

A Generic Structure Potential Analysis of Thai Song Dam Folktales

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Outline of the presentation

- Introduction
- Thai Song Dam folktale as a text type (Ure, 1989)
- Text selection: Folktale types and Folktale selection
- Text analysis: STRATIFICATION
 - Context of situation: ∇ Generic Structure Potential
 - Semantics: ∇ semantic properties [e.g., Placement Event]
 - Lexicogrammar: ∇ linguistic evidences
- Conclusions and Suggestions



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Introduction (1)

Objectives

To extend a study of **Generic Structure Potential** (Text structure) of Thai folktales (Patpong, 2006, 2009) to other ethnic folktales.

To explore and identify **Generic Structure Potential** of Thai Song Dam folktales.



Introduction (2)

Thai Song Dam:

- The original settlement of TSD people in Thailand was in Phetchaburi province. Later they moved to other provinces (cf. Somsonge et al, 2010).
- Thai Song Dam belongs to Upper Southwestern Tai sub-branch of the Southwestern branch of the Tai-Kadai language family (cf. Li 1960, Hartmann, 1980).



Introduction (3)

Theoretical framework

Systemic Functional Linguistics

A holistic approach

An ecological exploration

Introduction (4)

Michael A. K. Halliday





Introduction (5)

Key concepts

- Language is viewed as one kind of **a higher-order semiotic system** - a complex and adaptive system for making meaning (Halliday, 1971, 1985: 7; Matthiessen, 2001).
- Languages are **resources for making meaning potential**
- Languages are investigated through **naturally occurring texts** functioning in their contexts (i.e. TSD communities).



Thai Song Dam Folktales

Folktale is a text type / register

(Ure, 1989)

Text Typology



		written		spoken			
		monologue					
		dial.					
specialized	1	Letter	Reference book	Lecture	Debate	expounding	reflection
		Menu	Text book				
non-specialized	2	Questionnaire	History	Statement in evidence	Cross-examination	reporting	recreating
			Biography				
			News report				
specialized	3	Complaint	Memoirs	Radio commentary	Debate		action
			Novels	(Oral) folktales	Play		
			(Written) folktales	Collaborative narrative			
			Stories				
	4	Letter, personal	Diary	Reminiscence	Conversation	sharing	
	5	Letter, business	—	—	Co-operation	doing	
	6	Letter, agony aunt	Advertisements	Prayers	Consultation	recommending	
			Blurb				
			Advice		Business messages		
			Warnings				
	7	Open letter: exhortation	Act of parliament	Sermon	Demonstration	enabling	
			Regulations				
			Knowledge				
specialized	8	Letter to the editor	Critical studies	Speech (TV talks)	Discussion	exploring	reflection
			Investigations				

Text selection: Folktale types (1)



No.		Tales based on form Thompson (1946/1977)	selection	No.		Tales based on structure Thompson (1946/1977)	selection
1	Forms	Märchen		1.	Complex tales	Märchen	
2		Novella		2.		Supernatural adversaries	
3		Hero Tale		3.		Supernatural helpers	
4		Myth		4.		Magic and marvels	
5		Saga		5.		Lovers & married couples	
6		Sage		6.		Tasks and quests	
7		Explanatory tale	✓	7.		Faithfulness	
8		Animal tale	✓	8.		Good and bad relatives	
9		Fable	✓	9.		The higher powers	
10		Anecdotes	✓	10.		The three worlds	
11		Saint's legends	✓	11.		Realistic tales	
				12.	Simple tales	Jests and Anecdotes	✓
				13.		Animal tales	✓
				14.		Formula tales	✓
				15.		Legends and traditions	✓

Table 1: Classification of folktale types (based in Thompson, 1946/1977)

Text selection: Folktale types (3)



No	Folktale types	No. of text
1.	Explanatory tales	2 texts
2.	Animal tales	2 texts
3.	Fables	2 texts
4.	Jests & anecdotes	2 texts
5.	Legends	2 texts
	Total	10 texts

The data of this study were drawn from **10 Thai Song Dam folktales**.

They were taken from **secondary sources**: i.e., Reyrai et al. (1980), Sunant (1985), Sootawee, (2009).

