

Interweaving Voices: Exploring Gaddang Language Diversity Through Dialect Mapping

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ABSTRACT: The Gaddang people, indigenous to Cauayan City, Isabela, possess a rich linguistic heritage integral to their cultural identity. However, limited documentation exists regarding the diverse dialects within the Gaddang language, despite their classification as one of the "naturales" of Cauayan. This study aims to address this gap by assessing the Gaddang language through dialect mapping, focusing on geographical distribution, dialectal variations, and lexical similarities among Gaddang varieties. Utilizing selected barangays known for Gaddang-speaking communities, the research identifies dialectal variations and establishes lexical similarities among Gaddang varieties. Key informants, including Barangay Captains and Gaddang community leaders, provide insights into the linguistic landscape of the Gaddang language. Findings reveal the presence of both pure or native Gaddang dialects and related languages and sub-varieties. Respondents express a preference for using Tagalog as a basis for writing Gaddang to enhance inter-comprehension among speakers of different Gaddang varieties. However, discrepancies in pronunciation, spelling, and word usage highlight the need for standardization in Gaddang orthography and writing conventions. This research contributes to linguistic documentation and preservation efforts, emphasizing the importance of understanding and preserving indigenous languages like Gaddang. By mapping dialectal variations and assessing lexical similarities, this study promotes cultural appreciation and linguistic diversity preservation among Gaddang communities.

KEYWORDS: Dialect mapping, Gaddang, lexical similarity, participatory assessment

INTRODUCTION

"The average Filipino's unfamiliarity with his indigenous literature was largely due to what has been impressed upon him: that his country was "discovered" and, hence, Philippine "history" started only in 1521 (Christine F. Godinez-Ortega, 2005)".

The Philippines, a multilingual country, has large and small sets of speech varieties that are spoken by the Filipino people. According to Paz M. Belvez (1992) there are more than a hundred languages separately spoken all over the different regions. They all belong to the Malayo-Polynesian family of languages and so there is a great deal of uniformity/similarity in the grammar and lexicon, some variations can be observed on their way of pronunciation and accent. An Ilokano, for example, will speak Filipino with the Ilokano accent, while mixing naturally and effortlessly Ilokano lexicon (Beck, 2012). The same will be true to all regional language users. Hence, the emergence of different regional varieties of Filipino. Besides the accompanying regional accent noticeable also is the infusion or integration of the lexicon of the regional languages especially so with terms and lexicon not found in the Tagalog-based national language but are in the regional languages.

Languages continuously change because they are living organisms. New words and uses are coined at a furious rate to describe new inventions and experiences. As always, new words are created at the frontiers of science, industry, culture, and society.

In the sub-grouping of the Philippine languages, MacFarland (1994; in Bautista, 1996) points out that there are three large groups of Philippine languages namely, Northern Philippine, Meso-Philippine, and Southern Philippine. Within the Northern Philippine group, where the locale of the study is situated, there is a Cordilleran subgroup which consists of the Dumagat languages, the Northern Cordilleran languages, Ilocano, the Central Cordilleran languages, and the Southern Cordilleran languages.

One of the Northern Cordilleran languages included in MacFarland's sub-grouping is Gaddang, which is the language spoken in northern Nueva Vizcaya. Since the Ilocano language is the lingua franca throughout northern Luzon, Gaddang is considered one of the minority indigenous languages in Nueva Vizcaya.

Five thousand years ago, a wave of Indonesian migrants came to Isabela, followed by three waves of Malays between 200 BC and 1500 AD. Their descendants are the present-day Ybanag, Gaddang, Yogad, and other indigenous peoples who occupy the valleys

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and foothills of Western Isabela where they built a civilization based on corn agriculture governed by the basic political unit known as the barangay. Ethnologists classify the Ybanags, Yogads, Itawis, and Gaddangs as the “naturales” of Cauayan. (Reprinted from Cagayan Valley Today, February 1977 issue)

Furthermore, human languages have changed in the age of globalization; no longer tied to stable communities, they move across the globe or from one place to another and change in the process. They contain ethnic groups in contact and frequently in competition. Languages influence each other; they expand, contract, or die.

According to Fishman (2004), language shift, which is the loss of a minority language in the context of immigrants adapting to the dominant language of their destination country, may also occur especially as the group of people move from one place to another. With this, the researchers aimed to identify the speakers' knowledge of their language, which gives a clear picture of whether Gaddang speakers are still knowledgeable about their native language and if they are still capable of distinguishing if there are means of preserving their language.

