HISPANIC GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES OF METRO MANILA

MARCO ANTONIO JOVEN ROMERO
University Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)
majovenromero@bec.uned.es
Hanoi University (HANU)
marcoantonio@hanu.vn
ORCID: 0000-0002-8898-3325

ABSTRACT

Place names print the physical characteristics of the territory they name and Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila depict the geography of the region. In the following pages, I extract and explain the living Hispanic geographical toponyms in Metro Manila, and I discuss the different physical features they describe according to these categories: Body of Water, Farming, Fluvial, Land, Sea, Underground, Urban, Vegetation. I conclude that items responding to different categories follow specific space patterns according to the physical characteristics of the territory and the Spanish colonial activity.

KEYWORDS: Manila’s toponymy, hispanic Asia, Philippine linguistics, hispanic Manila.

TOPONIMIA GEOGRÁFICA HISPÁNICA DE METRO MANILA

RESUMEN

Los topónimos reflejan las características físicas del territorio que bautizan y los topónimos geográficos hispánicos en Metro Manila describen la geografía de la región. En las siguientes páginas, extraigo y explico los topónimos geográficos hispánicos vivos en Metro Manila, y analizo las características que describen según estas categorías: Cuerpo de Agua, Agricultura, Fluvial, Terrestre, Marítimo, Subsuelo, Urbano y Vegetación. Concluyo que los elementos responden a las distintas categorías siguiendo patrones especiales según las características físicas del territorio y la actividad colonial española.

PALABRAS CLAVE: toponimia de Manila, Asia hispánica, lingüística filipina, Manila hispánica.

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Capital Region of the Philippines, popularly known as Metro Manila or Metropolitan Manila, comprises an area of 619.57 km² and it is constituted by 16 cities and one municipality: The City of Manila, Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Paranaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, Valenzuela, and the municipality of Pateros. It is the economic, political and social core of the Philippines, and it is placed in the center-western part of the island of Luzon. It had more than 12.8 million inhabitants in 2015 (Census of Population [CP] 2015) —in 2020 it is estimated it has more than 14 million inhabitants. These cities and
municipality form an urban continuum that extends over the surrounding provinces comprising more than 25 million people, being one of the largest urban areas in the world (Demographia 2019: 23). In 1903, Metro Manila had a population of 330,345 people (Stinner & Bacol-Montilla 1981: 8).

The region is placed in the alluvial lands around Pasig River, which connects Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay, the largest inner lake in Luzon island. Metro Manila presents four geographical zones: Coastal Margin, Guadalupe Plateau, Marikina Valley, and Laguna Margin (Japan International Cooperation Agency & National Economic Development Authority [JICP & NEDA] 2014). The Coastal Margin is a flat and low area besides the coast of Manila Bay, where many creeks (esteros) flow and where the most relevant Spanish colonial activity was established. The Guadalupe Plateau, placed in the center-north of the region, comprises vast plains that connect Metro Manila with North Luzon. Marikina Valley, marked by Marikina River, is placed to the west and it is formed by the spurs of Sierra Madre, whose first hills are found in Quezon City. Laguna Margin, besides Laguna de Bay lake, is a flat and low zone that connects the south-western area of Metro Manila (Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Taguig) with South Luzon.

The Philippines was under Spanish colonial rule between 1571 and 1898, after some previous expeditions. The City of Manila was founded by Miguel López de Legazpi in 1571 over prior settlements influenced by local peoples, Hokkien Chinese traders, and the Sultanate of Brunei. It is the capital of the country since then, it comprises an area of 42.88 km² and it had a population of 1,780,148 people in 2015 (CP 2015) —in 1903, the historical City of Manila had a population of 219,928 people (Stinner & Bacol-Montilla 1981: 8). The Hispanic influence in the City of Manila and surroundings started in the second half of the 16th century and extended until the Second World War, also during the American rule of the Philippines. The Spanish occupation of the previous settlements and the city growth until the end of the 19th century introduced a vast number of Hispanic place names, many of them printing the physical characteristics of the territory, but also some previous names were preserved (Lesho & Sippola 2018, Quilis & Casado-Fresnillo 2008).

In general, place names are coined according to social and geographical reasons. The latter usually describe the physical characteristics of the territory —e.g., Binondo (Tagalog Language Binundók: Hilly Terrain), Estero (Spanish Language: Channel). Social reasons are numerous and more complex. Sometimes place names refer to working activities and guilds, to influential people, religious entities, military buildings, etc. For Spanish place names in urban areas of the Philippines, Quilis and Casado-Fresnillo (2008) offer the following taxonomy: names of saints, names of Spanish countries and cities, names of historical figures, historic dates, names of people related to Arts and Sciences, relevant people in the Philippine society including their given names and surnames, only given names or only surnames, names of flowers and plants, names of animals,
abstract names, names of guilds and working activities, names derived from common names or adjectives, geographical names, poetic names and commercial names (Quilis & Casado-Fresnillo 2008: 544-550).

