



Center for Philippine Studies

School of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Presents

*The Logic of Mother Language,
the Ir/Rationalities of National Language,
and Cultural Democracy in Action*

By

Aurelio Solver Agcaoili

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Languages and Literatures, UHM*



ABOUT THE LECTURE:

The talk argues that with the reintroduction of mother tongue-based mother language education in the Philippines in 2009, and with the upsurge of pilot schools all over the Philippines offering the MTB-MLE curriculum, there is no other more poignant evidence that proves the irrationality of holding on to a hegemonic national language in a multilingual and multicultural country like the Philippines than this new educational initiative of that country. It argues as well that the national language as being foisted by 'nationalists' is a conspiracy of people who misinterpret the meaning of multiplicity, diversity, linguistic pluralism, emancipatory education, and cultural democracy in action. These conspirators are perpetrators of a Fascistic idea of national language and a schizophrenic conception of national culture. In the main, these notions are based on the logic of hegemony, domination, industry, and internal colonization.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Aurelio Solver Agcaoili teaches at the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures, UH Manoa, and coordinates the university's Ilokano Program. He wrote *Dangadang*, an award-winning Tagalog novel that documents the long history of the Philippine revolutionary struggle from the point of view of Ilokanos. A poet, fictionist, essayist, playwright, and journalist, he writes in Ilokano, English, and Tagalog. His latest works are four dictionaries of the Ilokano language.

January 23, 2013, Wednesday

2:00–3:30 p.m. – Tokioka Room (Moore Hall 319)

Free and open to the public.

For more information regarding the Center for Philippine Studies, this lecture series, or disability access, call 956-6086 (Clem Montero) or email cps@hawaii.edu OR Ruth Y. Hsu (Director) at rhsu@hawaii.edu

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