Threatened to be obscured by the inroads of other cultural influences into the Cagayan Valley since the early part of the 20th century, Gaddang culture is in such a predicament that unless an ambitious work is undertaken to preserve the rich tribal heritage, the Gaddangs would soon lose their cultural identity.

Moreover, the researchers were determined to locate and understand the Gaddang people of the different barangays in Cauayan City, Isabela through language assessment and dialect mapping tools.

The language assessment that was conducted in the communities where Gaddang people reside aimed to involve the language community to the dexterous extent in locating or tracing the language varieties.

A participatory method was used to facilitate community involvement. The purpose of the Gaddang language assessment was to engage the Gaddang people in pinpointing the linguistic situation of the Gaddang area and assessing the varieties of dialects in Cauayan City, Isabela. The study aimed to specifically distinguish where the Gaddang people mostly reside in the City and assess if there are varieties of dialects of the Gaddang Language, determine languages that are similar to Gaddang, and lastly, to establish the lexical similarity between the varieties of the Gaddang language. The rest of this section summarizes background information and other research done about the Gaddang language and its speakers.

Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted to distinguish the location of the Gaddang speakers in the City of Cauayan and to identify the variety of dialects of the Gaddang language. Hence, this study also aimed at answering the following objectives:

- a) To pinpoint where the Gaddang people reside in the map of Cauayan City, Isabela
- b) To determine the different dialects of Gaddang language
- c) To establish the lexical similarity between the varieties of the Gaddang language.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the study on the Gaddang language in Cauayan City, Isabela, researchers employed qualitative methods, including a dialect mapping tool and key informant interviews with community leaders, adapted from the study of Rynj Gonzales on Pasil Survey Report on Kalinga Province, SIL Electronic Survey Report 2015. They secured necessary permissions from local government units and the National Commission on Indigenous People, and informed community leaders and participants about the study's goals, securing their consent. Using a standardized 170-item wordlist from SIL-PNG, they assessed lexical similarities across Gaddang dialects, involving participants in mapping linguistic data by marking their dialect's geographic distribution and comprehensibility on paper, and indicating preferred dialects for producing materials. Data were collected through detailed interviews, then analyzed to map linguistic variations and prepare wordlists that excluded problematic items, enhancing understanding of the Gaddang language's current status and variations.

MAPPING OF THE DIALECT SITUATION

The Dialect Mapping Tool provided information about both the varieties within the Gaddang language and the relationship between Gaddang and other languages. It was conducted in thirty-seven (37) out of the sixty-five (65) barangays in Cauayan City, Isabela that were visited. With connections in the Local Government Unit of Cauayan, especially the "Liga nang mga Barangay" through Hon. Victor H. Dy Jr, the researchers were able to reach the barangay captains and confirm if their barangays still hold records of Gaddang residents. This allowed us to narrow it down from sixty-five (65) to 37 barangays respectively. In this section, the results of the tool related to pinpointing the locations of the Gaddang communities given by the NCIP were presented first, followed by the map showing where Gaddang communities exist at present based only on our data gathering. Each key informant mentioned several languages that are similar to the Gaddang language, as well as their comprehension of the dialects of Gaddang. The first question each key informant was asked was to tell the name of their language and people. Most groups stated that their

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people are called Gaddangs or “tribu ti gaddang (gadang)” while their language is called Gaddang. A few experts mentioned that their group can either be called Tribu ti Gaddang or Attarata na Gaddang since their organization is called “ATTARATA NA GADDANG” which means United Gaddangs. The Gaddang representatives/key informants were also asked to name the barangays where Gaddang is spoken. It may be that people in some areas are not aware that people in those barangays speak their language. Each representative mentioned several languages in addition to subvarieties of Gaddang communities. Table 1 presents a summary of the results for 18 languages and 4 subvarieties of Gaddang language that are spoken in the vicinity of the Gaddang communities.

