

## Variations in the Maguindanaon Language

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### Abstract

People who live in the same region and speak the same language still vary in some aspects of their language in terms of pronunciation, lexicon, morphology, and syntax. This qualitative study described the phonological, morphological, and lexical variations of the Maguindanaon language among the ten Maguindanao municipalities. Purposive sampling, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions were employed. The variations occurred through phonemic changes and other phonological and morphological processes. Phonological processes consisted of vowel lengthening and deletion. In the phonological variation, it was observed that there were phonemic changes from one dialect to another. For example, there was a phoneme /r/ to /l/ change where the phoneme /r/ was most likely to occur in Kabuntalan like /biru/, /kurIt/, and /kəmAr/ while the rest of the dialects were /bilu/, /kuIt/, and /kəmAl/ respectively. Findings show that lexical and morphological variations also existed in the Maguindanaon language. Results revealed that the variation in phonology, morphology, and lexicon was associated primarily with geographic distribution.

Keywords: lexicon; Maguindanaon language; morphology; phonology; variation

### Introduction

The topographical and geographical landscape of a region often causes variation in the people's behavior, manner of talking, and language. Linguistic differences demonstrate this variation in terms of pronunciation, lexicon, morphology, and syntax. These differences may hinder intergroup communication.

Linguists estimated that up to 7,097 languages are spoken around the world. These languages are living and dynamic, spoken by communities whose lives are shaped by the rapidly changing world (Lewis et al., 2016). With this number of languages, many researchers and linguists have been studying significant variations of certain specific ages. However, other language varieties may differ from region to region within a nation (Finegan, 2014).

The Maguindanaon language is a recognized language in the Philippines. The Department of Education ordered and permitted this language as one of the media of instruction under the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) strategy. MTB-MLE is a feature of the Enhanced Basic Education Program of the Department of Education, which mandates the language that students are familiar as a medium of instruction for them to grasp basic concepts quickly.

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Furthermore, the Maguindanaon language is widely spoken in the province of Maguindanao. However, studies and writings about the Maguindanaon language are rare. In 1906, C. C. Smith (Captain of the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry) wrote a book about the grammar of the Maguindanao tongue according to the manner of speaking it in the Interior and on the South Coast of the Island of Mindanao. This was translated from the Spanish by Rev. Father Juanmarti. The book embodies the grammar rules based on the author's observation and experience as to the mode of expressing the Moro ideas. Included also in the book are the letters used by the Moro or Maguindanaons and their pronunciation.

Later on, a Maguindanaon Dictionary: Maguindanaon-English, English Maguindanaon was published by Sullivan (1986). The work was also based on the dictionary prepared by Fr. Juanmarti, SJ, who spent 24 years in Tamontaka, Cotabato City and published the Maguindanao-Spanish, Spanish-Maguindanao in 1893. These are but a few materials about the Maguindanaon language. They were written by foreigners or non-native speakers of the language.

This qualitative study aimed to describe the morphological, phonological, and lexical features of the Maguindanaon dialects. The analysis of the linguistic features of the said language would be beneficial for those interested in learning the Maguindanaon language and those who would like to study the spoken language.

Additionally, the preservation of the Maguindanaon language would be observed through this research. This study could also help those who planned to produce reading and instructional materials using the Maguindanaon language. Finally, the outcome of this study would be a beneficial source in understanding the linguistic differences of the Maguindanaon language widely.

### **Theoretical Lens**

This study was seen on the Variation Theory pioneered by Labov (1969, as cited in Poplack, 2001). It is concerned that languages possess a whole range of resources for producing a given linguistic expression. The spectrum of variation exists at every level of the linguistic system, from how people pronounce certain words to the syntactic forms they choose. Geographical variation is apparent, even in monolingual countries, from the dialects that characterize particular regions.

The variationist's primary object of description is the speech of individuals qua members of a speech community (through ethnographic or sociological methods) to represent the social axes of community structure. Hence, an important aspect in the variationist framework involves entrée to the speech community, where observation of language use in its socio-cultural setting is carried out (Poplack, 1993).

In relation to sociolinguistic theory, the language variation may exist according to various factors such as the context of ethnicity, social class, sex, geographical location, age, and other factors (Obguia, 2021). Further, Antilla (2002) mentioned in his study that in recent years, there had been several attempts to understand language variation from the perspective of Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky, 1993). An optimality-theoretic grammar consists of the following components: lexicon (a set of inputs underlying forms); generator (takes information and returns a set of output candidate); and evaluator (consists of two parts – the universal constraints and the language-particular ranking of the universal constraints).

## Methods

### Participants

In carrying out this study, we utilized the qualitative descriptive design. It is an approach that is very useful when researchers want to know, regarding events, who were involved, what was involved, and where did things take place (Lambert and Lambert, 2012). In this research, 40 purposively selected participants aged 31-93 years old who are native speakers of the Maguindanaon language and can understand the Filipino language. The participants came from the 10 municipalities of the province of Maguindanao namely: Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Mother Kabuntalan, Talayan, Datu Piang, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. Four (4) participants from each municipality were selected.

### Instruments

This researcher-made questionnaire was the primary source of the lexical, phonological and morphological analysis of the variations of the Maguindanaon language. It is divided into two parts. Part 1 is the profile of the participant which includes his/her name, age, profession/occupation, and civil status. Part II is the lexicon. It is made up of two columns. In the first column, given are the Filipino terms and the corresponding Maguindanaon term of each word is in the second column.

### Procedure

The participants underwent an in-depth interview and focus group discussions. Participants in each municipality were identified through the help of a gatekeeper. In this study, the triangulation of data was accomplished through significant sources, including in-depth interviews, focus group discussions of the participants, and the questionnaire. The convergence of these sources provided a scaffold for data analysis.

For the phonological analysis, we listened as the participants provided the translation of the Filipino terms. Since most of the participants were elders, with the help of some assistants, we listed the participants' answers to the questions including the translation of Filipino terms. The participants were very willing to share their knowledge about their language.

The recorded conversations were transcribed patiently, and the transcript were properly coded to assure the anonymity of the participants. After transcription, a panel of experts, who are also native speakers of the Maguindanaon language, checked the transcription to ensure accuracy. When the transcription was finalized, the researchers made an appointment to see the participants for them to confirm their responses in the interview and focus group discussion.

Trustworthiness and ethical considerations were also present in this study. Lincoln and Guba (1985) posit that trustworthiness of a research study is important to evaluating its worth. Trustworthiness involves credibility, conformability, transferability, and dependability. Credibility was achieved through triangulation. Confirmability was done through audit trail. The presence of transferability was through thick description. The anonymity of each participant was established all throughout the data analysis and presentation of the findings. Dependability was performed through inquiry audit. Finally, ethical aspects were considered. The researchers can guarantee that all participants understood their rights to withdraw their information at any time up to the completion of the data collection process. We also built trust among the participants and

emphasized that the recording will not be used for exploitation. They were given an Informed Consent Form (ICF) where the information on the study, the purpose of the research, the procedural steps confidentiality, research efforts, contact information, and the rights of the participants are indicated.

