Local healing in northern Thailand: An anthropological study of its effectiveness
Tantipidoke, Y.

Citation for published version (APA):
## Contents

List of tables, figures, maps, and illustrations  ix
List of abbreviations and acronyms  x
A note on Thai language and spelling  x
Acknowledgements  xi

### Chapter I: Introduction  1
- Situating local healing in Thailand  4
  - Theoretical concepts  6
    - Pluralism and local systems of health care  6
    - The local world and its moral aspects  7
    - The healing process  9
    - Effectiveness of healing  10
- Traditional medicine in Thailand: From past to present  12
  - Heritage from the past  12
  - Revival of traditional Thai medicine  13
- Research objective and research questions  17
- Research methodology  17
  - The sampling of local healers and patient  18
  - Data collecting methods and engagement with the field  20
  - Data analysis  23
  - Ethical considerations  24
- Outline of the thesis  24

### Chapter II: Origin and historical development of Lanna society and its healing tradition  27
- The multi-ethnic origin of Lanna society  29
- Main characteristics of local communities  33
- The heritage of Lanna healing  34
- Common beliefs and healing practices in Lanna  36
- The introduction and expansion of Western medicine  40
  - State medical services and the medical school  42
- The AIDS crisis in Northern Thailand  43
  - The fight against AIDS  44
  - The introduction of the antiretroviral program  47
- Conclusion  49
Chapter III: Local healers’ search for a disease theory of and healing methods for HIV and AIDS

AIDS: A new disease? 53
Khang: The origin of AIDS 55
Mo Pinkaew from Mae Taeng 55
HIV, AIDS, and *khang* 58
*Khang/sang* in medical texts 59
*Khang, kimichat, incorrect diet, and HIV* 60
*Khang muttakhuet phrai kin lueat* 62
HIV positive might not be HIV or AIDS 62
The unrecognized disease theory of AIDS 62

Principles of treatment 63
Symptomatic treatment 63
Normalizing inner elements (*prap that*) 64
Killing germs (*kha chuea*) 65
Excreting toxin, excreting germs (*khap phit, khap chuea*) 66
Dietary control (*kam kin*) 66
Living conditions (*kam yu*) 68
Detach oneself from something that causes suffering (*kan plong*) 68
Reducing the side effects of antiretroviral medication 69
Summary 69
Indications of a good outcome 71
Conclusion 73

Chapter IV: Meaning transformations as a key aspect of healing 75
Transformation of a healer: Mo Boon from Ban Denchai 77
Boon’s life as an ordinary villager 78
The AIDS crisis and the transformation of a healer 78
Analyzing the transformative process 82
Transforming an abandoned temple into an HIV healing center 83
Transforming a space into a place of healing: An analysis 85
The transformation of AIDS from a fatal into a treatable disease 85
Transcending emotional distress 87
The use of proverbs, metaphors, and pictures 88
Religious practices 90
Ritual transformation: An analysis 93
Religious practices and support for others 93
The effectiveness of healing as a result of the intersection of various meaning making processes 95
Conclusion 96
Chapter V: Meaning attributions to medicines and their effects

Sathit: A case study
Sacralization of medicines
Naming of medicines
Bodily sensations as effects of medicines
A reflection on the symbolic power of medicines
Conclusion

Chapter VI: The significance of the local moral world for the healing process

The main spiritual entities in Ban Denchai

Phi
Khru
Khrua Siwichai (1878 -1938): The most respected monk in Northern Thailand
Phra that and Pho: Symbols of the Buddha
Hierarchical order of entities and human beings
Merit (bun)
Remaking a moral life amidst social change
Maneuvering in a situation of moral breakdown
Mo Boon and the minivan
Sensitivity to social recognition
Analysis of Mo boon’s coping with moral breakdown
Conclusion

Chapter VII: The role of morality in the practice of healing

Mo Somsak from Ban On Klang
Learning how to treat HIV/AIDS patients by trial and error
Compassionate care: Its development and limitations in the case of Mo Somsak
The core moral elements experienced as meaningful aspects of healing
Faith-related trust (khwam chuea thue sattha)
Power of virtue (khun)
Merit (bun)
Conclusion

Chapter VIII: The ambiguous role of secrecy in health and healing

Fear of stigmatization
Four case studies
Ampha, a housekeeper: Concealment of morally unacceptable behavior
Wipha, a teacher: Concealment for the sake of job security and social status protection