PHILIPPINE LINGUISTICS STUDIES IN RUSSIA

Natalia V. Zabolotnaya
Institute of Asian and African Studies
Moscow State University
natal71@yandex.ru

ABSTRACT

The Philippine linguistics studies in Russia trace its roots back to the 18th century when Peter S. Pallas (1741-1811), a member of the Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences, published his famous work entitled Comparative Dictionaries of all Languages and Dialects in 1787. Although Russia had shown the interest in the Philippines a long time ago, however, until the middle of the 20th century Philippine linguistics studies in Russia were undertaken in fits and starts. During the post-war period, since the 1950s the research institutes under the Academy of Sciences and universities of the former USSR almost simultaneously have undertaken the regular and systematic research and teaching both of Philippine languages, first of all Tagalog, and Philippine literature. In 1960s the first important works on various problems of Tagalog as well as Philippine grammar, typology and comparative and historical studies of the Philippine languages by Philippine linguists in Russia such as V. Makarenko, I. Podberezsky, G. Rachkov, L. Shkarban and some others appeared. In 1980-s and 1990-s most works were dedicated to the history and the comprehensive language situation and language policy in the Philippines; the first Tagalog textbooks, manuals and dictionaries for students were published; and various reviews and essays on historical studies of the Philippine languages, literature and culture appeared, some of which were published abroad in English and Filipino. In recent decades 70 qualified Philippine specialists having good command of Filipino and several dozens of Indonesian specialists who studied Filipino as optional subject were trained in Russia. Today we have two Filipino groups and two PhD student-linguists in Moscow State University and one Filipino group in St. Petersburg State University. This is the keystone to further successful and prosperous development of Philippine linguistics in Russia. This paper also includes the bibliography of all Russian Philippine linguists and gives a brief account of their important works.

The first descriptions of the Philippine languages were made by Spanish friars by the late sixteenth century when they arrived in the Philippine Archipelago after the Spanish conquest of the Islands. However, the most important and impressive Spanish works appeared in the 1700-s and 1800-s only. At the beginning of the nineteenth century their materials were used by the fathers of comparative and historical linguistics. As a result, by the early twentieth century 500 works by European, American and Filipino authors on Tagalog only, one of the most widely spoken languages in the Philippines, were produced. Various theoretical schools succeeding one another or existing simultaneously have contributed a lot to the development of the Philippine linguistics studies. The largest and the most influential in force of historical circumstances remains the American linguistics.
The European schools exerted less influence, probably, except for universalism presented in the works by Spanish missionaries.

The Philippine linguistics studies in Russia trace its roots back to the 18th century when Peter S. Pallas (1741-1811), a member of the Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences, published in 1787 his famous work entitled *Comparative Dictionaries of all Languages and Dialects gathered by the right hand of Her Majesty*. *Part I, including the European and Asian languages*. This book has materials on Pampangan, or Kapampangan, Tagalog and Magindanao. However, out of 130 words of the Russian glossary 19 words only were translated into Tagalog. Although Peter Pallas did not provide any references he used to compile the Dictionary, we may assume that for the Filipino words he applied to Forster’s glossary.

At the beginning of the 19th century Peter Dobell, the American who came over to the Russian service and who was appointed to the position of Russian Consul General in Manila in 1820, got acquainted with Tagalog in practice. In his very interesting book *Voyages and Latest Observations in China, Manila and Indo-Chinese Archipelago*... published in translation from English by N. Grech in 1833 in St. Petersburg, you can find not only various observational data about the Philippine Archipelago, its inhabitants, their capital but also very remarkable information on Tagalog, its role and cultivation in Archipelago, cognition of this language with Malay a good command of which Dobell had and etc. As it said in the book, Dobell compiled the pocket Tagalog dictionary and on his return to Russia donated it to Count Nikolay Rumyantsev (1754-1826), Foreign Minister of Russia in 1807-1814 as well as the famous collector of books and manuscripts and founder of the Rumyantsev Museum and Library (today – the Russian State Library).

