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: MAJOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

KEY WORD:

ARABIAN TALES/ STHIRAKOSES'S ARABIAN TALES

KANNAWEE SANTIKUL: STHIRAKOSES'S ARABIAN TALES: A CROSS-CULTURAL

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The objective of this research is to study the attitudes of Sthirakoses, as representer of the society and culture in another culture's literature, in his translations of The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night and The Ten Wazirs; or the History of King Azadbakht and His Son by Sir Richard F. Burton; The Thousand and One Days and Persian Tales by Justin Huntly McCarthy; and The Pacha of Many Tales by Captain Federick Marryat.

While the stories of these Arabian tales were based on folktales that had been told in Arab from the pre-Islamic period until the Islamic one, their tale-within-a tale structure derived from Indian tales. True to their nature as tales, they do not always give "correct" representations of Islamic culture, which might explain their unpopularity in Arab literary circles. However, in the West and also in Thailand, the translated versions of these tales have been warmly welcome.

For these outsider Thai and English representers of the Arab culture in these Arabian tales, some knowledge and understanding of Arab culture were required, as they tried to make these works suit the palates of the audiences of their own societies and cultures. Hence, the differences in the English and Sathirakoses's Thai versions of the tales. Sathirakoses saw the importance of understanding a culture different from one own's and to achieve this end, he tried to represent his knowledge and understanding of Arab culture with a balanced literary craftsmanship.

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