

## Use of Ilokano in Student Publications in the University of Northern Philippines

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### ABSTRACT

*Student publications aim for student development along critical thinking, creativity and transmission of cultural values. While serving as a forum for students' views on issues and generating support for their academic development, they also serve as whetstone in honing students' journalistic and literary talents. This study, which utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods, analyzed the use of Ilokano in student publications in the University of Northern Philippines during School Years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016. The New Tandem (official organ of UNP student body), Layap (literary folio) and 11 student publications were analyzed and found to contain only a few Ilokano articles, majority of which are literary and feature. Writers who used Ilokano did it for cultural preservation and reader-respondents appreciated the Ilokano articles; those who do not use Ilokano in their articles lack the proficiency to do so. It is recommended that the Student Publication Services under the Office of Student Affairs should conduct seminar/workshop on Ilokano language; the Bachelor of Arts in Communication program and the Association of Media Students may sponsor Ilokano writing competitions along editorial, news, literary and feature. The student publications should call for Ilokano articles, allot more space to Ilokano articles and maintain an Ilokano section in every issue.*

**Keywords:** *cultural preservation, local language, whetstone for literary talents*

### INTRODUCTION

Student publications or campus newsletters are an avenue for student development, particularly along critical thinking and creativity and as a vehicle for transmitting cultural values. Such publications are important to the individual student and to the whole studentry for they serve as a forum for expressing students' views on issues and generating support for their academic and personal development. They also serve as a whetstone for honing student's journalistic and literary talents.

Student publications that reach their intended audience contribute to effective governance and cultural development. In recognition of their crucial role, the Philippine Congress passed Republic Act No. 7079 entitled an Act providing for the Development and Promotion of Campus Journalism and for other Purposes, known as the "Campus Journalism Act of 1991".

*c. 2. Declaration of Policy-It is the declared policy of the State to uphold and protect the freedom of the press even at the campus level and to promote the development and growth of campus journalism as a means of strengthening ethical values, encouraging critical and creative thinking, and developing moral character and personal discipline of the Filipino youth. In furtherance of this policy, the State shall undertake various programs and projects aimed at improving the journalistic skills of students concerned and promoting responsible and free journalism.*

Generally and for a long time, student publications have been using English and Filipino as media with the former getting the bigger space. During the era of student activism in the '70s, student publications mostly used Tagalog/Pilipino to express their nationalistic sentiments, even to the point of being regarded as oppositionists, anti-establishment and leftist in some extreme cases. It is observed that to this day, seldom do student publications use the local language or vernacular for editorials and opinions columns to express students' views on issues that affect them as students and citizens. In the University of Northern Philippines (UNP), it is generally observed that Ilokano is used in a few articles, mostly literary and feature articles.

With the emerging interest in the cultural heritage and with majority of the student population coming from the Ilocos and neighboring provinces who know how to speak Ilokano, the student publications could be made more meaningful to more student readers if they are written in their own language, that is, Ilokano. Cultural values that educational institutions are mandated to promote may be better appreciated by the students if these are delivered in a language that they speak at home and in the community. In using their mother tongue, student writers could be more articulate and effective as agents of change, in consonance with McLuhan's theory of communication that "the medium is the message."

The Student Publication Services (SPS) of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), University of Northern Philippines, encourages, supports and promotes the establishment of student publications as provided in the Campus Journalism Act of 1991.

The SPS encourages the publication of newsletters which are intended to inform, express the opinions and hone the creative skills of students. It ushers the screening and formation of the editorial board and assists the same in determining the criteria for the selection of the editorial staff of a publication, recognizes the official student publication of the collegiate level and the laboratory schools, accredits and re-accredits the newsletters of academic units and student organizations, conducts lectures, seminars and workshops by practitioners on journalism, creative writing and other related topics, monitors the proper operation

of recognized and accredited student publications, supervises through their advisers the conduct and decorum of all the staff of campus editorial boards and coordinates with the other services of OSA for the orientation on, exposure to or active participation of student writers in programs and activities that cater to student welfare and development.