### Data Analyses

The analysis was done by sorting and classifying words according to phonological, morphological, and lexical structures was employed. The symbols used for phonetic data are from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For morphology, each word was analyzed according to the morphological processes, specifically, coinage, borrowing, and affixation. The changes were categorized and grouped according to the particular type of variation. The linguistic variation was grouped according to themes. The lexicon integrated into the questionnaire was limited to ten categories. According to Finnegan (2008), the fundamental areas of the vocabulary of every language include color terms, body part terms, animal names, and verbs of sensory perceptions. These were all included in the questionnaire.

## Results and Discussion

This study has described variations of Maguindanaon dialects in the ten municipalities of Maguindanao, namely Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. The collected data clearly showed the evidence of phonological, morphological, and lexical variations of the Maguindanaon language. The geographic region is seen as the significant factor in the variations among the Maguindanaon dialects.

### Phonological Variation

The following tables deal with phonological variations of the Maguindanaon language. Each table contains different focuses like color, body parts, animal names, kinship terms, kitchen utensils, gardening/farming/ carpentry tools, commodities/supplies/personal needs, fruits, vegetables, and common adjectives.

Table 1: Phonological Variation: Color

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Asul (blue)	biru	bilu	bilu	bilu	bilu	bilu	bilu	bilu	bilu	bilu
Kahel (orange)	kurit	kulit	kulit	kulit	kulit	kulit	kulit	kulit	kulit	kulit
Itim (black)	met'm	met'm	met'm	met'm	met'm	met'm	met'm	met'm	mayt'm	met'm
Lila (violet)	ramba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung	lamba yung
Pula (red)	mari ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga	mali ga

Table 1 contains the phonological variation of primary colors like blue or 'asul,' orange or 'kahel,' black or 'itim,' violet or 'lila,' and red or 'pula.' In the above examples, the translation of the color 'blue' in Kabuntalan is /biru/, while in the rest of the dialects, it is /bilu/. There is a change of /r/ to /l/. The phoneme /r/ is observed in the Kabuntalan dialect. This case is evident also in the translation of 'kahel' in which it is transcribed as /kurIt/ while it is /kulIt/ among the other dialects. 'lila' is /rambajung/ while it is /lambajung/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, Gen. SK Pendatun, and Buluan dialects. Meanwhile, in Gen SK Pendatun, the color 'itim' or 'black' is /matəm/ whereas, in the rest of the dialects, it is /metAm/. There is a change of /aI/ to /ε/.

It can be noted that the color 'red' has two variations: 'maliga' in nine places except Kabuntalan, which is sounded 'mariga.' So, there is a change from the popular /l/ sound to /r/.

Table 2: Phonological Variation: Parts of the Body

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Baywang (waist)	kasa dan	kasa dan	kasa dan	kasa dan	kasa ran	kasa ran	kasa ran	kasa dan	kasa ran	kasa ran
Bibig (mouth)	ngari	ngali	ngali	ngali	ngali	ngali	ngali	ngali	ngali	Ngali
Daliri (finger)	k'm'r	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l	k'm'l
Ilong (nose)	ngirun g	ngilun g	ngilun g	ngilun g	Ngilu ng	ngilun g	ngilun g	ngilun g	ngilun g	ngilun g
Kilay (eyebrow)	kiray	kilay	kilay	kilay	Kilay	kilay	kilay	kilay	kilay	Kilay
Kuko (nail)	kanuk u	kanuk u	kanuk u	kanuk u	kan'k u	kan'k u	kan'k u	kanuk u	kanuk u	kan'k u
Labi (lip)	bibir	bibil	bibil/ muds' ng	bibil	bibil/ muds' ng	bibil	bibil	bibil	bibil	bibil
Pilik-mata (eyelashes)	pipir' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k	pipil' k

A change of /r/ to /d/ is observed in the "parts of the body" category. For example, 'baywang' or 'waist' is /kasaran/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan while it is /kasadan/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, Gen. SK Pendatun, and Buluan. The change of /r/ to /l/ is dominant in Kabuntalan. For example, /ɲari/, /kəmAr/, /ɲirun/, /kirai/, and /pipirAk/ for 'mouth,' 'finger,' 'nose,' 'eyebrow,' and 'eyelashes,' respectively.

Table 3: Phonological Variation: Animal Names

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul

Buwaya (crocodile)	bwa ya	bwa ya	bwa ya	bwa ya	bwa ya	bwa ya	buwa ya	buwa ya	buwa ya	buwe
Kabayo (horse)	kuda	kabay u	kuda	Kuda	Kura	kura	kura	kabay u	kuda	kura
Kalabaw (carabao)	karab aw	kalaba w	kalaba w	Kalab aw	kabaw	kabaw	kabaw	kalaba w	kalaba w	kabaw
Usa (deer)	salad' ng	salad' ng	salad' ng	salad' ng	sad'n g	sar'ng	sar'ng	salad' ng	sad'n g	sar'ng

Table 3 shows phonological variations in animal names. It can be observed that there is vowel lengthening involved, i. e. the phonemes /a:/, /ɛ:/, and /u:/. 'buwaya' or 'crocodile' is /*bwa:ja*/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan and Shariff Aguak. It is /*buwa:ja*/ in Mamasapano and Datu Piang and /*buwe:*/ in Buluan. 'kabayo' or 'horse' is /*ku:da*/ in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Gen. SK Pendatun; /*ku:ra*/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; and /*kaba:ju*/ in Sultan Kudarat and Datu Piang.

Another animal name 'kalabaw' or 'carabao' is /*kara:baw*/ in Kabuntalan; /*kala:baw*/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Piang, and Gen. SK Pendatun; and /*ka:baw*/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano. 'usa' or 'deer' is /*sala:dɔŋ*/ in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Datu Piang; /*sa:dɔŋ*/ in Talayan and General SK Pendatun; and /*sa:rɔŋ*/ in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan.

Table 4: Phonological Variation: Kinship Terms

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Asawa (husband/wife)	karum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a	kalum a
Bunso / nakababata (youngest / younger)	ari	ali	ali	ali	ali	ali	ali	ali	ali	ali

In kinship terms, 'asawa' is /*karuma*/ in Kabuntalan while it is /*kaluma*/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan. Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, Gen SK Pendatun, and Buluan. The younger or youngest sibling is translated in Maguindanaon as /*ari*/ in Kabuntalan and /*ali*/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan. Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, Gen SK Pendatun, and Buluan. A change of sound in /r/ to /l/ can then be noted.

Table 5: Phonological Variation: Kitchen Utensils

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Kutsara (spoon)	saridut	salidut	salidut	salidut	salirut	salirut	salirut	salidut	salidut	salidut

In Kabuntalan ‘kutsara’ or ‘spoon’ is /*saridut*/; /*salidut*/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Piang, Gen SK Pendatun, and Buluan. Meanwhile, it is /*salirut*/ in Talayan and Shariff Aguak. There is a change of /*r*/ to /*l*/.

Table 6: Phonological Variation: Gardening/Farming/Carpentry Tools

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Barena	barina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	gwar
Bolo	bulu	bulu	bulu / panasa ng	salud- sung	bu	bulu	bulu	bulu	bulu	bulu
Pala	pala	pala	pala	pala	pa	pala	pala	pala	pala	pala

In exemption of Buluan, ‘barena’ is /*barina*/ in Kabuntalan and /*balina*/ in the nine places included in this study. It manifests that there is a change of phonemes /*r*/ to /*l*/. ‘bolo’ is /*bulu*/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan; and /*bu*:/ in Talayan. ‘pala’ is /*pala*/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun; and it is /*pa*:/ in Talayan. This demonstrates that when phoneme /*l*/ is deleted, the phoneme /*a*/ is lengthened which results to /*a*:/.

