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AN 201 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

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# EXPRESSIVE CULTURE

## EXPRESSIVE CULTURE

- ▶ performance
- ▶ music and performance
- ▶ visual culture
- ▶ tastes and senses

**PERFORMANCES**

## TWO MEANINGS OF PERFORMANCE

- ▶ cultural performance: the performance normally known including ritual performances, theatre or stage performances, musical performances
- ▶ performing culture: the ways our everyday words and actions are viewed as performances

## PERFORMING CULTURE (CULTURE AS PERFORMANCE)

- ▶ Presentation of the Self (Erving Goffman): the ways in which people manage the impressions of others. Frame set for presenting the self to others in each setting.
- ▶ Performance of Gender (Judith Butler): gender identity is constructed and performed as if it is natural.
- ▶ Social Drama: social process is a performance as it changes its setting, situation, solution all over the course of interaction. Social interaction is never static.
- ▶ Language performance: (John Austin): performative language or active speech as opposed to descriptive language.
- ▶ Political performances: theatre state (Clifford Geertz) the way in which rituals are performed to present the spectacle of the government, the monarch.

## CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

- ▶ ritual performances: ritual and myth are the representation of cosmology and the reproduction of religion
- ▶ bounded performances: performances in their strict senses of the term. Dancing, drama, theater, musical
  - ▶ training/rehearsal
  - ▶ framing, entering the performing state
  - ▶ meaning making: contextualize, de-contextualize, re-contextualize the meanings (Richard Bauman)



