

“Teen Mom” Discourses in Thai Society through Fiction Media and Celebrities’ Real Lives

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Abstract— The objectives of this study are to study the power constructing “teen mom” discourse in each era and to study teen mom’s communication and struggling to the discourses and practices to teen mom. This is qualitative research with discourse analysis from textual analysis of 40 fiction media about teen mom in Thailand and historical study of 5 teen moms who are celebrities in Thailand accepting that they are teen mom in public. The discourse analysis of “teen mom” in Thailand in each era has been divided based on socio-cultural changes into 3 discourses as follows; 1) Teen mom is matter of course, 2) Teen mom is culpability, 3) Teen mom is flexibility. The 40 fiction media about teen mom in Thailand and 5 real lives of teen moms who are celebrities in Thailand were representatives differently in these 3 discourses.

Keywords— teen mom, discourse, Thailand, fiction, media, celebrity, real life.

I. INTRODUCTION

Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security reported about adolescent birth control through recent Office of the Registrar, Department of the Interior’s data processing of birth registration in 2012, it revealed that the past 10 years, giving birth situation of Thai women in the age under 20 years old per all Thai women tended to be higher from the year 1997 for 18.5%. Although Ministry of Public Health has launched the 1st policies and national strategies for reproductive health improvement for 2010-2014 in order to downsize adolescent pregnancy, the adolescent pregnancy rate still keeps on increasing.

Both fields of Sciences and Social Science have been focused on questioning about the reasons and impacts of adolescent pregnancy in Thailand. Most of them have considered that adolescent pregnancy is the problem that protection and solution is required.

Natrudee Denduang (2009: 100) defined “not ready pregnancy or unwanted pregnancy” as the situation of women’s pregnancy that women do not truly want the babies or truly want the babies,

but they are not ready for pregnancy. The decision making of not ready pregnancy or unwanted pregnancy may lead to termination of pregnancy or keeping on pregnancy. It seems like decision making belongs to the pregnant women. But in the real world, it really belongs to them or not? These issues indicate that “teen mom or adolescent pregnancy” is prohibited for adults who would like to control and define that it is the social problem.

Sujit Wongted (2017: 26) said in the book “Prehistorical Sex of Thai Ancestors” that having sex of reproductive aged people since they are young is not prematuring. “The main actresses in Thai literatures had sex in the average age of 14-16 years old such as Seeda who got married with Rama when she was 16, Pimpilalai (Wantong) had sex for the first time with Plaikaew at 16 years old.” It shows that having sex in young age is nature and normality in that era.

For the present, Boonrit Sookrat (2014: 3) stated that adolescent pregnancy is global significant and has been awakened to search for defensive and resolving measures. World Health Statistics 2013 reported that the global giving birth rate of 15-19 years old women in 2006-2010 was at 48.9 per 1,000 women in the same age. This statistic affirmed that the present rate of adolescent pregnancy remain high continuously which may be the same rate as the past with no statistics collection. Therefore, pregnancy in young age of creatures and human is probably be the matter of course because it’s the reproductive age which has been determinate by the nature. The researcher has a question that if adolescent pregnancy is the global nature for a long time, when and how did discourse of “teen mom” become the problem?

Discourse is the hypothesis of researcher which has caused stigmatization to teen mom or subculture which is not accepted with righteous of being. Because it is the social main discourse disobedience which has been framed. Michel Foucault defined “discourse” as meanings creation process through languages and symbols existing in the society which has been combined to be knowledge and understanding of something that affects determination of what is knowledge, what is truth, and what is not the discourse is constructed by society from both persons in authority and counter- authority persons. It’s the power

technology that has been used to repress, obstruct, and organize lives of people in the society. On the other way, it is used as counter discourse to resist the main dominated discourse of society.

Discourse analysis signifies the aspects of power, especially in the aspect of knowledge which is more dedicated. When the producers and controllers cannot be obviously claimed for discourse, the power of discourse is diffusing, infiltrating, connecting power horizontally which the origin or production center could not be found. In consequence, all agencies are totally under the discourse or power relationship in knowledge and truth. Discourse analysis is not about true or not true. But it depends on one criterion regulating that state to be more than the truth. Discourse is not only the result caused by struggling in order to change the dominated system. But discourse in itself is struggling and domination to forms and lives of people in the society. (Jak Panchupet, n.d.)