Table 7: Phonological Variation: Commodities / Supplies / Personal Needs

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Kendi (candy)	dursi	dul-si	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	kendi	dulsi
Mais (corn)	kames	kames	kames	kames	kames	kames	kames	kames	kamays	kames
Pulbo (face powder)	b’dak	b’dak	b’dak	b’dak	Brak	b’dak	b’dak	b’dak	brak	brak
Suka (vinegar)	binagri	binagli / binagri	binagri	binagri	binagli	binagli	binagli	binagli	langgaw	langgaw

Table 7 divulges that ‘kendi’ is /*dursi*/ in Kabuntalan, /*du:lsi*/ in Sultan Kudarat /*dulsi*/ in Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and Buluan. A vowel lengthening can be noted in Sultan Kudarat dialect. To continue, ‘mais’ is /*kames*/ in Kabuntalan and eight another adjacent places while it is /*kamais*/ in General SK Pendatun. Meanwhile, a change of vowel /*e*/ to diphthong /*ai*/ is highlighted. Additionally, ‘pulbo’ is /*bədak*/ in Kabuntalan except in Talayan, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan which terms ‘pulbo’ as /*brak*/. This means that the deletion of /*əd*/ results in the insertion of /*r*/. Moreover, ‘suka’ is /*binagri*/ in Kabuntalan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, /*binagli*/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and it can be



both */binagri/* or */binagli/* in Cotabato City. This manifests the change of */r/* to */l/* again. In General SK Pendatun and Buluan, this condiment is termed as */lanaw/*.

Table 8: Phonological Variation: Fruits

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Abukado (avocado)	abuka du	buka du	abuka du	Abuka du	abuka du	abuka ru	abuka du	abuka du	abuka du	abuka du
Langka (jackfruit)	badak	badak	badak	badak	badak / barak	barak	barak	barak	barak	barak
Bayabas (guava)	bayab as	bayab as	bayab as	Bayab as	bebas	bayab as	bayab as	bayab as	bayab as	bebas
Datiles (dates)	kayu kurma	kayu kulma	kayu kulma	kayu kulma	kayu kulma	kayu kulma	kayu kulma	kayu kulma	pitsa	kayu kulma
Durian (durian)	duryan	duryan	duryan	duryan	duryan	duryan	duryan	dulyan	duryan	durya n
Guyabano (soursop)	bayab anu	bayab anu	bayab anu	Bayab anu	bayab anu	bayab anu	bayab anu	bayab anu	bayab anu	beba nu
Kamatis (tomato)	kaman tis	kamati s	Kamat is	Kamat is	Kamat is	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s
Marang (marang)	madan g	madan g/mara ng	madan g	Maran g	Maran g	maran g	maran g	maran g	maran g	maran g
Dalandan (orange)	karum amis	kalum amis	kalum amis / orens	orens	kalum amis	kalum amis	kalum amis	kalum amis	orens	orens
Papaya (papaya)	kapay a	papay a	kapay a	Kapay a	Kapay a	kapay a	kapay a	kapay a	kapay a	kapay a
Rambutan (rambutan )	rambu tan	lambut an	rambu tan	Ramb utan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan
Suha (pomelo)	urug kut	bulug kut/ bugkut	bugkut / p'ga	Bulug kut	bugkut	bugkut	bugkut	bugkut / p'ga	bugkut	bugku t

Table 8 shows the variation in the names of fruit common among the ten communities. 'abukado' is */abukadu/* in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan; */bukadu/* in Sultan Kudarat; and */abukaru/* in Shariff Aguak. In this case, a change of sound */d/* to */r/* is evident and there is a deletion of */a/* phoneme.

Further, 'langka' is named */badak/* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and Datu Odin Sinsuat; */barak/* in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun and Buluan; and it can either be */badak/* or */barak/* in Talayan. It is apparent also that the deletion of */ja/* is substituted by sound */ε:/* for instance, 'bayabas' is */bajabas/* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun, while it is */bε:bas/* in Talayan and Buluan.



Another common fruit among the ten places is dates or 'datiles'. It is named locally as */kaju kurma/* in Kabuntalan; */kaju kulma/* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and the six other places in Maguindanao. On the other hand, 'durian' is sounded */durjan/* in the nine municipalities except in Datu Piang where it is vocalized as */duljan/*. The change of */r/* to */l/* is evident from the examples aforementioned.

The guyabano fruit is */bajabanu/* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun while it is */bebanu/* in Buluan. It is apparent that the deletion of */ja/* results to */ε:/*. Further, 'kamatis' is */kamantis/* in Kabuntalan while it is still */kamatis/* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. Therefore, there is a deletion of */n/*.

There is evidence again of change of */r/* to */l/* for example: 'marang' is */madan/* in Kabuntalan and Cotabato City while it is */maran/* in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun and Buluan. In Sultan Kudarat, it can be */madan/* or */maran/*. 'dalanda' is */karumamis/* in Kabuntalan while it is */kalumamis/* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang. Additionally, */p/* is changed to */k/* for instance, 'papaya' is still */papaja/* in Sultan Kudarat but it is */kapaja/* in Kabuntalan, and in the eight areas of Maguindanao included in this study.

A change of phoneme */r/* to */l/* is clear in the term 'rambutan' because it is */rambu:tan/* in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan while it is */lambu:tan/* in Sultan Kudarat. Finally, 'suha' is */burugkut/* in Kabuntalan; */bulugkut/* in Sultan Kudarat and Datu Odin Sinsuat; */bugkut/* in Cotabato City, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. A change of */r/* to */l/* and the deletion of */ru/* or */lu/* are observed respectively.

On the next page, Table 9 illustrates the phonological variation of the Maguindanaon dialects in terms of vegetables. Alugbati is */lilit/* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun while it is */li:t/* in Buluan. Evident in the examples given is the deletion of */l/* results to lengthening of */i/* = */i:/*.

Table 9: Phonological Variation: Vegetables

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Alugbati (Malabar spinach)	gub'k	lilit	lilit	Lilit	lilit/ gub'k	Lilit	lilit	lilit	lilit	lit
Ampalaya (bitter gourd)	Parya	palya	palya	palya	palya	Playa	palya	palya	palya	palya
Petsay (Chinese cabbage)	Pitsay	pitsay	pitsay	pitsay	pitsay	Petsay	petsay	petsay	petsay	pitsay
Repolyo (cabbage)	Ripuly u	ripuly u	ripuly u	ripuly u	ripuly u	Lipuly u	lipuly u	repuly u	repuly u	repuly u

Saluyot (jute)	digos' n	digos' n	Saluyu t	ligos'n	soyut	gub'k	gub'k	gub'k	digaw s'n	saluyo t
Singkamas (turnip)	Singka mas	tingka mas	singka mas	singka mas	singka mas	singka mas	singka mas	singka mas	singka mas	singka mas

Table 9 also shows that there is a change of /r/ to /l/ in 'ampalaya' for it is /parja/ in Kabuntalan while it is /palja/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. Vegetable 'petsay' is /petsai/ in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun while it is /pitsai/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Talayan. Another leafy vegetable 'repolyo' is /ripulju/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan; /lipulju/ in Shariff Aguak, and Mamasapano; /repulju/ in Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan.

