

## LESSON 13



### **Pakikinig: Pagkamatay ni Leonard Co, Kilalang Botanist** Death of Leonard Co, Renowned Botanist

Listen to two short audio clips (file names: inter tag lesson 13A [1:17 minutes] and inter tag lesson 13B [1:11 minutes]) on the death of Leonard Co, ethnobotanist and plant taxonomist, author of the books *Common Medicinal Plants in the Cordillera Region: A Trainor's Manual for Community-based Health Programs*, 1981 and *Palanan Forest Dynamics Plot: Floristic Diversity and Stand Structure of a Lowland Evergreen Forest in N.E. Luzon, Philippines*, 2004; president of the Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society; and a professor at the University of the Philippines. Co discovered several endemic orchid species in Palawan; additionally, his achievements were honored by botanist Julie Barcelona when she named the *Rafflesia leonardi*, which she discovered, after him.

Co, along with four companions, was killed while conducting research in Kananga, Leyte. There are two stories here: the military's story and that of the surviving members of Co's team of botanists. The main question is: **Pinatay ba o napatay si Leonard Co?** (*Was Co intentionally or accidentally killed?*)—as you practice distinguishing between the use of the affixes **in-** and **na-** to show intended or unintended action.

The first audio clip is an excerpt from a report by Victoria Tulad filed for the news show *24 Oras* and features an interview with a colonel. The full video clip can be accessed at <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/206324/news/nation/no-crossfire-when-botanist-leonard-co-was-shot-witness-says>. The second clip, an excerpt from a follow-up report also by Tulad, features interviews with survivor Policarpio Balute and UP Institute of Biology Director Dr. Perry Ong. It can be accessed at <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/206423/news/nation/military-knew-leonard-co-was-in-the-area-edc>.

To help you prepare, review/study these vocabulary words and phrases:

**AUDIO CLIP A:** **hindi matatawaran** (literally, cannot be discounted; exemplary); **paglalathala** (publication); **halamang gamot** (medicinal plants); **binhi** (seedling); **nadamay** (got involved); **hindi inaasahan** (unexpected); **masukal na lugar** (dense place; less accessed part of a forest); **karaniwang nagtatago** (usually hiding); **NPA** (New People's Army),\* **kalaban** (opponent)

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\* The New People's Army has waged the national democratic revolution in the Philippines since 1969. Among its most known members are the poet Emmanuel Lacaba, Makibaka women's group founding chair Lorena Barros, former student leader Edgar Jopson, and Miss Philippines-World 1967 Maita Gomez, all of whom are now deceased. For more information about the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front (NDF), please visit <http://www.ndfp.net/joom15/>.

**AUDIO CLIP B:** **nagsama-sama** (came together); **nagdududa** (doubtful; skeptical); **naipit sa crossfire** (got caught in a crossfire); **pahayag** (statement); **terorista** (terrorist).

Note how the Armed Forces of the Philippines refer to members of the NPA as “communist terrorists,” while members of the group (in the website referred to in the footnote below), refer to themselves as **mga rebolusyonaryo** (revolutionaries), again underlining that there are always two sides in a story.

After listening to the two audios, review the following statements of Dr. Ong. Pay attention to the affixes used for the root word **putok** (fire):

**SENTENCE 1:** **Wala po akong nadinig na nagputukan bago kami naputukan.** *I did not hear any exchange of fire (note affixes for reciprocal action **nag-an**) before we were fired at (note affixes for directional focus **na-an**).*

**SENTENCE 2:** **Sila ang pinapaputukan.** *They were the ones being fired at (note construction of verb **pinapa** + root word **putok** + **an**, indicating a causative sentence, and continuous repeated action).*

Then, answer the following comprehension questions:

1. What were the scientific contributions of Dr. Leonard Co, according to the news reporter?
2. According to the first statement of the reporter, how or why were Dr. Co and his companions killed?
3. What were Dr. Co and his companions doing in Kananga, Leyte when they were killed?
4. What did Dr. Co’s family say about Dr. Co’s activities?
5. What did the spokesperson of the Philippine army say about the shooting?
6. What was survivor Policarpio Balute’s opinion about the shooting?