

## The Good, The Best, The New, And The Beautiful: Pattern Notation of High Frequency Adnominals Used in Philippine Blogs on Food, Travel, and Fashion

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### ABSTRACT

Adnominals are present in everyday communication and play a relevant role in discourse at all domains within the verbal communicative contexts. However, quite a number of students or second language learners and speakers of the English language tend to manifest deficiency in the use of adnominals in real communication setting. This study is aimed at providing a linguistic description on the use of adnominals in the essays or blog articles in three domains: food, fashion, and travel. This study employs linguistic corpus analysis on authentic texts, i.e., blog entries from the internet by Filipino bloggers whose first language is any of the Philippine languages. Results poses potential input and an effective instructional strategy in ESL or EFL classes.

**Keywords:** *corpus linguistics analysis; adnominals; high frequency words; blogging; ESL/EFL instruction*

### Introduction

Adnominals, which refers to terms that modify nouns, are present in everyday communication and play a relevant role in discourse at all domains within the verbal communicative contexts. However, quite a number of students or second language learners and speakers of the English language tend to manifest deficiency in the use of adnominals in real communication setting. Too often, speakers produce inaccurate and too

wordy adnominals instead of one that really describes what is supposed to be described. Boleda, Walde, & Badia (2012), confirm that most English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners are not able to use adnominals properly. In their review of studies relating to semantic classes, they revealed that verbs have been widely studied, nouns have been studied at a lesser extent, but with very limited studies concerning adnominals. In addition, other researchers held the same finding on the dearth of studies about adnominals, citing that the literature on adnominals is scarcer than literature on nouns and verbs, in traditional lexical semantics and computational linguistics (Bouillon & Viegas, 1999).

Adnominals take core functions in a sentence and these words pose a vital appeal in various genres (Piereni, 2009). This word classification portrays distinct features as used in specific fields and communicative transaction types. This contention conforms to Cao and Fang (2009) and Mazdayasna and Firousi (2013), who both affirm that the variations of adnominal use seem to be a quiet reliable indicator to classify different text categories in a meaningful way. Mazdayasna and Firousi further asserted that attributive adnominals show a sense of objectivity, while predicative adnominals show more subjectivity. Thus, it is therefore expected that writers may vary in their use of adnominals as influenced or as suitably preferred in a specific genre and domain.

### Literature Review

In Philippine-type languages, adnominals or, better modifiers behave differently. Nolasco (2015) proposes the term “modifier” rather than adjective because modifiers and adverbs are similar in form.” Meaning, “attributive adjectives can also modify a verb,” which is a deviation from the English adverb. Consider the following

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examples from Nolasco (2015) using the form *mabilis*:

(1) Siya ay mabilis na lumakad para hindi mahuli sa klase.

'He walked fast so he won't be late for class.'

(2) Kung lumakad siya ay mabilis.

'He's fast when it comes to walking

Another interesting behavior of modifiers in Waray is that word categories in Waray is variable (Oyzon, n. d.). Meaning, roots shifts in their morphosyntactic functions. Consider the following examples below:

- (3) Pula an dagat. *Red is the sea*  
 Red abs. sea  
 Pred. S
- (4) Hubas an pula nga dagat. *The red sea is low tide.*  
 Low tide abs.red LNK sea  
 Pred. S
- (5) An pula an nakúha. *The red one was the one that was picked.*  
 Abs. red Abs intr.get  
 Pred. S
- (6) Ginapula niya an dagat. *He/She lets the sea becomes red.*  
 gin-pa-red erg. abs.sea  
 trans.R-cause.RED  
 Pred. A S
- (7) Nagpula an dagat. *The sea turned red*  
 Na-g-red abs. sea  
 Pred. S.

