Local healing in northern Thailand: An anthropological study of its effectiveness
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Citation for published version (APA):

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Glossary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ahan salaeng</td>
<td>prohibited foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>akatsa that</td>
<td>the element of air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao en</td>
<td>a style of folk massage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao man</td>
<td>a style of Burmese massage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baisi</td>
<td>a food offering decorated with banana leaves and flowers, topped with a boiled egg</td>
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<tr>
<td>barami</td>
<td>the stages of spiritual perfection achieved by a bodhisattva on his path to Buddhahood</td>
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<tr>
<td>bhavana</td>
<td>mental development</td>
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<tr>
<td>bodhisattva</td>
<td>one who has strong intentions to attain enlightenment in order to help his fellow beings or to be a candidate for Buddhahood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bucha thian</td>
<td>worshipping with candles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bud-dho</td>
<td>Buddha or the Enlightened One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddha khun</td>
<td>the virtue of Buddha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bun</td>
<td>merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chao thi</td>
<td>the spirit that protects the place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chet haek</td>
<td>a technique to expel poisonous illness by rubbing betel leaves, a knife, or a wild animal’s canine tooth dipped in a herbal solution on the affected person’s body, while chanting mantra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chop pit</td>
<td>a technique to extract poison in case of poisonous fever and pain by touching the client’s body with a boiled egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dam hua</td>
<td>the rite of expressing gratitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>danna</td>
<td>giving or generosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decha</td>
<td>power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharma khun</td>
<td>the virtue of the Buddha’s teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du sombat tai din</td>
<td>the ancient practice of looking for underground treasures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duang chata</td>
<td>the fate of the individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farang</td>
<td>the Thai word for a Westerner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fi hai</td>
<td>severe abscess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fi mamuang</td>
<td>a type of venereal disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fi san buam phong</td>
<td>abnormal collection of tissue under the skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hong khwan</td>
<td>a rite of calling mind-soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hua wat</td>
<td>the system that creates relations between people from different villages through religious events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>itthibat si</td>
<td>Buddhist teaching of the Four Paths of Accomplishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kae ban</td>
<td>the senior leader of the domestic division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kae khuet</td>
<td>a rite of undoing khuet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kae mueang fai</td>
<td>the senior leader of the irrigation division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kae wat</td>
<td>the senior leader of the religious division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kam kin</td>
<td>practices regarding dietary control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kam yu</td>
<td>practices regarding living conditions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

kan plong  
detaching oneself from something that causes suffering
khai e-suk e-sai  
chicken pox
khai fai lam thung  
erysipelas
khai kan  
black fevers
khai ngu sawat  
herpes zoster
khai nuea  
the Northern fevers
khai ok hat  
measles
khai phit  
poisonous fevers
khai raksat  
typhoid fever
khai wat noi  
cold
khai wat yai  
influenza
kham ba kao  
local proverbs
khang lueat  
a blood disease originating from khang
khang muttakhuet  
a type of venereal disease related to a blood disorder
khap chuea  
excreting germs
khap phit  
excreting toxin
khatha  
a set of words that offer mystic power
khatha suep chata  
a verse for extending fate
khau tan  
a money tree, whereby bank notes are attached to split bamboo branches
khi sak hong ya  
people who have been previously treated with various medicines in hospital but with no effect, or who have been discarded by the hospital
khlaw khlat  
helping a person to escape from danger
khon suk  
literally a ‘ripe’ person, a person who is ordained and who follows the proper conduct in accordance with the way of Buddha’s teachings
khong krphan chatri  
making a person invulnerable
khro  
a bad situation or the experience of misfortune
Khruba  
the title that Northern Thai people confer on monks, usually of old age, who are highly venerated for their sanctity and personal charisma
khuen thao thang si  
worshipping the angels of four directions
khuet  
prohibitive rules concerning action which may result in bringing bad luck to an individual or the community
khun  
the virtue or good quality of persons, deities, abstract entities, or things deserving respect
khun phra si rattanatrai  
the virtue of the triple gems – Buddha, Buddha’s teachings, and the community of Buddhist monks
khun sai  
black magic
khun ya  
the virtue inside medicines
khwak sui a technique to heal a broken bone with mantra, medicinal oil, and bamboo splints

khwm chuea thue sattha faith-related trust
khwan the abstract part of a human being that maintains the will power of a person and brings about prosperity and well being in life
kimichat pathogenic worms or parasites in the body
kin phit eating improper foods
klin chun a stinky odor
klin khao a fishy odor
kratung khai pushing out fever
kratung phit khai pushing out febrile toxin
lom phit duean postpartum syndrome, a syndrome that often occurs in mothers after childbirth when they ingest improper foods or smell the wrong odors

