

Ambahan of the Panay Bukidnons: Its Nature and
Socio-Cultural Significance

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ABSTRACT

The study seeks to know the nature of the *ambahan* as an oral literature, its literary elements, and its socio-cultural significance. The results of the study show that the *ambahans* are narratives in free verse that are chanted spontaneously by the Panay Bukidnons. Their themes, variably deal with nature, work, love, customs and norms. The purposes of the chanting of the *ambahans* are to entertain, to teach, and to commemorate very significant occasions. According to the culture of the Panay Bukidnons, the practitioners of the *ambahan* are elderly men. No women are allowed to join in the chanting of the *ambahan*. Lastly, the *ambahans* reveal the unique culture, values and beliefs of the Panay Bukidnons of Barangay Masaroy, Calinog, Iloilo.