Threads of Language: A Comprehensive Analysis of Linguistic Vitality of Bikol Rinconada in Baao, Camarines Sur, Philippines

Dan Fereth B. Fajardo, LPT, MAEd
Graduate Student, PhD in Language and Literacy Development
Ateneo de Naga University
dffajardo@gbox.adnu.edu.ph

ABSTRACT

This study explored the complex factors that shape the linguistic vitality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada, a minority language in the province of Camarines Sur, Philippines. The study utilized a pure qualitative research design to uncover the established research questions. An indepth semi-structured interview was used along with thematic analysis. Focus group discussions among diverse participants were also conducted. Furthermore, the study examined the interactions between social, political, demographic, and cultural factors that have shaped the current status of Baao-Bikol Rinconada. The study emphasized how crucial lexical uniqueness and phonological distinctiveness are to maintaining cultural identity. The community's perspective is captured by distinctive speech patterns and a diverse vocabulary. The results highlight the intricate factors affecting Baao-Bikol Rinconada's vitality and the necessity of taking into account linguistic characteristics as well as community dynamics in order to preserve such minority language.

Keywords: Linguistic vitality; Baao-Bikol Rinconada; Phonological Distinctiveness; Lexical Uniqueness; Community Dynamics

INTRODUCTION

The area of sociolinguistics focuses on how societies, social groups, and social environments are related to language usage. It addresses the social aspects of language, including class, ethnicity, gender, and culture. Sociolinguistics scholars explore how people change their language habits according to different settings, and this shows that language is a social affair. Some linguistic traits may signify a particular society thus forming separate speech communities relying on speaking for identification. Sociolinguistics also deals with how society affects language habits. Language changes as communities develop which creates new norms and conventions of the way people speak. The phenomenon of language contact presents itself as one such example of interplay with other linguistic systems generating new forms of communication (Matras, 2020). Sociolinguistic research helps in revealing that the complicated web of interrelations exists between a language and its society.

Baao, Camarines Sur, Philippines stands out as a fascinating intersection of diverse cultures and languages. This paper delves into the notion of linguistic vitality, exploring the socio-linguistic and anthropological dimensions. The study focuses on unraveling the various facets of Baao-Bikol Rinconada, examining its local language in the political, socio-demographic, socio-cultural, and linguistic contexts.

The linguistic sustainability of the Baao-Bikol Rinconada language within a wider theoretical context is inherently dependent on current political circumstances. According to Idris (2016), government-enforced policies in relation to certain dialects can prove to have very significant repercussions on the speech wellness of any tongue. The local languages are perpetuated by these languages and educational models of communication which carry a lot of weight in shaping the language sphere. A sound and facilitative language policy could lead to sustainability and growth of local ethnolects preserving linguistic variety. Alternatively, a lack of attention, or even negative policies, can spark existential threats and cause a decline in

language use across generations. Hence, the political setting defines the language pathway of Baao and its tenacity over time.

Furthermore, according to Gregory, M., & Carroll, S. (2018), a person's style of speech is inherently dependent on the societal perspectives that exist in a particular setting. The language attitude forms the very basis for community identification in the complex environment of Baao. Accordingly, an extensive investigation should be conducted on Baao Rinconada from a linguistic perspective considering its sociocultural implications and varied uses in the respective setting. Andersen, P. B. (2014) claims that population movements and generational shifts can be determining factors for the survivability of a language and has provided an insightful perspective through which we could examine the dynamics of Baao's linguistic transformation. The crucible of Baao tries to examine the interplay between population dynamics and evolving social patterns, aiming to discern the nuanced processes influencing the transmission of Baao-Bikol Rinconada across generations. The endeavor seeks to identify both potential hindrances and windows of opportunity for the conservation of this linguistic heritage.

Kramsch, C. (2014) statement on how language and culture cannot be separated is indeed factual. Hence, it is important to carefully scrutinize the place that Baao Rinconada has assumed in the cultural mosaic. This looks at the various contributions of language in rituals, practices, and other forms of expression. The same question highlights that what is inherent about Baao Rinconada speaks much more than we can imagine. It also points out that even when languages change, cultures remain as they are.

