

A CAI Program for Teaching Filipino

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I have developed a computer-assisted program for teaching reading in Filipino (Tagalog) which I am currently using in Japan. The bases for the program are two 1,000,000-word corpuses of written Filipino: one drawn from a wide range of Tagalog literature, the other from 50 popular mini-novels published in the 1990s.

Frequency counts of the corpuses have identified the 2,500 most frequent words. An interactive computerized concordance has also been created which provides immediate access to the actual occurrences of words and phrases in the corpus.

A series of short readings has been extracted from the texts in the corpuses, graduated in length and introducing vocabulary approximately in order of their frequency. The readings are supplemented with discussions of the grammatical usage of various words and word classes.

The readings have been computerized and combined with a set of vocabulary and grammar drills. They are thus suitable for self-study as well as classroom instruction.

The present program exists in two forms: with English and with Japanese translations.