
Contents

Introduction From the General to the Particular and the
Construction of Totalities 1

I Ritual as Thought and Action

- 1 The Magical Power of Words 17
- 2 Form and Meaning of Magical Acts 60
- 3 A Thai Cult of Healing through Meditation 87
- 4 A Performative Approach to Ritual 123

II Cosmologies and Classifications as Thought and Action

- 5 Animals Are Good to Think and Good to Prohibit 169
- 6 From Varna to Caste through Mixed Unions 212
- 7 The Galactic Polity in Southeast Asia 252
- 8 On Flying Witches and Flying Canoes: The Coding of Male and
Female Values 287
- 9 A Reformulation of Geertz's Conception of the Theater
State 316

Conclusion An Anthropologist's Creed 339

References 361

Notes 376

Sources 405

Index 407