

Ilocano

Ilokano

Spoken in: Philippines

Region: Northern Luzon

Total speakers: 7 million

Genetic Classification: Austronesian Malayo-Polynesian Western Northern Philippine Northern Luzon Ilokano

Ilocano or Iluko is a Western Austronesian language spoken in Northern Luzon and in various parts of Philippines and around the world. It comprises its own branch in the Philippine Cordilleran family of languages. The language has two dialects: Northern "deeper" Ilocano and Southern Ilocano.

As an Austronesian language, Ilokano is closely related to other Philippine languages, such as Tagalog and to the many languages of Indonesia and Malaysia. It is less closely related to such Polynesian languages as Hawaiian, Samoan, and Tahitian, and Micronesian languages, such as Chamorro, and Palauan, as well as the language of Madagascar, Malagasy. Written in the Roman alphabet, it has a fairly complicated and sophisticated grammatical structure.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Ilocano sessional interpreter.

Ilocano alphabet

Vowels

There are five vowels: **i, ea, a, o, and u**. Vowels can be long or short.

Consonants

Ilocano has sixteen consonants: **p, t, k, b, d, g, m, n, ng, s, h, w, l, r and y**.

Syllable structure

Ilocano has a relatively simple syllable structure. Most syllables are either open (end in a vowel) or in **n, ng or m**. The sound **ng** can occur at the beginning of words.