

Artit Srijan 2009: An Analytical Study of Thai Oath Literature.

Master of Art (Thai Literature), Major Field: Thai Literature, Department of Literature.

Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Sauvanit Vingvorn, Ph.D. 158 pages.

This thesis is a study of 6 Oath literary works: Ong Gan Chang Nam, Ong Gan Dam Nam, Ong Gan Lui Pleung, Phra-aiyagan Laksana Phayan, Sila Jareuk Lak Ti 45, and Sila Jareuk Lak Ti 64. The content is divided into 6 chapters dealing with the significance of the problems, literature review, evolution of oath-taking ceremonies, form and content of the six Oath literary works, relationship between Oath literature and Thai society, conclusion and suggestion.

According to the research, oath-taking is a ritual meant to reaffirm human confidence, in which there is a text referred to as Oath literature. The text comprises all elements essential to the occasion: language, opponents, witnesses, conditions, and procedures. Oath literature is constructed with 3 main parts: calling witnesses, cursing and blessing. There are four writing patterns applied in the six texts under study: Klong and Rai in Ong Gan Chang Nam, Kaap in Ong Gan Dam Nam and Ong Gan Lui Pleung, while Phra-aiyagarn Laksana Phayan, Sila Jareuk Lak Ti 45, and Sila Jareuk Lak Ti 64 are written and inscribed in prose. The prosody, style, and words are precisely selected to reinforce reverence and awe which the rites demand. Oath literature is related to social context, reflecting Thai aspects about religion, cosmology, holy witnesses, curses and blessings. They, moreover, are records of administration, jurisdiction, language culture, and a variety of beliefs in Thai society. Oath literature in the past has influenced the modern one in form, content and concept.

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