Somsuk Hinviman (2003: 6-67-68) said that youth culture in Dick Hebdige's contribution "Subculture: The Meaning of Style (1987)" paid attention to symbolic struggling between teenagers and adults in order to communicate for construction of their own subculture. The researcher would like to study "teen mom" issue in the frame of perception and social construction of reality through fiction media to understand the dominating power of "teen mom" discourse in Thailand and the feedback of real teen mom who are celebrities in Thailand to understand teen mom's struggling.

II. PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the power constructing "teen mom" discourse in each era.
2. To study teen mom's communication and struggling to the discourses and practices to teen mom.

III. RESEARCH METHODOOGY

This study is discourse analysis from textual analysis of 40 fiction media about teen mom in Thailand and historical study of 5 teen moms who are celebrities in Thailand accepting that they are teen mom in public. The studied fiction media are chronologically as follows;

TABLE 1

The studied fiction media sorted by time.

| Time | Fiction Media |
|------|--|
| n.d. | Short story of "Nang Tad/Mrs.Slaughter" |
| 1600 | Literature of "Khun Chang-Khun Phaen/The Warlords" |
| 1956 | Novel of "Baan Sai Thong/The Golden Sand Mansion" by K. Surangkanang |
| 1961 | Novel of "Dao Pra Sook/Venus" by K. Aksarapan |
| 1967 | Novel of "Podjaman Sawangwong (Full Name)" by K. Surangkanang |

| | |
|------|---|
| 1981 | Music Video of "Seer Sao Mua Yu Mor Sor/Losing Virginity in Secondary Education" of Poompuang Duangjun |
| 1985 | Novel of "Gua Ja Roo Deang Sa/The Innocent" by Botan |
| 1986 | Novel of "Na Tang Ban Raek/The First Window" by Kraitsana Asokesin |
| 1987 | Film of "Gua Ja Roo Deang Sa/The Innocent" by Botan |
| 1993 | Novel of "Kue Hatta Krong Pipob/The Hands Ruling the World" by Namob |
| 1995 | Novel of "Mong Good Dok Som/Orange Flowers Crown" by Taitao Sujaritkoon |
| 1995 | TV Drama of "Kue Hatta Krong Pipob/The Hands Ruling the World" Channel 7 |
| 1996 | TV Drama of "Mong Good Dok Som/Orange Flowers Crown" Channel 7 |
| 2001 | TV Drama of "Na Tang Ban Raek/The First Window" Channel iTV |
| 2003 | Film of "Boobpa Rahtree/Rahtree Revenge" |
| 2006 | TV Commercial of "My Girl" Thai Life Insurance |
| 2008 | TV Drama of "Nang Tad/Mrs.Slaughter" Channel 7 |
| 2010 | TV Drama of "Mong Good Dok Som/Orange Flowers Crown" Channel 3 |
| 2011 | Film of "Rak Jud Nak: Tom Hang/Heavy Love: Tom Hang" |
| 2011 | TV Commercial of "Goodbye: Stop Teen Mom" Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security |
| 2013 | TV Drama of "Kue Hatta Krong Pipob/The Hands Ruling the World" Channel 7 |
| 2014 | Film of "Fak Wai Nai Guy Ter/The Swimmers" |
| 2014 | Short Film of "Present Perfect" by Mono Music |
| 2014 | Viral Clip of "My Beautiful Woman: Jane's Secret" Wacoal Thailand |
| 2015 | TV Drama of "Baan Sai Thong/The Golden Sand Mansion" Channel 7 |
| 2015 | TV Program of "Rang Shut Jud Tem/Fully Strong and Clear" on 10 July 2017 Channel Bright TV |
| 2016 | TV Drama of "Nang Tad/Mrs.Slaughter" Channel 3 |
| 2016 | Music Video of "Mai Deang Sa/Innocent" of Big Ass |
| 2016 | TV Program of "Leg Aud Gum/Numbers Show Sin" on 22 December 2016 Channel Work Point |
| 2017 | Cable TV Drama of "Daddy Jum Pen/Speedy Scandal" Channel GMM |
| 2017 | Film of "15+ IQ Krachoot/15+ Gushing IQ" |
| 2017 | Cartoon of "Khun Mae Wai Sai/Teen Mom" |
| 2017 | Line TV Drama of "Khun Mae Wai Sai/Teen Mom" |
| 2017 | TV Program of "Tee Ded Loog Nee/Debtor's Good Strategy" on 20 November 2017 Channel 3 |
| 2018 | TV Program of "Kao Wan Sook/Friday's News" on 12 January 2018 Channel One |
| 2018 | E-Novel of "Sherbet Soda: We're soul mates." |
| 2018 | TV Series of "Rue Do Kan Hang Rak/Season of Love" Channel ThaiPBS |
| 2018 | TV Program of "Nayobuy by Prachachon/Policy by People" on 12 March 2018 Channel ThaiPBS |
| 2018 | TV Program of "Nayobuy by Prachachon/Policy by People" on 26 March 2018 Channel ThaiPBS |
| 2018 | TV Program of "Samunchon Kontammada/Commoner, Ordinary People" on 05 October 2018 Channel ThaiPBS |

