

Saranrat Waikiat 2014: The Autobiographies of Thanadda Sawangduan: A Narrative of a Marginal Woman. Master of Arts (Thai Literature), Major Field: Thai Literature, Department of Literature. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Soranat Tailanga, Ph.D. 168 pages.

The purpose of this study is to enquire into the three autobiographies of Thanadda Sawangduan, a former transnational sex worker. The objectives are 1) to analyze techniques, content, and language and 2) to study the purpose and role of the autobiographies.

It was found that the plot of the autobiographies is similar to the happy ending plot of the mainstream autobiography. Thanadda narrated her stories chronologically from the lowest points of her life when she had to struggle for her life and was successful at the end. The techniques used in narrating are 1) the narration of her life stories and other prostitutes as well as female prisoners and other relating people; 2) The events narrated are recurrent events of prostitution and victimization of violence. The language of the autobiographies is unconventional as it was written colloquially.

The autobiographer intends to use her narrative as a means to heal her sorrow. The narrative presents the author's various 'identities', which have changed through time, i.e., a lower class woman, a modern prostitute, a victim of violence, and a 'survivor'. However, the autobiographies of Thanadda are still under patriarchy: the author reproduces the myth of a prostitute as subordination. The writer often blames herself of acting against the concept of Thai traditional 'virtuous women'. All in all, the purpose of the autobiographies is to attack the bias of the society towards prostitutes and prostitution and to expose transnational sex industry.

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Thesis Advisor's signature