Here I analyze the preserved Hispanic place names depicting the geography of Metro Manila. They refer to persistent physical characteristics of the territory, they are Hispanic, and they are classified according to these categories: Body of Water, Farming, Fluvial, Land, Sea, Underground, Urban, Vegetation. Note that items are classified and analyzed according to the linguistic meaning, and only if ambiguous, then the entities themselves are considered—e.g. [Playa] Aplaya is classified and analyzed as Fluvial and not Sea as it refers to the shore of Marikina River. Urban places are listed if they have set a persistent physical print in the territory—e.g. Hipódromo (Hippodrome), Intramuros (Within Walls, Walled City)—or if they reflect the physical features of the territory—e.g. Escalón (Step). Urban entities that do not describe persistent physical characteristics of the territory are not considered—e.g. Estación (Station), Faro (Lighthouse), Quinta (Country House). Some place names are generic, and they do not describe the territory by themselves—e.g. Sitio, Tierra—so they are not considered unless they are part of a more specific formula—e.g. Sitio Alto, Tierra Vista. Similar for metaphorical and poetic names—e.g. some Monte, Verde, Villa, which do not refer to the characteristics of the territory—and generic urban places, commonly present in the Hispanic Tagalog vocabulary: Abenida (Avenue), Eskinita (Alley), Glorieta (Glorietta), Kanto (Corner), Plaza (Square), Rotonda (Roundabout). Geographical place names referring to global positions and not to the specific area they are located are not taken into account—e.g. Insular (Insular), Islas Filipinas (Philippine Islands), Oriente (East).

The list offered here is based on the data on contemporary Hispanic place names in Metro Manila given by more than 800 informants, and my personal fieldwork between 2017 and 2020. Data have been contrasted with Manila’s 1898, 1920 and 1934 maps (De Gamoneda 1898, Bach 1920, YMCA 1934), and with the books Streets of Manila (Ira & Medina 1977) and Daluyan: A Historical Dictionary of the Streets of Manila (National Historical Institute Philippines [NHIP] 2006). Other sources are conveniently cited and referenced, and other contemporary tools have offered additional support (GoogleMaps n.d., Jersey 2011). Some publications have offered more general information and clues (Doeppers 2016, Gealogo 2011, Lesho & Sippola 2018, Medina 1992, Quilis & Casado-Fresnillo 2008, Reed 1978).

After the analysis of the items, I discuss the quantitative presence of Hispanic geographical place names according to the categories above stated and I offer some space patterns in terms of the different localities that compose Metro Manila, demonstrating that preserved Hispanic toponyms depict the different geographical areas of Metro Manila and the Spanish colonial presence.

After this introduction, in section 2. Style Guidelines, I describe the style used for the place names list, explaining each entity and offering as much
information as possible in the easiest way. In section 3. List of Place Names, all the preserved Hispanic living geographical place names are listed, having a total of 246 entities but considering 56 terms and 143 place names, as some place names have named several entities and some terms are present in different places of Metro Manila. These names have been contrasted with other sources (Bach 1920, De Gamoneda 1898, Ira & Medina 1977, NHIP 2006, YMCA 1934). In section 4. Analysis, the results are explained according to the geographical nature of place names and location patterns. In section 5. Conclusions, I remark some conclusions.

2. Style Guidelines

Each term is presented following this style:

NAME (N). ENGLISH TRANSLATION. CATEGORY

Then, a tabbed list of the entities having the name is given, under the following style:


For example:

POZO. WELL. FLUVIAL


2.1. Specific observations for the entry head

Name (n)

Here I state the Spanish geographical term that the listed places and entities refer. Then, the number of places presenting such name is given between brackets. If there is only one place name, nothing is added. Note that this number does not refer to the number of entities having the name but to the number of places, as several entities may refer to the same place —e.g., Luneta (Lunette) is present in a historical building, a park and a police station, but all of them refer to the same place. Some places are huge, and they spread over different cities and districts naming several entities, but they are still considered only one place —e.g., many Estero (Creek, Estuary), which furthermore function as borders between different
districts and cities; also Tramo. Both “Alto, alta” and “Peña, peñas” are considered one term.

English Translation

English translation of the Spanish geographical term is provided here. If pertinent, additional translation is given in the entries of specific entities. Sometimes clarifications are given between square brackets: Verde (7). Green [referring to vegetation, lush]. Vegetation.

