Thai migration flows to Sweden
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In the end, I am grateful to my beloved family and friends, for the encouragement and supports all the way long.
1. Introduction

Sweden is a country with various immigrant groups and a thriving multiculturalism, due to the reasons of a well-known high standard of living and a rather liberal immigration policy. Among these immigration groups, Thai immigrants have occupied a rather special place in the Swedish diversity and demographics. Along with the increasing economic and trade links, cultural exchange and tourism activities between the two countries, migration from Thailand to Sweden has been rapidly growing over the last decade (Webster & Haandrikman, 2014). There are manifold reasons that contribute to the migration to Sweden by many Thais, the most common and significant ones are marriage migration and berry picking (labour migration) (Hedberg, 2015). According to the statistics of the Swedish Migration Board (Migrationsverket, 2016), more than 90 percent of granted work permit issued was related to berry pickers and planters. Especially in 2007, the issued temporary permits burgeoning from 83 to 2,382 (Migrationsverket, 2016). Among these two migration flows from Thailand of marriage migration and temporarily labour migration in Sweden, 80 percent of Thai people in Sweden are women, and almost 80 percent of them get married with a Swedish spouse or have Swedish partner (as shown in figure.1). It is not surprising that Thai-Swedish marriage migration has been indicated as highly gendered and has the tendency of geographically pulled to rural areas in Sweden (Webster & Haandrikman, 2014). Similarly, as the dominate numbers of temporary-hired berry picker that show in figure.4, Thai people have been demonstrated as the particularly strong group among labour migrants because they come to Northern Sweden every summer as seasonal labourers picking berries (Parusel, 2009).
Figure 1 Possible reasons for Thai people migrating to Sweden (Statistics Sweden, 2016).

Contrary to the rest of the countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia, the number of Thai migrants moving to Sweden has sat atop of the list. However, the research on the causes of this specific migration processes has made relatively little progress over the last few decades, as well as other relevant issues faced by this group of migrants. Thus, this topic is interested in studying how this specific Thai migrant group has determined to reach Sweden. In order to answer this phenomenon, Theories such as push and pull theory will be employed.

Moreover, there are shreds of evidence indicated that a certain amount of Thai berry pickers entered Sweden by using the tourist visa (Hedberg, 2013; Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2013). Differ from the regular berry pickers who are formally employed by a Swedish berry company; these informal berry pickers are invited by their settled Thai relatives in Sweden. Hence, it is interesting to investigate that the relationship between former Thai migrations and these informal berry picking migrants, as well as the difference between formal berry picking migrants and informal berry picking.

### Figure 2. Granted first-time permits and rights of residence for Thais in different categories, 2014 (Migrationsverket, 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Refuges and others</th>
<th>Family reunification</th>
<th>Labour market</th>
<th>Students PhD</th>
<th>Adopted children</th>
<th>EEA-agreement</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Number of rights of residence to EU-nationals and residence permits given to third country nationals resident in another EU-country or in Switzerland.
migrants.

The study has relevance for the field of population geography and mobility studies. The Thai marriage migration and labour migration of berry picking study are expected to enrich and explain to migration and development theories and concepts. The relationship between two migration flows is suitable to explain that these migration flows tend to be highly socially driven; it can prove the incentive for migration to provide a relationship that has been established through different migration processes, where this relation has created benefits such as social capital. For berry picking migration studies, to focus on the relationship between informal Thai berry pickers and their settled Thai relatives will help to cover a research gap, which is the whole system of formal large-scale berry picking activity through recruitment agencies is not entirely explained. Moreover, it would highlight the contribution of this thesis to other empirical work on formal berry pickers. Some causes of migration such as poverty or unemployment can be explained by the push and pull theory. From a societal point of view, this topic is worth studying because it addresses questions that concern countries whose policies have led to an inflow and outflow of migrants. Last but not least, the processes of globalization and liberalization, associated with the social and the economic aspirations of each country, bear mentioning as well.

2. Research questions and objectives

Objectives of the research

The aim of the study is to identify and analyse the marriage migration and berry picking migration in order to provide a better understanding of these two Thai migrant groups in Sweden and how they relate to each other. Due to the time limit and the difficulty in accessing formal employed berry pickers during the research period, the paper will only focus on the informal Thai berry pickers who have the relationship with their settled relatives in Sweden. Also, the case study will focus on the Västerbotten region (northern part of Sweden).

Research questions

The study addresses the following questions:
What are the possible reasons that led to marriage migration and berry picking migration flows between Thailand and Sweden?
Are there any existing Thai migrants’ recursive social network flows between Sweden and Thailand?
Are there any relationships between marriage migration and informal berry picking migration?

**Disposition of the paper**

This paper consists of five parts. The first part presents the introduction to the topic as well as designs the aims and the research questions. The second part provides an overview of the theoretical background and conceptual framework regarding the explored topics, which include the previous research of defining marriage migration, labour migration, and the background of Thai marriage migration and labour migration. The relevant theory also been addressed in order to identify the main factors that led the migration flow. With regard to the theory, this part end with a brief look into the push and pull factors that drive the Thai migration and the consequences that led to the Thai migration flow to Sweden. The next part point to the significant that how these migration studies contribute to the field of population geography and mobility studies. The fourth part deals with the methodology of the research involving details about sampling strategy, used method and methodology, data analysis, ethical consideration and limitation. Lastly, the ending part provides a result of this study and will have a discussion for the result and a short conclusion.

**3. Theoretical background and conceptual framework**

In order to understand the reasons that led to the Thai migration flows to Sweden, also to identify the possibility of a relationship between marriage migration and berry picking, the relevant theoretical concepts will be presented in the chapter. Fundamental theories such as the Push-pull theory (Ravenstein, 1885) will provide a better perspective for the study.
Marriage migration theories

Marriage migration can be considered as a term that differs from the traditional marriage. Instead of being relatively small and local, the geographical scale of marriage migration has extended in light of evolvement of high technology and changing travel patterns. Despite the broadened globalization trend, by virtue of the increasing number of international travel and the near-universal Internet access, it allows people access to potential partners, even from different locations or abroad. Moreover, it provides a chance that can meet someone with a particular characteristic which unavailable locally (Niedomysl, Östh, & van Ham, 2010).

Marriage migration has been described as a part that belongs to many transnational communities, it has also been seen as a potential future migration links between countries. Marriage migration can create a relationship for the common benefit of one partner or each of them. The benefits of a marriage migration can create a significant change for the immigration status of one partner. For instance, it allows one partner who comes from the economically less fortunate nations to have a better life condition; more social or economic benefits can be provided by the country that the couple reside in; it can also provides a chance that one partner can establish accommodation in a new country without changing their citizenship (Williams, 2010). This relationship can also bring to one partner an increasing welfare rights and rights of residence (Williams, 2010). Bissat (2013) illustrates that cultural logics and desire will be considered as the symbolic of family-reunification and family-formation.
(marriage) migration, and this global marriage scape motivates the cross-border marriage between Western men and non-Western women. Due to the exotic attraction, “Western men have long shown a specific interest in non-Western women, and indeed many non-Western women are drawn to the appeal (and visa status) of marrying a more “modern” Western man” (Bissat, 2013). Sweden is not the only case in the Nordic countries that shown the keen interest of Western-man to Thai women. Flemmen and Lotherington (2008) observed that one of the most frequent intermarriages in Norway is among Norwegian men and Thai women. While scholars have noticed that in some cases, the relationship between Western-man and Thai women can be seen in an unequal way. Garrick (2005) claimed that Third World women who represent the “exotic” could be regarded as a racist stereotype, sometimes it has been used as marketing tools in sex tourism. Regarding the different stereotype about Thai women, various categories are observed. For instance, from some Western men’s perspective, Thai women can be represented in polarization as “more affectionate and loyal than Western women, less sexually experienced and non-assertive” or “Southeast Asian sex workers as women who love ‘booze, good times and lots of sex’”; Also, from some Thai women’s perspective, they “recognize the superiority of white men and that Thai women’s admiration of white skin stems from their desire to be white themselves” (Garrick, 2005, P. 499). Moreover, Garrick (2005) has been observed that there is a group of Western men who have the purpose to seek a meaningful relationship during their holidays in Thailand. This group of Western men is defined as tourists for the purpose of engaging in sex oriented tourism, and many of them are lonely individuals who want to seek companionship and love (Garrick, 2005). It is particularly worth mentioning that many sex-oriented tourists of this kind are quite popular in the Thai marriage market, because they have the merits that often better educated and have a greater employment prospects than many local Thai men (Garrick, 2005), as well as their considerable wealthy background when it comes to the significant spreads between foreign currencies and Thai currency. Under this backdrop, the marriage between Thai women and Western men may be considered more as unequal power relations between the first and third world than the regular marriage (Garrick, 2005).
Significantly, female Thai migrants are one of the largest marriage migration groups that have the highest share of relationships with their Swedish spouse and live in Sweden (Lundström, & Andersson, 2012). Historically, the marriage migration of Thai women started after the World War two, often these women came from rural areas, have little education and skills and, therefore, are forced to work in the entertainment or service sectors. Due to the reason that during agriculture’s slack season, young generation tends to seek employment to live. Afterward, there was another group has emerged. This group mainly consists of middle-class women with more formal education who began to participate in this marriage migration (Kanchanachitra, Niyomsilpa & Punpuing, 2014). Some discriminatory discourses and stereotypical presumptions are often positioned Thai women in a negative impression. An example such as the marriage emigration flow from Thailand are driven by economic forces and mostly based on sex-related reasons, held by the general public of both Thai and Western societies (Tosakul, 2010; Webster & Haandrikman, 2015). This view often stems from Swedish men and other Western nationalities going to Thailand for recreation or aiming for sex tourism, and they want to have a continuously growing relationship, so they bring their Thai partners back to Sweden (or elsewhere) in the end (Howard, 2009). On the other hand, Thai women who choose to marry Swedish men might be due to the reason that they want to get away from poverty and prostitution and have a better living condition (Hedman, Nygren & Fahlgren, 2009).