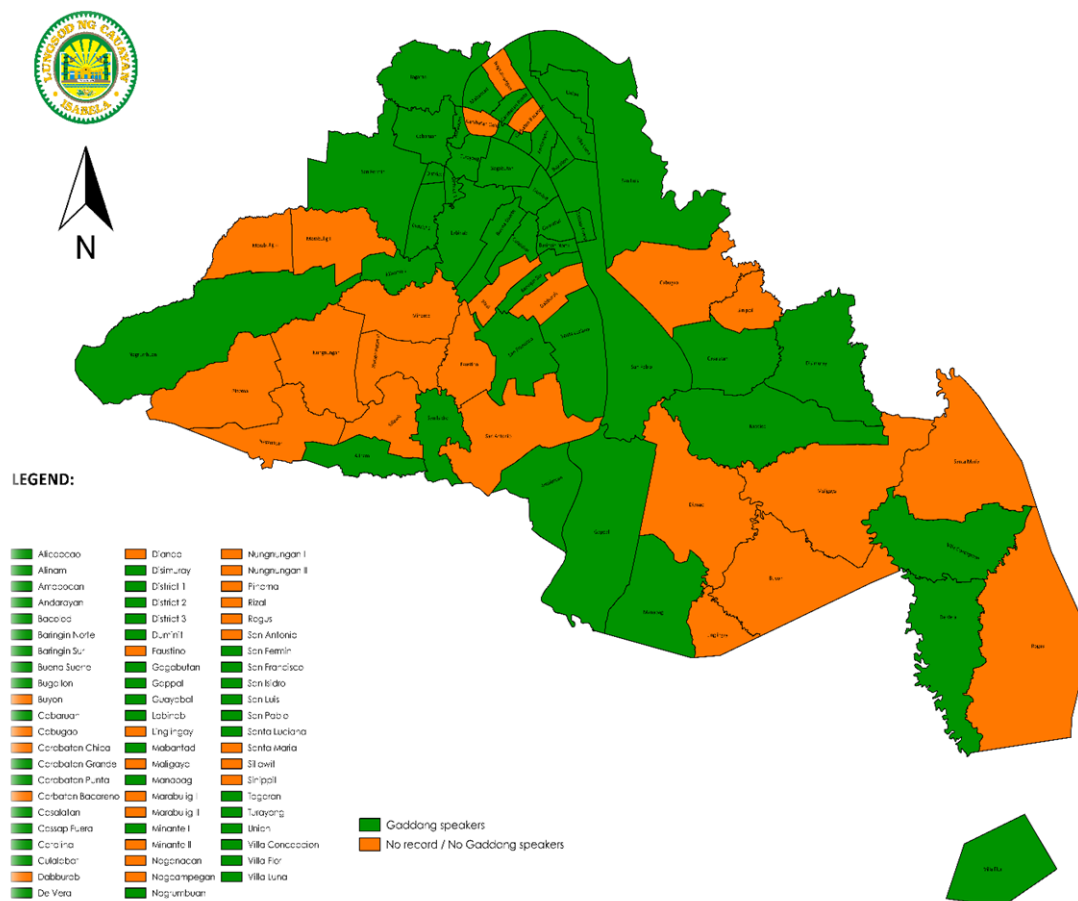


Figure 1. Gaddang Linguistic Map of Cauayan City

Figure 1 shows the map of Cauayan City, Isabela, containing data from the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) where a total of forty-three (43) barangays are considered to be Gaddang communities. The barangays of Cauayan City that do not have any records of a Gaddang speaker were highlighted in orange, while those barangays that hold records of Gaddang speakers were highlighted in green. Moreover, the data provided by the NCIP were not dated in the present year. In line with this, updates or changes regarding the present situation/status quo of the Gaddang communities are inevitable.