Category

The Hispanic geographical items are classified according to these categories: Body of Water, Farming, Fluvial, Land, Sea, Underground, Urban, Vegetation.

In order to establish the category, I focus on the linguistic meaning, and only if ambiguous, then the entity is considered —e.g., an entity called Laguna (Lagoon) is actually a river in the mouth of Laguna de Bay lake, and it is classified as Body of Water and not Fluvial because of its common Spanish meaning. Embarcadero (Dock) and Playa (Beach) may be both Fluvial and Sea, and they are finally classified as Fluvial as they refer to a dock at the Pasig River and the shore of Marikina River. Seven places are called Muelle (Dock), five Fluvial places and two Sea places, so both categories are stated indicating the number of items for each one between brackets: Muelle (7). Dock. Fluvial (5), Sea (2).

2.2. Specific observations for the entries

[Normative Formula] Place Name

Popular and official name spelling is stated here, but first the equivalent current normative Spanish formula is written between square brackets: [Chorrillo] Chorillo. Filipino names almost coincident with Spanish names are written following the Filipino or popular spelling solution, after the Spanish normative formula stated between square brackets: [Paso del Diablo] Pasong Diablo, [Playa] Aplaya.

The entities are alphabetically ordered according to the Normative Formula. If it coincides, then they are alphabetically ordered according to the rest of parameters: Place Name, Current Kind of Place and Coordinates.

Hispanic historical names losing popularity are signaled under the label ‘In Disuse’ between square brackets. Las Piñas, Intramuros, Sierra Madre and Valle Verde are analyzed in one generic entry, as they present a vast number of associated entities. More specifically, Las Piñas is one of the cities comprising Metro Manila, Intramuros is the historical district of the City of Manila, and Valle Verde is a set of residential areas under the same name. Sierra Madre is a mountain range in center and north Luzon whose foothills arrive to Metro
Manila; subsequently, many places in Metro Manila are named Sierra Madre, often located in hilly areas close to these spurs.

Current Kind of Place

Here I indicate the kind of place or purpose of the current place according to the following classification: Avenue, Barangay, Boulevard, Bridge, Building, Business, Cemetery, City, Creek, District, Drive, Educational Building, Event Venue, Extension, Fire Station, Fountain, Hall, Historical Building, Hotel, Lake, Landmark, Lighthouse, Market, Mountain Range, Museum, Nature Reserve, Park, Police Station, Port, Post Office, Religious Building, Reservoir, Residential Area, Road, Roundabout, Sports Facilities, Square, Street.

Barangay is a popular administrative division in the Philippines, similar to neighborhood for big cities, a district in small cities and a village in rural areas.

Other Names

When pertinent, other names for the same place are given here. If these other names are currently in use, Hispanic and they describe geographical features, then separate entries are stated for all the options, relating the different solutions in their respective ‘Other Names’ sections — e.g., Different entries are written for ‘Capillita de la Virgen del Pozo’ and ‘Pozo de la Virgen’, stating the alternative solution in their ‘Other Names’ section, even when they point to the same place.

Hispanic historical names losing popularity are signaled under the label ‘In Disuse’ between square brackets. Normative Spanish spelling for these other place names is not given in this section, but in their differentiated entities’ entries between square brackets before their popular spelling (see section ‘[Normative Formula] Place Name’).

Coordinates

Geographical coordinates in decimal degrees are given for all the entries, in order to allow readers and researchers to get accurate physical information of the places. For big entities like districts or roads, a middle point is taken. Geographical coordinates are more useful and offer more rigorous information than descriptions.

Location

The locality of Metro Manila where the entity is found is given here: The City of Manila, Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, Valenzuela, and the municipality of Pateros.
For the City of Manila, the district is specified: Binondo, Ermita, Intramuros, Malate, Paco, Pandacan, Port Area, Quiapo, Sampaloc, San Andres, San Miguel, San Nicolas, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, Santa Mesa, and Tondo.

If there are several localities and districts, all of them are alphabetically listed. It usually happens for Esteros (Creeks, Estuaries), as they are long creeks that often serve as borders between districts. In the case of ‘Estero de Tripa de Gallina’, a huge creek that crosses many districts in the City of Manila, as well as the cities of Parañaque and Pasay, the given location is ‘Manila, Parañaque, Pasay’, and it is analyzed as one only place.

This classification is useful for the subsequent space patterns given in section 4. Analysis.

Translation

English translation is provided if the entity’s name adds more elements than the entry head name. Defining names are always translated. For hagionyms or religious anthroponyms, translations are given if they are rooted in the English tradition — e.g., Estuary of Saint Michael, Estuary of Saint Anthony the Abbot. If the original Spanish place name has the preposition ‘de’, then it is translated using the English ‘of’ — i.e., ‘Isla de Balut’ is translated as ‘Island of Balut’, but ‘Isla Pulo’ is ‘Pulo Island’.

