

# Humoral Medicine and Informant Variability: An Analysis of Acculturation and Cognitive Change among Guatemalan Villagers\*

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## Introduction

For several years there has been debate among anthropologists on the merits of ethnoscience research (cf. BURLING 1964; FRAKE 1964; HYMES 1964). Our intention here is to present data relevant to an aspect of research that has received too little attention thus far: cognitive variability among informants. There is a need to promote study in this area for

the predominant tendency in anthropological reporting and theory building continues to be made up of constructions reflecting fundamental assumptions of cognitive homogeneity and behavioral sharing. Assumptions of homogeneity are clearly evident in most of the ethnoscience literature ... (PELTO and PELTO 1975: 6).

The present report differs from many others in ethnoscience in that primary attention is given to studying cognitive heterogeneity.

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