

Thesis Title The Selection and Recreation of Lanna Folk Tales for Children

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Abstract

This thesis studies Lanna folktales from oral narratives and other written materials. It selectively focuses on tales with animal characters and with stories that are suitable for children. Eighty Lanna folktales are chosen and some are revised by comparing with their different versions for the completion of the stories. The eighty tales are classified into four categories: fables, explanatory tales, tricksters and jests. Most of them are moralistic.

Analyzing eighty folktales, there are twenty-six of them whose sources can be identified. The sources of these tales are Jataka tales, Tantrothyana tales and Aesop tales. The plot analysis of the eighty folktales indicates fifteen narrative patterns while the character analysis shows that most characters are flat. They render either positive or negative behaviors. The folktales feature moral lessons. They aim to inculcate positive behaviors following Buddhist doctrines of the “wheel of Karma” and “do good, get good.” As an example of the use of Lanna folktales for present-day children, a folktale called “Kill the Giant” is selected and made into a picture story for 4-8 year-old children.