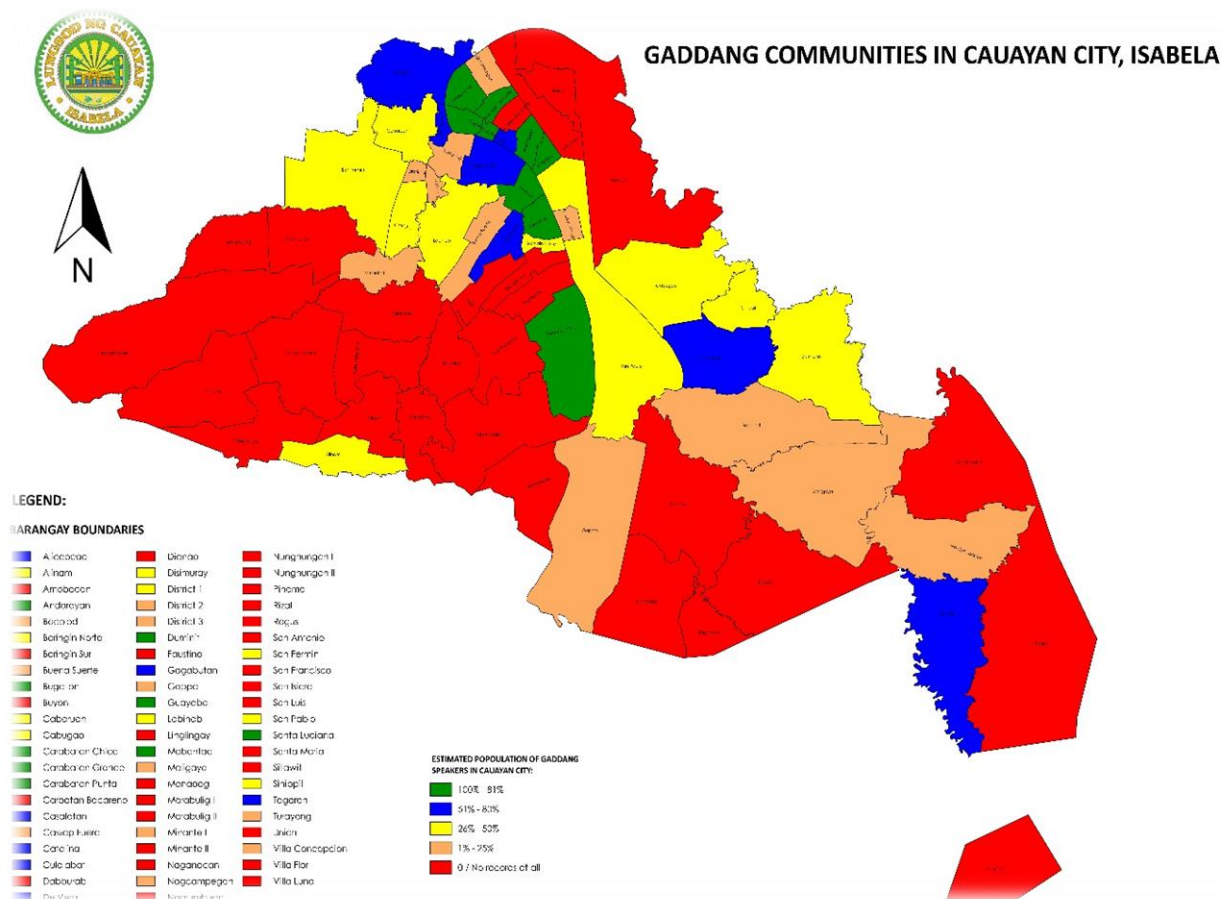


Figure 2. Self-Made Update of Gaddang Communities in Cauayan City

Figure 2 shows the estimated population of Gaddang speakers in Cauayan City, Isabela, according to the knowledge of the key informant/the Gaddang representative of each barangay. However, the forty-three (43) barangays initially considered to be Gaddang communities were reduced to only 37 out of sixty-five (65) barangays of Cauayan City. Some barangay captains confirmed that there are no longer any Gaddang residents in their respective barangays due to intermarriage, migration, and language shift/influences. The following barangays: Amobocan, Baringin Sur, Manaoag, Nagrumbuan, San Luis, San Isidro, San Francisco, Union, and Villa Luna, were removed from the original list. On the other hand, Barangay Carabatan Chica, Cabugao, and Nagcampegan, which held a blank or zero population of Gaddang speakers in the NCIP data, were found to have a significant population of Gaddang speakers in their respective barangays. This unexpected turnout was due to referrals from other key informants from the barangays where we first conducted our data gathering.

The researchers let the key informants estimate the population of Gaddang speakers in their respective barangays since there are no exact data from the present census of Gaddang speakers. Thus, the key informants have data on Gaddang speakers based on their family heads/households, with this, the researchers then let the informants give an estimation of the total number of Gaddang speakers in their respective barangays only based on their experience and personal knowledge as the Head Gaddang representatives.