Notice that in (3) *pula* is an attributive modifier functioning as a predicate. Nouns and modifiers, when they function as predicate are restrained to take only the intransitive argument structure. If it takes the Transitivity- Modality affixes it will change its argument structure to transitive, intentional mode as in (6) with affix *gin-*. If it will take *nag-* as in (7) it is now

intransitive but an intentional mode is maintained. *Pula* as used in (4) is a modifier of the head of NP *dagat* because it is preceded by particle *an* and is immediately followed by the linker *nga*. *Pula* in (5) is a noun because it is preceded by *an* and is functioning as a predicate and is not followed by *nga*. Therefore, word category such as modifier is not absolute, but rather variable (Oyzon, n.d.).

This study employs linguistic corpus analysis on authentic texts, i.e., blog entries from the internet by Filipino bloggers whose first language is any of the Philippine languages. Linguistic corpus "is a digestive approach for deriving a set of abstract rules, from a text, for governing a natural language." It is "a collection of linguistic data, either written texts or a transcription of recorded speech, which can be used as a starting-point of linguistic description or as a means of verifying hypotheses about a language (corpus linguistics)" (UCLA Library, 2017). The News on the Web Corpus (NOW Corpus, n. d.) can provide information such as "what is happening with the English language this week--not just 10 or 20 years ago. For example, see the frequency of words since 2010, as well as new words and phrases from the last few years."

A corpus basically can generate the following data (NOW Corpus, n.d.):

### 1. Frequency lists

This type of data can be used for materials development and for teaching ESP -- English for Specific Purposes. Rather than having students look at English vocabulary in its entirety, they can focus on specific areas, like Medical English or Legal English, and find the words that are much more common in that genre than in others. Likewise, linguists can use the data from a certain "slice" of English as they are extracting data for experiments and surveys.

### 2. Collocates

Collocates provide information on word meaning and usage, following the idea that "you can tell a lot about a word by the words

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that it hangs out with". Collocates are grouped by part of speech and then sorted by frequency. Collocations are characterizations of a word in terms of the other words that it typically co-occurs with (Biber, 1996). "The grammatical associations of the target word (other words that the target word frequently co-occurs with) describe structural preferences, for example, whether a particular adnominal typically occurs with attributive or predicative functions, or whether a particular verb typically occurs with transitive or intransitive functions."

### 3. N-grams

These would mainly be useful for (computational and corpus) linguists. Let's take the example of the ten or, so most common three-word strings with *point* in the middle position in Table 1 below (with the frequency of the string indicated as well):

Table 1. *Three-word string n-gram pattern of the English lexicon "point"*

(6093 tokens) <i>the point of</i> ; 3309 <i>the point where</i> ; 2646 <i>to point out</i> ; 2558 <i>the point is</i> ; 2304 <i>the point that</i> ; 2118 <i>a point of</i> ; 1324 <i>this point in</i> ; 1126 <i>a point where</i> ; 814 <i>no point in</i> ; 814 <i>some point in</i> ; 594 <i>starting point for</i>
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Corpus linguists use n-grams to look for patterns in language. By looking at the immediate contexts of a word and how often they occur, we can begin to identify and categorize the different uses of a word. For example, in Waray (a language spoken in Samar, Leyte, and Biliran), the word "maupay" may be described to occur in this syntactical environment *maupay + linker + n* and *maupay + v* (see more discussion on *Analysis* portion below).

### Research Questions

This study investigates these two research questions:

(1) What is pattern notation of high frequency adnominals "good," "best," and

"new" as used in Philippine blogs on food, travel, and fashion?

(2) What are its pedagogic implications to English language teaching in the Philippines context, particularly among Waray speakers learning the English language as L2?

### Methodology

This study is aimed at providing a linguistic description on the use of adnominals in the essays or blog articles in three domains: food, fashion, and travel. These domains are considered interesting authentic language platforms that is noteworthy to be studied since the number of netizens in this age of technology is rapidly increasing, and a large amount of time is spent in communication through the different social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the blogosphere. Furthermore, this study describes the syntactical environments where these adnominals occur by providing pattern notations.

