

Malay Relation with Kapampangan Language and Culture

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Some modern-day linguistic researchers and archeologists claim that Filipinos including Kapampangans originated from China via Taiwan. However, based on oral traditions, it is believed that the early Kapampangan settlers along the river banks of the Rio Grande de la Pampanga in the Island of Luzon of the Philippine Archipelago were descendants of Malayan pioneers from the Malay Peninsula and from Singarak Lake of West Sumatra. These Malayan adventurers brought their advanced civilization, their unique culture, their traditions and a language of their own and founded their dynasty based on the social foundations of freedom and economic prosperity.

The aforementioned belief based on tradition, is strengthened by Juan Francisco de San Antonio's *Cronicas de la Apostolica Provincia de S. Gregorio* (Manila 1738) and Francisco Colin's *Labor Evangelica*, Madrid 1663 (Native Races and their Customs) that Pampangos (according to tradition) originated from the largest island of the Orient, which is that of Sumatra or Trapobana.

It was indicated that in the midst of the island of Sumatra there was a large lake, on whose surrounding marge many different peoples had their abodes. A Kapampangan who had lost his way reached that place who was interviewed by Fr. Colin himself, and having discovered that there were men there of his own build, language, and clothing, approached, and entered into conversation with them in his own elegant Kapampangan tongue. They answered him in the same speech, and one of their men said: "You are descendants of the lost people who in former times, left here to settle other lands, and have never been heard of since."

Based on what is written in "The Philippine Islands -1493 - 1898", a 55-volume series English translation from the originals by Emma Blair and James Alexander Robertson in the early 1900s, it is difficult to determine whether the Kapampangans came directly from Sumatra, or settled first in Borneo, because of the nearness of its lands and domains, and thence passed on to settle the islands of this archipelago although it appeared from the statements of some who had been in Borneo for a time that they even found there sufficient indications that the Kapampangan people, some came from Sumatra and some from Malayo.

The fact that many islets are lying in a row and near one another, with which Borneo is closely connected, there is less difficulty in changing their abodes from one to the other; and it is believable that the Tagalogs, Kapampangans and other civilized races who were found in this archipelago, and who were almost alike in language, customs, bodily proportions, and clothing, came immediately from Borneo, some from some provinces and some from others. This may be the reason for the little difference that is found among these Philippine ethnic groups.

The similarities in ancient customs, clothings, religion, food and languages seem to validate the connection between Malays and Kapampangans. However, over the years, contact with other nationalities made it difficult to preserve the purity of both languages and culture. Bahasa Malay and culture had been influenced by people from China, Portugal, Spain, Great Britain, Netherlands, India and other foreigners.

Kapampangan language and culture just like other Philippine languages and culture were also greatly

influenced by Spaniards, Britons, Americans, Chinese, Japanese, Hindus, Arabs and other nationalities. As proof of the similarity of the old Malay and Kapampangan languages, here is a listing of Malay words taken from a standard Bahasa Malay - English Dictionary which are also Kapampangan words with the same meaning:

Malay and Kapampangan Words With Similar Meaning

Malay	Kapampangan	English
abu	abu	ash (of fire, cigar)
achi	achi	elder sister
ah	ah	Ah! As a cry of surprise
aku	aku	I, me
alipan	alipan	centipede
alun	alun	long rolling waves, surge of the sea
almanak	almanak	almanac
amanah	amanah	trusteeship
ambun	ambun	dew, vapor
am'pat	apat	four
anak	anak	child, children
anai-anai	anai, aneh	termites
anam	anam	six
andas	andas	surface support
angin	angin	wind
angkap	angkap	rack or shelf in part of a native house
angkat	angkat	lift, rise
aniaya	aniaya	to do injustice, tyranny
anting	anting-anting	pendant
api	api	fire, flame

