

Towards the Development of Ibanag Orthography: The Allophones and Gemination of Sounds of the Ibanag Language Structure

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This study aimed at developing Ibanag Orthography of the Ibanag-speaking communities in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan in Region 02, Philippines. Results validated the existing and established rules on the Ibanag structure. However, no normative manual or grammar is to be considered as a law valid for every speaker of Ibanag language. It's the political or cultural dominance which in practice can solve the language problems. Thus, the support of authoritative persons, organizations, institutions and language experts in the development of an appropriate Ibanag Orthography is a most favourable factor in establishing a writing system of the spoken language.

Keywords: development, Ibanag orthography, allophones, gemination of sounds, rules

INTRODUCTION

Language as a means of communication has two main and essential characters: as a means and as a social code. It is the basic instrument of social behaviour. The striving for correct and good languages is based on the social phenomenon and as a means. Language is described as a means of identification, categorization, perception, thinking, creative activity, technology, memory and transmitting knowledge across space and time as well as a social code and a social institution (Tauli, 1974 in Tarun, 2016). As a code, the linguistic norm is inherent in the nature of language. In a normal dialect, the linguistic norm is the precondition on which an efficient and economic function of linguistic communication is based. Similar to the acquisition of communicative competence, it is not complete until one knows what language to speak or write and to whom and when to use the language (Fishman, 1974 in Tarun, 2016).

Theoretically, wherever there is a communication problem concerning the use of language, language planning is possible. Language planning is a normative work of language institutions as described by Haugen (1966, 1969 in Tarun, 2016), the first sociologist who discussed the language planning processes: policy formulation, codification, elaboration and implementation which was revised by Neustupney (1970 in Tarun, 2016) and added cultivation. With respect to the language planning program objective of developing a vernacular into a standard language, Ferguson (1968 in Karam, 1974) identifies three components: (1) graphization – the reduction of a spoken language to writing; (2) modernization – the expansion of vocabulary and the development of forms of discourse; and (3) standardization – the process of one variety of a language becoming widely accepted throughout the speech community. Graphization provides the basis for literacy, for formal education and for modernization. Also, with respect to language policy planning, two of the three types of language policy were categorized as the official language policy, which is the recognition by a government as to which languages are to be used and for what

purposes; and educational language policy, which is concerned on what languages will be used as the media of instruction and as subject of study at the various levels of public and private education (Noss, 1971 and Karam, 1974 in Tarun, 2016). Thus, the Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTBMLE) of the K to 12 Curriculum is the banner program of the government for basic education.

The K to 12 Curriculum is implemented commencing school year 2012-2013 which brought metamorphoses in the basic education of the country. The Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) is the major strategy/program of the government for the implementation of the K to 12 Curriculum which was stipulated in the Department Order No. 74, s. 2009, an order institutionalizing the said program, in consistent with the Republic Act 10532 otherwise known as the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”. The use of mother tongue as Primary Medium of Instruction (PMI) and a separate learning area from Kindergarten to Grade-3 (K to 3) of the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) program is one of the key features of the K to 12 Curriculum. In view of its implementation, it is necessary to establish a Multilingual Education (MLE) support system to ensure the use of mother tongue as medium of instruction (Corpuz, 2012). Development of printed orthography of the local language particularly the Ibanag language is essential in the use of mother tongue as a prime consideration along with this endeavour.

MTB-MLE strategy adapted the philosophy that the best medium of instruction is the language known and understood by the learner. Learners start their education in the language they understand best. Thus, a need to fully develop their literacy and / or proficiency in their mother tongue (L1), which refers to Ibanag language in this study, must be given priority attention to ensure their capability to learn the second language (L2 - Filipino) and the third language (L3- English). It is believed that the effective and efficient implementation of MTB-MLE enables the learners to develop their literacy and/or proficiency not only in their mother tongue and Filipino but in English language. Graduates of this program are not only expected to be functionally literate but are also equipped with 21st century core skills which includes effective communication in English. In addition to this, graduates will be better prepared for higher education (Licuanan, 2012).

The 20th century inherited from the 19th century the problems on language. In all countries, the teaching of the mother tongue in the schools demands extensive costs in time, energy and money while the knowledge in the mother tongue of graduates is still unsatisfactory (Tauli, 1974). This is true in the Philippine arena where Filipino and English have been the official media of instruction in schools and as subjects in the curriculum are of its advantage over the use of mother tongue in the localities, where there is abundance of written and published materials in English and not in Filipino (Segovia, 1986 in Tarun, 2016) and where there is no written and published materials in Ibanag, Ilocano and other languages in the locality in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) (Tarun, 2016). As a result, many parents prefer to train their children to speak in Tagalog or if possible in English which becomes their mother tongue. However, competence in English is still a perennial problem considering the superficial number of those in the system who reach that advanced stage in English as a second or third language (Gonzales, 2016) hence, MTB – MLE of the K – 12 Curriculum is in its implementation to reach the goal for English competence and/or proficiency. One of these local languages is the Ibanag language as a mother tongue.

Ibanag language was categorized as one of the Northern Philippine languages within the Austronesian language family. It is spoken by not less than 500,000 most particularly by the Ibanag peoples in the northeastern provinces of Isabela and Cagayan. Since Ibanag is spoken in different communities in Isabela and Cagayan, considering the Spanish influences, the existence of its varieties and variations among the speakers is noteworthy in the actual use of language in speaking and in some written texts in terms of its linguistic characteristics. This is one of the dilemmas in the implementation process of MTBMLE wherein the problems on codification (e.g. Orthography, Dictionaries, etc.) and elaboration (e.g. Word list, Glossaries, etc.) of the Ibanag language are still evident. Implementation of the program includes all the activity necessary for the execution of the plan, such as the codification of the norm and the many tasks that are accomplished by the educational institutions in disseminating the codified norm.

