

Re: Anyone conversant in Tagalog here?

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-04/msg00514.html>

- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 14 Apr 2007 16:35:22 -0700
-

On Apr 14, 10:21 am, phogl...@xxxxxx wrote:

On Apr 13, 10:45 pm, "Peter T. Daniels" <gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Apr 13, 10:52 am, "Brian M. Scott" <b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 13 Apr 2007 06:00:21 -0700, "Peter T. Daniels"
<gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in sci.lang:

On Apr 12, 11:52 pm, "Brian M. Scott"
<b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 12 Apr 2007 20:20:14
-0700, "Peter T. Daniels"
<gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in
<news:1176434414.213517.138180@xx>
in sci.lang:

On Apr 10,
9:13 am,
phogl...@xxxxxx
wrote:

Peter
T.
Daniels
wrote:

Have

Re: Anyone conversant in Tagalog here?

you
ever
even
been
in
an
American
bookstore?

I
haven't
ever
even
been
to
America
—
neither
to
the
United
States
nor
to
any
part
of
the
two
continents
called
the
Americas
—
let
alone
an
American
bookstore.
But
I
have
been
an
active
member
of
a
mailing
list
for

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learners
of
the
Irish
language,
and
I
have
gleaned
from
the
letters
of
the
American
members
that
in
big
cities
with
significant
Irish-American
population
it
is
relatively
easy
to
get
hold
of
a
copy
of
"Irish
on
your
Own"
or
"Learning
Irish".-

Of course.
But not in a
non-specialist
bookstore.

I'm reasonably certain that I
bought Mícheál Ó Siadhail's
Learning Irish on a whim

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when I found it in Borders a few years ago. I will concede that the selection of foreign language texts in my local Borders has gone downhill in the last couple of years, and nowadays I'd not expect to find it in stock.

When I visited Dublin in 1992, I had been commissioned to pick up Thurneysen's Old Irish for a colleague. It turned out to be so cheap — something like 10 Irish pounds (~ \$15; it was the first time the Irish pound had ever been bigger than the pound sterling, and they were reveling in that fact) — that I got one for me, too. I have certainly never seen that book in an American bookstore (even Seminary Coop), and it certainly didn't sell for \$15 when it was special-ordered.

A grammar of Old Irish and an introductory self-study text in the modern conversational language aren't exactly comparable.

The former ought to be regularly stocked by a respectable academic bookstore. The latter can vary with pedagogical faddism.

I fail to see why Old Irish should be that much more important than Modern Irish. As regards "Learning Irish", it is one of the most comprehensive textbooks of Irish there is, albeit it only focuses on Connemara dialect.—

The language is not more important (except to those interested in Celtic languages and Indo-European generally), but a massive authoritative reference grammar of an insufficiently familiar classical language is considerably more valuable than the latest larn-yerself-Irish book.

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