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MONTHAKAN THEERANANTAWAT : THE FUNCTIONS AND IDENTITY OF TELEVISION DRAMA SONGS. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST.PROF.KITTI GUNPAI, 204 pp. ISBN 974-17-0166-7.

The purpose of the research focuses on the functions and identity of television drama songs including its relationship with television drama. The research methods comprise an analysis of 28 television drama songs selected from 17 television drama stories, which were broadcasted on channel 3, 5 and 7 during primetime of year 1999 under the framework of Hermeneutics and Semiology.

The major findings from this research are : the functions of television drama songs are to narrate or imply the plot of a particular television drama as well as to support and express the mood or feelings of characters. Furthermore, television drama song has to be presented together with main title and end title of television drama for the purpose of emphasizing plot narration and television drama promotion. For its relationship with television drama, television drama song represents television drama as using a part (television drama song) to represent the whole (television drama). Last but not least, the identity of television drama song can be object identifier in order to separate television drama song from pop music. The object identifiers of television drama song are its narration, melody, rhythm and mood which related with television drama plot in both manifest and latent meaning. The presentation of television drama songs is associated with main title and end title of television drama but not necessarily requires the name of television drama in the lyric. The most important finding is television drama song is different from pop music not only in lyric, rhythm, melody, singer, and presentation but also in the production process.