อ่าน “สงฆ์สอนสาว”  
วรรณกรรมของกลุ่มชาติพันธุ์ไตดำในเวียดนาม

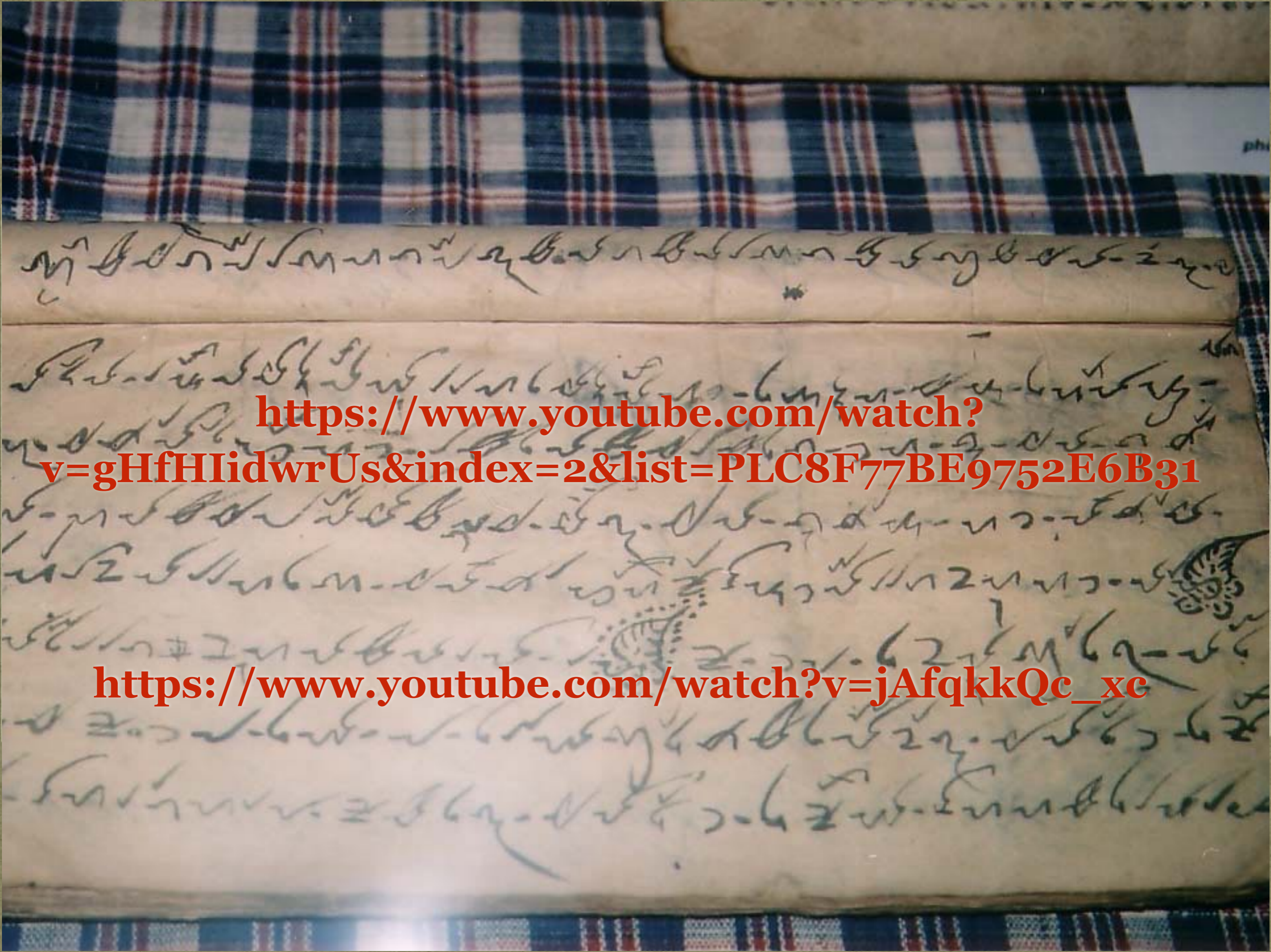
## จากรักโรแมนติก สู่การต่อสู้ทางชนชั้น

โดย  
ยุกติ มุกดาวิจิตร  
คณะสังคมวิทยาและมานุษยวิทยา  
มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์





**WHY IS IT SO  
POPULAR?**



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Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely Indic or Southeast Asian, on the bottom page of the manuscript. The text is dense and fills most of the page.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHfHlidwrUs&index=2&list=PLC8F77BE9752E6B31)

[v=gHfHlidwrUs&index=2&list=PLC8F77BE9752E6B31](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHfHlidwrUs&index=2&list=PLC8F77BE9752E6B31)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAfqkkQc\\_xc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAfqkkQc_xc)

## THE STORY IN SUMMARY

- ▶ A man and a woman grew up together. They became lovers when they were teenage.
- ▶ As the man is poor, he went for long distant trading to build up his wealth.
- ▶ Meanwhile, his lover was arranged to marry a wealthy man. She lived miserable life. She divorced and remarried another man.
- ▶ When both were very old, the man found his lover becoming a slave sold in a market. He bought her without noticing that she was his former lover.
- ▶ The man recognized his woman when the woman played a tune of his mouth harp. It was the tune that he played when they were dating.
- ▶ The man divorced his wife to live with his old lover.



