

# PANGASINAN

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**Language Name and Autonym:** Pangasinan. The term *Kaboloan* was used during Spanish occupation, and *Panggalatô* is used pejoratively.

**Location:** Lingayen Gulf, Philippines, in much of the province of Pangasinan and parts of southern La Union.

**Family:** South-Cordilleran branch of South-Central Cordilleran group of the Meso-Cordilleran subgroup of the Northern Philippine subgroup of the Philippine subbranch of the Western Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Malayo-Polynesian subfamily of the Austronesian language family.

**Related Languages:** Pangasinan is most closely related to the Southern Cordilleran languages in the Philippines: Ilongot, Inibaloi, Karao, and Kallahan.

**Dialects:** Dialect diversity is minimal in the Pangasinan region. Pangasinan spoken in Southern La Union (municipality of *Santo Tomás*) is marked with Ilocano influences. The purest form of the language is spoken in the Binalatongan region of the province around the towns of Urbiztondo, Santa Barbara, and San Carlos, the historical center of Pangasinan culture.

**Number of Speakers:** 2 million.

## Origin and History

The exact origin of the Pangasinan people is still unknown. We can speculate that the homeland of the Pangasinan people in the Philippines was on the southern shores of the Lingayen Gulf between the sea and *Agno* river from where they spread southward. Their terms for direction *dapit ilog* 'south—to river' and *dapit baybay* 'north—to sea' contribute to this assumption.

The province of Pangasinan was created by the Spanish conquistadors that included lands dominated by Pangasinenses: present-day Pangasinan, Northern Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, and Southern La Union. After the uprising of Serrat in 1816, much of the Pangasinan area was settled by Ilocano settlers. Many regions of present-day Pangasinan province, which has considerably decreased in size since Spanish colonial times, are dominated by ethnic Pangasinenses whose mother tongue is

ILOCANO.

Rubino, Carl. 2001. Pangasinan. In: Garry, Jane and Carl Rubino (eds.) *Facts About the World's Languages: An Encyclopedia of the World's Major Languages, Past and Present*. New York: H. W. Wilson.