

Difference between Tagalog and Filipino; Filipino vs Pilipino

May 16, 2010 by Janina Abayari

Aren't you confused with the difference between Filipino and Tagalog? Also with Filipino and Pilipino? Whatever it is, I myself was basically, is basically, and will be basically confused because until now these mystifies me.

Thanks to web technology, because from it I got a lot of information, which will perhaps serve as an eye opener to correctly differentiate one from the other. Based from my thorough research, the Filipino is a national language in the Philippines. It is a Tagalog-based language which includes some words from local dialects such as Cebuano, Ilokano, Kapampangan, Hiligaynon, Bicolano, Waray, and local Muslim words.

So Tagalog is merely a dialect used by the people within Metro Manila and the nearby surrounding provinces like Bulacan, Cavite, Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, and Batangas. The word Filipino, however, can also refer to the Filipino people, literally called Filipina when a female.

If you can't speak the Filipino language, there should be no problem if you just use English when you speak to Filipinos because the English language is also an adopted national language in the Philippines.

Another distinct characteristic about Tagalog is that it is a pure and romantic language used by poets and writers of the past to express themselves with real feelings and emotions. Most of those words are not used or spoken by young generations of today. Most of these young Filipinos now don't even know what those words really mean. But most writers and poets still prefer to express themselves in Tagalog most especially those from Laguna, Bulacan, Batangas, Quezon, and nearby provinces.

Pure tagalog basically uses a lot of archaic vocabulary that the younger generation of Filipinos are largely unaware of. The differences between the two aren't very significant though. Both Tagalog and Filipino share the same grammar and most of their everyday words are the same. Also, you won't really find pure Tagalog anywhere except in poems, literature, classical songs, hymns, radio, stories, and other formal Tagalog publications or media. So basically, Tagalog and Filipino are almost exactly the same, except for a few foreign words.

Based from my observations, here are a few examples to highlight their differences:

- English – constitution

- Filipino – konstitusyon
- Tagalog – saligang batas

- English – government
- Filipino – gobyerno
- Tagalog – pamahalaan

When I was in high school, I am used into writing the word "Filipino" as an academic subject, while my teacher would always tell me that the word "Filipino" is intended for people who was born and raised in the Philippines. I should have placed "Pilipino" that was actually the subject matter that I was referring to. Too confusing, isn't it?

You don't really need to worry Tagalog though, because most Filipinos can speak English. You'll probably even find a lot of code-switching between Tagalog and English, known as "Taglish" occurring in informal conversations.

Ref.: <http://www.cribko.com/difference-between-tagalog-and-filipino-filipino-vs-pilipino/>