Dialectology of Surigaonon in San Francisco, Surigao Del Norte: Preliminary Linguistic Study

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Abstract

This study investigates the dialectal variation of the language spoken in San Francisco, Surigao del Norte. The research was motivated by local observations that certain words differ across adjacent barangays. Using the principles of dialectology, the study aims to provide empirical support for these perceived linguistic variations. To analyze the differences, the researcher used 150 Swadesh words to compare lexical items across six barangays. The results reveal that, even at the lexical level, variations are evident among these barangays. High lexical similarity was observed between Diaz and Poblacion, both primarily Surigaonon-speaking. However, as barangays are located farther from Surigao City—the capital of Surigao del Norte and neighboring the town of San Francisco—the presence of cognates from other languages increases. Specifically, the study found that cognates are distributed as 54% Cebuano, 32% Surigaonon, 12% Boholano, and 2% Minamanwa. This preliminary study highlights the complex linguistic landscape of San Francisco, Surigao del Norte, showing how geographic distance and community interaction influence dialectal variation. It also contributes to the broader understanding of the relationships between Surigaonon and surrounding native languages, offering a foundation for future, more detailed dialectological research.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language, the soul of culture in every society it belongs to. According to the theory of linguistic relativity (Sapir, 1929; Whorf, 2012; Chandler, 1994), the same spirit of their hypothesis is that how a person thinks is certainly the same way they speak. The Philippines is a multilingual and multicultural country, consisting of languages and dialects (Constantino, 1998). From the point of view of linguistics, a dialect is a regional variety of a language or the difference in a person's speech based on the sound, some words, and others based on the place of their origin. (Chambers and Trudgill 3).

It cannot be denied that the Philippines is one of the most abundant places regarding the number of languages; in fact, the languages recorded by the Ethnologue of the Summer Institute of Linguistics currently reach 171 (Lewis,et.al, 2013). The situation of the Philippines as a country consisting of more than 7,100 islands, most of which are inhabited by mountains, is a major aspect that affects the linguistic situation of the country. Another reason is the difference in the perspective of the linguist and the speaker of a particular language. That language may be very similar to another, but the native speaker still declares that the language he speaks is different. As a social scientist, the linguist cannot object to this statement of the native speaker and only record the similarity in his research.

The linguistic variations found in languages and dialects have prompted the examination of one language from the perspective of another to explain the history and outcome of the language under study through comparison. In the community of the province of Surigao del Norte, it can be considered that it fully embraces the Surigaonon language, as can be seen and read about the province, and is known by the native expression 'maradjaw karadjaw' or in Filipino 'talagang mabuti', which can also mean wonderful, attractive, and beautiful.

Based on the survey of the Caraga Region (Census 2002) there were 88,129 or 22.40% of the total population of the Caraga region; and it was found that 95% of the people use Surigaonon (provincial scope) as their first language with Cebuano and Boholano languages as a part of it at the Tausug point (Dumanig, 2015); (Liwanag, M. H. ,2017).

What is noteworthy at present is the continuous increase in tourism in Surigao City, as well as the daily interaction of people in conducting business with neighboring areas, which also brings new terms and even culture and beliefs. Therefore, this study aims to examine the linguistic situation and use the town of San Francisco, adjacent to Surigao City, as a base, which has the highest number of Surigaonon speakers as a first language in the Province of Surigao del Norte. This paper will explore the dialectal variations of the language spoken in the said area.

The desire to examine the linguistic situation of the language arose from the observation of the locals – the Surigaonons – that the language or "salita" differs when moving to another barangay even if they are adjacent. The researcher seeks to provide an empirical basis for the observations of the Surigaonons about linguistic variations, based on the principles of dialectology. As a preliminary study, the lexical level will be used as the basis for the dialectology of Surigaonon.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher's objective in this section is to demonstrate via relevant literature and various viewpoints that will advance and broaden the researcher's study.

2.1.Background of the Surigaonon Language

A survey by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) shows that the Philippines has 92 languages or dialects (SIL, 2003). Except for Chavacano, a Spanish creole mostly spoken on the Zamboanga Peninsula in Mindanao, all native languages in the Philippines are Austronesian (Paz, 1995). Throughout the country, there are at least eight major languages , each with a significant number of native speakers. These languages are Tagalog, Ilocano, Bicol, Kapampangan, Pangasinense, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, and Waray. Of these languages, only Tagalog, Cebuano, and Ilokano are widely studied. Most minor languages are not widely studied, and many have not been discovered or documented to date. One of these is the Surigaonon language, with only occasional attempts to make it readable.