Explanation and Other Considerations

A short explanation and additional information are given at the end of the entry. Dates, historical evolution, social functions, Tagalog influences and other relevant facts are indicated. For that, I mainly rely on Isagani Medina’s linguistic comments in Streets of Manila (Ira & Medina 1977) and on the book Daluyan: A Historical Dictionary of the Streets of Manila (NHIP 2006). Other sources consulted for specific entities are conveniently cited.

I tend to use semicolon to sort the information given here, while I use period to separate the entry’s elements previously explained.

3. List of Place Names

Alta, Alto (5). High. Land


Palo Alto. Street. 14.678004, 120.986371. Valenzuela. Tall Stick. Street in an elevation, previously lush and still preserving some old tall trees, which are very likely to be the reason for the place name.


**ALTURA. HEIGHT. LAND**


**CANAL (2). CHANNEL. FLUVIAL**


**CEGADO. DRAINED, DRIED-UP. FLUVIAL**


**CERRO. HILL. LAND**


**CHICA. SMALL. URBAN**


**CHORRO. STREAM. FLUVIAL**


**COLINA. HILL. LAND**


**CORTADA. CUT, DEAD END. URBAN**

Hispanic geographical place names of Metro Manila

Depósito. Reservoir, Tank. Underground


DIVISORIA. DIVIDING LINE, FRONTIER. URBAN


EMBARCADERO. DOCK. FLUVIAL

Embarcadero. Street. 14.58283, 121.01311. Santa Ana. Street leading to a dock at the Pasig River.

ESCALÓN. STEP. URBAN


ESTERO (31). ESTUARY. FLUVIAL


Estero de Tanque. Creek. 14.5878,120.9905. Paco. Estuary of Tank. Area and creek besides the Pasig River, whose geography, similitudes with Tanque in Cavite and surrounding place names like Provisor, indicate the existence of a water tank to supply vessels (Fish 2011).

Estero de Tripa de Gallina. Creek. Estero de Gallina. 14.58068134, 121.0045445. Manila, Parañaque, Pasay. Estuary of Gut of Hen. Long creek covering a vast area in the center and south of Metro Manila — City of Manila, Parañaque and Pasay — whose name is likely to come from its loopy shape; note that current Pasig River or Parian Creek was formerly called ‘Bitukang Manok’, which means ‘Gut of Hen’ in Tagalog language.


FUENTE. FOUNTAIN. URBAN

Fuente Circle. Fountain, Roundabout. 14.609497, 121.080994. Quezon City. Fountain Circle. Recent fountain and roundabout in Eastwood, besides Marikina River; historical ‘Fuente de Carriedo’ is not considered as it is not located in its original place and the fountain itself is not related to the physical characteristics of its current location.

GRANDE (3). BIG, GREAT. URBAN


HIPÓDROMO (2). HIPPODROME, RACECOURSE. URBAN


HUERTA (3). ORCHARD, VEGETABLE GARDEN. FARMING


La Huerta. Barangay. 14.50059, 120.991369. Parañaque. The Vegetable Garden. Area that was an orchard during the Spanish times.


INTRAMUROS. WITHIN WALLS. URBAN

Intramuros. District. 14.5896, 120.9747. Intramuros. Historical district of Manila, surrounded by walls, where the Spanish military, political and religious powers were established. The toponym is spread all over the district and in some other parts of Manila and the Philippines, with no straight relation.

ISLA (9). ISLAND. LAND


Isla de Cocomo. Island. 14.632552, 120.961047. Caloocan, Navotas, Tondo. Island of Cocomo. Tagalog language Kokomo refers to a kind of fish; there is a street in Mandaluyong under the same name, implying no geographical description.


Isla de Provisor. Island. 14.5885212, 120.9887076. Ermita. Island of Provider. Island in a strategical point, Provisor probably points to the supplying and logistic nature of the island.


LAGO. LAKE. BODY OF WATER

LAGUNA. LAGOON. BODY OF WATER


LLANO. PLAIN. LAND


Llano. Road. 14.7362161, 121.0089044. Caloocan. Road in a plain area between the hills of north Metro Manila, a strategical point between the City of Manila and North Luzon.


LOMA (2). HILL. LAND

Campo Santo de la Loma [In Disuse]. Cemetery. Cementerio de Binondo [In Disuse], Cementerio de La Loma, La Loma Catholic Cemetery. 14.640033, 120.98733. Caloocan, Santa Cruz. Cemetery of the Hill. One of the most important cemeteries of Metro Manila since 1884.

