

Nueva Vizcaya's Topography: A Literary Ground for Ecocomposition

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Abstract-The Philippines is rich in stunning and breathtaking terrain, and Nueva Vizcaya is one of the provinces of the country gifted with superb scenic views that enthralls nature lovers and writers alike. Their awareness of the natural milieu surrounding the towns, as well as the encounter with these forms of nature, serve as a vehicle for the inception of writing songs. This research paper analyzed and interpreted how landscape or topography of Nueva Vizcaya pertaining to land, waters, trees, and mountains was woven into the composition of municipal hymns of the province. Further, this paper helps the readers gain a better knowledge and profound appreciation of literature and nature relationship. This is a qualitative research employing ecocomposition as an approach to writing by Sidney Dobrin and Christian Weisser, which is used in treating the topography of the province along topographical features, classifications, and the topographical encounter of the writers to show how location and other forms of nature participate as premises and sources of writing. This study will further utilize the qualitative approach particularly a phenomenological quality research to determine what topographical features and utilization inspire the writers to write their municipal hymns. Specifically, this study will adopt Merriam and Tisdell's basic qualitative design (2016). The basic qualitative study design is appropriate for this study because it allows for a broad discovery and take on the sources of inspiration of writers along hymn composition. Findings reveal that Nueva Vizcaya's topography became the composers' eco-poetic source of inspiration in writing the municipal hymns. They were able to link the topography in their composition as a way of igniting the love and appreciation of nature. This study will provide a take-off point for environmentally inspired writers to conduct similar studies as a baseline reference for the provincial and local government units of the province to exacerbate the need to consistently design and implement environmental programs or measures to conserve, restore, and further cultivate Nueva Vizcaya's prairies, valleys, mountains, forests, and waterbodies for even more productive human use.

Keywords: Nueva Vizcaya, Ecocomposition, Topography, municipal hymn

Introduction

In terms of interaction, people and the environment are mutual. The natural habitat is rich in resources that can be used to suit the needs of the residents. But people must be aware of the benefits they might gain from their surroundings. People should be resourceful and innovative enough to make use of what is available to them.

In literary studies, the relationship of literature and environment subjected to theoretical discourse is made possible. Glotfelty (1996) asserts that literature is sought and anticipated as a composite ecosystem, in which physical phenomena matter and theoretical ideas and discourses are engaged or related. This depicts anthropocene and environment as wide problematic ecocritical categories, as though literature is one foot and land being the other.

Nature's exquisiteness and wonder can help individuals feel less dreadful and pessimistic, especially when they are exhausted from the burdens and anxieties of society. The Philippines is rich in stunning and wonderful sceneries, that's why travelers from all over the world come to the country to see and enjoy its breathtaking vistas. Nueva Vizcaya is one of the provinces in the country with spectacular terrain and natural beauty that astonishes nature lovers and writers alike. The range of Nueva Vizcaya's agricultural municipalities set from the southern to northern portion of the province and the natural backdrop and agri-industrial depiction could elucidate why the researcher found Ecocomposition suited in digesting and tracing how environment and literature have impeccable blend

into the municipal hymns of the province. Nueva Vizcaya is brimming with talented writers. Some of them are inspired to write about nature like the municipal hymns that were already being sung in each town of Nueva Vizcaya. With this, the people are made aware that EcoComposition and metaphors are two salient strengths of their writing. Furthermore, there are researches conducted in Nueva Vizcaya and about the province itself and its people but nothing was conducted about the municipal hymns composed by Novo-Vizcayano writers which made this study the first of its kind in the province. The beauty of the composition with the words of nature and topography woven into the lyrics and their classifications that give adoration to the physical landscape of Nueva Vizcaya are not given much heed and appreciation by the people, who had been singing the said hymns in schools, offices, and in the conduct of official programs. It is sad to note that the community simply sing the hymns without digesting the messages in them. With these, the researcher wishes to raise local, national and global awareness that Nueva Vizcaya is also a home of capable and nature-inspired song writers.

This research looked at how the topography of Nueva Vizcaya played a role in EcoComposition by analyzing how it acts as premise and writing source. The goal of this research is to gain a better knowledge and profound appreciation of literature and nature relationship. This paved the way for the reading public to become aware of the natural milieu surrounding the towns, as well as their classifications and people's use of these forms of nature, which could serve as a vehicle for the inception of song writing. Furthermore, this is a means of revealing the EcoComposition's role in the inscription and construal of the identified songs of the province. Specifically, this study investigated how the topography of Nueva Vizcaya was woven into the composition of the municipal hymns pertaining to land, waters, trees, and mountains. This research was limited only to Nueva Vizcaya's municipal hymns. Musical analysis was not included. Likewise, tradition and culture were not intensively carried out.

Methodology

This is a qualitative research employing EcoComposition by Sidney Dobrin and Christian Weisser. EcoComposition, according to Weisser and Dobrin (2001), scrutinizes present styles used in universities to more ecologically sound works. It investigates the intersection between discourse studies and eco-studies as composition research. Possible pedagogies are also offered for the composition classroom, which has never been addressed before in much intensity or detail. Composition studies scholarship, research, and knowledge creation have recently begun to rethink academic boundaries by offering more comprehensive, contextual, and beneficial approaches to investigate the world of discourse. Simultaneously, one of the slow-moving but critical trends in American colleges has been the convergence of environmental and ecological studies across the academic spectrum. While theoretical and pedagogical studies in a wide range of disciplines have made substantial progress in connecting information from the sciences and the humanities, composition and rhetoric's interdisciplinary focus has been limited to cognitive psychology for the most part. Some of the most prominent and important works in composition have drawn on works in history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, literary criticism, and other humanities fields, but compositionists have only recently begun to delve deeply into scientific knowledge to enrich their own work.