There is another type of marriage migration that also has been discussed in the literature. The pioneer migrants play a role as a “broker”, information bearer and bridging co-ethnic relatives or friends from the origin, in this case, Thailand. They usually play a role as a marriage agency and help Thai women match making the local Western men. Since most of the relatives to Thai individuals living in Sweden come from rural areas in Thailand, they are often unable to pay the brokerage fee. As such a vicious they have to borrow from the broken and work for them later when they move to the new country. An example in Iceland, intermarriage can be considering as a purely transaction of commodities than a real relationship (Bissat, 2013). Potential migrant access to Iceland through a family-reunification residence permit and have a marriage interview with her “husband”. The new migrants must work for her
co-ethnic broker in order to pay for the debt. Sometimes they have to face a risk from their “husband” to ask them to pay him more in order to keep his silence to the immigration authorities.

**Temporal labour migration theories**

Labour migration is normally regulated by bilateral agreements between sending and receiving countries, or by multilateral agreements to which several states are party. Besides, labour migration shows the moving of people who are primarily motivated by job considerations and changing both accommodation and job (Johnson & Salt, 1990). The case of the European Union (EU) is interesting since they recognise the free movement of humans (and labour) between all EU-member countries. The general rule is that a EU-migrant has the right to stay three months in the destination country, searching for a job. If the job-searching migrant fails, he/she has to go back to the home country. This EU policy is based on EU-citizenship and not ethnic origin. According to International organization for migration (2003), due to the economic reasons, temporary labour migration has the most rapid growth among all the groups. Except the economic factor, language can be another core factor that affects worker to get a job in the host country. Dustman (1999) illustrated that language capital is a specific component and considerable important to the labour market in the host country, worker who can speak the native language will be an advantage and increasingly valuable. In addition, intermarriage can also improve the position of worker in the native labour market. For those workers who have intermarriage with native, it is easier to learn the native language, access to local network and facilitate job search and occupational career, and also benefit from the immigrant integration (Dribe & Lundh, 2008; Xin & Dominique, 2006).

Interestingly, Steven (2002) point out that due to the more and more popular skilled labour migration trend, the term “movement” or “mobility” may be more accurate to describe the phenomenon instead of “migration”. He argued that the movement of skilled persons are mostly intermittent and short-term, but migration is usually be used on permanency or long-term stay. In generally, temporary workers are restricted for rights of citizenship. Dustmann (1999) argued that there are mainly three motives
that can influence migrants to return to their home country. Firstly, from the social perspective, attractions from the home country such as climate, language, relationship etc. and negative externalities such as racial attitudes, discriminations can be the reason that affects temporary worker. Secondly, the rates of return on human capital can be higher in the home country labour market than in the host country. Thirdly, the high wages in the host country can result in a higher consumption with lower prices in the country of origin. Tuulentie and Heimtun (2014) explained that locals normally prefer to have a year-round job. Another reason is that in most of the cases, the temporary job is relatively low-paid compared to a year round job and the skills of locals did not match with work.

Guest worker, a similar term as temporary labour is described as “a utility-maximizing individual with a finite working life”. The guest worker programs were implemented in Europe in the 1950s, due to the reason that some West European countries required workers to fill the low skilled job gaps instead of natives (Dronkers & de Heus, 2010). The benefits for hire a guest worker included: less abroad consuming and work harder than the native workers of the host country. On the other hand, the guest worker will consume more and work less upon returning to the homeland than the non-migrants of the source country (Djajić, 1989). Möller et al., (2014) described that this group is elusive due to their different motives and driving forces for seeking employment as well as diverse experiences of work and leisure. These workers have substantial mobility from both geographical and career-based perspective, but few of them would consider any destinations as potential permanent places of residence.

**Social capital, social network and social integration theories**
Social capital is an important concept to discuss while analysing migration and immigration processes. It is, however, important to define what the meaning of social capital is before it can be used in an analytical environment. Bourdieu (1986) argue that social capital is the resources an individual gain access to as a result of participation and connection to certain groups. He means that symbolic and material exchange within the group creates obligations and recognition between the group
members. Cheong et al. (2007) add that it is a socially constructed concept depending on the contemporary ideological climate. The authors argue that social capital is essential for social cohesion in the society. The reason why social capital is important in a migration context helps to create bridges between groups that improve understanding and integration. Palloni et al. (2001) mean that an important understanding with social capital is that it can be transformed into financial capital. In an example of Cheong et al. (2007) they are mentioning that immigrants with lower social capital are most likely to get employment within the minority ethnic economy, while immigrants with higher social capital have greater opportunities to enter the host society labour market. Palloni et al. (2001) argue that diffuse social capital in a community and family is increasing the chances of out-migration, which is just another example of the relation between social capital and migration. According to the author, strong networks often are encouraging migration because it lowers the risks and provides important information for potential migrants. Individuals who are related to migrants are more likely to migrate themselves. Social capital is an important tool for affiliation and Cheong et al. (2007) argue that common values, symbols and ceremonies as a result of social cohesion can create an emotion of national identity. Consequently, social capital is important for understanding, affiliation and increases the opportunities to enter the national labour market for immigrants. The social network of migrants can be seen as a prerequisite for the following migration flow. The social network does not only facilitate the migration process but also vitally shape the migration patterns development (Olofsson, 2012). A well living condition of pioneer migrants in the host country is enables to bridge a new migration flow from the origin country. Especially, a long-term developing migration flow can constrain a steadily migration patterns (Olofsson, 2012). Sweden itself can also be seen as a good example shows that how social network being the incentive to trigger migration. Previously, Sweden suffered an emigration flow to the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries (Grönberg, 2014). Around 1.3 million Swedes emigrated to the United States by the constrain of the prevailing farm land work and mechanical industries and factories work (Grönberg, 2014). The pioneer went to the United States first, repelled the hardship and settled down, and then invited their familial members or relatives come afterward (Grönberg, 2014).

Integration refers to a process that helps the migrant to involve to the daily life of the
host society. Olofsson (2012) gives some examples that include different social activities such as finding a job and housing, learning a new language etc. It argued that when new movers fulfil the basic living requirement as the locals, it would be easier to involve as a part of the receiving society. Sweden, for instants, established Arbetsförmedlingen (The Swedish Public Employment Agency) in order to assist not only the locals but also the migrants to get a job in the local labour market. Also, regarding the potential language barrier, the Swedish government also established SFI (Swedish for immigrants) to support migrants to cross the language barrier. It can be seen as a good example that reveals how a society helps the new movers.

**Push-pull theory**

In order to absorb the reasons why people emigrate, most of the researchers will firstly focus on economic, social and physical perspective, and then try to connected and classified into push and pull factors. The early study regarding the pattern of migration has been raised and investigated in the late nineteen centuries, and it has been argued that the pattern of population migration is visible and able to track. Important root causes of migration, such as stringent laws, exorbitant taxes and levies, terrible climate and unsatisfactory society environment etc. (Ravenstein, 1885). After that, the concept of migration pattern has been improved (Herberle, 1938), it can be influenced by two major factors: push and pull. Push prompted migrant to leave, associated with the area of origin. Pull attracted migrant to another place, associated with the field of destination. The theory is being redeveloped and enhanced continually (Bogue, 1977). Push referred to the area of origin that contains certain unfavourable survival and development factors and contributed to different kinds of repulsive forcing people to run away from home, generally including political factors, economic factors, natural disasters and other special factors; Either it could have a big impact on a particular area, or it can be a small group suffering an accident or misfortune, such as economic depression, unemployment, lack of food, overpopulation, environmental degradation, civil war, political persecution, racial discrimination or religious contradictions etc. (Bogue, 1977). Pull refers to the attractiveness of target location; not necessarily because the conditions in the resettled area are better than those origin place, but the factors that cause people to migrate
could be due to more opportunities for subsistence and development, or just for a small group in terms of unique opportunities, such as the large demand for foreign labour, more employment opportunities or migrants can have more individual freedom and liberty (such as political freedom or freedom from religious persecution). In addition, imitation from certain groups or individuals such as human traffickers or smugglers are also considered as the pull factor, for instance, human traffickers or smugglers pretend to offer a better job or living environment in order to attract migrants to move (Bogue, 1977). By applying this theory, it is clear to find out whether certain reasons and conditions that drive Thai migrants from their original geographic area and pull them to Sweden.

Push, pull and migration factor in Thailand

The most significant migration push factors in Thailand are structurally induced poverty and culture of socio-economic deprivation (Raymond et al., 2002). Due to the structural adjustment policies and the economic crisis of 1997 in Thailand, numbers of employee were retrenched, especially for Thai women. In the 1980s, the return Thai male migration flow from West Asia countries contributes the women overseas migration (Raymond et al., 2002).

On the other hand, some potential phenomenon can be seen as the pull factors that are determining the migration flow (Raymond et al., 2002). Firstly, due to the rapid development of newly industrializing countries in Asia such as Singapore, high-skilled labour is urgent obligated. Therefore, local women who educated and middle class were demanded into the workforce and led to a rising demand for low-skilled workers such as domestic work. This fact adjusted foreign worker flows to domestic labour market needs. Namely, labour market needs to hire cheap foreign domestic labour from poorer countries in order to take over the low-skilled work. Secondly, to hire foreign domestic workers in elite households can be seen as a status symbol for some families in countries of West Asia who can employ them, so the overseas domestic workers rise in response to the proper time and conditions. Another reason should be considered is that the growth of the service sector with “feminized” occupation and the development of the entertainment industry (include prostitution).
Lastly, the development of immigration industry has led to the emergence of migration. Along with the extend trend of migration flow, migration related agencies become more and more popular. For instance, both legal and undocumented labour emigration of Thai women are leading by various organizations, such as recruitment agencies, overseas promoters of employment, manpower suppliers and numerous intermediaries (Tyner, 2003). Moreover, the relationship connection such as family tie also contributes to the increasing overseas migration.