Cementerio de La Loma. Cemetery. Campo Santo de la Loma [In Disuse], Cementerio de Binondo [In Disuse], La Loma Catholic Cemetery. 14.640033, 120.98733. Caloocan, Santa Cruz. Cemetery of the Hill. One of the most important cemeteries of Metro Manila since 1884.


La Loma Catholic Cemetery. Cemetery. Campo Santo de la Loma [In Disuse], Cementerio de Binondo [In Disuse], Cementerio de La Loma. 14.640033, 120.98733. Caloocan, Santa Cruz. The Hill Catholic Cemetery. One of the most important cemeteries of Metro Manila since 1884.


LUNETTA. LUNETTE (LUNETTE SHAPE), URBAN


Luneta. Park. Rizal. 14.5831, 120.9794. Ermita. Area and park that historically presented a lunette shape, also a place for executions during the Spanish period.

Luneta Park Police Detachment. Police Station. Ermita. Police station besides Luneta park, which historically presented a lunette shape.

MARINA (2). MARINE. SEA


MESA (2). PLATEAU. LAND

La Mesa. Drive. 14.71112, 121.088419. Quezon City. Drive in the area of ‘La Mesa’, a plateau in the foothills of ‘Sierra Madre’.


La Mesa. Road. 14.732254,121.0710984. Quezon City. Road in the area of ‘La Mesa’, a plateau in the foothills of ‘Sierra Madre’.


La Mesa Dam. Reservoir. La Mesa Lake. 14.717864, 121.089219. Quezon City. The Plateau Dam. Reservoir in ‘La Mesa’, a plateau in the foothills of ‘Sierra Madre’.


La Mesa Lake. Reservoir. La Mesa Dam. 14.717864, 121.089219. Quezon City. The Plateau Lake. Lake in ‘La Mesa’, a plateau in the foothills of ‘Sierra Madre’.

La Mesa Shell Flower Terraces. Park. 14.712351, 121.075912. Quezon City. The Plateau Shell Flower Terraces. Flower terraces in ‘La Mesa Ecopark’.

La Mesa Water Treatment Facility. Road. 14.716478, 121.070591. Quezon City. The Plateau Water Treatment Facility. Road in ‘La Mesa Water Treatment Facility’.
La Mesa Water Treatment Facility. Water Station. 14.714702, 121.070289. Quezon City. The Plateau Water Treatment Facility. Water station in the area of ‘La Mesa’, a plateau in the foothills of ‘Sierra Madre’.


MIRA. LOOK, LOOKOUT. LAND

Mira Verde. Avenue. 14.669163, 121.115311. Marikina. Green Sight. Area and avenue in an elevated zone, with more vegetation in comparison with the rest of Metro Manila. Mira could refer to the verb ‘Look’ or to the noun ‘Lookout’, while Verde points to the adjective ‘Green’.

MOLINO. MILL. FLUVIAL


MONTE (8). MOUNT. LAND


Del Monte. Avenue. 14.640393, 121.016124. Quezon City. Of the Mount. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).

Del Monte. Barangay. San Francisco del Monte. 14.6432, 121.0149. Quezon City. Of the Mount. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).

Del Monte. Bridge. 14.63987, 121.01272. Quezon City. Of the Mount. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).


Del Monte. Street. 14.640043, 121.013726. Quezon City. Of the Mount. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).


San Francisco del Monte. Barangay. Del Monte. 14.640387, 121.016377. Quezon City. Saint Francis of the Mount. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).

San Francisco del Monte. River. San Juan. 14.626632, 121.017956. Quezon City. Saint Francis of the Mount. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).

San Francisco del Monte Church. Religious Building. Santuario de San Pedro Bautista. 14.637589, 121.012546, Quezon City. Saint Francis of the Mount Church. ‘San Francisco del Monte’ gets its name from the Franciscans who settled in this hilly lush area in the 16th century and it is commonly shortened ‘Del Monte’ (Ocampo 2020).

San Juan del Monte [In Disuse]. City. San Juan. 14.5994, 121.0369. San Juan. Saint John of the Mount. City of Metro Manila, commonly known as ‘San Juan’ in honor of Saint John the Baptist, initially named ‘San Juan del Monte’ because of its position in a hilly area.


Palo. Stick. Tree. Vegetation


Muelle (7). Dock. Fluvial (5), Sea (2)


PASO (2). PASSAGE, LAND


PEÑA, PEÑAS (2). ROCK, ROCKS, LAND


[Las Peñas] Las Piñas. City. 14.4445, 120.9939. Las Piñas. The Rocks. There are two explanations for its etymology: an option considers pineapple’s farming and dealing (Las Piñas: The Pinnapples), and another explanation relates the place name to the surrounding rocks used for construction (Las Peñas: The Rocks); according to historical documentation, both solutions are plausible, but I consider the latter to be more feasible according to the historical documents gathered in the church. The toponym is spread all over the city.

