

## Filipino with the “F:” A Construction of the National Language Policy

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The Article discusses the historical and legal construction of the Philippine National language in an effort to untangle the complications which have developed regarding the absence of a settled definition of Filipino as the Philippine national language throughout its legal history. The Article also examines the definitions that have been applied to the word “Filipino” since the time of President Manuel L. Quezon until the creation of the 1987 Constitution. It then explores the two different approaches to understanding the concept of Filipino, namely, the Complete Amalgamation Approach and the Universal Approach. The Article, however, focuses only on the second approach, which is the Universal Approach.

The Author begins by providing an outline of the history of the Mono-language and multi-language based on national language by discussing the deception in the 1934 Constitutional Convention and the Tagalog and purists in the institute of National Language. Later on, the 1972 Constitutional Convention gave birth to “Filipino” as the national language. The inaction of the Batasang Pambansa, however, led to the institution of “Pilipino” as the national language. The Article also discusses the national language policy under the 1987 Constitution as the merging of movements. Liberal standards were adopted in determining which language was to be instituted as the national language. The Author concludes that the ambiguity of the concept of “Filipino” under the present Constitution might have been avoided if the framers had only expressed the fact that they meant a Filipino with a nuclear basis on Pilipino. The crucial point has therefore been established. Filipino with the “F” is the national language based on all existing native languages with a nucleus nesting on Tagalog or Pilipino with the “P.” Filipino with the “F” and Pilipino with the “P” are similar. The Author believes that this can be a basis for the use of Pilipino as an official language and medium of instruction.