

Soundshifts in Some Dialects of the Philippines

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Before my appointment to San Carlos University in Cebu City I stayed for two years in Manila. During this time I had the opportunity to study Tagalog. Since 1957 I am staying in Cebu studying Cebuano, which greatly stimulated my interest in comparative linguistics. Via the students I easily obtained contact with different other dialects of the south, especially Hiligaynon and Waray. Studying the Sanskrit loanwords I was able to find the first historical differentiation in some of the soundshifts that are traceable in those dialects. It is probable that the $r > g$ soundshift is older than the $r > l$ one.

In 1960 I had a chance to visit northern Luzon for about four months. In Abra I discovered this *g*-feature (= *g* as a result of the $r > g$ soundshift) even in the most remote areas, but only in the northern part of the mentioned province. I continued tracing the *g*-feature in Apayao and Ibanag.

In 1961 I returned to northern Luzon and again stayed there for about four months. This time I visited several places more towards the east: the Cagayan valley and the Magat valley.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the directors of the "Philippine Center for Language Study" in Pasay City. It was thanks to their financial support that I was able to do this research work in northern Luzon.

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