Hearing from a variety of experts from a range of areas is critical to EcoComposition scholarship in the spirit of biodiversity. EcoComposition must be a biologically diverse field. Composition, according to Dobrin, is an ecological endeavor. He claims that EcoComposition "is the investigation of the total relations of discourse both to its organic and inorganic environment and the study of all of the complex interrelationships between the human activity of writing and all of the conditions of the struggle for existence," based on traditional definitions of ecology. He explains why EcoComposition is important for composition studies, expanding on the idea that composition is already ecological and that "writing and rhetoric cannot be detached from place, from environment, from nature, from location".

Weisser and Dobrin (2001) assert that Ecomposition must be a bio-diverse discipline. Dobrin contends that composition is an ecological pursuit and for him, Ecomposition is the investigation of the total relations of discourse both to its organic and inorganic environment and the study of all of the complex interrelationships between the human activity of writing and all of the conditions of the struggle for existence.

Weisser (2014) avers that our social relations and the physical places where we live affect us and our writing methods. However, while the idea of language continues to be pursued as a human-centered event or affair, little has been accomplished or done in bringing it into the theory of composition, despite the fact that some scholars have begun to awaken to this idea. Weisser proposes a brief history of composition and rhetoric to argue that we must thoroughly investigate and evaluate our own identities, the relationships we have in our discourse, and non-human nature in order to have a better understanding of ourselves.

Through Ecomposition, as noted by Lane (2019), the relation of the environment, be it natural, constructed, or imagined places, and the discourse such as thinking, speaking, and writing, is being studied. Ecomposition aims to provide a more complete framework for studying the relationship between environment and discourse.

Dobrin (2001) coined the phrase "writing takes place," implying that the act of writing and the location in which it occurred are inextricably linked. Dobrin argues that the place of writing has an effect on the type of writing produced. Location affects the writers on their kind of writing.

This study will further utilize the qualitative approach particularly a phenomenological quality research to determine what topographical features and utilization inspire the writers to write their municipal hymns. Specifically, this study will adopt Merriam and Tisdell's basic qualitative design (2016). The basic qualitative study design is appropriate for this study because it allows for a broad discovery and take on the sources of inspiration of writers along hymn composition.

The Nueva Vizcaya's municipal hymns were analyzed and interpreted in this study. The researcher followed a process influenced by the concept of Ecomposition of Dobrin and Weisser.

Municipal Hymn is an ode expressing a praise or adoration of a town, where the hymn is intended to be sang. Lyric is a composition adopted to singing. Music is the art or science of harmonic sounds, melody, musical score of a composition (Municipality of Maribojoc, Bohol, Municipal Ordinance No. 34 Series of 2001).

The municipal hymns to be decoded were first chosen by the researcher. They were selected based on their accessibility and suitability of reference resources. The hymns were identified according to the location of each municipality as to upland and lowland. Lowland municipal hymns are inspired by land and water, while upland municipal hymns by trees and mountains. Ecomposition was applied to the hymns by tracing out how they were composed and what triggered the writers to write about their province in their eco-poems. It was drawn how the abundance of water, the vastness and fertility of land, the robustness of trees, and the productivity and usefulness of the mountains in the province.

The sources of primary data were from the composers themselves through personal and online interviews with the composers who are still alive and family members for the deceased composers.

Results And Discussion

Using Ecomposition, the municipal hymns of Nueva Vizcaya were examined and analyzed. The summary of interpretation is shown in a tabular presentation.

The provincial hymn and the municipal hymns of the Nueva Vizcaya show the residents' pride and affection for their ecosystem, as well as their appreciation of their natural gifts. They present rich descriptions of the wide variety of landscapes and topographical forms that exist in each town, how they influence people who encounter their existence and beauty, and how much they help them in their everyday living, survival, and advancement. They also serve as a source of inspiration for the inhabitants of Nueva Vizcaya, as the lyrics demonstrate.

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complex interrelationships between the human activity of writing and all of the conditions of the struggle for existence.

Table 1 presents how the topography of Nueva Vizcaya was woven into the composition of the municipal hymns and provincial hymn pertaining to land, water, trees, and mountains, classification, and the lyricist's topographical encounter.

Table 1. The topography of Nueva Vizcaya, classification, and topographical encounter as woven into the composition of the municipal hymns.

MUNICIPAL HYMNS	Topography	Classification	Topographical Encounter
1. <i>Vizcaya Hymn</i> (Provincial Hymn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain Land Water Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sierra Madre mountain range valleys hills rolling plains fields winding Magat river Salinas spring teeming trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-association with nature Protector of the environment Shield from typhoons Gastronomic experience/nature as a food provider Stress relieving encounter with nature Feeling of excitement
<i>Alfonso Castañeda March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain Land Water Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> green hill mountains fertile soil treasure land beauty spots Delactan falls Orient sea power plant transbasin dam green hill mountains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sight and enjoyment of magnificent landscape of valleys and mountains Opportunity to have brought the people closer to nature Enjoying picnics and get together for free Stress relieving gifts of nature Environment/nature as a food and shelter provider
3. <i>Aritao March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain Land Water Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mountains fields rivers forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-association with nature Protector of the environment Source of food and income Shield from typhoons Source of irrigation to rice fields
<i>Bagabag We Love Thee</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain Land Water Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Mountains/ Mountain Ranges Valleys Plains Farms Soil Golden fruits Land Rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lot of natural resources as nature's gift (Fish laden rivers, creeks, and ponds, golden fruits) Beautiful views to enjoy Fresh air enjoyment Lovely and treasured hometown Home for everyone Peaceful, hardworking sons and daughters Protector and Care for nature Give Soil and wealth for toil

