

The Discourse Analysis of Social Reflection Drama of Sexual Behavior of Teenagers

Apichet Juntana, Burapha University, Thailand

The Asian Conference on Psychology and the Behavioral Sciences 2014
Official Conference Proceedings 2014

0175

Abstract

The objectives of this research were 1). To find the characteristics of adolescent's sexual behavior reflected in the characters. 2). To understand the language and behaviors associated with sexual behaviors among adolescents from the reflections in the play. 3). To analyze the language associated with sexual behavior of adolescents reflected from the drama. For research methods, the content analysis of "the behavior that reflects sexual behavior of the characters" in the series TV drama– Hormones – was analyzed by using discourse analysis, sexuality about sexual behavior of teenagers as a framework for analysis.

The results found that:

- 1). This play reflected every nook and cranny of Thai community as revealed by having sex in school, drug use, or minor emotional disorders to which have never been referred neither at home nor at school. Thai community's eyes and ears have been covered for a long time. Currently, Thai teachers have not taught young people about sex educations because they have been afraid that it would let them have a chance to have sex too early. Now, the Thai teen abortion statistics reach 100,000 per year, hence it is impossible not to mention about safe sex.
- 2) The circumstance that teenagers had more free sexual intercourse made their self-esteem changed. Sexual intercourse during teen age caused them see sexual activity as just an "exchange" of sexual emotion and object. The more the sexual intercourse they have, the less the self-esteem they see.
- 3) The sex scene of 'Sprite' – a girl student character who thought that sex was habitual – made the phrase 'Yak-Kin-Sprite-Tong-Sai-Thung' - if you want to have sex with Sprite, you must wear a condom – become popular, even the scene of the group of seniors slapping the junior for scramble for a man in a VDO clip or the scene of two men kissing, etc. It is true whether something we see every day. This play reflected current teenagers' state of society with violence and having sexual relations with different partners. However, these behaviors existed or happened in today's society, no one spoke. This drama revealed the real problems and was a reflection of the reality of society.

Keywords: Discourse , Sexual behavior , Teens' love

Introduction

Overview

Problems with premature sexual intercourse cause directive impacts to teenagers, families, societies, and nation largely. Especially, the teens will be affected by the physical, social, mental and spiritual influences inevitably. Effects occurring are unplanned pregnancy, illegal abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, future progress loss, lack of self-esteem as well as impressed stigma. However, associate institutes give an interest and try to solve this problem seriously and continuously, it seems that the effort devoted is unsuccessful as they should - as seen from the age of the first intercourse of teenage men and women are likely to decline. Currently, it has been found that the average age of the first intercourse of teenage men and women is 14 to 15 years. Specifically young men, age at first intercourse has decreased steadily.

Adolescents have Sex Drive, which occurs naturally anyway. If no self-control, both physically and mentally, it can cause subsequent problems. When teenagers have started to attract the opposite sex or love, they feel like there is a lot more intimate. Formerly, the rendezvous of lovers in adolescents was not established by adults or guardians, but, at present, children can visit with more privately. Lovers, can be disclosed or introduce to the parents or acquaintances which some parents admit it, but some still do not.

The teens who are lovers may go around, and may have together chances to get to know each other in more various aspects. While sometimes they lovers by themselves, may lead to an atmosphere conducive to more intimate and may cause sexual desire. Teenagers should be cautioned against inadvertently potential sexuality and should distinguish between love and lust, need to be guarded, or inhibited and responsible.

The significant emotions of teenagers are the passion in the opposite sex, accompanying with curiosity and emulation. So, youths are at risk, if they know about sex wrongly with no good cognition. Teens start having an attention to friends of opposite sex, which may be initially known as a friend and then developed into love with needs to share a life together. Furthermore, the potential problems of the teenagers having sexual emotion can be unwanted pregnancy, the issue of homosexuality, the problem of illegal abortion which would affect their future, their education, and their families.

Sexual emotion is a natural need of the human races for maintaining their tribes, but should be in a suitable condition. So sexual emotional control is important to avoid the problems and is valid to

Thai traditions established in Thailand to have sex after marriage.