Text selection: Folktale selection (1)



No.	Folktale type	Folktales	Story teller (source)	Habitat
1.	Explanatory tales	The elephant and the ant	Mrs. Bunruan Bunnoy (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
2.	Explanatory tales	The dog and the cat	Mr. Sawing Loyceng (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
3.	Animal tales	Python	Miss Daeng Yaemmun (Reyrai et. al, 1980)	Nongprong Sub-district, Khaoyoy District
4.	Animal tales	Four friends	Miss Daeng Yaemmun (Reyrai et. al, 1980)	Nongprong Sub-district, Khaoyoy District
5.	Fables	Wishing crystal	Miss Saythip Chuenin (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
6.	Fables	Became rich because of us	Mrs. Sombun Thuanhit (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
7.	Jests & anecdotes	Father in law wanted a claver son in law	Mrs Or Caengcat (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
8.	Jests & anecdotes	The red duck	Mr. Sawing Loyceng (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
9.	Legends	The number 7 legend	Miss Saythip Chuenin (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District
10.	Legends	The rice grain legend	Mrs. Sombun Thuanhit (Sootawee, 2009)	Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District

Table 3: A corpus of Thai Song Dam folktales used in this research

Text selection: Folktale selection (2)



Folktale: *The elephant and the Ant*

Sootawee Klinubon. 2009. *Folklore of Ban Thalo Muu 5 Yangyong Sub-district, Thayang District, Phetchaburi*. Independent Study Paper. Nakhonpathom: Faculty of Education. Silpakorn University. (in Thai)



Sootawee Klinubon

Text selection: Folktale selection (3)



No.	Folktale type	Folktales / Motifs	Clause complexes	Clause simplexes
1.	Explanatory tales	The elephant and the ant	22	65
2.	Explanatory tales	The dog and the cat	29	102
3.	Animal tales	Python	19	67
4.	Animal tales	Four friends	54	160
5.	Fables	Wishing crystal	56	236
6.	Fables	Became rich because of us	23	97
7.	Jests & anecdotes	Father in law wanted a claver son in law	12	38
8.	Jests & anecdotes	The red duck	47	141
9.	Legends	The number 7 legend	9	34
10.	Legends	The rice grain legend	12	38
		Total	283	978

Table 4: Number of clause complexes and clause simplexes

Text analysis: STRATIFICATION (1)



STRATIFICATION: language is organized into a series of ordered strata (or “levels”), ranging from semantics via lexicogrammar to phonology.

Context of situation (text structure):

↳ Generic Structure Potential

Semantics (meaning):

↳ semantic properties: Placement Event

Lexicogrammar (wording & grammar):

↳ linguistic evidences

Context: \supset Generic Structure Potential (1)



Generic Structural Potential (GSP) is an abstract category; it is descriptive of the total range of textual structures available within a genre. The GSP represents the total potential of structural resources for a genre (Hasan, 1984a/1996: 53).

Context: \supset Generic Structure Potential (2)



Hasan's GSP of nursery tales



$[(\langle \text{Placement} \rangle) \wedge \text{Initiating Event} \wedge] \text{Sequent Event} \wedge \text{Final Event} [\wedge (\text{Finale}) \bullet (\text{Moral})]$

Hasan (1984/1996)

Context: ≻ Generic Structure Potential (3)



GSP	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Final Event	Explanatory Event
			Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving		
Folktales							
Explanatory 1	1	2	3-4	5-12	13-16	17-18	19-22
Explanatory 2					24	25-27	28-29

Longacre's deep structure (1974, 1976, 1983)

- Developing conflict
- Climax
- Denouement

Table

based on generic stages

Context: ⊃ Generic Structure Potential (4)



GSP	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Final Event
			Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving	
Folktales						
Animal tale 1	1	2	<u>3</u> -7	8-14	<u>15</u>	16
Animal tale 2	1	2	<u>3</u> -32	33-44	45- <u>52</u>	53-54

Table 6: Segment of animal tales based on generic stages

Context: ⊃ Generic Structure Potential (5)



GSP Folktales	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Final Event	Moral
			Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving		
Fable 1	1	2	<u>3</u> -34	35-52	<u>53</u>	54	55-56
Fable 2	1	2	<u>3</u> -4	5-21	<u>22</u>	23	—

Table 7: Segment of fables based on generic stages

Context: \supset Generic Structure Potential (6)



GSP	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Final Event
			Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving	
Folktales						
Jest and anecdote1	1	2	<u>3</u> -5	6-8	<u>9</u>	10-12
Jest and anecdote2	1-2	3	<u>4</u> -39	40-43	<u>44</u>	45-47