<i>Beloved Bayombong</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Mountain • Forest/ Trees • Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Verdant rice fields • Verdant mountains • Bangan Hill • Banging Falls • Magat deep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blest with nature depicting its people • Beautiful views and fresh air • Lovely place • Commune with nature (hiking, visiting ecotourism spots, etc.) • Being around all nature makes work challenging, but very much satisfying • Playground, hiking, swimming site at Banging Falls • Site of the Stations of the Cross every Good Friday (Bangan Hill) • Fun walks during school breaks along the long rice fields • Mountains and hills serve as protection from typhoons
<i>Diadi March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain • Water • Land • Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountains • Palali Range • Magat River • Fresh water • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abundant and magnificent environment • town surrounded with mountains which provide protection from typhoons • Tall trees • Fresh air and Clear water
<i>7. Dupax del Norte Hymn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Water • Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Farm • Rice Field • Rivers • Streams • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastronomic experience/land and water as food providers • Stress reliever • Excitement due to Sea of Clouds formation • Sight & walk at vast rice fields
<i>Dupax del Sur Hymn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Water • Mountain • Forest/ Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Plains • River • Watershed • Mountain • Forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture of a beautiful house or “beveyoy” full of diverse people living in harmony with God, with the environment, and with one another • Humble and cheerful heart; Strong spirit and good will • Enjoyed the vastness of land and water as food provider
<i>9. Kayapa Hymn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain • Land • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Ridges • Hills • Flowers • Towering Pine trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home of loving people • Gifts so ample/seeing nature as sources of food and livelihood • Enjoying the Summer Capital of the province • Solace home • Sweet and fresh smell of pine trees • Feeling of Cool breeze
<i>10. Quezon March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Trees • Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • corn plantation and rice fields • fruit trees and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in a friendly and superb environment • Clean and clear water (river) • Felt unity of people (fisher folks, farmers,

		vegetation rivers falls Mapalyao Lintungan waterfalls	and professionals, students) • Gastronomic experience/Nature's gifts as sources of food • Sight of rich harvests of vast corn and <i>palay</i> • Enjoyment of fruitful trees and abundant vegetation • Awareness to a place rich in minerals
1. <i>Solano March</i>	• Mountain • Water • Forest/ Trees • Land	hills and valley mountain creeks Magat river Waterfalls watershed forest trees plain fields lovers' lawn	• Best of Vizcaya • Shining trees and breeze • Beautiful town of dreams/wonderful spots • Scene for lovers' lawn • Plains and fields as source of food/livelihood • Contentment of joy/love of town/cheerful hearts
2. <i>Santa Fe Hymn</i>	• Mountain • Water • Forest • Land	• Caraballo Mountain • Sierra Mountain • Watershed • Imugan Falls • Forest Park • Balete Pass	• Living in an environment nest/magnificent and historic views, her everyday sight while going to work • Passing through the Gateway to Cagayan Valley Region • Living with united people in the preservation of natural resources
13. <i>Villaverde Hymn</i>	• Mountain • Water • Land • Forest/ Trees	• Sierra Madre and Cordillera Mountains • Pond • Nagbitin Falls • Rice fields • Forest trees and fruit-bearing trees	• Relaxing place to live in • Surroundings full of energy • Stress-free environment • Encounter with greenery and rice fields as food provider • Awareness that the presence of breathtaking hills can be beneficial to those with asthma and with breathing issues • Enjoyment of fresh air, peaceful and relaxed mind • Perfect place to live in as protected by the mountains from gustiness of winds/typhoons • Municipality full of natural resources • enjoyment from a peaceful and organized place

The *Vizcaya Hymn*, originally *Vizcaya Home*, was composed by Mr. Jaime Dela Cruz Macadangdang. He also provided the music for the song. He was then a resident of 122 Binacao Street, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya when he composed the hymn. Later, he composed the *Vizcaya Hymn* in 1953. His opportunity of composing the *Vizcaya Hymn* came during a song writing competition among composers for the provincial hymn of Nueva Vizcaya in 1953 in which he won with his winning piece, *Vizcaya Home*. One of the judges in the said competition was the famous Jose Palma who at the

same time after the competition helped in arranging further the Provincial Hymn. Jose Palma also declared that Mr. Jaime Macadangdang is the only native provincial hymn composer of his own province in the entire region.

According to Mr. Jessie Macadangdang (2022), one of the sons of Mr. Jaime Macadangdang and an employee in the Local Government Unit of Solano, awareness on nature's gifts, and love to his family and hometown inspired his father to compose the Vizcaya Home and to join with fervor the provincial competition on provincial hymn writing.

In the *Vizcaya Hymn*, the environment is evident. The topography of the province is manifested. The valleys, plains, hills, fields, trees, ranges, rivers, and springs are obviously mentioned. This implies that the place is endowed with natural resources, which every resident should be proud of. Apart from that, the people are cheerful, peace loving, humble, contented, loyal, true, and hardworking as depicted in the hymn. The composer was ignited by the spark of superb topography of the province, which became his source of inspiration in writing the said hymn.

