

## Colloquialism Among Meranaw Teenagers in the Junior High Schools of MSU Marawi Campus

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### ABSTRACT

Over the course of time, scholars have engaged in multifaceted inquiries into the realm of language, in order to explain its origin, describe its development and changes, analyze its relationship with other sciences and recognize its importance to daily activities. Within linguistic discourse and documentation, a notable focus emerges on the nuanced levels of language usage, particularly the informal expressions that permeate everyday conversations. This study explored the colloquial verbal expressions of Meranaw teenagers in the contemporary era, employing a descriptive research design focused on junior high school students from Mindanao State University (MSU) - Marawi City, specifically MSU-ILS (Integrated Laboratory School), MSU-UTC (University Training Center), and MSU-LNCAT (Lanao National College of Arts and Trades). Through self-made structured questionnaire and interview, the findings reveal that teenagers, as observed, adeptly wield words through various processes like coinage, compounding, blending, and more. Their dynamic use of language reflects a rapidly evolving linguistic landscape, driven by innovation and usage. The creation of colloquial expressions, often originating playfully, contributes to the formation of colloquialisms. Notably, slang terms either fade or endure, influencing mainstream lexicons. Additionally, the study underscores the significance of multilingualism among young Meranaw speakers. They seamlessly navigate between Meranaw, English, and Tagalog, even incorporating Arabic, Korean, and Japanese. This linguistic flexibility, expressed through code-switching within sentences, reflects the diverse linguistic environment shaped by both community ties and peer influences. With all these recurring dynamism, the study recommends efforts to strengthen the Meranaw language, addressing language moribundity concerns for the new generation. Further research on grammar, orthography, and linguistic features is suggested for comprehensive language planning and development, contributing to a deeper understanding of Meranaw teenagers' discourse and recent language developments.

### KEYWORDS

Colloquialism; morphology; variants; Meranaw Language

### INTRODUCTION

Through the years, people have explored fields of inquiry on language in order to explain its origin, describe its development and changes, analyze its relationship with other sciences and recognize its importance to daily activities. One of the subjects in linguistic discussions or documentations is the phenomenon of using certain levels of usage and the styles or expressions associated with each specifically the informal usage that characterizes

everyday conversations. *Seka den ka marani kawn* (it is up to you; agreeing or not to someone's statement) is one of the many new expressions that is heard from Meranaw speakers these days. The rapid development of human society has influenced development of language in the form of various new words and expressions as well as the improvement and facilitation of grammar structure. New sentences, never spoken or heard before can easily be formulated given the set of rules for combining a large set of vocabulary items. As linguists have explained for many years, this system allows for generation of an infinite set of context-free sentences from a finite set of rules. Such vocabularies or sets of words lead to the use of novel expressions, which are highly prevalent among the Meranaw speakers.

Expressions are mostly used to exaggerate statements or to make statements more emphatic and convincing. Sometimes they are attached at the end of an utterance and most of the times they stand alone. Expressions make the language alive and provide vocabulary for new shades of meanings, although used only in informal communication or ordinary conversation. The expressions are usually colloquial which are used depending on the place where the individual belongs, the instances, where it is used and the purpose. This interest in the novel is particularly observed of the youth who crave what is fresh, original, striking, and new. They are more vulnerable and easily get acculturated. Listening in on their conversations, one hears expressions like *ibet-ibet* and *piyor* which both mean *for real?* or *really*. Thus, one way of language change is through the influence of other languages. Every language is a product of change and continues to change as it is spoken. Furthermore, colloquial language is a generative or productive expression more often used in speech than in writing.

With the expressions and some changes in the language of young Meranaw speakers, documenting and analyzing them would shed light on the Meranaw community, language learners, scholars and other speakers in the country. The Meranaw language is one of the numerous languages in the Philippines which need more documentation to uncover more of its features or characteristics as it is less documented based on the studies of Liao (2009) in "The State of the Art of Philippine Linguistics."

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Colloquialism or colloquial language is the linguistic style used for casual communication. It is the most common functional style of speech, the idiom normally employed in conversation and other informal contexts. Further, colloquialism is characterized by wide usage of interjections and other expressive devices which makes use of non-specialist terminology, and has a rapidly changing lexicon. It can also be distinguished by its usage of formulations with incomplete logical and syntactic ordering (Trask, 1999).

Colloquialism stems from the Latin *colloquium* that means "conference" or "conversation." According to McCrimmon (1963) as cited by Nofalli (2012), the word "colloquial" has been defined by the American College Dictionary as "characteristic of or appropriate to ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing." In his opinion, this definition does not mean that a colloquial word is improper or inappropriate or careless. McCrimmon calls colloquialism any word or expression that may accurately be used in conversation among educated persons. He maintains that such definition of colloquial word transforms it to a wider term than popular words or idioms covering the popular words and idiomatic constructions as well. They also include constructions that are not strictly idioms, particularly abbreviated or clipped versions of more formal words, such as *ad* for *advertisement* (Barzegar, 2008). Also, colloquial language is different from formal speech or formal writing. It is a category of language that speakers normally use when they are stress-free and not especially self-conscious (Trask,

1999). Some colloquial speech includes a large amount of slang while some has no slang at all. Slang is allowable in colloquial language without being a necessary constituent. Other examples of colloquial usage in English are contractions or swearword. Moreover, the term “colloquial” in the philosophy of language refers to ordinary natural language that is distinct from specialized forms applied in logic or other areas of philosophy (Davidson, 1997).

McCrimmon (1963) in Nofalli (2012), had categorized the colloquial English in the following way: 1) relatively short simple sentences, often grammatically incomplete, with few rhetorical devices; 2) an extravagant usage of contractions (I'll, we've, didn't, can't), clipped words (cab, exam, phone), and the omission of relative pronouns (who, which, that) which would be preserved in a formal style; 3) a vocabulary marked by general prevention of learned words and by inclusion of some less offensive slang terms; 4) a simplified syntactic structure that leans heavily on idiomatic units and occasionally neglects the fine differences of formal grammar and; 5) a personal or familiar tone, which intends to create the impression of talking warmly and friendly to the human language is distinguished by its creative potential.

