



IVATAN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, CLASSIFICATORY SYSTEMS, AND RISK REDUCTION PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT – The paper aims to offer an emic perspective of Ivatan indigenous knowledge, classificatory systems, and risk reduction practices. It is based on primary data gathered through fieldwork in Basco and Ivana in Batan Island and in Chavayan in Sabtang Island in 2011-13 and 2017. Classificatory systems are ways of recognizing, differentiating, understanding, and categorizing ideas, objects, and practices. Ivatan classificatory systems are ecological and agrometeorological in nature. The distinction that they make between good and bad weather and good and bad times manifest binary, oppositional logic. Notions of bad weather and bad times are emphasized more than the good ones because of the risks involved. They are products of observations and experiences evolved over time in an environment that is prone to disasters because of its geomorphology, location, and practices. They are used in everyday life and during disasters, and always adapted to new knowledge and practices for survival.

Keywords: classificatory system, disaster, emic perspective, indigenous knowledge, risk reduction practices



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