According to Mr. Jessie M. Macadangdang (2022), the composer saw that Nueva Vizcaya is gifted with the existing vastness of land, water, trees and mountains, particularly valley, fields, rolling plains, hills, teeming trees, Sierra Range, Magat River, Salinas Spring. One of the criteria set by the judges in the provincial hymn writing contest held in 1953 was the inclusion of what are seen or found in Nueva Vizcaya, thus, the composer included topographical features such as valley where there's peace and happiness, where people praise the country's noble sires; lies the rolling plains and hills so blest, where everyone enjoys the toiler's share; the fields with all the golden grains; the teeming trees crowning the Sierra Madre Range; and winding Magat and Salinas Spring because these are evidently seen in the province as in the lines:

In a valley where there's peace and happiness
Where people praise the country's noble sires
Lies the rolling plains and hills so blest
There, everyone enjoys the toiler's share
Behold the fields with all the golden grains
The teeming trees crowning the Sierra Madre range
Winding Magat and Salinas Spring
That is our Vizcaya home.
We sons and daughters of Vizcaya
Shall forever be noble and free
Dedicate our lives for Vizcaya
Loyal we shall ever be.
We love thy banner O Vizcaya
We give thee all our heart and hands
All together we sing the splendor of our land
Of our beloved Vizcaya.

The composer, being a native resident of Solano, Nueva Vizcaya had a first-hand and stress relieving experience and exciting encounter with all the natures gifts to the town. Furthermore, he emphasized his gastronomic experience as manifested in cooking and feasting with freshly and vastly harvested vegetables and other crops from the plains and ricefields. He gratefully added that the he felt protected in his place as he considered the Sierra Madre range as a shield or protector of people and environment from typhoons.

The *Alfonso Castañeda March* was composed by Ms. Rose Buras Nadiahan. The municipality of Alfonso Castañeda implemented the SB Resolution No. 160 Series of 2011, adopting the *Alfonso Castañeda March*. In the composition of the hymn, the composer describes the natural and artificial beauty of its nature (waterfalls, rivers, dams, parks). The hymn emphasizes the richness of the municipality in terms of natural resources as the composer mentioned in the topographical classifications such as fertile soil, treasure land, beauty spots, Delactan Falls, Power Plant,

Transbasin Dam, and green hills and mountains. The hymn depicts abundance and beauty of nature that astounds the composer to write as she mentioned the Orient Sea, birthplace of glorious day, lies a lovely Eden Town; fertile soil, where food grows, blessed by heavenly grace above; treasure land in every way; beauty spots that you can see, the Delactan Falls in Galintuja, Power Plant in Casecnan, Transbasin Dam, green hill and mountains, land of blessing from above. This implies that the municipality is truly blessed with God's gifts of natural resources as presented in these lines:

'Mid the sunny Orient Sea
Birthplace of the glorious day
Lies a lovely Eden Town
Alfonso Castañeda on March
Gentle serving people go
With their hearts abounding in Love
This fertile soil our food we grow
Blessed by heavenly grace above
Treasure land in every way
Beauty spots that you can see
Delactan Falls in Galintuja
Power Plant that is in Casecnan
Transbasin Dam, green hill and mountains
Land of blessing from above

The *Aritao March* is the municipal hymn of Aritao. The lyricist or composer is Mr. Pablo Whigan, a resident of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya. The hymn is just short but meaningful, especially to the residents of the town. The composer really loves this town as he describes how dear or lovely the place is as it is surrounded with nature's beauty. The composer beheld Aritao as a lovely town way up in the south; the topographical forms embodied in the lyrics are mountains, rivers, forests, fields around being enjoyed by the peaceful loving, humble, free and contented people; and loyal and true sons and daughters of Aritao. The composer has also seen the people dwelling in the place and that they must be proud of as evident in the lines:

Lovely town way up here in the south
Aritao so dear to me;

Mountains, rivers, forests, fields around
Aritao for you and me.

Peaceful loving people, humble, free
contented shall ever be.

Thy sons and daughters shall be
always loyal and true to thee.

Ms. Maria Luisa C. Pallanan composed the *Bagabag We Love Thee*, the municipal hymn of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya. She conceptualized the lyrics and music for the hymn. She was also the arranger and translator of the hymn in other languages like Iluko and Gaddang but the original version she wrote was in English. In the hymn, Bagabag was also mentioned as a lovely hometown, where the green mountains lie, and at the foot of mountain ranges lie the valleys, rivers, plains and farms. On the plains farms and valleys are the homes of everyone. Cheerful people, peaceful loving, and hardworking sons and daughters live in this town. The composer showed dedication, honor, and care to the town as treasure, which gives soil and wealth for toil, golden fruits on mountains and farms, fish laden rivers, creeks, and ponds through protecting the natural resources and faithfully serving the

town. Diverse people and different races are living in unity in this town. The composer was very much fascinated with the environment, which made her compose the hymn like the green mountain ranges, which lie the valleys, rivers, creeks, ponds, plains, and farms as presented in lines:

Bagabag our lovely hometown
Where the green mountains lie,
At the foot of mountain ranges
Lie the valleys, rivers, plains and farms.

And on the plains farms and valleys
Are the homes of everyone
Cheerful people, peaceful loving
Hardworking sons and daughters of this town.

We love thee our treasured hometown
You give us soil and wealth for toil
Golden fruits on mountains and farms
Fish laden rivers, creeks, and ponds.