In the context of Baao-Bikol Rinconada, language evolutions are pivotal in determining the linguistic vitality of this unique linguistic variant. The continuous evolution of Baao-Bikol Rinconada reflects its adaptability to changing cultural and societal dynamics within the community. As the language undergoes shifts in vocabulary, syntax, and linguistic norms, its ability to resonate with the contemporary context is enhanced, contributing to increased linguistic vitality. Therefore, the relationship between language evolutions and linguistic vitality in Baao-Bikol Rinconada underscores the importance of adaptability and integration within the evolving socio-cultural landscape for the language to thrive and persist across generations.

While many research papers and empirical journals have explored factors related to language vitality, this paper takes a unique approach by delving into a specific variant of the Bikol Rinconada language that has not been thoroughly examined by scholars. Instead of generalizing findings, the research narrows its focus to investigate the intricacies of linguistic vitality within this Baao-Bikol Rinconada, providing a distinctive contribution to the broader field of research on language preservation and evolution.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The following related literature and studies were comprehensively examined to understand the real score of linguistic vitality.

Language Revitalization

One of the top-priority issues in the sphere of linguistics is the problem of language restoration. This process occurs at an ever-increasing pace through the loss of languages all over the planet (Pan, L., 2015). The theory and empirical bases of the process of reversal from language shifts should be understood by scholars if successful revitalization activities are desired (Fishman, 2012). A seminal work by Cartledge (2012) offers an exhaustive introduction to language revitalization. The author outlines the complex problems associated with threatened tongues and offers suggestions on possible ways of regenerating them. Likewise,

Mirza, A. (2017) also addresses both theoretical and empirical aspects with emphasis on practical approaches aimed at supporting endangered languages.

Green Book of Language Revitalization in Practice, ed. By Hinton, and Hale (2013) is comprised of case studies offering practical insight into language revival activities around the world. Indeed, these authentic cases provide very instructive information on what it means to preserve a language in real life and some strategies that work well at community levels. With the works like that of Crystal (2002), on language death, this literature is greatly expanded as it is established to what extent the language is lost or ceased to exist. This calls for urgency in language preservation initiatives as there is a lot at stake culture-wise, and linguistically.

The language revival process is a complicated phenomenon comprising conscious activities aiming at restoring, preserving, and promoting dying tongues in a specific society (Meek, B. A., 2012). It transcends a linguistic concern, touching on other cultural, social and identity aspects of language use. In line with language revitalization lies the creation and application of educational mechanisms meant for formal and informal settings (Grenoble, L. A., & Whaley, L. J. (2005) as cited by Bird, S., 2020). These programs are among the most important ways of transferring linguistic and cultural information to the next generation for survival of a language.

Language revitalization also includes documentation and archiving of linguistic and cultural resources (Austin, P. K., & Sallabank, J., 2018). Recording oral traditions, listing vocabularies as well and maintaining cultural practices could assist in building up valuable information that would be useful towards restoring the lost history or may be used by younger generations as their source of reference. The success of language revitalization programs depends on community involvement (Olko, J., Wicherkiewicz, T., & Borges, R., 2016). The involvement of community members in decision-making processes, a feeling of belonging, and the creation of opportunities for vernacular use enhance the sustainability of such an undertaking. Bennett, B. P. (2017) asserts that language extinction has dire effects on the linguistic realm, and thus, preservation activities must be fast-paced. As a result, language revival is about more than just a language issue because it also involves safeguarding one-of-a-kind ethnic identities and passing on knowledge between the generations.

Factors Influencing Linguistic Vitality

The linguistic vitality that captures the general immunity or liveliness of a language is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that comprises a number of intertwined aspects. Demographics, including population size and distribution, determine the language environment. These conditions of concentrated linguistic communities are larger. This situation creates an ideal opportunity for inter-generational language transfer, which is necessary for building a strong language environment (Zou, C., 2022).

The impact that government policies have on linguistic vitality is accomplished through various means. Recognition, formal education policies, and support structures can make or break a language in society – politics (Edelman, M., 2013). The economy also plays its part by supporting languages that are closely linked to economic prospects. This results in an accumulation of speakers for that language as well as resources, thus reinforcing the vigor of that particular language (Crystal, D., 2003 as cited by Dörnyei, Z., & Ushioda, E., 2021).