**“SCSS IS THE SOUL, THE SHADOW OF THE  
TAI.”**

**CẨM THỊ CHÂU**

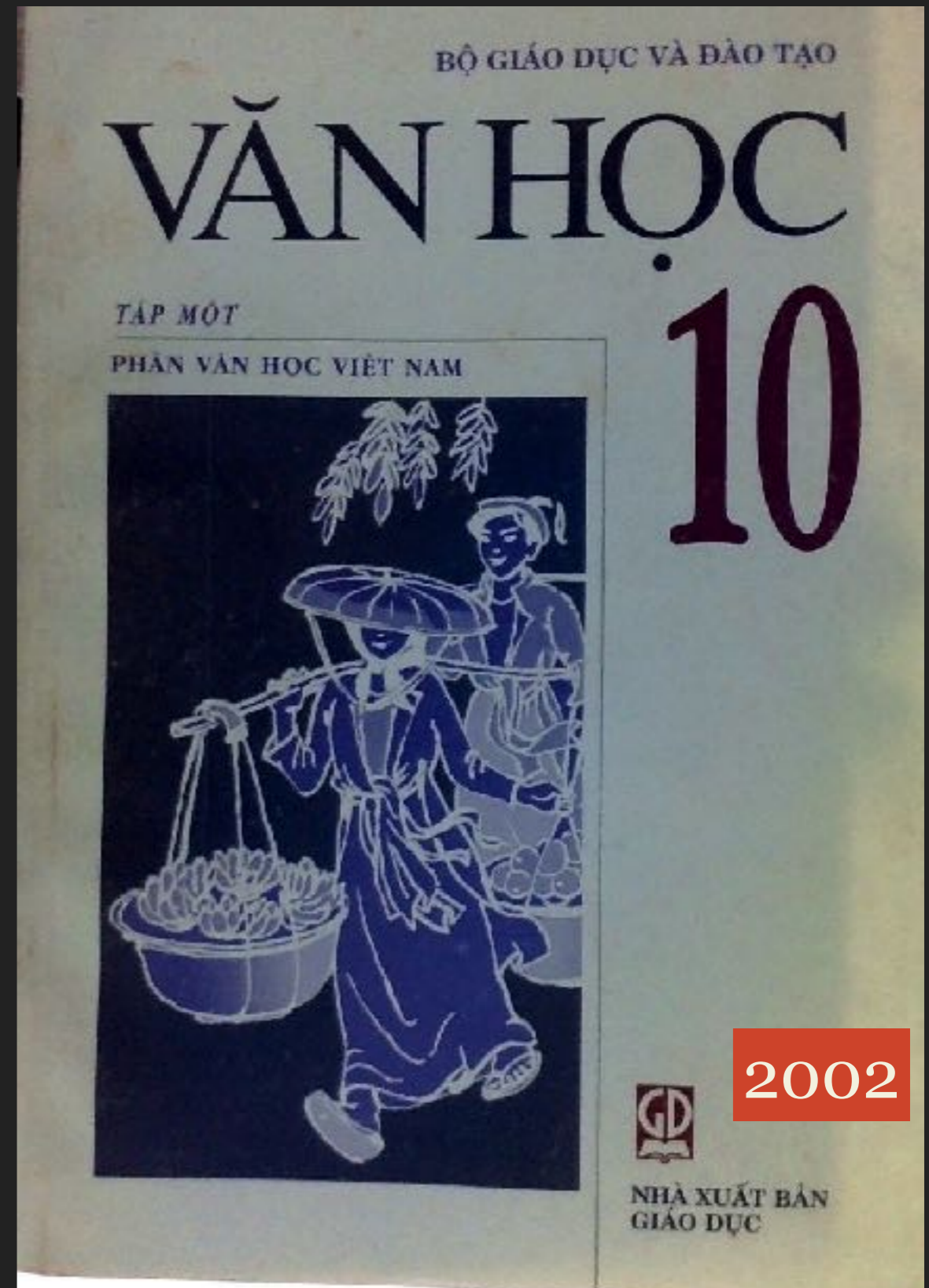
## ITS UNIQUENESS

- ▶ At least 200 years old. Some versions of SCSS are collected by a Tai intellectual in Thailand. This man is a decedent of the Tai who was forced to migrate from Vietnam in the 18th century.
- ▶ Not a translated story, unlike many others that are “translated” from Chinese (*Tam Kok*), Vietnamese (*Nang Trang Nguyen*), or Laotian (*Chuang Han*) literature.
- ▶ Full of ordinary scenes, everyday items, surrounding fauna and flora that are commonly found in Tai villages.



## COLLECTED IN SCHOOL TEXTBOOK

- ▶ This school textbook of literature is used for Grade 10th.
- ▶ 'Advising His Lover' is chosen to represent folklore, meaning the early stage of Vietnamese literary evolution.



## WHY THIS STORY?

- ▶ The story is re-interpreted to serve the new regime recently emerged in 1954.
- ▶ This folktale re-constructs the Tai's identity.
- ▶ Political contexts of state-ethnic group relationships.

