



## A Documentary Analysis of USC Linguistics Faculty Publications from 2006-2017

Rowanne Marie R. Maxilom-Mangompit<sup>1</sup>, Marciana R. Mariñas<sup>2\*</sup>, and Joseleanor M. Magno<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of English Studies and Other Languages, Cebu Technological University  
Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines

<sup>2</sup>Library System, University of San Carlos, Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines

<sup>3</sup>Department of Communications, Linguistics, and Literature, University of San Carlos

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### ABSTRACT

This study determined and analyzed the combined unigram and bigram predominant keywords evident in the Linguistics faculty published articles, the journals where the published articles were published, and the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics (MAAL) courses that can use the published articles. This study used the documentary analysis in analyzing the 67 published journals of USC Linguistics Faculty from 2006-2017. This study revealed that the predominant keywords are English, Discourse Analysis, and Cebuano Language, while most of the faculty published their journal articles in local journals. Moreover, the Discourse Analysis, Psycholinguistics and Multilingualism with First Language Acquisition and Second Language Acquisition and Semantics and Pragmatics in Intercultural Communication can be used in the courses of MAAL. Consequently, this study provides implications on the gaps of research that had to be filled by including the unexplored research topics in the research agenda of the Department of Communications, Linguistics, and Literature. Linguistics faculty could continue in publishing their research projects, especially in international journals.

*Keywords:* analysis, documentary, faculty, journals, linguistics

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### INTRODUCTION

Proper indexing is the means of taking advantage of the tools that make the indexer and researcher apply consistent concepts for easy retrieval of a collection of information accessed from a database (Ghazi-Mirsaeid & Masoudi, 2017). Thus, universities, companies, and organizations in the Philippines and abroad have widely taken advantage of indexing faculty publications and other needed information of the community for sharing in their local libraries, official websites, and the like. This activity is explicitly practiced in UP Engineering Library, wherein the gathered data are entered in their digital repository called DSpace, which includes storage and archiving of thesis collection, university history, and faculty publications. The University of San Carlos Library System's benchmarking in Manila on June 14-16, 2018, was a confirmation to push through the joint research project with the Department of Communications, Linguistics, and Literature to start compiling faculty publications as part of the library collections. Likewise, the Office of the Academic Affairs of Indiana University compiled the faculty presentations, published scholarly journals and creative activities annually (Indiana University Southeast, 2018). Indeed, indexing is a very important tool in searching a topic, subject, or keyword in a large volume of information experienced by LexisNexis® Congressional when redesigning their interface, allowing users to search across databases (LaGuardia, 2006). Furthermore, having large or various document collections will find indexing more valuable to facilitate the task of effective search and retrieval of the

needed information using keyword, topic, or subject (Sripathi, 2010).

The keywords used in this paper are terms consulted in the theories of the librarians' essential tools in processing materials or collections that include the Sears List (Smedy & Try, 2005) and the Library of Congress Subject Headings. These are used to standardize the assigned subject terms, just like in the library collections. Hence, keywords applied are both unigrams and bigrams having the complexity of systematizing keywords from the 67 published journal article titles using the aforementioned librarians' tools aligned to the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics (MAAL) courses. Unigram in this study refers to one keyword, whereas bigram refers to two keywords – both from the title of the faculty published article, which are acceptable standardized keywords used as subject headings taken from the librarian's tools.

Furthermore, the Keyword-in-Context Index (KWIC) was used for Technical Literature published by Hans Peter Luhn in 1959 (Fischer, 1966) to plan for a permutation index based on titles produced by the machine. KWIC indexes and other permuted indices are also called "unconventional indexes." This paper also

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### Corresponding author:

Joseleanor M. Magno, M.A.

Email Address: jmmagno25@gmail.com

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adapted the Keyword Out of Context (KWOC) system with keyword or the access point at the extreme left of its usual place at the beginning of the line; followed by the full title to provide full context; the keyword and the context are written in the same line. Thus, readers are guided to the relevant information and source they need through pertinent keywords and phrases.

Many local and international studies were conducted to document the academic papers, research outputs, and publications of varied disciplines and programs. During the 2018 Wenzao International Conference, the rhetorical moves in the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics graduate theses used Swales's Create a Research Space Model in analyzing the introduction section (Magno, Maxilom, & Cacha, 2018). Twenty-two theses from March 2005 to March 2018 were retrieved from the university library, while soft copies were collected from the authors. Findings revealed the need to document these theses to advance local studies on applied linguistics and be accessible for students and researchers.

Further, another study assessed the student's use of the index in terms of the level of utilization, search techniques, annoyances, and rating of the helpfulness of the index (Burdeos, Lanticse, & Anud, 2017). A survey questionnaire was administered to 30% of 413 students in 11 Science and Technology undergraduate research courses during the first semester of 2015-2016. Stratified random sampling was used. Data exhibited the need for intensive instruction on searching techniques using the Digital Repository Database, but the present study documented the faculty publications in linguistics.

