

Research Title	Power Legitimacy based on belief in Ghosts of Thai Song Dum, Bann Pun Sao, Bang Ra Gam district, Phitsanulok
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### Abstract

This research aim to studies belief in ghosts of Thai Song Dum, Bann Pun Sao, Bang Ra Gam district, Phitsanulok to understand how belief in ghosts related with power legitimacy in social relation system of Thai Song Dum, how beliefs in Ghosts exist in their thinking and acknowledgement. This research used qualitative research method though using researcher as a research tool and using non – structure interview including with participant and non – participant observation in field studies. The studies result showed that belief in ghosts have effected to power legitimacy in social relation of Thai Song Dum people. The belief in ghost was expressed by acceptant in ghost exist in supernatural. They believe that ghosts can give both in goodness and wicked things. Ghost belief accepted has expressed in rituals and descendant in heir of Thai Song Dum, which is the base of social structure and power relation. The class relation structure divided in “Phu Tao” (Upper class) and “Phu Noi” (Lower class) along with descendent. And men have importance roles more than women in power relation of family system especially role in descend ancient ghosts. Besides, the reason why belief in ghosts still exists in their thinking and conscious of Thai Song Dum people. Because of it is a custom, which hold in inheritance. And ghost worship also responds to needs of spiritual refuge of Thai Song Dum people. They believe that ghosts could protect and make people to live happily. The relationship between human and ghosts is bargaining relation, respect and realize in favor of ghosts. Moreover, belief in ghosts can make family and relative having firm relationship. Even though, the existence and importance of ghosts have changed in social present and facing with the problem in succession of knowledge.

**Key words:** Power, Legitimacy, Ghosts, Belief, Rituals