At the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century Sergey Bulich (1859-1921), the famous Russian linguist and specialist in the Slavic languages, comparativist and historian of the national linguistics concept as well as Professor of the Moscow State University, repeatedly applied to the Philippine and Austronesian languages. He wrote such articles as *The Tagalog Language* (1901), *The Filipino or Tagalog Group of the Malay Languages* (1902) and some others for the popular *Encyclopedia* by F.A. Brokgaus and I.A. Efron. The author used the works of Spanish and Filipino authors as Sebastian de Totanes, Pedro de Sanlucar, Juan Jose de Noceda and Pedro Serrano Laktaw to write the mentioned articles, compiled to the great extent by the terms of the edition.

Some information about the Philippine languages, language and ethno-national situation, language policy and culture of the Philippines in the 19th century we can find in the articles of Vice-Admiral V.M. Golovin (1776-1831), the Russian navigator, captain of circumnavigation and corresponding member of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences; in the book of Captain Otto Kocebu (1788-1846) written in cooperation with German writer-naturalist Adelbert fon Chamisso (1781-1838); in part 3 *The Philippine Islands* in the travel notes *Frigate Pallada* by the Russian famous writer Ivan Goncharov (1855-1857) and some other publications.

During the first years of the Russian post-revolution period Eugenie Polivanov (1891-1938), the talented Russian linguist, many times appealed to the facts of Tagalog. He is the author of the first course *Introduction into Linguistics for the Institutes of Oriental Studies* (1928) where he widely operated with Tagalog examples. Ten years before this book Polivanov using the Tagalog materials reconstructed the old Japanese forms and proposed the hypotheses on parent language cognition of Japanese and Austronesian languages. Unfortunately, in view of repressions and execution of the

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1 i.e. by the Russian Empress Katherine II, the patroness of Art and Sciences.

2 On the book jacket is mentioned that Dobel’s *Voyages and latest observations...* were translated by someone A. Gh. According to Makarenko’s surveys and supposition, A. Gh. is A. Ghunkovsky, a friend of P. Dobell.
scholar his greatest and fruitful scientific effort was interrupted. Polivanov was posthumously rehabilitated at the end of 1960s only.

Before the World War II the travel notes by various travelers on the Philippines and one of Jose Rizal’s novels and some others translated into Russian were published. In 1931-1940 the special articles on Linguistics and Ethnography by Roy Franklin Barton who lived and worked at that time in USSR appeared in different periodicals of Moscow and Leningrad (today St. Petersburg).

Although Russia had shown the interest in the Philippines a long time ago, however, until the middle of the 20th century Philippine linguistics studies in Russia were undertaken in fits and starts. During the post-war period, since the 1950s the research institutes under the Academy of Sciences and universities of the former USSR almost simultaneously have undertaken the regular and systematic research and teaching both of Philippine languages, first of all Tagalog proclaimed by President Manuel Quezon in the middle of the 1930s the national language of the Philippines, and Philippine literature. Filipino emigrant Teodosio A. Lansang (1918-1993) - alias Manuel Cruz and Lina Shkarban (born in 1937) – the author of series of articles on Tagalog morphology worked in the Institute of Oriental Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences (IV RAN). Together with M. Cruz they published the brochure *The Tagalog Language* in 1966 in journal *Narodi Azii i Afriki* (Peoples of Asia and Africa).

In the Institute of Asian and African Studies (IAAS, former Institute of Oriental languages, founded in 1956) attached to the Moscow State University (MSU) since the academic year of 1959/1960 Tagalog had been taught by Vladimir Makarenko as the second Oriental language for the students of Indonesian and Malay Department and since 1975 as the first Oriental language at Historical and Philological Faculty and since 1979 – at Socio-Economic Faculty. In 1985 the instruction of this language was interrupted and the anchor was weighed only in 1997 for philologists by the efforts of Mikhail Meyer, current Director (retiring in 2006) of IAAS attached to MSU. Nowadays we have two Filipino groups and two PhD student-linguists in IAAS, MSU. The first Filipino group is on the 4th year of its study at Socio-Economic Faculty, Professor Elena Frolova, and the second one is on the 1st year at Philological Faculty, Professor Ekaterina Baklanova, one of the University’s current PhD students on Filipino Linguistics.

