

Kittima Pumson 2011: A Metaphor Study of Nam in Thai Idiom. Master of Arts
(Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language.
Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Siriwan Nantachantoon, Ph.D. 337 pages.

This thesis was purposed to study the sources and the meanings of the Thai idioms containing the word “Nam” and to analyze the meanings of the “Nam” when used as a metaphor in the Thai idioms. The data studied was taken 315 Thai idioms from 33 Thai idiom books.

The results of the studied on the sources and meanings, it was found that there were eleven sources of the Thai idioms containing the word “Nam.” They were most frequently found to be derived from nature, actions, animals, parts of body, food and appliances, ways of life, accidents, tales and literature, religions, customs, beliefs and traditions, and competition respectively. The results of the analyzed on the meanings of the word “Nam” when used as a metaphor revealed the use of metaphor in 43 different patterns. The metaphor “Nam” appeared in the idioms were most frequently found to represent speeches, circumstances, feelings, persons, actions, goals, places, stories, assets, the gist, abundance, friendship, obstacles, opportunities, hardships, fates, benefits, rapidity, freedom, states of mind, experience, habits, self-evaluation, water for washing and cleaning, indebtedness, tastes, activities, thoughts, love, personalities, intelligence, goodness, important things, carelessness, relationships, abilities, appropriateness, period of time, water in human body, works, the environment, resources, and power, respectively.

In addition, A Metaphor Study of Nam in Thai Idiom demonstrated the use of the formation of the word “Nam” as a base word and the formation of the word “Nam” as a compound word. The use of the word “Nam” as a base word was most frequently found. It was also found that the word “Nam” appeared in three positions in the idioms, those were appeared most frequently in the medial position, in the final position, and in the initial position respectively.

Student’s signature

Thesis Advisor’s signature