Literacy is the best known in the discussions of language planning. It can be classified as individual literacy, which is primarily concerned with the problem of increasing the number of literate individuals or

group literacy, which concern is on the development of writing system. Both types of literacy involve linguistic variables. Just as a given individual can be literate to a varying extent, so the writing system worked out for a language to be elaborated with varying degrees of proficiency. Thus, it is not only a question of phonological matters but a host of other graphic conventions on which decisions must be made in order to develop a full – fledged writing system. A language for which a writing system has been developed is a written language, a codified form of language accepted by and serving as a model to a larger speech community (Garvin, 1974). Every language is equally well adapted to the uses to which the community puts it (Tauli, 1974). Yet, one of the main problems concerning the varieties and variations of a language spoken by the Ibanag peoples is the creation of an appropriate Ibanag orthography. Development of a working orthography in Ibanag language is of high degree for the implementation of MTB-MLE in the locality.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aimed at developing Ibanag Orthography to cater to the needs of the Ibanag speaking communities in the locality. Specifically, it aimed at responding on the following: (1) documentation of the allophones and gemination of sounds of the Ibanag spoken language; (2) determining the existing rules on the actual use of Ibanag allophones and gemination of sounds in its structure; and (3) establishing the rules on allophones and gemination of sounds towards the creation of Ibanag Orthography.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, descriptive analysis using qualitative method was utilized. The qualitative analysis of data was done through multi – method approach or triangulation. Data were gathered through unstructured actual interviews, actual observations and participation to conversational talks or naturally - occurring talks and documentary analysis. The result of each method served as its confirmation and validation. Recording and noting of data were done to ensure the correctness in pronunciation and spelling of the Ibanag spoken language. Collected old and new existing written materials in Ibanag were used to analyze the structure as compared to the actual pronunciations of the Ibanag words.

Data of this study were gathered from the Ibanag speaking communities in Region 2 particularly in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan. In Isabela, there were seven (7) municipalities namely: Cabagan, San Pablo, Sta. Maria, Sto.Tomas, Tumauini, Ilagan and Gamu while in the province of Cagayan were Tuguegarao City, Lallo, Camalaniugan and Aparri. Data gathered from Isabela and Cagayan were categorized as Isabela Ibanag and as Cagayan Ibanag.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

One of the distinct linguistic characteristics of the Ibanag language in its structure in terms of phonological pattern is the allophones. An allophone is a phonetic variant of a phoneme or one of the phonetically distinct variants of a phoneme in a particular language. It is a speech sound which constitutes one of the phonetic variants of a particular phoneme. The following tables show the summary of the results:

The Vowel Allophones

Table 1.1.1 shows the patterns of word formation for the [i] – [a] and the [a] – [i] allophones of the Ibanag language structure. The table illustrates that words with [i] – [a] allophone were formed when (1) the first vowel [a] or [i] of the first syllable of the root word interchanged and the same pattern occurred when a prefix was added to the root word; and (2) the root word ending with a vowel sound [a] was fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound, with [a] as the last vowel sound in the second or last syllable, was partially reduplicated. Reduplication occurred only up to the last vowel [a] of the second syllable of the root word. On the other hand, [a] – [i] allophone of the word occurred when (1)

the prefixed word was partially reduplicated; and (2) the root word ending with a vowel [a] was fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound was partially reduplicated.

TABLE 1
THE [i] – [a] AND [a] – [i] ALLOPHONES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE
IBANAG LANGUAGE

[i] – [a] allophone	
Root word	Prefixed word
bábba / bíbba	abábba / abíbba : kabábba / kabíbba
bábbaw / bíbbaw	abábbaw / abíbbaw : kabábbaw / kabíbbaw
páddu / píddu	apáddu / apíddu : kápáddu / kápíddu
pákkul / píkkul	kapákkul / kapíkkul : mapákkul / mapíkkul
Reduplicated word	
bíllay	bílla - bíllay : bílli - bíllay
ikán/ ikáng	iká – ikán/g : ikí – ikán/g
kíddaw	kídda – kíddaw : kíddi – kíddaw
síma	síma - síma : sími - síma
zítta	zítta - zítta : zítiti - zítta
[a] – [i] allophone	
Prefixed word	Reduplicated word
abíbba	abíbíbba : abábíbba
alínno	alílínno : alálínno
alístu	alílístu : alálístu
apíddu	apípíddu : apápíddu
Root word	
ámmi	ámmi – ámmi : ámma - ámmi
bássi	bássi – bássi : bássa – bássi
kássig	kássi – kássig : kássa – kássig
pássil	pássi – pássil : pássa – pássil

The formation of the word with [a] – [o] / [u] - [a] / [a] - [u] was described in table 1.1.2. It was shown that words with [a] – [o] allophone were formed when (1) a root word ending with a vowel [o] was fully reduplicated; and (2) a root word ending with a silent sound **-k / -p / -t** was added to the suffix **-an**, the only suffix of the Ibanag language. The [u] - [a] allophone of the word occurred when (1) the root word ending with a vowel [a] was fully reduplicated; and (2) the [a] and [u] sounds of the same root word interchanged (lábbe : lúbbe) while the word with [a] - [u] allophone was formed when (1) the root word ending with a vowel sound [u] was fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound, with [u] as the last vowel sound in the second or last syllable, was partially reduplicated.

