



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

On 26 December 2004, an undersea earthquake occurred with an epicenter off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia that triggered a series of devastating tsunami tidal waves along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian Ocean. More than 225,000 people were killed and a million people became homeless. This was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand were hardest hit.

The number of dead people from all around the world is more than 294,000. In Thailand, approximately 4,500 people were killed and 6,500 people disappeared while the survivors lost their families, homes, and properties.

This 2004 tsunami disaster shook the heart of Thai people. Many people went to the south to give their hands: helping victims, being translators for foreigners, burying the corpses. Plenty of money and necessary things such as food, clothes, and medicines were sent to help the victims. The tsunami had a great impact on Thailand. It damaged not only people and buildings but also a large income from tourism. Most of all, this natural disaster stamped into the heart of Thai people the danger and aggressiveness of nature.

After the tsunami, there are many responses toward this natural disaster. More than 50 books written about tsunami were published: 10 of them were written by academics and scholars. Many songs and poems were also dedicated to this disaster. Some of them were composed for charity. In album entitled *Sub Namta Andaman* (ซับน้ำตาอันดามัน) or *Dry Your Tears, Andaman*, there are songs from various bands that denoted all their income to a tsunami fund.

In the face of the greatest disaster in Thai history, Thai people composed songs and poems to express their attitudes toward this catastrophe. These songs and poems reflect Thai

characteristics: values, attitudes, beliefs, and ways of life. In addition, some literary techniques used in tsunami songs and poems are identical to those in Thai literature in the past.

Moreover, Thai characteristics are displayed in many poems, as follows:

Let's make merit.

Let's be united Thai heart,

To send the stream of loving-kindness and practice moral act.

Our natives are suffering because of the big waves.

Some survived because of their merit and returned to their home.

But how sad they are, their houses are destroyed.

Thai people never ignore their countrymen in times of crisis:

Lives are hard and people are hungry.

We send food, clothes and medicine.

The crisis is softened when our kindness pours in.

In the poem above entitled "Wiping Away Andaman's Tear", Phra Kru Silsangwaraphirat displays some concepts of Buddhism: 'make merit', 'loving-kindness', and 'moral act', which have strong influence in Thai society to encourage people to help tsunami victims. In addition, some Thai tsunami songs and poems also use the Thai beliefs to console the victims and advise them to let go their sorrow and look forward to the future.

So, Thai tsunami songs and poems reflect Thai beliefs; moreover, the poets wisely display Thai beliefs in order to send their messages to the readers.

Thai tsunami songs and poems express the point of view of Thai people toward natural disaster from various positions: the poets who directly were involved with this disaster and those who were not involved; the poets who are professionals and those who are amateurs.

1.1 Objectives

- 1) To study how Thai people express their emotions in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami disaster through songs and poems;
- 2) To analyze Thai beliefs reflected in the composition of Thai tsunami songs and poems.

1.2 Hypothesis

Thai beliefs have been influenced by many religious beliefs such as animism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. After the devastating tsunami on 26 December 2004, Thai people expressed their emotions through the composition of songs and poems. These songs and poems reflect the transient nature of life, and the belief in the law of karma and guardian spirits.

1.3 Scope

All songs and poems in this research are the songs and poems which were written in 2004-2005 and dedicated to tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004. The researcher collects them from books, CD, and internet.

A. Thai Tsunami Songs

Anda / "To Shed Tears" (อันดา / ฝากเพลงช้บน้ำตา)

Caravan / "By Your Side, Andaman" (คาราวาน / อยู่เคียงข้างเธออันดามัน)

Chama / "Thanks for the Kindness of Thai People" (ฉามา / ขอขอบคุณน้ำใจไทย)

Danupol Kaewkarn / "Brutal Wave, Beloved Sea" (دنۇپول كائوگان، كرايۇتھ سۇبۇيۇ / كىلىنرئايەتە لەرگ)

Hope Family / "Tsunami 26 Dec" (هوپ فامىلى / سىنامى 26 دىكابىر)

Kanakam Aphiradee / "Calling Kwan" (كانكام افىرادى / چىيەنگوان)

Nuphap Sawantararat / "The Angry Earth" (نۇپھاپ ساۋانتارارات / زورلىق زەمىن)

Phanthip Yingrungruang / "Go Away Tsunami" (فانثىپ يىنگرۇنگرۇان / سىنامى يەتەك)

Preecha Chanaphai / "Thais Never Forsake One Another" (پرىچا چانافاي / تايلاندلىقلىرىمىز بىر-بىرىنى تاشلىمايمىز)

Sek Saksit / "United Thai Hearts Fight against the Tsunami Disaster" (سەك سەكسىت / بىرلىكتە تايلاندلىقلىرىمىز سىنامىغا قارشى كۈرەش قىلىمىز)

Su Boonliang / "Greeting Card 2005" (سۇ بۇنلىان / 2005-يىلىنىڭ كارتىنىسى)