Lastly, 'singkamas' is still /sinɣkamas/ in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan while it is /sinɣkamas/ in Sultan Kudarat. There is an indication of change of /e/ to /i/ in /petsai/ and /pitsai/ and /ripulju/ and /repulju/ while it is observed that there is evidence a change in /r/ to /l/ in /ripulju/ and /lipulju/.

Table 10: Phonological Variation: Common Adjectives

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Basa (wet)	Mawa sa	mawas a	mawas a	Mawa sa	mawas a	mawas a	mawas a	mawas a	mawas a	mosa
Luma (old)	Rabin g	labing	labing	labing	labing	labing	labing	labing	labing	Labin g
Mabigat (heavy)	Mawg at	mogat	mogat	mogat	mugat	mugat	mugat	mugat	mawg at	mugat
Mabilis (fast)	Malan gkas	malan gkas	malan gkas	malan gkas	mangk as	malan gkas	malan gkas	malan gkas	malan gkas	mangk as
Malakas (strong)	mabag 'r	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l	mabag 'l
Mataba (fat)	Masab ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ud	mas'b ur
Matanda (old)	Matu wa	matwa	matwa	Matu wa	matuw a	matuw a	matuw a	matuw a	matuw a	matwa
Matangka d (tall)	malam b'g	malam b'g	malam b'g	malam b'g	mamb 'g	malam b'g	malam b'g	malam b'g	malam b'g	mam b'g
Mayaman (rich)	Kawas a	Kawas a	kawas a	Kawas a	kawas a	kawas a	kawas a	kawas a	kawas a	kosa
Pagod (tired)	Garug at	Galug at	galuga t	Galug at	Galug at	galuga t	galuga t	galuga t	galuga t	galuga t
Takot (scared)	Gagirk an	gagilk an	gagilk an	Gagilk an	gagilk an	gagilk an	gagilk an	gagilk an	gagilk an	gagilk an
Tamad (lazy)	Mapo k	mapo wk	mapok	mapok	mapok	mapok	mapok	mapok	mapo wk	mapok

Table 10 shows the variation of the dialects in terms of common adjectives. The deletion of /w/ results to lengthened /ɔ/ = /ɔ:/ for example, 'basa' is /mawasa/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun while it is /mɔ:sa/ in Buluan.

Another evidence of changing /r/ to /l/ is observed in 'luma' for it is /rabin/ in Kabuntalan while it is /labin/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. There is a lengthened /a/ = /a:/ in the second syllable when the diphthong /aʊ/ in the first syllable is deleted and replaced by the schwa /ɔ/. For instance, 'mabigat' is /maʊgat/ in Kabuntalan and General SK Pendatun; /mɔga:t/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and Datu Odin Sinsuat. In other cases, when /aʊ/ is deleted, it becomes /u/ therefore, it is /muga:t/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and Buluan.

The deletion of /l/ results to the lengthening of /a/ = /a:/ like 'mabilis' is /maŋka:s/ in Talayan and Buluan while it is /malan̄kas/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun. There is a change of /ɔl/ to /ɜ:/ in 'malakas' as it is /maba:gɜ:/ in Kabuntalan while it is /maba:gɔl/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan.

The /d/ is changed to /r/ in 'mataba' as it is /masɐbud/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun while it is /masɐbur/ in Buluan. There is a deletion of /u:/ in 'matanda' as it is /matu:wa/ in Kabuntalan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun while it is /matwa:/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and Buluan. There is also a deletion of /l/ in 'matangkad' as it is /mala:mbɔg/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun and it is Buluan /ma:mbɔg/ in Buluan.

The deletion of /awa/ in /kawasa/ ('mayaman') as uttered by the people of Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun is changed to /kɔsa/ as spoken in Buluan. The phoneme /r/ in /garugat/ ('pagod') in Kabuntalan becomes /l/ = /galugat/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. This is the same with the adjective 'takot' as it is /gagirkan/ in Kabuntalan while it is /gagilkan/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. Finally, the /ɔ/ in /mapɔk/ ('tamad') in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and Buluan becomes /o/ = /mapok/ in Sultan Kudarat and General SK Pendatun.

### Maguindanaon Dialects: Morphological Variation

The different morphological variations manifested among the 10 Maguindanaon dialects can be gleaned in the following tables. The table contains focus like commodities/supplies/personal needs, fruits, apparel, verbs (prefix), verbs (suffix), verb (circumfix), and verb (infix).

In the following presentation of the data, identified morphological processes found from the corpora are given and explained by illustrating them in tables.

## Coinage

Table 11

Morphological Variation: Commodities / Supplies / Personal Needs

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Pasimada (toothpaste)	kulgit	kolgit	kulgit	kulget	kulgit	kulgit	kulgit	kolgeyt	kigul a ngip'n	kulgit

The brand *Colgate* is coined by the Maguindanaons and termed it as *kulgit* in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; *kolgit* in Sultan Kudarat; *kulget*, in Datu Odin Sinsuat; and *kolgeyt* in Datu Piang. 'kulgit' becomes a generic term to refer to toothpaste rather than to a brand.

## Borrowing

Table 12: Morphological Variation: Fruits

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Abukado (avocado)	abuka du	bukad u	abuka du	abuka du	abuka du	Abuka ru	abuka du	abuka du	abuka du	abuka du
Kamatis (tomato)	kaman tis	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s	Kamat is	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s	kamati s
Marang (marang)	madan g	madan g/ maran g	madan g	maran g	maran g	Maran g	maran g	maran g	maran g	Maran g
Marang (marang)	Kapay a	papay a	kapay a	kapay a	kapay a	Kapay a	kapay a	kapay a	kapay a	Kapay a
Rambutan (rambutan)	rambu tan	lambut an	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan	rambu tan
Sampalok (tamarind)	sampa luk	sampa luk	sampa luk	Sampa luk	sampa luk	sampa luk	sampa luk	sampa luk	tamrin	tamrin g
Kaimito (star apple)	kayuni tu	istarap ul	istarap ul	istarap ul	Istarap ul /kayun itu	strapul	strapul	kaymit u	kayuni tu	Strapu l
Mansanas (apple)	Mansa - nas	Apul / dzaku ng	apul	apul	apul	apul	apul	apul	Mansa - nas	Apul

There are fruit terms in Maguindanaon borrowed from the English or Filipino language. Table 12 illustrates the fruits which retain their original name from which they are borrowed. The same words are found in Maguindanaon dialects, although their spelling varies. When translated

in Maguindanaon dialects. These fruits include: *abukado* (avocado), *kamatis* (tomato), *marang*, *rambutan*, *sampalok* (tamarind), *kaimito* (star apple), and *mansanas* (apple).

### Maguindanaon Dialects: Lexical Variation

The following tables present the lexical variations among the 10 Maguinadanon dialects. In the course of the presentation, each table gives a focus on a particular group or classification of lexis under the following: color and parts of the body, animal names, kinship terms, kitchen utensils, apparel, shapes, gardening/farming/carpentry tools, commodities/supplies/personal needs, fruits, vegetables, and common adjectives. Consider the following tables.