Beloved Bayombong, the municipal hymn of Bayombong, was composed and arranged by Mr. Chardin Joseph Leopoldo V. Saquing II of Barangay Salvacion, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. He was 27 years old and a student when he composed the hymn. According to Mr. Saquing (2022), it is the dream of every musically-inclined person to contribute something for the benefit of the community he belongs to. Having known that Bayombong did not have any official nor recognized town hymn, he intended to compose one that would reflect how one, who has lived most of his life in the town would use his talent and skill to promote pride and evoke a sense of ownership and/or stewardship of the town he calls his own; and how such pride and ownership/stewardship could be perpetuated in words and music. From here, "Beloved Bayombong" was penned. As mentioned in the hymn by the composer, the municipality is blest with nature depicting its people, sons and daughters of Bayombong. The town, with its people, is also verdant like the rice fields and mountains, with high spirits like the Bangan Hill, united like the waters of Banging falls, and enduring like the Magat deep. With the nature's gift the residents are keeping their fathers' land, their native land humble, noble, and free, while imploring peace and unity, and remaining proud and loyal to their town as evident in lines:

Beloved land of Bayombong
Peace and unity reside
Blest with nature depicting its people
Sons and daughters of Bayombong

Verdant like the rice fields and mountains
With high spirits like the Bangal Hill
United like the waters of Banging Falls
Enduring like the Magat deep

God bless our fathers' land, our native land
Keep it humble, noble, and free
Peace and unity we implore
As we sing our song to thee

God bless our fathers' land, our native land
We remain proud, loyal, and free
Peace and unity we implore

As we sing our song to thee.

Diadi March is the municipal hymn of Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya. Its original lyrics were composed by Ms. Lolita “Lolit/Lita” Sarsate Vicente Torres, music by Mila Gayugay, and transcribed by Jocelyn M. Labasan. Her awareness on some environmental endowments, gifts of nature found in the municipality of Diadi together with the tradition and sources of livelihood of people inspired her greatly to write the *Diadi March*. In the hymn, the composer expressed her astonishment to the abundance and magnificence of the environment surrounding the town of Diadi. For her, you could see and experience green mountains, tall trees, fresh air and clear water due to clean environment apart from united, loving, and faithful residents as presented in lines:

Bayang Diadi ikaw ang aming hinahangaan
Sagana sa kagandahan at kalikasan
Napalibutan ka ng kabundukan
Palamuti punongkahoy naglalakihan
Sariwang hangin at malinaw na katubigan
Dulot ng malinis na kapaligiran

Dupax del Norte Hymn was composed by Dr. Romeo “Romy” Julian Yarcia (lyricist), music by Dr. Benjamin Garnace Lodriguito. Dr. Yarcia lives at Manzano Street, Roxas, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya and this was the same address where he composed the hymn in 1996. In the hymn, the composer mentioned vast rice fields/farms. According to Dr. Romeo J. Yarcia (2022), the composer himself, the land of Dupax del Norte was utilized by the people for farming and the wide arrays of rice fields in Dupax del Norte produced abundant yields every cropping. Some areas were also used for poultry raising and livestock production. The mountains in Dupax del Norte were used for planting fruits and vegetables like chayote, camote, beans to name a few. The town gives gastronomic experience and the scenic views could be a stress reliever and offers excitement due to Sea of Clouds formation. They adore the town as it is the answer thru their quest to satisfy their knowledge thirst, lead their way with strong spirit and goodwill. As on their part, their dedication, good service talents, and wisdom with humble and cheerful heart would lead to country’s progress as in the lines:

Dupax del Norte we adore
We love you ever more
You’re the answer thru our quest
To satisfy our knowledge thirst

Lead us along our way
Strong spirit and good will
Rest assured we’ll do our part
We a humble, the cheerful heart

Dupax del Norte, the land we love
We dedicate our youthful strength
Prepare ourselves for the good service
Leading our country to progress

Master our courage to pursue
With God’s support we will go through
Hoping our wishes and dreams come true.

Mr. Abraham “Abe” Lajay Reyes composed the *Dupax del Sur Hymn*. According to Mr. Reyes (2022), he also provided the music for the lyrics of his own composition. He lives at Purok Lin-awa, Barangay

Dopaj, Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya and this was his same address where he composed the hymn. He was then the Indigenous Peoples' Mandatory Representative (IPMR) to the Sangguniang Bayan of LGU Dupax del Sur when he composed the *Dupax del Sur Hymn* in 2016. Majority of the people in Dupax del Sur are Isinai. Hence, the hymn was originally written by the composer in Isinai language as he himself is a native Isinai. However, he also translated the lyrics into Ilocano to be understood by all the people in the province of Nueva Vizcaya. When asked about the writer's milieu and what influenced him to compose the said hymn, he said, "I was a musician; usually, I can vocalize songs and I know exactly how to write the notes. According to the composer, he was delighted seeing the beautiful sceneries in Dupax del Sur that made him write about them. The topographical features implied in the lyrics of the hymn are land, mountains, river, streams, farms, and trees, which obviously exist in the municipality because the phrase "maserot podda" as used in the lyrics of the hymn is a superlative for the very beautiful town of Dupax del Sur. It is also a general phrase for appreciation of all that are seen in Dupax del Sur, including natural endowments. According to him, the land was utilized by the people for planting *palay* (rice) and vegetables. The vast rice fields in Dupax del Sur produced abundant harvests every cropping. The rivers, streams, and the local *aripit* (a local Iluko term for pathway of irrigation to inner rice fields) serve as sources of food like fish, *bennek* (local edible small fresh water mollusk of Ilocanos), *kuskusileng* (local edible small fresh water mollusk among Ilocanos), *agurong* (local edible river snail of Ilocanos), *bunog* (a local variety of spiny-finned fish of the Ilocanos) and adequate irrigation to crops in the rice fields for productive yields. The mountains in the town were used for planting fruit-bearing and timber trees, and vegetables. The natural giftedness of Dupax del Sur ensures the people of stable sources of food and livelihood.

