

## **Exploring the Impact of Cultural and Linguistic Background on Social Outcomes among Non-Kapampangan Students**

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### **Abstract**

Language and culture have been of scholarly interest since these concepts are deeply intertwined. Their connection is reciprocal because as culture evolves, language adapts, creating new expressions that reflect individual experiences. However, at times, dominance of certain languages may lead to language shifts where indigenous languages may be neglected in favor of the more widely spoken. This study thus investigates the cultural and linguistic background of non-Kapampangan students in a predominantly Kapampangan institution and the potential impact on their social integration. The study specifically explores the challenges and coping mechanism in a multicultural classroom. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, the study gathered data through an interview to explore the students' perceptions of cultural awareness, language sensitivity, and inclusivity within the classroom and campus environment. Their responses which were analyzed using thematic analysis provided deeper insights into challenges faced by non-Kapampangan students, such as language barriers and instances of cultural insensitivity. The results revealed that while some students felt respected, many reported feelings of exclusion and insufficient institutional support. Understandability of Kapampangan or communication proficiency thus affected their sense of belongingness which let them developed coping strategies, demonstrating their adaptability and resilience as they overcome linguistic and cultural differences. Based on these findings, recommendations for enhancing cultural inclusivity through targeted programs, language support, and cultural awareness initiatives are provided to foster a more inclusive campus environment.

*Keywords: sociocultural, language and culture, thematic analysis, Philippines*