

THESIS ABSTRACT

Title: Utang na Loob: the Filipino schema of giving and returning

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Abstract:

Summary:

Utang na loob (Debt of Gratitude) is an example of a phenomenological knowledge of value (i.e. it is immediately given in experience before it is known or explained). However, there are observable factors that could be explored to understand such value.

Since Philippine literature shows a dearth of works exploring the psychological aspect of utang na loob, this study was conceived. This researcher attempted to find out the perception of Filipino males and females towards utang na loob. Specifically, it looked into how this value is developed among the target population, how the type (monetary and non-monetary), and the manner (solicited and unsolicited) of giving and receiving favors affected the degree attached to debt of gratitude.

This work was made possible through the Descriptive Approach using a questionnaire as the Survey Method. One hundred seventy-six (176) middle adults from public and private institutions in Baguio City composed the target population. These said respondents answered the 48-item questionnaire that was constructed by the researcher. The questionnaire asked each respondent to play the role of a receiver and a giver of favors.

The obtained values for problem 1 were computed by way of the Basic Statistics, while Analysis of Variance-Factorial Design was used for problems 2 to 4. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 9.0 made the statistical treatment easier.

Findings:

In answer to problem 1, the specific types of favors that bring about utang na loob are personal services, gift of money, debt and professional services. In answer to problem 2, service-type of favor received a higher degree of utang na loob as compared to monetary-type of favor.

For problem 3, unsolicited manner is strongly preferred over solicited manner of receiving and giving of favors. For problem 4, gender does not have any significant effect on the way people attach a degree of gratitude to solicited and unsolicited favors. Conversely, gender has a significant influence on the way people attached a degree of gratitude to service and monetary type of favors.

Conclusions:

Services (i.e. personal and professional) and monetary favors (i.e. gift of money and debt) are four different types of favors that may bring about utang na loob to the target population. Unsolicited manner of receiving/giving of favors is preferred over solicited ones.

In as far as this study considered only the effect of gender on the types and manners of receiving and giving of favors, gender does not play a significant role as to how the target population attached a degree of gratitude to the manner. But, it has a significant effect on the way the respondents attached a degree of gratitude on the types of favors.

Recommendations:

This paper is made to remind each one the value of gratitude. Utang na loob should be seen more as a moral obligation of the giver rather than a privilege given by the benefactor to the supplicant. It should serve as a motivating factor to the recipient and benefactor in looking forward to sharing goodwill to other people.

It poses three advices to the readers: to look back to and contemplate on the wonderful deeds other people have shown them, to listen to the inner voice by helping unconditionally, and to think on the one Supreme Being who is the FOUNTAIN of all the favors one receives in life. Finally, this work is recommended as an additional reference in the field of Filipino Social Psychology, and in other related fields.