### RESEARCH METHODS

The descriptive research design, particularly the cross-sectional survey design was employed in this study. This design was observational in nature and it analyzed data from a population or a representative at a specific point in time. The study was also descriptive-analytical in nature. It was analytical as it used facts or information which were analyzed in order to make a critical or essential evaluation of the data. It attempted to collect the colloquial verbal expressions and to ascertain or determine why Meranaw teenagers use the expressions or how these came to be.

In addition, linguistic-descriptive analysis was employed to interpret the responses of the respondents in the survey questionnaires given to them. This was the appropriate tool to analyze the data since the data needed for the subjective interpretation through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns. Moreover, this study utilized open-ended survey questionnaires to validate and analyze the data and find repeated themes across the survey responses. The respondents were offered the freedom to answer open-ended questions in privacy which afforded them greater comfort and willingness to share their opinions freely.

The research setting of this study specifically included two (2) Junior High Schools in MSU-Main Campus namely MSU-Integrated Laboratory School (ILS) and MSU-University Training Center (UTC) and one (1) in MSU-Lanao National College of Arts and Trades (LNCAT). The respondents of this study were students of the three (3) Junior High Schools who belonged to the age bracket of thirteen to seventeen (13-17). These respondents were selected through purposive sampling. The breakdown or distribution by school is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Respondents’ Population**

Name of School	Enrolees	Sample Drawn (30%)
1. MSU- Integrated Laboratory School (ILS)	904	271
2. MSU-University Training Center (UTC)	1,893	568
3. MSU-Lanao National College of Arts and Trades (LNCAT)	368	111
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>950</b>

As shown above, the largest number, five hundred sixty-eight (568) is from MSU-UTC, followed by MSU-ILS with two hundred seventy-one (271) respondents, while MSU-LNCAT is represented by one hundred one (111) students. These students were enrolled during the school year 2020-2021.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research presents various tables that contained the common colloquial verbal expressions spoken by the Meranaw teenagers in the three (3) Junior High Schools of MSU-Marawi Campus, such as MSU-ILS, MSU-UTC, and MSU-LNCAT. The collection was conducted on the period of January to March 2020. The colloquial expressions listed in succeeding pages are presented as they originally occurred in the survey. The spellings of the words and phrases have not been changed.

The most comprehensive definition of word formation processes that speakers use regularly and unconsciously to create new words in their language are presented. The colloquial expressions which serve as the main data are categorized into their respective processes: (1) coinage, (2) blending, (3) clipping/truncation, (4) acronym/abbreviation, (5) derivation, (6) metathesis, (7) mix-mix/language mixing, (8) borrowing, (9) semantic change/extension/shift and (10) wordplay. Each category is presented in the following tables with its intended meaning and origin.

**Table 2.** Expressions Formed by Coinage

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Achuchu / Chubachuchu / Churbaness	Et cetera, anything	Gay lingo
2. Char /char lang /charot/ charotism/charotage/charing	Just kidding; a light-hearted joke attached to an end of the statement	Gay lingo
3. Anda	Money	Gay lingo
4. Chika	Chitchat, gossip	Gay lingo
5. Chos / Echos	Just Kidding	Gay lingo
6. Gg/jiji	Defeated or dead	Gay lingo <i>jutay</i> that eventually became <i>jiji</i>
7. Daj/dutch/datz /datong	Money	Gay lingo
8. Havey	Good	Gay lingo
9. Itech/ ititch	This	Gay lingo
10. Jejemon	Out-dated people; overrated and mainstream but lacks substance	Gay lingo
11. Laidis / laida	Liar or coveting lies in ntruthful Sometimes, it means absent-minded	Gay lingo
12. Shala	Elite, rich, socialite	Gay lingo
13. Wetit	Nothing	Gay lingo <i>wala</i>
14. Ah na wes!	(1)Something is amazing or nice (2) There is nothing or none	A mix of Meranaw words <i>Ah na</i> plus the Tagalog slang <i>wes</i> which is a gay lingo meaning <i>wala</i> .
15. Bawlo	Big head	Meranaw <i>ulo</i> (head) plus the word <i>ba</i>
16. Boplaks	Unintelligent, slow	Meranaw <i>boda</i>
17. Chikilaylay	Looking for someone or something interesting	Meranaw word <i>pangilaylay</i>
18. Sesto	Urinated	Meranaw
19. Jologs / jologz	Someone with tacky and cheap taste over fashion statements	Tagalog slang
20. Kaigan	Friend, a fan	Tagalog
21. Liningbee	Pretty, sexy lady	Tagalog song <i>Neneng B</i>
22. Lachimolala	Carbonara (Reference to a member of K-pop group BTS <i>Jimin</i> )	Korean
23. Ching chong	Referring to someone who looks like a Chinese	An unintelligible word
24. Choco pipapig (peppa pig)	Teasing someone who's skin is brown	English word <i>chocolate</i> plus the cartoon character <i>Peppa Pig</i>
25. Hansel	Nothing; an answer to "Ha?"	Biscuit brand name <i>Hansel</i>

These expressions are categorized as coinages. Coinage (also known as neologism) is a new word or expression which has come into a language (Epoge, 2011). It is the invention of totally new terms (Yule, 2010). This is a very rare and uncommon method to create new words, but for millennial, post-millennial or teenagers, they try to outdo each other with more, and original or vivid, concrete better words to express their feelings or emotions towards their peers.

**Table 3. Expressions Formed by Blending**

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Ansabi?	What did you say?	Tagalog <i>anong sabi/sinabi</i>
2. Anyare?	What happened?	Tagalog <i>anong nangyari</i>
3. Balaka jan	It is up to you	Tagalog <i>bahala ka diyan</i>
4. Dinga?	For real?	Tagalog <i>hindi nga</i>
5. Lanya/ langya	Shameless	Tagalog <i>walang hiya</i>
6. Lakompake / lakong pake/ lakompakialam	I do not care	Tagalog <i>wala akong pakialam</i>
7. Lamporeber (walang forever)	There is nothing permanently romantic	Tagalog <i>wala(ng) + English forever</i>
8. Fishda	Nothing	English <i>fish</i> + Tagalog <i>isda</i>

A number of blended expressions are spoken by many Meranaw teenagers. Blending is combining of two separate forms to produce a single new term. However, blending is typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word, as *Lanya (Wala[ng]* and *hiya*). Yule (2010) stated that blends are hybrid. They are compound made in an unorthodox way by joining piece of word-form belonging to two distinct lexemes. The same way with compounding, blending does not appear to be a commonly used process for colloquial expressions.

