of using the said dialect among the native Gaddangs of the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted as to elucidate the use of Gaddang terms and identify their cultural relevance. Hence, this study was also aimed at answering the following questions:

- How are some Gaddang terms (common and not common terms) being identified by the key informants be translated in Filipino and English?
- How are these Gaddang terms can be classified using construal analysis approach along its morphological functions/ meaning and phonological stress?
- What are the cultural implications of these identified Gaddang terms?

METHODOLOGY

This study had embarked on the essence of qualitative approach using key informant as the main gathering tool in justifying data. A research form was formulated by the researchers purposively to solicit personal information of the identified informants, who are all residents of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, all are members and some are officers of the Nueva Vizcaya's National Coalition of Indigenous People (Gaddang Tribe).

Aside from the demographics of the said informants, they were also asked to enumerate at most 5 gaddang terms, in which they had provided specific Tagalog and English translations of these terms and as well as their meaning and functions (based on Gaddang dialect) ^[4]. Prior to the said process of identifying key informants, a letter addressing to the president of the province's NCIP-Gaddang group was also made in order to ask permission and thereby assisting the researchers in identifying reliable and credible officers and members of the group who are of ages 30 to 75 years – all are pure Gaddangs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Translation of Selected Gaddang Terms in Filipino and English

Among the 50 selected gaddang terms (based on the options made by the informants during the data collection), the researcher had classified 27 common terms being used in the said dialect (these however were validated further by the same research informants) discussed in **Table 1**. Among these common terms were identified as common names for animals, events, plants; while others are depicting common behaviors and attitudes; still there are some that depict relationships, especially within the family or kin.

Table 1. Summary of the Translated Common Gaddang Terms in Filipino and English.

Sl.No	Common Terms	Root Word	Filipino Translation	English Translation
1	Afak/Afac	Afak/Afac	Banig	Mat
2	Amfut	Amfut	Bawang	Garlic
3	Aranni	Ranni	Malapit	Near
4	Ato	Ato	Aso	Dog
5	Baffuy	Baffuy	Baboy	Pig
6	Bakulod	Bakulod	Bundok	Mountain
7	Balay	Balay	Bahay	House
8	Daffug	Daffug	Kalabaw	Carabao
9	Dekat/Decat	Dekat	Malagkit	Rice
10	Dios Daddaramat	Daramat	MagandangUmaga	Good Morning
11	Dios Mabbalat	Balat	MaramingSalamat	Thank You
12	Futuk	Futu	Puso	Heart
13	Ganding	Ganding	Kambing	Goat
14	Kappakel	Pakel	Nakakapagod	Tiring
15	Katattal	Atal	Nakakahiya	Shameful
16	Lappao	Lappao	Bulaklak	Flower
17	Layag	Layag	Tenga	Ear
18	Mabbambal	Bambal	Paglalabagamitangkamay	Hand washing
19	Macasta	Casta	Maganda	Beautiful
20	Maggatang	Gatang	Bumili	To buy
21	Makayang	Kayang	Tamad	Indolent/Lazy
22	Malappat	Lappat	Masipag	Industrious
23	Masimpat	Simpat	Mabait	Kind
24	Mattab	Tab	Magsalok	Fetch
25	Payaw	Payaw	Bukid	Rice field
26	Sawang	Sawang	Bintana	Window
27	Ut'ta	Uta	Usa	Deer

Conversely on the terms presented in **Table 2**, **Table 3** embraces those identified gaddang terms that are not so commonly used terms (or those that are rarely uttered if so within the context of the gaddang community only). The same with the common terms, these less familiar gaddang words are also depicting names and values.

Table 2. Summary of the Translated Not Common Gaddang Terms in Filipino and English.

