Thesis Title

A Study of Lexical Items on Sickness and Cures Among the So in Tambon Kusuman,

Amphoe Kusuman, Sakon Nakhon Province

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ABSTRACT

main purpose of this study is to understand the world view and culture of the So people through the analysis of their lexical terms for illness and cures found in the So language as spoken in Tambon Kusuman, Amphoe Kusuman, Nakhon Province. The methods of analysis are based on componential analysis and folk taxonomy.

This study is divided into 2 parts according to two semantic categories: Part one analyzes the lexical items associated with illness; part two analyzes the lexical items associated with the cures for illness.

The study of lexical items for illness has revealed the So people believe there are two sources of sickness. The first source of sickness comes from the physical world and disorders of human bodies are associated with this source. The

physical symtoms, and states of mind. The other source of sickness is the spiritual world: associated with this source of illness are vocabulary which deal with spirits, rituals, black magic and superstitions. The study of lexical items associated with the cures of illness are found three vocabulary categories. The first is terms for indigenous medications and medical paraphernalia of which there are four kinds: herbs, animals, minerals and inorganic materials. The second category is the vocabulary of the healers, and the third is the vocabulary associated with rituals.

vocabulary can be categorized according to health care system,