Preface

The purpose of Modern Tagalog: Grammatical Explanations and Exercises for Non-Native Speakers is to provide advanced students of Tagalog as a foreign language with practice on points that range from phonology to syntax. While the emphasis of these exercises is on written work, many of them may be used for oral drill as well.

The exercises are arranged systematically for ease of location. They progress from the less difficult to the more difficult. Explanations are kept to a minimum.

Chapter 1 deals with the description of Tagalog sounds, with drills that focus on the sounds difficult for native English speakers. This is followed by a section on sound changes and cases of stress shift. A short exercise on pitch and intonation concludes this chapter.

Chapter 2 discusses three general classes of simple sentences: sentences with a subject, subjectless sentences, and existential sentences.

Chapter 3 focuses on the verb and its two important features: aspect and focus. Aspect refers to the expression of duration in the verb, and focus to the expression in the verb of the role of the subject or primary participant in the action.

Chapter 4 describes how the basic sentence is expanded in three simple ways: identify other participants in the event; modify the event, the participants, or the modifiers; and compound the event, the participants, or the modifiers.

Chapter 5 begins with some structural changes in the basic sentence such as inverted sentences, negative sentences, questions, commands, requests, and exhortations. Then come more functions of the verbs such as aptative/abilitative and social-participative functions. The chapter ends with the use and meaning of enclitics.

Chapters 6, 7, and 8 describe complex sentences which are combinations of two or more simple sentences. Chapters 6 and 7 focus on conjoining, the joining of two sentences one after the other. The last chapter (8) focuses on embedding one sentence inside another.

The sequence of practice moves from simple to complex structures. Mastery of these structures is especially important for writing since they provide grammatical shapes for the expression of predications and thus relate grammar to meaning. At the end of each section are exercises to assist the students in constructing and creating simple and complex sentences in Tagalog.
Most of the descriptions of the first five chapters are based on *Tagalog Structures* by Teresita Ramos, published by the University Press of Hawaii. All the exercises are new.

Teresita V. Ramos
Resty M. Cena