**Table 4. Expressions Formed by Clipping / Reduction**

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Ana shing	So, laugh	Meranaw <i>ah na singa</i>
2. Okayne	Why such a reaction?	Meranaw <i>inu ka ini</i>
3. Miyaso/Yasu	Damn it	Meranaw <i>miyasukaran</i>
4. Sawla ari	Not impossible	Meranaw <i>badi sawla ari</i>
5. Soma	Feeling awesome/great	Meranaw <i>somasayan</i>
6. Stug	Disappointing	Meranaw <i>astagangan</i>
7. Tononi?	What is this?	Meranaw <i>antonaa ini</i>
8. Baks	Gay	Tagalog <i>bakla</i>
9. Geh	Okay, alright	Tagalog <i>sige</i>
10. Gesge	Okay, alright	Tagalog <i>sige, sige</i>
11. Kompars	Friends	Tagalog <i>kumpare/kumpadre</i>
12. La	None, nothing	Tagalog <i>wala</i>
13. Lana / Lana s'ya	Gone, already gone	Tagalog <i>wala na siya</i>
14. Abno	Abnormal	English
15. Fam	Family	English
16. Lego	Let us go	English
17. Lil	Little	English
18. Nwey	Anyway	English
19. Overrr	Overdramatic	English
20. Quali	Qualified	English
21. Sati / Sati-sati	Satisfied	English
22. Try'na	Trying to	English
23. Wazzup	What is up?	English
24. Y'all	You all	English

The above expressions are formed by clipping or reduction. The element of reduction which is noticeable in blending is even more apparent in the process described as clipping. This occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form, often in casual speech. Yule (2010) stated that clipping means cutting off the beginning or the end of a word or both, leaving a part to stand for the whole. Villanueva (2010) has found out that the short-list of word-formation processes favoring shortening over lengthening of terms seem to prove Zipf's law which gives shorter words more chances of being used by more people more often—at work in Filipino word-formation, in particular, and in Filipino mass consciousness, in general.

**Table 5.** Expressions Formed by Acronyms / Abbreviations

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. BTS	(1) <i>Boda Taleng Salingat</i> ; Stupid, fool (2) <i>Bakla Talaga Sila</i> ; They are really gay	Meranaw Tagalog
2. KSB	<i>Kurang Sa Bismillah</i> ; Lacks reciting the word "Bismillah"	Meranaw
3. GB	<i>Gwapong Bakla</i> ; handsome gay	Tagalog
4. KKB	(1) <i>Kanya-Kanyang Buhay</i> (minding one's life) (2) <i>Kanya-Kanyang Baon</i> (bringing for your own food) (3) <i>Kanya-Kanyang Bayad</i> (paying for your own)	Tagalog
5. KSP	<i>Kulang Sa Pansin</i> ; Someone who seeks for attention	Tagalog
6. GGSS	<i>Gandang Ganda Sa Sarili</i> ; vanity, conceitedness, self-centered attitude or behaviour	Tagalog
7. AMFEE	<i>Ang Feeling Mo</i> ; Assuming to be someone	Tagalog and English
8. G na G!	<i>Go Na Go</i> ; ready to go	English and Tagalog
9. GMT	<i>Google Mo The</i>	English and Tagalog
10. SKL	<i>Share Ko Lang</i>	English and Tagalog
11. SML	<i>Share Mo Lang</i>	English and Tagalog
12. TKL	<i>Tanong Ko Lang</i> ; just a question	English and Tagalog
13. ASAP	As Soon As Possible	English
14. ATM	At The Moment	English
15. Bf	Boyfriend	English
16. BRB	Be Right Back	English
17. BS	Bullshit	English
18. BTW	By The Way	English
19. CTTO	Credits To The Owner	English
20. DP	Display Picture	English
21. EO	Everyone Out (I care for you)	English
22. FC	Feeling close; Someone is feeling close to others who are not his/her best/friends	English
23. FYI	For Your Information	English
24. Gf	Girlfriend	English
25. GG	Good Game/ Good Gaming	English
26. GM	Green Minded	English
27. HBD	Happy Birth Day	English
28. IDC	I Do not Care	English
29. IDK	I Do not Know	English
30. IFY	I Feel You; When someone is in the same situation	English
31. IHY	I Hate You	English
32. IKR	I Know Right	English
33. ILY	I Love You	English
34. ILYSM	I Love You So Much	English
35. IMAO	In My Arrogant Opinion	English
36. JGH	Just Got Home	English

37. KJ	Kill Joy	English
38. LOL	Laugh Out Loud	English
39. LT	Laugh Trip	English
40. MBTC	More Birthdays To Come	English
41. ML	Mobile Legends	English
42. MU	Mutual Understanding	English
43. NBSB	No Boyfriend Since Birth	English
44. NGSB	No Girlfriend Since Birth	English
45. OA	Over Acting	English
46. OMG	Oh My God	English
47. OOTD	Outfit Of The Day	English
48. OP	Out Of Place	English
49. OTW	On The Way	English
50. PM	Private Message	English
51. PS	Post Script	English
52. RIP	Rest In Peace	English
53. RK	Rich Kid	English
54. RN	Right Now	English
55. SLR	Sorry Late Reply	English
56. SMH	Shake My Head	English
57. BH	To Be Honest	English
58. TY	Thank You	English
59. VIP	Very Important Person	English
60. WP	Well Played	English
61. WTF	Where is The Food?	English

A great deal of acronyms or abbreviated words are used as colloquial expressions. Acronym is the process whereby a word is formed from the initials or beginning segments of succession of words (Yule, 2010). These acronyms often consist of capital letters as ASAP (as soon as possible) and ILY (I love you). To Zorc (1993), most of the acronyms or abbreviations are understood only by an insider in a group, just like the teenagers or post-millennial. Some of the acronyms are brilliant puns like WTF (*Where is The Food?*), SKL (*Share Ko Lang*) and BTS (*Boda Taleng Salingat*) or (*Bakla Talaga Sila*). These expressions which are in acronym form sprout from web communication which has become a part of students or teenagers' everyday life. Its role is to communicate rapidly, briefly, usually with a lot of slang words. Further, slang is represented in virtual communication enormously. These slang words are expressed by many acronyms, lingos or symbols, called emoticons, used to display one's emotions and feelings. The more acronyms and symbols are used, the quicker communication is (Burdova, 2009). However, not all of the popular acronyms are used verbally. Some acronyms are basically used in texting, chatting or posting in social media.