Surachai Chanthimathorn / "Sleep on Death" (سۇراچاي چانثىماتھورن / مەيتەتتە ئۇخلاش)

Thippawan Pinphibarn / "Good Night, My Dear" (تىپپۋان پىنپىبارن / ياخشى كۈن، مەھبۇبىم)

Yuenyong Ophakul / "Tsunami" (يۇينىڭ ئوپھاكۇل / سىنامى)

B. Thai Tsunami Poems

Anonymous / "Untitled 1"¹ (نىرنام / بىر نىرنام 1)

Chommam na Moobanmuenaksorn / "Untitled 2"² (چوممار نا مووبانمۇئىنئاكسورن / بىر نىرنام 2)

Lamnam C / "Untitled 3"³ (لامنام C / بىر نىرنام 3)

Naphacharee Nambenchaphol / "For the Beloved"⁴ (ناپھاخارىي نانبىنچاپھول / مەھبۇبىمگە)

¹ Anonymous, Untitled 1 [Internet], 18th November 2009.

<http://webboard.nationgroup.com/darknews/content/2005/12/26/index.php?news=p4.txt>

² Chommam na Moobanmuenaksorn, Untitled 2 [Internet], 18th November 2009.

<http://webboard.nationgroup.com/darknews/content/2005/12/26/index.php?news=p4.txt>

³ Lamnam C, Untitled 3 [Internet], 18th November 2009.

<http://webboard.nationgroup.com/darknews/content/2005/12/26/index.php?news=p4.txt>

⁴ Naphacharee Nambenchaphol, For the Beloved [Internet], 18th November 2009. <http://zoomzogzag.com/roykrontsunami/>

- Noawarat Phongphaibul / "Dark Sky, New Sky"⁵ (เนาวรัตน์ พงษ์ไพบูลย์ / ฟ้ามืดฟ้าใหม่)
 Noawarat Phongphaibul / "Ocean Weeps"⁶ (เนาวรัตน์ พงษ์ไพบูลย์ / กำสรวลสมุทร)
 Pantamuang / "Tsunami 2"⁷ (Pantamuang / สึนามิ 2)
 Phaiwarin Khaongam / "World-Sumatra-Tsunami"⁸ (ไพวรินทร์ ขาวงาม / โลก-สุมาตรา-สึนามิ)
 Phanda Thammada / "For Those Who Survive"⁹ (พันดา ธรรมดา / แต่...ผู้ยังอยู่)
 Phanom Chaiyarote / "Chaotic Andaman"¹⁰ (พนม ชยโรจน์ / อันดามันวิปโยค)
 Phanom Nantapruet / "On the Stretch of Andaman"¹¹ (พนม นันทพฤกษ์ / ณ เวียงธารแห่งอันดามัน)
 Phrakru Sil Sangwaraphirat / "Wiping Away Andaman's Tears"¹² (พระครูศีล สังวราภีรัต / เช็ดน้ำตาอัน
 ดามัน)
 Tuak Banthad / "The Song of Tanyong Andaman"¹³ (เทือก บรรทัด / เพลงต้นหยงอันดามัน)
 Waree Wayu / "Through the Age"¹⁴ (วารี วายุ / ผ่านพันยุคสมัย)

1.4 Methodology

- 1) Collecting and studying songs and poems about the 2004 tsunami that were written by Thai writers during 2004-2005;

⁵ Noawarat Phongphaibul, *Diary of Tsunami* (Bangkok: H2oney, 2005).

⁶ Noawarat Phongphaibul, Ocean Weeps [Internet], 18th November 2009. <http://www.vcharkarn.com/varticle/31995>

⁷ Pantamuang, Tsunami 2 [Internet], 18th November 2009. <http://www.bloggang.com/viewblog.php?id=lungboon&group=3&page=3>

⁸ Phaiwarin Khaongam, World-Sumatra-Tsunami [Internet], 18th November 2009. <http://soldier.diaryis.com/?20051226>

⁹ Phanda Thammada, *Andaman : The Sad Song of Century* (Bangkok: Sangdao Publishing, 2005), pp.14-15.

¹⁰ Phanom Chaiyarote, Chaotic Andaman [Internet], 18th November 2009. <http://zoomzozzag.com/roykrongtsunami/>

¹¹ Phanom Nantapruet, *Andaman : The Sad Song of Century* (Bangkok: Sangdao Publishing, 2005), pp.10-11.

¹² Phrakru Sil Sangwaraphirat, Wiping Away Andaman's Tears [Internet], 18th November 2009.

<http://zoomzozzag.com/roykrongtsunami/>

¹³ Tuak Banthad, *Andaman : The Sad Song of Century* (Bangkok: Sangdao Publishing, 2005), pp.16-17.

¹⁴ Waree Wayu, *Andaman : The Sad Song of Century* (Bangkok: Sangdao Publishing, 2005), pp.24-25.