4. Background: related Swedish migration policies

Shift from labour migration to other type of migration

Due to the recession in the Swedish economy in the early 1970s, as well as the drastic increase labour migration from former Yugoslavia and Greece, Sweden established a restricting migration policy in order to reduce the labour migration from non-Nordic countries, the migration flow shift from labour migration to family-reunion migration (Olofsson, 2012). It also facilitated to a feminization of migration due to the rising number of female migrants during the past two decades (Olofsson, 2012). Similarly, Thai women who moved to Iceland also suffered the shift from labour migration to other types of migration, the most significant one, unsurprisingly, is marriage migration. Back to the early 1980s, Thais were allowed to move to Iceland with either marry or cohabitate with Icelandic spouses, or immigrate independently from marriage to Iceland by the authority approved work permits regardless of country of origin (Bissat, 2013). While by 2006, Thais and other non-European migrants were facing the acrimonious migration policy, along with the Iceland’s membership in the European Economic Area, working in Iceland become stymied. That is the main reason that led to the increase marriage migration among non-European migrants to Iceland since 2006 (Bissat, 2013). Due to this reason, Bissat (2013) observed and summarized Thais who able to migrate to Iceland nowadays are mainly through three ways: “family formation with Icelanders, reunification with Thai family and sponsorship by Iceland employers seeking low-wage workers”. Pioneer migrants, asked their employers to sponsor work permits in order to bring them to Iceland legally. In this facet, siblings of pioneer migrants can
access to Iceland through the Icelandic work contact solely, while pioneer’s children, parents and co-ethnic spouses are able to access to Iceland with family-reunification permits rather than work permits (Bissat, 2013). This bridging conduct is a bit different than the circumstance of Thai migrant’s access to Sweden. The pioneers introduce their familial members, mostly female, to local Swedes, or they establish their own business or cluster in order obtaining more Thais to stay in Sweden legally (Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2013). The result part will describe and analysis this phenomenon in a more detail way.

Due to the promoted policies aiming for “structural adjustments” by international organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, many developing countries established a policy that encouraged female labour force to migrate which also in some cases made this group more vulnerable to trafficking; It also reflects the recognition that the patterns of economic activity of a country are linked to the stage of economic development (Raymond et al., 2002). In particular countries such as Thailand, women have been indicated the fact that they relate to sex-based discrimination in the labour market. The potential legalization and expansion of the sex industry in Thailand propelled female labour force beyond mere economic growth to reach a stage of economic development (Raymond et al., 2002).

A new migration policy in Sweden was established in December 2008 that aimed to attract more labour migrants to Sweden in order to refill the higher and lower skilled sectors, and this policy encouraged a new migration flow coming to Sweden from non-European countries (Hedberg, 2015). In addition, Sweden provides one of the best functioning labour markets among European countries. The favourable market environment has been created due to the strong trade unions that able to regulate terms and conditions jointly with employers, and only minimal recourse to legal supports for orderly industrial relations (Woolfson, Thörnqvist, & Olsson, 2011). Also, Swedish government provides many policies in order to improve and encourage the work position of labour immigrants. For instance, to make sure immigrant can have more market competitiveness, Swedish government provide Swedish language instruction: Swedish for immigrants, also labour office provide finance workplace-based training programmes or support measures in order to improve their educational background. For high education immigrants, their education will be
recognised through the National Admissions Office in order to provide guidance to appropriate employers.

**Bidirectional connection between Sweden and Thailand**

Table 1 Number of Top 5 tourists and European tourists who travel to Thailand among top 20 arrivals by nationality (Department of tourism, Thailand, 2016)

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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>7,934,791</td>
<td>4,636,298</td>
<td>4,637,335</td>
<td>2,786,860</td>
<td>1,721,247</td>
<td>1,122,219</td>
<td>777,508</td>
<td>826,660</td>
<td>997,117</td>
<td>949,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>3,423,397</td>
<td>2,613,418</td>
<td>3,041,097</td>
<td>2,554,397</td>
<td>2,560,209</td>
<td>2,058,956</td>
<td>1,757,813</td>
<td>1,805,332</td>
<td>1,540,680</td>
<td>1,591,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,381,690</td>
<td>1,267,886</td>
<td>1,536,425</td>
<td>1,373,716</td>
<td>1,127,893</td>
<td>993,674</td>
<td>1,004,453</td>
<td>1,153,866</td>
<td>1,277,638</td>
<td>1,311,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>1,372,998</td>
<td>1,123,666</td>
<td>1,295,342</td>
<td>1,163,619</td>
<td>1,086,283</td>
<td>865,445</td>
<td>618,237</td>
<td>880,218</td>
<td>1,080,752</td>
<td>1,392,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>1,223,138</td>
<td>1,053,983</td>
<td>976,639</td>
<td>975,999</td>
<td>881,860</td>
<td>715,345</td>
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<td>651,564</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>946,919</td>
<td>907,877</td>
<td>905,024</td>
<td>873,053</td>
<td>844,972</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>760,604</td>
<td>715,240</td>
<td>737,658</td>
<td>682,419</td>
<td>619,133</td>
<td>606,974</td>
<td>675,473</td>
<td>542,726</td>
<td>544,495</td>
<td>516,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>321,663</td>
<td>324,865</td>
<td>341,398</td>
<td>364,681</td>
<td>373,856</td>
<td>355,214</td>
<td>350,819</td>
<td>392,274</td>
<td>378,387</td>
<td>306,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As aforementioned, various factors are affecting and connecting the bidirectional flows between Sweden and Thailand. The most important and significant one, claimed by Eriksson and Tollefsen (2013), is the largest flow of people: the Swedish tourists. The Swedish tourists are the source of the migration network since Thailand is one of the most popular tourism destinations for Swedes, as well as the next immediate step established by the invitations from Thai women married to Swedish men, which reinforce the connection between two countries (Eriksson and Tollefsen, 2013).

According to the statistics from Department of Tourism in Thailand (Table 1), the top 5 nationalities that travel to Thailand are from Asian countries, and it can prove that the distance still matters to the tourists’ decision. On the other hand, interestingly, it is general known that Thailand has the reputation for Nordic tourists, especially among Swedish tourists. Swedes occupied the nineteenth position among the top twenty arrivals by nationality, the fourth position among European visitors in Thailand (as shown in Table 1). In light of the distance between Sweden and Thailand, it seems abnormal that Swedes would travel for approximately ten hours in order to go to Thailand. Hence, in order to observe the reason behind, some statistics and information were recorded and represented by scholars. Hervik and Khongmueang (2014) described that the attractive natural resources, landscape and the tropical weather are the most important reasons that attracted Nordic tourists travel to Thailand; Moreover, from a humanistic perspective, Thailand entertains Nordic
tourism visitors who resort in the ancient and orientalism culture, the Buddhist temple, as well as the Thais’ signature friendly smile.

Secondly, Thailand is a popular destination for retiring Swedes. It can be seen as a consequence for being a popular tourism destination, as Howard (2008) addressed that a growing number of retire westerners choose to venture their retire life in Thailand due to either previous working experience or many tourist visits. Apart of the aforementioned reasons, Howard (2008) mentioned that low living cost and escape a disliked home nation could be other considerable reasons to travel to Thailand. One the other hand, Thailand acquires a reputation as a destination for sex tourism, which has adversely affected the reputation of Thai women (Hervik and Khongmueang, 2014). Since Thailand has a high acceptance for exotic cultures, which makes many Swedish men travel to Thailand in order to have an attractive sexual partner (Howard, 2008). Additionally, Niedomysl, Östh and van Ham (2010) point out that instead of traveling, commercialized marriage mediation industry is even popular between women from less-developed countries and men from more-developed countries. The marriage migration can be considering that resulting the high numbers of family reunion group from Thailand to Sweden (as shown in figure.2) and contributed more migrants settle down in Sweden. As one of the most popular destinations for Swedish tourists, as well as the facilitated family reunion activities, significant Thai migrants in Sweden should be considered as one of the consequence.

**Thai migration flow in northern Sweden**

The national economic needs and individual migrant motivations, also contrast the characteristics of two main types of labour migration, Thais who have immigrated to Sweden mostly relates to family reunification and low-wage workers (Figure. 2; Ollus & Jokinen, 2013). As mentioned above, Thai women firstly come to Sweden by marriage and these female anchor migrants be seen as initiators, and they will help working-age adults that they know in Thailand to get a job in Sweden (Hedberg, 2015). Thai migrants are often concentrated in low skill and low wage industries, due to the reason that most of the local Swedes tended to avoid manufacturing job. This
phenomenon could be seen in two ways, and it is common in countries with dual labour markets (Piore, 1979). On the one hand, migrants avail themselves of local low wage labour opportunities to access to the local labour market. On the other hand, employers needed workers who were willing to work for long hours under difficult conditions with a minimum wage. Berry picking is common among Thai migrants. The emergence of Thai berry picker might due to the Swedish rural periphery as backward, with high unemployment rate and out-migration trend (Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2015). Also due to the high labour cost in Sweden, it would be expensive to hire large amount of local people for doing such manual work (Andersson, Datta Gupta & Wadensjö, 2014). Since they mainly doing it for recreation, the amount of berries picked is unable to meet market demand (Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2015).

The forest berry is a rapid growing industry in Northern Sweden (Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2015). Interestingly, most of the Swedish wild berries are found in Norrland (Northern Sweden), while Norrland is a place where has been argued that a peripheral place with unemployment, out-migration and an elderly population. A similar circumstance occurred in Iceland, where young locals move out from the countryside due to the extension of urbanization and globalization, led to the serious labour shortages in the rural areas (Bissat, 2013). Apart from the industrial work, the growing numbers of aging locals also required assist by care workers. Bissat (2013) argued that these structural changes occurred in most of the geographical isolation areas in Western nations, guest workers were required by the bottom-sector employment demand.

