EXPRESSING FUTURITY IN THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ABSTRACT
The present investigation draws inspiration from the research conducted by Gerald Nelson in 2005 on the expression of futurity in Philippine English. In addition, this study aimed to provide insights on the dominant characteristic of expressing future time in Philippine English. This variety of English was defined by Bautista (2000), based on the term provided by Llamson in 1969, as "the variety of English spoken by educated Filipinos and is acceptable within their group." This English variety is now claimed as legitimate, institutionalized, and standardized variety as expressed by Bautista. Moreover, Philippine English has produced its own features unique from any other varieties of English which are products of innovation, deviation, and error. This research centered only on the three (3) markers which are always treated as expressions of future actions in the English language: *will, shall, and be+going to*. The author chose to concentrate on the forms the same as those used by Nelson to provide valid comparisons in the results. The study made use of the future expressions as reflected on the online announcements from the official websites of the five academic institutions and organizations in the Philippines. The researcher identified these elite institutions and organizations as the source of data since they uphold academic excellence in the country, thus reflect the current status of English language in the country. In addition, it is believed that they mirror the features of the standard Philippine English variety. This study concludes that the preference of the Filipinos, generally, has not changed since the work of Nelson. Similar to the previous study, there is a strong preference in the use of *will* in expressing future time while the use of *shall* was also found to be rare or almost completely absent from the data reviewed.

INTRODUCTION
The study on the expressions of futurity in English has attracted scholars and researchers in the field of English language teaching and research because the topic provides varieties of aspects which can be explored. Most of the inquiries dealing with futurity have concentrated on the existence of future tense, the development of future construction, and the meanings of the different future expressions.

This research paper, however, does not offer discussion on the evidences to prove the existence of future tense, nor the development and the meaning of future constructions and expressions. This investigation focuses only on the expressions of futurity in Philippine English as communicated by elite academic institutions and organizations in the country.

According to Mohammed in 2013, the future is the period of indefinite time. The presence of time and the theories of physics make the arrival of the future unavoidable. Mohammed added that all that exists and will exist can be considered as permanent or temporary brought by the laws of reality, and of the certainty of the future. It cannot be denied that there have been a number of concepts from various authorities with regard to the different forms of expressing futurity in contemporary English that deserve recognition.

As mentioned earlier, expressing future time has generated a lot of studies because of the two major realizations in the field of teaching and learning in English as a second language. First, the English language has utilized different means of expressing future time which cannot be overlooked, and which cannot be denied, as really important. And second, it has become an appealing topic since its grammatical constructions vary from one context to another.

The English language has provided at least five different ways of articulating future time: *will/shall, be going to, be to*, the use of simple present tense and the present progressive tense (Bergs, 2010). According to Palka in 2015, who cited the work of Quirk et al. in 1985, the *will/shall/'ll* are the frequently used expressions of futurity in the English language. It was further asserted that *shall* is limited to the first person pronoun subject of futurity, and this is more popular in the British English southern standard. Though *shall* and *will* are assumed to be markers of future actions, they can also provide meanings such as prediction or volition to name a few. This simply means that they cannot be taken as plainly markers of future actions because they also possess certain degree of modality. It was added that the

use of *be going to* + infinitive is also frequently used especially in informal speeches. This construction can express fulfillment in the future of the intention, and the cause of the present. The use of present progressive tense expresses actions which are expected to happen, while simple present tense communicates certainty or definiteness of the action to happen in the future. According to Bergs (2010), specific and complex co- and contextual configurations characterize all of these in which future expressions occur.

The work of Dekeyser and Colen in 1979 on the expressions of future time in the field of language was also discussed by Palka. Dekeyser and Colen described *will/shall*, future progressive *(will/shall+ing)*, future perfect *(will/shall have+PP)*, *be going to*, simple present tense, and present progressive as construction markers considered as foundations of expressing futurity.

As stated, the inquiries on the expressions of futurity in English fascinate researchers because of the varying grammatical constructions from one context to another. The traditional grammar provided that most American English writings use *will* followed by the base form of the verb to form future tense whether the subject is singular or plural. On the other hand, to produce highly formal tone especially in England or in any British Commonwealth country, British English uses *shall* to form the future tense ("Future Tense-How to form"). This grammatical difference between the American and the British English is supported by Maxwell and Clandfield (n.d.) in their article who claimed that in using auxiliaries, American English prefers the use of *will* while British English usually use the auxiliary *shall*.