Table 8: Segment of jest and anecdotes based on generic stages

Context: \supset Generic Structure Potential (7)



GSP Folktales	Introductory Event	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Reasoning Event	Final Event
				Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving		
Legend 1	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	8-9
Legend 2	1-3	1-3	4	<u>5-7</u>	8-9	<u>10</u>	—	11-12

Table 9: Segment of legends based on generic stages

Context: ∇ Generic Structure Potential (8)



GSP	Introductory Event	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Reasoning Event	Final Event	Explanatory Event	Moral
				Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving				
Folktales										
Explanatory 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -4	5-12	13- <u>16</u>	—	17-18	19-22	—
Explanatory 2	—	1-2	3	<u>4</u> -6	7-23	<u>24</u>	—	25-27	28-29	—
Animal tale 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -7	8-14	<u>15</u>	—	16	—	—
Animal tale 2	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -32	33-44	45- <u>52</u>	—	53-54	—	—
Fable 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -34	35-52	<u>53</u>	—	54	—	55-56
Fable 2	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -4	5-21	<u>22</u>	—	23	—	—
Jest 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -5	6-8	<u>9</u>	—	10-12	—	—
Jest 2	—	1-2	3	<u>4</u> -39	40-43	<u>44</u>	—	45-47	—	—
Legend 1	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	8-9	—	—
Legend 2	—	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10	—	11-12	—	—

Table 10: Generic Structure Potential of Thai Song Dam Folktales

Context: \supset Generic Structure Potential (9)



GSP	Introductory Event	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Reasoning Event	Final Event	Explanatory Event	Moral
				Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving				
Folktales										
Explanatory 1	—	1	2	<u>3-4</u>	5-12	13- <u>16</u>	—	17-18	19-22	—
Explanatory 2	—	1-2	3	<u>4-6</u>	7-23	<u>24</u>	—	25-27	28-29	—
Animal tale 1	—	1	2	<u>3-7</u>	8-14	<u>15</u>	—	16	—	—
Animal tale 2	—	1	2	<u>3-32</u>	33-44	45- <u>52</u>	—	53-54	—	—
Fable 1	—	1	2	<u>3-34</u>	35-52	<u>53</u>	—	54	—	55-56
Fable 2	—	1	2	<u>3-4</u>	5-21	<u>22</u>	—	23	—	—
Jest 1	—	1	2	<u>3-5</u>	6-8	<u>9</u>	—	10-12	—	—
Jest 2	—	1-2	3	<u>4-39</u>	40-43	<u>44</u>	—	45-47	—	—
Legend 1	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	8-9	—	—
Legend 2	—	1-3	4	<u>5-7</u>	8-9	10	—	11-12	—	—

Table 10: Generic Structure Potential of Thai Song Dam Folktales

Context: \supset Generic Structure Potential (10)



GSP	Introductory Event	Placement Event	Initiating Event	Sequent Event			Reasoning Event	Final Event	Explanatory Event	Moral
				Sequent: Emerging	Sequent: Intensifying	Sequent: Solving				
Folktales										
Explanatory 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -4	5-12	13- <u>16</u>	—	17-18	19-22	—
Explanatory 2	—	1-2	3	<u>4</u> -6	7-23	<u>24</u>	—	25-27	28-29	—
Animal tale 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -7	8-14	<u>15</u>	—	16	—	—
Animal tale 2	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -32	33-44	45- <u>52</u>	—	53-54	—	—
Fable 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -34	35-52	<u>53</u>	—	54	—	55-56
Fable 2	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -4	5-21	<u>22</u>	—	23	—	—
Jest 1	—	1	2	<u>3</u> -5	6-8	<u>9</u>	—	10-12	—	—
Jest 2	—	1-2	3	<u>4</u> -39	40-43	<u>44</u>	—	45-47	—	—
Legend 1	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	8-9	—	—
Legend 2	—	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10	—	11-12	—	—

Table 10: Generic Structure Potential of Thai Song Dam Folktales

GSP: Thai Song Dam folktales



Generic Structure Potential of Thai Song Dam folktales:
based on a corpus of ten folktales.