Since its establishment the intensive research and instructional work has been undertaken at the Department of Philology of South-East Asian Countries in IAAS. As a result a lot of programs, textbooks and manuals, student’s readers and collections of science-philological articles such as *Voprosy Filologii Stran Jugo-Vostochnoy Azii* (*Philological Problems of SEA Countries*), which collected surveys on comparative Tagalog-Indonesian linguistics, in particular word-formation and genetic cognition of Austronesian languages as well as some other works, in particular on the old Filipino script and etc. were produced. In the 1960-s the Center of Malay and Indonesian Studies headed by Alexander Guber (1902-71), a member of USSR Academy of Sciences and specialist on history of South-East Asia and general problems of oriental studies, was established in the Institute of Asian and African Studies. Afterwards, in the late 1970-s the center was renamed after Nusantara. Today the Center assembles its members not regularly, annually holds readings on the problems of SEA countries and publishes its Journal once or twice a year. Next year on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and the Philippines it plans to organize Conference devoted to the Philippine studies in Russia.

At the Moscow State Institute of International Relations attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MGIMO MID) of USSR (now MFA of the Russian Federation) Tagalog was taught by Teodosio Lansang (Manuel Cruz) since 1956/1957 academic year and later on until the end of the 1970s – by Igor Podbereszsky (born in 1937), one of the first graduates who had his language training at the University of the Philippines in 1970-1971. In 1980 he was succeeded by Elena Frolova (born in
1957) who graduated from IAAS attached to MSU. In 1976 Podberezsky published excellent Tagalog Textbook including Grammar and Tagalog-Russian Vocabulary for students of the 1st and 2nd year of study. Together with Prof. Frolova who also had very good language practice in the Philippines (in UP Diliman and DLSU) they produced in cooperation with the native speakers perfect language sound courses and other training aids. The Institute of International Relations prepared diplomats placing the high emphasis on Colloquial speech and giving pragmatic knowledge about the country without theoretical and special courses and seminars on Filipino Philology in contrast to IAAS attached to MSU. In the middle of the 1990s the instruction of Tagalog was stopped there in view of unclaimed personnel and lack of teaching staff.

Initially for the training purposes some works of Filipino teachers and Filipino dictionaries were published in a small number of copies. However, in 1959 Tagalog-Russian Dictionary (of about 20 000 words with the potted Tagalog Grammar) by Manuel Cruz and Sergey Ignashev (1938-1998) who later immigrated to USA, appeared. The abovementioned also compiled Russian-Tagalog Dictionary in 1965 (about 23 000 words). Both dictionaries printed by the State Publishing House of Foreign and National Dictionaries in Moscow were edited by Vladimir Makarenko.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation itself till recently Natalia Zabolotnaya, the graduate of the Moscow State University and specialist on Filipino linguistics, held Filipino language courses for Russian diplomats. In view of the completion of the courses and assignment of the students, the instruction of Tagalog at MFA was also interrupted.

In the 1960s the first important works on various problems of Tagalog as well as Philippine grammar, typology, comparative and historical studies of the Philippine and Indonesian languages by Philippine linguists in Russia such as V. Makarenko, I. Podberezsky, G. Rachkov, L. Shkarban and some others appeared. The following first Ph.D. theses by linguist-philippines were defended: Morphological Word Structure in Modern Tagalog (1965) by V. Makarenko, Classification of the Parts of Speech in Modern Tagalog (1966) by I. Podberezsky and Verb in Modern Tagalog. Problems of Morphology (1967) by L. Shkarban. The translations of the works of classical and modern Filipino literature from Tagalog, English and Spanish were regularly published. The book English outside England by Belyaeva T.M. and Potapova I.A. characterizes Philippine English and descanted upon the interinfluence of Tagalog and English in the Philippines. However, the book abounds with errors and slips for the authors used multifarious foreign sources, sometimes not relevant, that are hard to distinguish without knowing the Philippine languages. Nevertheless we can state the complete development of the Philippine philology in Russia by the end of the 1960s.