TABLE 2
THE FORMATION PATTERNS OF [a] – [o], [u] - [a] AND [a] - [u] ALLOPHONES

[a] - [o] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
bálo	bálo – bálo : bála – bálo
dámmó	dámmo – dámmó : dámma – dámmó
galó	galó – galó : galá – galó
káallo	káallo - káallo : káalla - káallo
pággó	pággó – pággó : págga – pággó
Root word (+ silent sounds)	Suffixed word
álló(-k)	állókan : állákkán
bálo(-k)	bálókan : bálákkán
kuló(-k)	kulókan : kulákkán
utó (-k)	utókan : utákkán
ató(-p)	atópan : atáppán
gákkó(-p)	gákkópan : gákkáppán
lánnó(-p)	lánnópan : lánnáppán
káno(-p)	kánópan : kánáppán
ábbó(-t)	ábbótan : ábbáttán
íbbó(-t)	íbbótan : íbbáttán
pággó(-t)	pággótan : pággáttán
zíbbó(-t)	zíbbótan : zíbbáttán
[u] - [a] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
funá	funá – funá : funu : funá
lugá	lugá – lugá : lugú - lugá
mulá	mulá – mulá : mulú – mulá
sulár	sulá – sulár : sulú – sulár
tuláng	tulá – tuláng : tulú - tuláng
vuná	vuná - vuná ; vunú - vuná
Root word	Root word
dákki	dúkki
dáttal	dúttal
lábbe	lúbbe
lámming	lúmming
[a] - [u] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
ámmung	ámmu – ámmung : ámma – ámmung
dagún	dagú – ragún : dagá – ragún
karú	karú –karú : kará –karú
tánnug	tánnu – tánnug : tánná – tánnug
távvung	távvu – távvung : távvá – távvung

Table 1.1.3 illustrates the formation of words with the allophones [i] - [u] / [u] - [i] / [u]-[o]. The words with [i] - [u] / [u] - [i] / [u]-[o] allophone were formed with the following patterns: (1) The [i] - [u] allophone occurred when word ending with [u] was fully reduplicated and also when reduplication occurred up to the last vowel sound [u] of the second / last syllable of the root word ending with a consonant sound; (2) The [u] - [i] allophone of the root word happened when word ending with [i] was fully reduplicated and also when reduplication took place up to the last vowel sound [i] of the second / last syllable of the root word ending with a consonant sound; and (3) The [u]-[o] allophone was interchanging when the root word ending in [o] was fully reduplicated.

TABLE 3
THE FORMATION PATTERNS OF THE WORD WITH [i] - [u], [u] - [i] and [u]-[o]
ALLOPHONES

[i] – [u] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
kíllu	kíllu – kíllu : kílí – kíllu
sifúng	sifú – sifúng : sifí – sifúng
simú	simú – simú : simí – simú
zigù	zigù – zigù : zigí – zigù
zimúg	zimú – zimúg : zimí – zimúg
[u] – [i] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
fusí	fusí – fusí : fusú – fusí
kúrri	kúrri – kúrri : kúrrú – kúrri
tulíng	tulí – tulíng : tulú – tulíng
vukíg	vukí – vukíg : vukú – vukíg
vutí	vutí – vutí : vutú – vutí
[u] – [o] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
dupó / dufó	dupó – dupó/dufó – dufó : dupú – dupó/ dufú – dufó
túllo	túllo – túllo : túllu – túllo
utó	utó – utó : utú – utó
zíkko	zíkko - zíkko : zíkku - zíkko

Some words in Ibanag language were also formed with [e] – [i] allophone as shown in table 1.1.4. When the first /VC/ syllable of the root word beginning with [i] was reduplicated, the vowel sound [i] was changed to a vowel sound [e]. This process is the same in the partially reduplicated form of the word even a prefix was also added to it. Another formation of the word with [e] – [i] allophone also happened when the first syllable of the word was a vowel [i]. When the syllable vowel sound [i] or the beginning sound of the root word was reduplicated, there was an insertion of a semi – vowel sound [y] and then the vowel sound [i] was replaced by a vowel sound [e].

TABLE 4
THE FORMATION PATTERNS OF THE [e] - [i] ALLOPHONE

[e] – [i] allophone	
Root word (+ prefix ag-)	Reduplicated word
ídda	iddídda : iddédda
ággídda	ággíddídda : ággíddédda : magíddédda
ikág	ikíkag : ikékag
ággikág	aggíkikag : ággikékag : magikékag
ítubáng	ítítubáng : itetubáng
ággítubáng	ággítítubáng : ággítétubáng : magítétubang
Root word	Reduplicated word (+ inserted y)
ibág	iyíbág : iyébág : iyébébag
íddág	iyíddág : iyéddág : iyéddéddag
ikán/g	iyikan/g : iyékan/g : iyékékan/g
ímmáng	iyímmáng : iyémmáng : iyémmémmáng
ínnág	iyínnág : iyénnág : iyénnénnág

The Consonant Allophones

The case of [b] – [g] / [g] – [b] / [b] - [k] / [k] - [g] allophony in the structure of the Ibanag language is described in table 2.2. The original spelling of the root words that were illustrated was validated through documentary analysis. In contrast, the last consonant sound [b] of the original spelling was pronounced as [g] by the greater number of people in the Ibanag speaking communities and some of the population pronounced it as [k] due to regional influence. It was also confirmed that most of the new or latest written materials in the language were following the [g] sound but, when the word was added to a suffix –an, the [b] sound dominated in speaking and writing as presented in the table.