# TIỀN DẪN NGƯỜI YÊU

*xống chụ xon xao*



京都大学図書



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大学院 AA研究科

NHÀ XUẤT BẢN VĂN HÓA DÂN TỘC



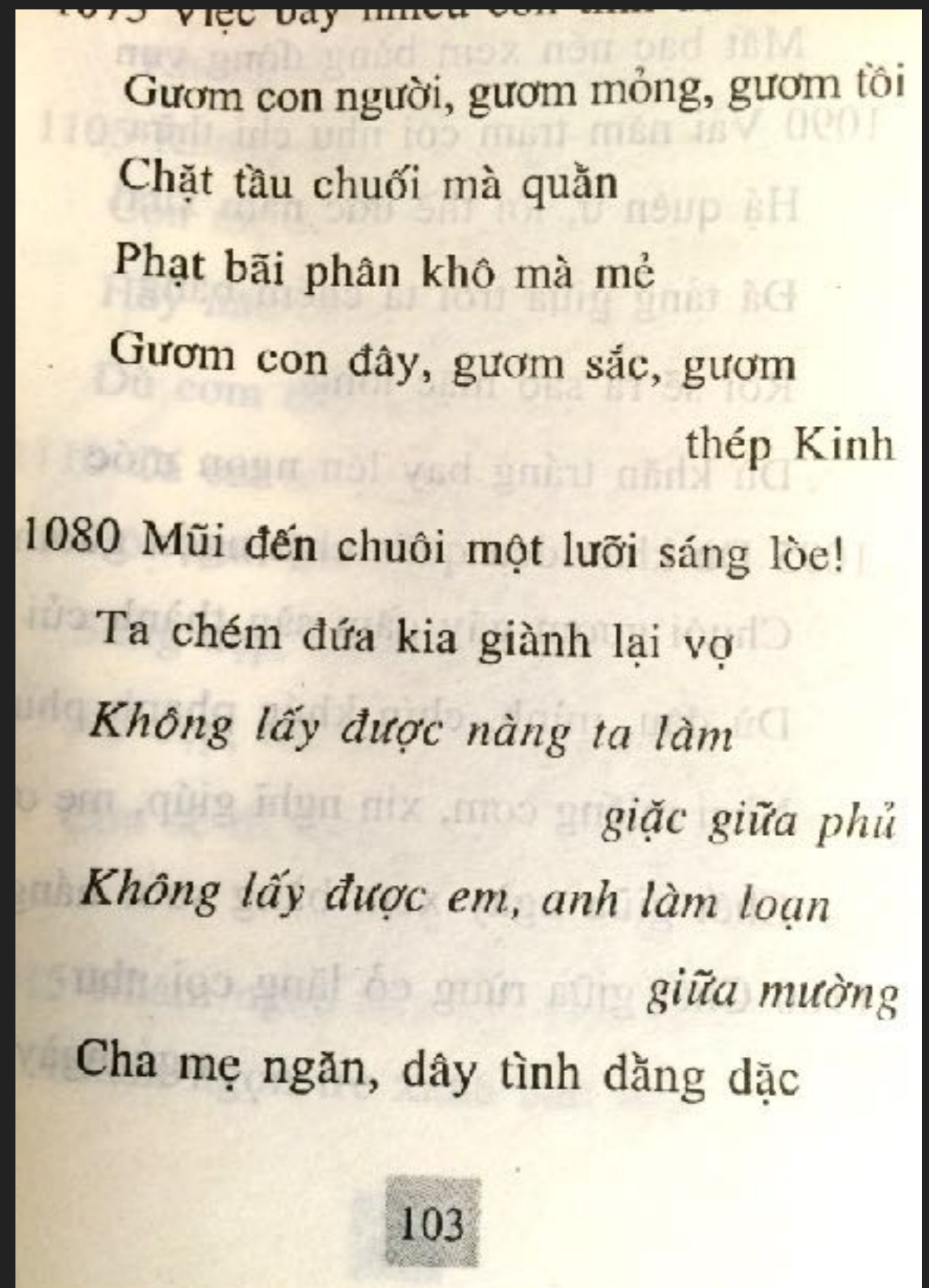
THE NATIONAL CULTURE PUBLISHING  
HOUSE

PUBLISHED IN 1977

TRANSLATED BY  
MẠC PHI

## SENSE OF POLITICS

- ▶ Another version translated by Nguyễn Khôi also emphasizes this.
  - ▶ Hadn't I been able to marry her, I shall rebel against the chiefdom.
  - ▶ Hadn't I been able to marry her, I shall create chaos all over the country.



## POLITICS OF LITERATURE

- ▶ Close political relationship between the Tai Dam and the Vietnamese communist.
- ▶ Cultural politics:
  - ▶ SCSS focuses on everyday life, not religious stories. which were severely banned and destroyed during the cultural policy in the 1960s-1970s.
  - ▶ Like in the field of ethnology in Vietnam, the literature of ethnic minorities is located in the lower stage of evolution.

# ANTHROPOLOGY OF MUSIC

## FROM ETHNOMUSICOLOGY TO ANTHROPOLOGY OF MUSIC

- ▶ ethnomusicology
  - ▶ non Western classical music
  - ▶ focus on variation of music from around the world
- ▶ anthropology of music
  - ▶ music and other aspects of society
  - ▶ study both nonwestern and western musics

**IS MUSIC A UNIVERSAL  
LANGUAGE THAT  
EVERYONE UNDERSTAND?**

## ALAN MERRIAM (1964)

- ▶ The music is not universal.
- ▶ The music is bounded in society and culture.
- ▶ Various aspects of music: the sound of music, instrument, social organization, training, performances.
- ▶ The music's functions: enjoyment and entertainment, communication and symbolic representation, physical respond, enforcing conforming to social norm and social integration, validation of social institutions and religious rituals, contribute to continuity of culture.