**Table 6. Expressions Formed by Derivation**

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Bodaker	Stupid	Meranaw <i>boda + ker</i>
2. Budayra	Stupid	Meranaw <i>buda(y) + ra</i>
3. Peurity	Really, for real	Meranaw <i>piyor + ity</i>
4. Anaki	Child	Tagalog <i>anak + i</i>
5. Abnokoy/ Abnonoy	Abnormal, immature, odd fellow or behavior	English <i>abnormal</i> (clipped) + Tagalog <i>koy/noy</i>
6. Byers	A farewell; goodbye	English <i>bye + ers</i>
7. Dancerist	Dancer	English <i>dancer + ist</i>
8. Jokerist	Joker	English <i>joker + ist</i>
9. Judger	Judgmental	English <i>judge + r</i>
10. Poorita	Poor	English <i>poor + ita</i>

11. Rubyness	Pretty	English <i>ruby</i> + <i>ness</i>
12. Tiktokerist	Someone who uses the social media application <i>Tiktok</i>	English (social media application) <i>tiktok</i> + <i>er</i> + <i>ist</i>
13. Yesness	Yes	English <i>yes</i> + <i>ness</i>
14. Pabebe	Annoyingly stagey or sassy attitude	<i>Pa</i> + English <i>baby</i>

Some expressions are formed through derivation. By definition, derivation is a word formation process by adding affixes or by combining derivational affixes with existing words which create a new form, new meaning and can be changing the word class (Yule, 2010). It is achieved by adding affixes (prefix, suffix and infix). Some affixes were added to the beginning of a word. Only one word or expression such as *pabebe* that used a prefix *pa-* added to the new word *bebe* (from English *baby*). These affixes are linguistic elements attached to the words to modify its meaning (Encarta Dictionary, 2009). In most languages, derivation is one of the principal ways of obtaining new words from existing words, and its study is one of the major branches of morphology.

**Table 7. Expressions Formed by Metathesis**

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Bas'1 / Basel	Pronounce	Meranaw <i>Bals/Bales</i>
2. Arat na	Let us go; urging someone to come or tag along or do something	Tagalog <i>Tara na</i>
3. Bokal	Bald	Tagalog <i>Kalbo</i>
4. Epal / ipal	Too proud, brag, someone who likes to take credit for something	Tagalog <i>Papel</i>
5. Erp	Brother, friend	Tagalog (clipped) <i>Pre</i>
6. Ngitpa	Ugly	Tagalog <i>Pangit</i>
7. Olats	Defeated, lost	Tagalog <i>Talo</i> + final <i>s</i>
8. Petmalu	Awesome	Tagalog <i>Malupet/malupit</i>
9. Rapsa	Delicious	Tagalog <i>Sarap</i>
10. Etuc	Cute	English <i>Cute</i>
11. Lispo	Police	English <i>Police</i>
12. Lodi	Idol	English <i>Idol</i>
13. Werpa	A support or motivation	English <i>Power</i>
14. Yorme	Mayor, a political leader	English <i>Mayor</i>
15. Ermat	Mother	Latin <i>Mater</i>
16. Erpat	Father	Latin <i>Pater</i>

Some colloquial expressions fall under metathesis. According to Zorc (1993), metathesis involves switching sounds within a word. It includes the inversion of syllables like *lispo* (police), *rapsa* (sarap) and *yorme* (mayor) and the quite complex re-arrangement or jumbling up of the sounds or letters like *epal/ipal* (papel) and *petmalu* (malupet). This process can be applied to native Tagalog words or borrowed words (Zorc, 1993). Linguists and historians claim that language evolves over time, and every year, new words are added to the vernacular—whether it is the Oxford-accepted "binge-watch" or novel slang.

**Table 8. Expressions Formed by Language Mixing / Mix-Mix**

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Pimbtowan a pag-ibig	An eruption of love; Love or infatuation sickness	Meranaw and Tagalog
2. Myachugay / Myachutay ka	A gay lingo and Meranaw curse fused	Meranaw and Tagalog
3. Skana gwapo	You are handsome; Sarcasm	Meranaw and Tagalog

4. Astaga ka boy	Glorifying someone's abilities	Meranaw and English
5. Baka pemos	Are you famous?; Sarcastic remark to someone who assumes popularity.	Meranaw and English
6. Baka lord?	Are you a lord?; Sarcastic remark to an untruthful or nonsense statement or questioning someone's ability	Meranaw and English
7. Banga life / layp?	Is it your life?	Meranaw and English
8. Da ako masyak/mashock	I am not shocked; It means he/she is surprised.	Meranaw and English
9. Daka pag Joke?	You are not joking, right?	Meranaw and English
10. Gina man oto a ma-break ta	When things get broken	Meranaw and English
11. Kada so mindset	Something confusing	Meranaw and English
12. Kiya feeling	Feeling to be someone you are not	Meranaw and English
13. Kiya rich kid	Someone very rich	Meranaw and English
14. Kiyanga a bacteria	You are eaten by a bacteria; a mockery	Meranaw and English
15. Kiyanga fungi	You are eaten by a fungi; a mockery	Meranaw and English
16. Kiyanga virus	You are eaten by a virus; a mockery	Meranaw and English
17. Kya FC oto na	Assuming that they are friends/feeling close	Meranaw and English
18. Kya OA ka	You are over acting	Meranaw and English
19. Ma-shock ka	Be shocked; is it not obvious?; Sarcas-tic response	Meranaw and English
20. Miya zombie	Haggard-looking, stressed	Meranaw and English
21. Myafall	Someone fell in love; Affected by someone's charms	Meranaw and English
22. Na baka d'n dipag joke?	When someone is annoyingly pursuing unsolicited jokes	Meranaw and English
23. Si giraw na nggagawn	Someone is wearing a gown; a joke	Meranaw and English
24. Suminga tano ka myagjoke	Let us laugh because of his/her joke; Sarcasm	Meranaw and English
25. Da aki a poreber/Da poreber / lamporeber / Walang poreber	There is no forever; A remark of a bitter person who has no love life	Meranaw and English; Tagalog and English
26. Happy kadm/ ka san/dn?/ Happy ka ghorl?	Are you happy now?, Are you contented?; A remark of someone who is irritated	English and Meranaw
27. Model na	Someone being extra	English and Meranaw
28. Text kabo	Just text; implying the impossibility of the plan	English and Meranaw
29. Ay, kala ko Barbie	Oh, I thought it is a Barbie; When someone mistook a male colleague as homosexual	Tagalog and English
30. Sabi ko na Barbie/Ay barbie sabi ko na/ Ayy Barbie	I knew it, he is a Barbie; Euphemism for someone to be sensed as homo-sexual or a catcall for some-one who is discreetly homosexual or upfront feminine for a male person	Tagalog and English
31. Di mo na ako lab?	You do not love me anymore?; A remark of someone who wants to feel loved	Tagalog and English
32. Edi nice	Okay, nice! A sarcastic remark of an irritated/annoyed person, unamused	Tagalog and English
33. Edi wow/ waw / di wew /	Sarcastic response or remark over a statement; Mockery to something not amusing	Tagalog and English
34. Penge payb	Give me five; asking for a favor	Tagalog and English
35. Sabi ko na Robot!	I thought so, she is a lesbian; Euphemism for	Tagalog and English

