

# Figurative Languages in Bicol Literature toward the Production of Instructional Material

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**Abstract**— This paper studied figurative languages found in the selected Bicol literatures. Specific questions and objectives have been answered through descriptive and qualitative analyses. Purposive sampling was used as the participant recruitment strategy in choosing expert evaluators along Filipino discipline. Interview guide as well as instructional material evaluation tool was used as data collection method.

It was found out that Simile is most often used in narrative literatures while paradox, oxymoron and proverbs are seldom used. In poetry, exaggeration is explicitly used; it is short, simple and easily grasped by most writers compared with paradox, oxymoron and proverbs. In terms of imagery, Bicolano writers showed high regard with regional virtues together with their faith to God. In poetry, each imagery singles out Bicolano identity such as bravery, hopefulness, self-worth, compassionate for others and to his society where he is belong. Various life encounters in attaining progressive society and government are also transpired in their literary pieces. With regards to literary appreciation, Bicolano writers are used to write literatures about self-development, self-appreciation and personal values based on actual experiences in life. In poetry, human appreciation is enhanced; it is oftentimes the subject of their writings.

Based on the cited findings and conclusions, the following recommendations have been installed; conduct seminar-workshops on literature so that those seldom and unfamiliar figurative languages will be used in literary enrichment. For imagery enhancement, the following ideas are highly recommended in writing namely insights from personal life experience, discipline, carefulness, meekness, self-assurance, peacefulness, cultural-based, stewardship and faith to God. Issues pertaining to conflicts, adultery, child labor, poverty, exploitation, negligence, wandering and meticulousness serve as eye-opener to readers. For the literary appreciation, Bicolano writers should have promote literatures about patriotism, humanity, environment and piousness toward the welfare of every Filipino people.

**Keywords**—Figurative Languages in Bicol Literatures, Production of instructional materials

## I. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the K-12 program in the Philippines through the Department of Education is a manifestation of improved and quality education to all learners from public and private schools in the country. It is in accordance with the mandate stipulated in *Art. XIV sec. 1 of the Philippine*

*Constitution*, that the state shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. One of the reasons of the K-12 program implementation is to train and enhance the capacities of the learners along academics, sports, arts and designs, and technical-vocational courses.

Practically during summer, the Department of Education equips the teachers of quality teaching strategies through the conduct of various trainings, seminar-workshops and other related enhancements along their field of specializations. These trainings include preparation, valuation and finalization of different instructional materials such as improvised work/activity books, modules, audio-visual presentations of foreign, national and indigenous related educational films, downloaded or self-made non- and fictional literary accounts such as news, essays, journals, features, short stories, videos and other teaching materials which generally increase the thinking capacity of the students along the general and specific competencies of each learning area. Additionally, utilization of original Bicol literatures found in the local newspapers, magazines, journals, references, pamphlets and other sources of learning the linguistics and literatures is highly recommended by the department of education which is comprehensively stipulated in *Art. XIV sec. 15* that the State shall conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. It is contextually understood that the State recognizes the nation's historical and cultural heritage as an important factor in boosting nationalism and patriotism among the Filipino people.

It is also implied in the implementation of the program that basic education teachers need to have a comprehensive planning of their year-round activities vis-à-vis teaching strategies tantamount to the general and specific competencies in the learning areas handled. Accordingly, application of the Mother Tongue Based and Multilingual Education as a teaching strategy is likewise introduced both in elementary and secondary with the help of teaching materials which are aligned to the goals and objectives of the aforesaid K-12 program. As a result, teachers handling language and literature subjects are directed to look for indigenous but quality pieces of Bicol literatures both in prose and poetry that can be used as teaching drill, motivation, evaluation and other possible uses to effect the desired competencies of each topic.