A similar tone was provided by Lid (2010), who cited the work of Hasselgard et al. in 1998, that the use of *will* is held as the most common and neutral way of referring future events in English. The use of *will* expresses either prediction or volition. According to Lid, *will* and *shall* have been traditionally claimed to have equal meanings, and the type of subject determines the choice. The traditional grammar maintains that *shall* is used for the first person, while *will* is for the second and third person. If interchanged, it means declaration of intent instead of conveying future tense.

These different forms of expressing future time and their context-varying constructions stimulated the interest of the researcher to further explore the world of futurity. The investigation concentrates on the different forms of expressing futurity in the Philippine academic context, and to discover if there are variations from one institution or organization to another. And as a limitation of this study, it does not include discussions on the meaning/s of the choice of expression/s and the development of grammatical constructions.

This paper draws inspiration from the research conducted by Gerald Nelson in 2005 on the expression of futurity in Philippine English. The investigation of Nelson found that there is an over-observance of prescriptive grammar rules in expressing future time in the Philippine English, and the results suggest the strong influence of the Americans based on the overwhelming frequency of *will* as the most preferred way of articulating futurity.

In addition, this investigation provides insights on the dominant characteristic of expressing future time in Philippine English. This variety of English was defined by Bautista (2000), based on the term provided by Llamson in 1969, as "the variety of English spoken by educated Filipinos and is acceptable within their group." This English variety is now claimed as legitimate, institutionalized, and standardized variety as expressed by Bautista. Moreover, Philippine English has produced its own features unique from any other varieties of English which are products of innovation, deviation, and error.

The present study centered only on the three (3) markers which are always treated as expressions of future actions in the English language: *will, shall, and be+going to*. The author chose to concentrate on the forms the same as those used by Nelson to provide valid comparisons in the results. The study made use of the future expressions as reflected on the online announcements from the official websites of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman, University of Santo Tomas (UST), De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila and the Philippine-based international academic organizations. The researcher identified these elite institutions and organizations as the source of data since they uphold academic excellence in the country, thus reflect the current status of English language in the country. In addition, it is believed that they mirror the features of the standard Philippine English variety.

This replication was conducted to examine if there are changes in the frequently used expression of future actions in the Philippine context in this highly-advanced digital age as compared to the findings provided by Nelson in 2005. Specifically, the study answers the following questions:

1. What is/are the expression/s of futurity found in the announcements of the elite academic institutions and organizations in the Philippines?
2. What is the most preferred way of expressing futurity in all academic domains included in the study?
3. What are the implications that can be derived from the results of the study in the following contexts:
    a. Previous study of Nelson in 2005;
    b. English language teaching in the Philippines; and
    c. Philippine English?

This study is anchored on the Construction Grammar Framework which argued that there are five basic forms in expressing futurity. These forms are *shall/will, be going to, be to,* the simple present tense and the present progressive. The framework provides a method in structuring and providing meaning, and considers the relationship between lexical meaning and grammatical patterning. The framework has the assumption that language has a complex range of patterns-the constructions-that provide form and meaning in conventionalized and non-compositional ways. The construction includes: 1. Form, which refers to any combination of syntactic, morphological, or prosodic patterns; and 2. Meaning, which is perceived in a wider sense as lexical semantics, pragmatics, and discourse structure. Mirjam Fried (n.d.) of Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague explained that "grammar in this view consists of intricate networks of overlapping and complementary patterns that serve as blueprints for encoding and decoding linguistic expressions of all types." It was further explained that the construction grammar "treats all types of expressions as equally central to capture grammatical patterning, and in view that all dimensions of language as equal contributors of shaping linguistic expressions."

The framework, as discussed in the study of Bergs (2010), maintained that "all expressions of futurity in English can be described as an independent construction, but that these constructions belong to a constructional language family which is united by a common function, namely, the expression of futurity." It is a grammatical approach which is non-modular, non-derivational, generative, monostratal and unification-based. It aims to include all the linguistic facts within and beyond the language being studied. The central assumption of this theory linguistic knowledge is not about items and rules but rather of constructions. This construction is considered as conventional form-meaning pairings both in abstraction and complexity levels.

