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Revealing the Unheard Language: A Comprehensive Study on the Dying Dialect of Chabacano in Cavite

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of the dying dialect of Chabacano in Cavite on the local community. The findings from the qualitative phase highlighted the cultural significance of Chabacano and the challenges faced in preserving it. Parents reported a decrease in Chabacano usage among younger generations due to modern trends and technology. The quantitative phase assessed Generation Z's familiarity with Chabacano. The results showed that while a significant portion of Generation Z has some understanding of Chabacano, a smaller group struggles to comprehend it. Based on these findings, the study proposes a language learning initiative to promote Chabacano among Generation Z and revitalize the language for future generations.

Introduction

Every country has its unique language, which is further divided into dialects. The Philippines has its own language, Filipino, and numerous provinces with distinct dialects, such as Kapampangan in Pampanga, Aragon in Bicol, and Zambal in the province of Zambales. Chabacano is well-known in the province of Cavite; it is thought to have originated from the Portuguese lexicon language in Spain. It came from an immigrant group known as the Mardikas in the 17th century. Since the Spaniards colonized the Philippines, Cavite is one of the provinces that uses Chabacano. Caviteños used it in the late 1970s and 1990s. Chabacano is one of Cavite's most valuable cultures and is thought to be on the edge of death. So, in this study, researchers will investigate whether the Chabacano dialect in Cavite is dying in our era.

India, a land of different cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic groupings, is saddled with the enormous burden of balancing the inevitable plurality of interests. The Constitution's authors, fully aware of the double-edged sword that variety is, ensured that groups forming the minority of the population were not denied essential rights. One such minority group, defined by its linguistic identity, has received constitutional protection under the Indian Constitution and international law. Despite statutory guarantees, reality paints a bleak picture. Many indigenous languages have already failed to withstand the test of time, with many at risk of extinction. Languages are essential to an individual's or group's identity, and no discussion of minority protection would be complete without them. This essay, therefore, investigates the present domestic and international legal framework for protecting indigenous language minorities and the way forward to nurture and protect them (IMRAN, 2022).

Ho (2021) [6] researched the liveliness of Chinese dialects or heritage languages he said those are proliferating. The biggest challenge lies in the fact that there is a wide variety of dialects spoken by the Chinese people, and many of them need to be more mutually understandable and are in different stages of change or preservation.

Loss and Emergence: (Double) Demonstratives and 'Indefinite This' in Ontario Dialects by Rupp (2021). Rupp's study delves into language variation and change, focusing on the analysis of double demonstrative constructions (DDEMO_NPs) in Ontario, Canada. Despite the common practice of analyzing large data samples in language studies, Rupp demonstrates that even small data sets can provide valuable insights into language change processes, particularly in cases of language loss. The research findings indicate a decline in the use of DDEMO_NPs, primarily among older male speakers employed in blue-collar occupations.

Natural Language Processing for Dialects of a Language: A Survey by Joshi *et al.* (2024) [9]. This survey examines the application of Natural Language Processing (NLP) to language dialects. Motivated by the performance challenges faced by NLP models when applied to dialectic datasets and their implications for equitable language technologies, the researchers

present a comprehensive overview of previous NLP research in this area. The survey categorizes NLP tasks into natural language understanding (NLU) and natural language generation (NLG), covering topics such as dialect classification, sentiment analysis, and parsing. It emphasizes the inclusion of diverse languages like English, Arabic, and German and highlights advancements in NLP for dialects, including sentence transduction and the integration of hypernetworks into LoRA. Overall, the survey offers valuable insights for NLP researchers aiming to develop fair language technologies by reevaluating benchmarks and model architectures.

The study by Joshi *et al*. (2024) [9] delves into the application of Natural Language Processing (NLP) for language dialects. The researchers were driven by the challenges faced by NLP models when dealing with dialectic datasets and their implications for creating fair language technologies. Their survey reviews previous research on NLP for dialects, examining datasets and methodologies. It categorizes NLP tasks into natural language understanding (NLU) and natural language generation (NLG), exploring tasks like dialect classification, sentiment analysis, and parsing. The study also highlights the inclusion of various languages such as English, Arabic, and German. It emphasizes that past work in NLP for dialects extends beyond dialect classification, showcasing advancements like sentence transduction and the integration of hyper networks into LoRA. Overall, this survey offers valuable insights for NLP researchers aiming to develop equitable language technologies by reassessing benchmarks and model architectures.