Those barangays that appeared in green were recorded to have a large number of active Gaddang speakers ranging from 86%-100%. The following barangays are: Andarayan, Bugallon, Carabatan Chica, Carabatan Grande, Carabatan Punta, Duminit, Guyabal, Mabantad, and Sta. Luciana. Moreover, the researchers also found out that the barangays of Alicaocao, Casalatan, Catalina, Culabat, De Vera, Tagaran, and Gagabutan were recorded to have Gaddang residents with a population ranging from 51%-85%. These barangays appeared to be colored blue on the map. While those barangays having a population of 26%-50% appeared yellow on the map. The following barangays are Alinam, Baringin Norte, Cabaruan, Cabugao, Labinab, San Fermin, San Pablo, Sinippil, District 1, and Disimuray. On the other hand, those that appear in orange were found to have the least number of Gaddang speakers in their respective barangays, ranging from 1% - 25%. These barangays are as follows: Bacolod, Buena Suerte, Cassap Fuera, District 2, District 3, Gappal, Maligaya, Minante, Nagcampegan, Turayong, and Villa Concepcion. Lastly, those in red have a zero record of Gaddang speakers in their respective barangays.

The following tables present the data from the Dialect Mapping Tool. Barangays listed in the first column are the places where the Dialect Mapping Tool was used. The barangays and language names listed in the first row are the ones that participants wrote on

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the papers as they described the dialect situation. An X in a row indicates that, in that barangay, they did not mention the language for that column. Alternate rows are shaded yellow and white to help the researchers read the table.

Table 1. Summary data for Dialect Mapping tool – varieties that speaks the same

	LANGUAGES AND GADDANG-SPEAKING BARANGAYS MENTIONED DURING THE FACILITATION																					
BARANGAYS WHERE DIALECT MAPPING WAS DONE	Gaddang	G'baccara	G'Ilocano	G'yogad	G'tagalog	Ilocano	Tagalog	Ybanag	Itawis	Yogad	Kapampangan	Pangasinense	Bisaya	Kalinga	Muslim	Palanan	English	Chinese	Japanese	Spanish	Kankanaey	Latin
1. Alicaocao	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Alinam	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Andarayan	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Baculod	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Baringin Norte	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Buena Suerte	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Bugallon	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Cabaruan	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9. Carabatan Chica	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Carabatan Grande	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	Z
11. Carabatan Punta	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12. Casalatan	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Devera	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14. San Pablo (Cassap Hacienda)	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
15. Cassap Fuera	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
16. Cabugao	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Catalina	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18. Culalabat	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19. Disimuray	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
20. District I	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
21. District II	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	Z
22. District III	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
23. Duminit	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
24. Gagabutan	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	Z
25. Gappal	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
26. Guayabal	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27. Labinab																						
28. Mabantad	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
29. Maligaya	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
30. Minante I																						
31. San Fermin	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
32. Santa Luciana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
33. Sinippil	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
34. Tagaran	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	X
35. Turayong	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
36. Villa Conception	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
37. Nagcampegan	Z	Z	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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In the first step, the participants placed a small rope or circle around any group of Gaddang dialects, or any groups of neighboring languages which they perceived to speak the same as each other. In this table, all varieties that were indicated to speak the same are marked with the same letter. To help the researchers analyze the data, cells with the same letter were shaded the same color. The barangays that said there is no related language to Gaddang were highlighted in red.

In Table 1, Barangay Labinab and Minante 1 stated that there is no other language related to the Gaddang Language. 32 out of 37 barangays believed that Ybanag and Itawis are very similar to Gaddang, while 16 barangays stated that Yogad is also similar to Gaddang. On the other hand, only 1 said that Bisaya is similar to Gaddang and only 2 said that Kalinga is somewhat related to the Gaddang language. Moreover, there were 3 who stated that Latin is similar to Gaddang, and only 4 noticed the similarity between Spanish and the Gaddang Language.

In the second step, the participants placed numbers to show how well they understood each variety. Varieties with a circle around them were given only a single number. The number 1 shows the highest level of comprehension, while larger numbers show lower levels of comprehension. Because each barangay had different languages written down, the highest number in each row varies from 1 up to 5. For this table, 1, which shows high levels of comprehension, is colored orange, while 2 is yellow, 3 is blue, 4 is violet, 5 is pink. Alternate rows are shaded green and white to help the researchers read the table.