In 2014, Li Xiao-Hua explained that the primary principle of the grammar construction theory is that the basic units of language representation are constructions. And these constructions are the learned pairings of forms. The meanings of the construction, however, are independent of the words the construction consists.

Additionally, the framework provided by Geoffrey Leech in 1987 in expressing futurity in English language is found very relevant to this study. According to Leech, as discussed by Lid (2010), there are five constructions of verb-phrase which express future meanings in English. These constructions include *will/shall/'ll, be going to*, present progressive, simple present, *will/shall* +progressive infinitive. As explained by Lid, there is a decline of the use of *shall* in expressing future time and it is restricted in a very few linguistic contexts as elucidated by Leech. The usual use of *shall* is only to combine with the first person subject to find a formal equivalent of *will* in expressing prediction. The construction of *be going to* is used to express future time which have two related meanings. First, it can mean as the fulfillment of the present, and second, as the future culmination of present cause.

Charles Fries (n.d.) of the University of Michigan made an excellent discussion on the expression of the future in English language. Fries conveyed that in many languages, if not all, the notion of the relationship between time and action is articulated through verbal forms. The English language has already imbedded in the minds of the people that actions must be perceived according to the three standard times namely, the past, the present and the future. Among these three time references, the mechanism for the expression of the future has received the slightest attention from the grammarians.

The grammar in the modern English has provided the device of expressing future time by using the pattern *shall* and *will* followed by the infinitive form of the verb and label it as future tense. Other sources provided two categories of

the future tense. First, for simple futurity, and determination is the second. It was further explained that the use of *will* and *shall* to express futurity is just one of the many ways of expressing the future. Therefore, there are many ways of expressing actions of the future time in English language. There are even words like desire, expect or intend which can also mean to the future because of their meanings.

For Fries, the future is commonly determined through the grounds of desire, hope, intention, resolve, determination, compulsion, necessity or possibility. Any words or phrases which articulate any of those notions mentioned in relation to future can be considered as a sign of the future tense. And in the process of development, these words are bound to lose their full meanings and are also destined to lose the limitations of the particular meanings based on their origin. Those words become inclined to be signs of the future tense which range from almost pure future sense to distinctly modal ideas.

There have been a lot of studies conducted which investigated the constructions and expressions of futurity in the different context. Some of these studies yielded similar findings, while others discovered different preference of expression.

The study of Nelson in 2005, where this present study is patterned, took inspiration from the earlier investigation conducted by Yla Berglund in 1997 in expressing futurity. Berglund's study was a corpus-based examination on the expressions of future in present-day English which included American English, British English, and Indian English. The study aimed to investigate the use of certain future expressions in the contemporary context, and to examine the use of electronic for a linguistic study. The research focused on five auxiliary and semi-auxiliary verb phrase which signal future expressions in English: *will, 'll, shall, going to, and gonna.* She made use of the future expressions in the context of various linguistic and non-linguistic influences such as medium, text category, speaker characteristics, region, and time. It was found that the use of *will* is the most frequently used expression of futurity in all the varieties explored. Among the different English varieties reviewed, Berglund found that Indian English has the highest frequency percentage of using *will* to mean future time. It was also revealed in her study that there was a decrease in the use of *shall* to express future actions.

From that work of Berglund, Gerald Nelson in 2005 conducted a similar investigation in the Philippine context. The study was conducted to discover the expression of futurity in Philippine English. The study focused on the Philippine English's grammatical expressions of future actions which include *will, shall* and *be+going to*. And for the purpose of comparison, it also included the different ways of expressing futurity in other countries such as India, Singapore and Great Britain. The research was corpus-based using the respective International Corpus of English (ICE) as datasets. It was found that the use of *will* to express futurity was very frequent in the Philippine English. The same conclusion was found in the corpus of the other varieties of English such as in Indian English, Singapore English and British English. It also showed that the in the Philippine corpus, the use of *shall* was very limited to formal contexts both in conversation and in written texts. It was concluded that the influence of American English is very evident in the Philippine English where the use of *will* is very frequent and the use of *shall* is very rare. Moreover, Nelson found that Filipinos tend to over-observe the prescriptive rules of English grammar which was felt to be a reflection of their linguistic or stylistic insecurity.

The researcher had to highlight these two investigations as these are the basic foundations of this present paper. In addition to these two studies, there have been a number of studies around the globe which are relevant and provide insights to the present investigation.

