

Thesis Title	An Analytical Study of Major Characters in Thai Novels during 1932 - 1945
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to study the background, characteristics, personality, significance, of male and female major characters and the authors' technique of presentation in Thai novels written during 1932-1945. Only 17 novels which have much influence upon development of Thai novel were selected.

It has been found that there are 2 types of male and female major characters in Thai novels of that period ; flat characters and round characters.

Most of male and female major characters in 17 novels have progressive ideas. Male characters especially, seems to be full of creative methods developing civil society. As for female major characters, they seems to portray prominent trends towards the new values for women. Almost all of them are highly educated, strong and reasonable. Most have decisive personality; not easily complying with the old traditions but always ready to accept the results from their own decisions. They are ever struggling with old ideas and exploring new trends to go on in her life.

As for the significance priority or indeed the ranking of male and female characters, it is found that female characters were often composed to highlight male characters, but male characters were not usually composed to highlight female characters. Many authors used to make the male characters representatives of their own political ideas.

In terms of characters presentation, the authors used 4 approaches : directly describing the character, letting the major characters describe their own

selves, allowing the other minor characters to criticize the major characters, and creating deeds and dialogues of the major characters so that their true natures can be judged or evaluated by the readers by themselves. These approaches were used various in combinations by the authors, depending upon the appropriate situations in each novel. The most interesting and fully developed approach is the last.

The result from the study of major characters in Thai novels in this period provided us the chance to evaluate the technical creativity of the authors or at least their originality in presentation of characters as well as ideas. The authors seemed to give equal significance to both male and female major characters except for the social and political novels in which more significance importance was given to male rather than female characters.