Scientific journals in the Philippines are likewise prone to increasing challenges such as getting listed in the master journal list and citation databases of TR, Scopus, or both, obtaining funding, reaching a wider readership, attaining higher impact factors, competing for papers, and increasing submission of manuscripts outside the Philippines (Tecson-Mendoza, 2015). One of the recommendations pointed out in meeting the international standards of a scientific journal is the indexing of Philippine journals and published articles. The present investigation accepted such a challenge to provide a list of faculty publications in linguistics.

There have been studies abroad focusing on indexed publications. The first reviewed study aimed to determine the institutional context of the produced research projects using the Bibliometric approach (Jaén, Auletta, Celli, & Pocaterria, 2018). One hundred forty-eight articles indexed in the ISI Thompson Reuters Social Science Citation Index were analyzed. The findings revealed that researches had a meager citation record. This is entirely related to the present study to focus on critical areas for future research based on the limitations.

Another study aimed to determine the faculty scholarly publications indexed in the Science Citation Index (SCI) and Scopus using the scientometric methods and social network analysis techniques (Golnessa Galyani-Moghaddam, Jafari, & Sattarzadeh, 2017). Results showed that faculty members had the most international

cooperation with colleagues who were in the USA and Switzerland. Likewise, most of the Linguistics faculty were local publications compared to international publications. Moreover, a study that focused on faculty publications from 2011 to 2015 was done in the University of Florida to investigate the alignment of the library research support with the needs of the faculty researchers. Results illustrated that the faculty published 279 articles in the last five years (Bharti & Bossart, 2016). This study is beneficial to the present study concerning the alignment of faculty publications and library collections.

On the contrary, only the recent faculty publications of the University of San Carlos were posted on the university website. The library system has not yet officially compiled all faculty publications. Hence, there is a need to conduct this study on the faculty publications of the faculty members of Linguistics in the Department of Communications, Linguistics, and Literature (DCLL), which would be the basis in indexing and compiling all faculty publications of the faculty of the entire university. This study aimed to determine and analyze the keywords in the faculty published journal articles, the type of journals chosen by the faculty researchers, and the courses of Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics that can use the published articles.

## METHODOLOGY

This study used a descriptive research method, specifically documentary analysis, in gathering the published journal articles of the University of San Carlos Linguistics Faculty. The study was done at the University of San Carlos JB-LRC in finding the available list or index of journals such as the Philippine Quarterly in Culture and Society (PQCS), University of San Carlos Graduate Journal (USC GJ), Office of Research for the list of research incentive applications. Moreover, the DCLL chair and two faculty members provided a partial list of the publications, respectively.

The research data consisted of the following documents: published journals (PQCS, USC GJ) available in the university, USC Website with the DCLL faculty members' recent publications, USC Databases in ezproxy. usc.edu.ph, search engines such as yahoo.com and google.com, journals that are open access (Science publishing group, IAFOR Journal of Language and Learning, Philippine Journal of Linguistics, etc.), and National library website. A coding sheet was used in coding the data, and an informal interview with the former president of PAGE VII was also conducted to verify the classification of PAGE VII journal.

These are the following steps in gathering the data: First, the list of DCLL Linguistics faculty who published journal articles was requested. Second, the gathered softcopies and indexed journal articles from websites and journals that are open access were collated. Third, the data were analyzed, interpreted, and classified according to keywords as standardized subject headings. Fourth, the data were coded, matched, or aligned with MAAL courses and indexed based on the readings, theories, and related literature. The data were individually analyzed first, and a consensus was reached

after resolving coding disagreements. With the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification System, the University of San Carlos Humanities Librarian was also requested to verify the keywords identified by the researchers to answer the first sub-problem, aside from using Sears List of subject headings (Sears List of Subject Heading, 2004), KWIC and KWOC. The two researchers, who are both faculty members of Linguistics were also considered verifiers in MAAL courses that can use the faculty published articles. The newly-revised MAAL prospectus was used as the basis for selecting the courses for the analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section provides the results and discussion after identifying at least five keywords in each of the titles of the faculty published articles. Subsequently, the extracted predominant keywords were matched with the courses of the Master of Arts in the Applied Linguistics program. The published articles can be utilized by the MAAL program and the journals where the articles were published.

### 3.1. Predominant Keywords in the Titles of the Faculty Published Articles

Table 1A shows the top 16 predominant keywords out of the assigned 104 terms in all the faculty published articles using the Sears List and Library of Congress of Subject Headings for standardized assigned subjects and or to fit into the courses of Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics program. The classification of 104 keywords in this study with the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification, which boils down to only four divisions, indeed gives students, researchers, and the like a common starting point in searching for a topic. The 16 predominant keywords are deliberately selected as the top frequency in the published

articles.