The researcher is interested in the phenomenon of plays reflecting views about sexual behavior of teenagers according to the definition of 'discourse' by Michel Foucault stated that Discourse is the system and the creation/production of identity and meaning to things around as; knowledge, truth and power. This research has focused on the study of discourse in the play reflecting the sexual behavior of teenagers that which gist of discourse are produced, how the power of the words of the characters

affect the sexual behavior of adolescents and how it conforms to social problems. These issues will be studied in this advanced independent study.

Objectives

1. To collect the characteristics of adolescent's sexual behavior reflected in the characters.
2. To understand the language and behaviors associated with sexual behavior among adolescents from the reflections in the play.
3. To analyze the language associated with the sexual behavior of adolescents reflected from the drama.

Methodology and methods

Research method

To study the issues mentioned above, we used the following tools to study the qualitative research.

Textual Analysis was an analysis of the text of drama discourse in adolescents' sexual behavior appeared in Hormone – the series. It was to notify how 'sexual behavior of teenagers' is defined. The researchers used Qualitative Textual Analysis principally to analyze and interpret data collected from content in the play.

Data used in the study

For instruments used in the study, this the research aimed to analyze the data acquired from the play, detailed as following:

The researchers studied Hormones – the series, the story of a group of students in Matthayom 5 (grade 11). The play was produced by GTH and Nadao Bangkok, was directed by Songyot Sukmak-a-nan, and was broadcasted by satellite television GMM1 on Saturdays at 22:00 - 23:00 from May, 18th 2013.

Contents to be studied are:

Episode	Title	Broadcasting time	keystone
1	<i>Testosterone</i> : Male Hormone	25 th May 2013	The story of Win
2	Dopamine: Hormone of intimate	1st June 2013	The story of Ta
3	<i>Endorphin</i> : Hormone run when fin	8 th June 2013	The story of Sprite
4	<i>Dopamine</i> : Hormone of	29 th June 2013	The story of Phu

	intimate		
5	<i>Progesterone</i> : the hormone of mother being	13 th July 2013	The story of Dao

Collection of Data

The researcher collected the data of "Hormones – the series" that aired on Saturdays on satellite TV – GMM1. And for the back-up videos, the data was conducted to collect information from <http://www.youtube.com>, and then sequenced chronologically to await further analysis.

Instrument and Data Check

This research was conducted using Qualitative Textual Analysis, which could check the validity, because the researcher collected data independently, so the Face Validity existed. Additionally it depended on expert's advice (advisor) to achieve Expert Validity in the research also.

Data Analysis

After collected and validated already, all data were analyzed as follows: Meaning analysis of the play in sexual behavior of teenagers was the information collection about the discourse from Hormones – the series - to analyze how the definitions of the sexual behavior of teenagers were defined. The researchers have taken Michelle Foucault's concept of Discourse Analysis as a basis for analysis. In addition, the researcher brought the concept of sexuality about sexual behavior of teenagers to study and interpret the data collected.

Data Presentation

After analyzing the data according to the above guidelines, the researcher presented the findings in the form of descriptive analysis by mentioning the discourse of the play reflected sexual behavior of teenagers which appeared in Hormones – the series - both in texts and contexts derived from the meaning analysis of the sexual behavior of the teens in the series.

Discourse analysis of the plays reflected sexual behavior of teenagers. The researcher would like to present the language use of the characters to communicate in the drama which reflected in some potential discourse and was directly related to the meaning creation of the sexual behavior of teenagers that made up such behavior meaningful in Thai society. When considering the present life and the idea of high school students these days in another point of view straightforwardly through the characters in the story with clearly different personalities and views on each issue, but it can be seen everywhere in daily life, also biasing talking about "sex," a distraught teen story throughout the ages with heavy attitude, more than drug problems, family problems, love, or education which has become the current track, or interchangeable broad discussing online on sexual issues of teenagers today, it was particularly interesting because the changed society has affected the perspective of many teenagers such as attitudes towards sex or issues of teenage sexual confusion.