The *New Tandem* is the official publication of the students of the University of Northern Philippines. Its circulation is 11,500 copies per issue that comes out every semester of each school year. The *New Tandem* reports the newsworthy activities and achievements of the administration, faculty and the student communities. It carries the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) 2350-7276 as its unique postal identification number. Each academic unit in the university is represented in the editorial board of the publication. The present editorial board also includes two international students.

“Layap” is the annual supplement of the *New Tandem*. “Layap” is a literary folio that collates the literary attempts and the winning pieces of the students in various literary competitions. It carries the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) 2350-7268. Its circulation is 11,500 copies per issue.

Aside from the *New Tandem* and “Layap”, nine academic units in UNP have their own publications. Two accredited student organizations also have their own newsletters. The table below shows the colleges and student organizations and their publications:

The College of Hospitality and Tourism Management is a newly established academic unit. The college is presently organizing its student publication. The College of Technology offers technical and special courses. The students lack

**Table 1**  
**List of accredited student publications**

Academic Unit/Student Organization	Name of Publication
College of Arts and Sciences	<i>NewsCAS</i>
College of Business Administration & Accountancy	<i>CBAA Biznews</i>
College of Teacher Education	<i>The Rabbi</i>
College of Engineering	<i>The Edifice</i>
College of Social Work	<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>
College of Criminal Justice Education	<i>The Defender</i>
College of Nursing	<i>The Nightingale</i>
College of Health Sciences	<i>RX Ladder</i>
College of Communication and Information Technology	<i>ITech</i>
Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants	<i>The Ledger</i>
Management Accounting Students Association	<i>MASA Chronicles</i>

journalism skills that the college cannot organize a student publication. Because of low enrolment, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Architecture cannot establish a newsletter. While the College of Technology, College of Fine Arts and the College of Architecture do not have student publications of their own, these colleges are nonetheless represented in the staffs of the *New Tandem* and the “Layap”. Their representatives in the university publications function as cartoonists, photographers and lay-out artists.

Established in the School Year 2014-2015, the College of Public Administration has put up *CPAd Perspective* as its publication during the School Year 2016-2017.

The unit publications are also registered in the National Library and they carry International Standard Serial Numbers.

With the integration of Ilokano in the revised curriculum of the Bachelor of Arts in Communication program, the College of Arts and Sciences started to offer Comm 117 – Ilokano Grammar and Use in Media during the second semester of School Year 2012 to 2013. The integration of the local language Ilokano in the BA Communication curriculum was based on the result of a study conducted in 2010 which found out that local media, both broadcast and print in Metro Vigan, require practitioners to be highly proficient in Ilokano in order to be more responsive to the Ilokano audience (Rabang, 2010). Likewise, with a predominantly Ilokano population, publications in the campus may be more responsive to their target audience, the studentry, with their use of Ilokano as medium of articulation in UNP.

The data that were gathered in this research were utilized by the Student Publication Services (SPS) in the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) as basis in the conduct of journalism seminars and in developing policies on the use of Ilokano as medium of the campus publications. The result of the study could also be used by the BA Communication program and the Association of Media Students as basis in providing more writing opportunities for UNP students to develop their proficiency in Ilokano thereby becoming more effective communicators for the practice of their profession in the future.

## METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive study that utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods of analyzing the student publications in the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) during the School Year 2013-2014 to School Year 2015-2016. The researchers used documents analysis on the university publications *The New Tandem* and the “Layap” and 11 unit publications as follows: *Itech*, *NewsCAS*, *CBAABIZNews*, *The Rabbi*, *The Edifice*, *The Defender*, *The Nightingale*, *Rx Ladder*, *MASA Chronicles*, *Ang Tanglaw*, and *The Ledger*.

Twenty four (24) student writers and 25 readers were interviewed on the use of Ilokano as medium of student publications. The key informants were comprised of 24 student publication staff members who have served in their publications for two years and were considered writer respondents: seven Editors-in-Chief, three Associate Editors, five Literary Editors, three Feature Editors and six staff writers. The reader respondents were 25 students from different academic units.