TABLE 5
THE FORMATION PATTERNS OF [b] – [g] / [g] – [b] / [b]- [k] / [k] - [g] ALLOPHONY

[b] – [g] / [g] – [b] / [b] – [k] / [k] - [g] allophone		
Original Spelling (rw)	Actual Pronunciation (rw)	Root word + -an
agúb	agúg : agúk	agúban
ággúb	aggúg : aggúk	ággúban
ássáb	asság : ássák	ássabán
dób	dóg : dók	dóban
fúgab	fúgag : fúgak	fúgabán
gággáb	gággág : gággák	gággában
gáttáb	gáttág : gátták	gáttában
lakáb	lakág : lakák	lakábbán
tágab	tágag : tágak	tágábban
takáb	takág : takák	takabán
tákkáb	tákkág : tákkák	tákkábban

In like manner, the formation patterns of **[r] - [d]** / **[r] - [g]** / **[g]** / **[k] - [d]** / **[k] - [g]** allophony is similar to the aforementioned patterns. As described in table 1.2.3, the original spelling of the words that were included in the table specifically the last **[d]** sound was confirmed through documentary analysis using the old existing written materials in Ibanag language. As to the actual pronunciation of the words, many speakers in the locality pronounced the last consonant sound as **[g]** and some pronounced it as **[k]** which was considered as the effect of regional influence. Also, it was validated that the **[g]** sound was used in most of the new written materials in Ibanag language but it was also noted and observed that when the suffix **-an** was added to the root words ending originally in the **[d]** sound, this sound dominated in speaking and writing of the words as illustrated in the table.

TABLE 6
THE FORMATION PATTERNS OF [r] - [d] / [r] - [g] / [g] / [k] - [d] / [k] - [g] ALLOPHONY IN THE STRUCTURE OF IBANAG LANGUAGE

[r] - [d] / [r] - [g] / [k] / [g] / [k] - [d] / [k] - [g] allophone		
Original Spelling (rw)	Actual Pronunciation (rw)	Structure (rw + -an)
aléd	alég : alék	alégan : aléran
bíbbíd	bíbbíg : bíbbík	bíbbigán : bíbbirán
lákad	lákag : lákak	lakágan : lakádan : lakáran
léggéd	léggég : léggék	léggédan : léggéran
likúd	likúg : likúk	likugán : likudán : likurán
lúggud	lúggug : lúgguk	lúggúdan : lúggúran
ngóngngód	ngóngngóg : ngóngngók	ngóngngódan : ngóngngóran
pálad	pálag : pálak	pálagán : paladan : palaran
paliád	paliág : paliák	paliágan : paliádan : paliáran
síggéd	síggég : síggék	síggédan : síggéran

The formation patterns of **[r] - [b]** and **[r] - [d]** allophones of the Ibanag language structure are illustrated in table 1.2.1. As illustrated, **[r] - [b]** allophone was revealed when the first /CV/ syllable was reduplicated. The reduplicated consonant sound **[b]** was changed to consonant sound **[r]**. In the **[r] - [d]** allophone, the same pattern happened when the first /CV/ was reduplicated, the consonant sound **[d]** was changed to a consonant sound **[r]**. In the case of **[r] - [z]** allophone, root word beginning with consonant **[z]** sound when fully reduplicated, the beginning sound of the reduplicated form of the root word was changed to consonant sound **[r]**. The other way of word formation with **[r] - [z]** allophony as illustrated was when a prefix was added to the root word. It was noted that when a vowel sound of the prefix was followed by the root word beginning with a consonant **[z]** sound, this sound was replaced by the consonant **[r]** sound.

TABLE 7
THE WORD FORMATION PATTERNS WITH [r] – [b] / [r] – [d] / [r] – [z] ALLOPHONY

[r] – [b] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
bábbay	babábbay : barábbay
báddi	babáddi : baráddi
béllág	bebéllág : beréllág
bílláy	bibílláy : birílláy
bótu	bobótu : borótu
búkúl	bubúkúl : burúkúl
[r] – [d] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
dakál	dadakál : darakál
dáddáy	dadáddáy : daráddáy
déko	dedéko : deréko
dépig	dedépig : derépig
díga	didíga ; diríga
dób	dodób ; dorób
dóng	dodóng : dórong
dúddu	dudúddu : durúddu
dúkku	dudúkku : durúkku
[r] – [z] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
zibbò	zibbò - ribbò / zizibbò : ziribbò
zigá	zigá - rigá / zizigá : zirigá
zigú / zigù	zigú- rigú / zizígu : zirígu zigù - rigù / zizígù : zirígù
zipíng	zipí – ripíng / zizipíng : ziripíng
zítta	zítta – rítta / zizítta : zirítta
ziwál	ziwà – riwal / ziziwal : ziriwal
zízzing	zízzi – rízzing / zizízzing : zirízzing
Prefixed word	
zibbò	ázzibbò : árríbò / mazibbò : maribbò
zigá	ázzigá : árrigá / mazigá : marigá
zípa	azzípa : árrípa / mazípa : marípa
zítta	azzítta : árrítta / mazítta : marítta

The allophones [z] – [d] and [s] – [t] have the same pattern in the formation of the word. In the [z] – [d] allophone, the root word beginning with the consonant [d] sound when an infix –in- was added to it, the [d] sound was changed to a consonant [z] sound. Likewise in the [s] – [t] allophone, when the infix was inserted in the root word, the [t] sound was replaced by a consonant [s] sound.