arang	arang	affront
aria	aria	lower away
armada	armada	fleet of warships
asin	asin	salt
asu	asu	dog
atap	atap	roof, roofing thatch
ayun	ayun	swaying, swinging
babi	babi	pig
baldi	baldi	pail, bucket
balu	balu	widowed
balut	balut	wrap up
banat	banat	beat
bandera	bandera	banner, flag
bangis	bangis	cruel
bangkal	bangkal	a name for certain trees
bangku	bangku	bench
bangun	bangun	get up
bankai	bankai, bangke	body (corpse)
bangsa	bansa	race (of men)
bapa	bapa	uncle
barnis	barnis	varnish
baru	baru	new (of clothes)
basah	basah	wet
batu	batu	stone, rock

bau	bau	smell, scent, odor
bazar	bazar	bazaar
belak	bilak	hold open fold or crease
belanga	balanga	earthenware pot for cooking
belikat	balikat	shoulder-blade
belimbing	balimbing	carambola, trees with ridged fruits
beranda	beranda	veranda
berat	berat	dull of wit
biabas	biabas	guava
bilang	bilang	count
bingka	bingka	cake made of rice flour
biola	biola	violin
bisa	bisa	can
biskuit	biskuit	biscuit
bistek	bistek	beefsteak
bobotok	bobotok, bobotu	tidbit in banana leaf
bola	bola	ball
bolsa	bolsa	clothes-bag
bomba	bomba	pump, squirt
bongsu	bongsu	youngest
buaya	buaya	crocodile
bubung	bubung	roof
buka	buka	open (mouth)
bulan	bulan	month, moon

buloh	buloh	bamboo
bulu	bulu	body-hair, quills
bumbong	bubong	roof
bunga	bunga	interest on money
butoh	butoh	penis
cha	cha	tea
chicu	chico	sapodilla, Achrus sapota
chili	chili	bird pepper
chinela	chinela	slipper
chinta	sinta	caress (esp. of love)
daeng	daeng	slicing into thin strips and drying in the sun
daing	daing	fried fish
datang	datang	come, arrive
dato	dato	grandsire
daya	daya	trick, deceive
didal	didal	thimble
dinding	dinding	partition, wall
diwata	diwata	deity
djeneral	heneral	general
Dominggo	Domingo	Sunday
donia	donia	lady
du'a	adua	two
dungu	dungu	stupid
durian	durian	the thorny fruit, the soursop

fabrik	fabrika	factory
falsu	falsu	false, counterfeit
fe'sta	pista	festivity
fiscal	fiscal	fiscal, judicial officer
gagu	gagu	dumb
galgal	galgal	irritable
galigata	galigata	a skin-eruption
ganap	ganchu	crook
gantang	gatang	the Malay gallon
gangsa	gangsa	goose
gas	gas	kerosene oil
gasal	gansal	odd, uneven (of numbers)
gatal	gatal	itchiness, lewdness
gelagok	gelagok	gulp down
gerilla	gerilia	guerilla
gevernador	gobernador	governor
gigil	gigil	chatter (of teeth)
gigit	gigit	biting
giling	giling	grind
gogok	gogok	gulping down water, the gurgle of water
gulai	gulai, gule	vegetables
gunting	gunting	shears, scissors
gurami	gurami	a freshwater carp
guru	guru	teacher, spiritual or lay

gusi	gusi	a kind of jar
ha'-ha'	ha'-ha'	sound of laughter
hoi	hoi	Hey there!
hora	hora	time, hour
hukom	hukom	doom
ia	ia, ya	he, she, it
ibus	ebus	palm, used in mat-making
ikat	ikat	tying up, stringing together
indu	indu	mother
ingat	ingat	be on one's guard, be mindful
ini	ini	this, these
inum	inum	to drink
ipil	ipil	a tree
itek	itek, itik	duck
kabab	kabab	small lumps of meat roasted on a pit
kaka	kaka	brother (elder)
kakak	kakak	to quack
kalima	kalima	fifth
kambing	kambing	goat
kamera	kamera	camera
kami	kami	we (my friends or party)
kampilan	kampilan	broad sword
kangkong	kangkong	a herb eaten as spinach
kapit	kapit	stand close beside, support

