

Research Title : Narrative Style and Characterization of Japanese Comic Books
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ABSTRACT

This research is aimed to study the narrative style and characterization of Japanese comic books. The qualitative method is the research methodology to study the contents of 6 most popular Japanese comic books in Thailand using the in-depth interview with 12 experts of narration and comic books. The main theoretical frameworks are based upon the narration and the characterization concept. The result is found that the narrative style of Japanese comic books are as follow : 1. The various genre in one story 2. The more complex plot and more data research to create the reliable plot 3. Many conflicts 4. The variety of theme using the more profound theme than only " As you sow, so shall you reap" 5. The symbol in complex plot reflects the writer's theme 6. Using the omniscient and the first-person point of view mostly. In addition, for characterization, the result of research is also found as follow : 1. A number of Group characters and obvious difference between inside and outside personalities. 2. To build a number of Group characters, the common points among characters are made to build the unity of characters. 3. More round character, close to human being, than the flat character or super hero. 4. The leading character doesn't need to be a good looking person but more of contemporary personalities reflecting to the various identity of the new generation. Moreover, the line art of comic books is depend on the contents and the reader. The clever idea inserted the Japanese culture into the comic books is esthetics of courage which is the most outstanding personality of Japanese found in every comic books of this research.

Keywords : Comic Books, Japanese Comic Books, Narrative, Characterization, Esthetics