(Introductory Event) ^ [**<Placement Event>** ^ Initiating Event ^] **Sequent Event** ^
(Reasoning E /) ^ Final Event ^ (Explanatory E) / (Moral)

() **round brackets**: enclose optional elements

No round brackets: indicate obligatory elements

< > **angled brackets**: enclose elements whose lexicogrammatical realization may be included or interspersed with the lexicogrammatical realization of some other element(s)

[] **square bracket**: enclose the boundaries of a limitation of sequence. Indicated by enclosing the relevant elements, because mobile elements are mobile within certain limits

^ **carat sign**: indicate relative sequence

↪ **curved arrow**: the possibility of iteration for that element

Table 11: Symbols and notions of Generic Structure Potential

Text analysis: STRATIFICATION (3)



Context:

↘ Generic Structure Potential

Semantics:

↘ semantic properties

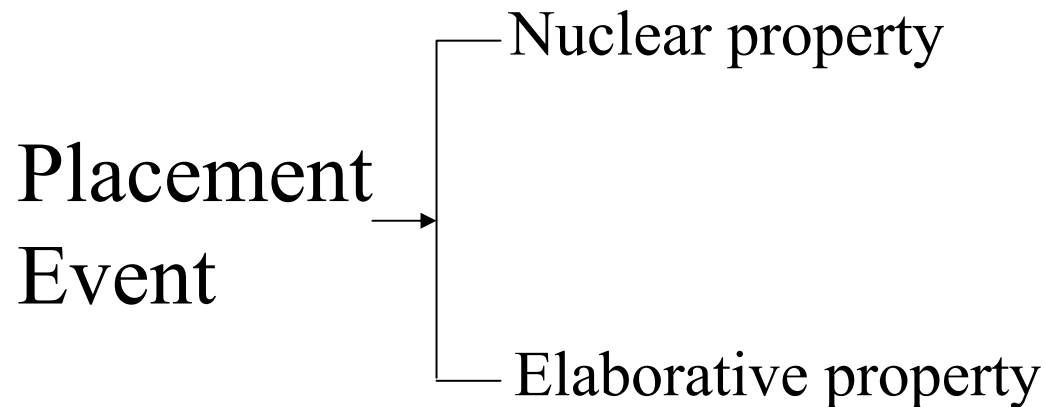
Lexicogrammar:

↘ linguistic evidences

Semantic: \supset semantic property (1)



(Introductory Event) \wedge [**Placement Event**] \wedge Initiating Event \wedge Sequent Event \wedge
(Reasoning E /) \wedge Final Event \wedge (Explanatory E) / (Moral)



Semantic Property	Sub-category	Possible Features	Realization
nuclear property	crucial element	person particularization	<i>person particularization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group: nominal group Existent / Actor / Sayer: nom. group
		(1) established person particularization	<i>established person particularization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group: nominal group Actor / Senser / Carrier: nom. group
		(2) referencing of person particularization	<i>referencing of person particularization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group: nominal group: (non-elided / elided) pronoun
		introduction of protagonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clause: ∇ PROCESS TYPE Participant: ∇ Existent / Sayer: nom. group Process: existential / verbal: ∇ verbal group
	associated element	impersonalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group: nominal group: non-specific third person nominal group
		framing (1) temporal distance (2) spatial distance	framing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clause: ∇ circumstance of Time and Space

Table 12: Semantic properties of generic structure of the Placement Event

Semantic Property	Sub-category	Possible Features	Realization
elaborative property	obligatory element	habitude (1) habitual event	habitual event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clause: ↘ PROCESS TYPE Participant: ↘ Actor / Behaviour / Senser / Carrier: nom. group Process: ↘ verbal group
		(2) extent specification	extent specification (frequency and duration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clause: ↘ circumstance of Extent: Time: frequency and duration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group: adverbial group
	optional element	attribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clause: ↘ PROCESS TYPE Participant: ↘ Carrier / Identifier: nom. group Process: relational: ↘ verbal group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group: nominal group: Epithet / Possession / Ordinal / Classifier / Qualifier

Table 12: Semantic properties of generic structure of the Placement Event

Semantic property: nuclear property: **crucial element**

Person particularization refers to a protagonist that is first introduced into the tale. It is realized by an existential clause with a non-specific nominal group as Existent.

Person particularization: \ni a nominal group

(1) Explanatory tale 1: [1]

mi:2	<u>ca:ŋ6</u>	<u>ju:4</u>	<u>fu:ŋ1</u>	<u>nũŋ4</u>	<u>lɣ:j6</u>
exist / have	elephant	ASP.: Pfv.	CL.	one	NEGOTIATOR

There was an elephant.