At present time, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education of Region V recognize the literary contributions of the following regional writers in effecting the quality education to all Bicolano learners namely

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Kristian Sendon Cordero (Iriga City), Paz Verdades M. Santos (Naga City), Judith Balares Salamat (Pili, Camarines Sur), H. Francisco V. Peñones (Iriga City), Irvin Santo Tomas (Canaman, Camarines Sur) Gil Gregorio Sr. (San Jose, Camarines Sur), Jerome M. Hipolito (Calabanga, Camarines Sur) Estelito B. Jacob (Camaligan, Camarines Sur) Selina (Janet Go-Alano) of Naga City, Johner Amoroso Cañeba (Iriga City), Bernardo Miguel Aguay Jr. (Calabanga, Camarines Sur and other Bicolano writers. Their writings are also recognized by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF).

This concern is equally supported by the *DepEd Order No. 32 s. 2015* that adopts the Indigenous Peoples Education Curriculum Framework which recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to basic education that is culturally rooted and responsive, the IPEd Curriculum Framework seeks to provide guidance to schools and other education programs, both public and private, as they engage with indigenous communities in localizing, indigenizing, and enhancing the K to 12 Curriculum based on their respective educational and social contexts.

It is clearly understood that the Department of Education of the Philippines now allows its regional offices to use Mother Tongue Based instruction as a key in achieving quality education of Filipino learners toward global competitiveness. As a result, this study was conducted to produce supplemental learning module in language and literature subjects for secondary schools.

This study was conducted to find out the different figurative languages used in the selected Bicol literatures. Specific questions and objectives have been answered through descriptive and qualitative analyses of the 14 selected Bicol literary pieces written in prose (4) and poetry (10) with significant impact on the DepEd's core values namely Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Makakalikasan and Makabansa. Purposive sampling was used as the participant recruitment strategy in choosing expert evaluators along Filipino discipline. Interview guide as well as instructional material evaluation tool was used as data collection method. In this study, statistical tool was noticed not applicable because it is purely qualitative in nature.

The following tables were the results of the study;

TABLE I: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES FOUND IN BICOL PROSE LITERATURES

PROSE BICOL LITERATURES	FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION
	SIMILE
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	It is seen from his bleeding gills <i>like</i> a soldier hit by a bullet.
	<i>Just like</i> a fish lifted from the water.
	It is <i>like</i> a fish with a foul breath that make the flies crazy in finding it.
	<i>Like</i> a thorn removed from his feelings.
	Small ants fall in the lines <i>as if</i> they are receiving reliefs.
	It is mixed <i>like</i> a green and very sticky infant waste.
	Pebbles <i>like</i> pieces of broken glass sharpened in the sand.
Stricken by fears <i>like</i> a man poured of cold water onto his head.	

KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones Jr.	Ferocious seeing <i>as if</i> you will be eaten alive.
	<i>As fast as</i> a horse that he easily reached me.
	His house <i>resembles</i> to a little shed.
	Got speechless <i>just like</i> a hardened throat.
	Exaggeration
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	A dipper of fish eggs
	Over-pregnant fish
	The soldiers brought him in their shining city.
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones Jr.	Greater than mayor and congressman
	Even the blood will be decanted just for the land.
	My tears and blood blended on my face caused by his ax.
TAON NIN MGA AYAM by Juan Escandor Jr.	The church is brightly shining due to devotees' happiness amidst salvation.
	Metaphor
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	The big fish
TAON NIN MGA AYAM by Juan Escandor Jr.	Monsignor Bondok, is the prince of the church.
	Nuestra Señora de Penafrancia, Patroness of Bicolandia.
	Paradox
PAGHOROP-HOROP SA ELEKSYON by H. Francisco Peñones	No one to be blamed of but those who did not use their heads.
	Allegory/Proverbs
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	<i>How can we get married if the priest is already insane?</i>
	Parable
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones	<i>Miracle. It will save us!</i>
	<i>Pasturing of more than a million of devotees.</i>
	Allusion
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones	<i>"Aswang, patianak, Santelmo"</i>
PAGHOROP-HOROP SA ELEKSYON by H. Francisco Peñones	<i>Napoleon said, "it is not a credit from the politics."</i>

