Specific time-continuum in the “Signification” of Bienvenido Lumbera: The Nation, the Writer and the Sagisag Magazine in the Imaginative Period of Martial Law 1975-1979

Abstract: The lecture is about critically traversing the history of Philippine literature and culture. It shares the deeper meaning of the breaking free of the patriotic spirit (tawid-diwa) of the Filipino race at the height of Martial Law based on the Sagisag magazine where Bienvenido Lumbera is an editor.

The lecture will outline the advance of the cultural struggle (‘literature of circumvention’) from the writings of our National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera. It can be said that he has contributed a comprehensive awareness in the repository of our national consciousness. Lumbera’s writings in his column Pananagisag (Signification) reveal the roots of miseducation, the importance of decolonization, support for the native language, and the crafting of a critical pro-Filipino values. Lumbera also gives recognition to the value of heritage and involvement towards the area of the psychology of learning and the liberating perspective/understanding about the complexity of our changing society.

This lecture serves as a record of the ideal writer/intellectual Bienvenido Lumbera in his vow and struggle to attain pure independence and freedom of the country.

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At present, he teaches Humanities and Philippine Studies courses at the University of the Philippines-Los Banos and De La Salle University-Manila. His writings and shortfilm have won awards from Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino’s Gawad Collantes for Poetry, Hawaii Centennial Literary Competition by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Gawad Ka Amado V. Hernandez and Cinemalaya: Philippine Independent Film Festival. His first book is “Tawid-diwa sa Pananagisag ni Bienvenido Lumbera: Ang Bayan, ang Manunulat at ang Magasing Sagisag sa Imahinatibong Yugto ng Batas Militar 1975-1979” (2021) published by the Commission on the Filipino Language (Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino).