

Wachirawit Mungmool 2010: An Analytical Study of Phrakhawut the Verse Narratives.
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This thesis is an analytical study of the Phrakhawut verse narrative. It aims (1) to describe general characteristics of the Phrakhawut verse narrative: its original manuscript, author's intention, poetical format, and content; and (2) to study the components of the Phrakhawut verse narrative namely: its plot, theme, narrative development, setting, usage of language, literary style, figures of speech, literary taste, and motif. A comparison is made to show similarities between the motif in Phrakhawut verse narrative and in other Thai tales in order to resolve when the Phrakhawut verse narrative was composed, and to evaluate its value. This research is a descriptive analysis.

The analysis revealed that the Phrakhawut verse narrative aims to entertain readers and listeners. It was composed as a verse narrative. Its plot is a typified tale of palace life depicting characters being separated from one another, their quest of knowledge and their struggles against obstacles. The Phrakhawut verse narrative reflects the main theme: "Good deeds bring good results, and evil deeds bring evil consequences. The events in the tale develop in chronological order. The characters are static. That means their character traits remain consistent throughout the story. The settings are both realistic and imaginative. Some settings are influenced by other literary works, especially the works of Soonthorn Phu.

The motif in the Phrakhawut verse narrative is similar to many Thai literary tales, especially these found in Central Thailand. This reflects the common value of Thai authors in producing literary tales. The beautiful usage of language art includes word choices, figures of speech, and literary taste which create aesthetic value in the Phrakhawut verse narrative. Thus, the Phrakhawut verse narrative has entertainment value. It gives the readers and listeners pleasure, and relaxation. The events in the narrative contain various beliefs which are valuable as a social record. The Phrakhawut verse narrative displays a mixture of Thai people's beliefs – the beliefs in Buddhism, Brahman, and the supernatural. All the values exhibited in the narrative help instill ethical value in the readers and listeners in order that they may lead a good life. The original manuscript, poetical format, influence from other literary works, setting, and motif of the Phrakhawut verse narrative support the assumption that it was composed in the early Rattanakosin period, around the reigns of King Rama II and King Rama III.

Student's signature

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