Heka (Egyptian magic)

Ritual language that followed prescribed formulae and that was uttered by someone of moral authority was said to be heka in ancient Egyptian liturgical contexts. Heka words ‘magically’ bring about the realities of which they speak and they are characterized as divine language. The magical efficacy of heka utterances lay in their conformity to what was seen as the ordained natures and true names of things [see maat].

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Literature:


Geraldine Pinch, Magic in Ancient Egypt (University of Texas Press, 1995).