This study aimed to determine a) whether Ilokano was used by the student publications, b) the sections with Ilokano articles, c) the reasons why writers use Ilokano for their articles/ why they do not use Ilokano, d) students' reactions to the use of Ilokano as medium in student publications from writers and readers, and e) sections which could best be written in Ilokano.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Use of Ilokano as medium of the student publications

Five of the six issues of *The New Tandem* released during the School Years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 have articles written in Ilokano. The three volumes of "Layap" published during the same school years contain poems, essays and short stories written in Ilokano.

Nine of the 11 accredited student publications published news items, short stories, features, essays, columns, comic strip and poems written in Ilokano. Those with Ilokano articles had only one or two poems mostly. The highest number of Ilokano articles in any one semester is six, and that is in the *MASA Chronicles* (Second Semester, School Year 2015-2016). *MASA Chronicles* also published a total of 26 articles written in Ilokano, the biggest number, during the three-year period under evaluation. Three publications saw to it that Ilokano articles were included every semester— *CBAA BIZNews*, *The Defender* and *MASA Chronicles* while two publications never published any during the three-year period—*RX Ladder* and *The Ledger*.

Table 2 presents the number of articles published in accredited unit publications from School Year 2013-2014 to School Year 2015-2016. While the total number of Ilokano articles has been increasing from 17 in School Year 2013-2014, to 19 in School Year 2014-2015 and then 27 in School Year 2015-2016, these figures, however, are too small compared to articles written in English and Filipino.

**Table 2**  
**Ilokano Articles in accredited student publications, school year 2013-2014 to school year 2015-2016**

Publication	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		TOTAL
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sem	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem	1 <sup>st</sup> Sem	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem	1 <sup>st</sup> Sem	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem	
<i>NewsCAS</i>	0	1	1	1	2	2	7
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	2	1	2	2	1	1	9
<i>The Rabbi</i>	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
<i>The Edifice</i>	1	1	0	0	1	2	5
<i>The Defender</i>	2	1	2	1	1	1	8
<i>The Nightingale</i>	1	0	1	0	1	1	4
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>The Ledger</i>	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	5	1	3	4	6	5	24
<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>	-	0	1	0	1	0	2
Total	12	5	11	8	13	14	0
GRAND TOTAL	17		19		27		63

## 2. Sections with Ilokano articles

During the first semester of School Year 2013-2014, *New Tandem*, the official student publication of the University of Northern Philippines, contained one poem written in Ilokano-- "Tarigagay a Bituen" and one essay "Gameng a di Agkupas".

The School Year 2013-2014 issue of "Layap", the literary folio of *New Tandem*, contained five poems--"Kiddaw," "Eleksiyonto Manen," "Ti Nagpaiduma a Dayag", "Apagdarikmat" and "Patigmaan." An Ilokano short story "Dagiti Ladawan" was also included in the literary folio.

Five accredited student publications contained Ilokano articles. *CBAA BIZNews* published a poem "Sidong ni Ayat" and a feature article "Naisangsangayan a Maris." *The Rabbi* contained an Ilokano comic strip. *The Edifice* had one news item in Ilokano "Rangtay ti Aluling: Nalpasen." *The Defender* had one poem "Ti Ubing ken ti Adal" and one short story "Nangisit a Darat." *The Nightingale* contained a poem "Disiplina Laeng Gayyem" and *MASA Chronicles* had the most articles at five Ilokano poems--"Gayyem," "Nadadael a Panagkakadua," "Kangrunaan a Ragsak," "Ayat a Pimmusay" and "Opiser, Kunam?"

The table below shows the distribution of published Ilokano articles in the various student publications.

**Table 3**  
**Ilokano articles in accredited student publications during the first semester,**  
**school year 2013-2014**

Publication	Articles				
	Literary (Poem)	Essay	Short Story	News	Others (Comic Strip)
<i>NewsCAS</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	1	1	0	0	0
<i>The Rabbi</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>The Edifice</i>	0	0	0	1	0
<i>The Defender</i>	1	0	1	0	0
<i>The Nightingale</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Ledger</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	5	0	0	0	0
Total	7	2	1	1	1

Table 3 reveals that a total of seven Ilokano poems, one each for short story, news and others were composed by student writers during the first semester, SY 2013 -14. It implies that the student writers may have been more confident in writing poems in Ilokano because they could always invoke literary license especially in free verse than writing essays, short stories, news reports and others, each of which requires some kind of a format and the application of rules in grammar.

