

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on discourses and discursive practices of people in wet land forest "Taam Gut Peng" Roiet Province. "Taam Gut Peng" Forest is flooded due to the construction of Rasie-Salai Dam. People who live near the forest and were socio-culturally and economically attached to the forest can no longer earn their living. There were several protests against the government's construction policies but people's requests were never realized. The purposes of this study are 1. To study people's discourses produced in the process of forest conservation and environmental movements 2. To study social context in which discourses and discursive practices developed 3. To study processes of people's discursive practices.

There are 2 main discourses developed during the process of "Taam Gut Peng" forest conservation and environmental movements: "conservation and natural resource management" and "development." People near "Taam Gut Peng" forest take the state's ideas of conserving forest, however, they redefine the concept of "natural resource management." According to the forest conservation policies, the state will be responsible for protecting the forest from being utilized without the state permission. People near "Taam Gut Peng" forest propose new concept of "natural resource management." by combining the idea of "community's rights" in utilizing and conserving community forest. The second discourse "development" is redefined to incorporate the concept of sustainable development rather than focusing solely on economic and industrial development. Concept of "people participation" is revived.

People's discourses emerge and develop in the era of social and academic movements to make the concept of "social forestry" and "community right" be widely accepted. Another important factor which support "Taam Gut Peng" forest conservation movement is the emergence of poor farmers' organization "Forum of the Poor." Beside the support from the network of the Forum of the Poor, "Taam Gut Peng" forest conservation movements also allied with NGOs, academic community, and the press. People of "Taam Gut Peng" gains collective will through the process of movement.