

CLOSING ADDRESS: A FRUITFUL GATHERING

Al Q. Perez

Distinguished speakers and delegates to this language forum, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Before we declare this conference closed, we would like to take the privilege as President of the PAMBANSANO SAMAHAN SA LINGGWISTIKANG PILIPINO, INK. and ASIAN ASSOCIATION ON NATIONAL LANGUAGES (ASANAL) to say a few words. In the brief period of six days of plenary sessions, we have covered a great variety of areas related to the language standardisation and national languages of Asian countries which are relevant to educational development, especially to our quest for language universals in this hemisphere. We have learned much from the scholarly papers presented and discussed by eminent speakers, ranging from concepts and philosophy underlying the policies and discipline on the language standardisation of participating nations, to basic solutions to problems on the development of those languages.

We have attempted to examine or re-examine as thoroughly as has been feasible in the short time available, some of the exciting developments in Asia in the field of language standardisation. We have tried to make realistic appraisal and assessment of the status and progress of language standardisation and national languages of our Asian neighbours. We have tried to look at the situation of the Asian languages particularly on language standardisation in an effort to identify problems and to search for possible solutions. This conference has served as a forum in the meeting of minds among scholars of language and of education in Asia. The information and exchange of academic ideas have resulted in an immense value accruing to both speakers and delegates, and they promise hope for more effective steps toward the standardisation of Asian languages. The discussion have been lively, very lively indeed,

and have produced some interesting and fruitful results. The effective manner in which the chairmen and the rapporteurs of the various sessions are no less responsible for the interesting, lively and challenging discussions.

As a whole, I would like to think that we are moving in the proper direction - finding our Asian identity thru our respective languages.

In December 1972, during the closing address of the First Conference on Asian Languages, I said the following: "We look forward to having the pleasure of welcoming you to the Second Asian Conference on the National Languages in 1974". It is needless to say that that statement of mine has been fulfilled and has become a reality.

At this juncture, I am happy to inform this august body that the THIRD CONFERENCE ON ASIAN LANGUAGES would be held in the first week of December 1975, in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the leadership of Dr. Amran Halim as a continuation of the two language forums held in the Philippines. The theme of the forthcoming conference will be: LANGUAGE AND NATION BUILDING.

The December 1975 conference in Jakarta is a reaction to the observation that two years is quite long for an interval of the conference. The language of Asian countries should be formally discussed in forums like this at least annually. Hence the third conference in Jakarta with Dr. Halim as Conference Director.

In closing, I would like to say once again that it has been the honour of the PSLP, SWP and the ASANAL to have had your participation. Your contributions toward the success of the conference have been substantial and have convinced us that in this hemisphere we do have so many problems on language standardisation but we realise that most of them are common to us as brother Asians.

On behalf of the PSLP, SWP and the ASANAL, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all our distinguished friends and colleagues for having accepted our invitation to participate in this conference. The planning and other committees join me in hoping that all of you who have done us the honour of coming from afar to attend this conference have found the week spent with us profitable and pleasant.

Again, allow me to express to one and all my profound appreciation. Thank you very much for your cordial co-operation.