During the Second Semester of School Year 2013-2014, *The New Tandem* featured the Ilokano essay "Istrit Puds." Six other Ilokano articles were published in the following student publications: *NewsCAS* published a poem "Panagsusupad"; *CBAA BIZNews*: "Ni Arapaap ken Ayat"; (feature), *The Defender*: "Ayat a Napudno" (poem), *The Edifice*: "Dumngegka Anak" (poem), and *MASA Chronicles*: "Diploma" (poem). The table below shows the distribution of published Ilokano articles in the different student publications.

Table 4 shows a total of four Ilokano poems written by student writers during second semester, SY 2013-14 and no Ilokano short story and news. Result shows similarity with the previous table. The student writers may have been more confident in writing poems in Ilokano due to their young age, they have strong imagination, fanciful and creative expression of their desires.

**Table 4**  
**Ilokano articles in accredited student publications during**  
**the second semester, school year 2013-2014**

Publication	Articles			
	Literary (Poem)	Essay (Feature Story)	Shorts Story	News
<i>NewsCAS</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>The Rabbi</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>The Edifice</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>The Defender</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>The Nightingale</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	1	0	0	0
Total	4	1	0	0

In the School Year 2014-2015, during the first semester, *The New Tandem* published the Ilokano poem “Arapaap” and the feature article “Namnama a Saan a Mapukaw.” Nine Ilokano poems, one essay and one feature article were published in the various student newsletters. The poems were printed in the following newsletters--*NewsCAS*: “Naidumduma a Tukak;” *CBAA BIZNews*: “Sibay;” *Ang Tanglaw*: “Matematika;” *The Defender*: “Biag ti Estudiante” and “Nasudi nga Ayat;” *The Nightingale*: “Iliw;” and *MASA Chronicles*: “Ania Kadi;” “Ullaw” and “Selpon;” the essay “Ni Ayat a Simmina” was published in *CBAA BIZNews*. *The Rabbi* published the feature article “Tarabay ti Ortograpia ti Pagsasao nga Ilokano.”

The 2014-2015 issue of the “Layap” contained two Ilokano poems--“Agturpusakon” and “Nalaingak.”

The table below shows the distribution of published Ilokano articles in the different accredited student publications.

Table 5 reveals a total of nine Ilokano poems written by student writers during the first semester, SY 2014-2015 and no Ilokano short story and news. Again, the student writers may have been more confident in writing poems in Ilokano because it reflects their feelings towards the world where they live.



**Table 5**  
**Ilokano articles in accredited student publications during**  
**the first semester, school year 2014-2015**

Publication	Articles				
	Literary (Poem)	Essay	Short Story	News	Others (Feature Story)
<i>NewsCAS</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	1	1	0	0	0
<i>The Rabbi</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>The Edifice</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>The Defender</i>	2	0	0	0	0
<i>The Nightingale</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Ledger</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	3	0	0	0	0
Total	9	1	0	0	1

The second semester issue of the *New Tandem* during the School Year 2014-2015 contained an Ilokano column “Ay Wen, Nabatik ti *Ethicsko*.” The poems--“Kunata Idi,” “Sagut” and “Ama” were published in the *NewsCAS*, *CBAA BIZNews* and *The Defender*, respectively. *CBAA BIZNews* also included a whole-page column “Taaw ti Kapadasan.”

*MASA Chronicles* had the most Ilokano poems, with three—“Ken Macoy Latta,” “Rugi” and “Maysaak Nga Ubing”, and one Ilokano essay “Iti Mata ti Rebelde.”

The distribution of published Ilokano articles in different student publications is shown in the table below.

Table 6 shows that a total of six Ilokano poems were published by student writers in SY 2014-15 and none for short story and news. Results show consistency with the data in the previous tables. The respondents love to write poems in Ilokano maybe because poetry helps them remember things, find their inner voice and share their experiences and feelings. In addition, they claimed that they are not good in Ilokano grammar that is why they cannot write short stories and news that require strict observance of rules unlike in poetry.

