

Witchuda Nianpradit 2007: Lakon Chatri in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya : A Case Study of Jadejdowden Group. Master of Arts (Ethnomusicology), Major Field: Ethnomusicology, Department of Communication Art. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Panya Roogroung, Ph.D. 234 pages.

This research was a qualitative research using ethnomusicological research technique aimed to study history, from and process of performance, rites as well as songs and music to be used in Lakon Chatri, Jadejdowden group.

The major findings were: The Lakon Chatri was found in Ayutthaya over 90 years ago and was developed from an old Lakon of Nakorn si Thammarat. The rites found in Lakon Chatri were as follow: state establishment, food offerings, prelude performance, hand gestures offering, guru invocation, stage opening and stage removal ceremonies.

Jadejdowden group was found over 50 years by Mr. Jadej Sasan, the chief who directed 22 performers. Style of performance were mixed up of lakon chatri, lakon - phanthang and Likay. Processes of performance began with stage establishment, followed by setting of the offering, guru invocation, prelude, offering of hand gestures, and then the main performance. The morning performance part was marked by the removal of the offering that must be done by noon. The second part of performance began with afternoon prelude and the main performance in the afternoon.

Three types of music to be used were prelude naphat music, vocal and instrumental music (rong - rab style). The songs manifested themselves with variety of melodic contour, such as, conjunctive, disjunctive, undulating, ascending, descending and a few terraced in the heterophonic texture. The lyrics were free form verses, impromptu singing. The ensemble accompany Lakon was a non – restricted form of piphat.

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