

Jiratthiporn Thainguluum 2014: Language and Cultural Co-characteristic Existing in Thai Folktales with Lao People's Democratic Republic Folktales. Doctor of Philosophy (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Pratuang Dinnaratana, Ph.D. 581 pages.

The present thesis had purpose to – 1) study the folktales of Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand with those of Veintiene and Xaignabouli Provinces, People's Democratic Republic, 2) compare the co-identities of language and culture existing in the folktales of the both groups. The materials for this research are the Thai and Lao ethnic folktales which were collected by interviewing.

By the research result it was found that the ethnic Thai-Lao folktales were divided into 11 types, and the methods of writing strategies were found in 5 categories, i.e. 1) the title naming, 2) the strategy of narrating stories, 3) the story- proceeding, 4) the characterization and 5)the story closing. Besides, the usage of words, idioms, figures of speech and the language styles were also found in those folktales.

By comparison of the ethnic identities and the co-identities of the both groups of folktales it was found that there were three dimensions of ethnic identities. They are 1) behavior, 2) architecture, 3) music, sports and the local playing. There are 14 co-identities of language and culture; i.e. 1) habitat settlement, 2) government, 3) education, 4) family system, 5) life living, 6) occupation, 7) self behaving, 8) value judgment, 9)religion, 10) beliefs, 11) rituals, 12) public health, 13) communication and 14) wisdom of the tellers of folktales.

Majority of the folktales in the both groups are of similar structures. When those folktales were moved and spread from their origin there were some differences later. But still the folktales are compared with the mirrors reflecting the societies in various ways.

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Thesis Advisor's signature