Hence, in order to ensure to have enough labour force to pick berries, the berry industry requires approximately six to eight thousand migrant workers per year (Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2015; Hedberg, 2015), and mostly the recruited are poor farmers from the north-eastern province of Isan, Thailand. These labour migrations are defined as “circularity, flexible forms of employment, guest-worker programs and seasonal work, often undocumented, within primarily the service, agriculture, forestry and construction sectors” (Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2015, P.130).
Different categories among Thai berry pickers: the informal and formal berry pickers

Normally, from a career perspective, a difference among the same occupation could either relate to segment of duties, knowledge or differ by the employment contract (it could be either a full time or part time job). Similarly, a difference among Thai berry pickers has been noticed. The Thai berry pickers in Sweden can be categorized into two types: formal and informal. The unregulated berry pickers are originally used to define berry pickers who “are members of the European Union and hence can visit the country without a visa or an invitation from a Swedish company” and being considered as the victim of labours trafficking (Hedbery, 2013). Now the term is shared by some so called “Thai tourist pickers”. According to Ericsson and Tollefsen (2013), on the condition that for non-EU members who have no intention to organize industrial berry picking, it allowed traveling on tourist visas. According to Hedbery (2013), the earliest record of informal Thai berry pickers can be traced to 1990s. They were mostly the relatives of Thai women who resided in Sweden with their Swedish spouses. Namely, can be considered as the informal berry pickers. Even in today, some Thais are still using the same pattern, access to Sweden to pick berry under the name “visit relatives in Sweden”. The Swedish authorities have noticed this phenomenon, and they have deliberately tried to reduce this group by prohibiting visits from relatives during the summer months. While there are still regional concentrations of Thai ‘tourist pickers’ since the “family reunion” cannot be fully forbidden (Hedbery, 2013). Ericsson and Tollefsen (2013) added the failures to prohibit unauthorized berry picking activity might due to the lead companies in the berry industry have shifted towards buying berries from pickers travelling on tourist visas in order to avoid any kind of employer obligations. It leads the number of berry pickers who are traveling with work permits decreased while the numbers of applications for tourist and resident visas by Thai citizens increased (Ericsson & Tollefsen, 2013). Additionally, this might increase the work risk under the berry picking activity since their labour rights are unprotected by the Swedish labour laws or labour union, as well as the occupational injury insurance (Ericsson & Tollefsen, 2013).

On the contrary, according to the scholars, the formal berry pickers can be defined as “Regulated, non-European berry pickers, who arrive to pick berries with work permits
from the Swedish Board of Migration. They mainly come from a poor farming district in northeast Thailand” (Hedbery, 2013, P.64). Differs from the informal Thai berry pickers, the formal Thai berry pickers are nowadays recruited by Thai-based recruitment agencies, and it becomes one link in the berry industry chain (Hedbery, 2013). They mostly access to Sweden as a group, and the numbers of group members can be various among different years (Figure. 4). The numbers can be influenced by different factors, such as “a combination of changes in the legislative framework and on single events that happened the previous year, such as a good berry year or a fraud who cheated pickers” (Hedbery, 2013).

**Thai recruitment agencies and Thai women brokers: one of the important links in the Swedish berry industry**

As aforesaid, Thai women who married to Swedish men can be seen as the cornerstone that connects the berry picking activity between two countries. Since relatives of women who married to Swedish men have been invited to pick berries in Sweden, and then realized that it could be an important supplementary income, especially for those who come from small farmer families; After the first successful berry picking example travelled back to Thailand, the information was spread out by word of month, and many Thais who live in the farmer village want to count them in the “berry picking tour” in Sweden. Later, the berry picker group gradually evolved into farmers who have not direct contact to Sweden (Ericsson & Tollefsen, 2013). On the other hand, another potential reason that facilitates the recruitment outside the local formal labour market is that, according to Ericsson and Tollefsen (2013), the smaller berry companies was pressured by the dominate large buyers in the berry supply chain. In order to reduce wages and production costs, the small berry companies have to hire someone who comes from outside of the formal labour market in order to achieve the target. As a consequence, a partnership was derived from the private labour recruiting agencies in both Sweden and Thailand in 2009, and it becomes one of the pathways that the Thai migration labour force to get to Sweden (Ericsson & Tollefsen, 2013).

According to Hedberg (2014), the informal labour market starts with the group of Thai women who reside in Sweden so called “Thai madams” and invite their family
members to come to pick berries. Along with the developing of berry industry, the family business was not able to fulfill the high demand from berry consumption; therefore the family business has then transferred to large-scale business, which the pickers are only consisting of 50-100 relatives, but also someone that they make acquaintance from the same village in Isan region (Hedberg, 2014).

As the berry picking business develops, many conflicts occur due to the cheating and unbalance rights between broker and berry pickers; A few years later, the unregulated recruitment was legislated by the Swedish tax authorities in order to reduce the being unprotect risk of berry pickers, also to avoid tax evasion (Hedberg, 2014). The berry companies have to hire documented berry pickers through recruitment agencies, which makes the recruitment agencies are now steering the process. And the “Thai madams” are therefore changed their strategies, choose to collaborate with the recruitment agencies and take the berry pickers to Sweden: some of the regional brokers are only in charge on hosting berry pickers during the picking season, some of them are playing double roles both in Sweden and in Thailand that they recruit berry pickers in Thailand and also doing the hosting work in Sweden (Hedbery, 2014).

4. Methodology

Methodology used
The qualitative method has been chosen as methodology for this topic, because qualitative studies mainly focus on information collection and analysis instead of representing large amounts of data. It is used to reach an understanding of potential reasons and motivations, provides insights into the problem instead of quantifying the problem by way of generating numerical data as quantitative method (Veal, 2006). Among various analysis methods for quantitative study, thematic analysis is more suitable and ideal. As Clarke and Braun (2013) state that thematic analysis is useful when it comes to identifying and analyzing patterns in qualitative data. Thematic analysis can be used when meet the following situation: Since thematic analysis can be implied on human beings, experiences, practices or even particular phenomena in particular contexts, it is quite flexible when it comes different range of theoretical frameworks. Secondly, it can be used to analysis immense information, for instance
secondary sources such as media to transcripts of focus groups or interviews. As well as its theoretical independence, the thematic analysis method is understandable for new comers who do not have potentially bewildering theoretical knowledge (Clarke & Braun, 2013). By applying thematic analysis, six phases should be considered, which include familiarization with the data, coding, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes and writing up (Clarke & Braun, 2013). As similar to other type of qualitative researches, thematic analysis require researcher be well acquainted with their resources initially. Researcher should depend upon the secondary resources such as listen to the recorded data or reading and re-reading the data in order to conduct an invaluable deeper understanding, also avoid carrying any preconceived notions. Next step is to code the data by collating the pithy labels. Pithy labels can be implied to define theme. Since the theme is constructs by the researcher, coding data can be used to identify similarity theme from the data resource. The following step will be examining the relatedness between the essential theme and the theme comes from the data, in order to identify whether two themes are disparity and require redistribution, combine them or split them to more sub-theme. When the theme has been established, research should contextualize it with various literatures and present the coherent analysis to the reader.

For example, in my case study there is the possibility to use data as shown in figure 1, but it can be difficult to analyse the reasons behind these migration flows. Also, by discover the daily life of the migrants in the new country of living can reveal the migration process in a comprehensive and prospective perspective (Olofsson, 2012). In my case study of marriage migration and labour migration, the involving observation and participation could involve information with large amount of Thai immigrants. Therefore, methods such as sampling could be an efficient way to pick a specific amount of respondents in order to analyse relevant information. The aim of this paper is to exposure the Thai migrants’ recursive social network flows between Sweden and Thailand, as well as to obtain the relatedness between marriage migration and temporal labour migration, rather than just derive in-depth description of numbers of individuals. Hence, qualitative method is more suitable for the study. In order to have a comprehensive overview of the chosen field, cross-sectional literatures were attained, remarkable study in Thai migration phenomenon in Sweden were conducted by experts such as Eriksson and Tollefsen (2015), Hedberg (2015), Niedomysl, Östh
and Van Ham, (2010) and Haandrikman and Webster (2015) etc. By accessed to these prerequisite, key words and information was gathered in order to enhancing the knowledge of the chosen filed. The next step, as Veal (2006) and (Clarke & Braun, 2013) suggested, to possess substantial primary data such as interview.

In-depth interviews have been chosen as a method in this study. Interviews containing a list of topics are more flexible than formal questionnaires (Veal, 2006). For instance, the researcher can skip jump from one question to the next one if the respondent considers it to be a sensitive question. Semi-structured interview will therefore be used in this study. The design of the semi-structured interview was elaborated on an early stage. For the construction of the interview questions, the respondent’s different backgrounds were considered and more straightforward and fundamental open questions were employed. The questions referred to the respondents’ origin, migration motivation and their connection to social contacts both in the origin as well as in the destination.

In order to approach the respondents, phone or social media application such as Facebook messages was used to make an appointment. Since I know my respondents personally, it was not difficult to contact with them. When interview request was confirmed, I briefly explained to my respondents about what the research entails and its aims. Respondents were also given a sample of key questions, so that they were able to prepare for the actual interview. In order to collect interview data, recording tools were preferred such as audio recording and making field notes as Veal (2006) illustrated as a consentient tape-recorded and verbatim transcript interview as an ideal for interviews. From a researcher’s perspective, repeating interview content is possible by recording in case some key information will be missed during the note-taking process. On the other hand, taking field notes works when tape-recording is not possible. Also, interview could be more accurate and straight to the point of study.

Since Thai is my third language, all interviews were conducted in Thai as to allow the respondents to smoothly communicate in their mother tongue. In order to reflect the most common types of migration such as marriage migration and berry picking (labour migration) and to present the number of male and female Thai immigrants in Sweden, primary data such as numerical information from Statistics Sweden (as shown in figure.1) was used and represented as well.
**Sampling strategy**

In order to identify a specific sampling, the targeting respondents have been chosen. Theoretically, since the topics of the interview could be sensitive for some migrants, a level of trust was required. Conducting this research, I seek to build more relationship with people I already make acquaintances. It is on this premise that the snowballing strategy was used. Fortunately, with regard to informed consent, some of the respondents already in an early stage indicated their willingness to participate in individual interviews. The respondents were then divided into two categories, one relevant to marriage migration and the other group to berry-picking migration. By determining the sample size, criteria are arguably related to three factors: the required level of precision in the result, the level of detail in the proposed analysis and the available budget (Veal, 2006). In my case study the criteria are as follows:

1) The respondents who have relationships (with their Swedish spouses or have Swedish partner) or connections (have Thai relatives who settled in Sweden) in Sweden.

2) Respondents who have come to Sweden because of the labour demand in berry picking.