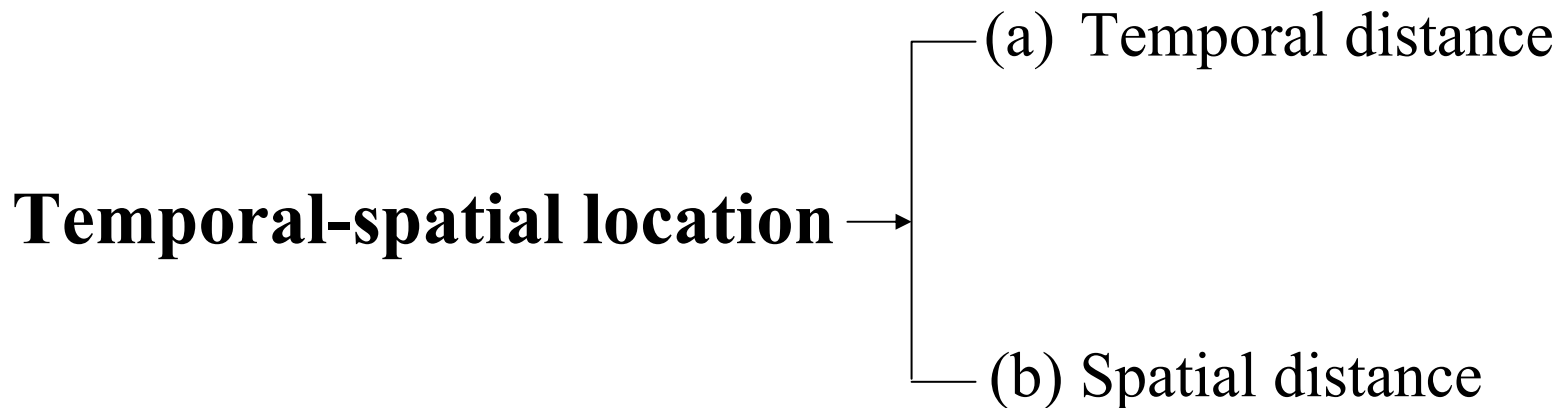
(2) Fable 1: [1.1]

mi:2	<u>phuɣ1</u>	<u>miɣ2</u>	<u>khu:4</u>	<u>nũŋ4</u>
exist / have	husband	wife	CL.	one

There was a couple.

Semantic property: nuclear property: **associated element**

Framing specifies the **temporal** and **spatial** frame of a tale. The event and protagonists are placed at a point in time far removed from that of the tale's creation or reception (Hasan, 1984a, 1996: 59).



Semantic property: nuclear property: **associated element**

Temporal distance

(3) Sunant (1985:148)

sa:6 ma2 na:n2 mi:2 ni:2tha:n2 lɯŋŋ4 nɯŋ4
long time ago exist / have folktale CL. one

Long time ago, there was a folktale.

mi:2 sa:m1 kʌ:1
exist / have three friend

There were three friends.

Semantic property: nuclear property: **associated element**

Spatial distance

(4) Jest and anecdote 2: [2.1-2.3]

mi:2 ʔem1thaw4 ka1 la:n2ca:j2 sɔ:ŋ1 kon1
exist / have grandma and grandson two CL.

(∅ = saw1) pen1 kon1 cɔ:p3 thiɣw4
(3psg = he) be person like travel

(∅ = saw1) paj1 thiɣw4 **pa:3**
(3psg = he) go travel **forest**

There were a grandma and a grandson, (he) liked traveling, (he) went travel in a forest.

Semantic property: **elaborative property**: obligatory element

Habitude refers to habitual acts of the particularized character(s) (Hasan, 1984a/1996: 61).

Habitude: \supset material & behavioural clauses

Material and behavioural clauses specify the protagonist's activities of doing and happening. The specification includes protagonist's occupation and routine.

Semantic property: **elaborative property**: obligatory element

Habitude: \supset material clause

- **protagonist's occupation**

(5) Fable 1: [1.1-1.2]

mi:2	phuɣ1	miɣ2	khu:4	nunŋ4
exist / have	husband	wife	CL.	one

(∅ = sa2ma:j2)	kɔ3	mi:2	?a:1ci:p3	ha:1	pa:1	kan1
(3pl = they)	conj.	have	occupation	find	fish	together

There was a couple, (they) were fishermen.

