

Rachan Prueksa 2014: A Study of Naming in Thai Classical Songs. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Miss Umaporn Sungkaman, Ph.D. 143 pages.

The objectives of this study were to analyze the structure and categorize the given names of Thai Classical songs. In this study a total of 981 songs was derived from three encyclopedia issued by the Thai Royal Institute. The conceptual framework developed by Amara Prasithrathsint (2554) and Navavan Bandhumedha (2554) was used to analyze song structure, while song grouping of the given names was performed using the categorization conceptual framework.

Findings revealed that the names of Thai classical songs were formed in five patterns; single word, compound word, noun phrase, verb phrase and sentence. The noun phrase and verb phrase were also found in four subgroups; however, they differed in their part of speech and positions in the sentence structure. Moreover, the noun phrases were used most in giving names of the songs. The meaning of song names appearing in the core element was found in 16 groups, similar to that in modifiers. The meaning groups found both in the core elements and modifiers were derived from ethnic groups, action and behaviors, animals, human being, nature, plants, imaginary world, things, places, and numeral terms. The meaning groups merely found only in the core elements were named according to music types, names of characters, weapons, organs, diseases, and period. Meanwhile, The semantic groups found solely in the modifiers were named according to musical instruments, directions, colors, appearances, sex and classifiers.

The findings suggest that the names of Thai classical songs may reflect Thai society in certain key aspects. Thailand actively interacts with foreign countries, and it lives on agricultural society with abundance of natural and environmental resources. It also affirms Thailand's national identity, including Thai dancing art, literature, history, and belief.

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