The study by Jiang (2023) [10] explores the importance of preserving and inheriting Chinese dialects, reflecting on the phenomenon of Chinese dialect loss in the modern era. Language plays a critical role as a tool for communication and a reflection of social dynamics, enabling interactions among individuals and embodying human expression. The civilization and social structure of a nation are encapsulated in its language, and the disappearance of a language poses a threat to the gradual decline of the corresponding civilization. In the current era of globalization, the internet, and other influential factors, local Chinese languages are at risk of extinction. Protecting these dialects is essential for safeguarding China's ancient civilization, promoting national unity, and ensuring social stability. The necessity to preserve Chinese dialects is emphasized by the challenges faced at both domestic and international levels (Chen Lu, 2022).

Objectives of the Study
The primary research objectives of this study likely centered around understanding the critical situation of the Chabacano dialect in Cavite and exploring potential solutions for its revival. Firstly, the researchers aimed to determine the extent to which the Chabacano dialect is being used in the community. By gathering data from residents, they likely sought to confirm whether the dialect is indeed "dying" as some perceive it to be. Secondly, a crucial aspect involved investigating the level of familiarity with Chabacano among Generation Z. This age group is vital for the language's future, and understanding their current knowledge base would be essential for developing revitalization strategies. Finally, with a clear picture of the dialect's standing and Generation Z's involvement, the study most likely aimed to

propose a concrete project or program. This program could focus on language learning initiatives, cultural events, or educational workshops designed to reignite interest in Chabacano and ensure its survival for future generations.

Methods and Materials
This research will investigate the decline of the Chabacano dialect spoken in Cavite. It combines two data collection methods: Surveys and interviews. Interviews with native speakers will gather insights into their language experiences and observations on current usage. This qualitative data will help develop a questionnaire for Generation Z students in Noveleta, Cavite. The researcher will use a mix of random and convenience sampling to recruit participants. This quantitative data will be analyzed to measure Generation Z's familiarity with Chabacano. By combining these data collection methods, the research aims to comprehensively understand the status of the Chabacano dialect and the reasons behind its potential decline.
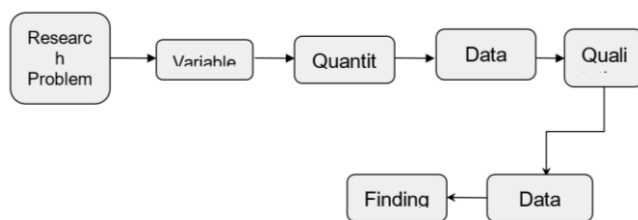

Fig 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study

The paradigm above depicts the researcher's conceptual framework and the research problem, variables, quantitative and qualitative data, analysis, and findings. The research problem will be the key to obtaining both variables. For the qualitative component, researchers will survey at least ten (10) native speakers of Chavacano. Following the quantitative analysis interview, one hundred ten (110) are subjectively selected to participate in a quantitative data interview. Both datasets will be analyzed. Finally, the researcher will benefit from the study's findings.

Results and Discussion
In this section, the researchers explored the impact of the Dying Dialect of Chabacano in Cavite on the local community. By conducting interviews and gathering data, they aimed to understand how the dying dialect of this unique language affects the people in Cavite. Through discussions with residents and language experts, the researchers gained insights into the challenges faced in preserving and promoting the Chabacano dialect in the region. The findings from this phase highlighted the cultural significance of the Dying Dialect of Chabacano in Cavite and the importance of efforts to revitalize and protect this linguistic language for future generations.

Table 1: Summary of Themes for Sop 1

Research Questions	Themes
What is the status of Chabacano Dialect in Cavite?	• Extinction of Language • Face Challenges and Teaching Effectiveness • Generation Z Impact

Extinction of Language: The Chabacano dialect, a traditional language in Cavite, is slowly losing, especially

among young people. Three respondents pointed out that this Chabacano dialect is dying because of modern trends and technology. As younger generations are more influenced by popular culture and digital tools, they are using Chabacano less and opting for other languages instead. This shift is a result of the impact of technology and modern communication on language choices, leading to a decrease in the use of the Chabacano dialect in Cavite.

Parents 8, 9, and 10 notice a decrease in chabacano usage within the Cavite.

> *"In a way that it's not that usable right now compared to before, I guess that is because of some new born languages here in modern time".*

(Parent 8)

> *"Although its usability has decreased compared to the past, likely because of the introduction of new languages in recent times".*

(Parent 9)

> *"Its practicality has diminished compared to before, possibly due to the emergence of new languages in the contemporary era."*

(Parent 10)

Overall, the parents noticed that fewer people are using Chabacano in Cavite. They think this is because of the new languages have become more popular. They feel that Chabacano is not as useful as it used to be because of these new languages.

According to Wikipedia, the study of languages, when a language loses all its native speakers, it dies. This leads to language extinction, where the language is no longer known, even to those who speak it as a second language. Linguicide is when a language dies because of natural or political reasons.