Since the 1970s a great number of research works by Russian philippinists was dedicated to the history and contemporary language situation and language policy in the Philippines particularly in comparison with language policy and creation of new alphabets for some non-script nations in USSR in the 1920s-1930s. Among them are the following: Language situation in the Philippines: past and present (1970), Language Situation and Language Policy in the Philippines (1977), Language Question in the Philippines (1983) and some other works by Vladimir Makarenko, some of which were also published in Manila.

In the 1970s the Institute of Asian and African Studies under MSU prepared several works on the theory of Tagalog, Tagalog teaching programs and theoretical and special courses on Filipino philology, published the first Filipino textbooks, dictionaries and reading-books for junior and senior students, recorded language sound courses and etc. Among them are Word structure in Tagalog (1970), Wikang Pilipino - Textbook on Filipino for students of the 3rd year, Textbook for II-IV year, article Evolution of modern Tagalog by V.A. Makarenko and some others as well as informational and encyclopedic articles Tagalog and The Philippine Languages, which were published in Abridged Literature Encyclopedia in 1972. Vladimir Makarenko in cooperation with K. Meshkov from the
Institute of Ethnography under Russian Academy of Sciences published the article entitled *Main problems in researching of old Filipino script*, which is based on Makarenko’s previous research work in English published in India in 1964. An analysis of works written and published by V.A. Makarenko in Russia and abroad shows the breadth of his interests: from sociolinguistics to the theoretical grammar of Tagalog in the broader context of languages of SEA and Austronesian languages in general. His great contribution to Nusantara studies in Russia, especially in the field of grammar, cannot be denied. His mentioned monograph *Morphological Structure of Modern Tagalog* was highly appraised both in Russia and abroad. According to a review in the journal Asian and African Studies (Bratislava 1974, vol. 10) the book was very valuable because of its innovative character. For the first time this problem was analyzed to such deep extent.

Following the Moscow State University and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) since the end of 1960s the instruction of Tagalog was introduced at the Oriental Faculty of the Leningrad (today the St. Petersburg) University. Primarily, the Faculty used the textbooks and teaching programs of IAAS, MSU. The famous Russian orientalist and koreanist Gennady Rachkov (born in 1929) has been the Head of the Tagalog Department of the Oriental Faculty of the St. Petersburg University since its establishment. Today Rachkov gives both language classes and lectures on Philippine philology. Among the great number of the articles on Tagalog grammar he published his fundamental book entitled *Introduction into Morphology of Modern Tagalog*. The lectures delivered by Rachkov at the St. Petersburg University, which were devoted to the crucial problems of Tagalog morphology and word-formation, underlie the abovementioned book. Now he is giving the final touches to his Filipino-Russian dictionary – the biggest dictionary of this kind in Russia, which he has been compiling for about 20 years. One of Rachkov’s first students Dr. Maria Stanyukovich, the ethnographer, several years ago spent the whole year among the Ifugao who have terraced the central Cordilleran mountains of Luzon, to study, on the heels of R. Barton, their present life, traditions and language. Today she is the unique specialist in the Ifugao Hudhod epics.

In 1980-s various reviews and essays on historical development and studies of the Philippine languages, literature and culture appeared in Russia, some of which were published abroad in English and Filipino. Some philological surveys by Russian philippinists began to be published abroad since that period (in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, the Netherlands, Indonesia, the Philippines and etc.) as well as the works, which for various reasons were not published in Russia (in former USSR) such as *A Preliminary Annotated Bibliography of Pilipino Linguistics (1604-1976)* that includes about 2000 names. This work is simply unique because it is the first book of this kind. No wonder it was recommended as a reference book for Filipino students at some universities in Manila for a long time and underlies the latest *Bibliography of Philippine Linguistics (1996)* by Rex E. Johnson from Summer Institute of Linguistics published by the Linguistic Society of the Philippines, which, by the way, elected Makarenko its life member 14 years ago.

Having started with the article *Some Problems of the History of the Philippine National Linguistics* in 1982, Vladimir Makarenko continues his surveys in this field in the context of sociolinguistics and maintains close connection and book exchange with his Filipino colleagues. His contribution to the comparative linguistics is also very essential too. His several articles shed light on the relationship among Austronesian languages, including Tagalog, Malay, and Indonesian.

