

Sureerat Bumrungsuk 2014: The Effect of Social Change on the Use of Foreign Words in Thai. Doctor of Philosophy (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Wilaisak Kingkham, Ph.D. 240 pages.

The objective of the research upon which this dissertation is based was to investigate the effect of social change on the use of words borrowed from foreign languages in the Thai language, to classify borrowed words according to their meaning, and to study the manner in which these words were borrowed and any changes in their meanings which may have occurred.

Borrowed words were collected from *A Dictionary of the Siamese Language* of J. Caswell and J.H. Chandler of B.E. 2388 and the *akkharaphithansap* of Dan Beach Bradley of B.E. 2416, and from government dictionaries: namely, the *pathunukrom* of B.E. 2470 of the Textbook Department of the Ministry of Moral Instruction and the B.E. 2542 edition of the Royal Institute Dictionary. A total of 2,106 borrowings were found.

For analysis, the relationship between social change and language was divided into three periods. During the beginning of social change the greatest source of borrowed words was Chinese. During the following period the greatest sources of borrowing were Khmer and Javanese. In the recent period the greatest sources of borrowing were English and Khmer. The borrowing of these words was related to social events. The borrowed words were divided on the basis of their semantic domain into two categories: tangible culture and intangible culture. Most (63.44 percent) of the borrowings were words related to tangible culture; the category with the smallest (36.56 percent) proportion of borrowed words was intangible culture. Borrowing occurred in three ways: lexical borrowing, phonetic borrowing and semantic borrowing; the most frequent (96.21 percent) type of borrowing was lexical borrowing; phonetic borrowing (3.09 percent) and the least (0.70) frequent was semantic borrowing. With regard to semantic change, for the large majority (93.16 percent) there was no change. Change was found in the case of only 6.84 percent. The most frequent (3.32 percent of all borrowings) type of change was widening of meaning; transference of meaning were each found in 1.92 percent and narrowing of meaning 1.60 percent of all borrowings.

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Thesis Advisor's signature