5 of teen moms who are celebrities in Thailand are as follows;

- Wiyada Umarin
- Marsha Wattanapanid
- Pridsana Praisang
- Chitjun Rujipan
- Supitcha Singhakasem

IV. RESULT OF THE STUDY

The discourse analysis of “teen mom” in Thailand in each era has been divided into 3 discourses as follows;

1. Teen mom is matter of course.
2. Teen mom is culpability.
3. Teen mom is flexibility.

The dominant social institution for the 1st discourse of “Teen mom is matter of course”, the 2nd discourse of “Teen mom is culpability”, and the 3rd discourse of “Teen mom is flexibility” are family institution, educational institution, economic institution, medical institution, state and law institution, ethnic or cultural institution, religious institution and mass communication institution who marshaled in determination “teen mom” discourse in each era because of socio-cultural changing in each era.

The turning point between the 1st discourse and the 2nd discourse was caused by influence of the westerners and demand of being accepted as civilized country in reign of king Rama IV. Therefore, all social institution had changed the perception of being teen mom from matter of course to culpability. And the turning point between the 2nd discourse and the 3rd discourse has been caused by feminism movements who are calling for the equality.

TABLE 2

Conclusion of teen mom issues through fiction media and teen mom celebrities in 3 eras.

| Issues | 1 st discourse | 2 nd discourse | 3 rd discourse |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Demographic Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Female ■Age 14-20 ■Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □government officer (=) □labor (↑) □unnoticed upper (↑) ■Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - housework study - not study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Female ■Age 12-19 ■Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □lower (=) □middle (=) □upper (=) □upper (↓) □middle (↑) ■Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - middle school to freshman - not study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Female/Male ■Age 13-22 ■Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □lower (=) □middle (=) □upper (=) □lower (↑) ■Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - middle school to senior - not in educational system |
| Reason of being teen mom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Intent with love ■Intent with no love ■Intent to win | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Mistaken ■Raped ■Unknown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Mistaken ■Intent ■Commiserated ■Raped |
| Result of being teen mom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Normal ■Good ■Bad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Normal ■Good ■Bad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Normal ■Good ■Bad |
| Physical change | ■Negative | ■Negative | ■Negative |
| Mental change | ■Positive | ■Negative | ■Positive |
| Role of teen mom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Pregnant ■Raise ■Housework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Pregnant ■Raise ■Not Raise ■Work Outside ■Revenge ■Solve ■Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Pregnant ■Raise ■Not Raise ■Work Outside ■Study |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Status/Feeling of teen mom | ■Normal | ■Dominated | ■Normal ■Dominated ■Praised |
| Relationship ■Lover ■Child ■Friend ■Her Family ■Lover's Family ■Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Good ■Good ■Good ■Good ■Good ■Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Bad ■Bad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad ■Good/Bad |
| Meaning of teen mom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Normal ■Pay Back ■Compete | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Scandal ■Mistake ■Fail ■Death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Scandal ■Happiness ■Mistake ■Goodness ■Unreadiness ■Adulthood ■Unawareness ■Learning |
| Value of teen mom | ■Value | ■No Value | ■Value ■No Value |
| Communication and Struggling of teen mom | ■No | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Consent ■Offend ■Escape ■Eliminate ■Endure ■Compensate ■Obey ■Do Best | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Consent ■Offend ■Escape ■Endure ■Do Best ■Retort ■Obey ■Accept |

*The italic letters are additional result from teen mom celebrities.

There is no study of teen mom celebrity in the 1st discourse because of overloing. The following teen moms who are celebrities in Thailand represent each discourse as follows;

- Wiyada Umarin = 2nd discourse
- Marsha Wattanapanid = 2nd discourse
- Pridsana Praisang = 2nd discourse
- Chitjun Rujipan = 3rd discourse
- Supitcha Singhakasem = 3rd discourse

For the criterion of demographic information, the 1st and the 2nd discourses were represented by only female, but the 3rd discourse was represented by both female and male who have to be in the same situation with “teen mom”. The age of teen mom in 3 discourses from fiction media and teen mom celebrities are in similar age between 12-22 years old.

