Popularizing MTB-MLE Beyond the School Gates: The Strategic Participation of Provincial Government Units

Leslie Laviña – Gumba
170+ Talaytayan MLE Inc.
Translators Assoc. of the Phils.

5th International Conference on Language and Education: Sustainable Development Through Multilingual Education
October 19-21, 2016
Bangkok, Thailand
Policies

• RA 8980 or Early Childhood Dev’t Act – Dec 2000
• DepEd DO 74 s. 2009, Institutionalizing MTB MLE
• RA 10157 or Kindergarten Education Act – July 2011
• RA 10533 or Enhanced Basic Education Act (K-12) - May 2013

Some Barriers to Successful Implementation

• High power distance coded in language (Govea 2007)
• Low language attitude towards MT versus high language attitude towards Filipino and English leading to language shift
• Limited use of local languages other than the 19 languages prioritized by DepEd
• Lack of literacy materials and other resources
• Vital role of community participation (Young 2012)
• Moving ahead in MLE (Pinnock 2008)
• Inter-agency partnerships (UNESCO 2013)
• Essential components of strong and sustained MTB MLE programs (Malone 2013)
Research Questions

• Are the local government units or LGUs aware of RA 10533 and the importance of the use of local language or mother tongue in basic education?

• What policies and/or initiatives have been implemented to support the language aspect of RA10533 on the local level?

• Is there a perceived increase in use of local language(s) in public places, both visual and oral?
I. Identify three (3) local government units with best practices in terms of policies/ordinances, activities promoting local languages and culture.

II. Conduct interview, Focus Group Discussion and ocular visit

III. Consolidation of data
Province of La Union

- Passed an ordinance establishing Iloko as the official provincial language of La Union, while recognizing that other local languages are also vital to the province’s heritage, identity and diversity
- Provincial Magazine in Iloko also made possible through language and writing training workshops
- Bilingual signage in government offices and public places
- Conducted MTBMILE training for Day Care Workers
- Provided Ilocano dictionaries in Day Care Centers, schools, government offices and other establishments
- Established February for the provincial mother tongue festival
- Appropriated funds for materials production in MT
- Mandated MT subjects in Teacher Education Programs
Istoria Iloko

Storytelling contest for day care workers

Provincial Capitol
→ Bilingual signages
Outcomes

Province of Pangasinan

• Passed an ordinance to support Pangasinan language, allocating funds for activities promoting local language and culture including the performing arts
• Partnered with Higher Education Institutions for training and other related activities
• Required the use of Pangasinense in the Provincial Capitol grounds
• Provided a space in the provincial library for MLE materials
• Established the Pangasinan Study Center to fund research and projects that will promote the language
• Hosted MLE Conferences for the Province in partnership with the Department of Education
• Promoted not just Ecotourism but also its rich cultural heritage
Chartered City of Zamboanga

- Passed an ordinance establishing June 23 as *Dia de Fundacion Chabacano*. Now in its 4th year, it has gained more participation both in the literary and performing arts.
- Convened the Chabacano Orthography Forum to revisit the Chabacano orthography
- Partnered with the Department of Education in conducting seminar-workshop regarding Chabacano language and history and materials development
- Supported the local State University in creating the *Centro de Cultura y Estudio Chabacano* which focuses on research and links to all aspects of Zamboangueño arts, history, culture and language
- Signs and directions in Chabacano are beginning to be seen in public places
- Local news (tri-media) and other programs are in Chabacano
“Buenas tardes!”
“Buenos días!”
“¿Qué tal?”
“¿Qué lado?”
“¿Cómo te va?”
“Muchas gracias.”
“Mira se!”
“¿Donde te vas?”
“Buenamente siempre.”
“Para conmigo.”
“Buenas noches!”
Conclusion

• Where local government units are actively promoting the use of local languages, other stakeholders are becoming less resistant to the use of these languages in different domains.

• The use and promotion of local languages and culture in various activities are supported by local policies/ordinances.

• Learners and community members are more active in using the local language seeing and hearing it being used in government, and in other public and private places.
Dios ti agngina!

Muchas gracias con ustedes!

Maraming salamat po!