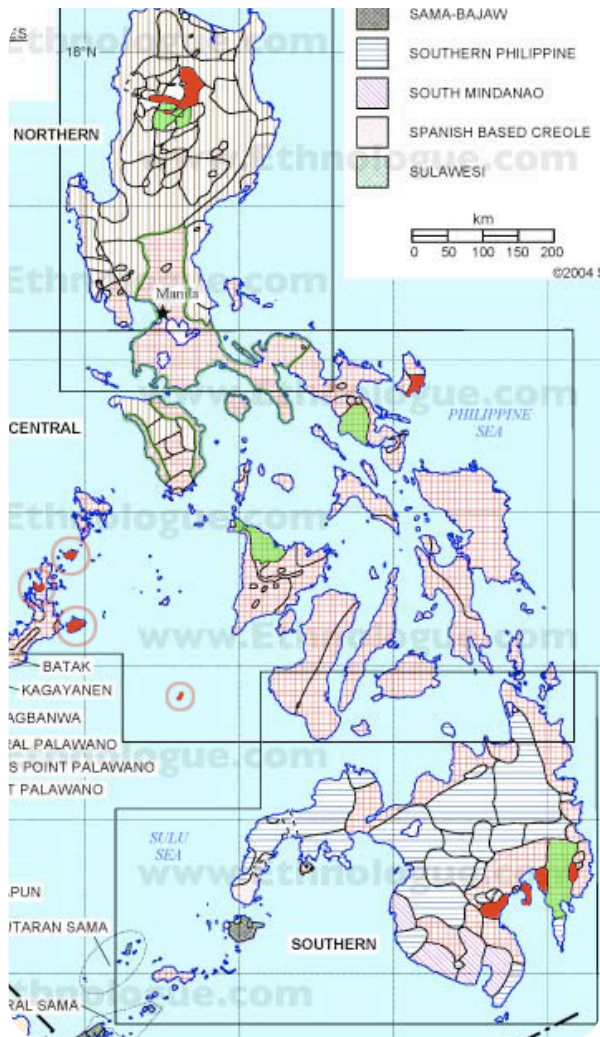


An Unlikely Retention

A comparative look at the (inter)dental Approximant



It is a retention:

- (1) Because of its markedness.
- (2) Because of its geographical distribution.
- (3) Because of its phonetic/phonemic status in the languages in which it occurs.
- (4) Because of the distribution of other approximants.

Its unlikeliness:

- (1) Due to social pressure to not show the tongue when speaking, this articulation is not preferred. It is not liked, in a sense “unlikely” or unliked. (Arcenas 2004; Gallman 1983; Harmon 1977)
- (2) It is unlikely that in the future the sound will be retained due to language shift, and social pressure resisting the sound. It is an endangered sound.
- (3) It is an unlikely candidate to advance to the status of “Proto” in comparative studies when compared with other candidates due to its rarity in each sub-group.

R-L-D Consonant

*In Austronesian languages (particularly Philippine languages) there is a correspondence of R-L-D-y (Conant 1911) (and Ø) for Proto-Austronesian *l. This is the same position in which we find the interdental. In some languages the reflex of *l is one or more of r, l, d, Ø, ʔ, n, ŋ.*

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