Local healing in northern Thailand: An anthropological study of its effectiveness

Tantipidoke, Y.

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Glossary
Glossary

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

khwan 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 kro**: wiping out misfortune
- **pen tum pen huean**: leprosy with pustules
- **pha bang sukun**: 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 bang sukun 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prap that</td>
<td>normalizing the inner elements of the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prasa phew phai nok</td>
<td>externally applying a decoction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>punnakiriya-vatthu</td>
<td>the three bases of meritorious action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raksa rok</td>
<td>curing diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rap chok (lap)</td>
<td>bringing good luck</td>
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<tr>
<td>ritsiduang</td>
<td>the name for the category of diseases that all have protruding tissues in common</td>
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<tr>
<td>ritsiduang chamuk</td>
<td>ritsiduang in the nose</td>
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<tr>
<td>ritsiduang ta</td>
<td>trachoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ritsiduang thawan</td>
<td>hemorrhoid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot man</td>
<td>a fatty taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot nam mon</td>
<td>sprinkling holy water</td>
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<tr>
<td>ru khun</td>
<td>recognizing the virtue of the giver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sado khro</td>
<td>diminishing khro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>samathithao than</td>
<td>meditation of the nine bases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>samsara</td>
<td>the repeating cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth</td>
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<tr>
<td>san</td>
<td>cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>san khanthamala</td>
<td>a sort of san disease that develops in the form of lumps along the tendons of the neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sang (khang)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sak muek</td>
<td>a traditional practice to make a tattoo, which is believed to make the skin impenetrable and invulnerable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sang nam</td>
<td>water sang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sangkha khun</td>
<td>the virtue of the community of Buddhist monks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>santathat</td>
<td>the name of a pathogenic worm in a child born on Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sap phit</td>
<td>smelling the wrong odors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sek khatha</td>
<td>chanting the sacred words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sita</td>
<td>observing the precepts or codes of moral conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>song khro</td>
<td>the ritual to send away bad things after a person has experienced a bad situation that leads to unexpected results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>song nam phra that</td>
<td>sprinkling water on the Buddha’s relics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>song pu ya thaen</td>
<td>sending offerings to the Sky God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suep chata</td>
<td>extending fate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suma kaeo thang sam</td>
<td>asking for forgiveness from the three gems of Buddhism, namely the Buddha, the Buddha’s teachings, and the community of Buddhist monks</td>
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<tr>
<td>takrut</td>
<td>a kind of amulet made of metal sheets rolled in a tubular shape</td>
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<tr>
<td>tan chon</td>
<td>the result of changes in a child’s diet after the sang period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tan khan khao</td>
<td>offering food to ancestors and the dead who used to be enemies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 kluet  withdrawing kluet
thot pha pa  a religious event held to offer essential necessities to monks
thu nam phihat 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 lakkhana  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
ya khang  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