Table 13: Lexical Variation: Color and Parts of the Body

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Kayumang gi (brown)	sikulat i	sikulat i	sikulat i	sikulat i	sikulat i	sikulat i	sikulat i	sikulat i	malala g	sikulat i
Variation: Parts of the Body										
Mukha (face)	byas/ paras	byas	byas	buntal	buntal	b'n'ng	b'n'ng	buntal	buntal / b'n'ng	biyas
Noo (forehead)	b'n'ng	b'n'ng	b'n'ng	byas	byas	byas	byas	byas	byas	b'n'ng

There is a minimal lexical variation among the Maguindanaon dialects about color and body parts. Color brown, for instance is termed '*sikulati*' in the nine places of Maguindanao and '*malalag*' in Gen. SK Pendatun.

Meanwhile, the body part 'mukha' or 'face' is *byas* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and Buluan; *buntal* in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, and Datu Piang; *b'n'ng* in Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano; *buntal* or *b'n'ng* in General SK Pendatun. However, 'noo' or forehead is *b'n'ng* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and Buluan; *byas* in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun. It can be gleaned that this particular lexicon has about three variations.

The terms for 'face' and 'forehead' are similar in most cases but vary based on geographical location, which means further that adjacent places like Kabuntalan and Buluan use the same term 'byas' for face. In contrast, Datu Odin Sinsuat and Talayan named the face 'buntal.'

Table 14: Lexical Variation: Animal Names

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Bubuyog (bee)	batyuk an	tabul' g	batyuk an	batyuk an	Batyu kan	batyuk an	tabul' g	tabulu g	tabul' g bul'g	tabul' g bul'g

Kuting (kitten)	pipis a puting	b'dun g a madidu	puting	pipis a b'dun g	pipis a puting	pipis a puting	pipis a puting	puting	pipis a anguy u	pipis a puting
Palaka (frog)	babak	babak	babak	babak	babak	bakat	bakat	babak	bakat	bakat
Pato (duck)	patugyar	patu, patugyal, patyugal	Patyugal	patugyal	Patugyal	patyugal	patyugal	patugyal	patugyal	patugyal
Pusa (cat)	b'dun g/ puting	b'dun g/ anguy u	b'dun g	b'dun g/ puting	sika	puting	puting	b'dun g	anguy u	puting
Tipaklong (grasshopper)	tapudi	tapudi	tapudi	tapudi	tapuri	tambut u	tambut u	tapudi	tapudi	tapuri

The variation in terms of animal names is shown in Table 14. 'bubuyog' (bee) is *batyukan* in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat and Talayan; *tabul'g* in Sultan Kudarat and Mamasapano; *tabulug* in Datu Piang; and *tabul'g-bul'g* in General SK Pendatun and Buluan.

Kitten or 'kuting' is *pipis a puting* in Kabuntalan, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; *puting* in Cotabato City and Datu Piang; *b'dung a madidu* in Sultan Kudarat; *pipis a b'dung* in Datu Odin Sinsuat; *pipis a puting* in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; and *pipis a anguyu* in General SK Pendatun.

*Pipis* is the Maguindanaon term for baby animals while *madidu* means small. Meanwhile, duck or 'pato' is *patugyar* in Kabuntalan; *patu*, *patugyal*, *patyugal* in Sultan Kudarat; *patyugal* in Cotabato City; and *patugyal* in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. Cat or 'pusa' is *b'dung* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Datu Piang; *puting* in Kabuntalan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; *anguyu* in Sultan Kudarat and General SK Pendatun; and *sika* in Talayan.

Lastly, grasshopper or 'tipaklong' is *tapudi* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun; *tapuri* in Talayan and Buluan; and *tambutu* in Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano.

Table 15: Lexical Variation: Kinship Terms

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Lolo (grandfather)	Apu a mama	Amatu wa	Amatu wa	Amatu wa	Amatu wa	Tuwa a mama	Tuwa a mama	Amatu wa	Tuwa a mama	Tuwa a mama

Lola (grandmother)	Apu a babay	Inatuw a	Inatuw a	Inatuw a	Inatuw a	Tuwa a babay	Tuwa a babay	Inatuw a	Tuwa a babay	Tuwa a babay
Bayaw (brother-in-law)	Idas a mama	Ipag a mama	Ipag a mama	Ipag a mama	Iras a mama	Ipag a mama	Ipag a mama	hipag a mama	Ipag a mama	Iras
Hipag (sister-in-law)	Idas a babay	Ipag a babay	Ipag a babay	Ipag a babay	Iras a babay	Ipag a babay	Ipag a babay	hipag a babay	Ipag a babay	ipag
Pinsan (cousin)	'dt'ng' d	'dt'ng' d	'dt'ng' d	'dt'ng' d	'dt'ng' d	Wata magali	Wata magali	'dt'ng' d minsa n	Wata magali	Wata magali / insan

Gleamed in Table 15 is the lexical variation in kinship terms. 'Lolo/lola' is *apu a mama/babay* in Kabuntalalan; *amatuwa/inatuwa* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, and Datu Piang; and *tuwa a mama/babay* in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan. 'Bayaw/hipag' or brother-in-law/sister-in-law is *idas a mama/babay* in Kabuntalalan; *iras a mama/babay* in Talayan; *ipag a mama/babay* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and General SK Pendatun; *hipag a mama/babay* in Datu Piang; and *iras/ipag* in Buluan. Cousin is *'dt'ng'd* in Kabuntalalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Dato Odin Sinsuat, and Talayan; *wata magali* in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Gen. SK Pendatun, and Buluan; *'dt'ng'd minsan* in Datu Piang.

Table 16: Lexical Variation: Kitchen Utensils

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Almires (mortar)	l'sung	bayuw an	Bayua n	baywa n	l'sung	bayuw an / l'sung	bayuw an / l'sung	piku	l'sung	l'sung
Baso (glass)	basu	basu	Basu	basu	basu	basu	basu	basu	basu	sak'ru
Embudo (funnel)	pansu ran	pansu lan	pansu lan	pansu lan	pansu lan	pansu lan	pansu lan	pansu lan	talunto n	patun dan
Kaserola (sauce pan)	kusya w	kusya w	Kusya w	kasirul a	kasirul a	kasirul a	kasirul a	kud'n	ladiya	kasero la
Kawali (cooking pan)	kawa	kala	Kala	Kala	kawa / kala	kawa / kala	kawa / kala	kala	kala	kowli
Mangkok (bowl)	langgu ngan	langgu ngan	Matik ungku ng	ladya	ladya	ladiya	ladiya	ladiya	lamby adu	mati- kung
Platito (saucer)	rataran	ladiya, simit	s'dana n	latalan	lariya	latan	latan	latalan	matiku ng kung	manot a ladiya



Salalan (stainer)	tapisa n	salalan	Salala n	tapisa n	Sisilan / salalan	salalan	salalan	salalan	salalan	salan
Tadtaran (chopping board)	dadt'la n	t'dtada n	l'dt'ga n	t'dtara n	ladt'ga n	ladt'ga n	ladt'ga n	ladt'ga n	ladt'ga n	ban'd taran
Tasa (cup)	sak'du	basu / tagaya n	basu na kapi	Tasa	basu ar'n tangka - yan	basu	basu	tasa	sak'du	p'gka- pyan
Halo (pestle)	'ndu	bayu	l'ndu	bayu	l'ndu	l'ndu	l'ndu	l'ndu	l'ndu	l'ndu

Table 16 presents the lexical variation of kitchen utensils. Mortar is *l'sung* in Kabuntalan, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan; *bayuwan* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Shariff Aguak, and Mamasapano; and *piku* in Datu Piang.