SI.No	Not Common Terms	Root Word	Filipino Translation	English Translation
1	Attung anna Alo	Attung/Alo	Bayuhan	Mortar and Pestle
2	Ballihaoan	Banlaw	Bendisyon ng magulang	Blessing of Parents
3	Binara'yan	Bira'yan	Uri ng Alak	Hard Drinks
4	Busi'lad	Si'lad	Isda	Fish
5	Daleday	Daleday	Kuliglig na yari sa kahoy	Cart/Carriage
6	Futaw	Utaw	Palakol	Axe
7	Gumadang	Adang	Tumawid	To cross
8	Kaba	Kaba	Bilao	Basket
9	Karangat	Rangat	Maligno	Underworld Spirit
10	Lap'pat	Lap'pat	Hamog	Fog
11	Mabbambag	Bambag	Pahahati ng kahoy panggatong	Chucking of wood
12	Macapangua	Pangua	Makapangyarihan	Powerful
13	Maduyog	Duyog	Lakwatsero	Roam around
14	Manantao	Nantao	Kumusta	Greeting
15	Mangacao	Angcao	Albularyo	Quack doctor
16	Mappulla	Pulla	Pagpunla ng palay	Rice planting
17	Micesira	Sira	Pangingisda	Fishing
18	Miyao/Miyaw	Iyaw/Iyao	Bilao	Winnow
19	Namaratu	Maratu	Lumikha	Creator
20	Patta	Atta	Pahimakas	Omen
21	Raddam	Raddang	Pagdadalamhati	Grieve
22	Sohong	Song	Pabendisyon sabahay	House blessing
23	Sunsulu	Sulu	Lambing	Endearment

Table 3. Morphologic and Phonologic Functions of Common Gaddang Terms.

SI.No	Common Terms	Meaning and Function	Pronunciation (Stress)
1	Afak/Afac	<p>a. (Noun) A mattress used for sleeping Gaddang: Iyu-sam no <u>afak/afac</u> nu maturug-kan. Filipino: Gamitin mo yung <u>banig</u> sa pag-tulog. English: Use the <u>mattress</u> when you sleep.</p> <p>b. (Verb) To use as covering/mattress Gaddang: <u>L-afak</u> nu no ulat. Filipino: <u>l-latag</u> mo yung kumot. English: <u>Lay down</u> the blanket.</p>	Afak/Afac
2	Dios Mabbalat	<p>(Interjection) Words used to express the feeling of gratitude Gaddang: <u>Dios mabbalat</u> wayi. Filipino: <u>Salamat</u> kapatid. English: <u>Thanks</u> fellow.</p>	Di'os Mab'balat
3	Futuk	<p>(Noun) Part of the body that is responsible for the circulation of the blood Gaddang: Malaw no <u>futuk</u>. Filipino: Masakitangaking<u>dibdib</u>. English: I have <u>heartburn</u>.</p>	Fu'tuk
4	Kappakel	<p>(Adjective) A feeling after doing and extraneous activities Gaddang: <u>Kappakel</u> ingke a mallakad. Filipino: <u>Nakakapagod</u> ang mag-lakad. English: Walking is <u>tiring</u>.</p>	Kap'pakel
5	Payaw	<p>(Noun) A land used by the farmers to plant rice, vegetables etc Gaddang: Dokal a <u>payaw</u> mi. Filipino: Maluwang ang aming <u>bukirin/bukid</u>. English: We have a large <u>rice field</u>.</p>	Payaw

Construal of Selected Gaddang Terms

Summary of the common gaddang terms along its meaning, function and pronunciation (Stress): As presented earlier, there are gadding terms that are classified as commonly used words (27 terms) among the Gaddangs, which are still known to the said ethnic group (as claimed and validated the key informants). They are hereby presented in terms of their morphologic meaning and functions, as well as their pronunciation in terms of stress. Next table only shows 5 of the classified common gaddang words.

Based on the morphologic and phonologic analysis of some common gaddang terms, **Table 4** shows that these words functions uniquely based on their meaning. Some are nouns depicting names of animals, events and places; others are adjectives which elaborate some gadding cultural behaviours and how they might regard things in general; some may also act as verbs to show action on gadding terms; while others are used as interjections such as greetings and expressions. Some terms like “Afak/afac” may also functions more than one based on how one would contextually used a given gaddang term.

Table 4. Morphologic and Phonologic Functions of Not Common Gaddang Terms.

SI.No	Not Common Terms	Meaning and Function	Pronunciation (Stress)
1	Attung anna Alo	(Noun) A primitive instrument used for peeling rice or pulverizing an object like cocoa seeds or coffee beans	Attung at Alo
2	Ballihaoan	(Noun) Blessing given by parents of a newlywed couple for good fortune and long lasting relationship	Bal'ya'wan
3	Karangat	(Noun) Inanimate object like ghost, monsters etc.	Karangât
4	Macapangua	(Adjective) An individual who holds the highest position in the society; someone who has super powers	Maca'pang'ua
5	Patta	(Noun) Omen	Pâtta

Summary of the not common gaddang terms along its meaning, function and pronunciation (Stress): Meanwhile, there are 23 terms that are not common among the said lists of Gaddang words being identified by the key informants. Still, they are also presented in terms of their usage and meanings, including their phonologic stress. Here are five of the unfamiliar gaddang terms (**refer to Table 5**).