### Research Design

This study employed a corpus-based approach that aimed to generate a linguistic description on the use of adnominals contained in blogs in three domains: food, fashion, and travel. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were employed in the treatment of the software-generated data. Qualitative method was employed in the Frequency List, which resulted to the identification of the top three frequently used adjectives in each domain. Qualitative method was employed in treating the data that resulted to the generated pattern notation and in the further discussion on the semantic possibility of substituting the used adjectives with their synonyms. The names of the writers are withheld to protect their privacy.

### Data Sources and Delimitations

The primary data were the blog entries of Filipino bloggers in the area of food, fashion, and travel posted in the internet. The blogs collected were uploaded into the 3Ns Corpora

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Project corpora at [corporaproject.org]. Each area (fashion blog, food blog, travel blog) had a separate corpus. The corpus for English (travel) had 53,580 words; English (food), 53,307 words; and English (fashion), 53,114 words as shown on Figure 1 below.

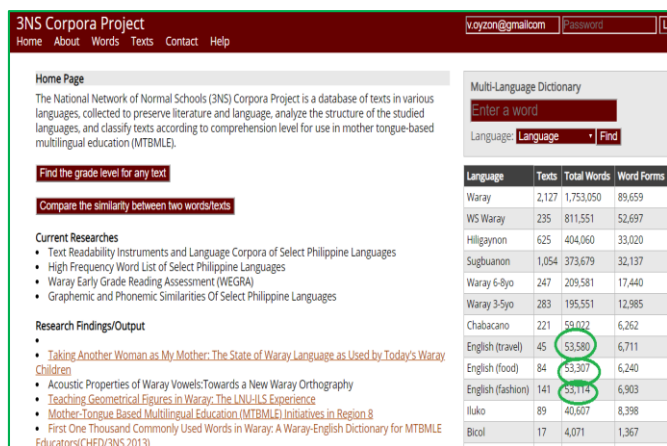


Figure 1. Screenshot of the database corporaproject.org

Criteria were set for the data collection:

1. Only blog articles written by Filipino authors were uploaded into the corpora. This piece of information was obtained from the blogs’ “About Me” sections.
2. Priority was given to essays coming from blogs with their own domain names, such as: www.domain.com, www.domain.net, or www.domain.ph. However, in order to meet the targeted number of words, blogs coming from free webhosting sites such as Blogspot and Wordpress were later included (www.domain.blogspot.com and www.do main.wordpress.com).

One delimitation posed in this study is the possibly questionable representativeness and sampling due to domain constraints (Chomsky cited in Leech 1991), since corpus is limited to blogs about food, travel, and fashion, which are only part of the scope within lifestyle journalism (Hanusch, 2012). The very small size of the corpus—compared to millions, ideally—may have affected the high frequency list. Because of this limitation to three domains and because gender among bloggers was also

not considered, these two could be some of the confounding variables in this study.

### Analysis

Once the corpus had generated the high frequency word list and the top 3 English adnominals per area (fashion blog, food blog, travel blog) were extracted, analysis and description of the syntactical environment was done for each adnominal with the aid of the computer. For example, in Waray, the word “maupay” may be described syntactically to occur in these five patterns:

- (1) modifier + linker+ n, and
- (2) modifier + v
- (3) modifier + determiner
- (4) modifier + particle
- (5) modifier + demonstrative pronoun

In other words, in (1) modifiers in Waray when followed by a noun (n) is always mediated through a linker (nga). However, in (2) if a modifier is followed by a verb (v), no linker is required. (3) A modifier in Waray may also be followed by a determiner (an/it’); (4) a modifier may also be followed by a particle like na, pa, la, man, etc., and (5) a modifier may be followed by demonstrative pronoun such as hini, hadto, ini, didto, dida, etc.

Furthermore, patterns of usage of synonyms of the word similar to our example, maupay, as shown in Table 2 below, may also be compared.