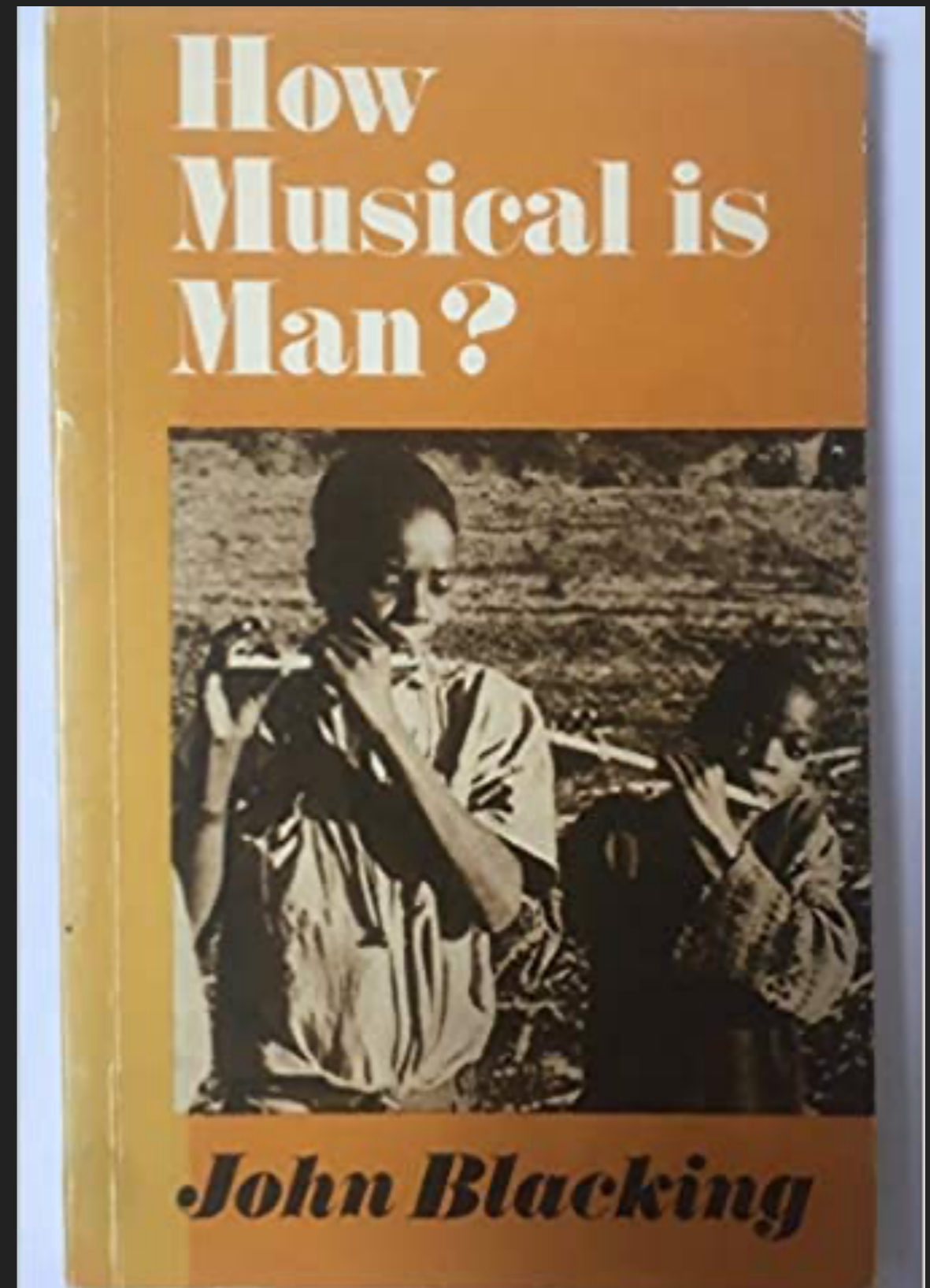
### *THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF MUSIC*



BY ALAN P. MERRIAM

## JOHN BLACKING (1973)

- ▶ The music is to be understood within a cultural context.
- ▶ The Venda music is unique in the instruments, melody, and repertoire.
- ▶ The Venda's musics:
  - ▶ religious rituals, gender,
  - ▶ national identity