TABLE II: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES FOUND IN BICOL POETRY LITERATURES

POETRY BICOL LITERATURES	FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION
	SIMILE
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	It appears like a paradise due to the wreath of flowers arranged on your coffin.
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Just like Handiong.
	He is like John the Evangelist, the one who prepared the people for the coming of the Lord.
	You came out in Bicol like a voice from the wilderness.
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	The mouth of the wife resembles to a bomb grenade.
HUEBES SANTO	It seems like those instruments for Holy

by Estelito B. Jacob	Friday.
	VISION
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	Melancholic songs
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Even sometime our shadows are headless.
	PERSONIFICATION
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	When the eyes hit by the palay husk, when the face slammed by the sun! Even the sun still sleeping, the child begins to rise from his doss.
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Sayings continuously straightened our curled pathways.
BURADOL by Jerome Hipolito	When does the flying news come?
	METAPHOR
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	Anchor of my heart! The Shoreline of my love!
	SARCASM
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	Being lied down the shining bed, guarded of angels without wings, and of saints with their swollen eyes. St. Peter will not let you come in heaven because you have sometime touched the clouds.
	EXAGGERATION
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	Kisses on the face are passionately given. The husbands work hard like carabaos to sustain family's needs.
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	The streets and the dust will be purified by the feet without slippers.
BURADOL by Jerome Hipolito	Least patronized newspapers were saved from humiliation.
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	A father who is always drunk of alcohol The husk was absorbed by the arms, body and feet. While getting the broken "nigo" and the palay turning into black color... Wash at the well of thousands springs to scratch the itching skin caused by the dust of palay.
	PARADOX
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	It is undeniable, the hands are kissed and the head leaned over the shoulder.
	OXYMORON
AN DILA TA by Ben Escoto	When commanded forth and back, here in Rinconada (5 <sup>th</sup> district of Camarines Sur)
	PROVERBS
FOLK TIGSIK by Espinas et. al. Bicol Voices Anthology	Only the smallest creatures hit the eyes.
	ALLUSION

AN DILA TA Ben Escoto	The greatest poetry.
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	Mary!
	METONYMY
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Irregularities of influential government leaders have been announced.
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	Her husband has mistresses.
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	You are always in my heart, My love!
	SINECDOCHE
LAGAYLAY by Irvin Santo Tomas	Faultfinder eyes.

TABLE III: IMAGERIES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES FOUND IN BICOL PROSE LITERATURES

Bicol Prose Literatures	Figurative Languages	Imageries
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	It is seen from his bleeding gills <i>like</i> a soldier hit by a bullet.	Bravery
	Just <i>like</i> a fish lifted from the water.	Bravery
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones Jr	Even the blood will be decanted just for the land.	Bravery
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	<i>Like</i> a thorn removed from his feelings.	Unloading life baggage
	Small ants fall in the lines <i>as if</i> they are receiving reliefs.	Self-discipline
	It is mixed <i>like</i> a green and very sticky infant waste.	Carefulness
	Pebbles <i>like</i> pieces of broken glass sharpened in the sand	Danger
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones Jr	Stricken by fears <i>like</i> a man poured of cold water onto his head.	Learning from Self-experience
	Ferocious seeing <i>as if</i> you will be eaten alive.	Bravery
	<i>As fast as</i> a horse that he easily reached me.	Alertness
	His house <i>resembles</i> to a little shed.	Poverty
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	A dipper of fish eggs	Compassion
	Over-pregnant fish	Compassion
	The soldiers brought him in their shining city.	Development
KARIT by H. Francisco	My tears and blood blended on my face	Self-conviction

Peñones Jr	caused by his ax.	
PAGHOROP-HOROP SA ELEKSYON by H. Francisco Peñones	<i>Napoleon said, "it is not a credit from the politics."</i>	Self-conviction
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	<i>How can we get married if the priest is already insane?</i>	Self-conviction
TAON NIN MGA AYAM by Juan Escandor Jr.	The church is brightly shining due to devotees' happiness amidst salvation.	Faith in God
	<i>Miracle. It will save us!</i>	Faith in God
	<i>Pasturing of more than a million of devotees.</i>	Faith in God
	Monsignor Bondok, is the prince of the church.	Faith in God
	Nuestra Señora de Penafrancia, Patroness of Bicolandia.	Faith in God
PAGHOROP-HOROP SA ELEKSYON by H. Francisco Peñones	No one to be blamed of but those who did not use their heads.	Laxity/negligence
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones	Got speechless <i>just like</i> a hardened throat.	Absence of Self-conviction
	<i>"aswang, patianak, Santelmo"</i>	Deception
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	It is <i>like</i> a fish with a foul breath that make the flies crazy in finding it.	Advantage
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones Jr	Greater than mayor and congressman.	Insensible