The *Kayapa Hymn*, the municipal hymn of Kayapa, was composed by Dr. Onofre M. Molina with music by Ms. Lerma M. Maguslog, and arranged by Hazan C. Daniel. Dr. Onofre is from Pampang, Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya. Environment is also manifested in *Kayapa Hymn* like the mountains that show the inhabitants forefathers' culture and peace, the flowers, the pine breeze, and the hills. This implies that the town is also gifted with the superb beauty of nature. According to Dr. Molina (2021), the town is a mountainous place. The phrase "gifts so ample" is the sense that Kayapa is rich in natural resources, like forest trees, abundant water, productive soil, and above all loving people. As the "Summer Capital of Nueva Vizcaya," it has a cool climate and fresh smell of pine trees. It is his loyalty, respect, and desire to give inspiration to Kayapanians to love and live the values through their folks. It has developed in him the virtues like being loyal, being proud, and the devotion to live by the hymns. Mountain ridges, their unique landscape, height and terrain; flowers; the place is a place-producer of quality cut flowers that symbolize hope, joy and love. Pine trees symbolize strength and love to nature and become the sources of clean air, water and shelter. Some places in the town can be reached by traversing their hilly and high mountains. The mountain ridges signify the virtue of patience, strong heart and mind. Flowers are a symbol of hope, joy, and inspiration among the people of Kayapa. His personal experience equated to mountain ridges, that is being a strong and hopeful person, feeling of pride and humor at the same time lucky, for all the precious gifts, the blessings as expressed in lines:

Oh! Dear Kayapa the place we love
 Forever be faithful, true and proud
 By actions and honor we'll laud
 As we hope blessings from heaven above

Kayapa, the home of loving people
 We thank thee for the gifts so ample
 We will always treasure and cherish
 For your glory Kayapa our home so dear

Onward together Kayapa
 Our gratefulness, adorations rise

As the mountain ridges hail and praise
That show our forefathers' culture and peace

United we will proudly proclaim
The Summer Capital of Vizcaya
The flowers, pine breeze and hills
Kayapa will always be solace home for us

Quezon March, the municipal hymn of Quezon, was composed by Mr. Elmar U. Balallo (deceased/ March 24, 2018) of Caliat Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya, music and vocal rendition by Ms. Cecille Deloverjes-Manangkil, and actions executed by Ms. Chona S. Sabado and Benedict Dulay. Mr. Balallo was 47 years old when he composed the hymn on February 22, 2016. It was livelihood that is related to agriculture and nature which influenced the writer to include the topographical features of the town into the lyrics of the hymn. The composer sees how blessed with stunning and wonderful milieus the town has as mentioned in the hymn to include friendly and superb environment, diverse culture, clean and clear water, particularly in rivers, unity of people (fisher folks, farmers, professionals, students), vast corn and rice fields, fruitful trees and abundant vegetation, and rich minerals as evident in lines:

Sa ganda ng iyong kalikasan
Ang lahat ay namamangha
Dalisay na tubig sa Mapalyao at Lintungan
Biyaya para sa ating kapakanan

Himig ng pagbubunyi
Bayan ng Quezon ating itanyag
Magsasaka't mangingisda, manggagawa at propesyonal
Mga kabataang mag-aaral
Sama-sama nating isisigaw
Mabuhay ka Quezon aming bayan

Malinis na ilog angadanan
Daloy nito ay ginhawa't biyaya
Sa malawak na maisan at berdeng palayan
Sa mabungang puno at malagong gulayan

Sa maunlad na gawing Silangan
May likas na yamang mineral
Gintong taglay nito tunay na pakinabang
Ito'y ating kayamanan

Environment is also manifested in the *Solano March*. The people are contented with the place they live in. They call it the beautiful town and wonderful spot of their dreams. The municipality is described by the composer as the "beautiful town of dreams," where the scene for lovers' lawn is set. This implies that the town is also blessed with the richness of nature's exquisiteness, where wonderful spots are seen. The trees and the breeze keep on shining with the moon; the scene for lovers' lawn. Solanoans as lovers of peace are with contentment of joy and cheerful hearts all the time. For Mr. Jessie M. Macadangdang, one of the sons of Mr. Jaime Dela Cruz Macadangdang, the composer, farm life defines the personal experiences and encounters of the composer with the topographical features of the province. The composer owned rice fields and raised his family from the yields of their farm. Water from the Magat River was feeding their rice fields with irrigation so that abundant harvests were ensured. There was also a tale told that in Bascaran, Solano, there's a hill and the young Mr. Jaime Macadangdang spent some years of his childhood gathering firewood to sell for his allowance

in school. His exposure to these forms of natural environment influenced him in his composition as presented in lines:

The best of Vizcaya is the town of Solano
 The trees and the breeze keep on shining with the moon
 Beautiful town of our dreams
 Set the scene for lovers' lawn
 Solanoans lovers of peace
 Are with contentment of joy and joy

We all love our town
 As the rest do love their own
 Our hearts all the time are with cheers and with a song
 Wonderful spot of our dreams
 Is what we want to be known
 Keep on shining and progressing
 O' our town of SOLANO.