Glass or 'baso' is *sak'ru* in Buluan while it is *basu* in the rest of the dialects. 'embudu' (funnel) is *pansuran/pansulan* among the dialects except for General SK Pendatun for which it is called *talunton*. 'kaserola' is *kusyaw* in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, and Cotabato City; *kasirula/kaserola* in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; *kud'n* in Datu Piang; and *ladiya* in General SK Pendatun. 'kawali' is *kowli* in Buluan while it is *kawa/kala* in the rest of the dialects.

The word 'mangkok' is *langgungan* in Kabuntalan and Sultan Kudarat; *matikungkung* in Cotabato City and Buluan; *ladya/ladiya* in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano and Datu Piang; and *lambyadu* in General SK Pendatun. 'platito' is *rataran/latalan/latan* in Kabuntalan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Datu Piang; *s'danan* in Cotabato City; and *manot a ladiya* in Buluan wherein *manot* means small. 'tadtaran' is *dadt'lan* in Kabuntalan; *t'dtaran/t'dtalan* in Sultan Kudarat and Datu Odin Sinsuat; *l'dt'gan* in Cotabato City, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang and Gen. SK Pendatun; and *ban'dtaran* in Buluan.

The word 'tasa' (cup) is *sak'du* in Kabuntalan and General SK Pendatun; *basu/ tagayan* in Sultan Kudarat; *basu na kapi* in Cotabato City; *tasa* in Datu Odin Sinsuat and Datu Piang; *basu ar'n tangkayan* in Talayan; *basu* in Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano; and *sak'du* in General SK Pendatun. Finally, 'halo' (pestle) is *'ndu* in Kabuntalan; *bayu* in Sultan Kudarat and Datu Odin Sinsuat; and *l'ndu* in Cotabato City, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan.

Moreover, Table 17 on the next page divulges the lexical variation in apparel. It can be seen in the table that the terms used in daily clothing are different from one dialect to another.

Table 17: Lexical Variation: Apparel

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Blusa (blouse)	bangg ala	bangg ala	bangg ala	blaws	braws	bangg a /	bangg a	bangg ala	sab'la y	bistida

						bal'gk's				
Brip (brief)	karase n-silyu	sangya - wa / sinam p'k	karase n-silyu	karase n-silyu	brip	salwal	salwal	sinam p'k	sampu yut	brip/ta gub a butu
Padyama (pajama)	pagya ma	sangya - wa	Pajama	panja ma	pandya ma	pansya ma	pansya ma	saluwa l	saluwa l	padya ma
Kamiseta (sando)	kamis un a mabab a	kamis un	sandu	kamis un	s'pak	kamisi ta	kamisi ta	kamis un	s'pak	s'pak
Korto (shorts)	bakaki mal'n du	binugi s / bakaki	short	bakaki	sholt	sangya wa	sangya wa	bakaki	bakaki	bakaki
Pantalon (pants)	pantal un	pantal un/ sangya wa	pantal un	pantal un	pantal un	sangya wa	sangya wa	pantal un	pantal un	sangy awa a pantalon

It is observed in the table above that blouse is termed as '*banggala*' in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City; '*bangga*' in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano; '*blaws*' in Datu Odin Sinsuat; '*braws*' in Talayan; and '*sab'lay*' in Gen. SK Pendatun. The underwear brief is '*karasensilyu*' in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, and Datu Odin Sinsuat. In Talayan and Buluan, brief is '*brip*'; '*salwal*' in Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano; '*sinamp'k*' in Datu Piang; and '*sampuyut*' in Gen. SK Pendatun. '*Tagub a butu*' is the other term of brief among the Maguindanaon speakers coming from Buluan.

Table 18: Lexical Variation: Shapes

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSK	Bu
Bilog (circle)	marib-puruk / matiburun	malib-puluk / matibulun	malib-puluk	malib-puluk	malibpuk	malibpuk	malibpuk	malib-puluk	malib-puluk	malibpuk
Habilog (oval)	matiburun a matl'n du	malilin	oblong	matil'ndu/ matim-bulun	matal'mpid	matil'ndu i kalibpuluk	matil'ndu i kalibpuluk	matibulun	matil'ndu	makalibpuk a l'man
Hugis-dyamante (diamond)	tipas/gyamanti	sabay	dayamun	dayamun	dayamun	dayamun	dayamun	tipas	dyamanti	gyamanti

Hugis-krus (cross)	krus	krus	krus	Krus	Klus	krus	krus	krus	mimba lawag a	mimb aluga
Hugis-puso (heart)	pusun g	pusun g	pusun g	pusun g	pusun g	pusun g	pusun g	pusun g	kulti	mana-pusun g
Hugis-tala (star)	bitun	bitun	bitun	bitun	bitun	mala-bitun	mala-bitun	bitun	lima pisuk	mana-bitun
Parihaba (rectangle)	matl'n du	matl'n du	rektan gg'l	matl'n du	matl'n du	patpis uk a matl'n du	patpis uk a matl'n du	matl'n du	patpas agi a matl'n du	baks a matil'ndu
Parisukat (square)	pat-pasagi	pasagi / mid-sulung - sulung	skwey r	sulung - sulung	pat - pasagi	patpis uk	patpis uk	pat - pasagi	pat - pasagi	baks
Tatsulok (triangle)	tlu surung	t'lu sulung	trayan gg'l	t'lu sulung	tlu surung surung	t'lu pisuk	t'lu pisuk	t'lu pasagi	t'lu pisuk	trayan g g'l

Table 18 presents the variation of shape terms among the ten dialects. The first and the last lexical variation examples are circle and trainge. Circle is '*maribpuruk*' or *matiburun* in Kabuntalan; '*malibpuluk*' or '*matiburun*' in Sultan Kudarat; '*malibpuluk*' in Cotabato City, and in other seven municipalities. The shape triangle is termed as '*tlu surung*' in Kabuntalan; '*t'lu sulung*' in Sultan Kudarat, and Datu Odin Sinsuat. It is '*trayangg'l*' in Cotabato City and Buluan; '*tlu surung-surung*' in Talayan; '*t'lu pisuk*' in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Gen SK Pendatun. Meanwhile, '*t'lu pasagi*' is the Datu Piang speakers.

Table 19: Lexical Variation: Gardening / Farming / Carpentry Tools

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Barena	barina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	balina	gwar
Bolo	bulu	bulu	bulu / panasang	salud-sung	bu	bulu	bulu	bulu	bulu	bulu
Martilyo	bakba k	bakba k	Bakba k	bakba k	bakba k	bakba k	bakba k	bakba k	matily u	bakba k
Medidang Asero	t'mbu	t'mbu	pan'm b u	pan'm bu	t'mbu	pan'm bu	pan'm bu	t'mbu	patuk	t'mbu

Table 19 shows the lexical variation under the gardening/farming/ carpentry tools category. The Filipino term 'barena' is termed 'barina' in Kabuntalan; 'balina' in Sultan Kudarat and other seven municipalities. It is termed 'gwar' among the Buluan speakers.