One of the most recent studies conducted in the field of future expressions was that of Saadat Nuriyeva in 2016 in Azerbaijani. The study aimed to address the problem of the learners in Azerbaijani in the different ways of expressing futurity in English as a second language. It investigated the future tense in English based on quantitative typology. Since both languages differ in all aspects, the method of using quantitative typology examined the expression of futurity both in English and in Azerbaijani languages. Furthermore, it meant to discover the grammatical ways of expressing future actions in present-day English and to discover if there are similarities or differences in the ways of expressing it in both languages. The study found that English expression of futurity used present and future tenses including all the aspects of these tenses, while in Azerbaijani language, futurity is expressed through adding grammatical inflections to the root of the verb.

Another research was explored by Harlig in 2015 who examined the use of lexical features to express futurity in English as second language. The investigation focused on the four concerns and the use of lexical aspect which influence the future citations namely, the rate of use, range of expression, timing and order of emergence. It was found that the use of *will* to express future time ranked first, followed by the use of lexical futures which ranked second. The frequently used lexical features *want to* garnered 70% in the over-all result of the lexical features examined. It was followed by *have to* which was said to express obligation which got 14%. Finally, the expression of desire and intention were reflected in the future expressions.

The study of Fernebring (2014) also yielded favorable result on the use of *will* in expressing futurity among Swedes. The study investigated on how individuals whose first language is Swedish use *will, shall, and be going* to express future time. It was a corpus-based study which used Swedish newspapers which were written in English. It also made use of blog materials written by Swedes in English language. The study found that the modal *will* is the most frequently used expression to indicate future time in the over-all corpora reviewed. The use of *shall* was found to be evident in Swedes English newspapers while the use of *be going to* was evident in the English blogs written by Swedes.

In addition, Gustilo in 2011 looked into the modal auxiliaries in the Philippine English newspapers which aimed to describe the semantic functions of the nine models under investigation. Additionally, the author tried to find if there are features in the use of modals in the Philippine context which do not conform on the American and British usage. The study discovered that *will* was the most frequently occurring modal in the linguistic text. The researcher also expressed that the modal *shall* was not a popular choice based on the results offered.

Another investigation was conducted by Alexander Bergs in 2010 on the use of construction grammar perspective in expressing future actions in contemporary English. The study described and analyzed the different means of expressing futurity in English namely, *shall/will, be going to, be to,* the simple present and the present progressive tense using the framework of Construction Grammar. The preliminary result of the study revealed that the construction in expressing futurity belonged to the constructional language family, and that expressing future actions are independent constructions.

Moreover, Kristian Lid (2010) investigated on the future-referring expressions in English and in Norwegian which aimed to discover the systematic correlations of the expressions of future-referring verb in both languages. It was a computer-based corpus inquiry in order to make comparisons, or in other words, to explore horizontal dimensions. The study found that there was a frequent occurrence of the expression *will* both in English and Norwegian languages to express futurity. The study concluded that there was no one-to-one relationship between future reference of English and Norwegian as the expressions occur in everything that corresponds with everything.

The study of Ilse Wischer (2006) has further provided understanding on the use of *will* and *shall* as markers of futurity in old English and its grammaticalization. The study found that even if the use of *will* and *shall* are becoming popular as future markers, the modern English still frequently use the simple present tense to express futurity.

Cacoullos and Walker (n.d.) also looked into the grammatical variations and collocations in the discourse of the present of the English future. The study utilized the variationist method to reveal the expression of future time in English, and investigated the grammatical construct of *will and going to* in the same domain. It was found that the use of patterns to express futurity is not determined by proximity, certainty, willingness, or intention. But instead, the choice of expression is determined by lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic context. It was concluded that collocations add to the choice of grammatical construction variations.

Another interesting finding was made by Facchinetti (n.d.) who investigated on the expressions of futurity British Caribbean creole. It was a corpus-based study on the future constructions used by acrolectal, biselectal, and mesolectal groups. It was found that among the acrolects, the use of *will* was the most preferred way of expressing futurity. On the other hand, the use of *be going to* was found to be frequent among the mesolects. And for the basilects, the use of simple present tense to express future actions was noticeable. In addition to the forms, it was also found that *shall* was seen to be used on the formal context and in exclusively archaic biblical value.

