

Wannaporn Niyomthong 2011: A Study of Metaphor Reflecting the Opinions of International Mass Media on Thai Politics. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Chamaipak Tayjasant, Ph.D. 204 pages.

The main objectives of this study were to study forms and meaning domains of metaphors in Thai political news published in two international news magazines and to study political concepts of the international news magazines reflected by metaphor on Thai political news. The data were collected from the Internet-based *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines between August 2008 and July 2009. The analysis of conceptual metaphors as proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) was based on the theoretical frameworks of cognitive semantics, the tenor and vehicle and componential analysis.

The results of the study yielded 24 conceptual domains of metaphor in Thai political news, reflecting how the international mass media conceptualized Thai politics; *viz.*, war, competitive game or sport, nature, life, business, journey, firing, drama, disease, gambling, brittle object, construction, arson, earning a living, music, cooking, religion, refrigeration, family, model, machine, furniture, supernatural and justice. The findings also revealed their concepts of the Thai political systems (e.g., something damaged during the war and living thing), Thai political institutions (e.g., army and player), Thai politicians (e.g., warrior and player), Thai political activities (e.g., war and competitive game), and Thai interest groups (e.g., animal and broker).

The present study offers a useful way of examining the underlying opinions of the international mass media concerning Thai politics, which has received global attention in recent years, so that the parties concerned can explain the facts in cases where information is inaccurate before this has a negative impact on international public opinion.

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