PARTICIPANT IDENTIFICATION
IN A SELECTION OF THAI NARRATIVES

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PREFACE

The topic of the discourse analysis is of great interested nowaday. Many linguists try to find new topics on the discourse to research.The topic of participant identification is one topic which is of interest to many linguists. Sornlump (1983) studied participant analysis categories in her M.A. thesis. She pointed out that there are three main types of participant in Thai: main, secondary and incidental. She also describes on the rule for defining participant through feature of participant identification, maintenance of participant'identification and removal of the participant.

Yajai Chuwicha (1983:8) also studied the participant and their contribution to cohesion to Thai Narratives. She states that participants provide cohesion to the discouse through reference, kinterms and pronoun phrases.

Other linguist study about participants in different ways such as Somkiat Poopatwiboon (1973) who studied the participant reference in Northern Khmer. I shall confine myself to describing how participants are introduced, how they are reintroduced, how reference to them is maintained and how they are removed from the narrative. This description depends on the grammatical features and the knowledge of Thai lexicon and customs. The potential confusion is given in order to provide the foundation for the non-Thai reader and help them to trace back the participant. Specific attention is given to the character transformation since in the stories analysed I many examples of found character tranformations.

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