Based on the related studies provided, though not all studies yielded the same results, it appears that the use of *will* is very conspicuous as the most preferred expression of futurity in the different contexts and countries.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher gathered samples from the elite academic institutions and organizations in the Philippines which are believed to reflect the standard variety of Philippine English. The study made use of ten (10) announcements from each of the identified subject, with the total of fifty (50) samples, which were posted on the subjects' respective official websites. The choice was based on the criteria provided by Bautista (2000) that the standard variety of Philippine English is determined by the elite people who use it, and the elite institutions which use it. The universities included were chosen since they have been judged as best universities in the country and even made it to the lists of top universities in Asia, based on the recent QS University Rankings in ASIA 2016 posted in the Rappler Philippines on June 14, 2016. While the international academic institutions based in the Philippines are considered as elite members in the academic society and they reflect the standard variety of English as they operate in the international academic context.

The researcher made use of ten (10) sample announcements from each of the identified institutions posted from January to August of 2016. After collecting the data, the researcher thoroughly reviewed the samples to determine the expressions of futurity guided by the grammatical construction framework, and the construction of futurity as provided by Leech. After identifying the future expressions, the researcher made a frequency count to determine the number of instances that a certain expression occurred, and the equivalent percentage. The result of the frequency count lead to the identification of the most preferred expression of future time by adding the frequency of occurrence of each expression from all institutions and organizations included in this study.

RESULTS

The data for this inquiry on the expression of futurity in the Philippine academic context were gathered and after thorough examination of the samples, the researcher was able to discover the different expressions of futurity and the frequently used form. The institutions are labelled as A, B, C, D and E.

Table 1. Expressing futurity in the different institutions and organizations

EXPRESSION	A	B	C	D	E
Will	25	22	23	21	17
won't (will not)	1	0	0	0	0
'll	0	0	0	0	0
Shall	0	2	0	1	0
Shan't	0	0	0	0	0
be + going to	0	0	0	0	0
Gonna	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**26**	**24**	**23**	**22**	**17**

The data found in table 1 shows the strong presence of *will* in expressing future time. It is very noticeable that in all the sample announcements under reviewed, the use of *will* dominated. Out of ten (10) sample announcements from each of the identified source of data, the use of *will* appeared in the institution A in 25 instances, followed by institutions B, C, D and E.

In the institution A, all its announcements used *will* to denote future time. The data gathered from this government agency suggested that it does not consider any other form of futurity except for *will*. The following examples reflect the use of *will* in their announcements.

"These *will be attended* by interested individuals from higher education institutions."

"Officials and employees of State and Local Universities and Colleges (SUCs and LUCs) who *will participate* in this activity should obtain prior approval from the President/Head of their respective

institutions and are hereby reminded to observe proper use of government funds in accordance with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) National Budget Circular No. 486 and Administrative Order No. 103."

"This activity *will be participated* in by faculty and students from higher education institutions."
"This activity will be attended by teachers, experts, and researchers from higher education institutions."
"OPRKM *will do* the data harmonization and filtering prior to posting website."
There was an instance in which the negative variant *will not* was used in the CHED announcement.

"Furthermore, the CHDS are also reminded that OPRKM-KMD *will not be accepting* submissions which do not follow the prescribed format."

Although, this negative form of expressing futurity cited in the institution A announcement is still a variant and belongs to the family of *will* grammatical construction.

The data gathered from institution B somehow appeared to be slightly different as compared to the results revealed from institution A since the majority of the announcements made use of the *will* to express future time. The following are the sample statements from their announcements.

"Successful applicant *will be* notified on July 8, 2016."

"The Philippine Journal of Social Development (PJSD), a national refereed journal published by the College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD), *will be releasing* two (2) issues: one in April 2016, and another in August 2016."

"For 2016, the twelfth U.P. Gawad Plaridel *will be given* to an outstanding radio practitioner."

"UP, in partnership with CNN, *will hold* two Town Hall meetings at Cine Adarna of the UP Film Institute in UP Diliman on February 18, 2016 featuring the tandem of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Senator Alan Cayetano, and on March 10, 2016 featuring the tandem of Vice-President Jejomar Binay and Senator Gringo Honasan."

"The Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Incorporated in partnership with the Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman, *will be holding* a symposium, "In Search of a China Strategy: Unpacking the Bilateral and Regional Dynamics of Philippines-China Relations" on August 17-18, 2016."

