

## Abstract

This thesis of women's studies is to study women roles in Ban Nalurk and Ban Ku, Tambol Kaopra, Amphur Rattaphum in the areas of Songkhla province, Thailand. The study was carried out using feminist ethnography and giving an importance to biographical writing of the woman spirit medium in the Nora Rong Khru ritual by narrating her own lives and close person. This is a flashback to the date and time when there was possession of the grandmother in the place of rite as the spirit medium in lineage.

The rite of Nora Rong Khru in the rural areas of the southern part of Thailand can be a flashback for the said society. It is for the society and indigenous culture in the past. It reflects important features of the kinship and gives a chance for married woman, who can play the role as the ritual specialist or spirit transcendence in the rite of "Nora Rong Khru" as if she is the her/historian of all stories in the past with the present ones. The rite can create a form of the life story and background of particular community. Amid the society in rural areas in the past, women played an important role apart from the roles as mother, wife and main labor in the farms and paddy fields. Consequently, it reveals the self and the role of indigenous women's lives in both private and public sphere, which leads to the power and the ritual in the form of woman.

This thesis starts from the study in my observation that the writings telling the story of women's experiences in rural areas of the southern part of Thai society, which is rare for the study, particularly the story of women as the ceremony conductors of the belief and the ritual in community. The reality of society, women are usually excluded from the religion principle place which derives from the ideology of "Patriarchy". However, the contents of this thesis show that women are not only subordination, but they also have resistance under the relation of unequal powers between genders. Apart from this, it is found that there is the transformation of the woman spirit medium in the Nora Rong Khru ritual. This is a, in which the woman had the privilege and power which were different from a way of daily tight life. Moreover, it reveals that there is identity of the woman spirit medium as a social agent who plays a role as an important center in rural society which has been closely bound with the rite of ghost belief.