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VILAIVAN ROONGRUANGRATANA : THE transliteration of French and Italian proper nouns to Thai from the reign of King Rama III to King Rama VII. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSOC.PROF. PRANEE KULLAVANIJAYA, Ph.D. 219 pp. ISBN 974-582-749-5

This thesis is a study of the transliteration of proper nouns in French and Italian into Thai during the five reigns from the reign of King Rama III to that of King Rama VII, focusing firstly on syllable transliteration in which number of syllable and structural changes are studied, and secondly on alphabet transliteration in which consonants and vowels are depicted.

The study finds that the syllable transliteration is usually accurate in all the five reigns. Deviation in syllable structure is found most during the reign of Rama V for Italian and during the reign of Rama III for French. Transliteration was based mostly on the pronunciation of the proper nouns rather than the written forms of the words. However, for Italian, it is apparent that the transliteration was entirely based on pronunciation.

For the alphabet transliteration, it was found that various Thai alphabets were used for one French alphabet in the transliteration of French into Thai. As for the transliteration of Italian alphabets, it was on the one to one alphabet basis.

In the transliteration of both languages, it can be concluded that transliteration system was mostly transcription, i.e. the selection of Thai alphabets for French and Italian was sound based. There were cases, however, of letter based transliteration as well as transliterations based on English pronunciations of those words.

The study of the development of the transliteration of Italian and French names into Thai from the reign of King Rama III to that of King Rama VII reveals both consistency and inconsistency in the use of Thai alphabets for the transliteration throughout the five reigns under study. In the inconsistency cases, it is further divided into that with and without constant Thai alphabet (s).