

Rungthiwa Thippayamonthon 2007: The Cultural Belief of Lanna People in Literary Works of Mala Khamchan: An Analytical Study of Language Master of Arts (Thai), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Pratuang Dinnaratna, Ph.D. 170 pages.

This thesis has purpose to study the origin of the culture on the basis of the belief of Lanna people, emphasising the influence on the life-living of the local people in the north. The researcher has collected the research - materials from the literary works of Mala Khamchan which are the 14 novels containing the essence of local culture of the north of Thailand. Besides, the researcher has studied the cultural knowledge from various sources e.g. the cultural encyclopedia, the palm-leaf documents, and other texts. Some interview, were also the parts of this research. The data were collected, analyzed, concluded, and presented in the form of the present thesis, consisting of 5 chapters.

The results reveal that reflections concerning culture, traditions, and beliefs in Mala Khamchan's works are 1) The beliefs which are as follows personal beliefs, beliefs in ghost and supernatural power, magic and talismans, fortune, dreams and interpretation of dreams, astrology, domestic medicines, and taboos concerning going against custom of nature and nation and beliefs about hell and heaven, present life and future life; 2) The use of language with regard to the use of symbols, language expressing emotions, language evoking images, and the use of idioms, clichés, and proverbs; and 3) The analysis of culture which is relevant to language and literature, materials, human minds, tradition and custom, and ecstasy.

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Student's signature

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