

**“Wagas”: Communication Patterns of Selected Families in Cavite on
Wedding Traditions**

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Abstract

Wedding is considered sacred for Filipino families. The process of marriage contributes to the rich culture of the Philippines; and wedding traditions, negotiations, superstitions are passed from generation to generation. The province of Cavite has undergone developments. With this, it is significant to study if wedding traditions and negotiations still exist and practiced by Caviteño families.

This study aimed to find what communication patterns and negotiations were practiced by selected families in Cavite on Wedding traditions from the four processes of Wedding namely Pamamanhikan, Preparations, Wedding Proper and Reception. In-depth interviews of couples, their families and an observation of a Wedding were conducted to gather data.

Using Dewey's Transmission and Ritual view of Communication and Baxter and Montgomery's Relational Dialectics, the study found out that in Pamamanhikan, the date, civil or church wedding and expenses were negotiated. Principal and Secondary Sponsors, Gowns and Barongs, Place of reception and wedding traditions and superstitions dominated the negotiations in the Wedding Preparation while there were less negotiation in the Wedding proper and Reception. The place, socio-economic status, numbers and relationship of the couples and their family are the leading factors during decision making. Filipinos who are family oriented tend to make decision-making participatory acknowledging the authority of parents and relatives.

If aggressively communicated, some wedding traditions are passed down for the purpose of control while some are "shared" if communicated passively and assertively by couples and their families. The data shows wedding traditions and practices are done either the old way or an innovated one.

Keywords: Weddings, Traditions, Dialectics