LOCAL AND ORAL HISTORY

THE CASE OF THE CONVERGENT RELATIONSHIP OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND THE SUGAR INDUSTRY
A Lecture of
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of the
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Venue:  College of Arts and Sciences, USLS, Bacolod City
Overall Theme:  “Integrating Local and Oral History in the K to 12 Curriculum”.
Date:  October 11, 2014
GENERAL OVER VIEW OF THE PRESENTATION

“Study the past if you would define the future”. Confucius

Brief Greetings/Acknowledgements and Introductory Aspects of Lecture Presentation.

Clarifications of Basic Terms

Basic Concepts:
“Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan hindi makararating sa pinaroroanon”. (He who does not know where he came from, will never reach his destination.) – Jose Rizal, 1887.
“The working definition of history with which I live and write was formed in 1986 when the poet Rio Alma gave me a copy of his book “Alamat at Historia”. In my history classes I always propose the working definition of kasaysayan or history as a narrative (which can be written, visual, oral or a combination of all three) about past events that have meaning to a certain group of people in a given time and place. These two components of kasaysayan – Salaysay and Saysay, are inseparable. Without both you cannot have true history... If we find meaning in history, then it will gain the power to change our lives. Saysay gives us a way of looking at the world, a Filipino viewpoint that influences the way we see the past, the present and hopefully the future”. (Ocampo, Ambeth R. “Meaning and History”. Anvil Publishing, Pasig City, c 2001).

“History is dangerous – some would say, a subversive – undertaking because by giving meaning to our lives it has the power to change and mold it. But as English historian S.J.P. Taylor put it so clearly. If we do not care to ask questions, we will never get the answers. The point to remember is that history does not repeat itself. We repeat history. (Ocampo, Ambeth R. (Same publication).
Imagination in History

Excerpts from a paper delivered by Teodoro A. Agoncillo, Professor of History, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC, on March 23, 1972 at the History Seminar held in Davao City on 23-24 March 1972.

“To any historian worthy of the name, imagination is as important and necessary in the writing of history as it is in the writing of fiction, drama or poetry...This is because history, properly looked upon is not a matter of compiling and reciting facts, of marshaling them in a time sequence, and of allowing them to speak for themselves – as if facts speak for themselves – but infinitely much more. It is a recreation of the past in such a manner as to provide not only the bones, but also the flesh and blood of those moments which once were here but are now only memories. As such, it provides the reader within the range allowed by competent and verified sources with an accurate approximation of the past, which is the concern of history...History as an actuality is partially recaptured by the historian through a careful and judicious use of data”. (Agoncillo. Same source).
Local History

According to Bernadita Reyes Churchill, President of the Philippine National Historical Society, in the introduction of her lecture “History from the People” (Proceedings of the 1998 Philippine Centennial Regional Seminar Workshop on Local and Oral History. Vol 6, National Historical Institute. Manila, 1999. “The study of local history provides the foundations and substance of the true national history. More than just studying the history of towns, provinces or regions in the Philippines, and the people who live there, local history provides the documentations and analysis of the broad processes which are important in shaping the quality of life of the people. Thus, local history enriches our understanding of our national history. History, which is simply defined as an organized record of the meaningful past, becomes the essential resources of local data and memories of events, realities and things that constitute the essence of local life.
Samuel K. Tan gives the definition that “Local and Oral History are basic to autonomy or an exercise of genuine local and community freedom...Local history cannot be ignored without disastrous consequences to national unity and destiny because it is one of the means to the meaningful exercise of freedom as a creative force of local development and progress and because is the only substantial and just basis for the national history of the Filipino people who come from various ethnologies and sectoral groups”.

“Local and oral history are fundamental to national interest. The Filipino national community is an example of diversity in unity and unity in diversity”.

Oral History

Oral history, according to Eden M. Gripaldo, of UP Diliman and the Philippine National Historical Society, is “a historical source of a special nature which lies in the fact that it is an unwritten source of information composed of verbal testimonies which are reported statements concerning the past”.

Gripaldo gives 3 types of verbal testimonies which are: oral tradition, the eyewitness account, and rumor. Oral history is a collective consciousness of a people, such as genealogies, tales, legends and epics, as rooted in their actual or mythical experiences.

The eyewitness account, although given orally, is a testimony of the informant on a particular event in which he himself was a participant. Rumor is a verbal account which is not always about the past but gives the latest information about the present. It is transmitted verbally and needs corroboration and is often used among primitive peoples. (Gripaldo. Same source).

Importance of Oral History (Gripaldo. Same source)
1. The difficulty of getting conventional written sources is facilitated by oral history.
2. Recent social history of daily lives.
3. Pre-literate societies are clarified to more people today
Birdseye View of Negros Occidental
(As illustrations of local and oral history).

Mt. Kanlaon, an active volcano in the island of Negros Occidental. It is a favorite spot for mountain climbers and is the center piece of Mt. Kanlaon National Park, originally established on August 8, 1934.
A. Geographic Setting: Physical and Natural Resources.
B. Pre-Spanish Roots and Cultural Traits
C. Onset of Hispanization: The Sword and the Cross
D. Historic Migrations to Negros Occidental
E. Establishment of Haciendas/Sugar Farms.
F. Negrense Uprising Against Spain: Causes and Consequences
G. Cinco de Noviembre and the Republic of Negros
H. Arrival of American Colonial Rule: Resistance and Acceptance
I. American Political, Cultural, Economic and Institutional Influences
J. Negros Occidental under WWII, Japanese Occupation; Provincial Resistance Movement
K. Independence from the US and History as a Fledgling Republic: Recovery, Political Experiments and the Contemporary Period
Brief Overview of the Convergent Relationship of Negros Occidental and the Sugar Industry.

A. Earliest Beginnings of Sugar Cane in the Philippines and Negros Occidental.
C. Modernization of the Sugar Industry in Negros Occidental Under American Colonial Administration.
D. Development and Challenges of the Sugar Industry in Negros Occidental up to the Present Period.
Hawaiian Sugar Mills was established on June 3, 1918 in the outskirt of Silay City.
Development and Challenges of the Sugar Industry in Negros Occidental up to the Present Period
Some Concluding Practical Points and Suggestions for Teachers and Others Concerned on the Inter-connections of Local and Oral History with the K to 12 Program.

Reasons for Studying History

1. Develop historical understanding which is the exercise of the capacity to follow a story so far as the evidence and the writer’s general knowledge and intelligence allow.
2. Enable the students to learn the facility of historical research and criticism.
3. Appreciation of contemporary social events.
4. Develop historical consciousness on local and national events.
How to Study History

1. Relevant attitudes
2. Working knowledge of needed equipment or tools
3. Correct study habits
4. Develop love for reading
5. Creativeness
6. Practice historical research and writing
7. Popularization of local and oral history
SELECTED REFERENCES


Alzina, Ignacio “Historia de Visayas.” Part 1. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.


Echauz, Robustiano “Apuntes De La Isla de Negros”. Manila, 1894.


Various Relevant Files at the Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.

Various Relevant Files at the Philippine National Library, Manila.

Various Relevant Files at the Negros Occidental Historical Council, Inc. Library, Provincial Capitol, Bacolod City.

Selected Traditional and Social Media.