The researcher had the opportunity to watch the drama "Hormones – the series" by word of mouth from students in the school criticizing widely on the day the school started and tracking the fashion of this drama in the online network. The researcher started watching this drama when the first and the second episodes aired by downloading from YouTube. Finishing both first two episodes, I found them impressive because I could keep up this generation. Not only characters' appearance in the story they had, but also the skilled acting level these new young actors could do. Moreover, every character in this play also showed us the common humanity. Unlike many of the leading stars in Thailand, heroes and heroines have to practice good habits or no defects whereas culprits and jealous characters have to be bad for no reason (and no brains). It is that protagonists of Thailand's plays in the past were distant from human being with both the good and the bad in themselves. Audiences felt that the characters were so distant that they almost could not reach anything. When the audiences had known "Win", a impetuous young hot student, who needed to be more prominent than ones, "Sprite", a cute girl, who spent her life overly with many guys, "Phai", a hot-tempered but calm boy, and other characters regarding both good and bad within them. It might feel that these characters represented imperfections so that they became like a friend or someone who existed in their real life.

The beginning...when Hormones bursting out

"Hormones – the series" created Nostalgia phenomenon, or a sense of reminding of the past. And, of course, the teens close in age to the characters in this play would have to commonly track the play, because they felt like having friends who would speak for them. But for adults who already passed their teenage, they would sit in a time machine to go back to the memory filled with sweetness and bitter that we all used to suffer once again like the first love, the broken heart, having intercourses with friends, or contact with the subject of drug or sex.

Exposing what is happening in Thai teen society from the basis for dating with friends, love between heterosexuals, gaps between teenagers and their parents to serious issues but actually seen in newspapers, i.e. having sex in school, smoking, drinking, bickering, or profound love between the same sex, etc.

This play reflected every corner of Thailand whether having sex in school, the use of drugs, emotional variability caused by hormones in the body in general. These things have never been put forward whether at home or at school. Thai society has been covered its eyes and ears for a long time. At present, Thai teachers do not teach young people about sex for they fear that it would let their students have a chance to have sex premature, but actually in this regard the children need to learn from their own experience. For the scene the girl student having an abortion which was widely criticized and was claimed to be banned, he thought that adults themselves were blindfolding to the fact that occurred in society. By now, the statistics of Thai teen abortion reach up to 100,000 cases per year, so it is impossible not to mention about having safe sex.

Who first?

Having more free sex in teens make self- appreciation changed. Having sex during teenage results in teens see a sexual activity as an "exchange" of sexual emotion and object. The more frequent the sexual intercourse, the less self-respect and self-esteem. Moreover, the invitation to have sex in some scenes in some episodes.

When Teen Society Changed?

Sprite's love scenes, Sprite – a young girl who thought that sex is a common thing - so the discourse "yak kin Sprite tong sai thung" (If you want to have sex with Sprite, you must wear condom.) became a hit. Even the scenes that the senior students slapping the younger to take their guy away and record VDO clips, or men kissing each other, etc., are they what we see every day? This play reflected the youth of today's society with violence, and having sex around. These behaviors exist in today's society. It happens every day, but no one speaks. This drama revealed real problems.

Reflection...from psychological view?

Lives of nine young people with "Hormones – the series" were not a long play of ordinary teenagers but the "dark sides" that shocked the audiences especially for teenagers, because the "strengths" of this tiny-but-outstanding form drama presented the truth which was not clean naturally and had the modern storytelling.

There were backgrounds from the smallest unit in society, "family". It is a "core" of the basis repeatedly taught through many dramas. "Hormones – the series" surpassed to target for the "freshness" which did not direct the audiences to believe, on the other hand, it left the further clues, had fun since we did not know how the story would come at the end. This was something new and captivated the audiences.

Understanding and interpretation relied on direct or mutual experience that viewers had encountered.

From the phenomenon found by the researcher, it could be said that why the "Hormones – the series", reflecting the story of high school teenagers in a few minutes after broadcasting, had a sex scene in the toilet and gossiped of other's love. In general, if the drama on TV is talking about "sex education", it will focus on restraining yourself to prevent pregnancy. That's why "Hormones – the series", was to fans' taste who praised its openness daring show the scenes of bussing and copulating.