The effect of globalization cannot be overlooked with regard to its effects on linguistic diversity. Increased globalization implies that certain major languages could displace the smaller indigenous lingualities and this represents a serious challenge to the notion of linguistic vitality (Ayomoto, B. O., 2019). As expected, other significant elements such as the educational system and the language of instruction emerge as critical aspects too. An analysis of supportive language policies within various educational frameworks suggests that an effective platform is provided for language use as well as communication purposes.

Other dimensions of language vitality include media & and technology. Meikle, G. (2016) states that the degree of usage and availability of media in a specific language is essential when it comes to visibility as well as transmittance in a community. Additionally, social values and prestige attached to the language are very important as well. Attitudes of positiveness, and perceived linguistic prestige facilitate language maintenance while negative perception might be fastening language's extinction (Lo Bianco, J., 2010).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The present study focused on the following research questions:

- 1. How do community dynamics influence the current status and characteristics of Baao-Bikol Rinconada?
- 2. What linguistic features contribute to the language vitality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada?

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a qualitative research design to uncover both the community dynamics as well as the linguistic features that contribute to the language vitality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada. The present undertaking has observed semi-structured interviews with five (5) native Baaoeños that are composed of a politician, an MTB-MLE teacher, a student, a senior citizen, and a parent-guardian. An in-depth semi-structured interview was used to gain rich data through open-ended questions. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted also by the researcher to achieve thick descriptions. Ethical considerations were properly observed through the confirmation of the participants to the distributed informed consent form. Details indicated in the ICF were discussed thoroughly by the researcher.

After the interview, the researcher transcribed and analyzed the transcripts thematically. Thematic analysis is a qualitative research method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) in data, usually written material such as interviews, surveys, transcripts, or a simple method and they are widely used in various fields such as social sciences, psychology, health, and humanities. Generated themes and codes were noted to discuss the findings of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This study determined the influence of community dynamics on the current status and characteristics of Baao-Bikol Rinconada. Likewise, this explored the linguistic features that contribute to the language vitality.

Influence of Community Dynamics on the Current Status and Characteristics of Baao-Bikol Rinconada

1.1 Political Factors

The characteristics and status of Baao-Bikol Rinconada are largely determined by political factors. Supportive government policies regulate the way in which the linguistic landscape looks and help keep a certain language alive.

As per the interview responses, natives tend to use a language that is in accordance with government policies and through the advocacy campaign of the Local Government Unit of the municipality.

Extract 1:

"...kung ano pinagboboot [language] ka gobyerno, syempre amo ta baga yan susundon."-24P2

"...ya a mother-tongue baga amo yan sinusunod nguwan lalo na pag elementary pa sana, kaya ngani a mga eskwela ta lalo na sa public schools, bikol rinconada a pinag gagamit na bibisaranon maski unong subject."-51P4

Translated Texts:

- "...what language is being implemented by the government, that's what we are going to follow."-24P2
- "...mother tongue is being implemented especially in elementary; that's why grade-schoolers especially those who are enrolled in the public schools are using Baao-Bikol Rinconada across various subjects." -51P4

The language within a community will be preserved really through the existing government policies not just in a particular locality but also in the entire country. **Edelman, M.** (2013) said that the impact that government policies have on linguistic vitality is accomplished through various means. Recognition, formal education policies, and support structures can make or break a language in society – politics. This entails that political agenda have been a strong support in language preservation and utilization.

Additionally, the interview process has revealed a noteworthy aspect that the Local Government Unit of Baao shows a strong stance on an advocacy campaign in reference to cultural and linguistic preservation. Further, this indicates an intentional and vigorous approach adopted by the local government as it seeks to protect and promote the uniqueness found in the Baao-Bikol Rinconada language.

Extract 2:

- "...kun narumruman mo, puon ku nakaula sinda sa posisyon, nag compose baga kin kanta na a ginamit Baao-Bikol Rinconada para ma-showcase a Kamuy-An Festival sadi Baao."-37P1
- "...isi mo dakulong prebelihiyo ta a LGU sige sige a pagkundusir kin mga aktibidad para maipabayad kun uno a Baao ag uno a bibisaranon ta sadi."-41P2

Translated Texts:

- "...if you can still remember, from the time that they [government officials] have been elected, they composed a song whereas Baao-Bikol Rinconada is used to showcase Kamu-An Festival in Baao."-37P1
- "...you know what, it's a great privilege that the LGU has been continuously conducting activities to show what's within Baao including its language."-41P2

Focusing on advocacy suggests an incorporative approach comprising education, community involvement programs, and integrated policy that aims to bring Baao-Bikol Rinconada to various levels of local life. Such an effort by local government units highlights their willingness to ensure that they support language vitality.