Santa Fe Hymn with its original title "Himno ng Santa Fe" is the municipal hymn of Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, composed in December 2012 by Ms. Marites Malabuet Villamor, a native-born of Santa Fe, particularly of Sinapoan, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya and musically notated by Ms. Marylinda C. Ramos. Ms. Villamor also emphasized that her love and loyalty to her hometown, and the beautiful topographical features of Santa Fe inspired her to conceptualize the lyrics of *Himno ng Santa Fe*. The superb beauty of the place astounds the composer, the people, the travelers and tourists visiting the area. The hymn reflects how truly amazing the place is. The perfection of the place given to the people, its land, mountains, forests, freshness and coolness of the air, etc. made the town justly astounding. According to the composer, she was inspired by the presence of fertile land, abundant water in natural falls and river, green mountains, robust trees in the forests, and specific beautiful gifts of nature to Santa Fe. Another nature's gift to the people of Santa Fe is the "hanging amihan" (cold breeze from the Northeast monsoon) that while the other municipalities are experiencing hot season, the residents of the town are still enjoying the cool breeze because the municipality is surrounded by robust trees and it was situated on a highly elevated area. Santa Fe is considered "pugad ng kalikasan" (nest of nature) because obviously, it has rich natural resources. The town is also called "Gateway ng Cagayan Valley" because when people visit Region 2 or Cagayan Valley Region, it is then the first town for entry as evident by its landmark or welcoming mural "Welcome to Cagayan Valley". Moreover, Ms. Villamor states that most of the lines of the song observe rhymes, for example, in lines:

Santa Fe ang aming bayan
 Pugad ng kalikasan

Balete Pass na makasaysayan
 Forest Park at Falls sa Imugan
 Mayabong na kagubatan
 Hatid ay hanging amihan

However, there are lines that do not exactly rhyme (considering the message), for instance, in lines:

Taglay nitong kagandahan
 Biyayang handog ng Maykapal

Bayan naming Santa Fe
Gateway to Cagayan Valley

Villaverde Hymn is the municipal hymn of Villaverde. Mr. Napoleon Gismundo Velasco of Villaverde composed the song and Mr. Karl Steven Maddela arranged it. According to Dr. Araceli Velasco-Domagas, Vice-President for Administration and Finance, Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) and one of the daughters of the great writer and musician, Napoleon Gismundo Velasco (2022), as per narration of Mr. Velasco (her father, the composer) to her when he was still alive, he has woven the topography of Villaverde into his composition by including into the lyrics the mountains of Sierra Madre and Cordillera, and the vastness and richness of rice fields in Villaverde which prove the hard work and industry of the people in the municipality. The place is so relaxing as you could experience peaceful and relaxed mind, full of energy, with stress-free environment, with greenery rice fields, breathtaking hills that can be beneficial to those with asthma and with breathing issues due to fresh air, a perfect place to live in with people who trust in God and a peaceful and organize place. The Sierra Madre Mountain Range serves as the background of the municipality of Villaverde. If one goes to Villaverde, he can also see the Cordillera Range located at the right side of Villaverde. The physical grandeur and abundance of rice fields are mentioned in the hymn because farming is the main source of livelihood in Villaverde. The municipality has vast areas for agricultural crops. The existence of falls, which water goes down the river and streams, plays a vital role into the lives of the residents as the falls serves as source of irrigation to the rice fields and drinking water as well. The greenery rice fields and the breathtaking hills that can be found everywhere can be beneficial to those with asthma and with breathing issues. The lyricist of the Villaverde Hymn loves nature. He always wants to commune with nature. He usually goes up the mountains to collect wild plants and wildlife. The lyricist taught science and arts and he got samples for his classes from the mountains, rice fields and bodies of water within in the municipality. His exposure to these forms of nature influenced his writings as evident in this part of the hymn:

Sa mga kabundukan ng Sierra't Cordillera
Ay ang bayan kong Villaverde
Puno ng ganda't yaman palayan ay karaniwan
Katunayan ng kasipagan
Bawat puso'y may buhay mayroong kinabukasan
May tiwala sa Maykapal
Kaya't tahimik ka at maayos
Maligaya bawat pook

The composers of the different municipal hymns were greatly inspired by their personal encounters with topographical features in their respective places. From the interview conducted, the three (3) leading topographical encounters were their exposure to/awareness of and enjoyment of the nature's gifts manifesting concretely their unceasing chances to commune with nature and to get cradled by its abounding beauty, their gastronomic experience simply anchored on utilizing the land like plains, rice fields, the water bodies and the mountains and forests are sources of food and livelihood, and their feeling of security from being protected from typhoons by the surrounding mountain ranges.

The municipalities of the province of Nueva Vizcaya endowed with superb richness and beauty of nature truly amazed the writers, who composed the municipal hymns. In the municipal hymns, topographical encounters or experiences of the composers had brought them inspiration to compose the songs. This implies that the topography of Nueva Vizcaya stuns and inspires the composers, residents, and even the tourists visiting the province. From the viewpoint of Ecocomposition and metaphor, the textuality of location, environment, the use of a body of water, specifically the Magat River of Luzon is blended with the lyrics of the municipal hymns composed. Dominant classifications of topography revealed in the municipal hymns were mountain ranges, valleys, plains, hills, fields, rivers, spring, forests, and trees.

