

Abstract

This piece of research intends to present a sociological perspective on the pirated CD market. Using Bourdieu's work on economic behavior as a guideline, this paper argues against the traditional economics standpoint that explains the emergence and the existence of a market solely from the decisions of buyers and sellers that come into agreements, and argues for the seeking of historical and social explanations of economic behavior of an individual person and the working of the market. For Bourdieu, such explanations can be gained by using his conceptual tool, the theory of practice. The main findings of this study are as follows; the traditional definitions of informal economy are inadequate for defining the pirated CD markets that occur in a more advance state of technology and social complexity; the expansion of global market has forced the Thai state to accept and enforced the western notion of patent laws which has forced the copied CD markets into illegal status with a new name, the pirated CD market. This illegal status, however, is the origin of the whole new historical development of the occupational habitus of each of the existing sellers aiming at the survival of his occupation. At the same time and by the same token, each of the sellers has developed his new fields of structural relations mainly with state personnel and their relations are contradictory in nature, crossing between the practices of the legal rules and the illegal rules. The future of the markets seems to correlate with the state action and changing technologies of mass media.