The article cited Chadet Chaowilai's view, the director of Women and Men Progressive Movement Foundation, on the campaign to increase the instruction of sex education in schools that "Hormones – the series" reflected the actual problems in Thailand but they scared most people.

"When we are unable to talk about sex education in public, so most teens do not know what to do while making love. And most young girls decided to abort because they did not know to protect themselves. They do not even know how to use condoms."

At the end of the article described that absenting these issues would be another example of adult's blindfolding themselves. Abortion rate of teens in Thailand is relatively high with nearly one-hundred-thousand people every year. Keeping away from having safe sex is impossible anymore. Parents watching this play with their teenage kids would understand their campus life. We learn or grow from mistakes. The charm of "Hormones – the series" made it successful because it was true that people could experience and reflected one life span of teenagers whether those who passed it through or those who are still in this range. Adults in Thai society have ignored to teach sex education in the classroom for they have been anxious that it might cause child to have sex, but, unfortunately, it allows children to try out and learn by themselves.

Results

The research on discourse analysis of plays reflected adolescent behavior, the researcher considered regarding to the guidelines of the discourse of drama mirrored adolescent sexual behavior by Discourse Practice and Sociocultural Practice analysis. The details of the analysis will be sorted as following:

1. discourse as a reflection of language, speech associated with adolescents' sexual behavior.
2. discourse as a reflection of psychological and social concept related to adolescents' sexual behavior.
3. discourse as a reflection of teenagers' social practice norms proposing adolescents' sexual behavior.

Discussion

1. discourse as a reflection of language, speech associate with adolescents' sexual behavior.

Talks and Texts of the characters.

Talks here are in a broad sense, that is, the projection (of the characters) in any way that would tell the story to the receivers (the audiences) to be aware and understand through the speech, pronunciation, the use of body language connected to sexual behavior by drama.

Topic Being a starter in intersexual relationship declaration

Findings Anyone can be a starter even if the intercourse does not involve, and males can be one who is proactive in his libido, no matter he is single, just using fluorography or language of flowers.

Topic Word or sentence creation with implication

Findings "I do have mood too...but if you have no condom, you won't get it." became a new hit sentence that had an implication understood and widely used among adolescents.

Topic The use of seducement

findings Using the words of affront or seducement to attract the other.

Topic Being a starter of telling sexual desires

Findings Being an inviter of females may oppose to Thai culture, so that it should have to be avoided by implicating her sexual partners.

Topic Reflection from the researcher's view as an etic

Findings Adolescence is a period of adjustment of progress of feeling from a childhood which is controlled and refined in sexuality from parents' gender role to the creation of more self-confidence from the meaning and evaluation from others' eyes, for example, the roles of young teenagers from movies, television, books, music and entertainment, values in groups of friends with an interaction via the use of language related to emotions and the expression of sexuality, suppression and expression, and the real world and the fantasy. The creation of the discourse that is factored by gender discrimination influences the organization of mind, vision, and views on sexuality of adolescents considerably. Moreover, these are reinforced through various communications continuously and puzzled attitude determination and sexual behavior of teenagers particularly i.e. the communication or talks about sex in a way that it is not good for women (as in situation 1) as seen in "...but my navel is kind of deep, ... so I can't wash it all. I really can't!"

A happy and fanciful imagine when thinking of the opposite sex (situation 2 and 3) as in "...a young girl, Dao, has a pounded heart..." and "...his name is strong...", so that it is the creation of excitement and happiness when running on sex with those opposite sex.

Topic Attitudes towards love of male and female adolescents

Findings Men are the ones who asked for relationship which is equal to reinforcing old ideology "Man proposed, women responded". This reflects that women yield to have sex for love from men while men agree to share his love for sex from women. If women have an idea like this, it would allow more behavior of premarital sex because they think it will make men love her even more.

2. discourse as a reflection of psychological and social concept related to adolescents' sexual behavior.

Topic Social adjustment of teenagers

Findings When teens begin, they will be interested in opposite gender friends, sometimes dating which lets both parties have an opportunity to know each other more. Presently, Thailand accepts social dating with friends more and more. Teens, however, need to be very careful about the opposite gender friend and hanging out with friends properly and do not cause damage. Especially teenage girls, making a relationship and going out with male friends may result in harm and other problems, so that when going out with heterosexuals, they should not stay overnight and enter inappropriate places but try to go in a group of friends and ask for permission from their parents at all times.