Table 2. Sample Pattern Notations of Waray lexicon “maupay” based on frequency in the 3NS corpora

maupay + linker+ n	Frequency : Highest	maupay + v	Frequency: 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest
Maupay nga adlaw.		Maupay kumaon.	
Maupay nga ani.		Maupay pamation.	
Maupay nga kalingkod.		Maupay kumita kun gab-i.	

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Linguistic results such as these have implications to language teaching. It is very interesting, therefore, to second language learners of English, like us, to see what patterns are there for English by studying the adnominals in a corpus.

### Results and Discussion

Through the 3Ns Corpora Project Software, the top three high frequently used adnominals in Philippine blogs on food, travel, and fashion were generated. Table 3 below shows that *good*, *new*, *best*, and *beautiful* are the descriptive words most frequently used by Filipino bloggers. *Good* appears 234 times in 160,001 total words; *best*, 184 times in 160,001 total words; *new*, 156 times in 160,001 total words; and *beautiful*, 38 times in 53,580 words found in travel blogs.

Table 3. Top Three Adnominals Used in Blogs on Food, Travel, and Fashion

Food	Travel	Fashion
Good	Good	Good
New	Best	New
Best	Beautiful	Best

The *food* and *fashion* blogs have the same set of top three adnominals; two of these three are also part of the top three adnominals for the *travel* blogs. Notice that these words – good, best, new, and beautiful – indicate attractiveness; hence, they can be utilized in referring to positive concepts or in building a favorable image for a particular brand. Blogs are often used as communication tools for marketing products (Halvorsen, Hoffman, Coste-Maniere, & Stankeviciute, 2013); therefore, it is not surprising that bloggers make use of these descriptive words in order to sell a concept, an idea, or a product.

Considering that these blog posts were written by bloggers whose first language is any of the Philippine languages, we looked at the syntactic patterns employed by the writers in

their essays. Koosha and Jafarpour (2006) asserted that collocations differentiate the non-native-speaker from the native-speaker’s language production.

With the identified frequency of the adnominals, these were subjected to collocation analysis, in which the terms are characterized by the other words that they typically co-occur with (Biber, 1996). The process describes “the grammatical associations of the target word (other words that the target word frequently co-occurs with), and this generated 9 structural patterns for the adnominal *good* (Table 4), 15 for *best*, (Table 5) and 9 for *new* (Table 6), and 14 for *beautiful* (Table 7).

Table 4. Pattern notations of the adnominal *good*.

1. good + noun	<i>good time, good thing, good piece, good look, good choice, good note, good challenge, good manners, good way, good substitute, good hands, good opportunity, good combination</i>
2. good + adnominal + noun	<i>good solid piece, good scalp care, good personal hygiene, good quality sunglasses, good seven-hour sleep, good lighting, good shepherd convent</i>
3. good + adnominal + adnominal + noun	<i>good old sunny days, good extra (sic) virgin olive oil, good old college days</i>
4. good + noun + prepositional phrase	<i>good set of pearls, good spread of whites, good selection of men’s magazines, good balance of men’s magazines, good balance of comfort and style</i>
5. good + conjunction	<i>is good but lacks street lights, is good but like many things, good but could use, good but I’m getting used, was good but a taste of, good but one of the patties, good though</i>
6. good + prepositional phrase	<i>good for the health, good for the tummy, good for the heart, good for the peanut butter</i>
7. qualifier + good	<i>so good, very good, super good, quite good, more good, very very good, so so good</i>
8. qualifier + good + adverb	<i>quite good too, so good too, very good too</i>
9. determiner + good + noun	<i>the good food, a good choice, a good source, this good food, the good service, our good friends</i>

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Table 5.  
Pattern notations of the adnominal **best**.