Table 20: Lexical Variation: Commodities / Supplies / Personal Needs

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Kendi (candy)	dursi	dul-si	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	dulsi	kendi	dulsi
Mani (peanut)	lugasi ng	Mani	lugasi ng/ mani	lugasi ng	lugasi ng	lugasi ng	lugasi ng	Lugasi ng	lugasi ng	lugasi ng
Pasimada (toothpaste)	kulgit	Kolgit	kulgit	kulget	kulgit	kulgit	kulgit	kolgey t	kigul a ngip'n	kulgit
Sabong panlaba (laundry soap)	sabun a iamipi	Ejak	sabun a ibamip i	sabun a ibamip i	sabun a ibamip i / ejak	sabun a ibamip i	sabun a ibamip i	sabun a ibamip i	sabun a ibamip i	sabun a ibepi
Sepilyo (toothbrush)	sipilyu	Sipilyu	sipilyu	ispilyu	ispilyu	sipilyu	sipilyu	Ispilyu	siwak	ispilyu
Suka (vinegar)	binagri	binagli / binagri	binagri	binagri	binagli	binagli	binagli	binagli	langga w	langga w
Tawas (alum)	tawas	Tawas	tawas	tawas	tawas	tawas	tawas	tawas	apug	tawas
Tsinelas (slippers)	sinilas	Sinilas	sinilas	sinilas	sinilas	ismag' l	ismag' l	Sinilas	bakya	sinilas
Tuyo (dried fish)	bulad	gangu	s'da magan gu / bulad	s'da magan gu	magan gu a s'ra	pangu s/ pinang us	pangu s/ pinagu s	s'da magan gu	pangu s	pangu s

The lexical variation in terms of commodities, supplies, and personal needs is gleamed in Table 20. For example, dried fish is *bulad* in Kabuntalan; *gangu* in Sultan Kudarat; *s'da magangu/bulad* in Cotabato City and Datu Piang; *magangu a s'ra* in Talayan; *pangus/pinangus* in Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano; and *pangus* in Gen. SK Pendatun and Buluan.

Table 21: Lexical Variation: Fruits

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Balimbing (starfruit)	barim bing	balimb ing	balimb ing	iba	Iba	iba	iba	balimb ing	papak an	Papak an

Buko (young coconut)	agit	nyug / agit	agit	agit	agit	agit	agit	agit	agit	Niyug
Kaimito (star apple)	kayuni tu	istarap ul	istarap ul	istarap ul	istarap ul /kayun itu	strapul	strapul	kaymit u	kayuni tu	strapul
Kalamansi (calamansi)	limuns itu	kala - mansi	limuns itu	limuns itu	limuns itu	limuns itu	limuns itu	limuns itu	kala - mansi	kala- mansi
Mansanas (apple)	mansa nas	apul / dzaku ng	apul	apul	apul	apul	apul	apul	mansa nas	apul

It can be gleamed in Table 21 the variation of fruit names. For example, *balimbing* is *barimbing* in Kabuntalan; *balimbing* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and Datu Piang; *iba* in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, and Mamasapano; and *papakan* in Gen. SK Pendatun and Buluan. Further, apple is *mansanas* in Kabuntalan, and Gen. SK Pendatun; *apul/dzakung* in Sultan Kudarat; *apul* in Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang and Buluan.

TABLE 22: Lexical Variation: Vegetables

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Alugbati (Malabar spinach)	Gub'k	lilit	lilit	lilit	Lilit/ gub'k	lilit	lilit	Lilit	lilit	lit
Bataw (lima beans)	Balatu ng a gadun g	munggu	balatu ng	bana	balatu ng	bana	bana	K'ndal 's	uliban	mung gu
Bawang (garlic)	Lansu na na lanang	Lansu na na lanang / ahus	Bawan g / ahus	Lansu na na lanang	Lansu na na lanang	Lansu na sa kapal	Lansu na sa kapal	Lansu na a t'kap	bawan g	bawan g
Kamote (sweet potato)	ubi	Ubi kangk ung	Ubi	Ubi bang- gala	Ubi	ubi	ubi	Ubi	Ubi kapuk	Umbu s a ubi
Labanus (radish)	radis	setaw	radis	radis	labanu s	radis	radis	Radis	radis	radis
Malunggay (moringa)	Kala- mungga y	Malun g- gay	Kalam ungga y	Kalam ungga y	Kalam ungga y	Malun ggay	Malun ggay	Kala- mungga y	Malun ggay	Malun ggay

Okra (gumbo/ lady's finger)	likway	likway	okra	okra	likway	okra	okra	Likwa y	likway	likway
Patola (sponge gourd)	sekwa	sekwa	sekwa	sekwa	sekwa	sekwa	sekwa	Sekwa	patula	Bang- kwang an
Togi (bean sprouts)	Balatu ng a min'tu	togi	togi	Pinatu a balatu ng	Balatu ng a tinatu	tugi	tugi	Togi	turi	togi

Table 22 presents the vegetable name variation among the Maguindanaon dialects. For example, 'alugbati' is *gub'k* in Kabuntalan while it is *lit/lilit* in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, General SK Pendatun, and Buluan. 'bataw' can be called in Maguindanao as *balatung a gadung*, *munggu*, *balatung*, *bana*, *k'nd'l's*, and *uliban* depending on the place where it is spoken to. 'bawang' can be called *lansuna nalanang*, *lansuna sa kapal*, *lansuna a t'kap*, *bawang*, or *ahus*. 'labanus' is still *labanus* in Talayan; it can also be called *radis* or *setaw* in other dialects. Malunggay, okra, patola, and togi have varied names also in the Maguindanaon language.

TABLE 23: Lexical Variation: Common Adjectives

Filipino (English)	Variation									
	Kab	SK	Cot	DOS	Tal	SA	Mam	DP	GSP	Bul
Bukas (open)	nokan	nokan / noka	Nabliy an/ noka	noka	nokan / noka	nukan	nukan	Nukan	bukat	bukat
Galit (angry)	Gari- pung't	Gali- pung't	Gali- pung't	Gali- pung't	Gali- pung't	Galing 't	Galing 't	Gali- pung't	Gali- pung't	Galing 't
Mabuti (fine)	mapiy a	mabuti	mapiy a	mabuti	mapiy a	mapiy a	mapiy a	Mapiy a	mapiy a	mapiy a
Madali (easy)	Manga - gan	Mal'm u / mal'm ud	mal'm u	mal'm u	mal'm u	mal'm u	mal'm u	Magag an	mal'm u	mal'm u
Mahalaga (important e)	Import ant	Import ant / nasisit a	import anti	Ya masla	Galing a – yan	nasisit a	nasisit a	Nasisit a	nasisit a	import anti
Mahal (expensive )	mapur u	mal'g' n	mapul u	mapul u	mapul u	mapul u	mapul u	Mapul u	mapul u	mapul u
Mahirap (poor)	Gapa - sangan	miskin an	miskin an	miskin an	miskin an	Miski nan	miskin an	Miski nan	miskin an	miskin an
Maikli (short)	mabab a	pabab a	mabab a	mabab a	Maka m- p't	mabab a	mabab a	Mabab a	pabab a	manot

