Project Key Words:  Orosipon, Bikolnon literary history, Philippine literary history

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Designation of Proponent:  __________

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Project Abstract:

If narration points to notions of fixity in terms of the position of the narrator and the subsequent structuring of events, orosipon, an old Bikolnon word for story, suggests a refusal to fixity both in terms of the location of the narrator and the structure itself of the story: the story never stops being formed as it passes through multiple speakers. Orosipon, coming from the root word osip which approximates “tell”, points to more than one person involved in an act of telling making the act of telling proper to no one in particular: indeed, it is improper for anyone to act as the sole teller. Orosipon suggests a multiplicity and fluidity that is prohibited by the homogenizing structuring of narration and community. Orosipon reminds us that and speaking necessarily entails a hearing, which is another instance of speaking as well. That is, orosipon points to the structural relationality of speaking which thus necessarily prohibits absolute control.

The proposed project aims to turn the proponent’s recently completed dissertation into a book. The study reads selected fiction and non-fiction mainly from the periodicals Sanghiran nin Bikol, An Parabareta, Bikolnon and Bikolana published in the first half of the twentieth century in Bikol, a region in the Philippines. Taking American colonialism and Tagalog nationalism as two stories in the process of being narrated during the period, the study reads the texts as an instance of hearing-speaking, or of the insistence of the logic of orosipon.

The dissertation, contributing to the Bikolnon literary history in particular and Philippine literary history in general, does not include the original texts. The proposed project undertakes to fill this lack. Further, it intends to have the selected original texts translated into English and Filipino thereby making the texts available to Filipino and English readers. The proposed project makes available for the first time in published form a compilation of the earliest short printed Bikolnon fiction to researchers and students.

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Contact Information of Project Proponent:  __________