

Medical Anthropology (3)

**Malady as an umbrella term including disease, illness, sickness**

*cf. sick role and patient role*

- \* Disease: Biological problem involving abnormality in the body's structure, chemistry, or functions. Usually based on objective observation, and well-defined by the common criteria in scientific context (cf. ICD-10).
- \* Illness: Patient's experience of something wrong, a sense of disruption in well-being (maybe resulted from disease or cultural beliefs), essentially subjective perception.
- \* Sickness: Consequences of social responses to a person who is sick.
  - Sick role: Social expectations for the behaviors of a person diagnosed as suffering from a malady (eg. being excused from work or school).
  - Patient role: Special kind of sick role, social expectations for the behaviors of a patient diagnosed as suffering from a disease at any medical facility. Changing by not only the social context but also epidemiological situation.
  - Schizophrenia patient usually doesn't recognize oneself as ill, but the society regards the one as sick. Depression patient (especially so-called "new type" depression patient) considers oneself to be ill, but sometimes the society (including the company where the one works) cannot accept the one's excuse of sickness.

(See, Nakazawa M, Moji K (2018) What is needed to realize universal "health" coverage? The meaning of health revisited. *Journal of Global Health Reports*, 2, e2018021. [<https://doi.org/10.29392/joghr.2.e2018021>])

<Debate>

- Under the COVID-19 pandemic with considerably effective vaccines to prevent severe symptoms and deaths in infected patients who were fully vaccinated, almost all developed countries have given up the prevention of spread and lifted almost all behavioral protection but strongly recommended vaccination. However, due to the risk of adverse side effects (frequent fever, tiredness, and headache – those may be severe illness or sickness but not disease – and rare myocarditis, pericarditis, and allergy) and most infection being mild or asymptomatic even if unvaccinated, somebody refuses to get vaccinated. Should the government force the people vaccinated except for the people with special reason such as allergy?
- For references about adverse events of COVID-19 vaccination:
  - <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000849582.pdf>
  - <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-pfizer-vaccine-side-effects-and-reactions>

Proposition: Yes. Government should force vaccination.

Opposition: No. Government should allow the autonomy of the people about whether they get vaccinated or not.