kapitan	kapitan	captain
kapok	kapok	cotton-tree
kareta	kareta	carriage
katok	katok	rapping, hammering off
kawal	kawal	guard
kawat	kawat	wire, cables
kaya	kaya	power, wealth
kechap	kechap	ketchup
ketok	ketok	knock
kilap	kilap	a flash
kilik	kilik	carry under the arm
kisut	kisut	crumpled, ruffled
kokok	kokok	crow (of cocks)
kompas	kompas	compass
kontento	kontento	satisfied
kornel	kornel, koronel	colonel
kuali	kuali	frying pan
kubu	kubu	small hut or shelter
kuku	kuku	finger or toe nail, claw
kusut	kusut	tangled (of hair, thread)
kutil	kutil	wart
kutu	kutu	bug
lagi	lagi	still more
lahar	lahar	lava

laklakan	laklakan	gullet, throat
laksa	laksa	ten thousand, myriad
laksamana	laksamana	admiral
lambak	lambak	pile up
lambat	lambat	behind time, be slow
lampin	lampin	baby's napkin, swaddling cloth
lampus	lampus	through and through
lancha	lancha	ship' sailing boat
landas	landas	an anvil, chopping block
langau	langau, lango	stinging horse-fly
lapak	lapak	smack, thwack
larut	larut	to create an impression
latak	latak	dregs (of oil)
laut	laut	seas, ocean (of water, mud, fire)
liku	liku	bend (in river, road) winding
lima	lima	five
limonada	limonada	lemonade
limpas	limpas	overflowing
lintah	lintah	a blood-sucker
lulun	lulun	to swallow unintentionally
lumpoh	lumpoh	paralyzed (esp. of legs)
lumut	lumut	moss, lichen, sea-weed
lunak	lunak	soft, fleshy
ma'	ma', ima	mother

mahal	mahal	expensive, dear
maharaja	maharaja	very royal as an honorific title
major	major	major
mama	mama	maternal uncle, uncle
mami	mami	a dish of vermicilli
manah	manah	heirloom
mangga	mangga	mango
manok	manok	fowl, bird
maski	maski	even though
mata	mata	eye
mati	mateh	to perish, death
mau	mau	be willing, desire, craving
melon	melon, milun	melon
menangis	menangis	cry (weep)
mesa	mesa	table
milyun	milyun	million
minum	minum	to drink
mipis	mipis, maimpis	thin
misua	misua	vermicilli
miting	miting	meeting
mula	mula	root, origin, beginning
murah	murah	cheap (of goods)
nangka	nangka	jack fruit
naranja	naranja	orange

nasi	nasi	boiled rice
nipis	nipis	thin, tenuous
nyaman	nyaman	pleasant (of food)
nyamok	nyamok	mosquito
oi	oi	Hi!
oto	oto	automobile
pa'hat	pa'hat	chisel
pait	pait	bitter, bitterness
pakan	pakan	to feed (of animals)
paku	paku	to nail, peg
palsu	palsu	counterfeit
palu	palu	hitting hard with a rigid weapon, clubbing
panah	panah	arrow, bow
pandai	pandai, pande	knife-grinder
pandak	pandak	short
pandan	pandan	screw-pines used for fine basketry and mats
pangat	pangat	stuffing (fish) and stewing it in a rich spicy sauce
papaya	papaya	papaya
pasu	pasu	vase, flower pot
pau	pau	a wild mango
payong	payong	umbrella
pesta	pista	festival gathering
pigura	pigura	figure, design, sketch, picture, portrait
pinggan	pinggan	plate (porcelain or earthenware