Maingay (noisy)	masas aw	Masas aw / meng' l	Maken g'l	Meng' l	Maken g'l	Maken g'l	Maken g'l	Maken g'l	Maken g'l	Make ng'l
Malapit (near)	Masik 'n	Moba y / masik' n	Masup 'g/ masik' n	Masik 'n	Masup 'g/ masik' n	masup 'g	masup 'g	masup 'g	masup 'g	masup 'g
Maliit (small)	Madid u/ manot	Madid u/ madid 'k / manot	madid 'k / manot	manot	marid u	manot	manot	Manot	manot	Manot
Malinis (clean)	malini s	Limpy u/ matila k	malim pyu	matila k	malim pyu	matila k	matila k	Malim pyu	matila k	Malim pyu
Mapusyaw (faded)	kinmla s	mapan si	kimlas	mapan si	kimlas	Mapan si	mapan si	Mapan si	Nasab u- dan	Mapa nsi
Mura (cheap)	Malm u	Mal'm u	Mal'm u	mabab a	mabab a	mabab a	mabab a	Malm u	Pabab a	mabab a
Matulungi n (helpful)	Mat'g' l tumab ang	Matab a- nga	Matab a- nga	Pakad- tabang	Matab a- nga	Pakad- tabang	Pakad- tabang	Pakad- tabang	T'mab ang	Pakad - tabang
Pangit (ugly)	Marat i paras	Malat i buntal / nabulu - gan	pangit	Malat i buntal	Mawa g i pas	Mawa g i buntal	Mawa g i buntal	Mawa g	Malids 'k	Mog i pas
Tahimik (silent)	Di b'dtar u	Da in'k in'k	Da k'du k'du	Dala In'k in'k	Di maken g'l	Di maken g'l	Di maken g'l	Matan a	Matan a	Di maken g'l

Table 23 shows the variation of the common adjectives used among the Maguindanaon speakers. Each term differs depending on where the speaker is coming from.

Therefore, in the Maguindanaon language, the variations occur through phonemic changes and other phonological processes and morphological processes. Phonological processes consist of vowel lengthening and deletion, while morphological processes include affixation, borrowing, and coinage. In the Maguindanaon lexicon, one dialect differs from others. This means that a term in one area is not spoken or is not commonly used by speakers from other areas in Maguindanao. To conclude, the geographic region plays an important part in the variations of the Maguindanaon language.



## The Phonological, Morphological, and Lexical Variation in Maguindanaon Language

The variation is corroborated by Labov (1969, as cited in Poplack, 2001) when he said that languages possess a whole range of resources for producing a given linguistic expression. The spectrum of variation exists at every level of the linguistic system, from how people pronounce certain words to the syntactic forms they choose. Geographical variation is apparent from the various dialects which characterize particular regions.

In the phonological variation, it is observed that there are phonemic changes in one dialect to another. For example, there is a phoneme /r/ to /l/ change. The phoneme /r/ is most likely to occur in Kabuntalan like /biru/, /kurIt/, and /kəmΛr/ whereas in the rest of the dialects these are /bilu/, /kuIt/, and /kəmΛl/ respectively. In Gen. SK Pendatun, there is a change of /aI/ to /ε/. For instance, the color 'itim' or 'black' is /maɪtəm/ whereas, in the rest of the dialects, it is /mɛtAm/.

There is also vowel lengthening involved, i. e. the phonemes /a:/, /ε:/, and /u:/ . 'buwaya' or 'crocodile' is /bwaja/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan and Shariff Aguak. It is /buwa:ja/ in Mamasapano and Datu Piang and /buwε:/ in Buluan. 'kabayo' or 'horse' is /ku:da/ in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Gen. SK Pendatun; /ku:ra/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan; and /kaba:ju/ in Sultan Kudarat and Datu Piang. 'kalabaw' or 'carabao' is /kara:baʊ/ in Kabuntalan; /kala:baʊ/ in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Piang, and Gen. SK Pendatun; and /ka:baʊ/ in Talayan, Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano. 'usa' or 'deer' is /sala:dəŋ/ in Kabuntalan, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Datu Piang; /sa:dəŋ/ in Talayan and General SK Pendatun; and /sa:rəŋ/ in Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, and Buluan.

The deletion of /w/ results to lengthened /ɔ/ = /ɔ:/ for example, 'basa' is /mawasa/ in Kabuntalan, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and General SK Pendatun while it is /mɔ:sa/ in Buluan. There are other phonological variations involved in Maguindanaon dialect.

Finegan (2014) defines morphemes as the meaningful elements in a word. Most morphemes have the lexical meaning of *look*, *kite*, and *tall*. Others represent a grammatical category or semantic notion such as past tense (the *-ed* in *looked*) or plural (the *-s* in *kites*), or comparative degree (the *-er* in *taller*). In the Maguindanaon language, the variation in morphology involved coinage.

The lexicon also differs among the ten dialects of Maguindanao. The terms commonly used in one municipality are rarely used in other municipalities. Benjamins (2002), as cited in Saranza (2014), explained that the spectrum of variation exists at every level of the linguistic system, from how we pronounce certain words to the syntactic we choose. He further stipulated that most of this variation is highly systematic.

## The Occurrence of Variations in Maguindanao Language

This study has established the variations among the ten dialects. The variation in phonology, morphology, and lexicon was associated primarily with geographic distribution. Fromkin, et al. (2018) stated that dialects are mutually intelligible forms of a language that differ systematically. Labov (1969, as cited in Poplack, 2001) further confirmed that geographical variation is apparent from the various dialects that characterize particular regions, even in monolingual countries.

Linguistic variation between groups of people is compounded by the variation that exists within each individual's speech.

I tried hard to delve more profound into how variations occur, but it was not that easy because the informants do not know why such variations occur. It can be noted that most of the participants were elders and they came from far-flung areas. Most of them were also not educated, so finding out the reason among the variations is not their concern. Some informants told me that they do not even know existing variations among the Maguindanaon dialects.

### **Implications for Educational Practice**

The implication I have drawn from the research is that finding and describing the variations of the Maguindanaon language could be a great stepping stone in delving deeper into the over-into-all structure of such language. Since I believe that this paper is rare, the result of this work could be beneficial for those educators who would like to use the Maguindanaon language for whatever purpose this study may serve them best.

Language teachers could get some implications that will help prepare oral reading, writing, or pronunciation exercises, especially now that the Department of Education ordered and permitted to use the Maguindanaon language as one of the media of instruction under the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) strategy.

This dissertation contributes to our understanding of the variation among the Maguindanon dialects. It gives insight into just one part of an overall picture of the variations of the ten dialects. As part of the professional and personal growth, we would like to recommend this paper as a reference to those researchers who are conducting similar studies.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Having gone this far is considered one of my feats in life. Together with my co-author, studying my language is somewhat tricky yet fulfilling. It is a pleasure on my part to contribute something to my culture.

This study has tested my patience, determination, and strength. However, I am just so blessed that I am surrounded by good people who became instruments in making my research possible. The difficulties I encountered from gathering the data from far-flung areas up to the analysis of data analysis were worth it. The informants appreciated my study's purpose. Since language is dynamic, this study can enlighten the younger generation about the terms which are rarely used now by the youth of today. They stressed out that this study could preserve the Maguindanaon language.

To make an end, I would like to note that this paper made me more confident in my field and molded me to become a better person, for it taught me a lot of wisdom. I am proud that I can add more relevance to presenting the Maguindanaon language and become a part of the conservation and preservation of the said language. The completion of this research is an excellent start for a new in-depth analysis about the Maguindanaon language.

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