

PAMANYÚNÛ NING KULITAN KING PÁMIBIÉBIÉ

Pushing the limits of Kulitan

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ABSTRACT

My mom writes in Kulitan. My dad writes in Kulitan. He uses them in his art works. My dad's friends write in Kulitan. My own friends write in Kulitan. My cousin on my mom's side writes in Kulitan. Even my younger brothers and sister write in Kulitan. I know how to read and write in Kulitan but I never tried to become a master in Kulitan, if indeed there is such a thing. I took Kulitan for granted because I was surrounded by people who can read and write them. Going out of my family's circle however, I realized that not everyone knows Kulitan. Kulitan is the Kapampangan script but not every Kapampangan can read and write in it nor are they even aware of its existence. Ever since I realized this, I knew I had to do something. As a Kapampangan, one must be grateful that we have our own way of writing and that every Kapampangan has a responsibility in treasuring it, preserving it, teaching it, spreading it and help in its development. Ever since I realized that, I knew that we have to push its boundaries. Kulitan must become a part of the daily life of every Kapampangan. The challenge however is how to make it relevant to our everyday lives and not just limited to tradition, rituals, emblems, signatures, tattoos and academic papers. The first step would be to educate others. We have always relied on "outsiders" to write about it, talk about it and teach it to others. They create instructional blogs and videos about them with all the glaring mistakes made by those who did not grow up writing them. We relied on them because they understand technology, live abroad and have all the time and resources to spend in making these instructional videos. However, many of them are Kapampangan expats who did not grow up in the culture or the language. I think it is about time that we, the "insiders" and members of the Ágúman Súlat Kapampangan, take the responsibility in teaching it to others by using the latest technology in film, animation, photography, graphic designs and the internet. This will be the struggle as many of us do not have the resources or exposure to such technology. My presentation will be a documentation on the use of technology in spreading Kulitan, especially the instructional video that the Ágúman Súlat Kapampangan is currently creating.