Surigaonon is the language most people speak in Surigao del Norte, particularly in Surigao City. Aside from being Surigaonon, the indigenous people of the province identify themselves as speaking the Visayan language, and some also speak the Boholano language. The Surigaonons identify themselves as being related to the Visayan and Boholano languages and several other indigenous groups in the province, such as the Mamanwa, Manobo, and Badjao; this is their ethnolinguistic group. This identification is not surprising, especially from the perspective of sociolinguistics and historical linguistics (Bayang, 2020).

In Dumanig's (2015) study "Descriptive Analysis of the Surigaonon Language", this study aims to describe and analyze the Surigaonon language as the first language of the people who lived in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Davao

Oriental. This research paper paid attention to the sounds of vowels and consonants, stress and tone as well as morphophonemic changes occurring in the Surigaonon language. The results of the study showed that the Surigoanon language has (17) consonants with corresponding sounds in each letter, and there are three (3) vowels which are equivalent to five sounds. In general, the Surigoanon language has an identity compared to other languages found in the Visayas and Mindanao because of its own base set of consonant and vowel sounds, stress and pronunciation as well as forms of morphophonemic changes.

In the study titled "The Dialect of Tagalog in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro: The Impact of Language Contact" it was stated that many languages are spoken in the province of Oriental Mindoro (OrMdo)-Tagalog, Mangyan languages, and even languages from neighboring provinces that met OrMdo for activities related to trade, transportation, and migration. Using the process of dialectology, the study identified Tagalog-Roxas as a dialect of Tagalog that is different from Tagalog spoken in other parts of the province based on its lexicon. From the survey conducted in 14 municipalities and one city in OrMdo, 124 or 25.5% of the 485 words analyzed were identified as unique to Roxas. These words create an isogloss bundle that separates Roxas from the rest of the province in the dialect maps created for this study (Añoso, 2021).

This is relevant to the current study because it is a similar variable that is being looked at by the study. Some factors can also be seen in the differences in the language or words used in the province of Oriental Mindoro (OrMdo)-Tagalog, the Mangyan languages , and other indigenous languages , due to continuous interaction with other people, whether locals or tourists. This can also be seen in the Surigaonon language, where the fast-paced life of the inhabitants of Surigao Del Norte, particularly in Surigao City and its neighboring towns, continues to affect the language and words used by the locals. It is important to know the variety of words used today to also see the true status of the Surigaonon language as an indigenous language in the said province. Based on the purpose of this study, the current study can also be compared to this one, which aims to identify and describe the various variations of the Surigaonon language, including the description of the linguistic situation found in the Province of Surigao del Norte. Dialectal variation can be explained through words that are explicitly used by the people who live in the area.

2.2. Dialectology, lexicostatistics, and dialect geography

Dialects, in many definitions, are variations of a particular language, which differ only in sound, a few words, and so on. It can be said that two different languages are spoken by two people who no longer understand each other, or in linguistic terminology, are no longer mutually intelligible. Meanwhile, they are only dialects if they understand each other while noticing the difference in their spoken dialect from their interlocutor (Chambers and Trudgill, 1998).

In a dialect continuum, the differences between varieties increase as they move away from each other (Chambers and Trudgill 5). For example, the case of the six varieties A to F. The adjacent varieties A and B have mutual intelligibility, as do B and C, C and D, D and E, and E and F. We can say that each pair is a dialect of a language. In the case of a dialect continuum where the distant varieties A and F are no longer mutually intelligible, the definition of the dialect and language boundary becomes complicated. This type of dialect continuum is called by Hockett (see McFarland, Linguistic atlas 8) L-complex, as opposed to L-simplex, where each variety is mutually intelligible with the other.

This adds the concept of cognates, where two words are similar in both form and meaning (Dijkstra, T.,et.al, 1999). When form is discussed, it means that the sounds contained in each word are not far removed from the pronunciation of another word.

According to Chambers and Trudgill (99), there are seven types of basis in dialectology: (1) lexical, or the description of the differences in the words used by speakers of each area to designate an object, state, or action; (2) pronunciation, which looks at the way lexical items are pronounced in different areas if there are differences; (3) phonetic, the search for differences or contrasts in phonetic output; (4) phonemic, or looking at the inventory of distinctive segments and suprasegmentals of the dialects under study; (5) morphological, which includes paradigmatic, inflectional, and derivational differences in each area; (6) syntactic, which looks at the differences in the aspect of sentence structure; and (7) semantic, or the differences in the interpretation of linguistic units in each area of study.

The lexical level is said to be the most superficial because it is the one most prone to change; however, lexical data can still provide strong evidence for the history of a language. Lexical items are often the only evidence that can reveal dialectal variations within a language.

Dialect geography can be studied from three approaches: "comparative, lexicostatistical, and phono-statistical" (McKaughan,1998). In this study, the lexicostatistical approach to dialect geography will be used, following McKaughan's framework. Word lists in each of the six (6) barangays of San Francisco will be compared to determine cognate percentages; thus, it will be possible to discover how close or far apart the dialects of Surigaonon are from each other. However, the lexicostatistical method will not lead to the calculation of the time when the dialects under study diverged, as lexicostatistics often aims to do.

Figure 1. The flow of study through the paradigm. Below is the word dialectology as the focus of the study, through analysis at the lexical level, as a type of analysis using dialectology and lexicostatistics will be used which is close to dialect geography, in accordance with McKaughan's framework. It is in the shape of the letter F as a symbol of the true value of promoting the national language by documenting the dialect in the Philippines.
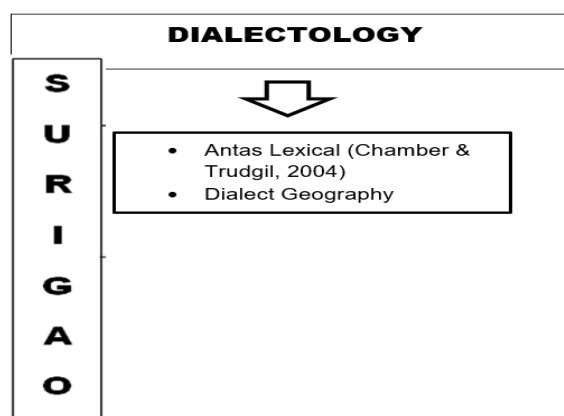

Fig. 1
Research Paradigm

2.3. Objectives

This paper will explore the dialectal variations of the language spoken in the town of San Francisco, adjacent to Surigao City. The desire to examine the linguistic situation of the language arose from the observation of the locals – the Surigaonons – that some "words" differ when they move to other barangays, even though they are adjacent to each other. The researcher seeks to provide an empirical basis for the observations of the Surigaonons about linguistic variations, based on the principles of dialectology. The study will present the level of cognates

of other native languages surrounding the Surigaonon language. As a preliminary study, the lexical level will be used as the basis for the dialectology of Surigaonon.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data collection will be conducted using a tape recorder through interviews with the help of a 150-word questionnaire or wordlist based on Swadesh (1977) and conversations with a few native speakers. The orthography of the collected corpus is based on how the respondents wrote and pronounced their words as the primary users of the language studied.

A survey was conducted among ten (10) native residents of each barangay aged 50 years and above. They were recruited from six (6) barangays throughout the municipality of San Francisco namely, Jubgan, Amontay, Linongganan, Balite, Diaz at Poblacion which are also close to where the researcher lives. The term 'first language' is defined as the language first learned within the home naturally.

The following is a method of data collection as a step to organize and guide researchers and colleagues during fieldwork. Here is the following.

They are requesting permission from the Mayor of the Town. Before traveling, the mayors of the municipalities they will be visiting should be contacted for permission. This is how people communicate in the town's LGUs. Following notification that the researcher has made the request, the target informants' availability schedules in particular barangays or municipalities are asked for.

Observation / Visit. Went to the location and asked for guidance from the barangay Captain to fulfill the data taken in said location as a preliminary study and data collection. Here, companionship, adaptation, or intimacy with the informants occurs. Here, their way of speaking is observed, including the language spoken.

Interview. During the visit, the researchers interviewed in two ways, using informal or formal interviews, depending on the interviewee, to gather data needed for the study.

Recording. Obtaining data through a camera and recorder or listening to ensure that all data obtained from the informant is accurate. All conversations from observations, conversations, and interviews were recorded to fulfill the objectives of the research.