	lesbian	
36. Sabi na Barbie/ Sabi na barbe, eh	Euphemism for homosexuality	Tagalog and English
37. Sana All / China oil / Lana oil / Sana Halls	A wish for inclusion, or expressed envy over something	Tagalog and English
38. Lam na dizz	“Alam na this”; something is already given/known	Tagalog and English
39. Madlang people	Crowd, gathering, audience	Tagalog and English
40. Wala na finish na	No other way; Concluded	Tagalog and English
41. Ganda ka girl?	Are you pretty?; Someone has done something very shady	Tagalog and English
42. Share lang	Sharing something nonchalantly	English and Tagalog
43. Advance mag isip	Someone who thinks in advance	English and Tagalog
44. Attitude ka ghoul / ghoul / ghurl / cyst? / Ma-attitude ka ghoul?	What’s with the attitude, girl?; Remarking on someone’s shady and undesirable attitude	English and Tagalog
45. Back pre	Back out brother	English and Tagalog
46. Bet ko ‘yan/ Bet na bet	I like that; A gay lingo phrase implying that they like something	English and Tagalog
47. Boom panes/ panis	A reaction after an event that occurred	English and Tagalog
48. Carry mo yan teh!	You can do it	English and Tagalog
49. Choosy ka pa?	You are still choosy?; a mockery	English and Tagalog
50. Crush mo?	Is he or she your crush?	English and Tagalog
51. Dinasour ka gurl / ghurl?	Why are you so hot tempered?	English and Tagalog
52. Eh! Wait lang	A sarcastic response, remark or mockery of someone’s forehead	English and Tagalog
53. Famous ka?	Are you famous?; an address to a snob	English and Tagalog
54. Finish na	Something that has ended	English and Tagalog
55. Flex ko lang	Plug, boast, glorify something	English and Tagalog
56. Lab mo? Lab ka ba?	You love him/her but does he/she love you back?	English and Tagalog
57. Oh my Gulay	A statement of excitement or disbelief	English and Tagalog

Several colloquial expressions highlight the language mixing with the use of two or more languages, particularly Tagalog, English and Meranaw. The Meranaw teenagers draw on a variety of sources to keep their language and subculture dynamic and up-to-date. The common languages being switched or mixed are the Meranaw and English, Tagalog and English and English and Tagalog.

Mix-mix or language mixing is a common occurrence in all Philippine languages according to Zorc (1993). More so, Bautista and Bolton (2008) emphasized how English, Filipino and other local languages knit together in different linguistic landscapes in the country, just like how the young speakers use Meranaw, Tagalog, and English. Since the speakers are Meranaw, they normally code-switch or change back and forth between Meranaw and English especially in a single conversation. Expressions like *Astaga ka boy*, *Baka pemos?*, *Banga life/layp?*, *Ma-shock ka*, *Da aki a poreber* and many others represent the blend of two or more languages within a phrase or sentence.

Galang (1998) stated that a typical Filipino has a good command of two or more languages, regardless of the ethnolinguistic group he or she represents. Further evidence is supplied by Ramos as cited by Galang (1998), who notes that “learning a second, third, fourth and even fifth language is a way of life among majority of Filipinos.” Moreover, the use of alternation between Tagalog and English or English and Tagalog discourse is evident.

**Table 9.** Expressions Formed by Borrowing / Loanwords

Expressions	Meaning	Origin
1. Abtek	Fast hands	Visayan
2. Adik	Addict	English
3. As in?	Really?	English
4. Baterol	Butter roll, bun; nonsense	English
5. Chixx	Someone worth an apple of the eye, attractive	English <i>chick</i>
6. Gora	To go, agreeing to something	English <i>go</i>
7. Paynal	Let us go	English <i>final</i>
8. Payting	To motivate someone	English <i>fighting</i>
9. Payyr	Agree	English <i>fire</i>
10. Rat'r	Rattle	English
11. Solar	Someone with very oily or glistening forehead	English
12. Lachimolala	Carbonara (reference to a member of K-pop group BTS <i>Jimin</i> )	Korean <i>Carbonara</i>

Some words or expressions are borrowed from other languages but are already used or fused in the language of the Meranaw speakers. Since every language usually consists of native words and non-native words, borrowing is taking over of word from other language which involves taking lexical items from one language to other language (Yule, 2010). According to Lesada (2017), direct borrowing and phonologically adapting foreign words into the Philippine lexicons is a common practice.

As stated by Baklanova (2017), those who used borrowing more often are gradually getting borrowed by Filipino monolinguals, and with this, words are becoming a part of the mainstream vocabulary. The English nonce borrowings can be found in any type of the Filipino speech, from everyday talk to a specific report. A lexical borrowing implies that both the meaning and the morphemes of a foreign word are acquired by Tagalog as a recipient language. This class of borrowings includes complete and mixed borrowed words. Complete borrowings are the foreign lexemes adopted by Tagalog wholly. Nonce borrowings as unassimilated lexemes retain to a considerable degree their phonetic, semantic and graphic appearance.