TABLE IV: IMAGERIES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES FOUND IN BICOL POETRY LITERATURES

Bicol Poetry Literatures	Figurative Languages	Imageries
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	It appears like a paradise due to the wreath of flowers arranged on your coffin.	Tranquility
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	He is like John the Evangelist, the one who prepared the people for the coming of the Lord.	Faith in God
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	You came out in Bicol like a voice from the wilderness.	Bravery
	Irregularities of influential	Bravery

	government leaders have been announced.	
FOLK TIGSIK by Espinas et al	Only the smallest creatures hit the eyes.	Bravery
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	The mouth of the wife resembles to a bomb grenade.	Chaos
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	It seems like those instruments for Holy Friday.	Loneliness
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	Melancholic songs	Loneliness
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Even sometime our shadows are headless.	Self-conviction
	Sayings continuously straightened our curled pathways.	Self-conviction
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	When the eyes hit by the palay husk, when the face slammed by the sun!	Exploitation
	A father who is always drunk of alcohol.	Negligence
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	Her husband has mistresses.	Mistress
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	Even the sun still sleeping, the child begins to rise from his doss.	Responsibility
BURADOL by Jerome Hipolito	When does the flying news come?	Patience
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	Anchor of my heart	Hopefulness
	The Shoreline of my love	Hopefulness
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	Wash at the well of thousands springs to scratch the itching skin caused by the dust of palay.	Hopefulness
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	Being lied down the shining bed, guarded of angels without wings, and of saints with their swollen eyes.	Learning from Self-experience
	St. Peter will not let you come in the heaven because you have sometime touched the clouds.	Learning from Self-experience

MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	Kisses on the face are passionately given.	Compassion
	The husbands work hard like carabaos to sustain family's needs.	Compassion
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	You are always in my heart, My love!	Compassion
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	The streets and the dust will be purified by the feet without slippers.	Sacrifice
BURADOL by Jerome Hipolito	Least patronized newspapers were saved from humiliation.	Compassion
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Just like Handiong.	Compassion
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	The husk was absorbed by the arms, body and feet.	Child labor
	While getting the broken "nigo" and the palay turning into black color...	Poverty
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	It is undeniable, the hands are kissed and the head leaned over the shoulder.	Culture
AN DILA TA by Ben Escoto	When commanded forth and back, here in Rinconada (5 <sup>th</sup> district of Camarines Sur)	Wandering
AN DILA TA by Ben Escoto	The greatest poetry.	Pride (of the region)
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	Mary!	Caring
LAGAYLAY by Irvin Santo Tomas	Faultfinder eyes.	Circumspection

TABLE V: LITERARY APPRECIATION OF BICOLANOS IN RELATION TO DEPED CORE VALUES

PROSE LITERATURES	IMAGERIES	LITERARY APPRECIATION OF BICOLANOS IN RELATION TO DEPED CORE VALUES
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Bravery	People-oriented
	Unloading Life Baggage	
	Self-discipline	
	Carefulness	
	Learning from Self-experience	
	Fearfulness	

	Alertness	
	Compassion	
	Self-conviction	
	Advantage	
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones Jr.	Conviction	People-oriented
	Bravery	
	Poverty	
	Absence of Self-conviction	
	Insensible	
PAGHOROP-HOROP SA ELEKSYON by H. Francisco Peñones	Self-conviction	People-oriented
	Negligence	
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Development	Country-oriented
KARIT by H. Francisco Peñones	Deception	Country-oriented
TAON NIN MGA AYAM by Juan Escandor Jr.	Faith in God	God-oriented
AN DAKULANG SIRA by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Danger	Environmentally-oriented