**Table 6**  
**Ilokano articles in accredited student publications during**  
**the second semester, school year 2014-2015**

Publication	Articles				
	Literary (Poem)	Essay	Short Story	News	Others (Column)
<i>NewsCAS</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	1	0	0	0	1
<i>The Rabbi</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Edifice</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Defender</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>The Nightingale</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Ledger</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	3	1	0	0	0
Total	6	1	0	0	1

No Ilokano article was found in the first semester issue of the *New Tandem* during the School Year 2015-2016. “Layap” included two poems--“Makalua-ak la Unay” and “Uray Ilimedko.”

*NewsCAS* published a poem “Ayat ti Dios” and a feature story “Ciudad Vigan: Idi ken Ita.” *CBAA BIZNews* published a poem “Saan a Sika ti Por-eberko!” *The Edifice* included a poem “Ayat a Maipannayag.” *MASA Chronicles* had again the most Ilokano articles with six poems-- “Isuna Wenno Sika,” “Pinagtuok ni Ayat,” “Mestiza, Eraysyur,” “Para Kenka” and “Napukaw a Sungbat.” *Ang Tanglaw* had a poem “Matematika.” *The Nightingale* published a feature article “Patanor ti Ilocos” and *The Defender* had an essay “Malagipnak Ngata?”

The table below shows the distribution of published Ilokano articles in the different student publications during the School Year 2015-2016.

**Table 7**  
**Ilokano articles in accredited student publications during**  
**the first semester, school year 2015-2016**

Publication	Articles				
	Literary	Essay	Short Story	News	Others
<i>NewsCAS</i>	1	1	0	0	0
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>The Rabbi</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Edifice</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>The Defender</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>The Nightingale</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Ledger</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	6	0	0	0	0
Total	10	2	0	0	1

During the second semester of School Year 2015-2016, *The New Tandem* published the poem “Maipatawid a Daniw.”

*NewsCAS* contained two poems—“Sungbat” and “Agdaniwak Maminsan Pay.” *CBAA BIZNews* featured a short story “Tugot ti Kallabes.” *The Rabbi* published a feature story “Nabalitokan a Balikas a Maipatawid da Inang ken Amang.” The poems “Inhiniero, Anian a Bilegmo” and “Agbunganto dagiti An-anusko” appeared in *The Edifice*. *The Defender* had the poem “Ballaigi” in its literary page. *The Nightingale* featured an essay “Rambak Kailokoan.” The poem “Balasang ti Away” was published in the *iTech*.

*MASA Chronicles* had a two-page Ilokano literary section where five poems were printed-- “Nakusnaw nga Ayat”, “Mannering”, “Maudikan Manang,” “Annad Laeng” and “Sika Laeng.”

Below is a table showing the distribution of published Ilokano articles in the different student publications.

**Table 8**  
**Ilokano articles in accredited student publications during**  
**the second semester, school year 2015-2016**

Publication	Articles			
	Literary (Poem)	Essay (Article)	Short Story	News
<i>NewsCAS</i>	2	0	0	0
<i>CBAA BIZNews</i>	0	0	1	0
<i>The Rabbi</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>The Edifice</i>	2	0	0	0
<i>Ang Tanglaw</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>The Defender</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>The Nightingale</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>RX Ladder</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>ITech</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>The Ledger</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>MASA Chronicles</i>	5	0	0	0
Total	11	2	1	0

It is observed that there is a dearth of Ilokano articles in the student publications. The use of Ilokano by the staffers was limited to literary and features. Two student journalists tried to express their opinions using the Ilokano language in their columns. One news item was written in Ilokano. This means that Ilokano was rarely used as a medium in articulating students' views and opinions or in disseminating news. The student publications have not yet explored the power of the mother tongue in serving as the students' voice particularly along issues that generally affect the students. This may be the effect of the adoption of English as a second language and as the medium of instruction and for academic discourses.

### 3. Reasons why writers use Ilokano for their articles or why they do not use Ilokano

The Editor-in-Chief of *CBAA BIZNews* said he writes literary articles in Ilokano because it is easier for him to express his thoughts and emotions using the mother tongue. He admitted, however, that his vocabulary in the Ilokano language is limited.