1.2 Social Factors

Social factors play an important part in outlining the vitality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada, showing different social situations that define language conservation. The attitudes prevailing in the community as to whether Baao-Bikol Rinconada should prevail are the key components in sustaining the language.

Extract 3:

- "...ako ngani su igin ko pirang taon ng uda sadi Baao ta nag-abroad para mag trabaho, pero diri pa nanggad nalilingawan a Baao-Bikol Rinconada. Maski nakikipag usip kanamo ag ka mga pinsan niya, diri man sigeng English..."-29P5
- "...dapat maging proud kita na amo di bibisaranon ta ta maski sari ika makaiyan, kumbaga pag marungog nanagba-Baao-Bikol Rinconada ika, madaling mabisto ag magaan sa pagmati..."-40P2

Translated Texts:

- "...my son who has been working for several years abroad in another country, still knows how to speak Baao-Bikol Rinconada even if he is conversing with us and with his cousins, he doesn't use English..."-29P5
- "...we should be proud that this is our language whenever we go because it's heart-fulfilling when you hear someone who speaks also the same language, it's a matter of identity...-40P2

A strong connection exists between language vitality and the communal feeling of identity and belongingness. Such communities that take pride in their language are more likely to use it and pass it on to posterity. Using empirical evidence gathered from personal interviews, the researcher sees that a tight social fabric including cohesive communities and commitment to language heritage strengthens Baao–Bikol Rinconada.

Lo Bianco, J., (2010) explains that social values and prestige attached to the language are very important as well. Attitudes of positiveness, and perceived linguistic prestige facilitate language maintenance while negative perception might be fastening language's extinction. Moreover, the social milieu becomes crucial in terms of motivations for language maintenance since it acts as an avenue through which intergenerational transmission of languages and cultural practices transpires. According to this academic discourse, social factors are meaningful not only indirectly but also because they frame the cultural ideal within which Baao-Balik Rinconada emerges as the manifestation or embodiment of a communal image.

1.3 Demographic Factors

Issues governing demographics are crucial in providing strength to Baao-Bikol Rinconada due to their impact on the linguistic cluster's spatial arrangement. A demographic concentration of speakers in a particular location develops one of the essential elements that form part of Baao-Bikol Rinconada and become an integral part of daily communication practices and cultural activities. Besides, it promotes inter-generational transmission and makes sense of an active and vital use of this language across all communal domains. The semi-structured interview conducted by the researcher revealed various opinions.

Extract 4:

- "...a ngamin kong kaklase taga Baao man sana, kaya pag nag uusip kami, Baao-Bikol Rinconada man nanggad a gamit namo, minsan sana man kami mag English pag nasa loog ka eskwelan o kaya bastang academic a pinag uusipan..."-33P3
- "A kadaklan na nakaistar sa Baao, tubong Baao man sana, marisa mo yan sa mga apelyido ta mga nagpupuon sa letter B..."-46P5
- "...kun a banwaan ka Baao masakop na kin mga taga ibang lugar, siguro diri na gad mapi-preserve a linggwahe, pero nasa kanato man sana kaya uyan..."-31P2

Translated Texts:

"...all of my classmates are also living here in Baao, that's why whenever we have a conversation, we use our local language. We often use English – it's just being observed whenever we are at school or have an academic conversation..."-33P3

"Most people who are residing in Baao are also natives – from birth up to present, it's obvious that whenever you see surnames, it all starts with letter B..."-46P5 "...if the municipality of Baao will be conquered by people coming from different places, there is a chance that language will no longer be preserved, but it depends upon us..."-31P2

In addition, living in close proximity ensures the transfer of language and other forms of cultural knowledge, such as oral history, storytelling, customs, and traditions, from elderly members of society to young people. They result in common cultural practices as well as shared communal spaces, which collectively, emphasize the importance of Baao-Bikol Rinconada to the community. Furthermore, **Zou**, **C.**, **(2022)** said that demographics, including population size and distribution, determine the language environment. These conditions of concentrated linguistic communities are larger. This situation creates an ideal opportunity for intergenerational language transfer, which is necessary for building a strong language environment.