TABLE 8
THE PATTERNS OF THE WORD FORMATION WITH [z] – [d] AND [s] – [t] ALLOPHONY

[z] – [d] allophone	
Root word	Infixed word (+ -in-)
dábba	dinábba : zinábba
dága /dagá / dagà	dinága / dinagá / dinagà: zinága / zinagá / zinagà
dálang	dinálang : zinálang
dénu	dinénu : zinénu
dépag	dinépag : zinépag
díga	diníga : ziníga
disí	dinísí : zinísí
dób	dinób : zinób
dóyan/dóyang	dinóyan/g zinóyan/g
dúgal	dinúgal : zinúgal
dúru	dinúru : zinúru
[s] – [t] allophone	
Root word	Reduplicated word
tábbag	tinábbag : sinábbag
táddag	tináddag : sináddag
tádday	tinádday : sinádday
takág	tinákag : sinákag
tákkag	tinákkábban : sinákkábban
takí	tináki : sináki
tátta	tinátta : sinátta
téko	tinékáttan : sinékáttan
téla	tinéla : sinéla
tóka	tinóka : sinóka
tólay	tinólay : sinólay
túbbá/túbbà	tinúbbá : sinúbbá / tinúbbà : sinúbbà
tuláng	tinúlang : sinúlang

The consonant sounds [b] and [p] of the Ibanag Isabela variety and the consonant sounds [v] and [f] of the Ibanag Cagayan variety can be the distinct characteristics of the two varieties of the Ibanag language in the Ibanag - speaking communities. It is noteworthy that the variant of the word in Ibanag Cagayan when it has two [b] sounds in Ibanag Isabela, only one of it was spelled and/ or pronounced in [v] sound. In this case, it cannot be exactly concluded that the [b] sound of the Ibanag Isabela was the [v] sound of the Ibanag Cagayan. This characteristic is the same with the [p] sound of the Ibanag Isabela and the [f] sound of the Ibanag Cagayan. Not all word with [p] sound of Isabela Ibanag was pronounced and / or spelled in the [f] sound of the Ibanag Cagayan. Results of the interviews vouched that the [v] and [f] sounds were influences of the Itawes language in some parts of the Ibanag - speaking communities in Aparri, Camalaniugan, Lallo and Tuguegarao City in the province of Cagayan.

TABLE 9
THE [v] – [b] AND THE [f] – [p] ALLOPHONE OF IBANAG ISABELA AND
IBANAG CAGAYAN

[v] – [b] allophone	
Isabela [b]	Cagayan [v]
abábbáw	avábbáw
abága	avága
abíbbá	avíbbá
babáy	baváy
bánna	vánna
bébay	bévay
bíbi	bívi
bisín	visín
kabábbô	kavábbô
kabáttug	kaváttug
mabí	maví
tabá	tavá
[f] – [p] allophone	
Isabela [p]	Cagayan [f]
apápe	afápe
apáddú / apíddú	afáddú / afíddú
apingál	afingál
dapán /dapáng	dafán
kapiánan	kafiánan
ipó	ifó
lúpi	lufí
ngipán	ngifán
pangál	fangál

The structure of the Ibanag language is considered “unique” for it features sounds that are not common in other languages. Another distinct linguistic characteristic specifically in phonological features is its double – sound words such as *báddi*, *dábba*, *gáppo*, *tákki*, *vúllag*, and others. Aside from this structure, it also features **gemination** of sounds. The patterns of word formation on this process were presented and discussed through the use of tables.

Table 2.1 illustrates the gemination pattern of the sound in the structure of word in Ibanag language. When a prefix **a-** / **ma-** / **pa** / **ipa-** / **ka-** was added to a root word beginning with a consonant sound, the gemination of the first consonant sound of the root word occurred.

TABLE 10
THE GEMINATION OF SOUND WHEN A PREFIX a- / ma- / pa / ipa- / ka- WAS ADDED TO
THE ROOT WORD BEGINNING WITH A CONSONANT SOUND

Gemination of Sound in Prefixed words (a- / ma- / pa / ipa- / ka + rw)		
Prefix	Root word	Prefixed word
a-	bábbal	ábbábbal
ma-	bábbal	mábbábbal
pa-	bábbal	pábbábbal
ipa-	bábbal	ipábbábbal
a-	lútu	állutu
ma-	lútu	mállutu
pa-	lútu	pállutu
ipa-	lútu	ipállutu
a-	zípa	ázzípa
ma-	zípa	mázzípa
pa-	zípa	pázzípa
ipa-	zípa	ipázzípa
ka-	bánnág	kábbánnág
ka-	darál	káddarál
ka-	funáw	káffunáw
ka-	lufúg	kállufúg

The gemination of sound when a prefix **ag-** / **ang-** was added to the root word beginning with a vowel sound was described in table 2.2. The gemination pattern of the word formation when prefix **ag-** / **ang-** was added to the root word, the **[g]** or **[ng]** sound of the prefix geminated.

TABLE 11
THE GEMINATION OF SOUND WHEN A PREFIX ag- / ang- WAS ADDED TO THE ROOT WORD BEGINNING WITH A VOWEL SOUND

Gemination of Sound in Prefixed words (ag- / ang-+ rw)		
Prefix	Root word	Prefixed word
ag-	ágal	aggágal
ag-	alí	aggáli
ag-	ázzil	aggázzil
ag-	éppi	aggéppi
ag-	íbbó	aggíbbó
ag-	óllu	aggóllu
ag-	upá	aggupá
ang-	akú	ángngáku
ang-	alá	ángngála
ang-	áttam	ángngáttam
ang-	élig	ángngélig
ang-	íllug	ángngíllug
ang-	óllu	ángngóllu
ang-	ulí	ángngulí

The gemination of sound when a prefix ke- / kita- / guma- / sippa was added to the root word beginning with a consonant sound was shown in table 2.3. It was observed and noted that when a prefix **ke- / kita- / guma-/sippa** was added to a root word beginning with a consonant sound, the beginning or first consonant sound of the root word geminated.

