Dr. McKaughan and the teaching
of Philippine languages

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I first met Dr. Howard McKaughan in the Philippines in the late 1950s when I took an elective course in linguistics from him. At the time, I wanted to work on a master's degree in literature at the University of the Philippines. However, in 1957, when I applied for a Fulbright-Smith-Mundt Scholarship, there was no slot for literature students, so I decided to pursue a master's degree in linguistics. I later changed my focus to English as a second language when I got to the University of Michigan.

I met Dr. McKaughan again in 1963 when I came back to the States to work on a PhD in linguistics at UCLA. Upon his recommendation, I applied to the East-West Center in 1964 and got a scholarship for two years. Dr. McKaughan, who then headed the Linguistics Department at the University of Hawai'i, became the chair of my thesis committee.

In 1964, Dr. McKaughan asked me to coordinate a program in Hilo, Hawai'i, training Peace Corps volunteers in seven Philippine languages. This was the first time I experienced supervising the teaching of five Philippine languages: Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilokano, Hiligaynon, and Bikol. This move eventually led to a drastic shift in my professional career. It was then that I changed my dissertation topic from bilingualism to Tagalog semantics.

While supervising the five Philippine-language programs, I realized that although the Peace Corps program had been in Hilo for several years, none of the language materials used were available for my program to use. We had to do everything from scratch: writing lessons, mastering the materials, training teachers, and teaching.

Dr. McKaughan and I saw the need for readily available language-teaching materials and references similar to those available for commonly taught European languages. At my suggestion, he immediately got to work to secure funding for the publication of teaching and reference materials for our program and future Philippine-language programs. Dr. McKaughan himself was one of the pioneers of teaching Philippine languages because in 1952 he wrote (with Jannette Forster) *Ilocano: An intensive language course*.

The Pacific and Asian Langages Institute (PALI) series on Philippine languages was published—all edited by Dr. McKaughan himself. From the project that I supervised and coordinated, the following materials were printed. (Fuller citations appear in the References.)

Tagalog (Filipino)
    Ramos. 1971a. *Tagalog dictionary*.
    Ramos. 1971b. *Tagalog structures*.
    Ramos & de Guzman. 1971. *Tagalog for beginners*.
Bikol
    Mintz. 1971a. *Bikol dictionary*.
    Mintz. 1971b. *Bikol grammar notes*.
    Mintz. 1971c. *Bikol text*.

Cebuano
 Bunye & Yap. 1971a. *Cebuano for beginners*.
 Bunye & Yap. 1971b. *Cebuano grammar notes*.
 Bunye & Yap. 1971c. *Cebuano-Visayan dictionary*.

Hiligaynon
 Motus. 1971a. *Hiligaynon dictionary*.
 Motus. 1971b. *Hiligaynon lessons*.
 Wolfenden. 1971. *Hiligaynon reference grammar*.

Ilokano
 Bernabe et al. 1971. *Ilokano lessons*.
 Constantino. 1971a. *Ilokano dictionary*.
 Constantino. 1971b. *Ilokano reference grammar*.

Except for Bikol, the primary authors of the materials for each of the languages taught in the Peace Corps were language teachers in the program. In addition to these languages, Dr. McKaughan asked other graduate students working on two additional Philippine languages to develop lessons, dictionaries, and grammar references for Kapampangan and Pangasinan:

Kapampangan
 Forman. 1971a. *Kapampangan dictionary*.
 Forman. 1971b. *Kapampangan grammar notes*.
 Mirikitani. 1971b. *Speaking Kapampangan*.

Pangasinan
 Benton. 1971a. *Pangasinan dictionary*.
 Benton. 1971b. *Pangasinan reference grammar*.
 Benton. 1971c. *Spoken Pangasinan*.

Within three years, through Dr. McKaughan's pioneering efforts and highly efficient supervision, twenty-one volumes were printed that focused on seven major Philippine languages. Except for Tagalog and Bikol, none of these textbooks was developed beyond 1971.

I got a position at the University of Hawai'i teaching Tagalog in 1970 largely due to Dr. McKaughan's support and encouragement. The PALI books helped me out during my first years of teaching and gave me time to work on supplementary materials and language-lab tapes.

From two levels of Tagalog, I developed a permanent program at the University that now has both language and literature components and offering a bachelor's degree as well as a minor. It is now the biggest Tagalog program outside the Philippines.

I also initiated an Ilokano program at the University of Hawai'i, which to this day is the only program of its kind anywhere in the world. Again, at the beginning, the PALI Ilokano textbooks were used.

With Dr. McKaughan as chair of the Linguistics Department and chair of dissertation committees, the PALI authors published dissertations on Philippine languages. The 1960s and 1970s, under the tutelage of Dr. McKaughan, became the golden age of Philippine languages at the University of Hawai'i.

Reid. 1966a. An Ivatan syntax.

Kess. 1967. Syntactic features of Tagalog verbs.

Elkins. 1967. A reference grammar of Bukidnon Manobo (Philippines).

Mirikitani. 1971a. Kapampangan syntactic processes.

Benton. 1972a. Phonotactics of Pangasinan.

Wolfenden. 1972. A description of Hiligaynon phrase and clause constructions.

Ramos. 1973. The case system of Tagalog verbs.

Mintz. 1973. Case and semantic affixes of Bikol verbs.

Dr. McKaughan undoubtedly touched the lives of many linguists, especially those whom he mentored. I for one am forever grateful for the tremendous and life-changing influence he had on me professionally. He changed the course of my career from teaching and supervising English teachers (twenty years) to teaching and developing the Filipino Program at the University of Hawai'i (for an additional thirty years). As a result of his extraordinary mentorship and enduring influence, I produced eleven books (some co-authored) on the Filipino (Tagalog) language not counting video lessons and several unpublished book-length manuscripts, as well as developed a Filipino program now nationally and internationally recognized as the leading Filipino program in the United States.

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Mintz, Malcom W. 1971b. *Bikol grammar notes*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

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