The Russian philippinists closely watch the development of contemporary linguistics and study of literature in the Philippines and promote the latest achievements of the Filipino philologists, in particular, in their reviews, bibliographic essays, articles and surveys since 1960-s, which, unfortunately, as most Russian research works are not known in Manila, first of all due to language barrier for they are published in Russian in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Most reviews and surveys you can find in Herald of Moscow University published by IAAS attached to MSU and in its St.
Petersburg version, in bulletin New Books on Social Studies, which before the early 1990-s had been printed for decades by Publishing House Progress in scholarly journal Peoples of Asia and Africa (today Orient) and other publications as well as in philological referee journal of the Institute for Scientific Information on Social Studies (INION) under the Russian Academy of Sciences.

A series of fundamental articles by L. Shkarban and her complete monograph Tagalog Grammatical System are also worthy of notice. The monograph’s references consist of 85 works in Russian and 119 works in English, Spanish, German and Filipino. The description of Tagalog in the mentioned book is based on a research carried out with two main aims: 1). to reveal a set of implicative relations among specific features of Tagalog grammar observed at different levels of its structure, thus clarifying its internal systemic organization, and 2). to put to proof the validity of the following supposition: the lowered degree of the Noun/Verb differentiation (manifesting itself in numerous striking similarities between Tagalog nouns and verbs) may serve a key to the abovementioned internal systemic integrity. The review of this book by V. Makarenko and G. Rachkov is published in the Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta (Journal of the St. Petersburg University) in 1997.

Needless to say that Igor Podberezsky, the famous literary critic and translator, bears the palm in the field of literature and culture in the Russian Philippine studies. He translated into Russian the works by Nocomedes Joaquin, Fr. Sionil Jose and some other Philippine writers, he is the founder of the Russian Rizaliana and the author of such brilliant books as Evolution of Jose Rizal’s work: Infancy of the Philippine Contemporary Literature (1982), The Philippines: Philippine Contemporary Cultural Studies (1984), Sampaguita, Cross and Dollar, Jose Rizal (1985) and some others. His keen interest in translating the best Philippine literary works has made them very popular in Russia. However, beside for Podberezsky’s very interesting books on literature and culture, he produced very important and fundamental works on Filipino grammar, some of which are still used both by students and scholars as reference books.

The detailed information on the main Philippine languages, Filipino script and Philippine literature and culture are published in various encyclopedias, references and the recent universal linguistic editions of Russia. Thus, such articles as The Philippine Languages, Bikolano, The Visayan languages, Ilokano, Pampangan, Pangasinan, Tagalog and others are featured in the Linguistic Encyclopedia (1990). A great number of materials on Filipino philology you can find in a nine-volume Abridge Literary Encyclopedia, Literary Encyclopedia (1987) and some other editions.

In recent decades 70 qualified Philippine specialists having good command of Filipino and several dozens of Indonesian specialists who studied Filipino as optional subject were trained in Russia. Today we have two Filipino groups and two PhD student-linguists in Moscow State University and one Filipino group in St. Petersburg State University. This is the keystone to further successful and prosperous development of Philippine linguistics in Russia.
Appendix: List of main Russian works on Philippine Linguistics

5. Bulich, Sergey K. 1902. Filippinskaya ili Tagal’skaya Gruppa Malayskih Yazykov (Philippine or Tagalog Group of Malay Languages). In Entsyklopedichesky slovar’ (Encyclopedic dictionary), ed. by Brokgauz and Efron, 751-752. Spb.


42. Makarenko, V.A. 1990. Filippinskie Yazyki; Bikol'skiy Yazyk; Bisayskie Yazyki; Ilokanskiy Yazyk; Pangasinanskiy Yazyk; Tagal'skiy Yazyk (Philippine Languages; Bicol Language; Bisayan Languages; Ilokano Language; Pangasinan Language; Tagalog). In *Lingvisticheskiy Entsiklopedicheskiy Slovar’* (Linguistics Encyclopedia). Moscow: Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya.


102. ed. by Stanyukovich Maria V. 2006. Yazyki i Kul’tury Avstroneziyskich Narodov i Ihk Sosedey (Languages and Cultures of Austronesian Peoples and Their Neighbours). In Honor


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