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N8oL9o-ovM>



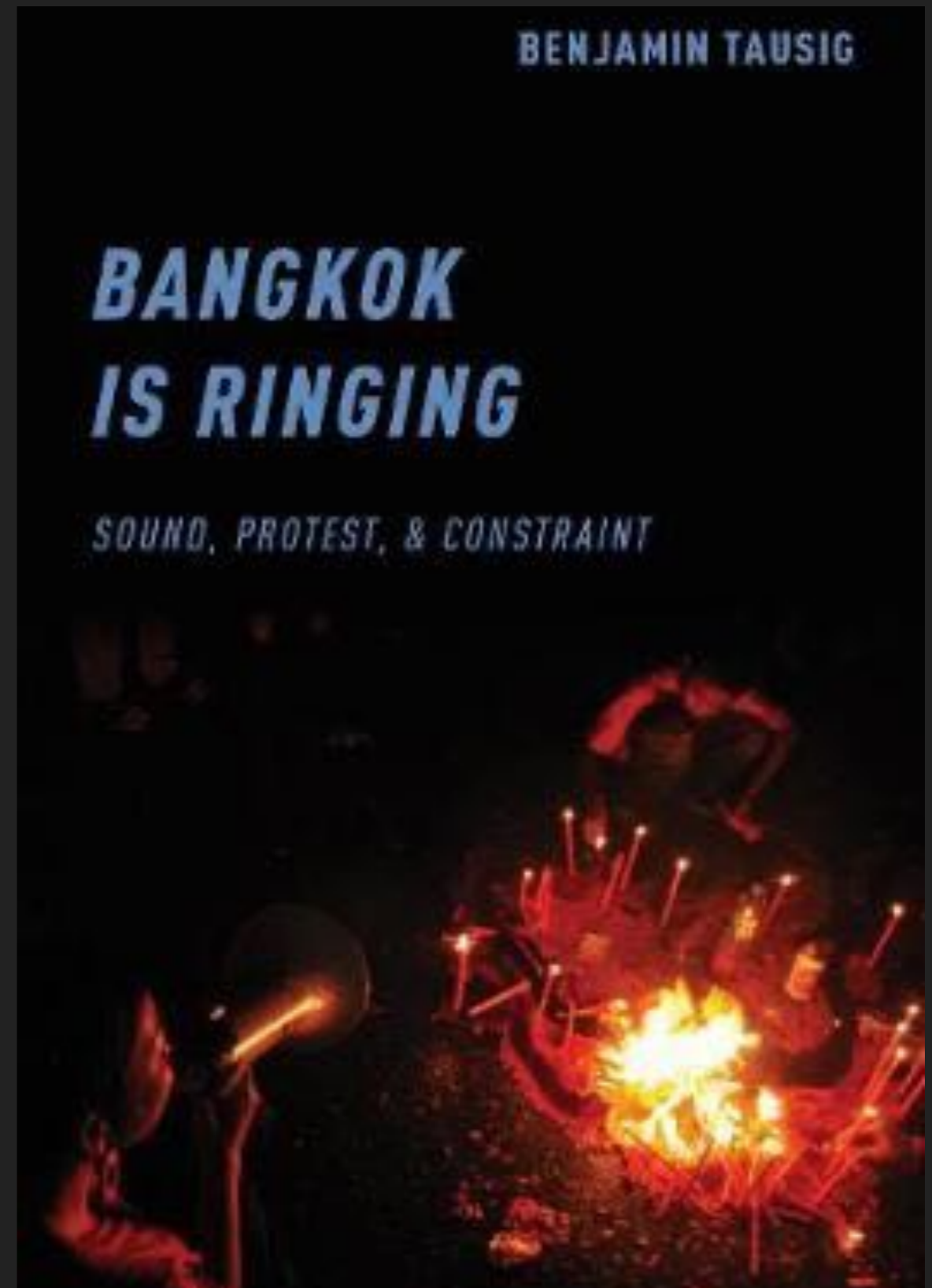
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## MUSIC AND POLITICS IN THAILAND

- ▶ political song: the national anthem, the royal anthem
- ▶ musics of the political movement

## BEN TAUSIG (2019)

- ▶ Musics of a political movement can be various.
- ▶ From music to sound studies.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4oj01SHbw0>



As soon as I grabbed the tiger,  
moonbeams entered my body

## THE KANTRUM AND THE CHARIANG

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4oj01SHbw0>
- ▶ the music elements: the sound, the rhythm, the lyric, the instrument
- ▶ the social elements of the music
- ▶ the culture of the music
- ▶ the politics that allows or suppress the music directly or indirectly