Table 5. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Gaddang Terms along its Meaning, Function and Pronunciation (Stress).

Functions	Stress (Syllables)						Undifferentiated		Total	%
	1 st		2 nd		3 rd		F	%		
	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%		
Adjective	2	4	5	10	1	2	0	0	8	16
Adverb	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Interjection	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	4	3	6
Noun	19	38	8	16	2	4	2	4	31	62
Verb	6	12	1	2	0	0	0	0	7	14
Total	27	54	15	30	4	8	4	8	50	100

Similar with the common gadding terms, the rarely used terms are also being used depending on their morphologic and phonologic connotations. However, based on the sample words out of the 23 uncommon gadding terms, 80% are used as nouns while another 20% as an adjective.

In summary, based on the stylistic analysis approach along morphologic functions and meaning, and phonologic stress of the selected Gaddang terms, **Table 6** summarizes data on the said purpose based on how the key informants presented the description, meaning and functions. The researcher had classified these terms as to their functions along adjective, adverb, interjection, noun, and verb. Among these selected Gaddang terms, majority are belonging to Noun (names pertaining to things, people, event, and behaviors or values).

Table 6. Summary Table on the Cultural Implications of the Selected Gaddang Terms.

Cultural Implications	Common		Not Common		Total	%
	F	%	f	%		
Description of the Gaddang values/behaviors	9	18	6	12	15	30
Association to names of things, places, events, people, animals, etc.	15	30	10	20	25	50
Definition of types of works (describe a work/equipment use for work)	6	12	8	16	14	28
Concepts on religion and Gaddang native beliefs/rituals	5	10	8	16	13	26
Terms pertaining to parts of body, plants, house etc.	4	8	1	2	5	10
Association to food/beverages (Gaddang native delicacy)	9	18	8	16	17	34
Terms depicting festivity/occasion/gathering	9	18	9	18	18	36
Measurement of distance	2	4	1	2	3	6

Meanwhile, majority of these gaddang terms are being stressed in the first syllable like “afak/afac”, in which the first letter ‘a’ is given emphasis. There are also those that are being classified as “undifferentiated” which are functioning as interjections like “Dios Mabbalat”.

Cultural Implications of the Selected Gaddang Terms:

In summary, both common and uncommon gaddang terms are carrying cultural relevance, which would be associated on how the Gaddang people of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya perform and live with their daily living – emphasizing their native blood as Gaddang.

Based on the combined analysis on both common and uncommon terms, 50% of the identified gaddang words are associated to names; 36% are denoting Gaddang festivity or occasion/gathering; 34% are strongly linked to food/beverages and Gaddang native delicacies; 30% of these terms stand for Gaddang values/behaviours; 28% are depicting types of works or equipment needed for a work like hunting; 26% are associate with Gaddangs' religiosity and native beliefs/rituals; 10% are words that define parts of body, plants, house, etc.; and some other 6% that are used as measurement of distance.

Some of the said identified gaddang terms may have several cultural denotations like for instance "dekat" – which is one of the best native delicacy of the tribe, hence, it may also depict festivity or social/family gathering among the gaddangs (this can be intensified with one of the town's fiesta tagline – the Bayombong "Baggat-Dekat Festival, which is being commemorated every 1-2nd week of August).

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

Considering the above-discussions on the construal of some gadding terms in terms of their morphologic and phonologic functions and their cultural implications, the following conclusions are then derived.

- Majority of these gaddang terms are still common words, however, the increasing numbers of unfamiliar gaddang terms would denote that the language are less used among the descendants of Gaddang tribe in the province, which may as well be associated on the results of cultural convergence.

- Majority of the identified gaddang terms are functioning as noun and being stressed on their first syllable.
- These gaddang terms denotes cultural implications along common names; festival and gatherings; food and beverages; common gaddang values/behaviors; type/instrument of work; religion and native beliefs/rituals; parts of body, plants, house, etc; and as measurement of distance.

Thus, the researchers hereby recommend the following:

- An increase of awareness on the use of native language among the Filipino youth emulated from the local community may be one of the priority projects of the local government unit.
- The use of Gaddang or other native folklores may also be integrated in teaching core subjects of both elementary and high school, and even in the college curricula. This may foster participation among the learners in which they may learn how to appreciate cultural integration in their education.
- Future researchers may use the variables herewith to develop the framework of their study. They may use other factors of interpreting native language as to gain more in-depth analysis of their future studies.

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