TABLE 12
THE GEMINATION OF SOUND WHEN PREFIXES ke- / kita- / guma- / sippa WERE USED IN WORD FORMATION

Gemination of Sound in Prefixed words (ke- / kita- / guma- / sippa-+ rw)		
Prefix	Root word	Prefixed word
ke-	láppo	kèlláppo
kita-	láppo	kitálláppo
ke-	vurúng	kèvvurúng
kita-	vurúng	kitávvurúng
guma-	bayá	gumábbayá
sippa-	bayá	sippábbayá
guma-	dánug	gumáddánug
sippa-	dánug	síppáddánug
guma-	gátang	gumággátang
sippa-	gátang	síppággátang

There was also a gemination of sound when a prefix **gi-** was used in a word formation of Ibanag language structure as gleaned in table 2.4. When a prefix **gi-** was added to a suffixed word beginning with a consonant sound, the gemination of the beginning sound occurred.

TABLE 13
THE GEMINATION OF SOUND WHEN PREFIX **gi- WAS ADDED TO A SUFFIXED WORD BEGINNING WITH A CONSONANT SOUND**

Gemination of Sound in Prefixed words (gi-+ suffixed word)		
Prefix	Suffixed word	Structure
gi-	baláyan (baláy +-an)	gíbbalayán
gi-	futuán (futù + -an)	gíffutuán
gi-	nonópan (nóno-p + -an)	gínnonópan
gi-	mulán (mulà + -an)	gímmúlan
gi-	pasirangan (pasirang + -an)	gíppasirangan
gi-	sinnungán (sinnung + -an)	gíssinnungán
gi-	tangitán (tangi-t +-an)	gíttangitán
gi-	vurikan (vuri-k + -an)	gívvúrikán
gi-	yénan (yéna +-an)	gíyyénan
gi-	zibbátan (zibbo-t +-an)	gízzibbátan

As illustrated in table 2.5, there was a gemination of sound when a root word ending with a consonant sound or with a silent sound **-k / -p / -t** was added to a suffix **-an**. Some of the root words ending with a consonant, when a suffix **-an** was added to it, the last or the ending sound of the root word geminated. It was also illustrated that when the suffix **-an** was added to a root word with a silent sound, the silent sound which is the last sound of the last syllable geminated.

TABLE 14
THE GEMINATION OF SOUND WHEN A ROOT WORD ENDING WITH A CONSONANT
SOUND OR WITH A SILENT SOUND –k / -p /-t WAS ADDED TO A SUFFIX –an

Gemination of Sound in Prefixed words (a- / ma- / pa / ipa- / ka + rw)		
Root word Ending with a consonant	Suffix	Structure
bábbag	-an	bábbággan
dúmpar	-an	dúmpárran
fugád	-an	fugáddan
káttal	-an	káttállan
kállab (kállag)	-an	kállábban
tántal	-an	tántállan
tántar	-an	tántárran
Root word Ending with a Silent Sound –k / -p / -t		
bálo-k	-an	bálákkan
dátto-k	-an	dáttákkan
kámo-k	-an	kámákkan
vúddo-k	-an	vúddákkan
addó-p	-an	addáppan
gákkó-p	-an	gákkáppan
lákkó-p	-an	lákkáppan
tagéno-p	-an	tagénáppan
abbó-t	-an	abbáttan
ibbó-t	-an	ibbáttan
síngngó-t	-an	síngngáttan
zikkó-t	-an	zikkáttan

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The distinct linguistic characteristic of Ibanag language is evident in its structure. The formation patterns of words with allophones commonly occurred when affixes are used and when the root words are fully or partially reduplicated. Yet, there is a problem on establishing a writing pattern or system on the [g] – [b] / [k] – [b] / [k] / [g] allophony and the [d] - [g] / [k] - [d] / [k] – [g] allophony due to regional influences.

Based on the findings, the existing rules in words formation with allophones and gemination of sounds both on the Ibanag spoken language and the few existing written materials in Ibanag language were the following:

The Existing Rules on Word Formation with Vowel Allophones

1. Words with [i] – [a] allophone
 - 1.1 The first vowel [a] or [i] of the first syllable of the root word interchanged and the same pattern occurred when a prefix was added to the root word; and
 - 1.2 The root word ending with a vowel sound [a] was fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound, with [a] as the last vowel sound in the second or last syllable, was partially reduplicated. Reduplication occurred only up to the last vowel [a] of the second syllable of the root word.
2. Words with [a] – [i] allophone
 - 2.1 The prefixed word was partially reduplicated; and