The results show that even the premier state university in the country prefers the use *will* in expressing futurity. However, there were presence of *shall* in the samples reviewed. The use of *shall* occurred twice in the context of calling for nominations for deanship in the College of Engineering (COE), and in the School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR). The announcements were written as follows:

"Nominations shall be received on weekdays from 8:00 am of 26 April 2016 to Monday 5:00pm of 5 May 2016. " (College of Engineering)

"The Search committee for the Deanship of SOLAIR shall receive nominations from 1:00pm of June 3, 2016 to 12:00 noon of June 17, 2016. " (SOLAIR)

Moving on to the other academic institution, institution C purely used *will* to express futurity. There was no other form of future expression found in the samples which were analyzed.

"The Lasallian community the Lasallian Pastoral Office *will sponsor* the 4th Day of the Novena Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish on August 9, 2016."

"The elevator *will not be* operational from 10:00am. to 10pm."

"The Campus Sustainability Office *will be closed* from 08 to 09 August 2016 (Monday and Tuesday), to give way to their Lasallian Faith Formation Session at GK Enchanted Farm in Bulacan."

"The research fellows, director, research assistants and staff of the DLSU Social Development Research Center *will be attending* a Writeshop on Manual Field Research Operations from August 5-6, 2016."

"The Center will be closed on these days and regular operations *will resume* on Monday, August 8, 2016."

In a similar academic environment, institution D was found to have a strong presence of *will* in their announcements. Examples of these future expressions are the following:

"The application for academic year 2017-2018 *will officially start* on June 28, 2016."

"The Office for Admissions *will be closed* on June 23, 2016."

"Work *will resume* on May 30, 2016."

"USTET Results *will be released* online on January 28, 2017."

"In the event that work is cancelled on your scheduled appointment, a new date *will be posted* on the "Announcement" portion of this page."

Although, there was an instance where *shall* occurred in the institution D announcement. The context was on the admission policies of the university. The announcement went this way:

"Once we receive your documents, you *shall receive* a notification after five (5) days regarding the status of your application."

In the context of Philippine-based international academic organizations, the samples were taken from their announcements in calling for submission of research paper either for national or international presentations. And as observed, all the announcements reviewed made use of the expression *will* to signal future action. Some of the announcements made were written as follows:

The International Research Enthusiast Society Incorporated:
"The 2ⁿᵈ ISEARCHED *will serve* as a platform for international exchange of experience, ideas, opinions, collaborations and cooperation among academicians, educators, industry researchers, and other practitioners from South East Asia (http://www.isearched.webs.com)."

Communication Research Department, UP:
"The 2016 CRIC *will accept* studies on voices and noises with regard to ASEAN integration at the local, national, regional, and global levels (http://cric.ph)."

The Philippine eLearning Society:
"The proceedings of the 13ᵗʰ National eLearning Conference *will be compiled* electronically in the conference proceedings under ISSN No. 2094-5485 and qualified papers *will be invited* for publication at PeLS Online Journal (http://elearning.ph)."

UP Open University:

"The conference *will be* a venue to share experiences in open education and critical reflections on the region's contribution to the achievement of "a world of open, flexible and effective education for all" (http://aaou2016.upou.edu.ph)."

Communication Research Department, UP:
"Communication and Integration within and across ASEAN Communities is the theme of a 2-day international conference which *will be held* 22-23 September 2016 at the College of Mass Communication, UP Diliman, Philippines (http://cric.ph)."

The results suggest that there is a strong preference in the use of *will* in expressing futurity in the academic institutions and organizations in the country. It is also interesting to note in all the announcements reviewed to identify future expressions, the auxiliary *shall* was almost completely absent. It only appeared thrice (3) out of one-hundred eleven (111) occurrences of futurity in the fifty (50) announcements.