For Dobrin (2001), “writing takes place,” which suggests that the writing process and place, where it took place are inseparable. Dobrin argues that the place of writing has an effect on the type of writing produced. Location affects the writers on their kind of writing.

Devet (2011) compares centers of writing to organisms, which live and perform educational environments such as adapting, altering, and evolving. The Ecocompositionists employ the ecological notion as the fundamental metaphor, focusing on the organic aspect of writing; the writers and their surroundings are portrayed as dynamically linked. According to Elsherif (2013), Ecocomposition is a relatively recent applied strategy in composition classes. This strategy, when used, benefited first-year composition teachers in boosting environmental awareness and exploring the impact of place with their students. Though significant, Ecocomposition is nearly imaginary when applied to EFL classrooms. With the discussion of the ways of Ecocomposition application, teachers in EFL writing classrooms would have their examples to aid them in designing courses on Ecocomposition that would help them out to raise awareness about place and environment.

A study of Wallin (2016) discourses the Ecocomposition’s current censures through the unity of the environmental grounds of the movement using educational approaches in geography and philosophy teaching the learners about place. He contends that writing instruction instilled in studying of place helps learners create an environmental cognizance and appreciation, a mindset recognizing how people’s deeds act together with those of other people, that would eventually result in what people cannot easily predict. An environmental mindset helps people appreciate and accept the role as productive and sound members of the society.

Ledesma (2018) pointed out that literature is intertwined with a larger web or network of environmental discourses. The discourses based on the interplay of the spheres of culture and nature in literary studies served as a springboard for fleshing out those ecocritical forces and ranges. The analysis, which had a strong ecological bent, revealed a number of significant ecocritical themes, including the polarity that exists between the anthropocentric and ecocentric spheres of ecology, the shallow ecology precepts that support the anthropocene's life continuity, the anthropocene's decentering, ecologic debasement rhetoric, and ideas on sustainability.

Conclusions And Recommendations

Conclusions

The province of Nueva Vizcaya is gifted with favorable forms of nature. Its rich natural resources offered a spark of thoughts into the minds of some Novo-Vizcayano hymn writers. The natural landscape topped by the presence of mountains, hills, valleys, falls, rice fields, river, plains, and trees were just some of the common nature-related terms seen in the lyrics of the towns’ hymns. The range of agronomic municipalities set from the South to North of the province and the natural milieu and agri-industrial metaphors elucidated why Ecocomposition is suited in digesting and tracing how environs and literature concoct an impeccable intermingling into the municipal hymns. Their compositions were influenced and heavily moved by their thorough awareness of what are seen and experienced in their respective municipalities or places, by the mood they have for writing as ignited by the comely and good ambience conducive for writing itself, and by the vastness of the land and its utilization, which paved way for abundant products of the province.

Nueva Vizcaya’s topography (trees, mountains, land, and water) was woven into the composition of hymns as depicted and mentioned by the composers. It also became their literary ground or ecopoetic source of inspiration in writing. With the presence of land, waters, trees, and mountains in each municipality and their personal encounter with them marked by enjoyment of nature’s gifts and beauty, protection from calamities and sources of food and gastronomic experience, the composers were able to link them in their composition, igniting the love and appreciation to the splendor of nature.

Recommendations

The province's environmental sector may exacerbate the need to consistently design and implement programs or environmental measures to conserve, restore, and further cultivate Nueva Vizcaya's prairies, valleys, mountains, forests, and waterbodies for even more productive human use.

The agricultural sector may encourage effective initiatives to address the need to safeguard the crops in order to assure plentiful yields thus, boost the overall productivity of the vegetation, lowering poverty levels across the agricultural province.

The tourism sector may promote local tourist destinations and rekindle concerned entities and all Novo-Vizcayanos of how Nueva Vizcaya is vastly and fortunately endowed by God with spectacular landscapes, fertile soils, as well as the importance of protecting, nurturing, and promoting these natural endowments in the province to domestic and possibly foreign tourists.

The hymn composers (alive or deceased) may be given proper recognition by the Local Government Units (LGUs) by writing their names on documents whenever the hymn appears for respect to the lyricists who shared their minds' masterpieces, and as a symbol of identity of every town and its people, the lyrics of the municipal hymn may be put in a frame bearing the name and photo of the composer and be hanged on the wall at the façade of or at any conspicuous place in the municipal building.

The education sector may be ignited to reexamine and enhance the programs of study with the assimilation of lessons that would further augment the ingenuity and degree of responsiveness of the learners in caring for the environment. Moreover, the students would be equipped with innovative and effective means in the composition and analysis of texts concerning the environment.

Adherents and critics of literature may get conversant and engrossed in improving and applying a broad-spectrum of thought on viewing the literary texts, specifically about the hymns with Ecocomposition for the analysis relative to environment.

The residents of Nueva Vizcaya may take part, as sound members of their respective communities, to give concern to their environment and may learn to appreciate and be aware of the rich literature they have like hymns. They may continue to explore the composition of songs and writing of narratives as well through the inspiration from their environment. With this, the province would be known to other places as endowed by nature's magnificence and that there is literature in nature.

It is also recommended that the hymns/songs' inclusion in the existing encyclopedia may be made. The project of translating the songs that are still exposed in the vernacular and a musical recording and annotation of them may be made too.

The future researchers may do research to further explore Ecocomposition. They may get inspiration, concrete guide and information from this study as they explore more on research dealing with the environment, particularly with Ecocomposition.

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