

Pornprom Boonthanom 2008: Characteristics and Values of S.E.A. Write Award Thai Novels (1979 – 2003). Master of Arts (Thai Literature), Major Field: Thai Literature, Department of Literature. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Yuporn Sangtaksin, M.A. 251 pages.

The objective of this research is to make an overview of Thai novels which were granted with S.E.A. Write Award from the years 1979 to 2003 to study their characteristics and values.

The research finds that the characteristics of the novels under study can be found in their subject matters, themes, and composition techniques. The subject matters are varied, ranging from rural life, social injustice, domestic life, to philosophy, romance, political history, different attitudes from religious and scientific views, and utopia. The themes are also varied: the relationship between man and nature, social criticism, philosophy, politics, and human essence.

Regarding composition techniques, there are two sub – topics: narrative technique and language. It is found that the newer and more complicated methods in story presentation were introduced each year. Those found in use are such as stream of consciousness, symbolism, parody, and the combination of several methods. The language is found outstanding in the author's choice of words and their use of figures of speech.

All characteristics mentioned above prove the S.E.A. Write Award Thai novels from the years 1979 to 2003 to be valuable in both social and artistic areas. They provide the audience with entertainment, ideas and knowledge. They are interesting in both the language used and create literary innovation.

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