

3736039 LCLG/D: MAJOR : LINGUISTICS; Ph.D. (LINGUISTICS)

KEY WORDS : THAI COUNTRY SONG/ LEXICAL/ FIGURATIVE/  
DISCOURSE/ CULTURE

CHOLLADA MONGKHONVANIT: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANGUAGE USED, AND THE REFLECTION OF THAI CULTURE IN THAI COUNTRY SONGS. THESIS ADVISOR: SURIYA RATANAKUL, Ph.D., SUWILAI PREMSRIRAT, Ph.D., RUENGET PANKHUENKHAT, Ph.D., PATTIYA JIMREIVAT, Ph.D., CAROL COMPTON, Ph.D., 418 p. ISBN 974-663-751-7

The purpose of this research was to study analytically 130 popular Thai country songs in terms of their content, form, the use of language, and their reflection of cultural values in various aspects. The theoretical framework for the study is a combination of Structural Grammar, Tagmemics and the model expounded in Longacre (1983a). The lexical results of this study point out that word usage in Thai country songs are mostly shown in colloquial language. Some poetic lexical characteristics not found in common colloquial language appear in these songs, but are easily understood. Another poetic characteristic shows that pronominally used nouns and pronominally used noun phrases, which are rarely found in normal speech, are commonly found in these songs. In addition, there is the use of elaboration and puns, or playing on the meaning of words. The idiomatic usages are in the form of changing original expressions and of forming new ones.

Research in Thai country songs reveals important insights into Thai culture and variations of the Thai language. Contents in Thai country songs vary and sometimes record important events during the composition period. Contents concerning love, satire, criticism or courting a woman are directly employed. The most popular contents concern love; whereas contents concerning national pride are least popular.