The sample size that was targeted was eight respondents that living in Umeå, and these eight interviews will be conducting the analysis on the result part. The interviewer had no intention to focus on gender, however all the respondents happened to be female. This is due to the fact that among Thai immigrants in Sweden, women are in the majority (Webster & Haandrikman, 2014). Each interview took 45-70 minutes. The mode to select respondents was similar to the method described by Veal (2006), Veal suggested the use of different types of sampling methods for this, and one is by “convenience”. This sampling technique implies to target located persons or organizations in the neighbourhood. The other one is by “criterion”. Here Veal implies to determine a fix set of criteria. The criterion should be taking into account that individuals are selected on the basis of a key criterion such as age group. In this study, personal contacts with Thai individuals’ living in the county of Västerbotten were used to approach the first respondents. They were asked whether they were willing to participate in this study. The next step was to focus on searching berry picking migration respondents, using the snowball technique by asking the respondents in the marriage migration group if they could suggest some people to me.
While the reality is that it is very difficult to access to berry pickers during the non-berry-picking season, as Woolfson, Thörnqvist and Olsson (2011) illustrated that berry pickers only stay in Sweden for three-month berry picking season. Hence, the strategy of focusing group changed from respondent who only come to pick berry in Sweden, extended to respondents who have double marriage and berry picking background. So either they came to pick berry as the initial proposal and then married, or they came as marriage migrants and then involving to the berry picking activities. Another significant point is that ethical consideration should be taken into account. According to the codes of research, ethics can be seen as value used to protect the rights of humans who may become involved in research. The general principles in codes of research ethics have been offered, including: no harm should befall the research subjects, subjects should take part freely and take part on the basis of informed consent (Veal, 2006). Hence, taking into consideration to the ethical factors, personal information such as age, name and family address will be anonymous.

**Data analysis**

Taking interview-based information into account allows for an analysis in more depth, the inductive method can be considered as an applicable method for this. The inductive approach starts with an observation or a description in order to establish future patterns, themes and insights, then it proceeds to analysis and then proceeds to an explanation of draft learning framework (Veal, 2006). Also, one of the qualitative analysis method: the conventional content analysis has been described as an inductive category development and is used to analyse text data such as data obtained from interviews, with the aim to describe a phenomenon, in my case the migration flows to Sweden. By using this method, it can be seen as a merit to avoid using preconceived categories and allow new insights to emerge (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005). By interviewing my respondents and gathering information to observe and find out if there are common reasons that can explain why they decided to come to Sweden and whether these reasons can lead to particular migration flows in general. When complete the data collection, the first step is to listen to the recording in order to identify the information according to the theoretical framework and categorize it belongs. When categorized and refined data from the interviews, by compare the data to reveal whether there are common patterns as refer to the used method as mentioned
above, also to inspect whether the data and information can be responded with the research questions.

5. Ethical considerations
Ethical consideration was taking into account through the whole process of data collection. In terms of consent for the right of use of voice recording, verbal interview permission was confirmed before the interview started. Also, information regarding to the aim of the study aims were represented to the respondents. Considering to the identity protection, all the real names of any of the respondents were hidden. Instead, code names or pseudonyms were used in this study.

6. Limitations and delimitations
Firstly, there is a possible bias that I personally know some of my respondents, and it could be possible that they might tell me the information that I want instead of the truth when I interview them. Secondly, there is the possibility that when doing an interview one might face ethical problems, like for instance that some of the respondents might come to Sweden with their spouse or partner in order to avoid poverty in their country of origin (Hedman, Nygren & Fahlgren, 2009) and for obvious reasons do not want to disclose this information during the interview. The last limitation is the case size of qualitative studies. There is a disadvantage that has to be addressed, namely that qualitative studies can be faced with overly large numbers of cases, it might get a huge amount of detailed information from a few number of respondents. (Veal, 2006).

Migration flow encompasses different compositions. There are various categories of migratory definition and ranging of migration can be both short and long, temporariness or permanent (Olofsson, 2012). This paper will focus on both permanent and temporariness migration process in the theoretical part, since most of the marriage migrants from Thailand will choose to stay with their spouses in Sweden permanently, and most of the Thai berry pickers will return to Thailand after the berry picking season. While in the result part will only focus on the Thai migrations that settle down in Sweden and have duration of stay of at least one year. This is due to the
berry pickers will be impossible to find besides the berry picking season, so the empirical data containing only the Thai marriage migrants or Thai migrants who have the original intension as picking berry and then changed to marriage migrants after married or have solid relationship with Swedish spouses.

Secondly, since this thesis analyses Thai migration flows to Sweden, so the analyses will be only based on Swedish empirical data.

Finally, in order to understand the in-depth knowledge and relatedness of why the respondents migrated to Sweden and how they perceive their outcome in the new society, a qualitative method is more proper to use (Olofsson, 2012).

7. Result

Early studies mainly focus on one specific migration phenomenon instead of discussing whether there is a relation between different reasons. Attitudes to Thai immigration to Sweden vary for different migration types, the most significant trends in migration have been the entry of Thai women into marriage migration streams and berry picker had heretofore been primarily Thai, and both of these two migration flows have been indicated as indicating an influence of positive affect on developing of transnational social space and next to vast tourist flows between Sweden and Thailand (Hedberg, 2015). One example illustrated that since the 1990s Thai marriage migrants utilized the right of Public Access (Allemansrätten) to do business by selling the wild berries to the local buyers. During the following period, their relatives in Thailand were invited to pick berries in the Swedish forest during the summer time. It devotes a new way to acquire wealth during the agriculture’s slack season in Thailand and has resulted in an unregulated chain of labour migration both men and women, where large numbers of Thai berry pickers come to work as seasonal labour migrants during the summer. Some pioneer marriage migrants become entrepreneurs in an informal sector and running small-scale businesses of importing unregulated workers and selling berries in the end. Also, some women who came as seasonal workers also met their spouses during the berry-picking period and started their migration trend (Hedberg, 2015).
Interestingly, the number of temporary permits has been changed remarkably by different years. First, the berry picking migration was not regulated until several disputes occurred between berry companies and berry pickers (Eriksson and Tollefsen, 2015), and it affects the berry picking activities being regulated by the Swedish Migration Broad (2016). Nowadays the number of berry-picking temporary work permits had decreased (as shown in figure 4). Eriksson and Tollefsen (2015) also observed that it is quite common that Thais will access to Sweden with the intention to visit relatives by using tourist visa, and during summer period the number of Thais who come to Sweden will most likely increase significantly. However, concerning the potential safety issues that can occur in the forest, Thai citizens who want to apply for tourist visa and stay in Sweden during the summer is facing a strength inspection and regulated by the Swedish Migration Broad. By examining the collected data from interviews, the following content will describe this phenomenon in a more detail way. Based on the eight interviews that have been made, core information were collected and will be use in this part in order to analysis, regarding to information such as the reason that led to these Thais who settled in Umeå, integration to the host society, accessing to both Thai network and the local network, the connection between marriage migration and berry picking migration, and last, the relationship between Thailand and Sweden and how this relationship influence to the potential migration flow. Base on the anonymous agreement, all the respondents will be presented as the order number of interviews.
Migration motives

Since Thailand is a popular tourist destination for Swedes, it is not a surprise that the transnational marriage migration will occur between Swedes and Thais. In most of the case, the story started with Swedish men going to Thailand for leisure, or even an apart of the flow was sex oriented. An impression was made from some interviews, that some of the respondents more or less confirmed that some of the Thai women who reside in Sweden may come from the red light street in Thailand, which is confirmed the stereotype that some of the Swedish men who married Thai women were sex oriented, looking for sex partners or long-term relationships. But they also claimed that one stereotype cannot extrapolate to all Thai women from this example, and they are trying to change this situation in positive ways.

It can also be the case that Swedish spouses were recommended by friends who had previous experiences of Thailand, Swedes recommended to Thailand by its environment. Or even someone who has a Thai wife may tell his friend that how a good wife from Thailand could be and have the potential to trigger tantalizing. From another perspective, Thais who are interested about Sweden will ask their friends and relatives in Sweden for help and advice in order to go to Sweden. Moreover, since the online dating site is worldwide, Thais and Swedes can know each other from there. Among eight respondents, 4 of them met their Spouses in Thailand, and the rest of 4 met their spouses in Sweden. Be contrary to the situation of Swedes that most of the Swedes have the basic impression about Thailand, most of the respondents have very few knowledge about Sweden. A question was asked about their image of Sweden and Swedes before they went to Sweden. Some described that Sweden is a European country; it has cold weather, and the inhabitants have a better life condition and social welfare than Thailand. In general, the impression among the Thai’s is that Swedes are tall, have white skin, are good looking, kind, easygoing and friendly. Some complemented that Swedes have the similar personal characteristics as Thais. One of the respondents had her reminiscences from her previous job. She had her first customer from Sweden, and she described that Swedes are calm and have manner.

Going back and forth

All of the respondents express that they will go back to Thailand at least once a year.
Interestingly, the longer time they stay in Sweden, the less often they travel back to Thailand, especially when they have kids. Respondent no.8 mentioned “I used to go back to Thailand at least once a year, sometimes twice a year before I became pregnant, but now I have to both work and take care of my children. It is very limited amount of time to go back to Thailand, and I have planned that invite my parents to come to Sweden to help me to take care of my boys”.

It can be concluded that friends’ recommendation or family wise will contribute to the migration flow, and it is obviously created some contributions to their home. Many respondents mentioned that they would transfer a certain amount of money to their parents or their family in Thailand. Because the social insurance does not cover a lot of the medical care fees in Thailand, their parents could use this money for taking care of themselves. Some families were using the money to build a new house, which created a better life condition in their family.

