

Abstract

Prison and the Incarcerated: Power and Resistance aims to examine the mechanism of control prevailed in prison and to see if resistance from the incarcerated is possible by employing Foucault's concept of power and resistance as the frame of analysis. According to Foucault, power is not something that anyone can possess, seize, or share with someone else. Power relations are not exterior to other types of relationships, but are immanent in them. Power relations, according to Foucault, are the immediate effects of divisions, inequalities, and disequilibriums which occur in other relationships while at the same time can be the causes of these differentiations. Power relations are both intentional and nonsubjective in the sense that there is no power that is exercised without a series of aims and objectives. However, Foucault does not mean that every power relation is resulted from the choices or decisions of an individual. Lastly, where there is power, there is resistance. Thus, power without resistance is perhaps unthinkable.

The thesis explores the discursive practices in both male and female prisons illuminated by selected writings about Thai prisons and portrays how these practices manage to silent what Foucault calls local criticism of prisoners. Relying on female prisoners' narratives, *Prison and the Incarcerated* illustrates that not only resistance is possible but also present at different points in the prison system. Resistance against prison regime comes from various locations, and in dissimilar forms: resistance within places where technology of discipline is applied, resistance by creating alternative social spaces and bonds within the regulated boundary of prison, and resistance through other consciously selected disciplinary technologies to retain what prisoners deem essential to their existence as individuals. This thesis also notes the problematic feature of resistance which could sometimes become a way to open up spaces for the authorities to deappropriate and later turn into the closure that could curtail the possibilities of further resistance. And the battle continues.