Table 2. Summary data for Dialect Mapping tool – (Rank order of understanding different varieties)

BARANGAYS WHERE DIALECT MAPPING WAS DONE	LANGUAGES AND GADDANG-SPEAKING BARANGAYS MENTIONED DURING THE FACILITATION																
	Gaddang	G'baccara	G'Ilocano	G'yogad	G'tagalog	Ilocano	Tagalog	Ybanag	Itawis	Yogad	Kapampangan	Pangasinense	Bisaya	Kalinga	Muslim	Palanan	English
1. Alicaocao	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	4	5	5	5	3	4	3	3	2
2. Alinam	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
3. Andarayan	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
4. Baculod	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
5. Baringin Norte	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
6. Buena Suerte	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	5	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3
7. Bugallon	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
8. Cabaruan	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	5	5	2
9. Carabatan Chica	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
10. Carabatan Grande	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
11. Carabatan Punta	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
12. Casalatan	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
13. Devera	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
14. San Pablo (Cassap Hacienda)	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X	X	3
15. Cassap Fuera	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	3	4	X	X	3
16. Cabugao	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
17. Catalina	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	X	3	4
18. Culalabat	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
19. Disimuray	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4
20. District I	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
21. District II	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	2
22. District III	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
23. Duminit	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
24. Gagabutan	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
25. Gappal	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	X	X	X	X	X	3	X	X	3
26. Guayabal	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3

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27. Labinab	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	2	5	5	5	4	X
28. Mabantad	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X	X	X	X	X
29. Maligaya	3	3	3	4	3	1	1	4	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	4	X	X	X	X	X
30. Minante I	3	3	3	4	3	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	5	5	5	5	X
31. San Fermin	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	2	3	5	5	5	X
32. Santa Luciana	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	X	X	X	X	3	3	X	X	3	X	X	X	X	X
33. Sinippil	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X	X	X	X	X
34. Tagaran	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	2	5	5	4	5	X
35. Turayong	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	2	X	4	X	X	X
36. Villa Conception	2	2	2	5	2	1	1	4	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	X	X	X	X	X
37. Nagcampegan	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X	X	X	X	X

In the third step, the participants placed plastic-colored symbols to show the level of comprehension that people in their barangay have of the other languages or the other varieties of Gaddang. They were to indicate that they understood them very well, well, a little, or not at all. V in pink symbolizes the varieties that they said they understood very well. W in yellow symbolizes the varieties that they said they understood well. L in blue symbolizes the varieties that they said they understood only a little. The green boxes represent groups that indicated that variety was understood less well than other varieties with the same letter (lw). Alternate rows are shaded gray and white to help the researchers read the table.

Table 3. Summary data for Dialect Mapping tool- (level of comprehension)

	LANGUAGES AND GADDANG-SPEAKING BARANGAYS MENTIONED DURING THE FACILITATION																					
BARANGAYS WHERE DIALECT MAPPING WAS DONE	Gaddang	G'baccara	G'Ilocano	G'yogad	G'tagalog	Ilocano	Tagalog	Ybanag	Itawis	Yogad	Kapampangan	Pangasinense	Bisaya	Kalinga	Muslim	Palanan	English	Chinese	Japanese	Spanish	Kankanaey	Latin
1. Alicaocao	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	L	Iw	I	I	L	L	L	L	W	Iw	I	X	I	X
2. Alinam	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
3. Andarayan	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
4. Baculod	w	W	w	w	W	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
5. Baringin Norte	w	W	w	w	W	v	v	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
6. Buena Suerte	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	Iw	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	I	I	I	L	X
7. Bugallon	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
lw 8. Cabaruan	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	Iw	I	W	I	X	X	L	X
9. Carabatan Chica	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	W	X	X	X	X	X
10. Carabatan Grande	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
11. Carabatan Punta	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
12. Casalatan	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
13. Devera	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
14. San Pablo (Cassap Hacienda)	w	W	w	W	W	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
15. Cassap Fuera	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	L	L	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
16. Cabugao	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
17. Catalina	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	L	L	X	X	X	X	X
18. Culalabat	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
19. Disimuray	L	L	L	L	L	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X

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20. District I	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	I	I	I	I	X
lw 21. District II	w	W	w	L	W	v	v	L	L	I	L	L	I	I	L	I	W	L	I	I	I	X
22. District III	w	W	w	L	W	v	v	W	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	W	X	X	X	w	X
23. Duminit	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
24. Gagabutan	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	W	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
25. Gappal	w	W	w	W	W	v	v	L	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	L	X	L	X	X	X
26. Guayabal	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
lw 27. Labinab	w	W	w	L	W	v	v	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	I	W	I	I	I	L	X
28. Mabantad	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
29. Maligaya	L	L	L	L	L	v	v	L	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	L	X	X	X	X	X
30. Minante I	L	L	L	L	L	v	v	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	I	I	I	I	X
31. San Fermin	w	W	w	L	W	v	v	L	L	L	L	I	I	I	I	I	W	L	I	I	I	X
32. Santa Luciana	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	X	X	X	X	L	L	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
33. Sinippil	w	W	w	L	W	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
34. Tagaran	v	V	v	L	V	v	v	L	L	L	L	I	I	I	I	L	W	I	I	L	I	X
35. Turayong	w	W	w	L	W	v	v	L	L	I	L	L	I	I	L	L	W	X	L	X	X	X
36. Villa Conception	w	W	w	I	W	v	v	L	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	L	X	X	X	X	X
37. Nagcampegan	L	L	L	L	L	v	v	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X

