

Chanitta Chotchuang 2012: Development Discourse and Civil Society in Thai Rural Short Stories, 1987 - 1996. Master of Arts (Thai Literature), Major Field: Thai Literature, Department of Literature. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Soranat Tailanga, Ph.D. 190 pages.

This thesis aims to study Development Discourses and Civil Society in 62 Thai rural short stories from 1987 to 1996.

The study found that Thai rural short stories from 1987 to 1996 present the impact of the government's development discourses, which aims at the development of materials, infrastructure and economic growth, including the private sector's industrial development to become one of the Newly Industrial Countries (NICs). These factors cause the inequality of resource distribution in the rural areas. Furthermore, they cause the change in the rural in terms of ways of life; rural culture is destroyed by the government's policy, industrialization, capitalism, and globalization. Due to impact of the development discourse, the stories attack the discourses and offer alternative concepts of Civil Society which has two main approaches. First, the community culture approach gives the importance to local culture and wisdom which survive the advent of capitalism. Second, the people's politics becomes more powerful at the time of democracy movement in the 1980s. All of which cause the empowerment of one's rights and equality which leads to social movement.

The writers of Thai rural short stories from 1987-1996 can be divided into two groups. First, the professional writers who offer the representation of social problems with sophisticated literary techniques, i.e. satire, Metafiction, Magical Realism. Second, the writers with social movement backgrounds present the works realistically, adding real events into the stories.

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Thesis Advisor's signature