Other writer respondents who use Ilokano said they do it for cultural preservation. "Rambak Kailoan," a feature article published in the December 2015-March 2016 issue of *The Nightingale*, talks about the different cultural activities and celebrations in the Ilocandia that are to be preserved. "Ciudad Vigan: Idi ken Ita," an Ilokano essay published in the June-October 2015 issue of the *NewsCAS*, discusses the qualities of Vigan City and the people that made the city one of the Seven Wonders Cities of the world.

According to another student writer, the nuances of the Ilokano language can better convey the cultural experiences of the students. A foreign language is difficult to use in capturing the moods, the ambience and the feelings of a local situation. This is in consonance with McLuhan's Theory that "the medium is the message."

Other writers who did not use Ilokano in their articles claimed that they were not good in Ilokano grammar and orthography. While they may know how to converse in Ilokano, writing in Ilokano would require a certain degree of proficiency especially along grammar and orthography. The lack of proficiency in Ilokano could be an effect of the use of English and Filipino as media of instruction through their years in school. Had the students been taught the mother tongue in their elementary days, they would have developed the facility in writing Ilokano to express their ideas, aspirations and views. This could explain the dearth of student writers using Ilokano as medium in the student publications.

#### 4. Students' reactions to the use of Ilokano as medium in student publications

- a. Writer respondents who used Ilokano appreciated the language as they were able to convey the cultural values of the Ilocanos as mentioned earlier. Two staff members of the *New Tandem* and "Layap" regularly write literary articles in Ilokano. Two student journalists from *NewsCAS* were comfortable in expressing their ideas and feelings using the Ilokano language. All issues of the *MASA Chronicles* contained Ilokano poetry; three members of its editorial board contribute Ilokano poems regularly. One staff member of the *Nightingale* uses Ilokano language only.
- b. Most reader respondents expressed their appreciation for the Ilokano articles published. Some others did not appreciate the Ilokano articles because they were not speakers of the language. This is expected as there are students in UNP coming from outside the Ilocos Sur Region who speak Filipino or who have not yet learned the local language.

#### 5. Sections which could best be written in Ilokano.

The table below shows the summary of the distribution of Ilokano articles published in the different student publications during the School Year 2013-2014 to School Year 2015-2016.

Data show that most of the Ilokano works are literary articles. The student journalists attempted to write essays, short stories and columns using Ilokano as the vehicle of expression. One writer used Ilokano in news writing and another one in a comic strip.

**Table 9**  
**Summary on the types of articles written in Ilokano in**  
**accredited student publications**

	Literary (Poem)	Essay	Short Story	News	Others (Comic Strip, Feature Column)
SY 2013-2014					
1 <sup>st</sup> semester	7	2	1	1	1 comic strip
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	4	0	0	0	1 feature
SY 2014-2015					
1 <sup>st</sup> semester	9	1	0	0	1 feature
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	6	1	0	0	1 column
SY 2015-2016					
1 <sup>st</sup> semester	10	2	0	0	1 feature
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	11	2	1	0	none
					1 comic strip
Total	47	8	2	1	1 column 3 features

The editors-in-chief who were interviewed said it is difficult to write an editorial using the Ilokano language as a medium. They confessed that they do not have formal training in the language.

### CONCLUSIONS

*New Tandem* (a newsletter) and “Layap” (a literary folio), the university student publications during the School Year 2013-2014 to School Year 2015-2016 contain Ilokano articles, most of which are literary and feature. There is a dearth of Ilokano articles in the accredited student publications. The very few articles in Ilokano in the accredited newsletters were mostly literary and feature. Ilokano is not the medium for news, editorials and opinions. Writers use Ilokano for cultural preservation. Those writers who do not use the language are not proficient in Ilokano grammar and orthography. Readers, on the other hand, appreciate the Ilokano articles. Ilokano could best be used for literary and feature sections of student publications.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Student Publication Services in the Office of Student Affairs should conduct seminar-workshops on Ilokano language regularly and encourage students to write in Ilokano. The student publications should call for the submission of Ilokano articles, increase the space allotted to Ilokano articles and have a regular Ilokano section in every issue and *The New Tandem*, the Bachelor of Arts in Communication program and the Association of Media Students could sponsor competitions in writing Ilokano articles along editorial, news, literary and features.

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