TABLE VI: LITERARY APPRECIATION OF BICOLANOS IN RELATION TO DEPED CORE VALUES

POETRY LITERATURES	IMAGERIES	LITERARY APPRECIATION OF BICOLANOS IN RELATION TO DEPED CORE VALUES
KALAG SA LANGIT by Estelito B. Jacob	Tranquility, Loneliness, Learning from Self-experience	People-oriented
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Bravery, Self-Conviction	
FOLK TIGSIK by Espinas et. al.	Bravery	
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	Chaos, Compassion	
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	Loneliness, Sacrifice	
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA	Exploitation, Laxity/Negligence Responsibility,	

PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	Hopefulness	
BURADOL by Jerome Hipolito	Patience	
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	Hopefulness, Compassion	
AN DILA TA by Ben Escoto	Wandering, Skillfulness	
LAGAYLAY by Irvin Santo Tomas	Circumspectio n	
BOSES SA KADLAGAN by Kristian Sendon Cordero	Faith in God	God-oriented
HUEBES SANTO by Estelito B. Jacob	Caring	Country-oriented
PAMPANG KAN SAKONG PAGKAMOOT by Marne Kilates	Culture	
BURADOL by Jerome Hipolito	Compassion	
KUN PANO PINAPALID KAN AKI AN ARUGASANG SA PILI by Honesto M. Pesimo Jr.	Child labor	
MGA TAON SA MAG-AGOM by Treg'z 17	Mistress	

**Final Stage** The following were the conclusions and recommendations in the specific questions of the study.

1. What are the figurative languages found in the Bicol prose and poetry literatures?

It has been noted that Simile is the most usable in prose Bicol literatures because the words belong to this type are used to describe different experiences of the writers which are usually focused on society, government, politics and other environmental concerns and issues unlike with the paradox, proverbs and oxymoron that are seldom used. In poetry, because of its shortness in form and limited ideas, exaggeration thence outnumbered the paradox, oxymoron and proverbs. It has also been singled out the commonality of the writers' purpose of writing the literature is to show the day to day activities of the Filipino people. In this regard, it is recommended to conduct a seminar-workshop where some of the figurative languages that are seldom used will be learned and used in the different forms of literature and, encourage the language and literature teachers to promote and use Bicol literatures as one of their instructional materials in the enhancement of students' linguistics and communicative competence.

2. What imageries are represented by each figurative language from the Bicol prose and poetry literatures?

It is obvious from the figurative languages found in the studied Bicol literatures that Bicolanos have a strong faith in

God. Their write-ups are also focused to Bicolanos distinctive characteristics in dealing with people from the different regions of the country/world together with their unique way of appreciating the government programs, developments and failures caused by the ever-changing politics of the country. With all these conclusions, these recommendations have been given; a) encourage the students to write original compositions according to their personal experience, self-discipline, self-conviction, fear to God and disposition against exploitation and negligence. b) As language and literature teachers, it is highly recommended to look for literary pieces that give much discussion on the following imageries; peace, faith in God, culture, compassion, patience, hopefulness and bravery against child labor, mistress, laxity, exploitation and other distress conditions of every Filipino people.

3. What literary appreciations of Bicolanos are contained from the studied Bicol literatures in relation to DepEd Core Values?

It has been observed that most of the studied Bicol literatures show concern with the core values of the DepEd namely Makatao (people-oriented) and Makabansa (country-oriented). All of these give discussion on tranquility, learning from self-experience, bravery, Self-conviction, compassion, sacrifice, hopefulness, patience, skillfulness, responsibility, circumspection, culture, exploitation, negligence, child labor and mistress. These values also contribute in producing Filipinos who are holistic and responsive individuals toward the vision of making the Philippines a nation of peace-loving and God-fearing individuals who are equally responsive to the ultimate goal of the DepEd core values which is Maka-Diyos.

With all these conclusions, it is recommended to encourage the young Bicolanos with inclination in writing to write more literary pieces valuing people, nature, country and the greatness of God. Finally, for language and literature teachers, production of indigenous supplemental learning materials is also encouraged based on the required competencies of the learning area.

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