Table 2. Combined variant forms of future expressions and frequencies in percentage

EXPRESSIONS	A	B	C	D	E
Will+won't+'ll	26 (100%)	22 (91.7%)	23 (100%)	21 (95.5%)	17 (100%)
shall +shan't	0	2 (8.3%)	0	1 (4.5%)	0
Be going to +gonna	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**26 (100%)**	**24 (100%)**	**23 (100%)**	**22 (100%)**	**17 (100%)**

The results show that the use of *will* is the most preferred way of expressing futurity in the Philippine academic contexts. It was very evident as illustrated by the frequencies and the equivalent percentage presented on table 2. These results strongly sustain the findings provided by Nelson in 2005 that the use of *will* is the most preferred way of expressing future time in Philippine English. The present study has shown the same situation when it comes to the preference of expressing futurity in the Philippine academic context. It confirms that *will* is the most preferred expression of futurity, and the use of *shall* and its variants are noticeably almost absent in the investigation conducted. The rare presence of *shall* was also stressed by Nelson in 2005.

Moreover, the dominance of *will* as the most preferred expression of futurity validated the claims provided by Hasselard et al., discussed by Lid, as the frequent way of expressing futurity in English. This analysis also affirms the argument provided by Berglund (1997) who found the strong presence of *will* in expressing futurity in Indian English, American English and British English. The results also support the numerous related studies discussed in this investigation which found *will* the most frequently used form in expressing future time.

Furthermore, this study discovered that there were only three (3) instances where *shall* was used in the fifty (50) samples utilized for this investigation. In the sample sentences from the announcements provided, it was revealed that the use of *shall* was confined in the most formal context. It is very interesting to discover that *shall* was chosen in the announcements in calling for nominations for deanship in the two colleges of the institution B, while the rest of their announcements used *will*. The researcher believes that this substantiates the assertion of Nelson that *shall* is highly restricted to the most formal categories or situations. The call for deanship is highly formal since this involves high-achieving academic personalities, and the selection considers those who have the ability to perform administrative and academic functions. Being the dean is an honored position which is occupied by someone who has advanced degrees, someone who has progressed within the ranks of the faculty, someone who has published nationally and internationally, and someone who has gained respect in the field of specialization. The researcher

thinks that the choice of *shall* was influenced by the traditional notion that associates this expression to communicate formality and to convey a serious tone.

In addition, the sample collected from institution D reflected the use of *shall* to express futurity was found in the announcement of the university's admission process and policy.

These categories where *shall* appeared in the institutions B and D were also identified by Nelson in his study when he claimed that the use of *shall* was evident in the administrative/instructional and academic writing. The use of *shall* is manifested on the situation/s perceived by the writer as highly formal, and it seems that *shall* appears in a more specialized genres and even in specific text. This explains the occurrence of *shall* in the announcements which were administrative and instructional by nature.

The results uncovered by this present investigation are very good additions to further establish the strong preference of *will* in expressing future time in English language. Additionally, the results indicated that there was a great decrease, if not absence, in the use of *shall* to express futurity in the Philippine English variety, and even around the world. This observation was also noticed by Berglund (n.d.) in her case study concerning expressions of future. She argued that there is an evident decrease in the use of *shall* in expressing futurity which has become apparent in the later part of the 20th century. She further stated that the use of *shall* continuously decreased from 1961 to 1991. Furthermore, the result reinforces the observation made by Leech, which was discussed in the study of Lid, that there is a decline of the use of *shall* in expressing future time and it is restricted in a very few linguistic contexts. This idea is also supported by the claim provided by Partridge (1995) who commented that *will* has rapidly supplanted *shall* in all cases.

In the context of the Philippines, the frequent use of *will* is founded on the influence of the American English in all spheres of language, education, and teaching. Just like the Philippine English, the American English is characterized by the strong presence of *will* and the almost complete absence of *shall* in expressing futurity.

The decrease of the use of *shall* is based on its association to an old variety of English, to its formality, and to its leaning toward legalistic statements. In the contemporary ultra-modern world, such connotations are not seen as relevant and appropriate anymore. The present generation has successfully broken formality in any form of communication through social media and the internet. People nowadays favor spontaneity of interpersonal communications and discussions. The use of language in this digital-age is expected to be natural and relaxed. Most of the people do not even bother whether their statements are grammatically correct or whether their pronunciations are accurate or not. These linguistic awareness was reflected by Godine (2005) when he reminded everyone not to use *shall* if the speaker tries to be natural. It was added that *shall* should not be used just to sound elegant because the speaker might get a negative response.

Indeed, the results of this study reflect the theory provided by grammatical construction that the expression of futurity in English is an independent construction. Though, the choice of construction is influenced by lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic context. In the data presented, the use of *will* and *shall* was pragmatically determined as explained previously with regard to the context of use of both future expressions. But still, these constructions belong to a constructional language family which is united by a common function, namely, the expression of futurity.