Most of the borrowed foreign expressions are from Arabic, Korean, and Japanese which fall on formulaic expressions. Some of the many classifications of formulaic expressions are greetings such as *Assalamo alaikom*, *Anneyong*, *Konichiwa*, pause fillers, expletives or exclamations and conventional expressions (Van Lancker Sidtis, 2012). Formulaic expressions or speech formulas are highly dependent on conversational context and often serve to move the dialog forward or monitor the action or standard introductory forms in the sentences (Van Lancker, 2000). The same way these borrowed expressions are being used by the speakers as introductory forms or as responses to the conversations or dialogs. Borrowing is one of the dominant varieties in word-formation, in fact, it conforms to Villanueva's (2010) claim that "borrowing unabashedly manifests a bias for both convenience in having the word all ready with its arsenal of meanings and associations ready for instant use; and brevity in having the shorter everyday word all ready with the same arsenal of meanings and associations ready for use in most situations, for most needs, and with all kinds of people."

**Table 10.** Borrowed Arabic Expressions

Expressions	Closest or Equivalent Meaning
1. Ya Allah! / Yarabi	Oh Allah
1. Ya Rahman	Oh Allah, The Most Gracious
2. Alhamdulillah	Thank God
3. Allahu Akbar!	God is Great

4.	Astagfirullah	I seek forgiveness from God
5.	Audobillah	I seek protection / refuge from God
6.	Bismillah	In the name of Allah
7.	In Shaa Allah	In God's will
8.	Inalillah /Inalillahi waina ilayhirajion	Surely we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return
9.	Jazakallahoh khayran	May Allah reward you
10.	Ma shaa Allah	God is Benevolent
11.	Subhanallah/ Sobhanallah	Glory be to Allah
12.	Ameen	Verily, truly
13.	Assalamoalaikom	Greetings of peace
14.	Maasalam	Goodbye
15.	Shukran	Thank you in
16.	Afwan	You are welcome
17.	Maaf	Sorry
18.	La	No
19.	Kale wale	Dismissal of someone's opinion
20.	Fulus	Money
21.	Mafi Folosh	No money
22.	Okhti / Ukhtie	Sister

These Arabic expressions are frequently heard from the Muslim speakers of the country as these words are used primarily in religious activities and education (i.e., Madrasa or Islamic school). Although the 1987 Constitution mandates that Arabic is to be promoted on an optional and voluntary basis, as of 2015, it is taught for free and is promoted in some Islamic centers predominantly in the southernmost parts of Philippines including Lanao provinces, and Islamic schools in Mindanao teach Modern Standard Arabic in their curriculum (Latip-Yusoph, 2011).

**Table 11. Borrowed Korean Expressions**

Expressions	Closest or Equivalent Meaning
1. Anneong/ anneyong	Hi, hello
2. Ya!	Hey
3. Kamsameda / Kumawo / Komawo	Thank you
4. Biyaneyo/ miyani/ mianhae/ mianhamnida	I am sorry
5. Kinchani / Kincha nay yo	Are you okay?
6. Saranghe/ saranghaeyo/ sarangheyo	I love you
7. Bogo shippo /Bogosippo / Bogo shipoda	I want to see you, I miss you
8. Araso/ Arasso / Arrasyeo/ Arasu	I understand, I get it, I know
9. Daebak	Wow, awesome, amazing
10. Gaja	Let us go
11. Hajima / Gajima	Do not go
12. Hwaiting	Fighting; an encouragement
13. Jebal	Please
14. Jinja / chen cha?	Really?
15. Molayo	I do not know
16. Maldo (juldae) andwae?	No way
17. Pal-le / Ppali-ppali	Quickly, faster, hurry up
18. Aigo/ aygou/ Ayy go/ Aigoo / Aygo /Aego	Geez, OMG, oh my
19. Ommo / Omo!	Oh my
20. Ani	No
21. Etteoke/ Ottoke	How?, what should I do?
22. Mwo	What
23. Wa-e / Wae / whae? / waeyo?	Why?
24. Omma	Mother
25. Oppa	Older brother
26. Unni / Unnie / Onni	Older sister

27. Nam Dong saeng	Little brother
28. Maknae	Youngest sibling
29. Chinggu	Friend
30. Jjang jjan/chonjae	Genius
31. Kyeopta / Gwiyopta	Cute
32. Yeonppeun	Pretty
33. Metchasoo!	Crazy
34. Pabo/babo	Idiot

These common and popular Korean expressions are used or uttered by the Meranaw teenagers. Undoubtedly, the young speakers are exposed to Korean wave due to media consumption as the proliferation of Korean content in the Philippines has been sprouting because of the continuing importation of foreign shows by the country's biggest networks. According to Shim (2006), the Filipinos have very positive response to these foreign shows, including Korean drama series. Therefore, it is no surprise that their penetration in the mainstream media and the openness of the Filipinos to foreign media products brought upon the Korean Wave in the country. Since 2003, Korean dramas have become a staple in Philippine television. Studies show that the Philippines is only one of the many shores that the Korean wave, also known as Hallyu, affected. Hallyu is the rapid spread of the Korean entertainment industry in Asia (Shim, 2006).

**Table 12. Borrowed Japanese Expressions**

Expressions	Closest or Equivalent Meaning
1. Konichiwa	Hello
2. Ohayo	Good morning
3. Sayonara	Good bye
4. Ariegato/ arigato	Thank you (very much)
5. Gomenasai	Sorry
6. Kudasai / Yamete kudasai	Please / Please Stop
7. Daiske	I like you
8. Daikiray	I hate you
9. Nanie? / Nani?	What?
10. Wakarimas	I understand
11. Nan(d)imonai	Nothing
12. Hai!	Yes!
13. Kawaii	Cute
14. Sugoi / Sugoy	Amazing, wow
15. Oniichan	Big Brother
16. Senpai	Senior
17. Sensie	Teacher

These are common and popular Japanese expressions used by the young Meranaw speakers. These expressions are taken from Anime which is a Japanese abbreviated term for hand-drawn or computer animation. This term refers to all animation in Japan while it refers only to Japanese animation series or films outside Japan. Japanese Anime series have their own language that their fans adopt and communicate with (Touhami and Al-Haq, 2017).