For the issue of class, the equal (=) means the same class before and after being teen mom, the pointing up (↑) means the class was upgraded after being teen mom, and the pointing down (↓) means the class was downgraded after being teen mom. For the class of the 1st discourse as teen mom is matter of course, then being teen mom would keep the same class or upgrade the class of women in that era. While the 2nd discourse as teen mom is culpability, fiction media said being teen mom would keep the same class or downgrade the class of women in that era in order to control the adolescent pregnancy rate. But in the real life of 1 celebrity who was teen mom, her class has been upgraded after being teen mom because her husband was royal's family. For the 3rd discourse as teen mom is flexibility, fiction media and real life of 3 celebrities said being teen mom would keep the same class or upgrade the class of women in

this era in order to show the reality and wider aspect of teen mom.

For educational issue, in the past of the 1st discourse, educational system had not been set up in Thailand. Therefore, female adolescent and teen mom in fiction media had to study about housework or did not study. After the colonialism influence since the reign of king Rama IV, the education became more significant firstly for the upper level people in Thailand. Therefore, female adolescent and teen mom in fiction media and real lives of celebrities were in middle school to freshman or the 1st year in higher education or did not study. At the present in the globalized world which education is important for all, female adolescent and teen mom in fiction media and real lives of celebrities were/are in middle school to senior or the 4th year in higher education or were/are not in educational system even they were/are studying in some fields.

For the reasons of being teen mom in each discourse, the 1st discourse is totally different with other 2 discourses. Because they were all intention with some different purposes as the teen moms were agencies who were active or decided to be pregnant by themselves. While similar reasons of the 2nd and 3rd discourses are mistaken and raped that teen moms seem to be passive or not decided to be pregnant by themselves. By the way, for the 3rd discourse, there are also intention and commiseration which teen moms are agencies who are active or decided to be pregnant by themselves. Then, for the 1st discourse, teen moms were active, for the 2nd discourse, teen moms were passive, while the 3rd discourse, teen moms are both active and passive.

For the results of being teen mom in each discourse represented in both fiction media and celebrities' real lives in all aspects as normal, good and bad results. But the 1st discourse fiction media tended to present the good result more than bad result and the 2nd discourse presented the bad result more than good result. While the 3rd discourse represented more equal in normal, good and bad results.

In the issues of changes for teen mom after pregnancy, for physical change in 3 discourses in fiction media presented the negative changes. But there is difference for mental changes that the 1st discourse representatives were all positive as that era teen mom is matter of course, the 2nd discourse representatives were all negative as that era teen mom is culpability, while the 3rd discourse representatives are both positive and negative as teen mom is flexibility.

For the role and status or feeling of teen mom in each era through fiction media and celebrities' real lives, the similar roles of 3 eras are pregnancy and child raise while the 1st discourse additional role were only doing housework. But the

similar roles of the 2nd and 3rd discourses are not raising the child, working outside and studying while the 2nd discourse had additional roles of revenging the child's father and solving problem by herself. For the status or feeling of teen mom in each era, teen mom was normal in the 1st era, teen mom was dominated in the 2nd era, and teen mom is normal, dominated and praised.

For the relationship of teen mom with others who are lover, child, friend, her family, lover's family, and society represented in fiction media, as era of teen mom is matter of course, for the 1st era, all relationship were all good. While the 2nd era, teen mom is culpability, then most of the relationship was bad and the 3rd era, teen mom is flexibility, therefore, there are both good and bad relationship in the same time.

The meanings of teen mom in each era are different. For the 1st discourse, being teen mom was normal situation, or the way of paying back for benefactors, or the way to compete others. For the 2nd discourse, being teen mom tended to be in the negative meanings such as scandal, mistake, fail, and death. And the 3rd discourse, being teen mom's meanings are both in positive aspect such as scandal, mistake, unreadiness, and unawareness, and negative aspect such as happiness, goodness, adulthood, and learning.

For the value of being teen mom in each era through fiction media and celebrities' real lives, in the 1st era, it was valued, the 2nd era became not valued and the 3rd era are all valued and not valued by cases. Therefore, there was no communication and struggling of teen mom in the 1st era because being teen mom was legitimated by all social institutions. There are similar communication and struggling of teen mom in the 2nd and 3rd discourses which are to consent in the happening situation, to offend, to escape from the ones who disagree, to endure for the better situation, to obey the adults, and to do everything their best. There are additional communication and struggling of teen mom in the 2nd discourse which are to compensate the sin. The additional communication and struggling of teen mom in the 3rd discourse are to retort the ones who disagree and to accept the things happening to her.

V. CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The discussion of this study is in the frame of cultural studies paradigm of Birmingham School (Kanjana Kaewtape and Somsuk Hinviman, 2008: 636-646) which are critical cultural studies that focus on;

1. Analysis of cultural production or reproduction more than cultural product which cause studying culture in both sides of standing still and moving. As the result in table 1 (The studied fiction media sorted by time.), there are cultural production and reproduction through fiction media

to install the ideology to Thai population frequently in order to control the adolescent pregnancy rate continuously, but it seems not effective in recent adolescent pregnancy statistics. By the way, it's effective in causing stigmatization on teen mom.

2. Holistic studies considering in many fields such as economic, politic, social, cultural, communication, power, belief, etc. which the researcher has studies by the discourse analysis from textual analysis of 40 fiction media about teen mom in Thailand and historical study of 5 teen moms who are celebrities in Thailand accepting that they are teen mom in public which is the holistic study covering many fields in order to explore findings of "teen mom" discourses in Thai society in each era.

3. Objection to academicians who only focus on philosophical arguments. On the contrary, endorse academicians who study and apply the knowledge to be in practice in the same time which the researcher is trying to disseminate the findings to others for better understanding in teen mom.

4. The theories development into interdisciplinary which the researcher has utilized knowledge from many fields in order to reach better and deeper knowledge.

5. Besides cultural analysis for understanding, when the study is accomplished, there should be value judgment about the power of that culture. For this study, the subculture of teen mom has been changed in meanings with dynamic of power in each era or discourse.

6. The combination of postmodernism theories which the researcher also base of social construction of reality which in postmodernism paradigm.

Moreover, this study about "teen mom" discourses in Thai society is also in the frame of power from Foucault's standpoint with following features (Kanjana Kaewtape and Somsuk Hinviman, 2008: 500-503);

1. Power is in diffusing appearance with connecting networks around without integrity. Therefore, all the social relationship is the power relationship as well. In this study, "teen mom" discourses has been diffused everywhere in daily life with networks which affect perception and practices to teen mom in each era differently.

2. Power is not derived from intention or purpose. But it can bring about effects which is dictation or control. Thus, we should not pay attention only at the origin of power. But we should pay attention to execution and result of power as well. In this study, the findings indicated the origin of power from all conjoint social institutions who has determined "teen mom" discourses in each era which the researcher also focus on the result of that power to teen mom and related people likewise.

3. The power in modern society is bleached or realistic until we do not feel that it's

the usage of power. All this is under the regime of practice in exercising of power which this researcher has found the usage and exercising of power under the regime of power from all social institutions.

4. The power does not only depress, suppress, conceal, or prohibit, but the power also produce and create as well. In this study, the power depressed, suppressed, concealed, and prohibited teen mom in the 2nd discourse. But the power also produces and creates more variety in the 3rd discourse of teen mom.

5. Techniques of power usage are division and exclusion, in other words is some norm establishment and arrange everything to be fit with the norm. If there is something does not fit the norm, it will be divided or excluded to be controlled or imprisoned under the justification of rectification to be normal. For this study, teen mom is also divided and excluded from all teenagers under the social norms and filled with stigmatization which is the significant barrier in their lives.

6. The cycle of power starts from the origins. But if the process runs to one point, the power will become anonymous thing without real owner. From the beginning, the power will be one way flow. But later, the power will be circulated in every direction until it's infiltrated in every level of social meaning space without reason and result. The power has become the structure that opens the door for variety of people to perform as agent or victim alternatively. In the ancient time, teen mom used to perform as agent while the social socio-cultural changes cause the alteration for teen mom to perform as victim in one era. At the present, teen mom perform both as agent and victim by cases and situations.

7. The whirlpool of power which power cannot be distinguished strictly, motionlessly, and inflexibly that who have less or more power or who is the user or used of power the whole time. Because the power is circulated and scattered in every social relationship and every time that have practice of discourses. For teen mom discourse as well, it's in the whirlpool of power which cannot be distinguished about the power strictly, motionlessly, and inflexibly.

8. Knowledge and power re enhancing each other. The knowledge is the thing that the authoritarians have determined that it's the knowledge. The authoritarians in social institutions are the one who determine "teen mom" discourses in each era.

Therefore, discourse acts as the powerful tool and able to control population in society. It's also the significant tool for social construction of reality. (Van Leeuwen, 1993: 193 referred from Gateganok Choompradit, 2011: 18) As well as "teen mom" discourses that has been acting as the

powerful tool and able to control population in Thai society and it's also the significant tool for social construction of reality in each era differently based on socio-cultural changes.

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