

The objective of this research is to study the practice of Radio Thailand's main news bulletins in the legitimation of the state by the structural approach. The theoretical framework of the research is based on Gramsci's concept of the hegemony of the state on its citizens. Radio Thailand in Althusser's term, as part of the "ideological state apparatus", is used as a means of legitimation. As such, the main news bulletins have been created as one of the key mechanism of hegemony.

Since its inception, Radio Thailand has been set up as part of the state agency, the Public Relations Department. As a result, the majority of the news staff identify themselves with organization goals rather than with any professional ideology.

Although impartiality and objectivity are central to broadcast news professionalism, they are seen differently by the News Department of Radio Thailand. For Radio Thailand, the notion of impartiality is equated with an uncritical view of the state. At the same time, news balance is generally overridden by official influence.

From our study of the main news bulletins of Radio Thailand, the basic structures of news presentation which permit the transmission of state ideologies and its legitimation could be summarized as followed : 1) the state receive privilege as the major news actor, hence making most of the headline news 2) special emphasis is given to official sources and their points of view 3) the style of news announcement is used to signify official credibility and impartiality 4) creditable news sources such as academics and specialists are often cited to legitimise official position 5) language is used as a means to retain the political and social hierarchy between the state and their citizens 6) opposition news sources are largely curtailed unless their views are supportive to the official position.

Provided with these mechanisms, the state could, therefore, hegemonise the news presentation of Radio Thailand. And as the examples on news concerning the workers, the peasants, and the press demonstrated, the main news bulletins are always at work to legitimise the state.