Topic sexual behavior of female teens

Findings Having sex with other people easily, if you've ever had sex, it was found that women who used to have sex with her lover usually redo with her next one or for other reasons, for example, for money to buy expensive items to satisfy their own needs because they think that they are not virgin anymore. This idea is not correct because all people have value and dignity in oneself. Ever having sex in the past does not lower our value, but our actions in the current situation and the future do. Furthermore, having sex with many people are particularly vulnerable to AIDS or sexual diseases and subsequently pregnancy. Owing to AIDS is a very serious

disease nowadays and is epidemic among children and adolescents. AIDS is cannot be cured.

Topic External incentives is sexual stimulators

Findings Contact with the opposite sex, especially someone we love or not, often causes sexual emotion.

Topic factors influence to sexual intercourse

Findings Human sexual behavior is the result of several factors, both biological and psychological factors. But how the sexual expression is going to happen, it is based on social factors involved. To have activities of love, it needs to care more deeply for the situation. The deeper the relationship has, the more personal it should have to be. So culture becomes norms of behavior to evaluate which is correct. Tradition for practicing activities of humans are different in each community. The young in 2000s in Thailand mixed with Thai culture adopted from the in origin but combined with Western hit culture was in a state of confusion in values of sexual practices different in the two cultures. One stream of Western culture flows through the Hollywood 'films' which pass through the eyes, come into the brain, and track those new values, particularly sexuality.

Topic Meaning of love, a psychological analysis

Findings Psychologically, it was described that love is a phenomenon related to the recognition and society. The psychologist, Robert Sternberg, defined the triangular theory of love and argued that love is composed by three different elements, including proximity, bondage and passion. Proximity is a format that two people share their faith and many details of their personal lives and commonly expresses in the form of friendships and romantic relationships. The bondage is expected that this relationship would last forever. Passion or sexual attraction is the last and most common form of love.

3. discourse as a reflection of teenagers' social practice norms proposing adolescents' sexual behavior.

Topic Skills of refusing

Findings Teenage is a state of the body entering mature stage. This change results in the demand of sex naturally. If they are not careful or control inappropriately, problems can be occurred easily. The following situation that teens should avoid is a girl not going to a male friend's house alone, because his parents may judge her in the bad ways. If necessary, she should go with friends.

Topic Defining men and women's roles today

Findings Some groups of women want sexual freedom as men. Women may be the "encourager" to her satisfied man. A woman may choose the man with whom she wants to have sex. Or it can be said that women want to change the role of the Passive to the Active.

Topic Social acceptance

Findings Conducting, making friends and self-control in the expression of sexuality for social acceptance from sexual changes occurring in adolescent both in physically, mindedly, affectively and socially.

Topic Risky circumstances of sexual relations

Findings Both sides should be careful with their close contact because the female are likely to be inferior to the male. Females should be in the sight of other people, if necessary, they should ask other friends to go with. Never let a boy friend enter a girl friend's bedroom. It is a female private room and inappropriate.

Topic Reflections from the researcher's view as an Etic

Findings According to the society values the object and those who have wealth and power more than honesty, and diligence, so teens love the comfort more than effort, lack of discipline and hard work, consume information and media incorrectly. These cause many problems such as the lack of a life plan, involution with vices - alcohol, smoking, drug addiction, gambling, and the use of inappropriate media. Teens are victims of ads. They consume luxury goods, mimic unlawful sexual behavior, are addicted to online games, go to the pubs, and are at risk offenders. They are also victimized by frauds in various forms and sometimes volunteer or consent to enter sex-service business.

Topic Having sex of teenagers

Findings It reflects the way of thinking of the two genders involved in a sexual relationship before marriage. This shows us that more teens have sex without marriage which is seen as common. It can be said that we admit the Western culture, which has more sexual freedom. But the scenes in the drama mirrored that the women had to be disadvantage in such situations - accident. The psychological disadvantage was derived from concerns arising from results of such actions which the guys did not mind at all, but they only thought how they could get a virgin girl his fan. However, their desire accomplished but they don't know whether they would get married.

