

FOREWORD

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The Philippines is a country known for having many languages, but not for having many Filipino linguists. As a matter of fact, from the colonization of the country during the sixteenth century to the present, we can count no more than ten Filipino linguists and all of them belong to the present century. First and foremost among them is Dr. Cecilio Lopez who has aptly been called the "Father of Philippine Linguistics."

Dr. Lopez is best known for his long and distinguished career as a teacher of linguistics at the University of the Philippines, for his numerous scientific publications on Philippine languages and dialects, and for his preeminent role in the development of a national language for the Philippines.

Dr. Lopez started teaching linguistics at the UP in 1930 after returning from Germany where he had earned a doctoral degree in linguistics. Before the Second World War and for more than a decade thereafter, he stood virtually alone in his discipline. From 1937 to 1945, he served as Secretary and Executive Officer of the Institute of National Language. In this capacity he conducted researches on Philippine languages and dialects which were used to support the choice of Tagalog as the basis of the Filipino national language later called Pilipino. After the Second World War, he returned to the UP as Professor of Linguistics and Head of the Department of Oriental Languages. He retired in 1963 and was immediately appointed Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Oriental Studies. With this appointment, he continues to teach linguistics at the UP and to publish more scientific studies of Philippine languages and dialects. His proposal, called the "universal approach," was adopted by the 1971 Constitutional Convention for the development of the new Philippine national language to be known as Filipino.

This volume includes nine selected works of Dr. Lopez in Philippine linguistics. An ordinary layman who has not

taken any course in linguistics will find most of the articles rather difficult and forbidding. The articles employ the scientific jargon and style of linguistics, and were obviously written for specialists.

Judging by the publication dates of the articles included in this volume, one is impressed by the long and continuous period of productiveness of Dr. Lopez. The first article was written in 1925 when he was a student of Professor Otto Scheerer at the UP; the last article was published in 1972. What is more, Dr. Lopez has two publications for the year 1976 and one still in the press. His studies were published locally and abroad, proving that as a linguist Dr. Lopez enjoys national as well as international recognition.

The titles of the articles in this volume show the range and direction of the linguistic pursuits of Dr. Lopez, from Boak Tagalog to medial nasal clusters in Indonesian. Though Dr. Lopez's primary interest is in Philippine languages and dialects, one can find in this volume at least two articles dealing with Philippine and other Austronesian languages. His studies of Tagalog grammar give clear support to the observation of the great Prussian scholar, Wilhelm von Humboldt, that of all the Malayan languages Tagalog possesses the clearest and most perfect grammatical structure.

The publication of this collection of Dr. Lopez's writings is a milestone in Philippine linguistics for one very important reason. It confirms the emergence of a Filipino tradition in the scientific study of Philippine languages and dialects and establishes Dr. Cecilio Lopez as the "father" of that tradition.

The only aim worthy of Filipino linguists is to develop a Filipino tradition in linguistics based on their own studies of the languages and dialects of our country. But this purpose cannot be achieved unless we overcome the attitude which regards linguistics as a highly esoteric discipline and until more Filipinos of talent and dedication devote themselves to it as an essential component of Filipino scholarship in the social sciences. Only then will the distinguished career and life-long purpose of Dr. Lopez find ultimate justification as well as fulfillment.

PREFACE

The publication of this volume consisting of nine selections from the works of Dr. Cecilio Lopez in Philippine linguistics has long been overdue. It was intended to come out in 1973 on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. However, the events that broke out after mid-1972 paralyzed for a long while work on this volume. This delay has not, however, diminished the importance and significance of this volume.

Dr. Lopez is not only the first and most durable Filipino linguist, he is also the first significant Filipino linguist. His studies of Philippine languages and dialects mark the beginning of the Filipino tradition in the scientific study of Philippine languages and dialects.

Most of the works of Dr. Lopez in Philippine linguistics were published from 1937 to 1941 when he was with the Institute of National Language and after his retirement from the University of the Philippines in 1963. The nine selected articles are arranged in this volume chronologically according to their publication dates. The first article was published in 1925 and the last one in 1972. The nine articles are considered to be representative of Dr. Lopez's various writings on Philippine languages and dialects.

Dr. Lopez is at present Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Oriental Studies at the University of the Philippines. In 1970 he was cited as the "Father of Philippine Linguistics" by the Pambansang Samahan sa Linggwistikang Pilipino, Ink. In 1973 a festschrift for him entitled *Parangal kay Cecilio Lopez* was published by the Linguistic Society of the Philippines. Dr. Lopez continues to teach courses in linguistics at the University of the Philippines and to publish studies on Philippine languages and dialects in *The ARCHIVE*, a journal of Philippine linguistics published by the Archives of Philippine Languages and Dialects, Department of Linguistics and Asian Languages, University of the Philippines.