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Ilocano equivalents of the comparative Malayo-Polynesian - English word list

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The following Ilocano word list was compiled during the 1959 session of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of North Dakota. This list is a supplement to the Comparative Malayo-Polynesian - English Word List which is in mimeograph form in the library of S.I.L., in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Mr. Gaspar Nakil who is a native speaker of Ilocano as well as a fluent English speaker, for his assistance in finding the Ilocano equivalents for the comparative word list.

Gaspar Nakil was born in the town of Vigan which is located in the Ilocos Sur province of the Philippine Islands. Soon after birth he was taken to the town of Salcedo, Ilocos Sur where he spent the first thirteen years of his life. At the age of 13, Gaspar went away to school in an area where Tagalog was spoken. Gaspar's mother was born and raised in the town of Salcedo and spoke the Ilocano dialect from childhood. His father was born in Calimuyod, Ilocos Sur, a town about eight miles from Salcedo. The Itneg dialect was spoken there and this was the language which Gaspar's father learned to speak in the home. By the time Gaspar was born, however, his father had learned Ilocano well and this was the language used in the home while Gaspar grew up.

The procedure for obtaining the Ilocano words for this list was as follows. First I went through the list with Gaspar, giving him the English and he
giving back to me the Ilocano equivalent. If there seemed to be no similarity to any of the other dialects contained in the list, I asked for any other word of similar meaning, occasionally suggesting one from another dialect to see if it would bring to Gaspar's mind a similar Ilocano word. Several times the latter approach revealed a similar word with a slightly different meaning. After going through the list carefully with Gaspar, I checked all the words for alternate forms in the English-Tagalog-Ilocano Vocabulary by P. Jacobo Enriquez and J. Ben Quimba. This yielded a few comparable forms which Gaspar had not been able to give me. I, in turn, checked these new forms with Gaspar and in most cases he agreed that they were correct. In one or two cases, however, Gaspar was not in agreement with the dictionary forms, in which case I recorded the form which Gaspar gave.

The conventional Ilocano orthography is used in this paper with some minor modifications. The letter _ta is consistently used to indicate voiceless velar stops. Glottal stop is symbolized by zero in word initial position before vowels and in word medial position between vowels which are not separated by another consonant. Elsewhere the hyphen is used to symbolize glottal stop. As in the other dialects, the digraph _ng is used to represent the voiced velar nasal and the letter _r represents a voiced alveolar flapped vibrant. Stress has not been written since it was omitted from the other word lists and hence would be of no value in making comparisons. There is free fluctuation in all positions between the vocoids_o and_u and they are submembers of the same phoneme. (See Ilocano by McLaughan and Forster page 3-3). As in the conventional orthography, this phoneme has been written with the_o when it occurs as the final vowel in the word and with_u elsewhere.

Whenever the Ilocano was equivalent to only one of the given English forms or when an entirely different meaning was involved, the equivalent English term is included.