Semantic property: **elaborative property**: obligatory element

Habitude: \supset material clause

•protagonist's routine (e.g., fishing)

(6) Animal 1: [1.1-1.3]

mi:2	nok4	ten5siw2	ɲu:2luɣm2	mæ:w2	nok4	caw3
exist/have	bird	kingfisher	python	cat	bird	heron

(∅ = sa2ma:j2)	paj1	wit4	na:m6	pa:1	nam2	kan1
(3pl = they)	go	scoop up	water	fish		together

(∅ = sa2ma:j2)	paj1	wit4	pa:1
(3pl = they)	go	scoop up	fish

There were a kingfisher, a python, a cat and a heron, (they) went and get fish, (they) went and get fish.

Semantic property: **elaborative property**: obligatory element

Habitude can be achieved by the use of circumstantial resources (e.g., extent of frequency).

Extent of frequency expresses regularity of activity. It emphasizes the iterative actions of the main character(s).

Habitude: \supset adverbial group

[Fable 1:1.3] *thuk4 mur6* ‘everyday’

Context of situation (text structure):

↘ **Generic Structure Potential**

Semantics (meaning):

↘ **semantic properties: Placement Event**

Lexicogrammar (wording & grammar):

↘ **linguistic evidences**

Lexicogrammar: ∇ linguistic resources



Context: ∇ GSP

(Introductory Event) ^ [**Placement Event**] ^ Initiating Event ^] Sequent Event ^
(Reasoning E /) ^ Final Event ^ (Explanatory E) / (Moral)

Semantic: ∇ Semantic properties: Placement Event

Temporal Distance

Person Particularization

Habitude

Lexicogrammar: ∇ linguistic resources

taŋ5tæ:3 hɻ:ŋ1 ma:2 læ:w6
'Long time ago'

mi:2 phux1 miɻ2 khu:4 nuŋ4
'There was a couple.'

sa:6 ma2 na:n2
'Long time ago'

mi:2 pɔ:1ma:j4 kon1 nuŋ2 lɻ:j6
'There was a widower.'

thuk4 muɻ6
'everyday'

Conclusions (1)



Context:

Generic Structure Potential of Thai Song Dam folktales are analysed into eight generic stages — **Introductory Event, Placement Event, Initiating Event, Sequent Event, Reasoning Event, Final Event, Explanatory Event, and Moral.**

Conclusions (2)



GSP: optional stages

Each optional stage is associated with folktale types.

The Introductory Event found in Legend 1 “the Number seven legend” provides an orientation of the legend. It refers to current practices of the typical Thai Song Dam ritual — Sen Ruen (พิธีเสนเรือ่น) and details why the Sen Ruen ritual has to be done as it has been done nowadays.

Conclusions (3)



GSP: optional stages

The Reasoning Event explains and gives a reason of necessity of using the notion of number seven in Sen Ruen ritual. That is, the auspicious number seven is explained and reasoned why this auspicious number is the significant number in the Sen Ruen ritual.

Introductory Event and the **Reasoning Event** are co-occurrence stages in legends.

Conclusions (4)



GSP: optional stages

The Explanatory Event is only found in explanatory tale. It explains consequences of event. The Explanatory Event of “The elephant and the ant” explains why the elephant and the ant are enemies. The Explanatory Event of “The dog and the cat” expresses the hostility of dogs and cats.

The Moral is found in one of selected fables (i.e., Wishing crystal). It is a typically generic stage of fables which aims to teach and inspire social values.

Conclusions (5)



Semantics: Semantic property

All eight generic stages were realized by semantic properties. The semantic properties comprise nuclear and elaborative semantic elements.

The 10 folktales realized as systems of meaning are in turn realized by systems of wordings — lexicogrammar.

Suggestions



- An analysis of semantic properties of other generic stages (e.g., Initiating Event, Reasoning Event);
- An exploration of Generic Structure Potential of folktales of other language families;
- A comparative study of Generic Structure Potential of Thai Song Dam's oral and written folktales; and
- Collection of primary Thai Song Dam folktales for language documentation and further discourse analysis purposes.



Thank you for your attention

TSD communities: The 2nd National TSD Gathering



Phetchaburi, April 30th 2011