

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

In the course of exploring the image of Thai female sex workers as reflected in English contemporary novels, the historical and social background of the particular issues are studied by reviewing literature and previous studies. Then, three English contemporary novels presenting stereotypical image of Thai women in prostitution are carefully selected from the available range in Chiang Mai's general English bookstores. The time frame chosen is 1991 to 2005 with the aim to understand the most recent representations of Thai female sex workers.

The chosen novels are:

1. *A Killing Smile* (1991) by Christopher G. Moore
2. *Fast Eddie's Lucky 7 A-Go-Go* (2004) by David Young
3. *Private Dancer* (2005) by Stephen Leather

The three novelists are male Western writers: Christopher G. Moore is Canadian, David Young is American, and Stephen Leather is British. The locations of the novels are different: *Private Dancer* and *A Killing Smile* are set in the red light areas in Bangkok and *Fast Eddie's Lucky 7 A-Go-Go* describes the night scenes of Chiang Mai's bar districts. These three pieces of writing can be regarded as having a common theme: a single male Western visitor experiencing a love relationship with Thai women in the famous sex business.

For a deeper understanding, a close reading is conducted, as well as details investigation of the subject, characters, points of view and personalities. Six Thai female sex workers in different beer bars in Chiang Mai are interviewed in order to gain more useful knowledge. Subsequently, an analysis of the information related to the topic is done and used to create a detailed outline and to write the research.