

Philippine English: An Exploratory Mixed-Methods Inquiry on Digital Immigrants and Digital Natives' Variety

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Abstract : Despite the countless that has been drawn to investigate Philippine English for a myriad of reasons, none was known to have ventured on a probe of its grammatical features as used in a technology-driven linguistic landscape by two generations in the digital age. Propelled by the assumption of an emerging Philippine English variety, this paper determined the grammatical features that characterize the digital native-immigrants' Philippine English. It also ascertained whether mistake or deviation instigated the use of the features, and established this variety's level of comprehensibility. This exploratory mixed-methods inquiry employed some qualitative and quantitative data drawn from a social networking site, the digital native-immigrant group, and the comprehensibility-raters who were selected through non-random purposive sampling. The study yields 8 grammatical features, mostly deemed results of deviation, yet the texts characterized by such features were mostly rated with excellent comprehensibility. This substantiates some of the grammatical features identified in earlier studies, provides evidentiary proof that the digital groups' Philippine English is not bound by the standard of syntactic accuracy and corroborates the assertion on language's manipulability as an instrument fashioned to satisfy the users' need for successful communication in actual instances for use of English past the walls of any university where the variety is cultivated. The same could also be rationalized by some respondents' position on grammar and accuracy to be less vital than one's facility to communicate effectively.

Keywords : comprehensibility, deviation, digital immigrants, digital natives, mistake, Philippine English variety

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