Review. By listening again to his cellphone recorder, decoding and rereading the process of decoding from the data collected from observation, conversation, and interview

Analysis. Organizing the original words and analyzing them according to the variety of the language spoken in each community.

Categorization. Separating the varieties of the Surigaonon language or other native languages according to the word data obtained.

Lexicostatistical percentage and Frequency. This was used to analyze cognates from different words from the data collected that exist in the Surigaonon language.

4. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

This section will discuss the lexical variation of the Surigaonon language in the provinces of Surigao del Norte, particularly in the Municipality of San Francisco.

4.1. Lexical Variation

In six (6) barangays, this study identified the occurrence of Boholano, Cebuano, and Surigaonon languages used in communication. At the lexical level, it can be noted that there are terms that are used only in one or two barangays.

Table 1. Isogloss Set 1

The following table shows the maps representing the members of the first isogloss set. Based on the table above, sixteen (13) lexical items can be seen, showing the separation of the lexical equivalents of barangay Jubgan (JUB) from the cluster of equivalent words in lexical items from other barangays.

'i'	[ahoʔ] (Jub) [akoʔ] (Amon, Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob)
'no'	[diʔ] (Jub) [dili] (Amon, Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob)
'three'	[tuloʔ] (Jub) [tujoʔ] (Amon, Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob)
'worm'	[ʔud] (Jub) [ʔulod] (Amon, Bal, Lin, Dia, Pob)
'left'	[waʔ] (Jub) [waja] (Amon, Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob)
'green' 'yellow' 'narrow'	[lunhaw] (Jub) [dajag] (Jub) [huʔot] (Jub) [pitsidoʔ] (Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob) [mulantip] (Amon)
'animal'	[binuhiʔ] (Jub) [mananap] (Amon, Bal, Lin) [hadʒup] (Dia, Pob)
'snake'	[has] (Jub) [halas] (Amon, Lin, Bal) [hajas] (Dia, Pob)
'ear'	[dawoŋgan/ daluŋgan] (Jub) [taliŋa] (Amon, Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob)
'lake'	[pagsak] (Jub) [danaw] (Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob) [linaw] (Amon)
'sand'	[bonbon] (Jub) [buhaŋin] (Amon, Dia, Pob) [balas] (Lin, Bal)
'short'	[muboʔ] (Jub, Amon) [sip-ot] (Lin) [djutaj] (Bal, Dia, Pob)
'narrow'	[pitsidoʔ] (Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob) [huot] (Jub) [mulantip] (Amon)
'red'	[puwaʔ] (Jub) [puja] (Dia, Pob) [pulaʔ] (Amon, Bal, Lin)

Legend: Jubgan (Jub), Amontay (Amon), Balite (Bal), Linongganan (Lin), Diaz (Dia), Poblacion (Pob)

These can be related to the Boholano language as well as to the words that are equivalent in Filipino, as follows.

All: /akoʔ/   All: /diliʔ/
JUB: /ahoʔ/   JUB: /diʔ/

<table>
<tr><td>'i'</td><td>'no'</td></tr>
<tr><td>All: /ʔulod/</td><td>All: /waja/</td></tr>
<tr><td>JUB: /ʔud/</td><td>JUB: /waʔ/</td></tr>
<tr><td>'worm'</td><td>'left'</td></tr>
</table>

The words 'i' [ahoʔ] in Jubgan, while [akoʔ] from the rest of the barangay, 'no' (Jubgan) and others [diliʔ]; 'three' (Jubgan) [tuloʔ] in others [tujoʔ]); 'worm' (Jubgan) [ʔud] in others [ʔulod]), 'left' (Jubgan) [waʔ] in others [waja]). It can be noted that the equivalent words in Barangay Jubgan are in the Boholano language, while the other barangays are in the Surigaonon language cluster.

It can be noted that the prominent use of the barangay Jubgan in words from the Boholano language is noted. The researcher saw three factors in the emergence of the Boholano language rather than the Surigaonon language from the first cluster of words. The lifestyle and social interaction of the people here were naturally affected, especially fishing, which was the main livelihood of the people here, where people exchanged products to Bohol because in the geographical form of the area faces Bohol.