The Gaddang, Gaddang-Baccara, and Gaddang-Ilocano were reported to be understood very well by 22 barangays, 11 barangays understood it well, and only 4 understood it a little. On the other hand, 32 barangays understand a little bit of Gaddang-Yogad, 1 understands it least well, and only 4 understood it well. Ilocano and Tagalog are without a doubt understood very well by everyone, while Gaddang-Tagalog is understood by 23 very well, by 10 well, and only 4 understand it a little. Moreover, only 2 were recorded to understand Ybanag well and 18 understand it a little only. Itawis was also understood a little bit by 12 key informants, and one understood it least well. Furthermore, 7 only understand a little bit of Yogad, and 3 understood it least well. One understood Kapampangan least well, while 9 can comprehend it a little bit only. A total of 7 understood Pangasinense and Muslim a little bit, while 3 understood these two least well. Moreover, only 8 understand a little bit of Bisaya, and 4 understood it least well. Kalinga was also understood a little bit by a total of 11, and 4 understood it least well, while Palanan is understood least well by 4 key informants, and 9 understood a little bit. Henceforth, the English language is understood well by 11 and comprehended a little by 26. Spanish and Kankanaey are surprisingly understood least well by 6 and understood a little by one. On the other hand, Chinese was understood least well by 7, and only 2 understood it a little, while Japanese is understood a little by 2 key informants and a total of 8 understood it least well.

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Table 4. Summary data for Dialect Mapping Tool (choices for written standard)

In the next step, the key informant was asked to select the variety that he/she thought would be the best one to be used as the basis for writing Gaddang so that speakers of all the varieties that they circled in the previous step would understand what was written. The expert was also asked to choose his/her second and third choices for the standard. He/she placed letter A on the first choice, B on the second choice, and C on the third choice. A few key informants also put a fourth choice as D. Alternate rows were highlighted with pink and white to help the researchers analyze their data very well.

	LANGUAGES AND GADDANG-SPEAKING BARANGAYS MENTIONED DURING THE FACILITATION																						
BARANGAYS WHERE DIALECT MAPPING WAS DONE	Gaddang	G'baccara	G'Ilocano	G'yogad	G'tagalog	Ilocano	Tagalog	Ybanag	Itawis	Yogad	Kapampangan	Pangasinense	Bisaya	Kalinga	Muslim	Palanan	English	Chinese	Japanese	Spanish	Kankanaey	Latin	
1. Alicaocao						C	A	D									B						
2. Alinam						C	A	D									B						
3. Andarayan						C	B										A						
4. Baculod						C	A	D									B						
5. Baringin Norte						B	A																
6. Buena Suerte						C	B										A						
7. Bugallon							A										B						
8. Cabaruan						C	A	D									B						
9. Carabatan Chica																							
10. Carabatan Grande						C	A	D									B						
11. Carabatan Punta						A	B																
12. Casalatan						C	B										A						
13. Devera						A	B										C						
14. San Pablo (Cassap Hacienda)						A	B																
15. Cassap Fuera						A	C	B									D						
16. Cabugao						C	A	D									B						
17. Catalina						C	A	D									B						
18. Culalabat						B	A	C															
19. Disimuray						B	A	D															
20. District I						A	A										A						
21. District II						C	A	D									B						
22. District III						A	C	B									D						
23. Duminit						A	A	B									B						
24. Gagabutan						A	B										C						
25. Gappal						C	A	D									B						
26. Guayabal						B	A										C						
27. Labinab						A	C	B									D						
28. Mabantad						A	A	B									B						
29. Maligaya						A	B										C						
30. Minante I						C	A	B									C						
31. San Fermin						B	A										A						
32. Santa Luciana						A	C	B									B						
33.Sinippil						A	B	C									D						
34. Tagaran						C	B										A						
35. Turayong						C	B	D									A						

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36. Villa Conception					B	C										A					
37. Nagcampegan					B	C										A					