1. best + noun	<i>best undergarments, best option, best assets, best season, best way, best workplace, best dishes, best seller</i>
2. best + prepositional phrase	<i>best of the best, best for yourself, best of indoor and outdoor worlds, best for you, best of all</i>
3. best + adnominal + noun	<i>best bristle formula, best customer service, best home coming dress, best post-christmas gift, best make up artist, best well-prepared dishes</i>
4. best + noun + prepositional phrase	<i>best parts of my body, best part of your body,</i>
5. best + conjunction	<i>best and</i>
6. determiner + adnominal + best + noun	<i>an all-time best seller</i>
7. qualifier + determiner + best	<i>only the best</i>
8. determiner + best + noun	<i>the best option, the best place, his best seller, the best experience, the best decision, the best sites</i>
9. determiner + best+ adnominal + noun	<i>their best selling dishes, the best restaurant cheesecakes</i>
10. determiner + best	<i>my best, the best time, their best, the best</i>
11. determiner + best + prepositional phrase	<i>the best in a crowd, the best of us</i>
12. verb + best	<i>will be best</i>
13. best + prepositional phrase + best adnominal + noun	<i>best of the best luxury sneakers</i>
14. best + infinitive phrase	<i>best to make an appointment</i>
15. best + adnominals + noun + prepositional phrase	<i>best located hotels (sic) in Boracay</i>

Table 6.  
Pattern notations of the adnominal **new**.

1. determiner + new + noun	<i>the new collection, a new segment, a new branch, a new addition, a new turn, my new watch, a new pack, a new buzz, this new hairstyle, my new house, their new collection, a new perspective, a new approach, a new dish</i>
2. new + noun	<i>new things, new heights, new ways, new variant, new offerings, new restaurant</i>
3. new + noun + prepositional phrase	<i>new set of tips, new pair of wide-legged trousers, new avenues of design and creativity, new feed on Instagram, new line of rice dish</i>
4. new + adnominal + noun	<i>new gym clothes, new legwear trend, new designer dresses, new vegetarian dishes</i>
6. determiner + new + adnominal + noun	<i>my new BUCKETFEET PH kicks, the new MySmart app, this new 25mm watch, the new price sensitivity, a new elevated flavor, a new much-awaited catch</i>
7. determiner + adnominal + new + noun	<i>an innovative new ink</i>
8. new + conjunction + adnominal + noun	<i>new and used jewelry, new and highly-regarded restaurants, new and healthy recipes</i>
9. determiner + new + proper name/name of a product	<i>the new Head and Shoulders, my new BUCKETFEET PH kicks, the new MySmart app, a new pair of Lee jeans, new Reichstag building</i>

Table 7.  
Pattern notations of the adnominal **beautiful**

1. preposition + beautiful + noun	<i>of beautiful window, for beautiful views, of beautiful photos</i>
2. preposition + beautiful + adnominal + noun	<i>of beautiful natural attractions</i>
3. preposition + noun phrase + beautiful	<i>Of all things beautiful</i>
4. preposition + determiner + beautiful + noun	<i>for a beautiful example</i>
5. beautiful + but	<i>beautiful but, beautiful and</i>
6. beautiful + adnominal + noun	<i>beautiful tropical island, beautiful natural attractions</i>
7. determiner + beautiful + noun	<i>these beautiful islands, the beautiful island, a beautiful example, the beautiful architecture, their beautiful land, a beautiful sunset</i>
8. determiner + beautiful + adnominal + noun	<i>a beautiful coastal area, a beautiful national park, some beautiful glaciers, this beautiful secret beach the beautiful peggy guggenheim museum</i>
9. degree (adv) + beautiful + adnominal + noun	<i>most beautiful natural sights</i>
10. degree (adv) + beautiful + nouns	<i>most beautiful views, most beautiful building amazingly beautiful city</i>
11. degree (adv) + beautiful	<i>most beautiful</i>
12. beautiful + infinitive phrase	<i>beautiful to offer</i>
13. quantifier + beautiful + noun	<i>two beautiful Georgian</i>
14. how + beautiful + conjunction + noun	<i>how beautiful and divine how beautiful and different</i>