**Accessible networks: both Thai community and Swedish social network**

For a newly arrived immigrant, the most effective way to get involved with the host country is to learn the new language. Since it is not very common to study Swedish in Thailand, most of the Thai migrants are not able to speak Swedish at all. Hence, the Swedish language school SFI (Swedish for immigrants) and Komvux (secondary education for adults in Sweden) provides the chance for Thais and other immigrants to learn the language, sequentially able to communicate with locals and easier to integrate into the host society. Moreover, SFI and Komvux not only provides the language study opportunity, but also it offers the chance to meet other Thais and friends. All of the eight respondents mentioned that they met their Thai friends in SFI, and they will have regular meetings or hold events and activities after the Swedish class, such as go shopping or having dinner with each other’s family together. And through these regular meeting with their friends, Thais are able to connect to someone who has the same origin or similar background, thereby establish their connection to the local Thai community. In addition, SFI and Komvux are the places that provide work opportunities. Komvux provides courses to migrants for their future career. And sometimes SFI or Komvux will corporate with employees, they will put up
recruitment information in the school or even come to the school directly to recruit employers. Respondent no.8 illustrated that she had a class for 18 months in Komvux that teaching knowledge and practice chance to become an enrolled nurse. Respondent no. 5 mentioned that she is interested in participate in a class to be a nurse or personal assistant. And she also said that a local hotel from Umeå would come to recruit employers in SFI in May.

From the perspective of the local network, Thai migrants also have an advantage. Compare with other types of migrants in Sweden such as Asylum seekers, Thai marriage migrants have the merit that they could rely on their Swedish spouses’ network and become easier to integrate into the local network. Respondent no.4 mentioned that she had her first costume ball in Umeå. Her cohabitant took her to the ball and introduces his friends to her, and she was euphoric that she was divided to a group and played a challenging game with other Swedes against her cohabitant’s group in the costume ball. Respondent no. 7 mentioned that because of her husband’s helping, she started to work on the first day when she arrived in Umeå to plant trees in the forest, and she was so happy that she can have quite a lot of salary after paying the tax.

**Employment situation among Thai migrants**

Based on the interview, some of the respondents mentioned that there is a stereotype illustrated that Thai women who married to Swedish spouses usually just stay at home and play the role as full-time house wife, they doing the cleaning, cooking, taking care of their children and serving their husbands. According to the interviews, most of the respondents have a job, and over half of them are taking the job in full time (100%), only one respondent is unemployed at the moment. According to their descriptions, the higher Swedish language skill they got, and the longer time they stay in Sweden, the bigger chance they will get a better job.

Several respondents have a high education back up to the university level, have solid skills and highly work experienced, and they have the wiliness to be trained or educated in Sweden as well. However, when they moved to Sweden in the beginning, they were forced to face the difficulties to find a local job. Firstly, they have to qualify their degree or diploma to the Swedish authority. One of the respondents
mentioned that it is a lot of paperwork, and she graduated for so many years ago, and it is difficult to gathering all the documents that the authority needs. It requires her back and forth between Sweden and Thailand for many Thais in order to get those documents. Some other respondents also mentioned that, even though the Swedish authorities have qualified them, language berries could be seen as another obstacle. Respondent no.2 narrated that she has a bachelor degree in mass media, while in order to get a related job in this field, it both required both excellent language skill in either English or Swedish, and most of the respondents are lack of perfect English skill. Apart of that, in order to get a job in this type of field, they must have the ability to compete with Swedish candidates. As aforementioned, language barriers can be a hinder for Thai migrants to access to a job, while through the help with Swedish language school, The Swedish Public employment Agency and the extended social network, it is possible to access different jobs. Encouragingly, most of the respondents mentioned that people would not be unemployed, as long as they do not pick jobs. So Many of them were introduced by some other Thais to get a local job, and mostly start to work in manual labour in the firstly arrive period, such as doing cleaning in the hotel, working in the Thai restaurant or Thai masseuse, working on the farm, planting trees or picking berries in the forest, even though they have a high educated background. With certain cumulative of time and experience, they are able to work in specific fields, such as Thai language teacher, personal assistant, and pharmacist or even to run their own business.

**Integration: being a part as Swedish society**

Personal identity can be seen as an important part of the migrant integration. It quite impress that all of the eight respondents have an keen self-awareness that takes themselves as a part of the Swedish society, even though they are all the first generation of Thai migrations, which is, being faced with the new culture, language, lifestyle, and even new religion. Respondent no. 6 mentioned that she is very glad that she had the chance that can grow up and adapted the new ideological trend in Sweden. She said:

“I have the awareness to grow up as an adult in Sweden since I moved here when I was like 23-24 years old. I have been receiving a lot of things in Sweden. When you
are living in overseas, everything is fresh like as a new start, and you have to fight or compete with the locals. You must be ready and have to enrich yourself with new knowledge. The more stay in Sweden, the more awareness that it is a home. Not one come and thinks of you as a second-class citizen. Swedes viewing people not base on their hierarchy, but rather viewing on people’s skill and ability”.

Some others also added that they have the same rights as the local citizens. No only about the political rights means they have the rights to vote at the national level when they received the permanent resident permit or when they changed their citizenship, but also they have the rights to have the welfare and social insurance, as long as they work and pay as the others. They even feeling they have more gender respects being a woman. Some of them quite enjoy their double identity, able to balance between family needs with work.

Migration is a dynamic system. It is not only specific numbers. It various time by time. Different policies can various migrate activities. For instance, one of the respondents mentioned that her friend’s brother have difficult to access a tourist visa and come to visit his sister, even though he had previous records that came to Sweden for the last three years. They said that it might due to the increase numbers of asylum seeker in Sweden from last year. On the other hand, the Swedish migration bureau unexpected tightening of visa restrictions might due to the reason as mentioned earlier, as Eriksson and Tollefsen (2015) illustrated that the intensive visa application from Thailand during the summer period and the previous labour dispute.

**Causes for the seasonal berry picking**

As mentioned in the previous part, berry-picking activity is very common among Thai migrants. However, during the data gathering, it was not berry picking season yet, which makes difficult to access berry picker to participate interview. While all of the respondents have been involving in the seasonal berry picking, either directly or indirectly. Directly involvement means that they have either attended the berry picking activity or have been invited their relatives to come to Sweden. In some cases someone have been both self-picking and invited their relatives to come to pick berry. Among directly involved respondents, very few of them just pick berries as self-consumption, and most of them will pick berries with economic demand. Another
case should be take into account is that someone has been participate to the berry-processing link only, such as purchasing, cleaning and selling, but rather picking the berry by herself. Indirectly involvement means that they have not been experienced picking berries by themselves, rather just been hearing people around talked about that.

It is very common that Thai migrants will pick berry with their family members without economic demand, since it is an arbitrary activity that is provided by the Swedish custom Allemansrätten. Moreover, it seems to be an interesting and leisure activity when there are relatives come to visit the settled Thais. If the family members are interested to come to Sweden for picking berry, according to the regulation of Swedish migration office, the person who lives in Sweden should guarantee for their relatives by providing a certain amount of money and other information. If Thais come to Sweden as a tourist identity, they will be considered as free movers and able to sell their berries to free customer.

Respondent no.5 is the one that will do the self-picking and invite her neighbour’s son and relatives to come to pick berry in Sweden as well. She mentioned that when she sold the berries to the berry company, it was unnecessary to separate the type of berries, and the berry company will calculate for the total weight on the acquisition. Since it takes a lot of time to clean the berries, sometimes when she felt tired she will just sell the berries with leaves without clean it. Usually the berries can be picked for two months, and she has fixed customers who will offer her a higher price than the normal berry companies, and the price is also based on the taste of the berries. Once per year, this private customer with specific amount of berry, and the berries need to clean up. The taste of berries are depending on the weather, the berries will taste very sour if the illumination was inadequate. When the berry consumption will be make to berry jams, it needs to put more sugar if it is too sour, then the cost will higher than the sweeter berries. July is the best month for collect fresh berries since the warm summer weather is mild and moderate, encouraging extra growth, and it will increase the berry size with heavier and tighter clusters which will makes it a better price. After August the quality of berry become worse, the weight of berry will reduce. When someone wants to sell their berries, they will write their contact information on a board with phone number and their name, also the weight and types of the berries.
She mentioned that she met other Thais in the forest before when she picked berries. Two categories of berry pickers were confirmed as aforementioned, “There are many types of tourist visa. If they access to Sweden as a tourist only, then the money from selling berries is black money. Or someone by using tourist visa but has a specific certification with, then it is a certificated berry picker. It is a one-paper document, shows that someone or a group of workers is able to work in the Swedish forest. It is different! However, I have been heard that even though they may have the certification, they still have the risk that will face lack of money due to the broker (probably the Thai madam that mentioned previously) cheating for berry price” (Respondent no.5).

Respondent no.1 mentioned that: “I involved to the berry industry because I had bought 200kg unclean berries from a Thai family. I cleaned it by myself and my aunts when they was here visiting me, and then sell it for higher price on Facebook. I don’t know much this family, but the girl is settling in Sweden, and her parents were coming for visiting her during the summer. She was helping her father to get an international driver license in order to able to drive the car in Sweden within a year. They probably do not acquainted with much local people, or know about the distribution channels, berries were left, so they decided to sell it as unclean berries. Usually berry companies will buy it for example 10kr/kg, and I bought it for 12kr/kg so they got 2kr/kg more for benefit. I used the sieve to wave the berries in order to clean the dirt and berry leaves. I did it with my aunts since it was a heavy work. After the cleaning process I sold the berries for 50kr/kg. Later I spent those money as travel fund to Norway with my aunts, it was quite fun.”

When berry pickers access to Sweden by using tourist visa, they will buy the insurance from Thailand, since it is regulated that in order to apply an Schengen visa must pay for the insurance. It is not only considering to the capacity of the car that needs to commute them between accommodation and berry field, but also designed to avoid close scrutiny by the Swedish migration bureau.

