

The Cause of Extinction of Tagbanwa Writing in Bgy. Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan

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ABSTRACT

An interview to members of Tagbanwa natives in Bgy. Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan focused on the cause of extinction of Tagbanwa writing was conducted to determine their socio-cultural characteristic and to understand the importance of Tagbanwa writing today in preservation of Tagbanwa culture and tradition. The Tagbanwa writing (*surat*) was used for writing their riddle (*egem*), story (*toltol*), songs (*oyman/dagoy*) love letters and even in electing government officials during elections until around 1970's. The Tagbanwa script have three vowels (3) (*o, a, e*) and thirteen (13) consonants that have inherent vowel(a) (*la, ma, da, ga, ta, na, ka, ba, sa, pa, ya, nga, wa*) that can be modified to (e) and (o) in addition of diatric called "*olitan*" which will be placed above and below respectively. Results of the study showed that the Tagbanwa writing lost its function in communication and the children did not learn how the Tagbanwa writings are the factors that made it extinct. The school has introduced the modern alphabet, and the growing population of the *Dewan* or non-Tagbanuas who settled in Cabigaan lowered the self-esteem of the Tagbanwas is another factor. Sergio Sangpet a 75 years old Tagbanwa from Bgy. Magbabadil, Aborlan is the only known Tagbanwa who knows how to write the native writing. The lost of action of the concern agencies and the Tagbanwa people will lead to its total extinction. Writing is a human technology for communication and it represents the language and emotion of an individual through inscription of letter, signs or symbols. Preserving their culture and tradition should also include preserving their writings.

Keywords: Surat Tagbanwa, Diatric "olitan", *Dewan*, dialect extinction, Tagbanwa psychological condition, modern alphabet