The borrowed Japanese expressions fall in informal colloquial styles which are very closely related to the casual form. It is typically used among close friends and family members. The casual form “uses plain verb endings and allows abundant contractions, colloquialisms” (Chan et al., 2017). Further, Chan and Wong stated that language used in anime is more casual in most of the contexts involving daily life, and the language presented in anime was sometimes harsh or rough in an exaggerated way. Anime fans

seem to be influenced not only in their tastes but also in how they perceive language. Terms in Anime become a mutual communicative base for fans. Like any community bound together by common interests, the young speakers particularly the boys, are among those who adopt words from the Anime language.

**Table 13.** Expressions Formed by Semantic Extension/Change/Shift

Expressions	Literal Meaning	Intended Meaning
1. 143	Number	A code, that usually means or stands as "I Love You"
2. 150/psst? Wampipte / Wampipty / One pipty	Catcall	Euphemism/catcall for someone homosexual. When teasing a boy.
3. Airport	Landing field	Forehead
4. Awit	Sing or song	A remark when someone is slow
5. Badak	Jackfruit	A chitchat or gossip
6. Bakas	Milk fish	Chitchat, converse, gossip, talkative
7. Barrier	Fence, barricade	An interruption
8. Batman	Referring to a fictional character	An address to tease someone
9. Bodoy	Referring to a local TV fictional character	Stupid; mentally dull
10. Boomerang ka ghurl	Rebound, bounce back	You have unlimited things to offer
11. Brayt / bright	Intelligent, smart	Sarcastic way of getting someone's attention. It means the opposite of being bright.
12. Brightening	Revitalizing	Something that will enhance someone's knowledge, hence making them smart or someone smart
13. Bulldog	A kind of dog	A remark when mad or angry
14. Cancer/ Kanser	A kind of disease	An inexperienced teammate causing loss in a game i.e., mobile games; someone inefficient and ineffective in video games; a burden of a team mate
15. Carrot	A vegetable	Flirt, mischievous; From Tagalog <i>Harot</i>
16. Chart	Diagram, graph	Just kidding; Gay lingo <i>Char</i>
17. Chinesee	Chinese	Referring to NCOV (virus)
18. Chixx	A chick	Someone worth an apple of the eye, attractive, pretty lady
19. Corona virus	A virus	A remark when someone coughs
20. Drawer	Someone who draws	Artist
21. Elbow		Looking or seeking
22. Feeder	A person who supplies food for animals	Someone who gives some tips to an enemy in an online game
23. Fish	Fish	What?; refers to a <i>tuna</i> , kind of fish which means what in Meranaw
24. Fishda	A brand of junk food	Nothing, none
25. Foot long	A long foot	Annoying
26. Fudge	Nonsense, rubbish	Shocked
27. Gagatasan /Gatas	Milk	Anything white / light/ fair complexion
28. Gravity	Seriousness, intentness	Too much; From Tagalog <i>Grabe</i>
29. Grooow!	Grow	Urgent things
30. Ha? Hakdog	What? Hotdog?	What?; A sarcastic response or question asked when the statement is not understood
31. Hastag	Hash tag	Related
32. Hipon	Shrimp	Someone with an unattractive face but a very good body
33. Ivana	Referring to a YouTuber	Someone has changed a partner, something is different;

34. Jollibee	Referring to a fast food character	from Tagalog <i>iba na</i> Sycophant, fawner
35. Kalawag	A spice like a turmeric	Joke
36. Keri / keri-keri/ keri bels/ Keri lang /Kiri-Kiri /Carry-carry	Carry, transmit, transport	Something is within someone's capacity to tolerate or approve; manageable
37. Kudalis	Bean	Stingy
38. egend	A famous or important person	Someone very knowledgeable
39. Lopoy	A kind fish	Alarm, call sign
40. Mandirigma	Soldiers / fighters	Competitive, competitive spirit
41. Manguguwa / mangungua mambu	Someone who gets or takes something	Cool, flashy, competent
42. Manok na pula	Red Hen	A reference from a song parody
43. Mga Padre	Priests	Intelligent
44. Minion	Follower, assistant	Someone very short, stout
45. Miya zombie	Walking dead	Haggard-looking, stressed
46. Murder Breath Kill	Murder Breath Kill	Bad breath
47. Paan	Bun	Lies, liar
48. Pakbol	a Meranaw delicacy	an address to a naughty or annoying person
49. Pikat	Wink	Fooling someone
50. Pisang Pakwan	A smashed watermelon	A cover-up profanity
51. Power Rangers	Referring to a fictional TV characters	Thief
52. Sabi ko ba Robot!	Referring to a robot	Euphemism for lesbian
53. Salma nggagawn	Salma wearing a gown	A way to tease a girl who wears a long dress or skirt
54. Savage	Violent, brutal	As if to say someone is very awesome and hard core or intense
55. Sda momotor	Fish riding on a motorbike	Nothing or nonsense, a mockery
56. Solar	From a sun's energy	Someone with very oily, glistening forehead
57. Tokyo	Capital of Japan	Restroom
58. Tower	Building	Very tall
59. Tripping	Tripping	Nonsense; someone's being crazy

A large number of expressions fall under semantic change, extension or shift. Semantic change draws upon the large stock of inherited vocabulary, involving a drastic change in meaning (Zorc, 1993). Some of the words can become an established part of the lexicon, like *landi* (flirt) which originally meant “play in the mud” and that meaning may come as some surprise. Joanne and Turton (2014) stated that semantic change means the alteration of the sense of an utterance from one thing to another. It is a fecund field for research as Ullmann (1962/1979) wrote, “Of all linguistic elements caught up in [the] drift [of language], meaning is probably the least resistant to change.” Implicit in any kind of alteration, where there is a shift from A to B—is a progression of time, showing expressions which switch meaning, there is inevitably an intermediate period of polysemy, what Bloomfield (1933/1973) calls “expansion,” during which an utterance may mean either A or B, or both simultaneously.

According to Turton (2014), it takes time for members of a new group to grow familiar with one another and to establish a shared identity with a distinct sociolect. When that happens, group members may develop their own patterns of lexical play, brewing up fresh forms and structures that may ‘settle and permanently crystallize’, to borrow Whitman’s

phrase (1885) in Turton (2014), as part of their communal slang. Until that happens, perhaps, speakers must be content with pouring new wine into old skins, and assign novel meanings to worn words. Furthermore, these expressions categorized as semantic change or extension has to do with variation in the semantic range of a word.

