



Davao del Sur State College
Brgy. Matti, Digos City, Davao del Sur

The Living Language: Exploring Self, Society, and Power Through Linguistics

LOUI JAY A. PITPIT, MAEd

Instructor
College of Teacher Education

&

GONZALO JR. U. INOJALES, MA

Instructor
College of Mathematics, Arts, and Sciences



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Preface

Language shapes how you understand yourself, how you relate to others, and how you participate in social life. To study language is to engage with one of the most powerful forces that structures human interaction, identity, and meaning. *The Living Language: Exploring Self, Society, and Power Through Linguistics*, developed for the course **Introduction to Linguistics**, invites you to explore language not simply as a system of forms, but as a living practice embedded in everyday life, history, belief, and social change. This course pack brings together Modules 1 to 4 to provide a foundation for understanding how language operates within society and across diverse contexts.

At the core of this course is a guiding question: how does language both reflect and shape who we are and the worlds we inhabit? Through sociolinguistic and interactional perspectives, you will examine how language constructs identity, organizes social relationships, and negotiates power. You will explore how variation, interaction, accommodation, and discourse allow speakers to express belonging, difference, and resistance. Rather than viewing language as neutral or uniform, the course presents it as dynamic, contested, and deeply influenced by social forces.

This course pack is designed to move beyond linguistic concepts as abstract ideas. Each module connects theory to lived experience through case studies, reflective tasks, creative work, and applied analysis. You will examine real communities, everyday interactions, religious practices, educational settings, and digital spaces to see how language functions in concrete situations. These activities encourage you to observe language closely, question taken-for-granted assumptions, and apply sociolinguistic frameworks to the realities around you.

As you progress through the modules, you will be challenged to think critically about language, inequality, and change, particularly within the Philippine context. You will examine how colonial histories, nationalism, religion, and technology have shaped linguistic practices and attitudes. Rather than offering simple conclusions, the course emphasizes comparison, evaluation, and integration. You will learn to recognize tensions between dominance and resistance, tradition and innovation, and unity and diversity in linguistic life.

The Living Language: Exploring Self, Society, and Power Through Linguistics aims to deepen how you understand language and its role in human experience. By the end of the course, you will not only be able to analyze language in social, cultural, and educational contexts, but also appreciate why these analyses matter. This course invites you to engage thoughtfully, reflect ethically, and use linguistics as a lens for understanding yourself, your community, and the broader social world in which language continues to evolve.



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