luang pho the title that Thai people confer on elderly monks
ma khi spirit mediums
mae chang midwives
maha amnat barami bringing great power
maheng tum fai a chronic skin disease with vesicles
mahok lueat internal hemorrhoid
mantra a word or phrase repeated by a priest, healer, or a person who performs a ritual and other religious practices
mara a devil
mareng chronic sore
metta maha niyom (regarding a charm) the effect of making other persons fall in love with the wearer or for the wearer to become popular among others
mit mo the healer’s knife
mo kae khun sai a healer who corrects black magic
muat ban domestic division
muat mueang fai irrigation division
muat wat religious division
muttakhuet a disease category comparable to that of venereal disease or sexually transmitted diseases in biomedicine
naksat the twelve year animal cycle
nam pu a popular fermented food made from local crabs
nan a person who was once a monk
nang prok sitting in meditation
ngan khuang phaya the Northern healing wisdom festival
ngan poi luang a communal event to celebrate the inauguration of a new structure of a Buddhist temple
ngu sawat literally snake blow, or herpes zoster
Glossary

noi  a person who has been ordained as a novice
Orahant  a Buddhist saint
Orahant khao sing  a person who is inhabited by a Buddhist saint
pat khrō  wiping out misfortune
pen tum pen huean  leprosy with pustules
pha bangsukun  sets of readymade dresses that the Buddhists offer to monks
Phaya Wan Day  the start of the Northern New Year event, which falls on April 15th
pha yan  pieces of sacred cloth inscribed with various symbols and ancient alphabets arranged in different patterns
phansa  Buddhist lent
phaya  intellectual, insightful, and deep existential understanding
phaya in  the chief of angels
phi ba  a person who becomes possessed by an evil spirit
phi chao ban  the house guardian spirit
phi chao nai  spirits of late local rulers who were heroes or well respected
phi fai  spirits that guard the dikes
phi ka  persons accused of being ancestral spirits of the maternal lineage that have become malevolent
phi khun nam  spirits that guard water from the mountains
phi phrai  the spirit of a woman who has died during childbirth, which haunts a weak person in order to eat the raw meat or internal organs of the host
phi pu ya  ancestral spirits that protect and govern the descendants of the maternal lineage
phi suea ban  the village guardian spirit
phi suea wat  the temple guardian spirit
phithi hae mai kam  the rite for a procession of tree props
phithi suat bangsukun dip  the rite for a person assumed to be dead to extend his/her fate
phithi wai khru  the ritual of paying one’s respects to the spirit of the healer teachers
phra khrueang  small images of the Buddha or a Buddhist monk made from metal or other materials
phra that  relics of the Buddha or Buddhist saints
phrai  evil spirit
phrai ban  ordinary villagers
phrai mueang  people living in towns
phrom  noble beings in the high heaven
phum  the capability of the body to tolerate pathogens, allergic agents, and toxic agents
phum khum kan rok  immunity
pi mai mueang  the Northern New Year event
pradong  skin disease with hot itching
**Glossary**

