

**ILLNESS ACCORDING TO THE *MANOGBULONG* (FOLK HEALERS)
OF IGBARAS AND MIAGAO, ILOILO**

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ABSTRACT

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This study explores and documents the different attributions of illness by *manogbulong* or folk healers of Miagao and Igaras in the province of Iloilo. It contributes to the deepening of our understanding of indigenous conceptions of and illness.

Different practices indicate one or more specializations among the selected *manogbulong*, namely: *surhuano*, *surhuana*, *manoghilot*, *manogluy-a*, *paltira*, *baylan*, and *manogbot-bot*. There are three different causes of illness according to the *manogbulong*. Unseen beings (like fairies, the elves, ghosts); persons with special powers (such as witches and sorcerers); and, physiological functions or injuries (like cramps, muscle pains, fatigue, *kibit*, *bali* or bone dislocation, etc.).

The results of the study are as follows: First, sex (male/female) and type of locality (upland or coastal) of the *manogbulong* does not affect their perception of illness. Second, differences on perception of illness are associated with their specialization. For example, the *surhuano/surhuana* believed that unseen beings and people with special powers are always the cause of illness. The *manoghilot* on the other hand believed that *hangin* (cold air) is the primary cause of illness. When the *hangin* penetrates the *ugat* (blood vessel), an illness of physiological ailment occurs.