PIÑAS. PINEAPPLES. FARMING

Las Piñas. City. 14.4445, 120.9939. Las Piñas. The Pinnapples. There are two explanations for its etymology: an option considers pineapple’s farming and dealing (Las Piñas: The
Pinneapples), and another explanation relates the place name to the surrounding rocks used for construction (Las Peñas: The Rocks); according to historical documentation, both solutions are plausible, but I consider the latter to be more feasible according to the historical documents gathered in the church. The toponym is spread all over the city.

**PLANAS. PLAINS. LAND**


**PLAYA. BEACH. FLUVIAL**


**POTRERO. PASTURELAND. FARMING**

Potrero. Barangay. 14.664873, 120.978672. Malabon. Area and barangay whose geographical nature, historical rural activities and its position besides Tullahan River, close to other areas like Parada or ‘Paso de Blas’, relates its name with herds and pastureland.


**POZO. WELLS. FLUVIAL**


**PUNTA. TIP. LAND**


**RINCÓN. CORNER. URBAN**


Río (3). RIVER. FLUVIAL


[Faro y luces del río Pasig] Faro y Luces de Río de Pasig. Lighthouse. Pasig River Lighthouse. 14.597105, 120.961363. Tondo. Lighthouse and Lights of River of Pasig. Spanish lighthouse destroyed in 1992 and then rebuilt, the surrounding area is named Parola (Parola Compound), due to the previous lighthouse.


[Río de Pasig Linear Park] Rio de Pasig Linear Park. Park, Square. Pasig. Río. 14.5613, 121.0758. Pasig River Linear Park. Park and square in the confluence of Parian Creek and Marikina River, not far from Pasig River; Pasig refers to the district of Pasig and Rio refers to Marikina River.


RIVERA (2). RIVERBANK. FLUVIAL


Rivera. Street. 14.6054803884, 121.02139685. San Juan. Street in barangay Rivera, besides San Juan River.


ROCHAS. CLEAR LANDS. FARMING

Rochas. Street. 14.773595, 121.067773. Caloocan. Small street with some banana plantations, the place name refers to clear lands before cultivation.

ROSAL. ROSEBUSH. VEGETATION

SIERRA (2). MOUNTAIN RANGE. LAND

Sierra Madre. Mountain Range. 14.763936, 121.117508. Quezon City. Mother Mountain Range. The longest mountain range in the Philippines, spanning from the province of Cagayan to the province of Quezon, its foothills arrive to Quezon City, Metro Manila; many streets, places and residential areas in Metro Manila are named ‘Sierra Madre’, often located in hilly areas close to these spurs.


TANQUE. RESERVOIR, TANK. FLUVIAL

Estero de Tanque. Creek. 14.5878,120.9905. Paco. Estuary of Tank. Area and creek besides the Pasig River, whose geography, similitudes with Tanque in Cavite and surrounding place names like Provisor, indicate the existence of a water tank to supply vessels (Fish 2011).

Tanque. Street. 14.586273,120.9913471. Paco. Area and street besides the Pasig River, whose geography, similitudes with Tanque in Cavite and surrounding place names like Provisor, indicate the existence of a water tank to supply vessels (Fish 2011).

TRAMO (2). LINE, SECTION. URBAN


Tramo. Road. 14.485556, 120.986667. Las Piñas. Road where the old railroad connecting Paco, Manila, and Cavite City, Cavite, passed through.

Tramo. Road. 14.493027, 120.989865. Parañaque. Road where the old railroad connecting Paco, Manila, and Cavite City, Cavite, passed through.

Tramo. Sports Facilities. 14.584816, 121.00876. Pasig. Sports facilities in Tramo Street, where the old railroad connecting Tutuban, Tondo, Manila; Marikina, Metro Manila, and Montalban, Rizal, passed through.

Tramo. Street. 14.550598, 121.001126. Pasay. Street where the old railroad connecting Paco, Manila, and Cavite City, Cavite, passed through.

Tramo. Street. 14.585637, 121.099204. Pasig. Street where the old railroad connecting Tutuban, Tondo, Manila; Marikina, Metro Manila, and Montalban, Rizal, passed through.

TRIPA DE GALLINA. GUT OF HEN. FLUVIAL

Estero de Tripa de Gallina. Creek. Estero de Gallina. 14.58068134, 121.0045445. Manila, Parañaque, Pasay. Estuary of Gut of Hen. Long creek covering a vast area in the center and south of Metro Manila —City of Manila, Parañaque and Pasay— whose name is likely to come from its loopy shape; note that current Pasig River or Parian Creek was formerly called ‘Bitukang Manok’, which means ‘Gut of Hen’ in Tagalog language.