**Table 14.** Expressions Formed by Word Play

Expressions	Meaning
1. Amasabi	From Tagalog words <i>anong sabi</i> . What did you say?
2. Ganern	From Tagalog <i>ganun</i> ; Really
3. Gora bells / Gorabells	From gay lingo <i>gora</i> (English <i>go</i> ) + English <i>bells</i> ; a response that is usually like an agreement / gay lingo originated
4. Miyachotay / chutay (gay lingo)	From Tagalog <i>patay</i> ; dead or die
5. Shingkowala	From Tagalog words <i>singko wala</i> ; no money
6. Shunga (gay lingo)	From Tagalog <i>tanga</i> ; Moronic or dumb
7. Vaklosh (gay lingo)	From Tagalog <i>bakla</i> ; Gay
8. Waley (gay lingo)	From Tagalog <i>wala</i> ; None
9. Bagets	Young, the youth, children or childlike behavior
10. Chugidaan	Boyfriend/girlfriend
11. Engkwek	Kwek kwek
12. Small Battery Ball	Someone very short but terrible
13. Ladies girls/Women	Ladies first
14. Juice mother	Euphemized saying of a curse word <i>tangina</i>

These words or expressions fall on the category of wordplay. As Zorc (1993) puts it, wordplay goes further in the re-arrangement of sounds. It may involve dropping or adding syllables to words from just about any language (Zorc, 1993). To Spears (2000), it is a play on that is based on a particular expression. For instance, eagle freak is a play on eco freak. Moreover, language also plays a major role in the Filipino social conception of humor. According to Lesada (2017), plays with words, comments on linguistic errors, regional accents, word puns and jokes involving pronunciation or intentional mispronunciation are prominent throughout the culture. Undoubtedly, speech and language are central elements to the unique form of Philippine comedy.

## CONCLUSION

All the colloquial expressions which served as the main data of this study categorized into their respective processes of word-formations reveal that the language is evolutionary and such words and phrases are added to the vocabulary of the speakers. Further, numerous new words and expressions are made by these speakers. Through their interactions, new words and phrases are picked up and integrated into their speech. New technologies, industries, products and experiences simply require new words. New communication gadgets like cell phones and the Internet are important items of necessities nowadays as they bridge great distances and provide fast communication. In modern times, language change is being brought about by the need to communicate faster and to convey more in each message. So with recent technological advances, the use of abbreviated language like the colloquial expressions presented above has become a necessity in order to get across in reasonable time.

These findings are supported by the generative grammar theory of Chomsky and the style or speech styles of Labov. The generative grammar underscores that sentences are generated by a subconscious set of procedures. These procedures are modelled through a set of formal grammatical rules and these rules are thought to generate the sentences of a language. The same way the speakers are generating words or phrases they use in their everyday conversation. Furthermore, the theory of Labov referred to as social variation and stylistic variation have influenced the linguistic study. Style, in this sense, refers to a

number of casual speech. As the colloquial expressions presented in the above tables project the casual speech for which Labov evokes, reflects the underlying idea that stylistic variation is a consequence of different degrees of attention to speech.

The comprehensive study of Villanueva (2010) regarding the word formation processes being used by the Filipino speakers disclosed the fact that language grows faster and bigger as people feed it in every way and instance possible. The findings revealed that the nature and characteristics of the vocabulary and lexicon of Philippine English are no longer surprising after having seen that at the most informal level, Filipinos create words through Coinage, Borrowing, Reduction, Acronym, Mixing and Blending. More than this is the prevalence of inventions and innovations introduced into the present speaking vocabulary coming from, influenced by, and tainted with English for the most part and by other languages. This recurrent patterns and trends in the common processes shared by both Filipino word formation and Philippine English characteristic features showing the roots of Filipino identity dynamically changing with history and colonial masters, with time and technological developments and the manifestation of the hegemonic power at work.

The Philippine case indicates a notable level of “linguistic fluidity.” It means that Filipinos are inclined towards widespread linguistic pluralism and language change as a result of factors such as geography, colonialism, religious conversion, cultural imperialism and mass media (Lesada, 2017). The result of this phenomenon is a trend toward linguistic flexibility in Filipinos’ everyday conversations. Thus, the above colloquial expressions are a product of various words and phrases of not only Meranaw but also languages like English, Tagalog and Visayan manifested by the linguistic flexibility of the young Meranaw speakers.

From all the discussions above, the findings generally reveal that the speakers in this study who are teenagers know how to use words and exercise them. In fact, they boldly flaunt their wordwise wit via the word-formation processes. Thus, the verbal colloquial expressions they utter compose of words derived or formed based on coinage, compounding, blending, clipping/truncation, acronym/abbreviation, derivation, metathesis, mix-mix/language mixing, borrowing, semantic change/extension/shift and wordplay. Moreover, language is indeed dynamic and that the language is evolving at a much faster rate than ever before attesting to an equally dynamic people that feed this growth with usage and innovation. These young speakers enrich their language by their creative use of it and they come up with new words to name previous nameless things and phenomena, which often start in jest or jokingly in casual situations and occasions resulting in the formation of colloquialisms. Further, slang terms either fall into disuse or persist as Villanueva (2010) puts it which is defying the years by surviving through generations and defying conventions by eventually becoming part of the mainstream Tagalog lexicon and the contemporary vocabulary of Meranaw language.

Another relevant finding of this study highlights the role of multilingualism. The young Meranaw speakers who are Multilinguals use their languages invariably in their communication. Multilinguals like the respondents of this study may shift their mother tongue or language such as Meranaw to English and Tagalog and vice versa. The speakers also use or borrow other languages from Arabic, Korean and a few of Japanese. The use of these switching back and forth languages, imply multilingualism as the linguistic landscape of Meranaw teenagers. These young multilinguals exhibit code-switching or switching from one language to the other in the middle of a conversation or even the same sentence because of their flexibility to use language of the community where they live in and where they belong and because of their group of peers as well.

Ultimately, this study affirms the vibrancy and relevance of colloquial language in reflecting the voices and experiences of young Meranaw speakers. Their creative

expressions are more than linguistic phenomena—they are cultural statements, affirmations of identity, and echoes of a community that continues to evolve. As new technologies, cultural influences, and social dynamics shape the world of these teenagers, so too will their language grow, diversify, and inspire new linguistic scholarship.

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