

Tippawan Boonsongcharoen 2008: An Analytical Study of Royal Ethics in Literary Works Related to Kings. Master of Arts (Thai Literature), Major Field: Thai Literature, Department of Literature. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Yada Arampee, Ph.D. 189 pages.

This thesis aims at making an analytical study of royal ethics in literary works related to the monarch. These works can be classified into five categories: the ones intended to provide direct instructions for the monarch, eulogies, religious literary works, textbooks and tales. The total number of the works under study is 23.

The study reveals that, as found in the above mentioned literary works, royal ethics are formed by the Buddhist and Hindu morals and administrative principles in combination. The ethics can be divided into 3 types. The first one lies in a variety of knowledge areas fundamental for administration, depending on diverse contextual situations. Another one is an etiquette for charismatic conducts proper for an expected ideal ruler. The other is the guidance for living a royal life and for good governance.

It is considered impertinent to teach a supreme ruler of the state directly; such literary works, therefore, play an important role as textbooks on ruling art and science. The lessons are given through allegories. Tales and past events are narrated so as to make the king conceive the concealed morals.

The researcher finds that literature which is related to the monarch is also related to contemporary social and political situations. The ethics as found in the literature under study serve as norms for the monarch's conduct.

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