Tripa de Gallina. Creek. Estero de Gallina, Estero de Tripa de Gallina. 14.5806813, 121.0045445. Manila, Parañaque, Pasay. Long creek covering a vast area in the center and south of Metro Manila —City of Manila, Parañaque and Pasay— whose name is likely to come from its loopy shape; note that current Pasig River or Parian Creek was formerly called ‘Bitukang Manok’, which means ‘Gut of Hen’ in Tagalog language.


**TUBERÍAS, PIPERLINES, URBAN**

[Tuberías] Tuberías. Street. 14.602845, 121.023986. San Juan. Street that hosted part of the ‘Traída de Aguas’ (Water Supply Pipes) during the Spanish times, it follows the same path.

**VADO, WADING, FLUVIAL**

[Vado 2] Badeo 2. Street. 14.663117, 120.946113. Navotas. Wadding 2. Area and a series of small streets or alleys addressing Navotas River ferry terminals in order to cross it; some of them have been renamed.

[Vado 5] Badeo 5. Street. 14.672435, 120.937986. Navotas. Wadding 5. Area and a series of small streets or alleys addressing Navotas River ferry terminals in order to cross it; some of them have been renamed.

**VALLE, VALLEY, LAND**


Valle Verde. Residential Area. 14.5824, 121.076. Pasig. Green Valley. A set of residential areas in a highly urbanized dell, with more vegetation in comparison with the rest of Metro Manila. The toponym is spread all over the area.

**VARADERO (2), DRY DOCK, SEA**

Varadero. Street. 14.655531, 120.94809. Navotas. Street and area besides the shore of Manila Bay where vessels were constructed, repaired and parked.

[Varadero] Baradero. Street. 14.637757, 120.954517. Navotas. Street and area besides the shore of Manila Bay where vessels were and still are constructed, repaired and parked.

**VERDE (6), GREEN [REFERRING TO VEGETATION, LUSH], VEGETATION**


Mira Verde. Avenue. 14.669163, 121.115311. Marikina. Green Sight. Avenue and area in an elevated zone, with more vegetation in comparison with the rest of Metro Manila. Mira could refer to the verb ‘Look’ or to the noun ‘Lookout’, while Verde points to the adjective ‘Green’.


Valle Verde. Residential Area. 14.5824, 121.076. Pasig. Green Valley. A set of residential areas in a highly urbanized dell, with more vegetation in comparison with the rest of Metro Manila. The toponym is spread all over the area.


**VISTA (11). VIEW, LAND**


Hispanic geographical place names of Metro Manila


Zapote. Sapote. Vegetation


4. Analysis

There are 56 existing Hispanic geographical terms in Metro Manila, naming 143 places and making a total of 246 considered entities. Note that the same term is sometimes present in different places of Metro Manila, as indicated between brackets after the entry head name, and the difference between the number of place names and the sum of considered entities is explained as some place names have named several entities. When analyzing location patterns, note that the same entity may be present in several cities of Metro Manila and several districts of the City of Manila, and all of them are considered.

Out of the 143 considered places, there are 52 Fluvial places (36.36 %), 51 Land places (35.66 %), 16 Urban places (11.19 %), nine Vegetation places (6.29 %), six Sea places (4.2 %), six Farming places (4.2 %), two under the category Body of Water (1.4 %), and one Underground place (0.7 %).

There are 52 Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Fluvial. These places are found in the City of Manila (64), Pasig (4), Navotas (3), Caloocan (2), Parañaque (2), Pasay (2), Las Piñas (1), Makati (1), Marikina (1), and San Juan (1). Inside the City of Manila, these items are found in Tondo (10), Binondo (8), Paco (7), Quiapo (7), Sampaloc (4), San Miguel (4), San Nicolas (4), Santa Cruz (4), Ermita (3), Santa Ana (3), Santa Mesa (3), Malate (2), Port Area (2), and Pandacan (1). The specific case of ‘Estero de Tripa de Gallina’ is classified as ‘Manila, Parañaque, Pasay’, as it crosses many districts in the City of Manila, and it is linguistically considered twice, one for Estero (Creek, Estuary) and another one for ‘Tripa de Gallina’ (Gut of Hen, referring to the loopy shape of the creek), as the shortened form ‘Tripa de Gallina’, without Estero, is popular too. The distribution shows that most fluvial entities are found in Guadalupe Plateau and the Coastal Margin, the flat and low areas in the center of the region and besides Manila Bay, where many creeks (esteros) flow: out of the 52 considered place names, there are 31 under the name Estero (Creek). On the other hand, this was the most relevant area during the Spanish colonial period, and Hispanic place names persist.