Conclusions

Hormones – the series communicated what actually happened in society very straightforwardly and did not jump to conclusions. "Hormones – the series" was a play that exposed what was happening in Thai teenagers' society from the basis for dating friends, love between heterosexuals, gap between teenagers and their parents, as well as the actual violence as seen in the front page such as smoking, drinking, bickering, love of the same sex, etc. Every detail happened was presented artfully. That is what is not teaching, not covering, not jumping to conclusions, and not guiding cues.

Suggestions for applications

This study aimed to research 3 reflections: language or speech, psychological and social concepts, and patterns of social practice of teenagers that dealt with sexual behavior of teenagers to see the views, attitudes transmitted from the characters that reflected the real life of the youth today. It made associates about information and the behavior of young people that change rapidly and can be taken as a guide for planning.

Suggestions for the next research

For the mass media, they should serve to change the attitudes of people in society to be aware of equality between the sexes whether in sexual freedom or any issues by the presenting the information, knowledge and understanding of the differences

between the sexes physically, psychologically, or socially for people to learn about correct sex education.

For the manufacturers, they should offer answers about sexual problems. They should have an understanding of the target audience and the content have to suit the audience. In addition, the presentation should be adjusted to a more two-way communication.

References

- Buason, R. (2009). **Philosophy of Research**. Bangkok: Chulapress. *[In Thai]*
- Chareansin, C. (2000). **Development Discourse: power, knowledge, identity and reality**. 3th ed. Bangkok: Wipasa. *[In Thai]*
- Chiao C, Yi CC. (2011). Adolescent premarital sex and health outcomes among Taiwanese youth: Perception of best friends' sexual behavior and the contextual effect. **AIDS Care**. 23:1083-1092.
- Chuto, N. (2005). **Qualitative Research**. 3th ed. Bangkok: Printpose. *[In Thai]*
- Pothisita, C. (2009). **Science and art of research quality**. Bangkok: Amarin Printing & Publishing. *[In Thai]*
- Seangma, J. (2003). **A Discourse Analysis of Sexual Freedom in Q&A Column/Program of Thai Mass Media**. Master of Arts. Bangkok: Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University. *[In Thai]*
- Someprayoon, S&W. (1988). **Sex Education**. Bangkok: Thai Watana Panich Press. *[In Thai]*
- Taphangphinijkarn, T. (2006). **Factors Effecting Risked Sexual Behavior Among Male Adolescence Students In Amphoe Sai Yok Changwat Kanchanaburi**. Master of Arts (Psychology and Guidance). Bangkok: Graduate School, Silpakorn University. *[In Thai]*
- Thepthien, B.(2005). **The Synthesis of Research in Social and Behavior Sciences Related to Sexual Behavior Among 1998-2003 Using in Meta Analysis and Content Analysis**. Research one (Ph.D. Applied Behavioral Science Research: By research). Bangkok: Srinakarinwirot University. *[In Thai]*
- Trakulshoksathien, S. (2010). **An analysis of crime discourse and decoding of crime news by criminals**. Master of Communication Arts (Mass Communication). Bangkok: Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University. *[In Thai]*
- Tutty, Rothery, & Grinnell. (1996). **Qualitative Research for Social Workers: Phases, Steps, & Tasks**. Allyn & Bacon.
- Wasikasin, W.(1983). **Issues of Human Sexuality and Social Work**. Bangkok: Thammasatpress. *[In Thai]*
- Wongsongkram, S. (2009). **The Study of Teenagers' Love**. Master of Education (Guidance Psychology). Bangkok: Graduate School, Srinakharinwirot University. *[In Thai]*
- Zhang HM, Liu BH, Zhang GZ. et al.(2007). Risk Factors for Sexual Intercourse among Undergraduates in Beijing. **Chin J Sch Health (in Chinese)**. 28(12): 1057-1059.
- Zhang LY, Gao X, Dong ZW, Tan YP, Wu ZL. (2002). Premarital Sexual Activities Among Students in a University in Beijing, China. **Sex Transm Dis**. 29(4):212-215.