

Sawaporn Jantharasakul. 2011: The Analysis of in Prai-na-bot the Shadow Play (Ta-Lung).
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The two objectives of this study are: 1) to examine the word art and prosody of the songs in the plays of Nung Ta Loong (the traditional southern puppet show of Thailand), and 2) to reflect the culture, belief, and value in the introduction songs of the performance. The study includes 71 plays, and the results reveal the facts of the word art in the plays of Nung Ta Loong as the following:

1) The word art in the songs of the play presents through the beautiful prosody in two styles of Thai octameter poems. The songs start, with a hearing paragraph in a general style or with a refrain paragraph in a rhyming style, of Thai octameter poems. The poems always consist of magnificent words and vowel rhymes within the sentence and between paragraphs. The words in the rhyme schemes include a variety of tactics such as homonym, synonym, phrasal words, new vocabularies, and royal languages. The poem is imaginative and leads the mind of the audience through the story of the play. The performance of the songs uses only the southern dialect, which strengthens the connection between the performers and the audience with their common culture. The rhythm of the songs is made up of four styles. The first is slow and soft, representing love and respect for parents and teachers. The second is slow and consistent, representing respect for Buddhism and Gods. The third is strong and encouraging representing love and regard for the nation and king. The last is hard and extreme, representing political crisis in the past. The aesthetics of the content presents in analogy, metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, mental pictures, and symbols.

2) The reflection of the culture represents in the introduction songs of the southern puppet performance. The song styles are the unique heritage and knowledge of the cultural group. The basic culture uses symbols learned by human. The introduction songs of the performance are intellectual knowledge of the community. The reflection from this performance is the belief of god power, holy spirits, the Three Jewels of the Buddha law, teachers' spirits, supernatural things, and values. This represents the critical values of the southern Thai people in loving the king, being faithful to the religion, respecting seniors, realizing favors from others, and admiring intellectuals.

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