Online Dating Profile Analysis: The Portrayal of Thai Women

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Online dating website is a popular service that individuals use to find an ideal partner online. For Thai women who would like to find partners internationally, they are required to use English in order to initiate romantic relationship. However, it seems that there are some unique characteristics occurred in their self-descriptions. Thus, this study was conducted to examine how Thai Women used English to portray themselves on an online dating website. To do so, one hundred Thai women's written profiles were collected and the content analysis method was employed to analyse the themes of Thai women self-descriptions. It is found that there are four major categories out of thirteen categories that seem to be prominent for Thai women in describing themselves online which are personality, requirement, purpose and career. The English language used by Thai women also represents the influence of Thai language, Thai beliefs and social norms. The result of this study may provide some reasons why Thai women on the dating website are usually misunderstood.

Keywords: online dating/Thai women/self-presentation/social values