- 2.2 The root word ending with a vowel **[a]** was fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound was partially reduplicated.
3. Words with **[a]** – **[o]** allophone
 - 3.1 A root word ending with a vowel **[o]** was fully reduplicated; and
 - 3.2 A root word ending with a silent sound **-k / -p / -t** was added to the suffix **-an**, the only suffix of the Ibanag language.
4. Words with **[u]** - **[a]** allophone
 - 4.1 The root word ending with a vowel **[a]** was fully reduplicated; and
 - 4.2 The **[u]** and **[a]** sounds of the same root word interchanged (lábbe : lúbbe) .
5. Words with **[a]** - **[u]** allophone
 - 5.1 The root word ending with a vowel sound **[u]** was fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound, with **[u]** as the last vowel sound in the second or last syllable, was partially reduplicated.
6. Words with **[i]** - **[u]** allophone occurred when word ending with **[u]** was fully reduplicated and also when reduplication occurred up to the last vowel sound **[u]** of the second / last syllable of the root word ending with a consonant sound.
7. The **[u]** – **[i]** allophone of the root word happened when word ending with **[i]** was fully reduplicated and also when reduplication took place up to the last vowel sound **[i]** of the second/last syllable of the root word ending with a consonant sound.
8. The **[u]-[o]** allophone was interchanging when the root word ending in **[o]** was fully reduplicated.
9. Words **[e]** – **[i]** allophone
 - 9.1 When the first /VC/ syllable of the root word beginning with **[i]** was reduplicated, the vowel sound **[i]** was changed to a vowel sound **[e]**. This process is the same in the partially reduplicated form of the word even a prefix was also added to it; and
 - 9.2 The first syllable, which is a vowel sound **[i]**, and the first sound of the second syllable was partially reduplicated; and
 - 9.3 When the syllable vowel sound **[i]** or the beginning sound of the root word was reduplicated, there was an insertion of a semi – vowel sound **[y]** and then the vowel sound **[i]** replaced by a vowel sound **[e]** where **ye** became the second syllable of the word.

The Existing Rules on Word Formation with Consonant Allophones

1. The formation patterns of **[b]** – **[g]** / **[g]** – **[b]** / **[b]**- **[k]** / **[k]** - **[g]** allophony and the **[r]** – **[d]** / **[r]** – **[g]** / **[k]** / **[g]** / **[k]** – **[d]** / **[k]** – **[g]** allophony
 - 1.1 The last consonant sound **[b]** of some of the original spelling of the words in Ibanag language was pronounced as **[g]** by the majority of people in the Ibanag speaking communities and some of the population pronounced it as **[k]** due to regional influence. But most of the new or latest written materials in the language were following the **[g]** sound. When the word was added to a suffix **-an**, the **[b]** sound dominated in speaking and writing.
 - 1.2 The last **[d]** sound of the original spelling of some of the words in Ibanag language was actually pronounced as **[g]** sound by many speakers in the locality and some pronounced it as **[k]** which was also considered as the effect of regional influence. The **[g]** sound was used in most of the new written materials in Ibanag language but when the suffix **-an** was added to it, the **[d]** - **[r]** allophone (universal allophone) dominated in speaking and writing of the word.
2. The formation patterns of **[r]** - **[b]**, **[r]** - **[d]**, **[z]** – **[d]** and **[s]** – **[t]** **r]** - **[b]** allophones
 - 2.1 When the first /CV/ syllable was reduplicated, the reduplicated consonant sound **[b]** was changed to consonant sound **[r]**.

- 2.2 In the [r] – [d] allophone, when the first /CV/ was reduplicated, the consonant sound [d] was changed to a consonant sound [r].
- 2.3.1 In [r] – [z] allophone, root word beginning with consonant [z] sound when fully reduplicated, the beginning sound of the reduplicated form of the root word was changed to consonant sound [r]; and
- 2.3.2 When a prefix was added to the root word beginning with a consonant [z] sound, this sound was replaced by the consonant [r] sound.
- 2.4 In the [z] – [d] allophone, the root word beginning with the consonant [d] sound when an infix –in- was added to it, the [d] sound was changed to a consonant [z] sound.
- 2.5 In the [s] – [t] allophone, when the infix was inserted in the root word, the [t] sound was replaced by a consonant [s] sound.
- 2.6 Some words with consonant sound [b] of the Ibanag Isabela variety were pronounced and written as sound [v] in Ibanag Cagayan variety. When word in Ibanag Isabela has two [b] sounds, only one of it was spelled and/ or pronounced in [v] sound of Ibanag Cagayan. The same rule with the [p] sound of the Ibanag Isabela and the [f] sound of the Ibanag Cagayan. The [b]-[v] and [p]-[f] allophones were influences of the Itawes language in some parts of the Ibanag - speaking communities in the province of Cagayan.

The Existing Rules on Word Formation with Gemination of Sounds

1. The gemination of sound occurred
 - 1.1 when a prefix **a-** / **ma-** / **pa** / **ipa-** / **ka-** was added to the root word beginning with a consonant sound;
 - 1.2 when a prefix **ag-** / **ang-** was added to the root word beginning with a vowel sound;
 - 1.3 when a prefix **ke-** / **kita-** / **guma-** / **sippa** was added to the root word beginning with a consonant sound;
 - 1.4 when prefix **gi-** was added to a suffixed word beginning with a consonant sound; and
 - 1.5 when a root word ending with a consonant sound or with a silent sound –**k** / –**p** / –**t** was added to a suffix –**an**.

The following were the established rules based on the existing rules both on the speaking and writing structure of Ibanag language:

The Established Rules on Word Formation with Vowel Allophones

1. The [i] – [a] allophone occurs when
 - 1.1 the first vowel [a] or [i] of the first syllable of a root word interchanges and when a prefix is added to the root word; and
 - 1.2 a root word ending with a vowel sound [a] is fully reduplicated while a root word ending with a consonant sound, with [a] as the last vowel sound in the second or last syllable, is partially reduplicated. Reduplication occurs only up to the last vowel of the second or last syllable of the root word.
2. The [a] – [i] allophone occurs when
 - 2.1 a prefixed word is partially reduplicated; and
 - 2.2 a root word ending with a vowel [a] is fully reduplicated while a root word ending with a consonant sound is partially reduplicated.
3. The [a] – [o] allophone occurs when
 - 3.1 a root word ending with a vowel [o] is fully reduplicated; and
 - 3.2 a root word ending with a silent sound –**k** / –**p** / –**t** is added to the suffix –**an**.
4. The [u] - [a] allophone occurs when
 - 4.1 a root word ending with a vowel [a] is fully reduplicated; and
 - 4.2 the [u] and [a] sounds of the same root word interchange.