pipa	pipa	pipe (smoker's)
pipit	pipit	finch, sparrow
pistul	pistol	pistol
pitu	pitu	seven
piun	piun	pawn in class
poe'lau	pulo	island
puloh	apulu	ten
polis	polis, pulis	police
pongsu	pongsu, pungsu	anthill
puki	puki	vulva, female genitals
pukul	pukul	hit, beat, hammer
pulau	pulau	archipelago
punggok	punggok	stumpy
putu	putu	rice cake
raja	raja	king, prince
rambutan	rambutan	a popular hairy-rinded fruit
rami	rami	rhea grass
sa'	isa	one
sabong	sabong	dart each other
sabun	sabun	soap
sagu	sagu	mealy pith of the sago-palm which is of food value
sakal	sakal	rap with the knapsack
sakit	sakit	sick, in pain
saksi	saksi	witness

saku	saku	bag
salah	salah	blunder, at fault, amiss
sanggul	sanggul	coiffure
santing	santing	beautiful, fine
sarong	sarong	skirt (for both sexes)
sawa	sawa	python
sayang	sayang	to regret, feel (something), pity
siasat	siasat	inquiry, investigate
siku	siku	elbow, angle (of road)
simpan	simpan	keep, store up
singgang	sinigang	boiled in salt and acid (of fish, flesh)
sipat	sipat	measure
sukat	sukat	to measure
suli	suli	descendant
suloh	suloh	torch, flare
sultan	sultan	ruler
sumpah	sumpah	oath
sumpit	sumpit	shoot with a blow pipe
sundang	sundang	a Bugis sword
susu	susu	breast
suit	suit, pasuit	whistle
takut	takut	afraid. fear
tali	Tali	string, line, rope
tambak	tambak	make embankment

tampal	tampal	patching, plastering
tampas	tampas	lopping off, flatenning with a knife
tampok	tampok	juncture of stem and fruit
tanam	tanam	to plant
ta'naman	ta'naman	plantation
tanda	tanda	mark, sign, evidencia
tanggal	tanggal	drop off
tangis	tangis	weeping
tankai	tangkai, tangke	stem, stalk
tangki	tangki	tank
tapak	tapak	sole (of feet, shoe)
tatal	tatal	wood-shaving, small chip
timba	timba	small bucket
timbang	timbang	scale, weight
timbangan	timbangan	scale, balance
timbok	timbok, timbuk	hit with a fist
timbun	timbun	a heap (of wood, earth, rubbish, stones)
tinta	tinta	ink
tipak	tipak	portion, share
titi	titi, teteh	bridge
tiup	tiup	blew (of wind)
tj'int	sinta	love
tolak	tolak, tulak	push away
tombong	tombong, tumbung	seedbud in an old coconut

tua	tua	old (aged person)
tuala	tualia	towel
tukil	tukil	bamboo cylinder for liquid or paper
tumbok	tumbok	punch, thumped
tumpo	tumpo	have a footing on (ground)
tunggal	tunggal	sole, alone, the one
tungku	tungku	trivet of stones
tuntong	tuntong	point, tip (of needle)
tusuk	tusuk	pierce, prick
ubi	ubi	yam
ulam	ulam	spiced vegetables, condiments
ulap	ulap	beckon
ulas	ulas	cover (of cushion, mattress)
umpok	umpok	pile, heap
ungkat	ungkat	drag up the past
upah	upah	payment for work done, wage, fee
upaya	upaya	resources, to the extent of one's ability
utak	utak	brain
utang	utang	debt

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Andro and Tess Camiling are conscientious students and researchers of Kapampangan history, language and culture. They wrote "The Province of Pampanga and Its People" and other articles including "Spanish Relation with Kapampangan Language and Culture", "President Diosdado P. Macapagal - In Retrospect" and the history of the towns of Apalit, Lubao, Masantol, Mexico, Minalin, San Fernando and Santo Tomas. Andro is a native Kapampangan based in Southern California where he is employed as an accounting/financial director at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and practices his

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