The Philippines has a rich oral literature, which includes epics, folktales, and proverbs. Epic literature, often referred to as "pambat," is characterized by its oral tradition and its focus on national heroes. The most famous example is the "Florante at Laura," which is a tale of love and revenge. Folktales, or "kabata," are stories that are passed down orally and often feature moral lessons. Proverbs, or "kabali," are concise statements that encapsulate wisdom.

Folktales and epics are often used to convey cultural values and to preserve the history and identity of the Philippines. They are an integral part of the country's cultural heritage and are an important source of national pride.

The Philippines' oral literature has been preserved and studied by various scholars, who have sought to capture and record these stories. One of the most influential works in this area is "Philippine Epic Literature," a collection edited by Stephen R. Kramer and published in 1977. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the oral literature of the Philippines, including the different types of stories and the contexts in which they are told.

Another important work is "Philippine Folk Literature," a comprehensive survey of the country's folk literature, edited by Bienvenido L. Lumbera and published in 2004. This book covers a wide range of genres, from epics and folktales to songs, proverbs, and riddles, and provides a rich and detailed account of the oral traditions of the Philippines.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in the study of Philippine oral literature. This has been facilitated by advances in technology, which have made it easier to record and preserve these stories. At the same time, there has been an increased recognition of the importance of oral literature as a means of preserving cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity.

Overall, the study of Philippine oral literature is an important area of research that has the potential to contribute significantly to our understanding of the country's history, culture, and identity.