Indeed, a population that concentrates demographically generates community backup for the language, which is perceived as a cultural indicator thereby creating an obligation to protect it from becoming extinct. Basically, demographic factors drive the resiliency of Baao-Bikol Rincodna in its cultural fabric, which is based on social dynamics and spatial arrangement of the linguistic society.

1.4 Cultural Factors

The researcher found cultural factors as one of the emerging themes through the interview process and in the thematic analysis conducted. It has been known that culture is the bloodstream of any other language in a certain locality, which animates and beats with time. However, culture extends beyond spoken words and pervades the pulsating essence of the community spirit. Baao-Bikol Rinconada goes beyond linguistic conventionalism becoming part of everyday routines, religious traditions, literature, and visual media representation.

Extract 5:

- "...sa panahon nguwan, kadakol ka mga nagluluwasan na mga contemporary folk songs..."-28P2
- "...mas magayon pag irunggon a mga kanta na gamit a Baao-Bikol Rinconada ta mas naiintindihan ka kadaklan..."-39P4
- "Adtong kanta sa Kamuy-An Festival, magayon adto ta Baao-Bikol Rinconada a ginamit na linggwahe..."-35P3

Translated Texts:

- "...in the present time, there are numerous contemporary folksongs arising..." 28P2
- "...it's better to hear songs that are un Baao-Bikol Rinconada because it will be understood by many..."-39P4
- "The composed song for Kamuy-An Festival is a pleasant one since Baao-Bikol Rinconada is being used as the language..." 35P3

As per the interview extracts, it has been recorded those contemporary songs, as part of literature, have been part of the advocacy for language preservation and utilization. **Finnegan** (2018) said that songs may sometimes function as a type of oral literature and thus help preserve

the linguistic features of a culture. It goes further and contends that songs not only capture the language of a community but also preserve the culture's identity, being linguistic time bombs that neutralize the corrosion effects exerted by globalization.

Furthermore, Baao-Bikol Rinconada remains strong and stalwart as an example of cultural perseverance in spite of all efforts to eradicate it. This linguistic vitality cannot be easily detached since religious traditions observed in the municipality of Baao have also a pivotal link to the Bikol Rinconada language.

Extract 6:

- "...maski pag Holy Week a kadaklan na ginagamit Bikol-Naga pero agko man mga bagong grupong debuto na pinagta-translate na sa Baao-Bikol Rinconada marig mas maintindihan..."-41P2
- "...kadto pirmi sanang Bikol-Naga a gamit pag nagmimisa, pero nguwan, agko naman mga padi na nag gagamit kin Baao-Bikol Rinconada."-28P1

Translated Texts:

- "...during Holy Week, most of the people use Bikol-Naga language but there are several groups of devotees who have started translating the language to Baao-Bikol Rinconada for it become more comprehensive..."-41P2
- "...before, religious mass observed the Bikol-Naga language but now, there are priests and religious leaders who speak and use the Baao-Bikol Rinconada language."-28P1

Indeed, the intricate interplay between culture and language in Baao-Bikol Rinconada unfolds as a compelling narrative of resilience and adaptation, as distinguished from the insights garnered during the interview process and subsequent thematic analysis. Religious traditions, literature, and visual media are significant in the vitality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada. These have been important in assuring that language doesn't just survive but continues to grow.

Linguistic Features that Contribute to the Language Vitality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada

2.1 Phonological Distinctiveness

Baao-Bikol Rinconada is a unique language that characterizes phonological expressions and patterns. In this context, the language exhibits specific phonetic elements, such as distinct vowels, consonants, and intonation patterns that distinguish it from other languages.

Extract 7:

- "...kun sa pinagkaiba man sana, kadakol kan. Sa Baao-Bikol Rinconada, agko sana kita tulong vowel sounds, amo yan na A, I, ag U..."-32P1
- "...kadakol nagsasabi na pag taga Baao a nagbibisara, laka risa ta malambing ag malumanay na magbisara..."-48P3

Translated Texts:

- "...if we are to look for the uniqueness, there are so many. In Baao-Bikol Rinconada, there are only three vowel sounds namely A, I, and U..."-32P1
- "...many people are saying that whenever Baaoeño is speaking, it can be easily recognized for its gentle and soft sound patterns..."-48P3

As per Choi, W., Tong, X., & Deacon, H. (2019), phonological distinctiveness is essential in metalinguistics. This plays a crucial role in contributing to the vitality of a language.