A fact that has been noticed that when Thai berry pickers want to sell their berries, they will try to avoid using their tourist identity. Instead, they will adopt the identity of the Thais who settle in Sweden and sell the berry under their name, in order to avoid the unnecessary law regulation. Explicitly, It is possible to sell up to five thousand kronor per person without paying taxes. While according to the Swedish
work environment authority (Arbetsmiljöverket, 2016) and various scholars (Ollus & Jokinen, 2013; Eriksson & Tollefsen, 2013; Hedberg, 2014), the tax-free basis for sell berries by private individuals should be less than 12,500 Swedish kronor per person. Respondent no.7 added that brokers are playing the core role between berry companies and the formal berry pickers. Broker in Thailand was asked to recruit the local people brought them to Sweden by following the Swedish law. Berry Company communicates the required berry picker numbers with broker. Previously the work permit was not required in order to pick berry in Sweden, but now work permit is required which bring up the occupation like broker, the berry industry was established and the broker become more skilled. Berry Company will buy all the berries everyday from licensed pickers. They will weight the berries, record the numbers and report to the pickers every day. It will help to create the sense of trust among berry company, broker and berry pickers. The berry company ask broker to approve the flows of information and being sure that the berry weight has transparency and under control, and berry pickers are able to know that how many wealth that they have been made and how much money left that they have to balance with the rent.

Intermediaries or brokers are the Thais who have been living in Sweden for quite a long time or some experienced berry pickers. They are playing the role as a broker in order to attract more Thais to come to Sweden to pick berries. The information were spread by brokers and run from months to months among Thais, instead of doing formal recruitment as berry companies. They are familiar about the local laws and rules, so it is easier for them to setting companies and hire people from their own neighborhood in Thailand to come to Sweden. The roles of intermediaries or brokers include in charge of signing contrast with each berry picker, help them to find cars or other vehicle like motorcycle, help them to transfer their Thai driver license into international drive license which will be available to drive cars within a year, and provide them food and accommodation. At the end of the day when the berry pickers finished their work, they will weighing and sell their berries before the water evaporation from the berries. Intermediaries or brokers will take the daily cost such as food, accommodation or gasoline off and the rest will pay for pickers as salary.

Respondent no.2 mentioned that many of berry pickers do not have the correct document. In many cases are the parents or relatives who have the proposal to travel to Sweden for meet their daughter/relatives and picking berry for same extra money at
the same time. They came and stay only during the berry-growing season, which they have to face the fact that berry amount depends on the weather, and economic revenue depends on the berry.

One of the respondents explained one of the previous conflicts between the berry company and berry pickers. When a group of berry pickers come to Sweden they need to pay tax as other Swedes and foreign labours, since Sweden provides guarantee and basic income, so some of the berry pickers don’t really want to work with full power and makes employee unhappy. Since the berry amount directly influenced with the income of the company, the salary was distrained.

On the other hand, some of the respondents do mention about that they do not want to invite their relatives or acquaintance to come and work in Sweden. The following factors were mentioned:

They don’t want to encourage people rent seventeen thousand to eighteen thousand Thai baths (approximately sixteen thousand Swedish kronor) in order to work temporarily in Sweden, and only got the salary for half of the rent money. Plus, it might be a long working time from sunrise to sunset. It may face dangerous in the forest: it is possible to see dangerous animals such as a bear, and a risk for low amount berry.

Sometimes berry pickers could seek the potential spouse on the forest, but not every one can stay in Sweden due to language barrier, if they don’t have relatives who settle in Sweden and come to help. Cases happened with bad Swedish guys that marry a Thai woman and only want her to be a house worker. It will be worse if he is an alcoholic. Someone think can be change some other guys just want to stay in Sweden. Stay for two years after got the resident permit and change a new guy.

A certain leak was found on the berry selling process. When Thais selling their berries to the vendor or the berry company, they just write down their name and their personal number, sign the signature in the end as a confirmation, sometimes just name, and the available personal identity was not required to show. However, vendors should check the travel document whether is the tourist visa or work permit. So it could happened that a tourist visa access Thai is not require to show in order to check whether it is appropriate with the law, or even a settled Thai can change different names to sell the berries in order to avoid the tax.
**Nuanced relationship between marriage migration and berry picking migration**

Based on the collected data, it can be argued that marriage migration and berry picking migration have a mutual relationship. Mostly, cases are either Thais that have relatives who settled down in Sweden and they got invited to Sweden to pick berry, and then met her husband in Sweden and get married. Or married first and then go pick berries.

When talk about the relationship between marriage migration and berry picking migration, most of them were refer to someone else’s experience. It is notable that Thais will invite their relatives to Sweden to pick berry in order to earn more money and mating potential spouse during the time that they staying in Sweden. Respondent no.5 illustrated that some berry pickers were either met their spouse during the time when swedes doing sport in the forest or have a recommend by their settled relatives. Berry pickers who have a Swedish spouse can be both male and female. While a little distinguishes can be recognized. Male Thais are 40 to 50 years old who married with Swedish women are mostly around the same age. On the other hand, female Thais usually have age discrepancy with their Swedish spouse, as the similar situation in Thailand, Older western men who often seek younger Thai partners. She knows some cases that a Swedish guy met a Thai woman in the forest, fell in love with her, and he prepared document for that woman in order to let her apply the visa in Thailand or some of them even flute with her back to Thailand.

Logrolling can work in situations where there are mutual benefits, while cases can differ base on different individuals. Conflict between marriage migrants and informal berry picking migrants were noticed due to the conflict of interest of berries. Berries are limited in a specific scale regions, it is obvious that people will start gathering berries from the easy access areas to uninhabited areas. Marriage migrants have the benefit that they will notice when the berries start to grow up before the berry pickers came. The berry growth cycle is unpredictable due to the global warming, so it can be advanced and various in different years. However, berry pickers will come to Sweden in a certain period, so it could happen that the berry grown in the easy access areas were already picked by marriage migrants and other people when the berry picker arrive. Respondent no.4 and no.7 replied as with one voice, that they also feeling stressful about the berry pickers coming, which make them have to pick berries in a
hurry. Respondent no.4 even mentioned that some pickers were asking her to pick in
somewhere else. “I know it is all about the money, but it was a unpleasant memory.
They were very unfriendly and asked me to leave”, she said.

A berry picker changed to a Swedish wife: the Swedish “dream”
Among all of the eight respondents, there is only one person who came to Sweden
and picking berry as her original purpose while transfer to a marriage migrant.
Respondent no.4 is one of the Thai women who have the background that correspond
with the stereotype. She is originally from Isan, the east-north part of Thailand. She
was low educated, and she had her first marriage and worked in Bangkok before she
came to Sweden. She was the last woman in her family who moved to Sweden. Her
sisters are stay in Umeå for quite a long time before she decided to come to Sweden.
The pioneer came and settled down, and then they invite each other and come to
Sweden time by time. In the end they all end up in Sweden, the settled one will find
spouse for the new comer. She was tired of her first marriage because her cheated
husband, by that time, one of her sisters had a surgery and invited her to come to
Sweden to take care of her meanwhile wants her to change a fresh environment. She
was taken to pick berry by her sister, take a hand on the farm owned by her sister’s
family during the first time she came to Umeå, she got money from selling berries and
got good taking care by her sister and her family, which makes her had the urge to
stay continually. Therefore, her sister introduced a retired Swedish man to her, a guy
wants someone to take care of him but too poor to hire a personal assistant, and he
would offer a chance to marry with him as exchange in order to let her stay. However,
this Swedish dream does not end well. Her second husband is a alcoholic, he prohibit
her to study Swedish in SFI but only stay at home and take care of him.
“He even stole my money that I got by selling berries, such a terrible man! “She
seems so indignant and reluctantly when she said that during the interview.
She was an optimist about her life in Sweden, but on this day her faith was shaken.
She have not so many choices, since she is low educated and do not have driving
license. She kept take care of the old man and finding fruit in the forest during the
summer, until she gets tired of it. She wants to go back to Thailand, but her sister told
her to endure. Now she moved from her husband and live alone, meanwhile she is
taking a Swedish class and a skill learning course in Komvux, in order to keep a
foothold in the Swedish career. She is satisfied with her current life, and being happy to communicate with people in Swedish and self-sufficient.

8. Discussion

Admittedly, Sweden can be seen as a country of immigrants. Currently the predominant migration flow to Sweden is asylum seeker, which differs from the traditional immigration countries such as the US or Australia that dominate by economic migrants, and this migration flow constrained the increasingly strict migration policy in Sweden. Whereas, the existing Thai migration flows are barely affected by the policy, mainly because of the Thai migrants have the strong family connection in the Swedish society. The focus of the thesis has been on two Thai migrant groups, which are the marriage migration and berry picking migration. Since these two groups are the most common migration categories, it is important to contextualize the potential reasons that contribute to these two migration flows between Thailand and Sweden, and whether different social network exists between these two countries since Thailand is one of the popular tourism destinations for Swedes. Moreover, based on these assumptions, it is also interesting to derived whether a certain relationship between marriage migration group and berry picking migration that could led to the dynamic migration flows between Thailand and Sweden.
The possible reasons that led to marriage migration and berry picking migration flows between Thailand and Sweden

As shown in figure 5, there are several incentives that constitute the Swedish-Thai migration flows, and the flows can be influx, bridging or counterflow. Seemingly, the migration flow occurred in Sweden. It phases from Sweden by the Swedish tourist and ends up in Sweden that consists of berry pickers or Swedish-Thai families. The collected data from the interview fit into this narrative, that most of the respondents are more or less related to the tourism industry, and met their spouses in a tourism destination in Thailand. From the macroscopic point of view, the migration flow is consecutive that conducted by the existing migrants and the new comers. The pioneer migrants firstly arrived in Sweden. Once they settled down, their relatives or new marriage migrants are attracted by them and appeal in Sweden, whether came as family reunion, marriage or picking berries. Another connection is that when the existing migrants travel back to Thailand, a concealed migrate motive can be trigger. According to the interview data, Thais will bring their families going back and forth between Thailand and Sweden irregularly, most of the case is once a year. This round trip is affected by different factors. It may be canceled if the woman is pregnant, or the couples want to save more money so they can indulge in the pleasure of family trip. It could happen that the wife explain the better life in overseas, and someone from the family who yearn to live abroad, then the subsequent migrants may follow
the previous migrant’s step due to the content family life in Sweden, or the immense economic potential in the Swedish forest. Since most of the respondents described that their original intention to Sweden because they are fall in love with their spouses, it can be argued that the relationship attraction are play the important roles for marriage migrants. Since none of the respondents came as a professional berry picker, the future studies are expected to answer whether the real intention for the professional berry pickers. While according to the previous studies and the collected data from the interviews, the general factor can be due to the economic demand. For those who are unemployed during the agriculture’s slack season, the berry picking activities provide them the possibility to seasonally migrate, and they could use the salary that they got from selling berries to support their family in Thailand. And for the undocumented berry pickers, they came to here visiting their relatives meanwhile picking berries for some extra money. As the evidence indicated, the family ties are playing the key role in both of the marriage migration and berry picking migration in this study.

