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Maranao-English Dictionary: A Maranao Dictionary

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even one's most secret thoughts, Father McDermott shows the balance of this traditional 'all *and* nothing' concept of God, that is, God is no thing but present to all things.

All our ways of talking about God are only images or 'myths' which are useful negatively, for they help us to know something of what God is not, even when they are misleading positively. Their limitations must be properly understood, underlines Father McDermott. Hence, a dogmatic formulation may enshrine a timeless truth we deny on pain of heresy, but the formulation itself remains always historical, human, and therefore susceptible to discussion and more meaningful reformation.

Beyond Questions and Answers unmistakably brings out the promise and potentiality of post Vatican II faith, and in the best tradition, adds to the growing number of excellent adult catchesis.

JOSE B. CHANCO

MARANAO-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

A MARANAO DICTIONARY, compiled by P. McKaughan and Batua A. Macaraya. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1967. xxxviii, 394 pp.

This work really consists of four parts: (a) a structural sketch of the Maranao language, (b) a bibliography of the more important works on the language, and a dictionary of (c) Maranao-English and of (d) English-Maranao.

The grammatical sketch deals with all aspects of Maranao grammar-phonology, morphology, and syntax—but in a broad and general manner, without going into minute details and without touching on the fine points of the language's structure. Indeed, one gets the impression that the main purpose of the structural sketch is to enable the reader to understand what is contained in the dictionary.

Take, for example, the phonological sketch. Here, McKaughan gives an inventory of the vowels and consonants of Maranao together with their main variants. He also gives a general statement about the feature of accent in Maranao but leaves the question on whether and how stress and length are related unanswered. After reading the phonological survey, however, one feels that one has sufficient information to read the entries in the dictionary, as far as their pronunciation is concerned.

The morphological section is devoted to the discussion of (a) the pronominal forms and their inflection paradigms, (b) the particles, and

(c) the verbs and their inflections. The forms of the pronouns clearly indicate case inflections and these are related to the particles which signal identical grammatical relationships. The inflection of the verb shows voice, mode, aspects, and tense. The four voices of the verb are similar to the active, passive, local, and instrumental voices of Tagalog. The distinction, however, between aspect and tense in Maranao is unlike Tagalog where only aspect (and no tense) is signalled. Likewise, the category of mode is special to Maranao; it is not found in Tagalog.

The sketch of Maranao syntax deals with the major constructions of the language. Several sentence types are illustrated but the predication structure, which predominate in the language, is discussed in greater detail. The various phrases which result from the combinations of particles and noun phrases, or noun phrases and verbs are also described.

The listing of items in the dictionary has been made according to the following norms: (a) the various items are either bases or derivatives of bases; (b) a derivative is listed only if its meaning cannot be predicted from the base form.

Although the authors have illustrated over 3,000 words by sentences freely translated from Maranao to English, it would have been more helpful if they had shown how *each entry* is used by an example or two. Likewise, each entry should have been explicitly marked with regard to its form class (i.e. whether it is a verb, pronoun, particle, etc.); and whether or not it can belong to two or three form classes—in which case, what would be its meaning when it functions as a member of one form class, and what when it functions as another?

This dictionary of Maranao should be of great help to strangers in the Lanao area who would wish to speak Maranao or attempt to understand the natives of the area. It is also a great help for purposes of comparative work on Philippine languages. This work should serve as a model for other workers on the other languages in the Philippines of what they should have in their description of these languages. Both the structural description of the language and the dictionary furnish the comparativist with the essential information on which to base either reconstructions or subgrouping hypotheses. Works such as this on the other languages of the Philippines should be undertaken.

Although the work is clearly the result of the work of competent linguists, the way it is written is not prohibitively technical. It remains an easily readable book. The combination is greatly to be recommended.