

FOREWORD

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Research has gone a long way to developing complex systems for the world. However, we still believe that in the most basic sense, research provides us with the practical and logical means to inquire about the right information in our quest for better and quality life. Research empowers us with knowledge and efficient learning of new things, and helps us understand issues in a larger context, which may open new opportunities.

The Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Journal (APHERJ) recognizes the aforementioned fundamental promises of research. This December 2019 issue includes five articles concretizing how research reach out to the different aspects of life and quality living. Ortega and colleagues (2019) described how essential newborn care (ENC) of the Philippine Department of Health is practiced in city health facilities, and found some deviations and non-compliance on the part of the health professionals. These results may lead to further review and assessment of ENC for better health service to our citizens.

Further venture of research to quality of life of citizens and for knowledge creation of the local folks in terms of their roots are recognized in the ethnographic research of Cadiz and colleagues (2019). They explored the ethno-astronomical beliefs of Mangyan of Iraya tribe in Occidental Mindoro, Philippines to document their ethno-astronomical beliefs in the aspects of planting, courtship and marriage, pregnancy and giving birth, spirits and sickness to preserve the indigenous knowledge of this ethnicity.

Indigenous knowledge preservation was further pursued by Banauag and Payapaya (2019) in their study on the scope of the usage of Agusan Manobo language in social networking sites. They even identified the factors influencing the use of minority

language and found that Manobo students use the language in sending private messages to friends only, and are seldom used in online platforms for majority view, which Banauag and Payapaya think may require extensive campaign for language preservation.

Our fourth article specifies how language and linguistic choices and structure may secure latent meanings and ideologies of the speaker. Salvaleon (2019) used transitivity system to critically analyze the language utterances in President Rodrigo Duterte's 2016, 2017, and 2018 State of the Nation addresses to convey his political promise of change to the Filipinos. His analyses account for verbal processes that stressed President Duterte's convictions and directives. He even used language to emphasize charisma and humor. With his relational process, the President is able to highlight that he is the prime mover who leads a new foundation to construct a better Philippines.

Finally, our fifth article (Miranda, Garcia, & Narca, 2019) utilized the initial thoughts of Young Marx's Theory of Human Nature to explain space maximization techniques. Their analysis revealed that they found congruence of the aforementioned theory with the actual slum space maximization strategies of families in a real slum area. They recommend, therefore, that the government build socialized housing (with good materials) in relocation areas in CALABARZON, which must go hand-in-hand with livelihood assistance and jobs creation in the resettlement areas to motivate informal dwellers to not to return to their old slum spaces located in the cities. Research indeed initiates assessment and measures towards quality of living.

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