Integration, or assimilation, of foreign words implies their adaptation to the rules of the recipient language. The present paper is an analysis of the Tagalog’s main strategies in morphological assimilation of its numerous borrowings from Chinese, Sanskrit, Malay, Spanish, English, etc. The following aspects will be examined:

1. Use of “phonological citations” as the least adopted borrowings.

The so-called “phonological citations” are unassimilated borrowings used in the recipient language in their original form. However, Tagalog tends to partially bring them into accord with its morphological rules. Thus,
- in the modern Tagalog such loanwords may participate in the Tagalog word-building and derivation by acquiring native affixes, e.g.: mag-spray ng kemikal, ma-control ang sitwasyon.
- the loanwords used in derivational processes may undergo reduplication of their first syllable, with regular phonetic assimilation (!) of the latter: pagdodraw-up ng project; pag-ggraduate sa Unibersidad.

2. Simplification of borrowings and their use as roots.

Borrowings are usually simplified in Tagalog, i.e. become morphologically indivisible, and are used as root words, with the following derivation according to the Tagalog rules:

- Mal barat laut “North-West” > Tag balaklaot “north-western wind”,
- Arab hik’at “preach, legend” > Tag hikayat “persuasion” > hikayat “the one persuaded”,
- Sp en paz “in peace” > Tag impás “settled”, mag-impás “to settle (an affair)”,
- Eng (to) stand by > Tag istambay “to stand by, to stare”.

Many early borrowings, which underwent derivation in previous times, are now used as simplified forms, too:

- Skt yūpa “post for sacrifice” > Tag yupa “humble submission; prostration”;
- Mal alēh “to move; change” > Tag halli “substitute”;
- Ch kut “to dig, excavate” > Tag kikut “to dig; scratch”;
- Skt muni “sage, ascetic” > Tag magmunimuni “to reflect, meditate”;
- Skt aga “sun” > Tag maaga “early”, umaga “morning”, agahan “breakfast”,
- Sp-Mex. ciruelas “plums” > Tag sinigvelas “plum”.

3. Annulment of borrowings’ grammatical characteristics.

Even late borrowings are adopted as indivisible root words, with all their grammatical characteristics annullned:

- Sp jugar “to play” > Tag sugál “gamble”,
- Sp Vale! lit. “It fits!” (valer “to cost; to fit”) > Tag bale “worth; valuable”.

Loanwords were usually assimilated in the forms which Filipinos heard most of all, e.g. regardless the number of the originals:

- Sp bolsicos “purse on clothes; pockets” > Tag bolsikos/bolsikot “deep pocket of woman’s skirt”,
- Sp pliegues “folds, pleats” > Tag pileges / pleges “fold, bend”,
- Eng buys > Tag bays “a buy”,
- Eng fights > Tag paits “a fight”.

As for the gender, with more and more Spanish borrowings adopted, Tagalog speakers began to distinguish the gender of the loanwords denoting animates: Manong/Manang “elder brother/sister” [< Sp hermano/-a “brother/sister”], Pilipino/Pilipina “Philippine male/female”, seryoso/seryosa “serious m/f” (cf. Sp serio, not “serioso”!).

   Due to differences between the donor’s and recipient’s morphological systems the borrowings may undergo a hypercorrection:
   - word combinations become merged (the above-mentioned simplification):
     Mal juru bahasa “expert in language, interpreter” > Tag dalubhasà “expert”,
     Mal lēpas tangan “free hand” > Tag lapastangan “irreverent; sacrilegious”,
     Sp ¿Cómo está? > Tag Kumustá? “How are you?”
   - some elements are regarded as native:
     Skt pa-rīkṣā “to thoroughly examine, check” > *līgsā (as derived by Tagalog dictionaries),
       palīgsahan “competition”,
     Sp limosna “alms” > Tag limós “alms, charity, grant”,
     Sp-Mex. zaquisamé “loft, upper floor” > Tag kisamé “ceiling”.

5. Hybridization.
   While adopting a borrowing Tagalog may replace some part of it with the native lexical material, thus making a hybrid loanword:
   Sp carnero marino ‘seal’ (lit. ‘ram-sea’) + Tag dagat ‘sea’ > karnerong-dagat
     ‘seal’,
   Sp largo(mira) ‘binoculars, telescope’ + Tag bista ‘sight; view, landscape’ [<Sp vista] > largabista (cf. Sp vista larga ‘long-sight’).
Here the problem of early hybrid loans will also be discussed.