Face Challenges and Teaching Effectiveness: Two respondents mentioned challenges and solutions regarding the status of the Chabacano Dialect in Cavite. These participants highlighted challenges such as the decrease in the Chabacano dialect, the impact of modern technology and trends, the importance of documenting and preserving the language, and the need to promote it in schools and create more opportunities for its dialect

Parents 1 and 7 believe that there are challenges contributing to the decrease of chabacano because of the new trends, newborn languages, and the tiny knowledge of gen Z about the chabacano dialect.

> *"Because of the the trends and technology that affects their interest why the chabacano is decreasing"*

(Parent 1)

> *"I believe that the challenges contributing to the decrease of Chabacano are limited resources and the opportunities of the gen X knowledge about the chabacano".*

(*Parent 7*)

In this case, both parents share the view that the reduced use of Chabacano is a result of the evolving trends and advancements in technology that are influencing people's interests. They believe that as society progresses and new technologies emerge, the attention and focus of individuals are shifting towards other languages and communication methods, leading to a decline in the usage of Chabacano within the community.

Generation Z Impact: The three responses mentioned the influence of Generation Z on the dying dialect of Chabacano usage because they highlighted observations and perspectives related to the decreasing presence of Chabacano, especially among the younger generation. These participants specifically mentioned factors such as modern technology, media influence, and the preferences of Generation Z as contributing to the diminishing dialect of Chabacano.

Numerous Parents think that the reason why chabacano dialect is dying because of technology and some new born languages.

> *"The reason why the usage of Chabacano is dying in Generation Z is because of the influence of modern technology."*

(Parent 6)

> *"Chabacano is dying in Generation Z due to various factors like media influence and lack of education."*

(Parent 7)

> *"That's because of some new born languages that generation Z are using right now."*

*(*Parent 8)

Parents 6, 7, and 8 all point to different reasons for the decline in Chabacano usage among Generation Z. Parent 6 believes that modern technology is the main influence, while Parent 7 mentions media influence and a lack of education as contributing factors. Parent 8 attributes the decrease in Chabacano usage to the adoption of new languages by Generation Z. Overall, these parents agree that various factors, including technology, media influence, education, and the popularity of new languages, are leading to the decline of Chabacano among the younger generation.

Table 2: Level of familiarity among generation Z regarding the Chabacano Language

Performance Level	Mean	Percentage	Interpretation
Easy	1.37	46%	Moderately Familiar
Average	1.51	37.75%	Lowly Familiar
Hard	0.91	22.75 %	Lowly Familiar

The table gives information about how well Generation Z individuals know the Chabacano language. At an easy performance level, 46% of Generation Z find it easy to understand Chabacano. This means that almost half of them can easily comprehend it. Furthermore, the average performance level is about 37.75% of Generation Z have some knowledge of Chabacano. This group has a moderate level of understanding of the language, indicating that they are somewhat familiar with it. Aside from that, the hard

performance level, 22.75%, find it difficult to understand Chabacano. This shows that a smaller percentage of Generation Z individuals struggle to understand the language.

In summary, the data shows that a significant portion of Generation Z has different levels of familiarity with Chabacano. While many find it easy or have some knowledge of the language, a smaller group encounters difficulties in comprehending it.

Problem 3: What program can be implemented after this study?

After studying how well Generation Z knows the Chabacano language, a good idea for a program is to create a language learning initiative. This program can help Generation Z learn more about Chabacano language and culture. It can include events, workshops, and experiences where generations Z can meet native speakers of chabacano, learn about the language's history and traditions, and have language learning. By giving Generation Z chances to be part of the Chabacano language and culture. This program can keep the language alive and help people connect across generations. Through this program, Generation Z can not only enhance their linguistic skills but also gain a deeper insight into the cultural heritage and values in the Chabacano language. By fostering a sense of connection and belonging within the Chabacano community, this initiative can play a vital role in preserving and promoting the unique identity of the Chabacano language among Generation Z and future generations.

Conclusion

The qualitative data highlights several key themes regarding the status of the Chabacano dialect in Cavite, including its extinction, challenges faced, and the impact of Generation Z. It indicates that younger generations are shifting away from Chabacano usage due to modern trends, technology, and the popularity of new languages. On the other hand, quantifiable data provides insight on Generation Z's acquaintance with the Chabacano language. It demonstrates that, while a minor portion finds it easy or relatively familiar, almost all of the percentage fails to understand it.Combining the two sets of data reveals that, while Generation Z is still familiar with Chabacano, there is an urgent need to address its dwindling popularity, particularly among younger generations. Implementing a language study program could be an effective way to maintain and promote Chabacano among Generation Z and beyond, forging a stronger connection to the language and its cultural history. At last, based on the results, the chabacano dialect is almost dying in generation Z.

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