Existing Thai migrants’ recursive social network flows between Sweden and Thailand

Based on the result, it can be seen that the local Swedish network provides supports for Thai immigrants. Firstly, the language and induction training courses are quite efficiency for the subsequent migrants. All of the respondents have been participate to the aforementioned courses, and it reduces the segregation and helps the subsequent migrants easier to involve to the host society. The study places also provide them the chances to access other type of networks such as job opportunities. It also enable them the chance to establish contact with their co-ethnic groups. On the other hand, compare with other type of migration groups such as asylum seekers, the marriage migration group and berry-picking group has more advantage. Marriage migrants can share the local social network with their Swedish spouses, it is quite benefit that can access to the local social network quickly because of the acquaintance. And a part of the berry-picking migrants are benefit by their settle down relatives in Sweden, A lot of trouble can be saved because of their relatives’ guarantee. By accessing to the local social network, Thais are able to work and enable to the local resources. Even though some of them are facing the problem with language barriers, but as long as them keep
studying and practicing, they will be respected by the locals, and most of them proved that they are not only came here and being a housewife as illustrated in the stereotype. A interview evidence shows that the back and forth migration flow can bring to their family in Thailand a considerable of wealth, the money could be used to change the life condition in the local family.

**Relationships between marriage migration and berry picking**

Based on the collected data from interviews, the marriage migration is strong connecting to the berry picking migration. Thais who having a relationship with their Swedish spouses, they have the rights to pick wild berries in the forest that provides by the Swedish custom Allemansrätten. Moreover, as long as they follow the law and pay the tax, it does not matter whether it is under an entertainment or economic demanding proposal. However, some of the Thais are using the leak of the law to earn illegal money. A part of them are using to name of visiting their relatives, access to Sweden by the tourist visa and picking berries. Literally, the family reunion reason is easier to accept than the formal berry picking application, so it has been noticed that under the summer period month the family reunion application is more popular than the rest of the time in the year. If the income from selling berries is the edge of paying tax, they will sell the rest the berries under another person’s name in order to avoid the tax paying. This could be considered as one of the results of this study, which proves the difference between formal and informal berry pickers, and it explains how the Thai community in Sweden goes around the regulation by using other strategies.

On the other hand, the relevant authorities were not overseeing the system to make sure that there was adequate berry picking documents. 

**Broker**, a derivative occupation is noted because of the berry picking chain. They are the Thais who either has been in Sweden for a long time or they are experienced former berry pickers or even both. They are in charge of recruiting new berry pickers and taking care of them during the time they stay and work in Sweden. This fact reveals that these brokers are participants as a part of the formal recruitment system.

Another fact that has been indicated is that the family reunion among Thai migrants is facing the stricter examine from the migration bureau. It may related to the previous conflicts between berry pickers and the berry companies, but also the increasing number of asylum seeker applications are more or less effected the decision making
process in the migration office. On the other hand, the conflict between marriage migrants and berry picking migrants were noticed. It can be image that the unavoidable conflict will happen when it comes to secure own interests. The marriage migrants have the merit that they are able to know the accurate time to pick berries by observing the growth condition of the berries, because the berries just grow up in the front of the door. While compare with the marriage migrants, the employed berry pickers need to invest a certain amount of money in order to work in Sweden. Since they have to prepare all the facilities before they come, for instance to book the tickets, rent cars and accommodations. So it could happen that when they arrive, the berries have not grow up completely since they just predict the roughly berry growing period based on the previous time. Or it could be a worse case that the targeting picking place already been picked by someone else, then they have to go to another place where they are not familiar and getting lose. Some of the respondents mentioned that some pickers dislodged them, just because they picked berries in the same area.

9. Conclusion

This thesis, examines that the state of two specific Thai migration flows: marriage migration and berry picking migration in Sweden. In order to study and analysis the transnational motivation and activities of these two migration groups, the data collection was gathering by in-depth interviews with eight Thai migrants who live in Umeå, Sweden.

In order to understand the motives that trigger these two typical migration flows, different information were gathered and analysed by examine the potential factors from both Swedish side such as the Swedish migration policy and Thai side such as transnational marriage migration and family ties. Also, the transnational and intersection life and experience of Thai migrants after moved to Sweden were mentioned. From a Swedish perspective, even language barriers are exist for a certain period, while nearly every Thais are able to access to the local social network, not only because getting help from their spouses and settled relatives, but also the great integration work that Swedish government has been providing such as language school that processing the inclusiveness for the new coming migrants. From the Thai perspective, many Thais remained their strong connections to Thailand such as
sending money back, back and forth in Thailand and invite and contact their relatives to come to Sweden.

Through the interview, some of the respondents expressed that they still remain their Thai identity, but on the other hand are feeling the involvedness to the host society. It can be seen as a successful social belonging establishment in two societies.

This paper could be seen from a dialectic perspective. In general, this paper explains the rationality about the existing Thai migration flows to Sweden, especially for Thai women. The addressing distinguish between formal and informal berry picking flow covers the gap by overview the berry pickers as a whole group, it also provides the potential possibilities that conduct the continual migration flows to Sweden regarding the connecting migration flows between Thai marriage migration and Thai berry picking migration. Base on the statistics that female migrants occupy the dominical proportion (SCB, 2016), it can help us to understand that women are playing an important role in the full picture of Thai migrants to Sweden. It also shows the fact that family connection is important for Thai families and contributes to the informal berry picking migration. On the other hand, it makes us to ponder that what are the initial and momentous reasons behind the enormous Thai migrants to Sweden, whether it is a stake or a risk for their prospective life. Yet, it challenges the existing Swedish migration policies, whether some pioneer migrants are crossing the bottom line, for instance, invite their family members with tourist visa or using their name to avoid paying tax. While due to the geographical limit and unidirectional gender respondents, the result is only portrayed the information from Umeå and conductive from female perspectives. The paper is only contribute to a small part of the Thai migration flows in the whole country, of which the case is been focus in Umeå just a piece among the completed migration puzzle. Moreover, due to the time limited and topic constraint, the paper is only focusing from the Thai migrant’s perspective to draw the picture of Thai migration flows to Sweden. Namely, the paper could have a different result if the focus is on the Swedish side. For example, how do these Thai female migrants cohabitants think about their Thai girlfriends or wives? Do they view their Thai girlfriends or wives in the same perspective as the other Thai migrants?

**Future research**

Due to the limitations mentioned above, it is crucial to collect data from Thai
migrants who have a different background, experience and migrate purpose. Also, since most of the previous researches conducted on Thai females, to have data from male migrants could help to understand more about the complete influence between Thailand to Sweden. Also, in order to understand the full aspects regarding the relationship between marriage migration and berry picking migration, to conduct more interviews with both formal and informal berry pickers is expected.
10. References


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Migrationsverket (2016)

Statistics


Rules for berry pickers


Statistics of Sweden (2016)


11. Appendix

Interview guide

Interview no:
Date & Time:
Location:

1. Personal Information
   a. Could you please tell me your name?
   b. May I ask your year of birth?
   c. Which area in Thailand that you come from?
   d. What is your marital or cohabited status (partner)?
   e. What is your education level?
   f. What is your previous occupation? What are you doing for living now after moving to Sweden?
   g. Year of arrival in Sweden
   h. Reason(s) to move to Sweden
   i. Do you know some other Thai people live on here? How many of them? And how did you know them mostly?
   j. How often that you will go back to Thailand?
   k. Are there any of your relatives come to visit you? When?
   l. Would they like to do some activities with you such as packing berries when they were here?

3. Perceived Reason(s) to move to Sweden
   a. What did you think of Sweden and Swedes before moving here?
      Kind, generous
   b. Does your opinions changed after moving to Sweden?
   c. What do you think are the stereotypes of Thai people that Swedes have, especially women?
   d. Have you been able to build up a social network among your own community in Sweden?

4. Experiences in Daily Life
   Could you please tell me your experience of moving from Thailand to Sweden? How is your experience living in Sweden?
   What do you think about the host society, family members, neighbors, etc?
Do you think you have the same social rights as Swedish citizens (Belongings: Do you think you are becoming a part of this country)?
Do you think your life condition changed after moving to Sweden?
Are you able to use Swedish fluently?
Do you feel satisfied พอใจ living here in Sweden?
Are you still keeping in touch with your relatives in Thailand?

5. Experiences in Employment
How was/is your experience related to job finding in Sweden? Any particular challenges/difficulties?
Do you feel like you have equal job opportunities as other people when it comes to employment?

6. Specific questions regarding to berry pickers
a. Have you been to Sweden before? (If it is a positive answer) how many times have you been to here?
b. Before you arrive and after you arrived in Sweden, did you have someone who supported you? Who were the important people in helping you work in Sweden? What kinds of relationships did you have with them? How did you access to the employment information from Sweden (Media, friends, social contact or relatives etc.)?
c. What kind of information/organizations do you rely on to work for berry picking? Is it a domestic organization or international organization? How much money/what kinds of documents that you have to provide in order to come to work in Sweden?
d. How did you have the visa in order to access to Sweden? How long that you can stay in Sweden by this visa?
f. Could you please briefly describe about your work in Sweden (Working hours, working conditions, earning, employer public/private or self full time/part time)? What about the living condition that you have been provided (food, accommodation, transportation)? And what kind of job did you perform in Thailand?
g. How did you brought your earning back home? Did you transferred through bank, agency or took by yourself?

Questions regarding the relationship between two groups
a. Do you know someone who comes to pick berries/marry?
b. Do you think there is a certain relations between marry group and berry picking group?
c. Do you check if the seller has a legal visa to sell the berry to you?
d. Have you heard someone who bought the berries from illegal berry seller? (You don’t have to answer that if you don’t want to)

7. Closing
Thank you
That was all my questions. Is there anything you have thought of or want to add?