

An Ethnopoetic Study of the Ifugao Epic *Bugan nak Panga'iwán*

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The long poems called *hudhud* are sung by female bards in the northern Philippine highland regions of central and southern Ifugao, primarily at rice harvests, funeral wakes, and weddings. Like traditional prayers from the Kiangan-Lagawe area, these songs make use of large amounts of archaic vocabulary from a dialect that was more widely spoken in Lagawe and Kiangan a hundred years ago and which is related to Keley'i and Kalanguya languages to the south. This paper will analyze the rhetorical construction of one such epic, *Bugan nak Panga'iwán* (*Bugan*, Child of *Panga'iwán*) with particular attention to patterns of narrative organization, covariations between form and meaning, and the linguistic indicators of *hudhud* as a dialogic and performance genre. This paper is dedicated to the memory of Lourdes Saquing Dulawan, the foremost Ifugao scholar of the *hudhud* and of other aspects of Ifugao culture, and it will conclude with a biographical note on her.