## Discussion

### Overgeneralization

The adnominals *good*, *new*, *best*, and *beautiful* are considered ‘common words’ which are familiar to every reader/listener; thus, easy for people to understand. In the context of the usage of these adnominals in the blogs, it is perfectly reasonable that these are used because blog articles are meant to have the same function with that of advertisements. This finding substantiates Ke and Wang’s (2013) most frequently used adjectives which include *good*, *beautiful*, *real*, *best*, *perfect*, and *pure*, and with that of Crystal’s (1991) list which include *new*, *crisp*, *good*, *better*, *best*, *fine*, *free*, etc. However, Ringbom (1998) argues that higher frequencies of common words and lower frequencies of fairly rarely used words are expected among non-native speakers due to their limited vocabulary.

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In a pedagogical context, Hussein (1999) presented a phenomenon of 'overgeneralization strategy'. This phenomenon is likewise recognized by and Takac and Lukac (2013) as the overuse of common words, and which is characterized by learner's avoidance of acquisition of specific terms, and an option for considering specific terminology subsumed in generic terms.

### Semantic Compatibility Test on Adnominal Collocates

The postulate of Rubenstein & Goodenough (1965) states that "words which are similar in meaning occur in similar contexts" and that of Schu'tze and Pedersen (1997) "words with similar meanings will occur with similar neighbors," led to the study's analysis on the semantic compatibility of the synonymous words of a given adnominal. The adnominal *good* has its synonymous terms which includes *decent*, *respectable*, *moral*, *upright*, *virtuous*, *noble*, *worthy*, and *blameless*. The word *decent* and *respectable*, following the *adnominal + noun* pattern only appears once in the corpus for *English (travel)*, and twice in the corpus for *English (food)*. The adnominal *respectable* also occurs once in the corpus for *English (fashion)*. All these identified synonyms bear semantic relevance to the adnominal *good*.

On the other hand, further relating collocation or the patterned structures to semantics, it could be seen that words may have more specific meaning in particular collocations; thus, it could be expected that among a set of synonyms of a given adnominal, there are those which may not qualify in the patterned collocates. Other synonyms of good including *moral*, *upright*, *virtuous*, *noble*, *worthy*, and *blameless* have no occurrence in the corpora, indicating semantic divergence in their usage with the modifier *good*. In other words, one cannot say: *moral accommodation*, *upright accommodation*, *virtuous accommodation* but, *respectable accommodation* (is possible but

rare). Furthermore, *moral*, *upright*, *virtuous*, *noble*, *worthy*, and *blameless* may be used as a substitute as in the phrase *good community*. So, one may say: *decent community*, *respectable community*, *moral community*, *upright community*, *virtuous community*, *noble community*, *worthy community*, *blameless community*.

From the foregoing, what rules, therefore, can we deduce we may ask pedagogically? Perhaps, we can conclude that *good* as an adnominal may be followed by a noun that is inanimate or animate. However, its synonyms like *moral*, *upright*, *virtuous*, *noble*, *worthy*, and *blameless* may only be followed by animate objects. Therefore, we can refine the pattern notation for this modifiers into: good + noun (animate/inanimate), decent + noun (animate/inanimate), respectable + noun (animate/inanimate), (synonyms) + noun (animate).

Also, from this refined notation, we can see that the words *good* and *decent* have wider semantic scope than those of their synonyms. Pedagogically, we ask: Can these synonymous modifiers take the word *for* as collocate? As in the sentence: "Well, good *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."

Well, moral *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."  
 Well, upright *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."  
 Well, virtuous *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."  
 Well, noble *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."  
 Well, worthy *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."  
 Well, blameless *for* me I got this beautiful photo capturing their beautiful smiles."