### 3.2. Clustered Keywords

#### Predominant Keywords

The clustered keywords referred to the grouping of the 104 terms used in the respective Faculty publications using the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

As expected, faculty publications from the Linguistics department fall under the Languages (400) category and its related divisions with 22 occurrences, as seen in Table 1B. Languages Division is followed by the Social Sciences division, Literature, and Generalities with frequencies of 17, 12, and 4, respectively. Languages cover areas of English, and other local/foreign languages (e.g., Cebuano, Japanese), Linguistics, and its subfields (e.g., Pragmatics, Psycholinguistics, Discourse Analysis, Multilingualism), Grammar (e.g., Modern Grammar), writing systems, etymology, and dictionaries. Utilizing keywords saves time, maximizes the information required, and reflects the main content of a document. Keywords are likewise useful to the "research of information retrieval, text clustering, and topic search." (Sujian, Houfening, Shiwen, & Chengsheng, n.d.)

Aside from Language, other DDC divisions cover Social Sciences (300), which look into how people live and work in society, and include topics under law, government, and institutions; Literature (800), which carries literary genres such as plays, poems, essays, and literature in foreign languages aside from rhetoric and criticism; and General References (000).

Tables 1C to 1D present the specific keywords

**Table 1A**

*Predominant Keywords in the Faculty Publications*  
N=104

Predominant Keywords	*f
English	25
Discourse analysis	24
Cebuano/Cebuano Language	18
Language	17
Communication	13
Pragmatics	9
Sociolinguistics	9
Issues and trends	8
Multilingualism	7
Bisaya	6
Bilingualism	5
Education	5
Linguistics	5
Speech acts(Linguistics)	5
Grammar/Grammatical theories	4
Psycholinguistics	4

*\*multiple responses: frequency of keywords in the published articles*

observed in each division and their respective frequencies.

Concerning Social Sciences, as shown in Table 1C, the predominant keywords involve communication, *sociolinguistics*, and *multilingualism*. This result implies that Linguistics is multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary by nature. This also demonstrates the collaboration between the faculty of Linguistics and Communication sections and the fields of specialization of the Linguistics faculty, which also involve Communication. Collaboration with other researchers has a positive impact on scientific publications (Smedy & Try, 2005). Hence, these three predominant keywords have already been explored by the faculty.

Table 1D shows that keywords in Literature were only rarely manifested in the published articles. This suggests that most of the Linguistics faculty only explored topics and issues in Linguistics. Seldom did they explore topics in Literature unless they collaborated with the faculty in Literature.

### 3.3. Journals of the Faculty Published Articles

Table 3 illustrates that local coverage has the highest number of publications (46), followed by international (15) and national (6) journals. Most research papers were published in PAGE VII Publication (i.e., Multidisciplinary), which is, according to Dr. Floriza Laplap, a local journal (F. Laplap, personal communication, November 22, 2018). This high number of local publications is in contrast with the findings, which revealed that local scientists prefer to submit their papers to higher-impact journals outside the country (Tecson-Mendoza, 2015). Consequently, the National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines (NAST PHL) continuously encourages researchers to publish their high-quality papers in local journals particularly those listed in Thomson Reuter and or Scopus master journal lists which are ideal for reaching wider readership and achieving a high citation or impact factor (Tecson-Mendoza, 2015).

Consequently, due to the administration's mandate of strengthening the research and publication area of

**Table 1B**

*Summary of Clustered Keywords in DDC*

DDC Divisions	F
Languages (400)	22
Social Sciences (300)	17
Literature (800)	12
Generalities (000)	4

**Table 1C**

*Keywords: Social Sciences (300)*

Keywords	f	DDC
Communication	13	302.2
Sociolinguistics	9	306.44
Multilingualism	7	306.44
Education	5	370
Child/Children	3	305.23
Oral/Oral Communication	3	302.2242
Politeness	3	395
Teachers/Teaching	3	371.1
Television	3	302.23
College graduates	2	370.15
Interaction	2	378
Mass sermons	2	302.2
Metalinguistic	2	302
Parent	2	306.874
Radio	2	306.874
Second language acquisition	2	302
Taboo, Linguistic	2	302.23

**Table 1D***Keywords: Literature (800)*

Keywords	F	DDC
Cebu	1	899.2113
Cohesive devices	1	808
Conversation	1	808.56
Criticism, textual	1	801
Electronic mail messages - Terminology	1	808
Essays	1	808.4
Public speaking	1	808.51
Rhetoric	1	808
Romantic movies	1	808.56
Theses proposals	1	808.02
Turn-taking	1	808
Verbal behavior	1	808

