

# Editor's Notes

As the history of an institution continually unfolds, we cannot ignore the importance of the archives, a collection of written, recorded, or preserved resources such as documents, audiovisual materials, or physical objects that have been deemed as having historical significance for the institution. In this volume of *The Archive* journal, we focus on how the archive—including its preservation, analysis, and interpretation—plays a crucial role in addressing particular topics, inquiries, or concerns pertaining to the study of languages as well as the production of knowledge in the Philippines. We showcase the results of archival research that utilize various methodologies; and, with the capabilities afforded by digitization, we shall see how the archives are given new life, understood, and reanalyzed in contemporary contexts.

This issue of *The Archive* features four articles that were produced by valuable data gathered through archival research: “The Tagalog Passive Voice in 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish Documentary Sources,” by Arwin M. Vibar; “Cultivating Knowledge: T. H. Pardo de Tavera and Philippine Medicinal Flora,” by Ma. Mercedes G. Planta; “A Grammar Sketch of Standard Thai based on Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations on the Thai Language under the Department of Linguistics, University of the Philippines Diliman,” by Kritsana A.

Canilao; and “Legacy Language Materials in the Ernesto Constantino Collection: Challenges and Lessons for Building a Philippine Language Archive,” by Elsie Marie T. Or and Dustin Matthew O. Estrellado.

Vibar’s article takes us to the Spanish colonial period when the Spanish missionaries marveled at the complexity and distinctiveness of Tagalog (among other languages of the archipelago) as compared with Spanish and Latin, particularly on the voice system. Capitalizing on four seminal works, each of which represents a century of Spanish colonial activities in the Philippines, Vibar has systematically traced the early exposition of this aspect of Tagalog grammar and showcased the early generalization that any nominal can indeed be the focus in a sentence—an observation of the Tagalog passive, which, according to Vibar, “...may be regarded as groundbreaking and a precursor of the contemporary descriptions of this linguistics feature.”

A product of the tribute lecture for the first chair of the University of the Philippines (UP) Department of Linguistics, Planta’s paper re-introduces Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera, the Philippines’ foremost intellectual from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and a key figure in the history of the country. It showcases Pardo de Tavera’s important work, *Plantas medicinales de Filipinas* [Medicinal plants of the Philippines], published in 1892, and how it reflects the richness of precolonial health-care systems mirrored in the encyclopedic knowledge of our ancestors in terms of medicinal plants and healing practices. Although the focus of the article is on *Plantas*, Planta has also provided a profound account of Pardo de Tavera’s academic life—unpacking, shedding light on, or recontextualizing complex issues surrounding him and his ideals that have otherwise been subject to contestations for the longest time.

In the 1970s until the 1990s, the UP Department of Linguistics accepted Thai graduate students who planned to undergo formal training in linguistics. In the paper authored by Canilao, she consolidated the results of the studies on Standard Thai based on master's theses and doctoral dissertations produced by Thai graduate students of the Department. These works not only contribute to the grammatical description of the national language of Thailand, but also highlights how their linguistic training under the Department—together with their exposure to the grammatical structures of Philippine languages as they pursued their graduate studies—has informed and provided nuance to analyzing typologically unrelated languages.

Last but not the least is Or and Estrellado's article presenting their work that they have so far accomplished in sorting through the legacy language materials in the collection of Ernesto Constantino, one of the prominent figures at the UP Department of Linguistics and in Philippine linguistic scholarship in general. Former University Professor Constantino's vast collection was a product of large-scale linguistic and ethnographic field work in various parts of the Philippines, which spans four decades, from the 1960s to the 1990s, and includes data of the country's understudied, threatened, and endangered languages. Along with a report of activities under this important project, Or and Estrellado outline the challenges that they face in archiving and digitizing the collection before they can be used secondarily by researchers and, equally important, repatriating the data to the ethnolinguistic groups from where these had previously been elicited.

Aside from the four articles mentioned above, in this issue of *The Archive*, we also feature the abstract of Gina Bernaldez-Araojo's dis-

sertation titled *Ang Morfosintaks ng Nawn Preys sa Biri-Waray*. She successfully defended and submitted her dissertation to UP during the Academic Year 2022–2023.

I am extremely thankful for the editorial team led by Divine Angeli Endriga, James Dominic Manrique, and Victoria Vidal. We are also grateful for the contributors who helped compile this collection of valuable essays that narrate the history of the journal’s publisher, the UP Department of Linguistics.

The archive serves as an instrument for the institution’s self-determination and self-regulation. Michel de Certeau (1998) has described the endeavor of engaging with the archive as a “labor of and against death,” which Niamh Moore, Andrea Salter, Liz Stanley, and Maria Tamboukou (2017) have elaborated as representing “...a kind of machinery or technology for asserting life against death, giving voice to the past by fixing the meaning of what it inscribes” (p. 4). Linguistic data that the Department has archived, for instance, constitute not just the earlier forms of speech habits used by the ancestors but also the ethnolinguistic community’s collective knowledge preserved and even have yet to be (re)discovered. The archive, then, may be considered an ageless keeper of the memory, experience, knowledge, and history, which are shared among its members. The usefulness of safekeeping the archive is all the more evident with the advent of the age of information and technological advancements. With this, we invite you to spend some time in the archives of your institution and, who knows, you might discover something worth doing research on?

**Jem R. Javier**  
Editor-in-Chief

## References

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