Pedagogically, we ask: Can the modifiers (synonyms) take the word *but* as

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collocate? As in the sentence: “Road infrastructure in Camotes is good, but it lacks street lights.”

Road infrastructure in Camotes is moral, *but* it lacks street lights.”

Road infrastructure in Camotes is upright, *but* it lacks street lights.”

Road infrastructure in Camotes is virtuous, *but* it lacks street lights.”

Road infrastructure in Camotes is noble, *but* it lacks street lights.”

Road infrastructure in Camotes is worthy, *but* it lacks street lights.”

Road infrastructure in Camotes is blameless, *but* it lacks street lights.”

The above illustrated semantic compatibility test poses potential pedagogical input and an effective instructional strategy in EFL classes. This means, EFL teachers can now study the areas where L2 learners will probably encounter difficulty, thereby formulating new strategies on how to improve the learner’s use of the language (such as but not limited to the use of linguistic corpus and, comparative analysis of marked/unmarked linguistic features and, comparative usage of synonyms as demonstrated in our analysis in this study), then make informed decisions in the revision of their teaching strategies, methods, and teaching approaches.

### Conclusion

Generally, the patterns identified conform to the standard or acceptable syntactic patterns as prescribed in English grammar. However, it is interesting to note that one particular pattern which is comprising of the *qualifier + good*, yielding utterances like *so good*, *super good*, *more good*, *very very good*, and *so so good* seems to be reflecting a typical Fiino expression. The qualifiers *so*, *super*, and *more* which are added to *good* seem unlikely in a native English speaker’s utterances.

Likewise, the duplication of qualifiers added to good (*very very good*, *so so good*) increases the projection of Filipino’s modification structure in their first language. For instance, *maupay-upayan nga balay* (Waray), *magandang-maganda ang iyong umaga* (Tagalog), and *init init pa ang kape* (Cebuano). This structure could somehow justify the “major major controversy” of Venus Raj’s answer in the Miss Universe 2010 Pageant. This linguistic occurrence, as posited by Fakhouri (1995) relates to the cultural and linguistic differences between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL).

Drawing from the data and discussions above, it is therefore apparent that the bloggers’ first language (L1) interferes in the production of utterances in the second language (L2). This observation has been supported by previous researches which argue that “Learners of L2, such as English, tend to think first in their L1 before they write or speak in English, and that the surface structure of many of the interlanguage strings produced by the L2 learners are identical or very similar to the usual or normative sentence structures of the learners’ first language (L1) (Bennui, 2008; Bhela, 1999; Chan, 2004; Chan, 2010; Dechert, 1983 ; Ellis, 1997; Thompson-Panos & Thomas-Ruzic, 1983). Selinker (1972) termed this linguistic phenomenon as *language transfer*, which is described as one of the systematic language production errors. This language transfer involves items and rules in the learner’s version of the new language being directly traceable to the native language.

However, in a study by Bylund & Athanasopoulos (2017), they suggest that learning a foreign language rewires your brain. In other words, as we learn, new neural connections are formed (Singh, 2016). Bylund & Athanasopoulos added that, “[L]anguage differences have psycho-physical effects in the bilingual mind: For example, Swedish and English speakers prefer to mark the duration of events by referring to physical distances – a short break, a long party. But Greek and

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Spanish speakers tend to mark time by referring to physical quantities – a small break, a big party. Speakers of English and Swedish see time as a horizontal line, as distance travelled. But Spanish and Greek speakers see it as quantity, as volume taking up space” (p. 1.).

The prevalence of phrases such as *very very good* and *so so good* are indication that “bilingual *or, multilingual* minds can possess two *or, more* distinct *modes or, ways of thinking* (Miles, Tan, Noble, Lumsden, & Macrae, 2011, emphasis added). In other words, this phenomenon shows that most of these Filipino bloggers, who usually speak one or, two Philippine-type languages and English are not that flexible enough to perceive dimensions of English (L2) that they weren’t aware of before because it is not marked in their L1.

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