

20201023 **Language Seduction**
Viktor Nonong Medrano

Although my current inclination linguistically is Esperanto and Español (Spanish), the green and the brown, other languages still seduce me. Foremost of them is Japanese the red. My partial knowledge of it now is sometimes unsatisfying, sometimes satisfying. In high school days, logographic writing seemed silly to me. I adored the Spanish phoneticism, then, as I self-studied. Japanese Kana phonograms attracted me, as other children. Many Japanese still opine that the heart of their language is verily the Kana phonograms, not the Kanji logograms, which they still associate with the Sinitic Mainland.



SFU

In my high school days, I self-studied Esperanto a bit. The decade was the 1980's, on Lulu Island, BC. I was not too serious. It was not until 1997, when I met other Esperantists in Vancouver, BC, did I realize that Esperanto can be a *serious* matter. We Esperantists met monthly, in Vietnamese restaurants, in Chinese restaurants, in McDonald's fast food outlets, on the mountain of Simon Fraser University, and in other places. I learned eventually to speak it. To me, Esperanto is like a Japanesque Germano-Slavic Latinate language, which is *artificial*.

In 1997, I started my conlanging hobby, making my own languages. I started with one invented language, then by 2020, I would attain 76 conlangs! It is a silly, creative activity. But I have learned a lot about linguistics with this irreality. The reality is that I have felt dissatisfaction with real natural languages, natlangs, so I have turned towards conlangs, constructed languages. In 2020, I still feel the same way. I am a *glossopoet*.

After high school, I took one year of French in college, one year of Japanese in university, and one year of Spanish in university. I took one course of higher-level Technical English in university. In my university, UBC, my degree was initially leaning towards Chemical Engineering, but I switched to Computer Science. I really desired Bio-Resource Engineering, as my inspiration was genetic engineering or bioengineering from the movie *Blade Runner*. My degree was Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. In Computer Science, I learned several programming languages, which inspired me about artificial languages for *humans*!

Lojban is at the apex of conlangs created by committee. It is a professionally architected language. I still wonder why Lojban intimidates so many women. Lojban the purple, violet, lavender, or mauve really has given me a different view of reality. Since 2002, I have familiarized myself with Lojbanic Data and Lore.

My native language Tagalog is dear to me. In my Philippine childhood from 10 and under, I mostly spoke Tagalog. When I moved to Canada at age 10, I quickly switched to speaking English. In more recent years, after 2000, I have learned more about Tagalog through TFC, The Filipino Channel, in Canada. I have researched about its phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and lexicology, on the Web. The Web is really a source of *wealth*, about which many people do not realize. Talking to my Filipino friend Marlin Plamondon from the end of 2018 to the beginning of 2020 enhanced my speaking skills in Tagalog. We met at the café Starbucks on Lulu Island.

I have studied other scripts of different languages. Back in my high school days, in the 1980's, I self-studied Arabic a bit. Since 1994, I have dabbled a bit in the Devanāgarī script, on and off. After 2000, I have learned the Thai, Cyrillic (Russian), Greek, Korean, and Hebrew scripts, on my own. Repetition is key. One needs review every so often, or else the memory dissipates.



Chankonabe

Towards the end of 2020, I tend more towards Esperanto and Español (Spanish) as my staple diet. I read science fiction in Spanish. I watch science fiction in Spanish. Esperanto and Español are like Japanese *chankonabe*, Japanese sumo stew. They are ravishing!