The unique sounds and pronunciation patterns set a language apart, fostering a sense of cultural identity and contributing to its overall resilience.

2.2 Lexical Uniqueness

This uniqueness in the lexicon underwrites the identity and individuality of Baao-Bikol Rinconada. It reflects the cultural, historical, and geographical aspects of the community. Lexical uniqueness is a testament to the language's ability to encapsulate the worldview and unique perspectives of its speakers.

Extract 8:

- "...sadi Baao, kadakol ka mga bibisaranon ag mga expressions na tubong Baao sana a makakaintindi..."-53P1
- "...lang muya ta a Baao-Bikol Rinconada, kadakol ka pwedeng gamiton na mga words, kumbaga dakol synonyms ta pag sinabi nganing kapay, sadi sana kanato luat, abno, luab-luab, tililing, ag iba pa..."-60P2
- "...sa mga expressions man, a expression na "gaurana!" uda nak an ibang nag gagamit, mga taga Baao sana..."-64P2
- "Usad pang narurumruman ko, a word na "suyan", bagana mga taga Baao sana a agko arog kan. Ibig sabiyun, a usad na tawo agko tinututuro..."-38P4

Translated Texts:

- "...in Baao, there are so many words that only natives can understand..."-53P1
- "...it's funny that in Baao-Bikol Rinconada, there are so many words that you can use to describe a thing synonyms. If someone is referring to a crazy person, he/she can say, "luat, abno, luab-luab, tililing, and others..."-60P2
- "...in terms of expressions, the expression, "guarana!", only Baaoeños are using that..."-64P2
- "Another thing that I can remember is the word, "suyan". Only natives of Baao use this to denote that he/she is pointing to a direction..."-38P4

It is noted that lexical uniqueness enhances communication within a certain community, fostering a sense of shared identity among speakers. It also plays a vital part in cultural preservation, ensuring that essential aspects of the community's way of life are precisely and uniquely articulated through language. **Haspelmath**, **M.** (2020) stated in his study that lexical uniqueness not only reflects cultural identity but also contributes to a language's adaptability, allowing it to evolve and incorporate new concepts over time.

Overall, lexical uniqueness in Baao-Bikol Rinconada adds a layer of cultural richness and specificity, making the language a unique and valuable expression of the community's linguistic and cultural heritage.

CONCLUSIONS

The study revealed that community dynamics have a complex impact on the state and features of the Baao-Bikol Rinconada language today, with important contributions coming from political, social, demographic, and cultural variables. Politically, the local government unit actively promotes cultural and linguistic preservation, and the language's features and status are closely linked to government policy. Socially, the community's pride and goodwill toward Baao-Bikol Rinconada emphasize the value of language in establishing identity and creating a sense of community, which supports the language's vitality. In terms of demographics, the concentration of speakers in one area and the proximity of communities together promote intergenerational language transmission, guaranteeing the language's

essential and active use. The adaptability of Baao-Bikol Rinconada in terms of culture is demonstrated by the way it has been incorporated into daily life, religious customs, literature, and visual media, all of which demonstrate the dynamic interplay between language and culture.

Additionally, the linguistic characteristics that support the viability of Baao-Bikol Rinconada are examined, with a special emphasis on lexical uniqueness and phonological originality. In addition to being essential for metalinguistics, phonological distinctiveness—which can be seen in the different sounds and pronunciation patterns—also plays a role in the resilience and cultural identity of a language. Lexical uniqueness gives Baao-Bikol Rinconada more cultural depth, individuality, and adaptability by containing a wide range of unique words and idioms. This lexical distinctiveness promotes clear communication, cultural preservation, and the language's ongoing applicability in a range of spheres of communal life. The study essentially highlights the complex interactions that exist between Baao-Bikol Rinconada's linguistic characteristics, community dynamics, and language viability. The language's persistence, adaptability, and continuous growth are collectively facilitated by the community's governmental backing, social cohesiveness, population concentration, and cultural integration. The results emphasize how crucial it is to take into account various community dynamics and linguistic characteristics in order to comprehend and support the survival of minority languages such as Baao-Bikol Rinconada.

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