This adds to the equivalents of some lexical words in barangay Jubgan that have similar equivalents in other barangays that speak the Surigaonon and Cebuano languages, such as;

<table>
<tr><td>JUB: /huʔot/</td><td>JUB; /has/</td></tr>
<tr><td>LIN, BAL, DIA, POB : /pitsidoʔ/</td><td>AMON, LIN, BAL: /halas/</td></tr>
<tr><td>AMON: /mulantip/</td><td>DIA, POB: /hajas/</td></tr>
<tr><td>'narrow'</td><td>'snake'</td></tr>
<tr><td>JUB: /binuhiʔ/</td><td>JUB: /bonbon/</td></tr>
<tr><td>AMON, BAL, LIN: /mananap/</td><td>Amon, Dia, Pob : /buhaɲin/</td></tr>
<tr><td>DIA, POB: /hadʒup/</td><td>Lin, Bal: /balas/</td></tr>
<tr><td>'animal'</td><td>'sand'</td></tr>
</table>

The words "narrow" Jub [huʔot], Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob [pitsidoʔ] and Amon [mulantip]; 'animal' Jub [binuhiʔ] , Amon, Bal, Lin [animal] and Dia, Pob [hadʒup]); 'snake' Jub [has], Amon, Lin, Bal [snake], and Dia, Pob [hajas]); 'ear' (Jub [dawoŋgan/ daluŋgan] while Amon, Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob [taliŋa] , 'lake' (Jub [pagsak], Lin, Bal, Dia, Pob and Amon [linawg]; 'sand' (Jub [bonbon], Amon, Dia, Pob , [buhaŋin] and Lin, Bal [balas]); 'short' (Jub, Amon [muboʔ, Lin [sip-ot] and in Bal, Dia, Pob [djutaj]); 'red' (Jub [puwaʔ], Amon, Bal, Lin, [pulaʔ] and Dia, Pob [puja]).

From the studies by Dumanig (2015) and Bayang (2020), the Cebuano language plays a large role in the entire province of Surigao del Norte, which is also evident from the data collected.

In addition, the lexical items 'green' [lunhaw] (Jub) and 'yellow' [dajag] (Jub) which have no equivalent in the respondents in first barangays were given in their first language so what they wrote was the English language which is also the one they actually use in conversation. The lexical items 'green' [lunhaw] (Jub) and 'yellow' [dajag] (Jub) are from the Minamanwa language, where there is a small percentage of the population living here.

This is proof that the Minamanwa language also contributes to the words used in the said area, although their population is low, and in short, they are the most influential in speech because they communicate using the Visayan language.

According to Garvan (1964) and Alameda (1993), the Mamanwas can be considered as one of the original inhabitants of the region, while Jocano (1996) classified them as band level group. Eleazar (1985) called them as the original Cantilangnon/Surigaonon.

In the socio-cultural aspect, they have also been gradually influenced due to the change in their environment and lifestyle. The preservation of the customs and language of the Mamanwa is one of the goals of the national heritage and future generations, (Tomaquin, 2013).

Table 2. Isogloss Set #2

The following table shows lexical items that exhibit another possible isogloss (cluster).

'what'	[ʔunsaʔ] (JUB, AMON, LIN, BAL) [ʔunoʔ] (DIA, POB)
'where'	[asaʔ] (JUB, AMON, LIN, BAL) [haeʔ] (Dia, Pob)
'how'	[ʔunsaʔon] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [ʔunhon] (Dia, Pob)
'many'	[daghan] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [daboʔ] (Dia, Pob)
'louse'	[kutoʔ] (Jub, Amon, Bal, Lin) [kuswad] (Dia, Pob)
'flower'	[buwak] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [bujak] (Dia, Pob)
'wings'	[pakuʔ] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [ʔampak] (Dia, Pob)
'stomach'	[tijan] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [tidʒan] (Dia, Pob)
'fight'	[nisukol] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [niatoʔ] (Dia, Pob)
'fall'	[mahulog] (Jub, Amon, Lin, Bal) [mahujog] (Dia, Pob)
'fire'	[sigaʔ] (Jub, Amon, Lin) [kadʒuʔ] (Dia, Pob, Bal)
'dirty'	[hugaw] (Jub, Amon, Lin) [lipaʔ] (Dia, Pob, Bal)
'dry'	[ugaʔ] (Jub, Amon, Lin) [majaʔ] (Dia, Pob, Bal)
'who'	[kinsaʔ] (Jub, Amon, Lin) [sin-oʔ] (Dia, Pob, Bal)

Legend: Jubgan (Jub), Amontay (Amon), Balite (Bal), Linongganan (Lin), Diaz (Dia), Poblacion (Pob)

For this second isogloss set, the consistent use of the Surigaonon language in barangay Diaz and Poblacion San Francisco is seen in all lexical items.