CONCLUSIONS
This study concludes that the preference of the Filipinos, generally, has not changed since the work of Nelson. Similar to the previous study, the use of *shall* was also found to be rare or almost completely absent from the data reviewed. And since this research endeavor yielded the same results with that of Nelson's, the researcher believes that this study substantiates his argument that the unusual distribution of *shall* is a result of the "over-observance" of the prescriptive rules in English grammar. He also added that such adherence to what is prescribed is a reflection of the "stylistic insecurity" of the Filipinos.

The preference of using *will* in the Philippine English variety is perceived as the influence of the Americans who has not actually left the Filipinos. The Americans, who once colonized the Philippines, have continued to influence the everyday lives of the Filipinos in various ways especially in language. It is not surprising that the variety of English language that Filipinos speak until today is the same as the American English which was used to teach the colonized

"little brown American" by the American teachers. Although Americans have granted the freedom of the Philippines, their presence is still felt through mass media, education, and politics. Filipinos have adopted the American culture and its language which, the researcher believes, is already difficult to change. Furthermore, it seems that it is already difficult to erase the colonial influence imbedded in the minds and in the hearts of the Filipinos especially the language being modeled.

The researcher asserts that Americans have already shaped the language and the culture of the Filipinos. Looking back on the Philippine history, it was the teachers from the United States who first introduced education in the country using the only language they knew, the American English. Since then, American English has become the language of education and of the different domains including mass media and literary writing. It is not surprising that even McGeown (2012) found Filipinos speak with a clear American accent. And she believes that the kind of English that the Philippines has is brought by the United States that ruled the country in the past. Kirkpatrick (2007) added that the colonial and the linguistic history of the Philippines give enlightening example of the development of a new variety of English.

Additionally, the researcher believes that the findings of the study reflect the status of English language teaching in the Philippines. She thinks that both the results provided by Nelson and of the present study mirror the model of language teaching in the different educational institutions in the country. There is no doubt that Filipinos construct sentences and express things like Americans do. This implies that Filipinos are conforming to the native standard and prescriptive rules of the American English language. The textbooks used in the Philippines are mostly imported from the United States, including the strategies and the approaches on how it has to be taught. And since teachers in the Philippines, generally, are not trained to become English as Second Language (ESL) teachers, the inclination to just follow what Americans do is great.

But the researcher also feels that, in addition to the fixed model generally followed in English language teaching and learning in the Philippines, conforming to the traditional grammar is influenced by the limited resources that our educational institutions have. This inadequacy has made teachers utilize on what is only readily available. Most teachers, especially in public schools and state universities, resort to old traditional books which have been used decades ago as the primary source for language learning because these are the only books available in the library or the one prescribed by the agencies because of the meager budget provided to the education sector. Most of these books as reference in teaching English language in the local context are based on traditional grammar which provides century-old concepts. This results to over-dependence to prescriptive teaching of the target language in the classroom.

Furthermore, as shown by the educated Filipinos and the elite organizations and institutions in the country, the frequently occurring *will* as expression of futurity reflects the characteristics of Philippine English and its relationship to other varieties of English. Its connection to other varieties refers to the manner in which this expression conforms to the norm-providing native English variety-the American English. The preference of *will* in expressing future time is considered as a feature of Philippine English. The strong presence of *will* and the absence of *shall* encourage the idea that these are the unique characteristics of Filipino English. And again, as a general conclusion, the use of *will* is the preferred expression of futurity in Philippine English.

Finally, the researcher recommends that it is time for Filipinos to revolutionize the English language learning and teaching in the present situation. The world has changed and so are the concepts in English language. The concepts of world Englishes (WE), English as lingua franca (ELF), and English as an international language (EIL) must be introduced to the learners, teachers and curriculum planners. In this way, the Filipinos can produce new breed of English language users who can explore different ways of expressing things and not only limited to what the norm provides. And if the strong presence of *will* still rules in spite of introducing these different movements, it can strongly establish such choice of future expression as feature of Philippine English.

The findings generated in this paper are insights for learners, teachers, and researchers which recommend further inquiry in expressing futurity in the different genres of writing and in the different linguistic situations.

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