

Dr. McKaughan and our *Maranao dictionary*

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It was in the early 1950s when I first met Dr. Howard McKaughan. He came from Nasuli, Bukidnon, where he was assigned as director of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. As a linguist, he was interested in studying Maranao. Howard believes that to learn a language, one should live in a community where the language is spoken; Therefore, he decided to bring his family to stay in Taraka, a Maranao village across the lake from Marawi City. After several weeks of language learning, they would come back to Marawi City for Howard to continue his analysis of the language. We worked together, with me providing the information he needed.

In 1961, he left Marawi City for Nasuli, and then returned to the United States. The next time I heard from him was when he wrote to me asking if I was willing to work on a Maranao dictionary with him at the University of Hawai'i. This project would be funded by the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. I responded to him that I was willing, so he sent me a plane ticket and all the necessary papers in order for me to travel to Hawai'i.

When I arrived in Hawai'i, we started collecting Maranao words on cards. We were later joined by Victorio Dulag and my wife Engracia. Dulag and I were the principal sources for the Maranao language. I did the final check in all instances, because I speak the dialect from Marawi City, which was chosen as the central dialect.

Our *Dictionary* was given an award by the Manila Critics Circle as one of the outstanding publications in linguistics. It was also given an award by Siliman University, Dumaguete City, as the most outstanding contribution to ethnic studies. We also published an article on Maranao botany (McKaughan & Macaraya 1965).

References

- McKaughan, Howard P., & Batua A. Macaraya. 1965. Maranao plant names. *Oceanic Linguistics* 4(1-2). 48-112.
- McKaughan, Howard P., & Batua A. Macaraya. 1967/1996. *A Maranao Dictionary*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press (2nd edn., Manila: De La Salle University Press and Summer Institute of Linguistics).