

## A SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF *TUD-OM* AS A CULTURAL TEXT

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### ABSTRACT

This linguistic analysis of *tud-om* as performed by an ethnolinguistic group—Manobo-- in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur aimed at investigating the structure and function of *tud-om*. *Tud-om* is a verbal art chanted or sung by a Manobo to an interlocutor. Gary Palmer's framework on cultural linguistics, which advances the tenet that the study of language can reveal the worldview of a society and the thoughts and practices of a culture, was employed to guide the analysis of data. The functional analysis points to the central belief of the Manobos in the spirits and a higher being. The functions of *tud-om* include healing a sick child, praying for the dead, invitation for social gatherings, bidding farewell, and summoning the spirit of the dead. The analysis also reveals that *tud-om* may have regularity in its structure. It is performed between one to three minutes. This paper recommends that language documentation be done in order to preserve this verbal art, that *tud-om* be included in the readings and discussion in Philippine Literature courses to encourage understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Manobo in Surigao del Sur, and finally, that translation of *tud-om* and other verbal art of the ethnolinguistic groups in the Region be undertaken to preserve and promote their oral tradition.

**Keywords:** *Tud-om*, cultural linguistics, Manobo in Surigao del Sur, Language Documentation.