5. The **[a] - [u]** allophone occurs when
 - 5.1 a root word ending with a vowel sound **[u]** is fully reduplicated while root word ending with a consonant sound, with **[u]** as the last vowel sound in the second or last syllable, is partially reduplicated.
6. Words with **[i] - [u]** allophone are formed when word ending with **[u]** is fully reduplicated and also when reduplication occurred up to the last vowel sound **[u]** of the second / last syllable of the root word ending with a consonant sound.
7. The **[u] – [i]** allophone of the root word happened when word ending with **[i]** is fully reduplicated and also when reduplication takes place up to the last vowel sound **[i]** of the second / last syllable of the root word ending with a consonant sound.
8. Words with **[u]-[o]** allophone are formed when the root word ending in **[o]** is fully reduplicated.
9. The **[e] – [i]** allophone occurs
 - 9.1 when the first /VC/ syllable of the root word beginning with **[i]** is reduplicated, the vowel sound **[i]** is changed to a vowel sound **[e]**. This process is the same in the partially reduplicated form of the word even a prefix is also added to it; and
 - 9.2 when the first syllable, which is a vowel sound **[i]**, and the first sound of the second syllable is partially reduplicated; and
 - 9.3 when the syllable vowel sound **[i]** or the beginning sound of the root word is reduplicated, an insertion of a semi – vowel sound **[y]** happens and then the vowel sound **[i]** is replaced by a vowel sound **[e]** where **ye** became the second syllable of the word.

The Established Rules on Word Formation with Consonant Allophones

1. The formation patterns of **[b] – [g] / [g] – [b] / [b]- [k] / [k] - [g]** allophony and the **[r] – [d] / [r] – [g] / [k] / [g] / [k] – [d] / [k] – [g]** allophony
 - 1.1 The last consonant sound **[b]** of some of the original spelling of the words in Ibanag language is pronounced and written as **[g] / [k]** due to regional influence. When the word is added to a suffix **–an**, the **[b]** sound is used;
 - 1.2 The last **[d]** sound of the original spelling of some of the words in Ibanag language is pronounced and written as **[g] / [k]** sound as the effect of regional influence. When the suffix **–an** is added to it, the **[r] – [d] / [r] – [g]** allophone is used.
2. The formation patterns of **[r] - [b], [r] - [d], [z] – [d]** and **[s] – [t] r] - [b]** allophones
 - 2.1 When the first /CV/ syllable is reduplicated, the reduplicated consonant sound **[b]** is changed to a consonant sound **[r]**;
 - 2.2 In the **[r] – [d]** allophone, when the first /CV/ is reduplicated, the consonant sound **[d]** is replaced by a consonant sound **[r]**;
 - 2.3.1 In **[r] – [z]** allophone, a root word beginning with a consonant **[z]** sound when fully reduplicated, the beginning sound of the reduplicated form of the root word is changed to a consonant sound **[r]**; and
 - 2.3.2 When a prefix is added to the root word beginning with a consonant **[z]** sound, the consonant **[z]** sound is replaced by the consonant **[r]** sound;
 - 2.4 In the **[z] – [d]** allophone, when the infix **–in-** is inserted in the root word beginning with a consonant **[d]**, the **[d]** sound is changed to a consonant **[z]** sound;
 - 2.5 In the **[s] – [t]** allophone, when the infix **–in-** is inserted in the root word, the **[t]** sound is replaced by a consonant **[s]** sound; and
 - 2.6 Some words with consonant sound **[b]** of the Ibanag Isabela variety were pronounced and written as sound **[v]** in Ibanag Cagayan variety. When word in Ibanag Isabela has two **[b]** sound, only one of it is spelled and/ or pronounced in **[v]** sound of Ibanag Cagayan. The same rule with the **[p]** sound of the Ibanag Isabela and the **[f]** sound of the Ibanag Cagayan.

The Established Rules on Word Formation with Gemination of Sounds

1. The gemination of sound occurs
 - 1.1 when a prefix **a-** / **ma-** / **pa** / **ipa-** / **ka-** was added to the root word beginning with a consonant sound;
 - 1.2 when a prefix **ag-** / **ang-** was added to the root word beginning with a vowel sound;
 - 1.3 when a prefix **ke-** / **kita-** / **guma-** / **sippa** is added to the root word beginning with a consonant sound;
 - 1.4 when a prefix **gi-** is added to a suffixed word beginning with a consonant sound; and
 - 1.5 when a root word ending with a consonant sound or with a silent sound **-k** / **-p** / **-t** is added to a suffix **-an**.

Although freedom in linguistic usage must be guaranteed and an ideal standardization of language structure is theoretically and practically unrealistic and / or impossible due to its dynamism, speakers of language need significant information or feedback. Instead of prescriptions, language users should be advised and guided of what is better, recommendable and more efficient and effective in terms of its linguistic usage but no normative manual or grammar is to be considered as a law valid for every speaker of language. Authority or power is an essential factor in linguistic matters. It's not the linguistic considerations but it is the political or cultural dominance which in practice can solve the problems on language. Thus, the support of authoritative persons, organizations and institutions in the development of an appropriate Ibanag Orthography is a most favourable factor in establishing a writing system of the spoken language or in language reform.

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