<div style="display:flex; justify-content:space-around; text-align:center;">

Dia, Pob: /ʔunoʔ/
All: /ʔunsaʔ/
'what'
'Dia, Pob: /ʔunhon/
All: /ʔunsaʔon/
'how'

Dia, Pob: /haeʔ/
All: /asaʔ/
'where'
Dia, Pob, /daboʔ/
All: /daghan/
'many'

</div>

Above, 10 lexical items were recorded that are equivalent to the Surigaonon language. The consistent use of barangay Dia and Poblacion in the pure Surigaonon language was recorded throughout the data such as ''what' (Dia, Pob, [ʔunoʔ] and others [ʔunsaʔ]); 'where' (Dia, Pob, [haeʔ] and others [asaʔ]); 'how' (Dia, Pob, [ʔunhon] and others [ʔunsaʔon]); 'many' (Dia, Pob, [daboʔ] and others [daghang]); 'flower' (Dia, Pob, [bujak] and others [buwak]); 'louse' (Dia, Pob, [kuswad] and others [kutoʔ]); 'wings' (Dia, Pob, [ʔampak] and others [pakuʔ]); 'stomach' (Dia, Pob, [tidʒan] and others [tijan]).

The barangays Diaz and Poblacion of San Francisco are close to Surigao City, where the Surigonon language is the only language used by the Surigao natives in communication. Therefore, due to their close location, a large cluster of the Surigaonon language can also be seen in the said barangays. Although the use of the Cebuano language is widespread and there is a gradual increase in Boholano, the widespread distribution of the Surigaonon language in other barangays can also be noted, indicating its influence on people, even non-Surigao natives.

The use of several clusters of lexical items in the Surigaonon language is seen in the additional barangay of Balite. Such as 'fire' (Dia, Pob, Bal) [kadʒuʔ], while [sigaʔ] in the remaining barangays (Jub, Amon, Lin); 'dirty' (Dia, Pob, Bal [lipaʔ], Jub, Amon, Lin [huwag]); 'dry' (Dia, Pob, Bal [majaʔ], while Jub, Amon, Lin [ugaʔ]); finally 'who' (Dia, Pob, Bal [sin-oʔ], Jub, Amon, Lin [kinsaʔ]). The remaining barangays use the Cebuano language as the equivalent of speech and as a means of communication. Although the Cebuano language is prominent in the surveyed barangays, the use of some other Surigaonon words in their speech is still seen.

4.2. Cognates

Below is a table of correspondences of probable cognates compared in each barangay (see Table 2). This is followed by a table of percentages of cognates for each barangay in the preliminary study (see Table 3).

Table 3

Lexicostatistical Comparison of Cognate Counts in Each Barangay

JUB					
140	AMON				
132	139	LIN			
132	135	135	BAL		
132	134	134	143	DIA	
130	136	136	140	147	POB

Legend: Jubgan (Jub), Amontay (Amon), Balite (Bal), Linongganan (Lin), Diaz (Dia), Poblacion (Pob)

Based on the table above, it can be observed that the barangays of Diaz (DIA) and Poblacion (POB) recorded the highest number of probable cognates, which reached 147 mostly in the Surigaonon language. Meanwhile, the barangays between barangays Jubgan (JUB) and Poblacion (POB) recorded the lowest number of probable cognates with a frequency count of 130.

Following this, the cognate percentage between the six barangays was calculated as shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Lexicostatistical Comparison of Cognate Percentages in Each Barangay

JUB				
93.3	AMON			
89.3	92.6	LIN		
88.0	90.0	90.0	BAL	
88.0	89.3	89.3	95.3	DIA

| 86.6 | 99.6 | 90.6 | 93.3 | 98.0 | POB |

Legend: Jubgan (Jub), Amontay (Amon), Balite (Bal), Linongganan (Lin), Diaz (Dia), Poblacion (Pob)

Lexicostatistical comparison of cognate counts in each barangay can be used to determine how close or far apart the dialects of the town of San Francisco, which is part of the Province of Surigao del Norte, are.