There are 51 Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Land. These places are found in the City of Manila (11), Quezon City (11), Marikina (7), Caloocan (6), Valenzuela (4), Navotas (3), San Juan (3), Taguig (3), Las Piñas (2), Muntinlupa (2), Pasig (2), Malabon (1), and Pasay (1). Inside the City of Manila, these items are found in San Miguel (3), Tondo (3), Ermita (1), Quiapo (1), Santa Ana (1), Santa Cruz (1), and Santa Mesa (1). The results show a balanced distribution of place names describing land features, with a higher proportion in the hilly areas in the limits of Metro Manila (Quezon City, Caloocan, Marikina), most of them inside the Marikina Valley geographical zone. Many of the places corresponding to the City of Manila are islands or islets, classified as Land.
There are 16 Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Urban. These places are found in the City of Manila (9), Parañaque (2), Valenzuela (2), Las Piñas (1), Makati (1), Mandaluyong (1), Pasay (1), Pasig (1), Quezon City (1), and San Juan (1). Inside the City of Manila, these items are found in Ermita (2), Intramuros (2), Binondo (1), Quiapo (1), San Nicolas (1), Santa Mesa (1), and Tondo (1). Urban place names are more preeminent in the City of Manila because of the higher Spanish colonial presence and urban development during that period in comparison with the outer areas.

There are nine Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Vegetation. These places are found in Pasig (3), Quezon City (2), Caloocan (1), Las Piñas (1), Malabon (1), Marikina (1), Muntinlupa (1), San Juan (1), and Valenzuela (1). None of the terms referring to vegetation —Palo, Rosal, Verde (6), Zapote— are found in the historical City of Manila, but in its outskirts.

There are six Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Sea. These places are found in Navotas (2), the district of Port Area in the City of Manila (2), Parañaque (1), and Pasay (1). All of them —Marina (2), Muelle (2), Varadero (2)— are found besides Manila Bay, inside the Coastal Margin geographical zone.

There are six Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Farming. These places are found in Caloocan (1), Las Piñas (1), Malabon (1), Muntinlupa (1), Parañaque (1), and Valenzuela (1). None of them —Huerta (3), Piñas, Potrero, Rochas— are found in the historical City of Manila, but in its outskirts.

There are two Hispanic geographical place names in Metro Manila under the category Body of Water: Lago in Taguig, and Laguna in Muntinlupa and Taguig, both referring to Laguna de Bay, the largest lake in the island of Luzon, between Metro Manila and the provinces of Laguna and Rizal. These places are found in the Laguna Margin geographical zone.

Finally, there is a Hispanic geographical place name in Metro Manila referring to an Underground element: Depósito, a huge underground water tank built in San Juan during the Spanish period, supplying the pipelines (see [Tuberías] Tuberias) of the historical settlement. It is classified as Underground because of its nature, relevance and size.

Metro Manila presents four geographical zones —Coastal Margin, Guadalupe Plateau, Marikina Valley, and Laguna Margin (JICP & NEDA 2014)—, and the above classification and distribution show some patterns according to these zones. Fluvial place names tend to spread throughout the Coastal Margin and Guadalupe Plateau, flat and low areas were many creeks flow. Land place names are found in the four geographical zones, but the Marikina Valley, formed by the foothills of Sierra Madre, presents a higher proportion. Body of Water place names (Lago, Laguna: Lake, Lagoon) are found in the Laguna Margin geographical zone, marked by Laguna de Bay, the largest lake in the island of Luzon. Sea place names are in the Coastal Margin zone, while
Farming and Vegetation place names are found in the outskirts of the historical City of Manila. Hispanic geographical Urban place names tend to be related to the Spanish colonial presence, so they are more common in the City of Manila. In summary, there are two causes for the Hispanic geographical place names distribution in Metro Manila: the nature of terrain according to the four geographical zones of Metro Manila, and the Spanish colonial presence in the different areas.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Place names depict the Geography, History, Linguistics and Society of territories all over the world, and geographical place names tend to focus on the physical characteristics of the territory and human activities setting persistent territorial prints (Berg & Vuolteenaho 2009, Calvet 1974: 79-86, Guillorel 2008, Higman & Hudson 2009: 18-19, Shohamy & Waksman 2009: 313-315). Land, fluvial, sea, ecological and human-related elements are the most common features.

In the case of Metro Manila’s Hispanic geographical place names, land, fluvial and sea place names follow some patterns in terms of the geographical zones of the region. Farming, urban and vegetation place names are distributed according to the historical Spanish presence.

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