- **prap that**: normalizing the inner elements of the body
- **prasa phew phai nok**: externally applying a decoction
- **punnakiriya-vatthu**: the three bases of meritorious action
- **raksa rok**: curing diseases
- **rap chok (lap)**: bringing good luck
- **ritsiduang**: the name for the category of diseases that all have protruding tissues in common
- **ritsiduang chamuk**: *ritsiduang* in the nose
- **ritsiduang ta**: trachoma
- **ritsiduang thawan**: hemorrhoid
- **rot man**: a fatty taste
- **rot nam mon**: sprinkling holy water
- **ru khun**: recognizing the virtue of the giver
- **sado khro**: diminishing *khro*
- **samathi kao than**: meditation of the nine bases
- **samsara**: the repeating cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth
- **san**: cancer
- **san khanthamala**: a sort of *san* disease that develops in the form of lumps along the tendons of the neck
- **sang (khang)**: a local disease concept based on the assumption that every infant has an innate possibility to fall ill from a specific disease depending upon his/her day of birth
- **sak muek**: a traditional practice to make a tattoo, which is believed to make the skin impenetrable and invulnerable
- **sang nam**: water *sang*
- **Sangkha khun**: the virtue of the community of Buddhist monks
- **santathat**: the name of a pathogenic worm in a child born on Monday
- **sap phit**: smelling the wrong odors
- **sek khatha**: chanting the sacred words
- **sila**: observing the precepts or codes of moral conduct
- **song khro**: the ritual to send away bad things after a person has experienced a bad situation that leads to unexpected results
- **song nam phra that**: sprinkling water on the Buddha’s relics
- **song pu ya thaen**: sending offerings to the Sky God
- **suep chata**: extending fate
- **suma kaeo thang sam**: asking for forgiveness from the three gems of Buddhism, namely the Buddha, the Buddha’s teachings, and the community of Buddhist monks
- **takrut**: a kind of amulet made of metal sheets rolled in a tubular shape
- **tan chon**: the result of changes in a child’s diet after the *sang* period
- **tan khan khao**: offering food to ancestors and the dead who used to be enemies
Tan Khao Mai Day the full moon day of the fourth month when the in-season rice has already been harvested
tap khaeng cirrhosis
thaen the Sky God in heaven
tham bun merit making
that the basic element according to Buddhism
that din the element of earth
that fai the element of fire
that lom the element of wind
that nam the element of water
thep angels
thet maha wibak a particular sermon regarding the story of a frugal millionaire suffering in hell
thewada angels
thon khuet withdrawing khuet
that pha pa a religious event held to offer essential necessities to monks
thu nam phiphat satcha the royal ceremony of the Oath of Allegiance
to chata extending one’s fate
tok sen a physical treatment of tapping away tension in muscles and tendons with special wooden instruments
top thaen bun khun rewarding the virtue of the giver
trai lakhhana the three signs, namely impermanence (anicca), state of conflict (dukkha), and not-self (anatta)
tu chao the term that villagers in Northern Thailand use to address Buddhist monks
wihan the building within a temple complex where the Buddha image is located
ya anantakrailat the drug of the eternity of Krailat mountain
ya ayu watthana wiset the special drug for rejuvenation
ya bamrung lueat the drug to nourish blood
ya bamrung rang kai the drug to nourish the body
ya benchakun the drug to nourish the four inner elements
ya chakkrawan fa khrop the drug of the heaven of the universe
ya daeng luang the red drug to treat fever
ya daeng luang phama the great red Burmese drug
ya daeng noi the drug to treat headache
ya dam literally black medicine, the drug to normalize blood and wind and treat skin papules
ya fok lueat the drug to cleanse blood
ya fon ground or crushed medicine
ya hanuman chong the drug of Hanuman taking the road and closing the ocean
thanon pit samut the drug of Hanuman taking the road and closing the ocean
ya pit pak luang the great drug to excrete poison
ya prap that the drug to normalize the inner elements of the body
ya kae chuea ra the drug to cure fungal infection
ya kae ha ton the drug comprised of five plants
ya kae kin phit the drug to treat dizziness and diarrhea from ingesting improper food
ya kae lueat phikan the drug for treating blood dysfunctions
ya kae puat hua the drug to cure headache
ya kaew ha duang a drug comprised of five valuable roots
ya kamlang ratchasi the fabulous lion power drug
ya kha chuea the anti germ drug
ya kha chuea neung the anti germ drug number one
ya kha chuea song the anti germ drug number two
ya khang lueat the drug to cure blood khang
ya khap chuea the drug to excrete germs
ya khap phit the drug to purge toxin
ya khiao maha phrom yai the great Brahma green drug
ya lom 80 the drug for eighty wind diseases
ya lom chiang tung the Chiang Tung drug to treat wind disease
ya lom phit duean phama the Burmese drug to treat disorders after childbirth
ya lueang wayo phinat the yellow drug that destroys wind
ya narai prasit the drug that gets its power from Narai, a Brahmin god
ya phra in-suan the drug offered by I-suan
ya phuthachaiya the winning Buddha drug
ya prap chomphuthawip the drug that subjugates everything in the Indian subcontinent
ya sa lueat the drug to cleanse blood
ya sang lueat the drug to create blood
ya sang nam lueang the drug to create lymph
ya thai the purgative drug
ya thai khang the drug to purge khang
ya that the drug to normalize the inner elements
ya thip rot the divine tasting drug
ya tom pot the drug to treat lung infection
ya wiset langka the special drug from Sri Lanka
ya yen cold drugs
yan a massage in which a healer warms his feet on hot charcoal before pressing them on a client’s body
yan mystic symbols inscribed on cloth, paper, leather, or metal sheet, appearing in the form of lines, tables, ancient alphabets, and numbers; always used in Thai amulets