For Swadesh (in Crowley (173)), cognate percentage has a similar meaning to the relationship between languages; if two representative languages have 81-100 cognate percentages, they are considered dialects of a single language. If two representative languages have 36-81 cognate percentages, they are considered two daughter languages that came from an ancestral protolanguage.

Table 5

Cognates' percentage and their meaning in the relationship of languages

Level of Subgroupings	Cognate Percentage
Dialects of a language	81-100
Language of a Family	36-81
Families of a stock	12-36
Stocks of a microphylum	4-12
Microphyl of a mesophylum	1-4
Mesophyla of a macrophylum	0-1

In the case of the table above, it can be said that the ones with the highest cognates are barangays Diaz and Poblacion (98.0) while barangay Jubgan has the lowest frequency of probable cognates in the presentation. The two barangays are almost similar due to the factor of proximity to each other and the effect of continuous interaction between the people here. The language spoken is Surigaonon because it is close to Surigao City.

But it can also be noted that the low percentage of lexical cognates between barangays Poblacion and Jubgan with 86.6 probable cognates that as the areas move away from the capital of Surigao, there is a lexical variation used by the people. The influence of other languages found in the province has been significant. The high percentage of Cebuano language (55%) can be seen, followed by Surigaonon language 32%, Boholano (12%), and Minamanwa language (1%) in the total data.

The high percentage of Cebuano language can be seen, followed by Boholano language, considering the geographical location, natural resources, livelihood of the people, and migrants who settled in the area, where most of them are from Bohol. One proof that the Surigaonon language has Boholano is the words with the phoneme /j/ of the Lexical Variation analysis.

The Cebuano language also plays a major role in the language used in Surigao del Norte due to several factors seen such as education, where most professionals study in Cebu City, others get married and return to Surigao to work. Highest cognates in the fast movement of employment and education; its influence is rapid. (Bayang, 2020)

Additionally, the number of Suriganon speakers in the province of Surigao del Norte is gradually decreasing due to the influx of major languages such as English, Cebuano, and Tagalog (Dumanig & Jubilado, 2006). Code-switching between these languages is widespread in social networks, business places, schools, churches, radio stations, television, vehicles, and even in every Surigaonon home, causing great destruction to the original Sinurigao identity, the native language of the province.

Although based on Dyen (1975)'s statement that the higher the proportion of cognacy, the closer the related languages are, meaning that Visayan-Boholano and Surigaonon are closer

or more similar, which is the highest proportion shown in the data. In general, the words examined are not far apart; this can be considered mutual intelligibility with each other because speakers freely exchange mixed languages. This type of dialect continuum is called by Hockett (see McFarland, Linguistic atlas 8) L-simplex, where each variety has mutual intelligibility with each other.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION
5.1. Conclusion

The study found that at the lexical level, there are still differences among the six barangays compared. The lexical items used by the neighboring barangays of Diaz and Poblacion in the Surigonon language are highly similar. The study found that as the barangays move away from Surigao City as the capital of Surigao del Norte, the town of San Francisco, which was studied, is adjacent to it. It can be noted that the occurrence of lexical items is high in the Cebuano language, followed by the Boholano language. Considering the geographical location, natural resources, livelihood of the people, and migrants who settled in the area, most of whom are from Bohol. One proof that the Surigaonon language has Boholano is the words with the phoneme /j/ of the Lexical Variation analysis.

5.2. Recommendation

Based on the results and conclusions, the following will be the recommendations of the Researcher:

1. The research can be further expanded as a preliminary study using lexical variation or using other variables and research approaches that are not found in the current study, and comparing the considered varieties of the Surigaonon language, such as Gigaguitnon, Siargaonon for Surigao del Norte, and even the variety of the Surigaonon language in the Dinagat Islands called Dinagatnon.
2. Conduct research that will describe the true state of the Surigaonon language in the Province of Surigao del Norte to ensure some more important information about the location and characteristics of the language for its identity towards the preservation of the local language despite factors that affect it such as the continuous increase in tourism particularly on Siargao Island.
3. Implementation of language programs in the province to make the new generation aware of the richness of our region in terms of language and culture, and to show that the development of the first language that exists in Surigao del Norte, such as the languages used in written or spoken media, depends on them

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