**Table 2***Journal Publications**N = 67*

Journal Titles	Coverage	f
USC Graduate Journal	Local	23
PAGE VII Publication	Local	23
- PAGE VII Multidisciplinary Journal	Local	9
- PAGE VII Research Journal	Local	8
- PAGE VII Journal	Local	6
Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society	National	6
International Journal of Education, Culture, and Society	International	2
Asia Pacific Journal of Education, Arts, and Sciences	International	2
Philippine Journal of Linguistics	International	2
Scholars Journal of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences	International	1
International Journal of Linguistics and Education	International	1
Asia Pacific Journal of Multidisciplinary Research	International	1
IAFOR Journal of Language Learning	International	1
Online Journal of Communication and Media Technologies	International	1
International Journal of Language and Linguistics	International	1
International Journal of Information and Communication Sciences	International	1
Journal of English and Applied Linguistics	International	1
Kajian Linguistik dan Sastra Journal	International	1
Total No. of Journals		67

the university, several faculty researchers have started to venture into peer-refereed international publications where the discipline on applied linguistics is more welcomed. The Office of Research previously gave incentives to faculty researchers for manuscripts published in a non-predatory journal. Such incentives aimed to encourage and challenge faculty to conduct research and publish.

#### 3.4. Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Courses that can use the Faculty Published Articles

Table 3 reveals that most faculty published

journal articles are useful to discourse analysis (22), psycholinguistics (16), and semantics and pragmatics in intercultural communication (10). These findings support the study that the explored research topics and disciplines applied by the masters' theses writers in Applied Linguistics centered on discourse analysis, pragmatics, second language acquisition, and bilingualism (Magno et al., 2018). Discourse analysis is essentially multidisciplinary since it involves linguistics, poetics, semiotics, psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, and Communication research (F. Laplap, personal communication, November 22, 2018). On the contrary, the newly-added courses in

Table 3

MAAL Courses that can use the Faculty Published Articles  
N=67

MAAL Courses	*f
Discourse Analysis	22
Psycholinguistics & Multilingualism (with FLA & SLA)	16
Semantics & Pragmatics in Intercultural Communication	10
Recent Issues and Trends in Curriculum & Instructional Material Design	8
Sociolinguistics	8
Grammatical Theories (with Morphology & Syntax)	3
Philippine Languages	3
Translation Studies	3
Phonology & Phonetics	2
ICT & Corpus Linguistics	2
TESOL with Practice Teaching	0
Language Assessment and Evaluation (with TOEFL & IELTS)	0
Quantitative Research Methods in Linguistics	0
Qualitative Research Methods in Linguistics	0
Leadership and Educational Management	0
Stylistics	0
Other Courses not included in MAAL Prospectus	
Cebuano (Language)	6
Communication-Media and Advertisement (Radio, Television)	3

\*multiple responses: frequency of published articles

the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics during the revisit in 2018 Transition Semester such as TESOL with Practice Teaching, Language Assessment and Evaluation (with TOEFL & IELTS), Quantitative Research Methods in Linguistics, Qualitative Research Methods in Linguistics, Leadership and Educational Management, Cebuano language and Communication-Media and Advertisement and Stylistics were not yet explored. This result implies that these are the research topics for research opportunities. Applied Linguistics is a field drawing from multiple disciplines such as computational linguistics, teacher education, psychology, sociology, and neuroscience (Brown, 2015).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study attempted to provide an index of the publications of the USC Linguistics Faculty from 2006 to 2017 through documentary analysis. Results revealed that the predominant keywords include English, communication, and Cebuano, which fall under the category of languages. In addition, most publications were evident in the local journals, especially the USC Graduate Journal.

Based on the findings of the study, these are the following conclusions: First, the predominance of keywords could be attributed to the research interests, collaboration with fellow faculty with a different specialization, and co-authorship with thesis advisees. Likewise, publications fall under the Languages (400) classification, which align with the faculty's expertise.

Second, publications in international scholarly

journals currently paled in comparison with local and national journals; however, faculty researchers have already started to explore specific international journals aligned with their discipline (i.e., linguistics, communications, language learning). Third, Discourse Analysis, Psycholinguistics, and Pragmatics are already overworked research topics.

Based on the conclusions, these are the following recommendations: First, the library system and the Office of the Vice President or Office of Research could create an index of the USC Faculty Publications and make the reproduced copies of these publications more accessible in the library (hard copies) and website, including Infogateways. Second, faculty researchers and students could choose the following courses as their bases in conceptualizing possible research topics in Linguistics: Grammatical Theories with Morphology & Syntax, Philippine Languages, Translation Studies, Phonology & Phonetics, ICT & Corpus Linguistics, TESOL with Practice Teaching, Language Assessment and Evaluation, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods in Linguistics, Leadership, and Educational Management, and Stylistics. Third, faculty researchers should continue to submit their research outputs in international publications to upgrade the faculty profile and university status, while the Office of Research could also come up with a list of non-predatory journals in various fields that can be referred to.

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