

Forms and Functions of Onomatopoeia in Isan Folk Literature “Nang Phom Hom”

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Abstract

Onomatopoeia is defined as a word that is used to describe the sound made by all living things including humans, animals and all inanimate objects. Onomatopoeic words can be used in everyday life to show how people associated a sound with the thing being named. Onomatopoeia is also used in poetry for many purposes. This paper aims at investigating how onomatopoeic words are formed and what functions are crucially concerned. Isan folk literature “Nang Phom Hom”, the famous folk verse of Northeast Thailand, is a selected data of this study. Descriptive research is considered as a research method to describe forms and functions of onomatopoeia used in Nang Phom Hom. The results found that duplication is a main linguistic device to form an onomatopoeic word in Isan verse. Onomatopoeia can be a monosyllable but disyllables are more preferable in this study. As for their functions, onomatopoeic words enjoy many functions of rhyme, emotion and communication. They are the naming of a thing or action that syntactically function as a noun and modifier in the sentence.

Keywords: folk verse; linguistic device; Northeast Thailand; onomatopoeic word; rhyme