CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

6.0 Introduction

This study has fulfilled the three objectives set out in the introduction of this research, namely that: 1) the notional structure of the text "Mom" has been analyzed and described, 2) the surface structure of the text has also been analyzed and described, and 3) the way that the notional and surface structure features correspond to each other has been examined.

This research contains six chapters which will be summarized in the following sections.

6.1 Summary

Chapter 1 is the introduction, describing the scope of this study. General information about the Thai language is presented here, including some notable features of Thai. The phonetic transcription of Thai used in this study is also presented. Next, the methodology employed in this research is introduced. The last part of this chapter contains notes on Kukrit's life and his style of writing.

Chapter 2 is the literature review. A typology of narrative discourse is defined here. The model proposed by Longacre (1996, 1983) is introduced and briefly explained because it was adopted and applied in the analytical process of this research. Other discourse analyses done on other Asian languages are also reviewed.

Chapter 3 discusses the notional structure features of the text which exercise a certain control on the syntactic construction of the text. The text analyzed for this research contains all the plot structure features suggested by Longacre (1996:34-35). There

are seven notional structure slots in the text. These slots are Exposition, Inciting Moment, Developing Conflict, Climax, Denouement, Final Suspense, and Conclusion.

Chapter 4 analyzes overall surface structure features of "Mom." In terms of slot division, the whole text contains seven surface structure slots, namely Title, Stage, Prepeak Episodes, Peak, Postpeak Episodes, and Closure. Each slot is marked by various syntactic components, as listed below:

1. The Title is encoded by a noun phrase containing only a single noun.

2. The Stage is signaled by four types of clauses: existential, equative, customary, and cognitive state clauses.

3. The Prepeak Episodes are marked by two linguistic features. The first one is temporal succession of events expressed by temporal utterances and two sequential markers – a completive marker *lɛ́ːw* 'already/then' and/or an auxiliary *kɔ̂ː* 'afterwards.' The second one is two types of back-reference, namely summary-head linkage and tail-head linkage.

4. The Peak is encoded by three peak marking devices. The first device is rhetorical underlining by means of parallelism, paraphrase, or tautology. The next device is the existence of an unusual element, head-head linkage. The last one, which is considered a supplementary peak marking device, is change of pace. The Peak slot tends to be occupied with the lowest average sentence length.

5. Postpeak Episodes 1-4 are marked by various aspects. In Postpeak Episodes 1-3, there are two features employed The first one, which is similar to that used in the Prepeak Episodes, is temporal succession of events marked by temporal utterances and two sequential markers. The second feature is a type of back-reference, tail-head linkage. On the contrary, Postpeak Episode

4, the embedded narrative, contains the following syntactic aspects: 1) the stage sub-slot is signaled by clauses similar to those employed in the Stage slot of the main narrative, except for the equative clauses, 2) the prepeak sub-slot is denoted by only one feature, temporal succession of events marked by temporal phrases, 3) the peak sub-slot is made prominent by three peak marking devices, namely rhetorical underlining by means of paraphrase, the existence of the longest monologue in the text, and change of pace, and 4) the postpeak sub-slot is signaled by the temporal succession of events which are marked by a temporal phrase and the apparent chronological order of the events.

6. The Closure is marked by a change of vantage point, and also contains a conclusion without a moral.

Chapter 5 describes the correlation of the notional and surface structure features. The content directed by the notional structure is expounded by certain grammatical constructions, i.e., the surface structure features.   According to the analysis gained from this chapter, it can be concluded that the notional and surface structure features of "Mom" correlate to each other in one-to-one correspondence.

A complete transcription of the text is provided in the Appendix.

6.2 Suggestions for further research

This thesis analysis is based on only one short story, leaving some additional potential analytical questions unaddressed.   In addition, its primary objectives involved analyses of notional and surface structures.   As a result, this thesis scope is limited. Future research on other discourse features of "Mom," such as relative importance of information, storyline and nonstoryline, participant reference, and participant rank, would be very helpful in that the results of such future research would broaden the linguistic knowledge of Thai and thus help solve other linguistic problems.   Such

problems include determining the exact functions of the multi-purpose word *kɔ̀ː* both on the sentence and the discourse levels and developing a formal criterion for determining sentence boundaries in Thai. In addition, a lot of work with more Thai narratives of various length and other kinds of Thai discourse genres would be desirable so that more notable features of Thai discourse which are not present in this research could be examined.

The research findings of this analysis of the notional and surface structures of the text "Mom" are just the beginning. Even though all of the possible topics of study within discourse analysis could not be conducted in this research, the discourse analysis of the plot and profile of Kukrit's short story "Mom" conducted here does present some components of a Thai discourse narrative which are universal to those of other narratives in other languages. The writer hopes that this research will be valuable to the ongoing linguistic investigation of the Thai language. The writer also hopes that this research will be useful both to those who are interested in studying the discourse features of this particular language and to other linguists who are studying related Tai-Kadai languages.