- 2) Exploring Thai beliefs, as seen in Thai tsunami songs and poems;
- 3) Analyzing the emotions which are expressed in Thai tsunami songs and poems;
- 4) Studying and analyzing the messages in Thai tsunami songs and poems;
- 5) Summarizing and synthesizing all the results of this research.

1.5 Significance

This study may help the reader to understand the influence of Thai beliefs on the tsunami songs and poems, through the poets' expression of their emotions.

1.6 Literature Review

By exploring literary works which have been written about the tsunami of 2004 the researcher found several theses and books.

A thesis *A Study of Tourists' Confidence in Tourism in Andaman Coast Region after Tsunami Disaster*, written by Itthirat Sinarak (2005) is a thesis that studies tourists' confidence in tourism in the Andaman coast regions after the tsunami disaster. The researcher studied the differences in tourists' confidence regarding gender and dwellings. He also concluded the comparison of their confidence on management policy, physical environment, public utility system, nature and environment, welfare system, activities, and service system. The finding showed that the tourists' confidences level was good in every area except protection against crime.

A thesis *Narration and Construction of Reality in Tsunami News Coverage*, written by Phisanurak Pitathasang (2005) is a thesis that analyzes the newspaper reports on the tsunami during different periods of time. Moreover, it analyzes the processes and the consequences of social construction of reality in narrating tsunami news. The results showed that the newspapers were most likely to demonstrate the clear structure in a narrative format which separated the

characters into groups, creating repetitive scenes and arousing emotions by using the dramatic pictures as if the narrators had confronted the real situation themselves. Therefore, tsunami news was full of sorrow, shock and fear. (Moreover, the narration in newspapers helped establish the truth of making a better way of life; on the other hand, it created misunderstanding by using hyperbolic language.) Finally, factors in narration of tsunami news were influenced by inside and outside organizations, for example government sources, organization policy, culture of the workplace, and the decision of news reporters.

A book *Social Science of Tsunami: The Disaster Recovery System* is edited by Assoc. Prof. Surichai Wankaew and published by Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute and International Development Studies, Faculty of Political Science (2007). This research is a result from the research program entitled "The Policy and the Way to Develop the Disaster Recovering System in Social and Government Section: The case study of tsunami disaster". The book researches how the Thai people such as NGOs and volunteers handled the situation after the tsunami disaster. It also researches how Thai Government managed their related authorities to handle this situation. Moreover, it conducted a case study on the disaster preparation system in other countries, such as the earthquake in Kobe, Japan, as well as the recovery system after the 2004 tsunami disaster in other countries: Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia. In this research, there is also an analytical study on the strong points and weak points of the recovery system in Thailand. Suggestions to improve the recovering system in Thailand and its benefits for the future are also included.

A book *Andaman's Great Reaper: Tsunami* is written by Dr. Seree Suparathit (2005), the administrator of the Natural Disasters Research Center, Rangsit University, and on the Committee of Warning Systems, the Prime Minister's Office. This book begins with the description of scientific methods about the natural disasters, such as the definition of natural disasters, statistics of the disasters around the world, and the tendencies of the natural disasters in several areas. After chapter two, the researcher explains the characteristics and the causes of tsunamis, before summing up with the result of tsunami research in Phuket, Phi Phi, and Pang-nga. This research is

to point out the necessity of the knowledge about the natural disasters. The researcher gives the readers extensive physical information about tsunami with scientific methods, especially the tsunami on 26 December 2004 in order to point out how significant the warning system and knowledge about tsunamis are for Thailand.

A book *December 26, 2004: The Tsunami on Phuket* is produced in 2005 by Phuket Province. This is the research on tsunami damage and effects, rescue and help for victims, and plans for repairing the damage in southern areas, especially Phuket Province. In the process of conducting this research, Phuket Province got information about the damages of tsunami from the government offices, for example, Third Naval Area Command HQ, Phuket Rajabhat University, Phuket Provincial Police Station, Tourism Authority of Thailand, National Economic and Social Advisor Council, *Kaosod*, *Dailynews*, *Komchadluek*, *Thai Post*, *Thairath*, *Thansettakij*, and *Matichon*. This research is the attempt of Phuket province to show the damages and effects from tsunami disaster in order to point out that tsunami warning system and recovering system are needed. Moreover, it is the acknowledgement devoting to the volunteers, NGOs, and government officers, who dedicated their labor, money, and property to help tsunami victims and restore the damaged areas.

A book *The Survivors from Tsunami* is written in 2005 by Nonsee Natheenon. Nonsee went to the southern part of Thailand after the tsunami disaster and interviewed the victims who witnessed the moment when the big tidal waves came. Some of them could realize more about the meaning of life after they survived the disaster. Some of them were cheerful and generous, although they lost members of their family, and some of them still believe that they will find the body of their husband or wife or children. This is one of the records that impressively expresses the emotions and thoughts of people when they are facing the moment of life and death.