In Table 4, a total of 13 chose Ilocano as the best one to be used as the basis for writing Gaddang so that speakers of all the varieties that they circled in the previous step would understand what was written, while only 7 chose it as the second best. 15 chose Ilocano as their third option. On the other hand, the majority or 19 chose Tagalog as the best language to use for written materials, while 11 wanted it as the second best, and only 6 were recorded to have chosen it as their third option. Moreover, only 9 chose English as their first choice, 13 informants believed that it is suitable as the second option, and 5 chose English as their third option, while there are only 4 who find English as their final option. Lastly, 7 chose Ybanag as their second option, while only 2 decided that it is best if Ybanag would be their third option, and finally, 11 chose Ybanag as their fourth and final option.

GADDANG WORDLIST BASED ON SIL.PNG WORDLIST

Wordlists were recorded in each Barangay, providing a sampling of data that could be compared to discover linguistic differences between the village varieties. Almost all the key informants stated that the Gaddang language, including their word use and pronunciation here in Cauayan City, Isabela, is unified. Hence, according to the wordlist that the researchers let them answer, it was found out that there are similarities and differences in the lexicon that the Gaddang people are using.

Consistency Across Dialects

Despite variations, some words show a high level of consistency across dialects, often those that represent fundamental concepts. The word for "water" is consistently `Danum` across all examined dialects, suggesting a strong retention of core vocabulary. Furthermore, certain basic words, especially body parts and kinship terms, tend to show remarkable consistency across dialects (e.g., mata for "eye", ama for "father"). However, there are also clear variations for some words across different dialects which could reflect geographical, social, or even cultural divisions.

Phonetic Variations

Phonetic variations are often seen in the way certain sounds are articulated across different dialects, such as the variation between `k` and `c`, which are often interchangeable. The word for "hand" is `Kamat` in some dialects and `Camat` in others. Similarly, the word for "foot" appears as `Takki-sikad` and `Sicad`, indicating variations in complex terms.

Morphological Changes

Morphological changes involve alterations in the structure of words, such as through affixation or modification of the root, which can lead to variations in meaning or grammatical function across dialects. The word for "he sits" appears as `Mattutud` in most dialects but extends to `Mattutud baggi na` in some, where `baggi na` may serve a grammatical function, such as denoting the continuous aspect or a specific tense.

Synonyms and Borrowings

Dialects may use different words (synonyms) for the same concept, possibly due to borrowing from neighboring languages or dialects, or due to internal linguistic developments. The word for "thumb" varies dramatically with `Tammuru`, `Guarandacal`, and `Garandokal` being used in different dialects, indicating borrowing or different etymological roots.

Semantic Shifts

A semantic shift occurs when a word from a common linguistic ancestor changes meaning in different dialects or languages. The word for "breast" in some dialects is `Tagang`, while others use `Suso`. This might reflect a semantic shift where the original word diverged in meaning across dialects.

Lexical Gaps and Substitutions

Some concepts may be expressed in some dialects but not in others, which could indicate lexical gaps where a concept isn't lexicalized, or it may reflect cultural differences. The word for "baby" varies with some dialects using `Calubit` and others using `Abbing`, suggesting cultural or communicative preferences in lexicalization.

Function Words Variation

Pronouns, conjunctions, and other function words can show considerable variation, which is essential for syntactic constructions. The singular "You" varies from 'Baggi na` to 'Ikka/icca', reflecting different syntactic preferences and possibly influences from interaction with other language groups.

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These lexical features illuminate the rich linguistic diversity within the Gaddang language and provide a window into the social, geographical, and historical interactions that shape language variation and change.

CONCLUSION

The study of the Gaddang language in Cauayan City, Isabela, reveals a complex tapestry of linguistic diversity underscored by both consistency and variation across dialects. Tables 1 and 2 highlight the geographical distribution and varying degrees of comprehension among dialects, while Table 3 underscores community preferences for a standardized written form. The wordlist analysis further illustrates this diversity, showing consistent retention of core vocabulary, such as terms for "water" ('Danum'), and basic body parts and kinship terms, like "eye" ('mata') and "father" ('ama'). However, phonetic variations, morphological changes, and the presence of synonyms and borrowings reflect the intricate social, geographical, and cultural influences on the language. This rich linguistic landscape, characterized by semantic shifts and lexical gaps, emphasizes the necessity for targeted preservation efforts that respect and incorporate the community's preferences and linguistic realities, ensuring the vitality and continuity of the Gaddang language.

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