

A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF VICENTE RAMA'S  
FICTION

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A Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
University of San Carlos  
Cebu City

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In Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in Literature

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by  
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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

Because they have helped me, I am grateful  
to

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Dr. Gertrudes Ang

Mrs. Erlinda Alburo

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my family.

TO

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my father, the late Francisco Marti

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my children: Babette

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this thesis is lovingly dedicated.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I	INTRODUCTION . . . . . 1
	Background of the Study . . . . . 1.
	Statement of the Problem . . . . . 3
	Purpose of the Study . . . . . 4
	Significance of the Study . . . . . 5
	Scope and Limitations of the Study . 6
	Methodology of the Study . . . . . 9
	Definitions of Terms . . . . . 13
	Review of Related Literature . . . . 14
II	AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW . . . . . 17
	Development of Cebuano Fiction . . . 17
	Vicente Rama's Biography . . . . . 31
	Views of Manners and Morals . . . 33
	Views of Politics and Society . . . 36
	Views of Education . . . . . 39
	Political Career . . . . . 41
	Writing Career . . . . . 42
III	LITERARY CONVENTIONS: 1915-1941 . . . 51
	Views of the Period . . . . . 51
	Function of Fiction . . . . . 52
	Scope of Subject Matter . . . . . 58

CHAPTER	PAGE
Plot . . . . .	59
Setting . . . . .	60
Theme . . . . .	61
Character . . . . .	61
Techniques and Devices . . . . .	63
Style and Language . . . . .	70
The Case of <u>Larawan</u> . . . . .	75
Rama's Views . . . . .	78
IV DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS . . . . .	84
Short Stories . . . . .	84
Man-Woman Relationship . . . . .	85
Humorous or Farcical . . . . .	85
Ideal . . . . .	94
Condemnable . . . . .	108
Mysterious . . . . .	141
Other Areas of Social Life . . . . .	143
Politics . . . . .	143
Religion . . . . .	148
Various Vices and Maladies . . . . .	152
Novels . . . . .	163
Ang Silot ni Bathala . . . . .	163
Donya Marcosa . . . . .	177

CHAPTER	PAGE
Sa Bung-aw sa Mga Kasal-anan . . .	184
V SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.	192
Summary . . . . .	193
Conclusion . . . . .	204
Recommendations . . . . .	206
APPENDIX . . . . .	207
SHORT STORIES . . . . .	207
"Usa Ka Masulub-ong Kaagi" . . . . .	207
"An Unhappy Episode" (translation) . . . . .	230
"Si Inday, Lider Na Sa Piniliay" . . . . .	251
"Inday Is Now an Election Leader" . . . . .	254
(translation)	
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	257

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Study

A look at the spare collection of graduate theses on the various facets of Cebuano vernacular literature induces one to make a painful speculation. Is literature in Cebuano so prosaic and vapid that the interest of researchers is not beckoned in its direction? Even if only for the extra-literary insights it offers, literature in any language is not uninteresting. And Cebuano literature is no exception. But the reason or reasons, whatever they may be for this regrettable situation, are not the burden of this thesis. The very circumstance, however, serves as the spur for this researcher, hoping to make a contribution, no matter how minimal, to serious efforts to rectify the disheartening status of student investigation on the literature in this language.

For the most part, writing a thesis on the literary merits of the work or group of works of a single Cebuano vernacular fictionist is a pioneering endeavor. Even the span of sixty years since Encarnacion Gonzaga's



Bisayan Literature from Pre-Spanish Times to 1917<sup>1</sup>

has not bridged the gap of indifference to vernacular literature even among literature majors. The intensive study of individual fictionists is even more neglected. A researcher, with the least effort to locate explored parts of a largely untapped field, has no fear of stepping on a claimed area.

Dearth of materials always takes the lead role in the presumed formidability attached to thesis-writing on Cebuano vernacular literature in the pre-war era. Many factors contribute to the decimation of priceless primary sources, but Cebuanophiles have reason to be optimistic. They hope that, with the Cebuano Studies Center of the University of San Carlos serving as the nucleus of activity, the current surge of interest on the subject of regional literature will generate impetus vigorous enough to effect a shift in the hierarchy of values among today's students. With their fingers crossed, they look forward to the day when these students will overcome their lackadaisical attitude and eventually

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<sup>1</sup>Encarnacion Gonzaga, "Bisayan Literature from Pre-Spanish Times to 1917" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of the Philippines, 1917).

take cognizance of and develop pride in the achievement of their predecessors,

The day may still be far when Cebuano vernacular literature will finally have its deserved place in the school curriculum of Cebuano-speaking provinces. But it will come as a natural and spontaneous consequence of the emerging awareness of the Filipino identity and as an expression of the rising tide of nationalistic feeling. To hasten the realization of this ambitious nevertheless congruous goal, researches in the field will serve as a catalyst as well as provide usable materials.

#### Statement of the Problem

The core of this thesis is the descriptive analysis of Vicente Rama's available fiction, particularly its materials and structure. The works studied consist of thirty-two short stories (mga sugilanon) and three novels (mga nobela).

This study hopes to answer the following questions:

1. What factors are formative of the nature of Cebuano fiction during the second score of the